

Ernst Röhm

Röhm, E.

Ernst Röhm

For Ellen *Wasky; mündel*

Carl Jannin Klusie
1950

Okean + Drama 1851

Opera + Drama

R. Wagner

- Frankfurt am Main
- Library of Congress
- 2 1/2 Mill Bücher mündel
Wes Edelhardt

Ernst Röhm
Mündel 28.11.1887
30.6.34 ermordet

eingesetzt

geworden sollte → Staat

19 29/30 Bolivien

19 31 Stabschef der SA

- Idee SA 2. Revolution

Volksherr

- Reichsweltzug gegen Braunen Leuten

- Vorwand Tutsch geplant zu haben,
verhaftet + erschossen

96 CONTINUED: (2)

96

He makes a half-hearted move to put his arm around her, then doesn't.

TOM
(continuing)
I know this hitting the road stuff is not that easy.

Silence.

TOM
(continuing)
Gotta be careful though. Important rule of the road. Gotta keep up human contact... or you'll be turning weird on yourself.

He switches on the turn signal.

TOM
(continuing)
Matter of fact, maybe about time to pull in for some dinner.

97 INT. NYC LIVING ROOM / VERENA'S STUDY DAY

97

Through the glass door: a worried, Richard gets up out of the make up chair and comes to the door. He enters without knocking.

98 INT. NYC VERENA'S STUDY DAY

98

Coltrane sits with an anxious-looking Marianne, making notes. Richard stares from the doorway, still in his make-up apron.

RICHARD
If you intend to question my employees, I'd appreciate your consulting with me first!

COLTRANE
Just some routine questioning, Mr. Randolph. Regarding your daughter's mental instability.

Richard turns to Marianne.

CONTINUED

Michael & Heinrich 030 / 423-5300

Dieterich Eckhart

Friedrich Koder

Sexuelle Dehumanisation.

Die Sexuali. in der pol. Ausein.

(u.a. zu Böhm, Stij. der Juden,
"Was Hitler ~~war~~ homosexuell")

Syndikat, Frankfurt / M, 1986, kart., S. 223,
35 DM E / 14961

87 CONTINUED: (2)

87

COLTRANE

Who was that?

DOWNEY

Dr. Stefan Gelfand. The family
physician. We're still checking.

Richard exits.

88 INT. MERCEDES - DAY

88

Verena, in sunglasses and racing gloves, is on the road.

89 EXT. TRUCK STOP DAY

89

Tom stands at the open trunk and gazes down at neat bundles
of Verena's money in his hiding place. Lily comes up behind
him.

LILY

How's it going?

TOM

(startled)

Don't come up behind me like that
when a man is counting his money.

The hiding place contains the \$50,000.

LILY

You must have been saving a long
time.

He nervously closes up.

TOM

Yeah, well, now you know where my
life saving's hid. I gotta trust you.

LILY

My mother keeps a lot of cash around.
For a rainy day, she says.

Tom gives her a look and locks the trunk.

CONTINUED

955-5-10
Kivvenet
food
store

unclean Klingsor had vanished in the ruin of his chimeric castle, his fate having been sealed in the garden when the blood image appeared before Parsifal, turning the self-avowal and perception ("*Bekennnis*" and "*Erkenntnis*") of sex that Kundry had hoped to awaken in him into a revelation of racial duty and mission.

Wagner ended "Know Thyself" ("*Erkenne dich selbst*") of 1881 with a mystically phrased observation; only when his countrymen awakened and ceased party bickering, would there be no more Jews, a "great solution" ("*grosse Lösung*") he foresaw as uniquely within the reach of the Germans if they could conquer false shame and not shrink from ultimate knowledge ("*nach der Überwindung aller falschen Scham die letzte Erkenntnis nicht zu scheuen*").⁵ Parsifal showed the way. The shattering "*Erkenntnis*" that came to the hero in the magic garden would be Wagner's final revelation to his countrymen. "Germany, awake!" "*Deutschland erwache!*"⁶ was the slogan under which Hitler brought the "*grosse Lösung*" to reality.

This painful interpretation of Parsifal has been traced largely with its creator's own words. Yet, even though Parsifal, more than the Ring, was the gospel of National Socialism, Wagner's genius operates on many levels, and, as has been noted, the work may also and more comfortably be regarded as his final treatment of the themes of empathy, growing awareness, and the love-death. But to be completely comfortable one must overlook the fact that, like Hans Sachs's benignity, the compassion extolled in Parsifal is restricted to a chosen group. Westernhagen described Wagnerian pity as "aristocratic." The Third Reich overflowed with this particular kind of benevolence. Parsifal is not only un-Christian, it is anti-Christian. Nietzsche, who believed racial mixture to be the source of great cultures,⁷ recognized the opera as "a work of malice, of vindictiveness, of poison secretly brewed to envenom the prerequisites of life, a bad work . . . an outrage on morality." Yet he also acknowledged the ingenuity of its libretto and the incredible beauty of its music.

Max Friedlander⁸ observed Wagner's delight in setting up stage situations whose externals paradoxically project a point of view at variance with his text. At these moments the average spectator, satisfied with what appears to be a conventional operatic situation, settles back to drink in the beautiful sea of sound. A large part of the public, for example, is unaware that the love potion scene in Tristan is not a token exchange of magic draughts but the result of a bald plan for murder and then suicide, that the brother and sister Siegmund mentions in his "*Winterstürme*" cavatina in the first act of Valkyrie are not himself and Sieglinde but a poetic reference to spring and love, and that Sieglinde's frenzy and flight in this work's second act are caused not by remorse for incestuous adultery but by hysterical regret for not having indulged it earlier. Wagner enjoyed the trick of

⁵ The Nazi poem "*Deutschland erwache!*" was written by Dietrich Eckhart.

