Opposition to the Nazis grew during the war. As the war began to go badly, new forms of opposition emerged. The Nazis arrested and executed anyone they found passing information out of the country or, once the war had started, helping the allies.

**Political Opposition**
In 1933 the Nazis had banned all political parties but the Nazi party, so normal political opposition was impossible. But from the moment they came to power, people worked secretly to oppose them. Opposition grew as Nazi policies about freedom of speech, religion and Jews and other undesirables became more extreme. However it was extremely dangerous to oppose the Nazis. They had widespread systems of informers. Opposition groups were always in danger of an informer joining the group and betraying it.

**Religious Opposition**
In the 1930s some members of the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches criticized the Nazi regime. During the war, some individual clergy tried to do more. For example, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Protestant pastor who joined German military intelligence and tried to use his position there to undermine the Nazis. He passed messages to the Allies and helped Jews escape into Switzerland. He was caught in 1943, imprisoned and then hanged in 1945.

**Military Opposition**
The military had never been natural supported of the Nazis. Many of them despised Hitler and the SA and SS. During their glorious victories in the war opposition subdued but these were several plots on his life after 1942. The most famous was the July Bomb Plot of 1944.
Colonel Clausevon Stauffenberg was one of many senior officers at the War Office in Berlin who, by 1944, believed Hitler was leading Germany to an inevitable defeat. They decided to kill him. On 20th July Stauffenberg took a bomb in a suitcase to a meeting with Hitler and placed it under the table Hitler was using. Soon after, he left to make a phone call. The bomb blew up 12 minutes later but another officer had moved the briefcase. Hitler had only singed cloths, temporary deafness and a cut hand.
Over 5000 people were arrested for their suspected involvement in the plot; 19 generals and 27 colonels, including Stauffenberg, were executed.

**The White Rose Group**
The White Rose Group was a more open form of resistance. Students started it at the university of Munich in 1941. The war triggered this group. Most of the students had been loyal Germans before, but many served in the German Army and hated the atrocities it brought. Hans Scholl, for example, had seen Jews murdered in Poland.