

Translated excerpt

**Jochen Voit / Hamed Eshrat**  
***Nieder mit Hitler! Oder warum Karl kein Radfahrer sein wollte***

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**Jochen Voit / Hamed Eshrat**  
***Down with Hitler! Or why Karl didn't want to be a bullying brownnose***

Translated by John Reddick

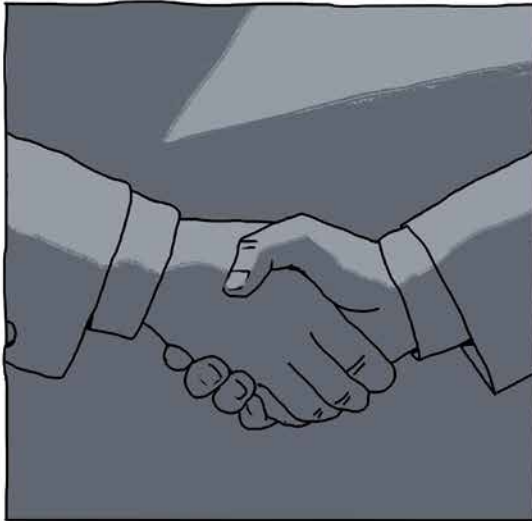


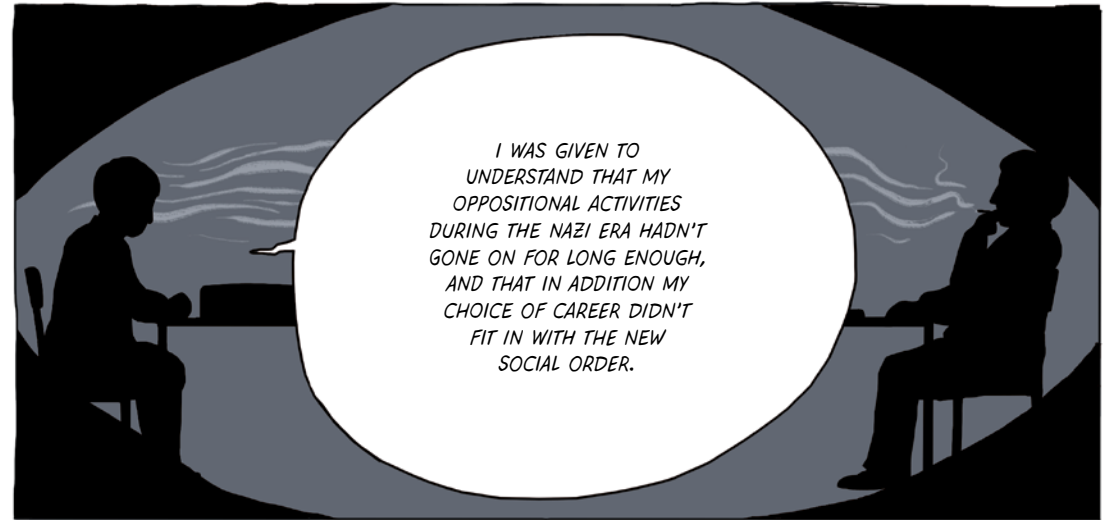
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# **SMOKE AND MIRRORS**