⁶ Many of Gobineau's and Wagner's ideas on race were taken over by the latter's son-in-law Houston Stewart Chamberlain in his *The Foundations of the Nineteenth Century* (1899), one of the seminal works of the proto-Nazi movement and a book the last German kaiser believed to have been sent to his people by God. Like Nietzsche, Chamberlain felt that extraordinary races were the result of blood mixture, and cited the Prussians as an example; however, according to his program, the noble race, once produced, had to be safeguarded through inbreeding. He embraced Wagner's Aryan Christ as revealed in the *Bayreuther Blätter* and declared Him to have been without "a drop of true Jewish blood in His veins. . . . Any further assertion is an arbitrary assumption."

⁷ Mr. Friedlander's "A Psychoanalytic Approach to Wagner's Ring" was published in *Connotation* (a journal of Fairleigh Dickinson University), Volume 2, Part 1, Spring, 1963. Unfortunately, his other lectures delivered at Bayreuth remain in manuscript.

The core of A. H.'s belief. He would not shrink from ultimate knowledge by fear of the bloody tools it demands

* Translate

Elber - see if you can buy this in NY (It's probably in a collection of poems by Eckhart)



Dietrich Eckart

Das nationalsozialistische Deutschland nennt mit Recht einen seiner Verkämpfer und Bahnbrecher: Dietrich Eckart.

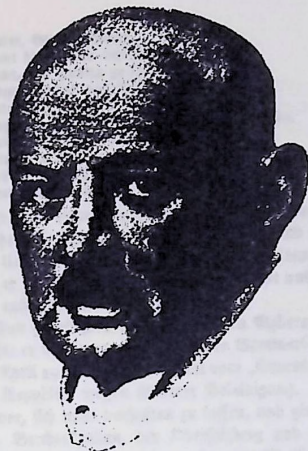
Ein Sohn der rauhen bayerischen Hismat, am 23. März 1868 in Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz geboren, lernte er in seinen Studien und Wanderjahren Freud und Leid der Menschenleben, Hunger und Not des Daseins am eigenen Leibe kennen. Deshalb fühlte er so ganz die Not des Volkes, des ganzen Deutschlands. Er war Nationalsozialist im Leben und im Sterben! Dichter und Kämpfer! Der Dichter bleibt und in seinem geistigen Höhenflug erhalten in der freien deutschen Übersetzung des Dramas „Peer Gynt“ des norwegischen Dichters Henrik Ibsen. — „Lorenzaccio“, gedanklich und dichterisch eine Meisterschöpfung Dietrich Eckarts, hat inzwischen auch ihre Bühnenvirkamkeit erprobt.

In Hunderten von Gedichten zeigt sich unser Dichter als feinsinniger Lyriker, meisterhaft als Gestalter geschichtlicher Stoffe, unübertrefflich aber auch in der Behandlung von Augenblicksbildern aus der „Drecklinie der Tagespolitik“. — Seine schon im Dezember 1919 herausgegebene Wochenschrift „Auf gut Deutsch“ mit dem Untertitel „Wochenschrift für Ordnung und Recht“ war eine offene Kampfansage an die Republik und die „Novemberverbrecher“.

Die unter dem gleichen Kennwort erschienenen Sonderhefte über „System-Größen“, gegen Judentum und Bolschewismus und die Einzelhefte gegen Erzberger u. a. wirkten gleich Brandfadeln. Hören wir Dietrich Eckart selbst, wie er seine Aufgabe als Herausgeber einer solchen Zeitschrift auffaßt. Er schreibt in „Auf gut Deutsch“ am 15. Januar 1921:

Persönliches.

Zum Journalisten, also auch zum Herausgeber einer Zeitschrift muß man gehören sein. Wer nicht von Haus aus die Fähigkeit besitzt, in jedem beliebigen Augenblick über jeden beliebigen Gegenstand eine beliebige Menge geistreicher Worte hinzulegen, der wird sich, wenigstens auf die Dauer, als Mann der Presse verdammt schwer tun.



Dietrich Eckart

Zeichnung von R. J. Schüringer

„Auf gut Deutsch“ besteht jetzt zwei Jahre lang. Als Eider auf den Plan trat, duldete es mich nicht mehr in meiner bescheidenen Dichterstube; es war mir, als hörte ich unablässig den Notruf: Rauschen heraus! Und so griff ich zu, ohne viel zu fragen, ob ich auch würde durchhalten können.

Es ging bis heute, aber daß ich darin meine helle Befriedigung gefunden hätte, kann ich nicht behaupten. Goethe schrieb einmal, es sei keine Kunst, geistreich zu sein, wenn man vor nichts Respekt habe; und vielleicht ist es mein Bedürfnis, alle Dinge im Zusammenhang mit dem Weltganzen, d. h. eben respektvoll zu betrachten, woraus mir als Tageschriftsteller sonndsooft die größten Schwierigkeiten erwachsen.

Vor vielen Jahren habe ich mir einmal den Spruch gedichtet:

Welcher Mensch vermöchte sich
Sanz der Lage zu entziehen?
Sei's darum! Die Wahrheit spricht
Wenigstens in deinem Schaffen!

und so will ich es auch künftig halten, selbst auf die Gefahr hin, mir alle möglichen Vorwürfe zuzuziehen (woran es schon jetzt nicht fehlt). Wenn nicht das Innere spricht, lieber schweigen als funktieren. Dafür wird es das nächste Mal um so besser. — — —

Der Mitarbeiterteils der Zeitschrift wird immermehr zum Mitkämpferkreis für Adolf Hitler; ihm wird Dietrich Eckart ein väterlicher Freund, Berater und Mitarbeiter, — und für die deutsche Freiheitsbewegung der Herold, dessen Kampflied durch die Lande schalle:

Sturm, Sturm, Sturm!
Kläut die Kloden von Turm zu Turm!
Kläut die Klauen, die Krallen, die Klauen,
Kläut die Schlüfer aus ihren Stuben,
Kläut die Mädchen herunter die Stiegen,
Kläut die Mütter hinweg von den Wegen
Drehen soll sie und geben, die Lust,
Rasen, rasen im Donner der Rache.
Kläut die Toten aus ihrer Gruft,
Deutschland, erwache!

