

The Pink Swastika

Homosexuality in the Nazi Party

By Scott Lively and Kevin Abrams

SPECIAL 5TH EDITION, A WORK IN PROGRESS, CHAPTER 4, VERSION 1.1

Author's Note:

In 1995 we published the 1st Edition of *The Pink Swastika* to counter historical revisionism by the homosexual political movement which had been attempting since the 1970s to fabricate a "Gay Holocaust" equivalent to that suffered by the Jews in Nazi Germany. We succeeded in stopping that campaign, indirectly forcing the "gays" to abandon the pink triangle as the primary symbol of their movement. (They switched to the rainbow.) Intense public interest in our work, however, prompted us to publish subsequent expanded editions.

Twelve years has passed since we published the current 4th Edition but our research into this topic has never stopped. With our file drawers now bursting with additional material, we have decided it is time to prepare a new edition of our book.

This Special 5th Edition is designed to once-and-for-all silence the less-than-honest critics of our work by emphasizing the strength and trustworthiness of our documentation. Each chapter will also include a new section that highlights our sources.

We are publishing this edition chapter by chapter as a series of PDF documents with permission to distribute them freely. Each of these chapters will be issued as "beta" versions, subject to revision and re-issue until the end of our project when the final finished chapters will be published together as a single book.

We invite the readers, both friend and foe, to suggest changes, corrections and/or additional sources during this process.

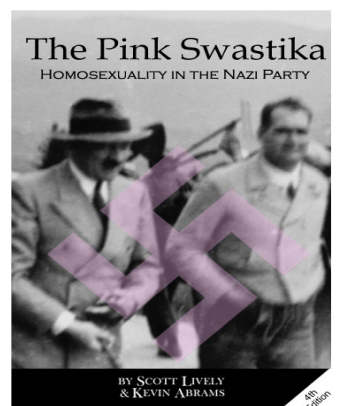
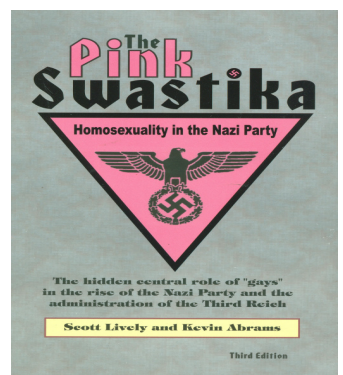
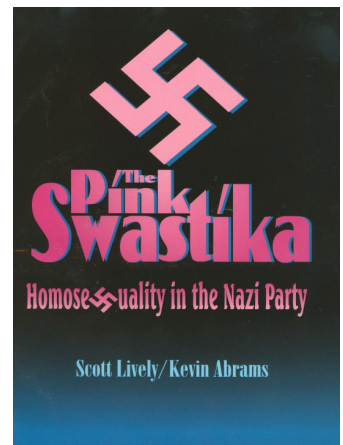
Happy Reading to All!

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Sidebar: Covers of Prior Editions

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Third Edition, 1997
Fourth Edition 2002
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The Pink Swastika

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THE FOUNDING AND EARLY YEARS OF THE NAZI PARTY

What was to become the Nazi Party began as an outgrowth of Jorg Lanz Von Liebenfels' occultic Thule Society in late 1918. The Thule Society was itself launched on August 1st of that year (Goodrich-Clark:144)¹ and soon formed a nationalist discussion group called the Political Worker's Circle whose goal was to "extend the appeal of the Thule's nationalist ideology for the working classes" (ibid.:150). The discussion group developed the idea of forming a political party in December of 1918, and did so on January 5, 1919, at the *Fuerstenfelder Hof* tavern in Munich. Adolf Hitler became a member of the German Worker's Party on September 19th. Shirer writes,

There were two members of this insignificant party who deserve mention at this point; both were to prove important in the rise of Hitler...Captain Ernst Roehm...had joined the party before Hitler...A tough, ruthless, driving man — albeit, like so many of the early Nazis, a homosexual — he helped organize the first Nazi strong-arm squads which grew into the SA...Dietrich Eckart...often called the spiritual founder of National Socialism...became a close advisor to [Hitler]...introducing him to...such future aides as Rudolf Hess (Shirer:64f).²

Dietrich Eckart, a nationalist and occultist heavily influenced by Blavatsky's Aryan master-race mythology, played an essential role in bringing together the key figures of the early party. Interestingly, it was Alfred Rosenberg who introduced Eckart to these ideas, and as co-advisors to the Thule Society the two of them became "as inseparable as Siamese twins. Together they guided not so much Hitler's footsteps as his thoughts. When Dietrich Eckart died in 1923, Rosenberg entered upon his inheritance as Hitler's teacher" (Heiden, 1936, p.48).³

Meanwhile, parallel to Hitler, the brutal Captain Ernst Roehm was rising in political power. He had created a nationalistic terror organization called the Iron Fist, which enforced a sort-of cult of patriotism in the Munich taverns. "They marched through the taverns, and, by dint of singing, standing up and shouting hurrah, energetically fostered a nationalistic temper," writes Heiden. "If anyone remained seated, he was immediately confronted with a smart figure in military uniform....At other times the 'Iron Fist' occupied itself with Vehmic murders; that is to say, with the secret assassination of political opponents" (ibid:49).⁴

The battle for the streets of Munich in 1919 was in every sense an internecine conflict among Marxists: the government was under the control of the Social-Democrat Party, and on the ground were both German Soviet-style communists and the fascists of the National Socialist movement. These two factions of street fighters hated each other and both hated the government. Heiden describes the bloody chaos into which the Nazi Party was born:

On May 1, 1919, [the local military] by order of the Berlin Social-Democratic Government...crushed the extreme-left Soviet Republic amid streams of blood.