FRIEDRICHSTRASSE  
EAST BERLIN 1960







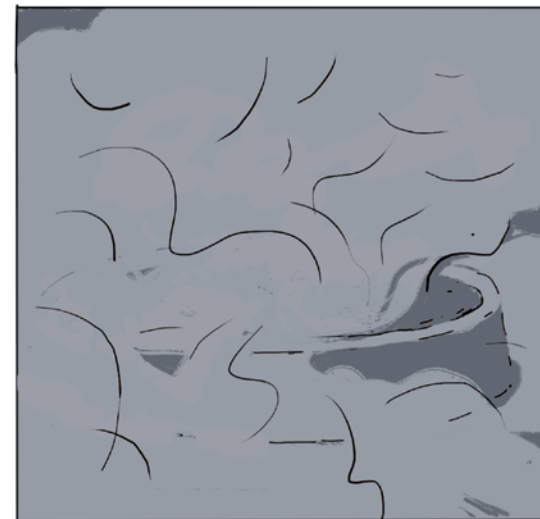
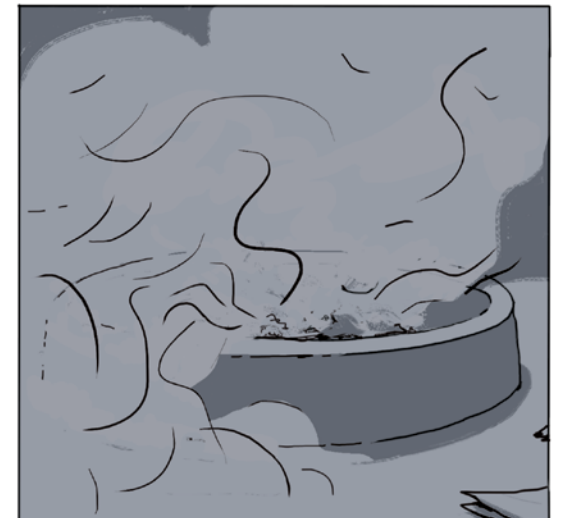
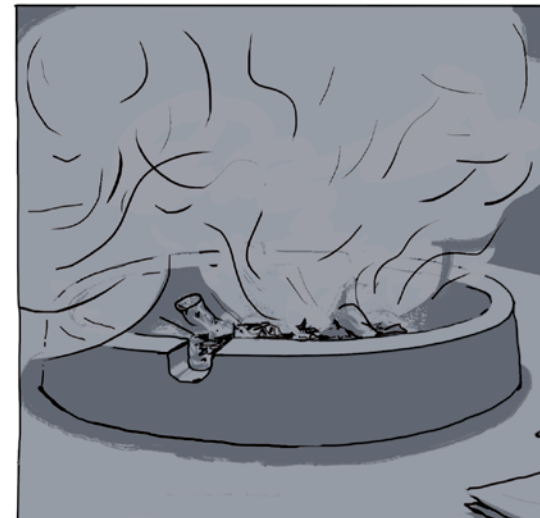
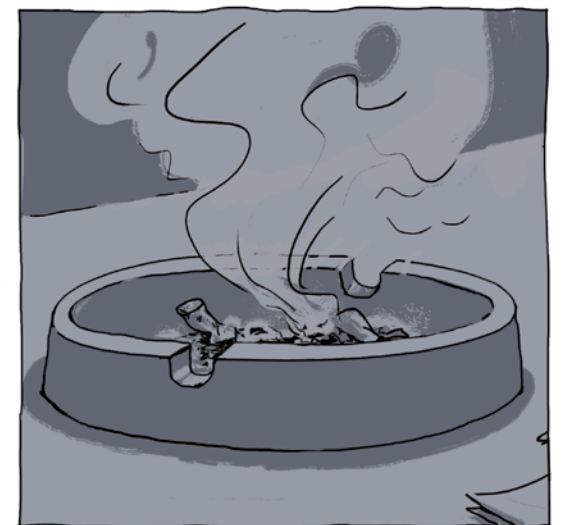
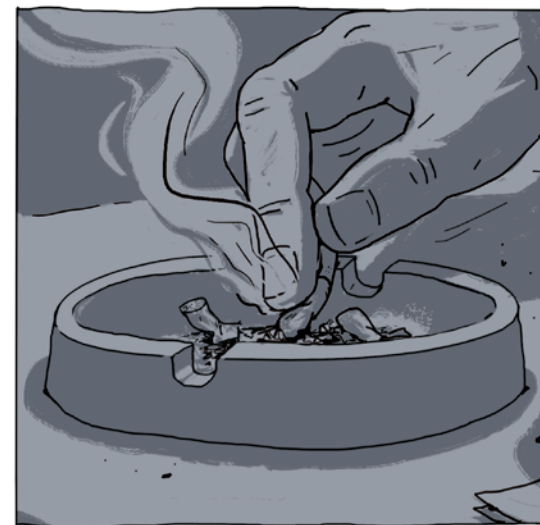
IS THAT SO?  
HOW VERY  
UNFORTUNATE ...



... - BUT ON THE OTHER HAND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE IN  
THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TAKE CARE TO DISTIN-  
GUISH BETWEEN A JUVENILE PRANK, AS WE MIGHT CALL IT, ...



... AND A GENUINE  
ANTIFASCIST ACT.  
YOU SURELY  
UNDERSTAND  
THAT, DO YOU  
NOT?



ALL OF SUDDEN THERE WAS A ROARING SOUND IN  
MY EARS THAT KEPT GETTING LOUDER AND LOUDER.