Sturm, Sturm, Sturm!
Kläut die Kloden von Turm zu Turm!
Kläut, daß Klauen zu sprächen beginnen,
Judas erschleut, das Reich zu gewinnen,
Kläut, daß blutig die Seele sich rühen,
Klings lauter Brennen und Martern und Ehen.
Kläut Sturm, daß die Erde sich kläut
Unter dem Donner der rettenden Rache.
Wehe dem Volk, das heute noch schlumert,
Deutschland, erwache!

So rüttelt Dietrich Eckart unermüdlich die deutschen Schläfer aus ihrem politischen Dorschlaf, in den sie von Juden und Marxisten versetzt waren. — Und den Juden und Judenfeindern galt seine Angriffe, mit denen er wieder und immer wieder in Wort und Bild den deutschen Michel aufrüttelte.

Die vom System geheiligten Novembergrößen Erzberger, Wirth, Ebert u. a. bedachte er mit seinen volkstümlichen Spottversen. Dafür erhielt er am 12. April 1923 einen Haftbefehl vom Staatsgerichtshof zum Schutze der Republik wegen schwerer Beleidigung. Er zog es selbstverständlich vor, sich nicht verhaften zu lassen, und ging in seine geliebten Berge. Berchtesgaden, der Obersalzberg und seine Umgebung waren seine Zufluchtsorte. Hier traf er mit Adolf Hitler, mit Rosenberg und anderen führenden Nationalsozialisten zusammen. Der Polizei verbarg er sich unter dem angenommenen Namen Dr. Hoffmann. — Die politischen Vorgänge unten in München und überall folgten sich. — — —

Sein „Deutschland erwache!“ tönt nicht mehr als Ruf einzelner, sondern wird zum Kampfruf... und Deutschlands beste Söhne folgen ihm und wollen nicht länger die Fesseln der Novemberfälschung tragen.

Am 9. November steht Dietrich Eckart in Reich und Elend mit den Getreuen Adolf Hitlers! Die Regeln der Reaktion verstoßen auch seine Hoffnung; er wird wie fast alle führenden Nationalsozialisten verhaftet, und verblühtet schreibt er am 21. November 1923 in seiner Gefängniszelle in Stadelheim:

Widest Volk! Du schmädest jeden,
Der sich treulich um dich mähle,
Mit gottverfluchten Reden
kohnstest du auch Hitlers Sätze.

Genug, als die Hirscher
 hinterd's ihn anbrachten.
 Aber nun kommt der Hebräer,
 Dein Schicksal kommt gegangen!
 Weisheitsliebe um die Dämonen,
 Aber Kaut, nicht zu vergessen —
 Für das Sklavensoch geboren,
 Denkst du ja nur noch aus Preußen!
 Gott sei Dank, was Hitler plante,
 Wurde je ihm abgetrieben,
 Und ihm alles erspart die Schande,
 Daß, du Paß, befreit zu haben!

Das war damals in den grauen Novembertagen, als der „Lanz um das goldene Kalb“ bei Hebräern und anderen Würfelspekulanten am wildesten tobte, als die deutsche Mark bis in ein Nichts, zum Papierfetzen — als Inflationsbillion — herabgedrückt wurde. — Rußen auf dem gedulbigen Papier und Rußen und Werdrecher geduldig vom deutschen Volk in Regierungsstellen ertagen, während Deutschlands beste Söhne hinter Gefängnismauern saßen! —

Für Dietrich Edart waren die Tage im Gefängnis zu Stadelheim doppelt hart. Sein Geist wollte sich nicht einengen lassen und sein Körper war seinem übermenschlichen Willen, allen Anstrengungen und Demütigungen nicht gewachsen.

Wohl wird er im Laufe des Dezember freigelassen, doch krank und auf die Hilfe treuer Freunde angewiesen, verläßt er das Gefängnis.

Am 26. Dezember 1923 stirbt er als Märtyrer des erwachenden Deutschlands.

Seine Heimatstadt Neumarkt setzte ihm im November 1933 ein eindrucksvolles Denkmal aus heimischem Kalkstein. Ganz Deutschland feierte diesen Tag, besonders aber seine Landsleute der Oberpfalz, von der er stammte:

Freund, wo unsre Birge steht,
 Liegt der Ader voller Steine,
 Wenn der Winter dort vergeht,
 Fordert schon der Herbst das seine.
 Hart die Menschen nie der Boden;
 Aber auch die kriegsten Leide
 Sind dort nicht mehr auszuroden,
 Weber Mangelweil noch Liebe.

Hindenburg

Als im Spiegelsaal von Versailles am 18. Januar 1871 der Bundeskanzler Graf von Bismarck die Urkunde von der Begründung des Deutschen Kaiserreiches verlas und der Großherzog von Baden auf den einzigsten Prinzen von Preußen, Königin Luises Sohn, das erste Kaiserhoch ausbrachte, hat unter den Abordnungen ein junger Offizier gestanden, der 54 Jahre später zum Oberhaupt des Deutschen Reiches gewählt werden sollte: der 23jährige Leutnant von Hindenburg.

Wer war der Leutnant von Hindenburg?

Die Jahre politischer Bewegung zogen über Frankreich, Österreich und Preußen herauf, der König von Preußen hatte die Landtage aller Provinzen als die „Vereinigten Landtage“ nach Berlin gerufen, im schlichten Dorfsitzeln von Alt-Kolziglow bei Reinsfeld in Pommern war am 28. Juli ein Mitglied des „Vereinigten Landtages Preußen“, der 23jährige Rittergutsbesitzer Otto von Bismarck-Schönhausen, „der tolle Junter“, wie ihn die Leute nannten, mit Johanna von Pittlamer getraut worden — in diesem Jahre 1847 wurde am 2. Oktober dem Leutnant im 18. Infanterie-Regiment, von Benedendorff und Hindenburg, und seiner Frau, der Tochter des Posenener Generalarztes Schwilckart, der sich 1813 in der Schlacht bei Kulm ausgezeichnet hatte, ein Sohn geschenkt, der den Vornamen Paul erhielt.

