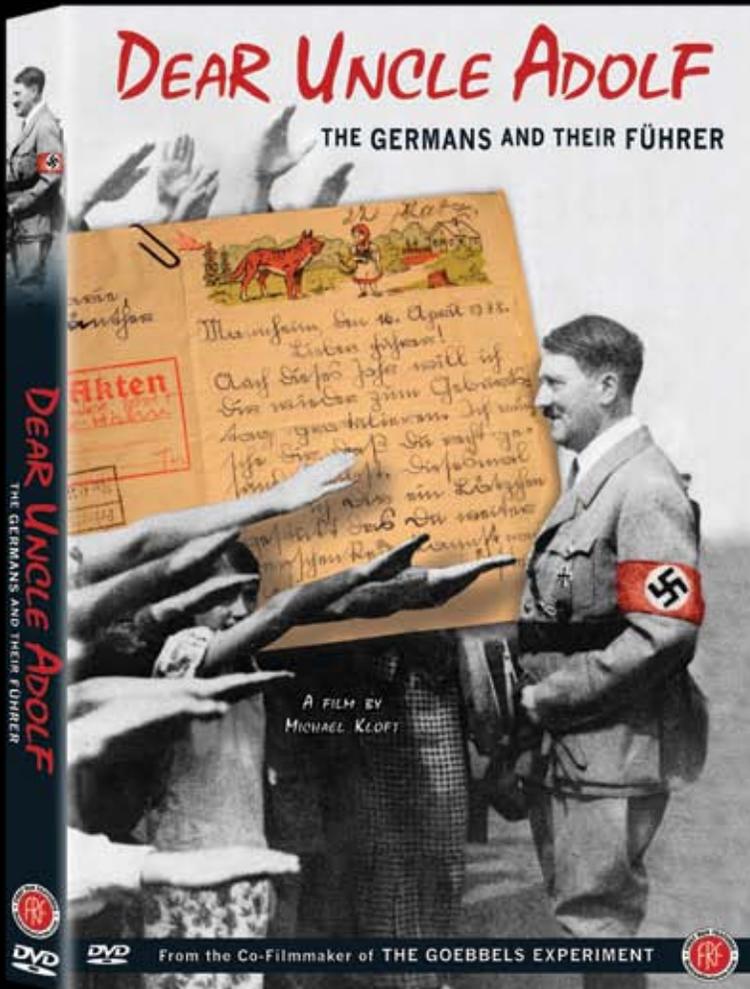




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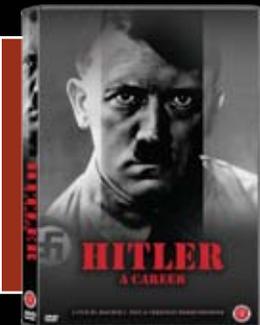
The uncensored letters reveal the true feelings of the German people – their hopes, longings and fears; also love letters, declarations of loyalty, birthday wishes, and the occasional words of protest. Like a seismograph, it mirrors the change in mood in Nazi Germany, providing a reflection of the German spirit in the years from 1932 to 1945.

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As he climbed further up the ladder of power, so the tempo of the letters increased.

Margarethe Wagner sent a pair of socks in 1938 after Hitler occupied the Czech Sudetenland border region. “I knitted these for you as you freed us,” she wrote.

Frau Troeltzsch of Berlin sent Hitler three silk handkerchiefs with pictures of Hitler sewn into them; Hitler deputy Rudolf Hess returned them with an angry note: “you do not have permission to send handkerchiefs with pictures of Herr Hitler!”

Such women were later put under Gestapo monitoring as Hitler feared that his cult of personality could lead to a destabilisation of home life in the Reich.

A special postal department was created in both Munich and Berlin to deal with the tsunami of paper wending its way to Hitler every day. In April 1932, a day after elections made the party an unstoppable force in national politics, one man wrote: “We don’t want to know about the government any more – we only want Adolf Hitler as leader, as dictator. We National Socialists want to see a ban on all newspapers that inject poison into our Fuchrer, to see Jews classified as what they are... We will give our blood to Adolf Hitler! Take an iron hand and fulfill your programme with a dictatorial will. Do not negotiate but act!”

PRE-BOOK: JULY 19  
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