# **RESISTANCE**



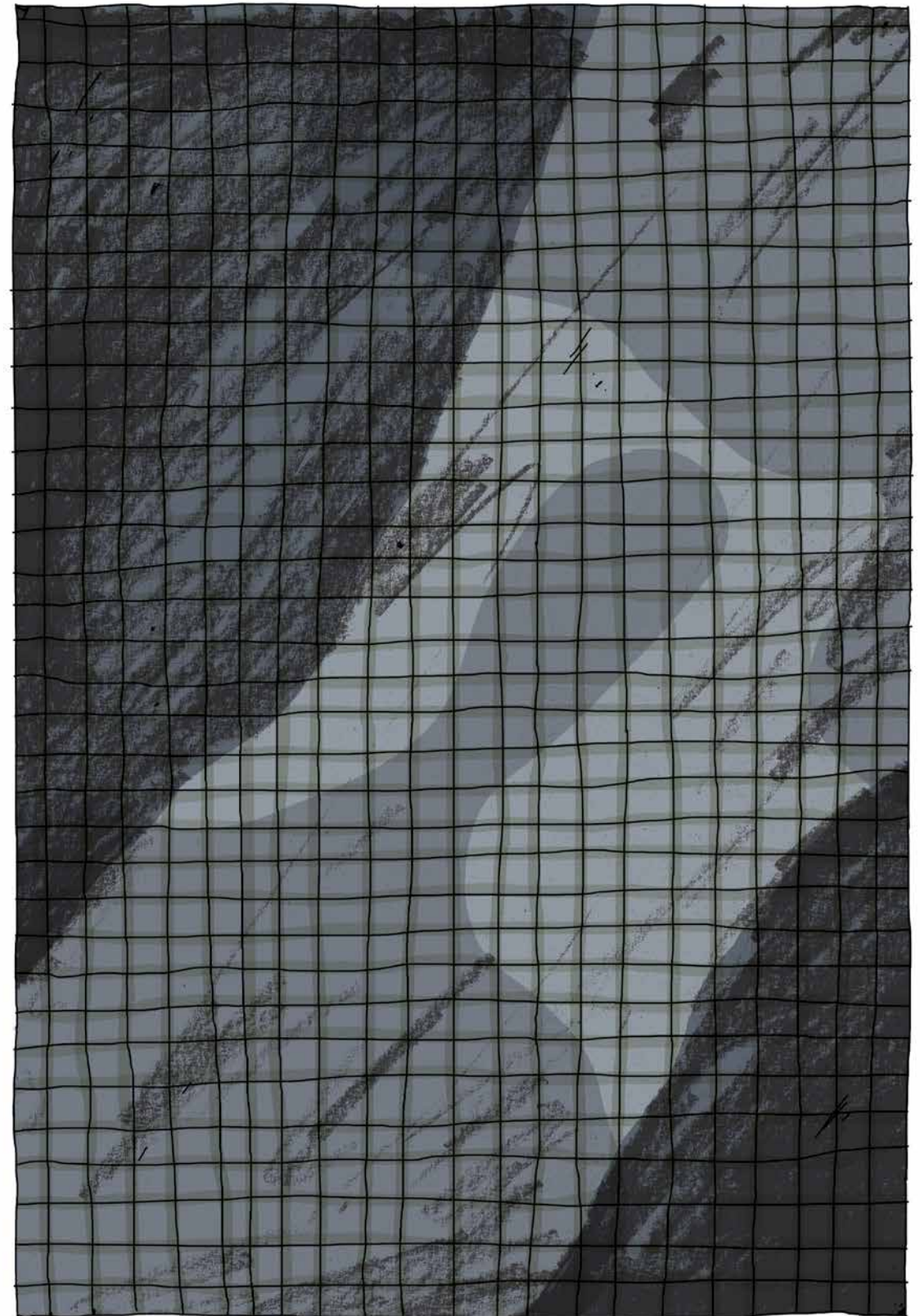
OUR GROUP CAME TOGETHER IN SUMMER 1943.



IT WAS OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT THE WAR HAD TO END AT LONG LAST.



AND FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, HITLER HAD TO GO.





THE HITLER YOUTH PEOPLE ARE SAYING YOU'VE CHANGED SINCE YOUR BROTHER FELL.

OH, ARE THEY JUST? WE'LL SOON SHOW THEM WHAT'S WHAT.