Das Geschlecht der Benedendorffs gehört zu jenem nüchternen und strengen Adel altmärkischer Prägung, der schon lange im Königreich Fuß gefaßt hatte und bis zum Jahre 1280 urkundlich nachzuweisen ist. Erst zum Ende des 18. Jahrhunderts hatten die Hindenburgs hinzugeheiratet. Unter Friedrich Wilhelm II. wurden die Namen der beiden Geschlechter vereinigt; seitdem wird der Doppelname mit „Hindenburg“ abgekürzt.

Paul von Hindenburg hat seine Jugend auf Gut Rendes verleben. Dieser Besitz war nach dem Tode seiner Großeltern den Eltern zugefallen, so von Geschlecht zu Geschlecht seine Aufgabe erfüllend: eine Heimat für alle Hindenburgs zu sein. Paul hatte noch zwei jüngere Brüder und eine Schwester.

¹⁾ Dieser Lebensbeschreibung ist das bekannte Werk des Generalfeldmarschalls zugrunde gelegt: Aus meinem Leben, Leipzig, E. Hinrich Verlag 1929.

TO ELKE

001 508 487 2136

Eckart, Dietrich,...Schriftsteller, * Neumarkt (Oberpfalz)
23.03.1868, † Berchtesgaden 26.12.1923, trat 1918 als Gegner der
Revolution und radikaler Antisemit hervor. Er gründete in München
eine antirevolutionäre ›Bürgervereinigung‹, gab die Zeitschrift ›Auf
gut deutsch‹ heraus und beteiligte sich am Widerstand gegen die
Räteherrschaft. 1919 lernte er Hitler kennen, wurde dessen Mentor und
einer seiner einflußreichsten Förderer. Der nationalsozialist. Kampfruf
›Deutschland erwache‹ und das Gedicht ›Sturm, Sturm, Sturm,‹
stammen von ihm. Er war 1921-23 Hauptschriftleiter des ›Völkischen
Beobachters‹.

Werke. Dramen: Peer Gynt-Übersetzung (1912); Heinrich der
Hohenstaufe (1915); Lorenzaccio (1915). Lustspiele. – Der
Bolschewismus von Moers bis Lenin (1924).
SONJA NOLLER in: NDB, = Neue Deutsche Biografie 4 (1959)

"Völkischer Beobachter" = Nazi-Zeitung
bis Ende 1945

Es gab bei den Nazis keine
Presse-Freiheit

Viele Grüße! M. N.

1.3.01



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3. Third Reich Factbook - SS-Totenkopf-Standarte 13

SS Totenkopf Standarte 13 SS Totenkopf Standarte 13 was formed in Vienna Nov 1939 from parts of It was disbanded July 1940 Commanders SS Standartenführer Klingemann Manpower stren

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4.

Marcus Wendel

: URL: <http://www.skalmann.nu/third-reich/ss-totenkopf-stand.htm>

5.

SS Totenkopf Standarte 12 SS Totenkopf Standarte 12 was formed in Posen from parts of It was disbanded Aug 1940 and its men was transferred to and some to Commanders SS Obersturmb

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87 CONTINUED:

87

Coltrane and Downey approaches Richard.

COLTRANE

Mr. Randolph? I'm Detective Coltrane,
Detective Downey. FBI.

RICHARD

(uneasy)

FBI ?

COLTRANE

(proud)

Your friends in Washington wanted you
to have the best possible help in
rescuing your daughter.

RICHARD

Uh...right.

COLTRANE

Your wife is the one who actually
spoke with him? Can I talk to her?

RICHARD

I...I've sent her and the children
away. I'm concerned for their safety
until we know...

Richard breaks from Coltrane, who never takes his eyes off
him.

COLTRANE

Where can we reach her?

Richard belches again and motions Dr.Gelfand over.

RICHARD

(quietly)

Where is she?

DR. GELFAND

She is on the road and there is no
way of getting in touch with her
right now.

Coltrane watches as Dr.Gelfand leaves the room. Coltrane
leans over to Downey, and nods after Gelfand.

CONTINUED

Ernst Röhm

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Ernst Julius Röhm, also known as **Ernst Roehm** in English (November 28, 1887 - July 2, 1934) was a German military officer, and the commander and co-founder of the Nazi Sturmabteilung, or storm troopers—the SA.

Contents

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 - 1.1 Early years
 - 1.2 Röhm's return to Germany
 - 1.3 Downfall
 - 1.4 Death
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- 3 Popular culture
- 4 See also
- 5 References



A photographic portrait of Ernst Röhm.

History

Early years

Röhm was one of three children of Julius Röhm and his wife Emilie (née Baltheiser). A native of Munich, Röhm served as a career officer with the Bavarian Army during World War I. He held the rank of Oberleutnant with the Bavarian 13th Infantry Regiment, and was severely wounded in the face in September of 1914, in Lorraine, France. He was later promoted to Hauptmann.

Following the end of the war in 1918, he joined the Freikorps, one of the many private militias that had formed in Munich to combat Communist insurrection. In 1920, he became a member of the National Socialist German Worker's Party—the Nazis— and helped to organize the Sturmabteilung—the SA. In 1923, after the failed Beer Hall Putsch in Munich, Röhm spent fifteen months in prison, during which time he became a close personal friend of Adolf Hitler.

After Röhm was released from prison in 1924, he worked with Hitler to rebuild the Nazis, but several intense differences developed between the two. In April of 1924 he helped create the Frontbann as a legal alternative to the temporarily defunct and outlawed SA. He then served in the Reichstag as part of the renamed National Socialist Freedom Party before resigning in 1925. He went to Bolivia to serve as a military advisor.

During this time, Röhm was maintained on the rolls of the German Reichswehr, where he was eventually promoted to the rank of Oberst.

