

Lunch Time at the Hofbräuhaus in Munich (1951)

Abstract

In order to ensure that barley could be used to stretch bread and relieve the acute food shortages just after the war, the U.S. military government in Bavaria only permitted low-alcohol beer to be brewed, and at times banned brewing altogether. This watery brew, which the disgruntled population called *Hopfenbrause* (“fizzy hops”), was served until the summer of 1949, at which point the authorities allowed the resumption of normal beer brewing. The 1949 Oktoberfest, the first at which normal beer was reintroduced, signaled a fresh economic start, as did the resumption of beer brewing in general. Overall, beer production in the Federal Republic increased from 22,533,000 hectoliters in 1951 to 51,492,000 hectoliters in 1961 – and certainly contributed to widening waistlines.

Source



Source: Photo: Hanns Hubmann.

bpk-Bildagentur, image number 30029040. For rights inquiries, please contact Art Resource at requests@artres.com (North America) or bpk-Bildagentur at kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de (for all other countries).

© bpk / Hanns Hubmann

Recommended Citation: Lunch Time at the Hofbräuhaus in Munich (1951), published in: German

History in Documents and Images,

<<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/occupation-and-the-emergence-of-two-states-1945-1961/ghdi:image-2624>> [May 12, 2026].