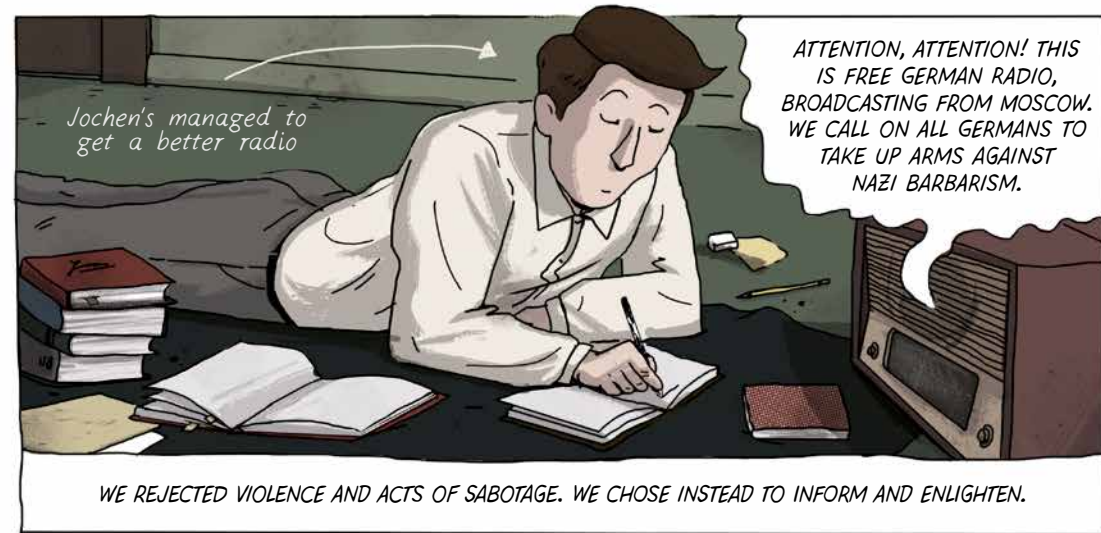
Click  
Click



BUT I'LL ONLY BELIEVE HE'S REALLY DEAD WHEN I'VE SEEN HIS BODY.



WHAT?!



Jochen's managed to get a better radio

ATTENTION, ATTENTION! THIS IS FREE GERMAN RADIO, BROADCASTING FROM MOSCOW. WE CALL ON ALL GERMANS TO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST NAZI BARBARISM.

WE REJECTED VIOLENCE AND ACTS OF SABOTAGE. WE CHOSE INSTEAD TO INFORM AND ENLIGHTEN.



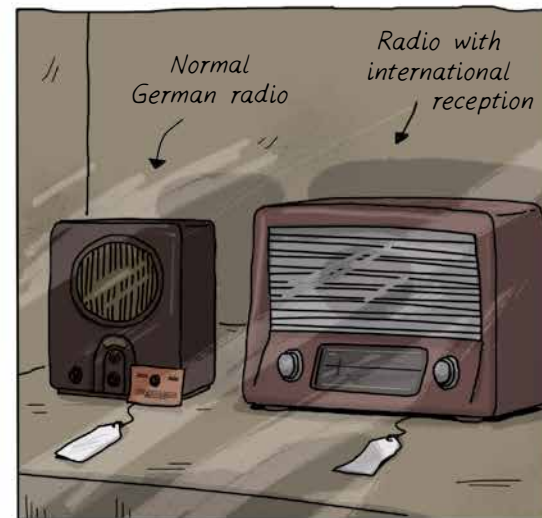
TO FIND OUT MORE THAN THE NAZIS PERMITTED YOU TO KNOW, YOU HAD TO LISTEN TO FOREIGN RADIO STATIONS.



HELLO, THIS IS RADIO BEROMÜNSTER IN SWITZERLAND.

TURN IT UP A BIT PLEASE, UNCLE HARRY.

IT WAS RISKY.