Röhm's return to Germany

In 1930, Hitler personally assumed command of the storm troopers as the new Oberster SA-Führer. Hitler sent a personal request to Röhm to return to Germany, offering him the position of Stabschef (or "chief of staff") of the entire Sturmabteilung. Röhm accepted the offer in 1931, introducing radical new ideas to the SA and staffing the senior leadership with his close friends and personal associates. Rumors abounded that the SA leadership



The early leaders of the Nazis, with Röhm (photo right) standing next to Adolf Hitler.

participated in homosexual activities, and Röhm's conduct as SA Stabschef was soon under heavy criticism, particularly by the conservative German military hierarchy.

The main function of the SA during the formative years of the Nazi Party had been that of a *political army* - namely, to supply the force to protect the party leadership and to attack and terrorize political opponents such as the Communist Red Front. Through violence and intimidation, the SA

helped the Nazis become more powerful than the other political parties first in Munich and later throughout Germany.

Downfall

Following the Nazis' ascent to power in 1933, the socialist faction of the Nazi Party — led by Röhm — continued to believe in the socialism inherent to the party's name. This faction of the party insisted on nationalization of large firms, profit sharing for employees, and cuts in the interest rates; all of these measures were anathema to the business community that had supported Hitler's rise to power. Röhm himself spoke of a "second revolution," and vowed to act against what he termed reactionaries, much as the Nazis had acted against the Communists during the consolidation of power earlier that year.

Hitler moved swiftly to reassure the German business community. In so doing, a breach was opened between Hitler and the SA. The storm troopers, whose ranks were largely composed of dispossessed members of the working class, were anticapitalist in tendency, and they hoped to gain from the "revolution" they had helped win via their fighting in the streets. Hitler was of the opinion that the storm troopers were a political force who, once the Nazis had gained power, were no longer needed. Röhm, on the other hand, believed the SA was destined to be the germ of a "revolutionary" army for Hitler. While Röhm showed contempt for the Prussian military leadership, Hitler was well aware that he could not have come to power without the support of the Army, nor could he remain in leadership were the Army to withdraw its backing. Furthermore, Hitler realized he needed the Army's support to succeed the 86-year-old Paul von Hindenburg as President and Commander-in-Chief when von Hindenburg died.

In 1934, as it became clear that the President was weakening and approaching death, many factions in Germany devised schemes to position their own favorite candidates as von Hindenburg's successor. Shirer writes that a group of conservatives — including many within the armed forces — sought the return of Crown Prince Wilhelm, the son of Kaiser Wilhelm II, to Germany either as President or as head of a re-established German monarchy.

Germany's military leadership was incensed by Röhm's proposal in February of 1934 that Germany's armed forces (the Reichswehr) be absorbed into a single organization wherein the SA would have a clear numerical superiority and, thereby, become dominant. The Army viewed the SA as a brawling mob of undisciplined street fighters, and the tales of homosexuality and "corrupt morals" were well known within the Army; the officer corps unanimously rejected Röhm's proposal, citing the destruction of German military honor and discipline were Röhm's brawling storm troopers to gain control of the armed forces.

Hitler was presented with the opportunity to meet with the leaders of Germany's armed services on April 11 on board the pocket battleship *Deutschland* while reviewing the military's spring maneuvers in East Prussia. In the

company of Defense Minister Werner von Blomberg, Hitler met with the army commander-in-chief - General Werner von Fritsch — and the head of the navy — Admiral Erich Raeder. Hitler advised the commanders of the deterioration of Hindenburg's health and proposed that the Reichswehr support Hitler's succession to the presidency. In exchange, Hitler offered to reduce the size of the SA, suppress Röhm's ambitions, and guaranteed that the Reichswehr would become Germany's sole bearer-of-arms. Shirer's account states that it was quite likely that Hitler also seduced the military leaders with a promise to expand both the army and the navy in exchange for their support.

The tension within the Nazis worsened after further calls from Röhm for the "second revolution," (this time against the conservative power structure) and after a showdown between Röhm and Hitler in early June.

Similarly, the conservative industrialists that had supported Hitler's rise to the chancellorship in 1933 continued to voice unease over the socialist leanings Röhm shared with the Strasser brothers, in particular their calls for the "second revolution." Through their close relationship with President von Hindenburg, both conservative groups — the officer corps and the industrialists — made their displeasure known to him.

In early June of 1934, von Hindenburg, though ailing, conveyed an ultimatum to Hitler that, unless the tension in Germany was put to an end, he was considering a declaration of martial law. Knowing that such a step would take power out of his hands — possibly forever — Hitler decided he could no longer forestall honoring his pact with the Reichswehr to suppress the SA and end its plans for the "second revolution."

Death

In spite of the pressure applied on him, Hitler postponed the decision to do away with his long-time comrade to the very end. He appealed to Röhm not to press for the "second revolution." Only when the differences appeared irreconcilable did Hitler finally make up his mind that Röhm had to go. Hesitating to the last, but spurred on by Hermann Göring and Heinrich Himmler with what were more than likely highly colored accounts of "treason" by Röhm and the SA, Hitler was finally convinced to order Göring and Himmler to put down Röhm's alleged "plot." Both Göring and Himmler had their own scores to settle, and they consolidated their own power by putting down the SA and its leader.

Röhm was executed without trial during the purge of the SA — the so-called "Night of the Long Knives" in June 1934. Following his arrest by Hitler himself at the resort of Bad Wiessee on June 30, Röhm was held briefly at Stadelheim Prison in Munich. There, on July 2, he was visited by SS-Brigadeführer Theodor Eicke (then the Kommandant of Dachau) and SS-Sturmabführer Michael Lippert. Lippert shot Röhm at point-blank range after he refused to commit suicide with a pistol given to him. Röhm may not have realized who had ordered his execution; it has been unverifiably reported that his last words were reported as being "mein Führer, mein Führer". The measures taken by Hitler's followers during that weekend were made legal after the fact by a decree in the Law Regarding Measures of State Self-Defense on July 3. Ernst Röhm was buried in Westfriedhof (German for "west cemetery") in Munich.

