

Putsch Participants in Landsberg Prison (1924)

Abstract

Following their failed coup in November 1923, key figures including Adolf Hitler were put on trial for high treason and found guilty. At the sentencing on April 1, 1924, most of them were given very lenient prison sentences while Erich Ludendorff was acquitted. Hitler and four of his fellow insurgents served their sentences together in Landsberg prison. This photo shows (left to right) Hitler with fellow convicts Emil Maurice (his bodyguard and driver), Hermann Kriebel (head of the paramilitary organization Deutscher Kampfbund), Rudolf Heß (who became Hitler's personal secretary), and Friedrich Weber (head of the paramilitary organization Bund Oberland). Maurice and Heß had been sentenced to prison terms for their involvement in the attempted putsch in a second, smaller trial.

As this photo documents, Hitler and his fellow convicts enjoyed fairly comfortable prison conditions. They were housed in a separate tract of the prison where each of them had their own cell and a shared living room, where they were allowed to receive visitors unsupervised. While imprisoned, Hitler wrote most of the first volume of his book, *Mein Kampf*, which would become central to Nazi ideology and propaganda. On December 20, 1924, Hitler, who had been sentenced to five years in prison, was released on probation, as were all of the other putschists. After the Nazis came to power in 1933, Landsberg prison became a place of pilgrimage for followers and functionaries of National Socialism.

Source



Source: Hitler and other convicted putschists in Landsberg prison, 1924. Unknown photographer. bpk-Bildagentur image ID 30003186. 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).

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