Normal German radio

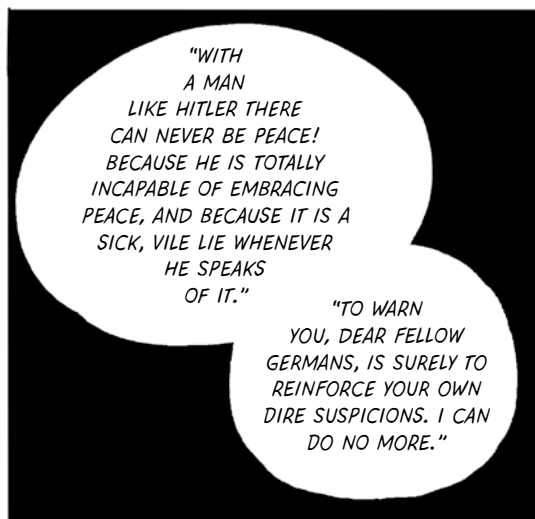
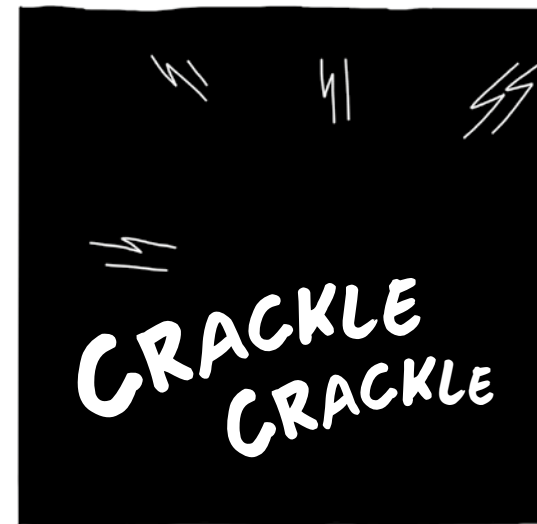
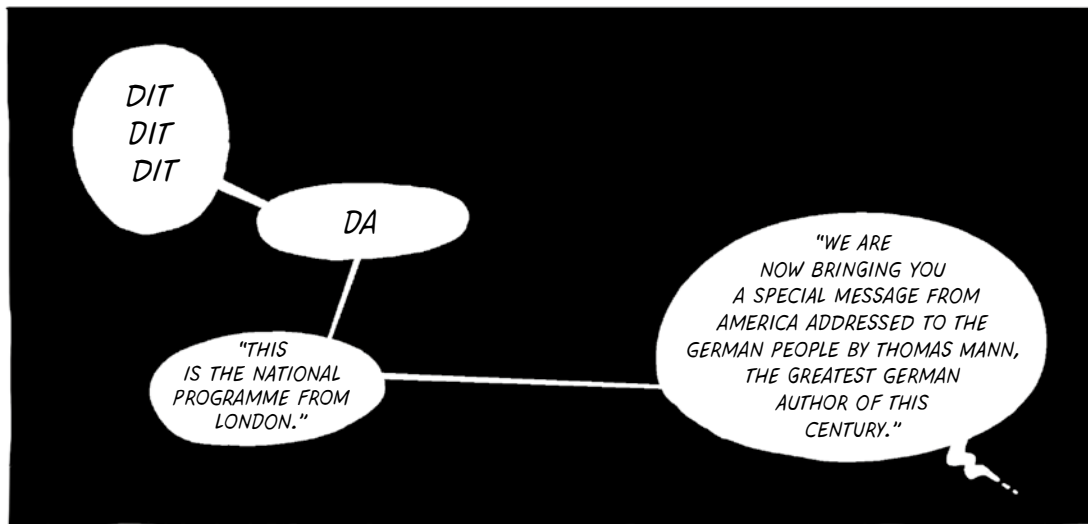
Radio with international reception

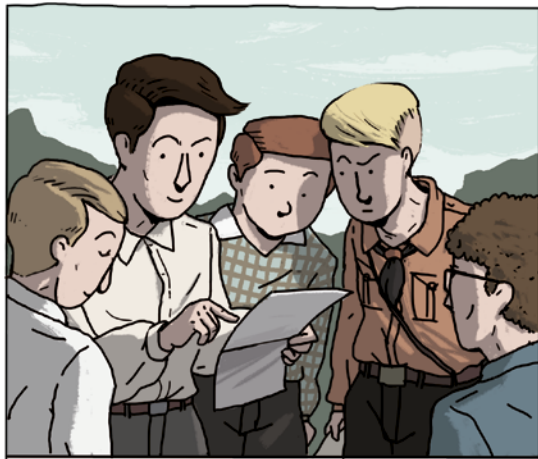


**Do not** **forget**

Listening to foreign radio stations is a crime that undermines the security of our nation. By order of the Führer any offences will be punished with severe jail sentences.