Röhm's homosexuality

Ernst Röhm was one of the most prominent of a number of early Nazi party members who was a suspected homosexual, and his homosexuality was ultimately the pretext used for his removal during the purge of the SA. Having been outed in 1925, however, Röhm made little attempt to hide his sexuality. Despite Hitler's pretense of shock upon discovering his deputy's sexual orientation, he had in fact long known that Röhm was homosexual.

During Röhm's tenure at the head of the SA, it has been suggested that a number of homosexual men (notably Karl Ernst, a former bouncer at a gay nightclub, and Edmund Heines) were appointed to and promoted within the

SA as a result of high-level liaisons with powerful SA figures. This was despite the openly anti-gay policies of the Nazis, exemplified by their strengthening of Paragraph 175 (criminalising homosexual acts) of the German Criminal Code of 1871.

Popular culture

Röhm is cited in the song "The Last Day of June 1934" by Al Stewart, from the album *Past, Present and Future*, (1973).

See also

- Nazi Germany
- History of Germany
- Allegations about Rudolf Hess

References

- *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* - William L. Shirer (1960) Simon & Schuster, Inc. ISBN 0671728695 (1990 30th Anniversary edition)
- *The Hidden Hitler* - Lothar Machtan (2002) ISBN 0465043089

Preceded by None	Stabschef SA 1931–1934	Succeeded by Viktor Lutze
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The Hitler Cabinet – 30 January 1933 to 30 April 1945 [hide]

Adolf Hitler (Chancellor, Leader, NSDAP) | Franz von Papen (independent) | Konstantin von Neurath (independent → NSDAP) | Joachim von Ribbentrop (NSDAP) | Wilhelm Frick (NSDAP) | Heinrich Himmler (NSDAP) | Lutz Graf Schwerin von Krosigk (independent) | Alfred Hugenberg (DNVP) | Kurt Schmitt (NSDAP) | Hjalmar Schacht (independent) | Hermann Göring (NSDAP) | Walther Funk (NSDAP) | Franz Seldte (DVP → NSDAP) | Franz Gürtner (DNVP) | Franz Schlegelberger (NSDAP) | Otto Georg Thierack (NSDAP) | Werner von Blomberg (independent) | General Keitel (independent) | Freiherr von Eltz-Rübenach (independent) | Julius Heinrich Dormmüller (NSDAP) | Wilhelm Ohnesorge (NSDAP) | R. Walther Darré (NSDAP) | Herbert Backe (NSDAP) | Joseph Goebbels (NSDAP) | Bernhard Rust (NSDAP) | Fritz Todt (NSDAP) | Albert Speer (NSDAP) | Alfred Rosenberg (NSDAP) | Hanns Kerrl (NSDAP) | Hermann Muhs (NSDAP) | Otto Meißner (independent) | Hans Lammers (NSDAP) | Martin Bormann (NSDAP) | Karl Hermann Frank (NSDAP)

Rudolf Hess (NSDAP) | **Ernst Röhm** (NSDAP)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernst_R%C3%B6hm"

Categories: 1887 births | 1934 deaths | Executed Nazi leaders | Deaths by firearm | LGBT history of Germany | LGBT people from Germany | People executed by single firearm | People from Munich | SA officers | Victims of The Night of the Long Knives

Ernst Roehm (1887-1934)



Ernst Rohm was born in Munich in 1887. An intensely militaristic man, he joined the German army and served throughout World War I. In 1919, after the war, Rohm met Adolf Hitler, a meeting which invariably altered the path of Rohm's life forever. Rohm maintained his militaristic inclinations and became the leader of the Frontbann, one of several paramilitary organizations existing in the Weimar Republic. Rohm became increasingly radical, and he felt angry and betrayed, as most Germans did, over the loss of World War I. Therefore, Rohm happily accepted his old friend Hitler's welcome into the Nazi party.

Rohm participated in the 1923 Beer Hall Putsch, and by 1925, took his major role in the Nazi Party and in history. He began to organize his own paramilitary organization from the sportabteilung, or sport detachment, of the Nazi Party. The sportabteilung had valiantly defended Hitler during the abortive Beer Hall Putsch, and in recognition Hitler renamed the sports detachment sturmabteilung, abbreviated as SA, and appointed

Ernst Rohm as their leader. Rohm took the ragtag crew of ruffians and street thugs that comprised the SA and began to organize and train them in a strict military fashion. This training provided the Nazi party with a strong military arm which made itself known in several street brawls while defending Hitler and the Nazi Party. But the relationship between Rohm and Hitler deteriorated, mainly over the leadership of the SA and the role it would play in achieving the Party's goals.

Rohm wanted the SA to be independent of the party's political structure, but Hitler forbade this mainly due to his desire to consolidate all control under his position. This objective would have been seriously inhibited if the SA was granted autonomy. Also, Hitler was becoming increasingly weary of Rohm's ever growing radical nature and the unruly conduct of his "brownshirts," which degraded the Nazi's public image and therefore jeopardized the struggle for power. When his request for autonomy was denied, Rohm grew spiteful of Hitler, declaring that he had claimed the glories won by the SA for himself. As a result, Rohm resigned from his position and became a military instructor in Bolivia.

Hitler replaced Rohm's position as SA leader several times with more conservative and controllable candidates. However, the SA only became more and more violent without Rohm's leadership, and Hitler began to fear losing control. As a consequence, Hitler faced a potential violent party division which could seriously undermine his ascension to power. In addition, the German army was voicing concern over the SA's violent behavior and increasing militancy. These traits increased the chances or challenges and altercations with the military. Therefore, Hitler established himself as supreme commander of the SA and re-established Rohm as his subordinate in hopes that the uneasiness and violent nature of the SA would be curbed. But, Rohm only militarized the SA further, organizing and training them into a more disciplined organization. Rohm also eased the Army's fears and gained usage of military facilities for SA training by pledging his support in any military operation where SA assistance could be used. Rohm's actions caused Hitler to debate his own ability to control the stormtroopers. Nevertheless, the SA continued to perform its duties as the visible power of the Nazi Party. Rohm amalgamated other existing paramilitary groups into the SA causing their membership to soar. But by this time, the Nazi party was beginning to exert more and more control over Germany's political and social institutions. The role of the SA now became obsolete, even dangerous since their violent nature threatened to generate harsher feelings for the Nazis and thereby undermined Party goals.