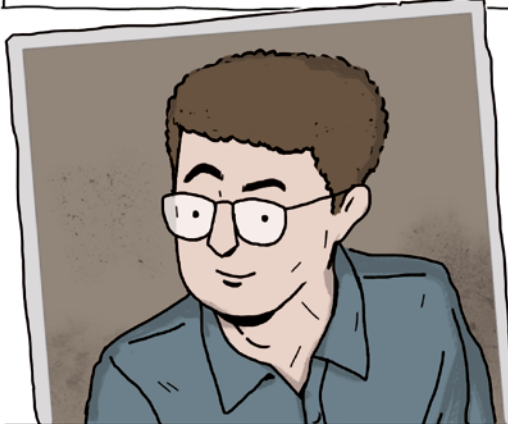
THERE WERE FIVE OF US.



JOCHEN KEPT US GOING. HE GOT US TO SHARE HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN INDIA. HE COULD BE INCREDIBLY PERSUASIVE.



JOACHIM - UP UNTIL THEN ONE OF THE STAUCHEST MEMBERS OF THE HITLER YOUTH AT OUR SCHOOL - BECAME HIS ADJUTANT.



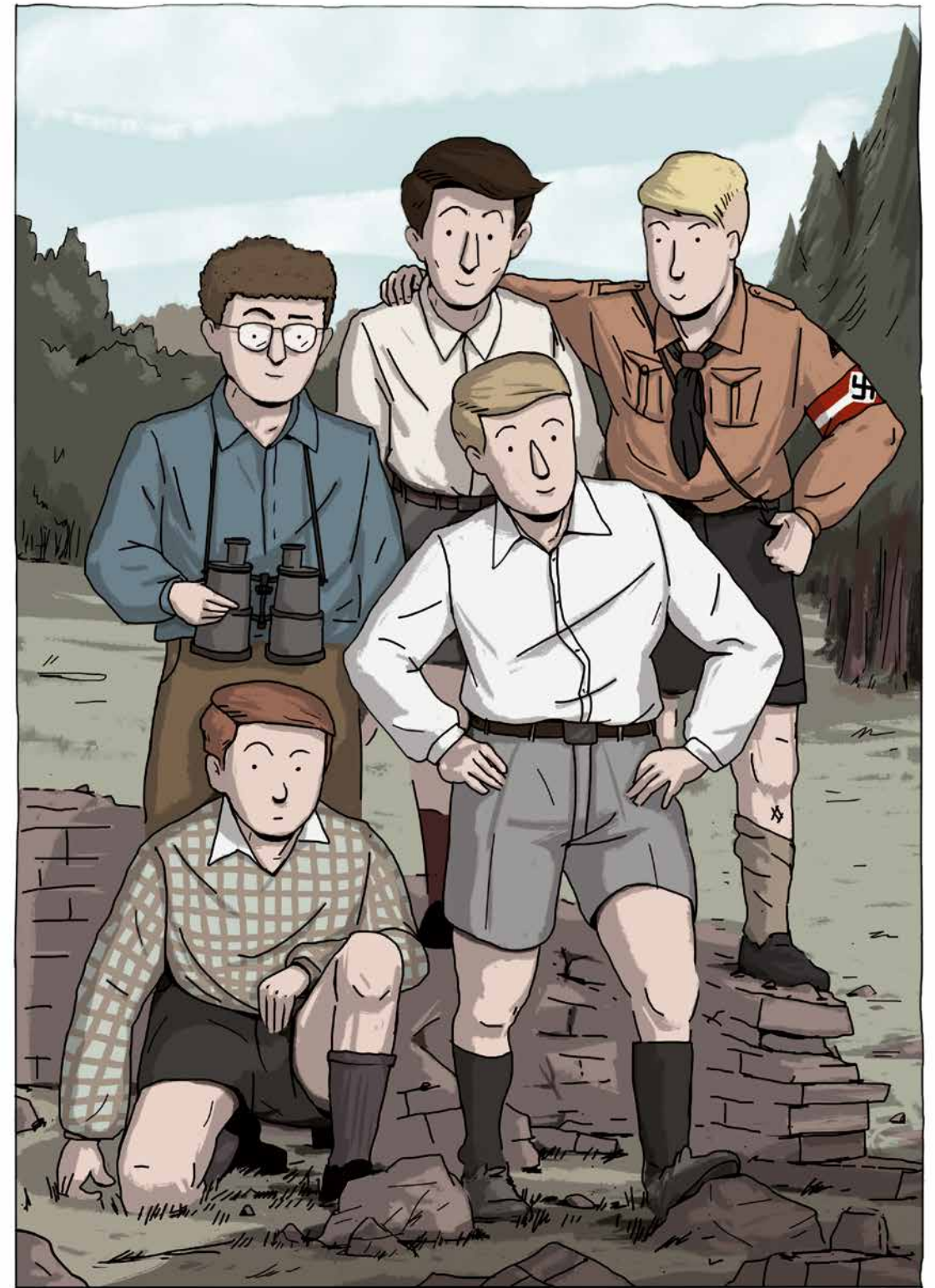
GERD, AN INTELLECTUAL TYPE AND THE SON OF A BUSINESSMAN, INITIALLY INTENDED TO TURN US IN, BUT HAVING THOUGHT IT OVER FOR A WHILE HE DECIDED THAT HE, TOO, WOULD TAKE PART IN THE LEAFLETING CAMPAIGN.



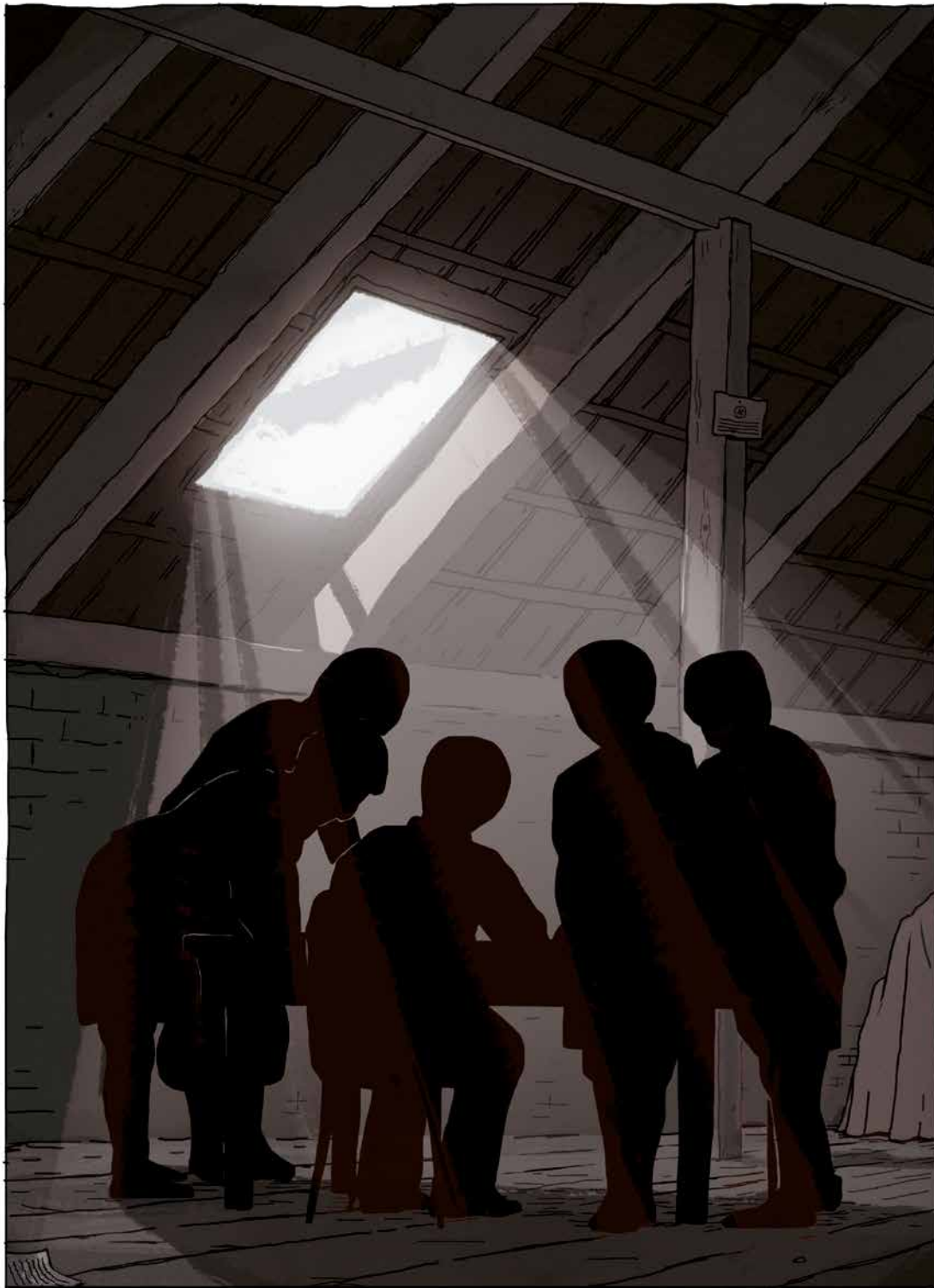
HELMUT, A CATHOLIC AND A DECENT SORT WITH A SENSE OF HUMOUR, WAS MISTRUSTFUL OF JOACHIM TO BEGIN WITH.