On the 1st of January 1934, Hitler wrote to SA leader, Ernst Roehm:

"I thank you my dearest Ernst Roehm, for the services which you have given to the National Socialist Movement and the German people, and to assure you how very grateful I am that I am able to call such men as you my friends and fellow fighters."

Despite that letter, all was not well between Hitler and Roehm. The SA was really nothing less than the Nazis own revolutionary army. By 1934, it had about two million members- twenty times more than the real army! They were mostly working class and many came from among the unemployed. Above all, they were firmly Socialist. That was one of the problems.

As far as Hitler was concerned the SA had done by helping him to gain power. Now, it was no longer useful. In fact, Hitler had good reasons for wanting to get rid of it:

1. Roehm and many other SA men wanted a second, Socialist, revolution.
2. The SA was unpopular with businessmen.
3. It was unpopular with the army, who saw the SA as a "rival", and Hitler needed the army's support if he were to take over as President when Hindenburg died.

By the summer, Hindenburg was very sick. Hitler told the SA to take a month's leave in July. Roehm told his men:

"I expect that on the 1st of August, the SA will be once more ready for duty. If the enemies of the SA are hoping that the SA will not return from leave, we are ready to let them enjoy the hope for a short time. The SA is, and remains, Germany's destiny."

He could not have been more wrong.

A meeting of SA leaders was fixed for 30th of June and Hitler had promised to attend. The night (night of the long knives) of 29-30th of June found the SA leaders at a village inn near Munich. There were no sentries on duty and no guards. Just before 7 a.m. a number of cars drove into the village and sped to the inn. Hitler, carrying his dog-whip, went in and woke up a sleepy Ernst Roehm. "You're under arrest" he told him. He did the same in the other bedrooms. At about 10 a.m., the SS began the round up in Berlin. Some "enemies" were just shot on the doorstep after they answered the bell. Many had no idea what was happening. The Munich police chief told his SS executioners, "Gentlemen I don't know what this is all about, but shoot straight."

Roehm himself was shot in his prison cell after he refused to commit suicide. Hitler later said that he was sorry that he had to destroy Roehm. Afterwards, the SA was disbanded, and the internal obstacle to the Nazi consolidation of power was eradicated.

~Jason Goodnite ~

RÖHM, Ernst

(1887 - 1934)

SA-Stabschef/Reichsminister/M.d.R./Hauptmann a.D.:

Born: 28. Nov. 1887 in München.

Executed: 1. Jul. 1934; shot by SS-Brigf. Theodor Eicke and/or SS-Stubaf. Michael Lippert at Stadelheim Prison, München, after declining the option to commit suicide with a revolver.

NSDAP-Nr.: 623

Promotions:**Assignments:**

Minister der Bayerischen Staatsregierung (Minister of the Bavarian State Government): Dec. 1933 - 1. Jul. 1934.

Reichsminister ohne Geschäftsbereich (Minister without Portfolio): 1933 - 1. Jul. 1934.

Stabschef der SA: 1. Jan. 1933 - 1. Jul. 1934.

Participant in München Putsch: 9. Nov. 1923.

World War I Service & After:

Officer in WW I. Joined Freikorps Epp after the war, and served in the Reichswehr until 1923 (left with rank of Hauptmann). In Bolivia, 1928 - 1930, responsible for training of that country's army.

Notes:**Decorations & Awards:**

1914 EK I; ; 1914 EK II; ;

Verwundetenabzeichen, 1918 in Gold; ;

Ehrenkreuz für Frontkämpfer; Landesorden;

Goldenes Parteiabzeichen; ;

1934



The legal provisions to arrest "sex criminals" were broadened. Without any attempt to produce legal proof, many SA leaders were murdered in the summer of 1934 (June 30, "The Night of the Long Knives"), among them their chief of staff, Hitler's buddy Ernst Röhm. As official reason was given that the regime wanted to clean society of such dens of sexual debauchery. The same year, a special Gestapo (Secret State Police) section for "homosexual crimes" was set up.

Rudolf Diels, the founder of the Gestapo (secret state police), in 1934 lectured his colleagues on how homosexuals had caused the downfall of ancient Greece. He, recorded some of Hitler's personal thoughts on the subject:

"He lectured me on the role of homosexuality in history and politics. It had destroyed ancient Greece, he said. Once rife, it extended its contagious effects like an ineluctable law of nature to the best and most manly of characters, eliminating from the reproductive process precisely those men on whose offspring a nation depended. The immediate result of the vice was, however, that unnatural passion swiftly became dominant in public affairs if it were allowed to spread unchecked."

According to Nazi propaganda, both homosexuals and Jews destroyed the so-called masculinity and purity of the German nation; both homosexuals and Jews are characterized by perverse and degenerate sexualities. In 1934, the Reich Ministry of Justice emphasized that "it is precisely Jewish and Marxist circles which have always worked with special vehemence for the abolition of §175." In effect, Jews and homosexuals were portrayed as collaborators in the corruption of the German nation.

24th October - Heinrich Himmler orders all police stations and police authorities, to draw up a list of all persons who have, in any way, been homosexually active. The lists are to be sent to the Secret Police Headquarters in Berlin. A special department for homosexuality is set up there at the end of October. Police in many parts of Germany had been compiling these lists of suspected homosexual men since 1900. The

Nazis used these "pink lists" to hunt down individual homosexuals during police actions.

In 1934, 766 gay men were convicted and imprisoned.

2.3 - The Röhm Affair

Some of the Nazis were of course gay themselves, but it is dangerously naïve to believe the the Nazis ever "tolerated" homosexuality. An instructive illustration is provided by the case of Ernst Röhm, Head of the SA or storm-troopers.