I TYPED OUT THE LEAFLETS ON A PORTABLE TYPEWRITER. THE FIVE OF US WERE ...



... THE ERFURT CELL OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR A FREE GERMANY.



WE HELD OUR MEETINGS EITHER IN AN ATTIC ROOM AT THE LOCAL COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, IN VARIOUS CAFÉS IN THE TOWN, OR ...

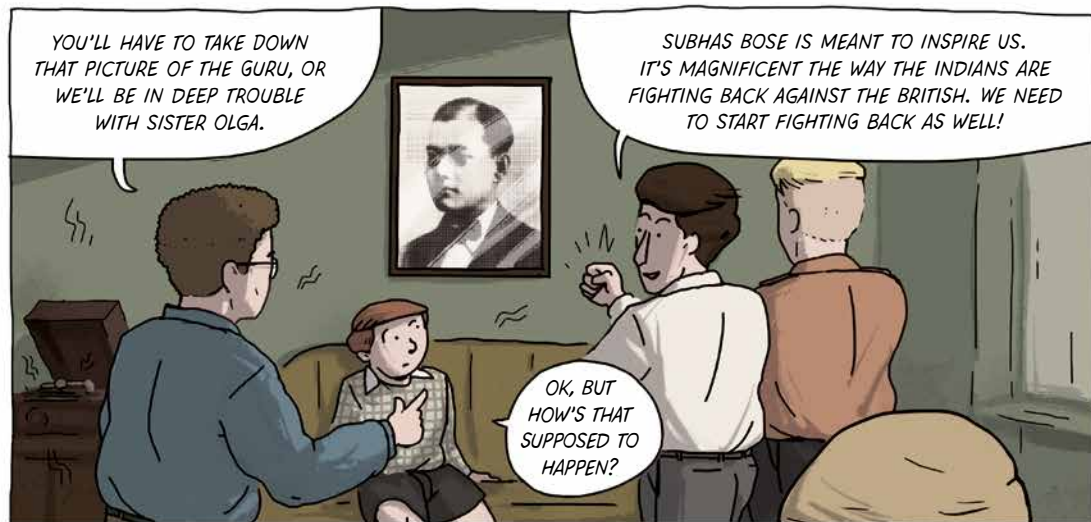




GREETINGS!

GREETINGS, FELLOW CITIZENS OF A FREE INDIA!

INDIA, MY FOOT. THIS IS ABOUT GERMANY.



YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE DOWN THAT PICTURE OF THE GURU, OR WE'LL BE IN DEEP TROUBLE WITH SISTER OLGA.

SUBHAS BOSE IS MEANT TO INSPIRE US. IT'S MAGNIFICENT THE WAY THE INDIANS ARE FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE BRITISH. WE NEED TO START FIGHTING BACK AS WELL!

OK, BUT HOW'S THAT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN?



WE USE LEAFLETS! I HEARD ABOUT IT ON THE RADIO. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR A FREE GERMANY IS EVEN PROVIDING WORDING FOR US TO DUPLICATE. THEY QUOTE GERMAN SOLDIERS, AND THEY CERTAINLY KNOW WHAT'S WHAT!



KARL, READ OUT WHAT WE'VE PUT TOGETHER SO FAR!

WE CALL UPON THE GERMAN PEOPLE TO ACT...



WOW, THAT'S TALKING MIGHTY BIG!

JUST LISTEN FIRST!



DO WE REALLY NEED TO INCLUDE ALL THAT STUFF ABOUT THE ATLANTIC CHARTER?



hmm...



I'M ALL FOR IT - IT DEALS WITH THE RIGHT OF NATIONS TO SELF-DETERMINATION. BUT PERHAPS WE SHOULD ALSO THINK ABOUT DECLARING OUR COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY.

DEMOCRACY MEANS CHAOS. I'M IN FAVOUR OF MILITARY RULE MYSELF.

WE THOUGHT IT WAS HIGH TIME TO ACT. THE WAR HAD GONE FORTH FROM GERMANY, AND TO GERMANY IT HAD NOW RETURNED.