Röhm was a member of Hirschfeld's League for Human Rights and openly attended homosexual meeting places. He was the man who, in 1919, first made Hitler aware of his own political potential, and the two were close friends for fifteen years. During that time, Röhm rose to SA Chief of Staff, transforming the Brownshirt militia from a handful of hardened goons and embittered ex-soldiers into an effective fighting force five hundred thousand strong -- the instrument of Nazi terror.

Hitler, of course, had known of Röhm's homosexuality since 1919, as Röhm himself was careless of his reputation. It became public knowledge in 1925, when Röhm pressed charges against a 17- year-old hustler who had robbed him the "morning after." He knew of Röhm's homosexuality, as well as that of others such as Edmund Heines, Karl Ernst, and La Paz, who owed their promotions to their "services" to Röhm. Heines would scour Germany picking up boys for his commander, and the clique met often in Munich for orgies.

Röhm's Brownshirt militia - mostly undisciplined soldiers and roughnecks from the city-slums - contained many gay men, and there was debauchery in the ranks. But Hitler was not yet strong enough in his own right either to quash his rival (Röhm lead a 100,000-strong army) or to maintain power without his help. He wisely decided to come to Röhm's defence: "His private life cannot be an object of scrutiny unless it conflicts with basic principles of National Socialist ideology." When Röhm's army grew to 500,000 men by 1932, Hitler saw a threat and decided that Röhm's private life *did* so conflict.

Between 1933 and 1934, Röhm was the leader of the SA (Stormtroopers) and, before the death of Hindenberg in 1934, he was a potential challenger to Hitler's supremacy. With the Nazis' rise to power came an attack from Germany's political left. Attempts were made to discredit Hitler and the Nazis. One of their arguments was the charge of homosexuality in the Nazi ranks. Hitler's old friend Röhm was one of their main targets. Interestingly, one of Röhm's principal defenders was Heinrich Himmler. He articulated the belief that accusations against Röhm were the work of Jews who feared the SS and were trying to discredit the movement.



All this while the Nazi Party had a virulently anti-gay policy, and many Nazis protested that Röhm was discrediting the entire Party and should be purged. Hitler, however, was quite willing to cover up for him for years -- until he stood in the way of larger plans. Party Judge Walter Buch arranged for the assassination of the gay leaders of the SA: Röhm, Count Du Moulin, Eckhart, George Bell, Stabsführer Uhl. But the plot was discovered, Buch was denounced, and Röhm and Bell fled to their friend Major Karl Mayr to find out who was behind the conspiracy. Hitler still needed Röhm's military skill and could rely on his personal loyalty, but he was ultimately a pragmatist.

The mood of the party, and of Himmler, changed, when Hitler decided in 1934 that Röhm was a threat to his authority. As part of a compromise with the Reichwehr (regular army) leadership, whose support he needed to become Fuhrer, Hitler allowed Goering and Himmler to murder Röhm along with dozens of Röhm's loyal officers.

Specifically, Hitler feared that Röhm was attempting to turn the SA (at this time, over 2 million strong) into a militia and was planning a military challenge to Hitler. While there is no evidence that such a plan existed, Hitler ordered a purge. On June 30, 1934, Röhm, many of his supporters, and over 1,000 of Hitler's political and personal enemies, were murdered. While the purge was politically motivated, the justification given for it was the homosexuality of Röhm and several of his associates in the SS command.

Himmler, who had once defended Röhm, assumed leadership of the SS and, in the process, also assumed the role of ridding the movement and Germany of homosexuals. In the wake of the Röhm execution, Hitler ordered the registration of homosexuals and the Gestapo was charged with the responsibility of creating dossiers on homosexuals and other "asocials" in the Third Reich. The beginning of the Nazi terror against homosexuals was marked by the murder of Ernst Röhm.

"Night of the Long Knives"

Hitler removed the glove from his hand on June 30, 1934, which came to be called "The Night of the Long Knives." A body of his troops converged upon a Bavarian resort where they discovered Röhm's men in the aftermath of a "party" - dramatized in Visconti's film *The Damned*. Röhm was found in bed with his chauffeur, and Heines in bed with another man.

Heines and his boyfriend were ushered outside and perfunctorily shot, while the rest were arrested as traitors. Simultaneously, 200 SA leaders were rounded up in Berlin and massacred. Röhm was taken to Stadelheim Prison in Munich by order of Himmler and Göring, given a gun, and told to kill himself. He refused, saying: "Let Adolf do his dirty work." They shot him down.

On the day that Röhm was murdered, Hitler issued an order to purge all gays from the army, for he feared a *Secret Order of The Third Sex*. Hitler had good reason to be concerned about the reputation of Nazi organizations, most of which were based on strict segregation of the sexes. Hitler Youth, for example, was disparagingly referred to as Homo Youth throughout the Third Reich, a characterization which the Nazi leadership vainly struggled to eliminate. Indeed, most of the handful of publications on homosexuality which appeared during the Fascist regime were devoted to new and rather bizarre methods of "detection" and "prevention."

While Röhm and his men were being rounded up for the massacre, the new Chief of Staff received his first order from the Fuhrer:

"I expect all SA leaders to help preserve and strengthen the SA in its capacity as a pure and cleanly institution. In particular, I should like every mother to be able to allow her son to join the SA, Party, and Hitler Youth without fear that he may become morally corrupted in their ranks. I therefore request all SA commanders to take the utmost pains to ensure that offences under Paragraph 175 are met by immediate expulsion of the culprit from the SA and the Party."

liesse ich mich vollinhaltlich an.

Ich ersuche dem Oberführer Schöne meinen
eröffnen und ihm meine Missbilligung über
auszusprechen.

Die Kenntnisnahme hat Oberführer Schöne auf
zu bestätigen.

Der Chef des Stabes:

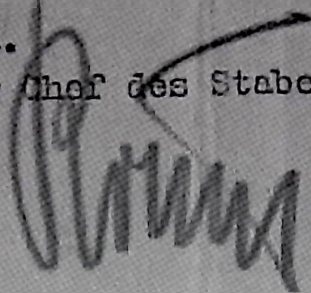


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Röhm's
Signature