Marxists vs. Marxists: A Communist anti-Nazi postcard (above) is included in a National Socialist anti-Communist display (right).

The fighting was gruesome, the tribunal still more gruesome. The Government troops during their advance came upon and shot down a troop of Russian prisoners-of-war...erroneously taken for Bolsheviks. There-upon the members of the Munich Soviet retaliated in kind. They arrested a number of members of the said Thule Society, who had distributed counter-revolutionary leaflets.

By an accident, both Alfred Rosenberg and a certain Rudolf Hess, afterwards famous as Hitler's friend and deputy, escaped imprisonment...From that date the Reichswehr ruled Munich, although nominally a civilian, Social-Democratic Government was in power. The head of the Munich Reichswehr was Colonel -- afterwards General -- von Epp, whose political advisor, and the actual head of the military regime, was Captain Ernst Rohm" (ibid:50).

During this time, Hitler and Roehm formed a partnership and, perceiving the German Workers Party as the optimal vehicle for their mutual goals, began to wrest control of it from its founders. Within a few months they had forced the resignation of its Chairman, Karl Harrar, and begun to turn the group away from its origins as a secret society and toward a new identity as "a mass party" (Fest, 1975:120).⁵ On April 1, 1920, they changed the name of the party to the National Socialist German Worker's Party (NAZI). Historian Joachim Fest describes the process Hitler and Roehm used in these earliest days of Nazism:

At the beginning [Hitler] went at things according to a sensible plan. His first task was a personal one, to break out of anonymity, to emerge from the welter of

small-time nationalist-racist parties with an unmistakable image...making a name for himself—by unceasing activity, by brawls, scandals, and riots, even by terrorism if that would bring him to the forefront...[but] Ernst Roehm did more for the NSDAP than anyone else. He held the rank of captain as a political advisor on the staff of Colonel Epp and was the real brain of the disguised military regime in Bavaria. Roehm provided the young National Socialist Party with followers, arms, and funds (Fest, 1975:126f).



Hitler and Roehm conspired to hijack the German Workers Party.

By August of 1921, Hitler and Roehm had completed their takeover of the party. On the third of that month they founded the SA and began to assemble the cadre of sexual deviants who would form the core of Nazi leadership for years to come. A pamphlet circulated by disgruntled Nazi



Otto Strasser

members prior to the Hitler takeover shows that the homosexuality of his supporters was no secret. Speaking of Hitler they said, "It grows more and more clear that his purpose is simply to use the National Socialist Party as a springboard for his immoral purposes" (Igra:70f).⁶ Former high Nazi functionary and close Hitler confidant, Otto Strasser reports,

Hitler did three things to popularize the party and quiet the threatening clash of wounded vanities. He shortened the name from Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei to the letters NSDAP; he adopted the brown shirt of Lieutenant Rossbach's veteran organization for the entire party; and he assumed the all-too-familiar swastika from Erhardt's group (Strasser, 1943:34).⁷

Hitler's Clique of Pederasts

As we will see, almost all of the new leadership of the party were sexual deviants. But this fact raises a question that is foundational to our understanding of the Nazis. Who chose these men as Nazi leaders?

Roehm, with whose lifestyle we are now quite familiar, was to some historians the true power behind Hitler's throne. As noted above it was primarily Roehm who organized and funded the terrorist military arm of the party, choosing only homosexuals as officers. And it is true that the party met frequently in the *Bratwurstgloeckl* (Fest, 1975:135f), a homosexual bar where Roehm kept a reserved table. Roehm also controlled a sizable cache of weapons which had been secreted away by the nationalists before the Allied Powers could destroy them per the terms of the Versailles Treaty (Heiden, 1936:51).

Yet, despite Roehm's importance to the party, Adolf Hitler himself was the central figure of Nazism and increasingly it was he who determined the fate of every



Hitler's personal bodyguards were homosexuals

member of the party. Despite assertions to the contrary, Hitler was not anti-homosexual. In fact, like Roehm, Hitler *preferred* homosexual companions and co-workers. In addition to Roehm and Hess, two of his closest friends, Hitler chose homosexuals and other sexual deviants to fill key positions nearest to himself. Heiden reports that in fact Hitler intentionally "surrounded himself with men of... [homosexual] tendencies" (Heiden, 1935:417).⁸

Frank Rector attempts to dismiss sources that attribute homosexuality to leading Nazis, but nevertheless lists them in some detail:

Reportedly, Hitler Youth leader, Baldur von Schirach was bisexual; Hitler's private attorney, Reich Legal Director, Minister of Justice, butcher Governor-General of Poland, and public gay-hater Hans Frank was said to be a homosexual; Hitler's adjutant Wilhelm Bruckner was said to be bisexual;...Walther Funk, Reich Minister of Economics [and Hitler's personal financial advisor] has frequently been called a "notorious" homosexual...or as a



Hitler's homosexual chauffeur and one-time personal secretary, Emile Maurice, was also his cellmate in Landsberg Prison.

jealous predecessor in Funk's post, Hjalmar Schacht, contemptuously claimed, Funk was a "harmless homosexual and alcoholic;"...[Hitler's second in command] Hermann Goering liked to dress up in drag and wear campy make-up; and so on and so forth (Rector:57).⁹

Igra, who confidently asserts that the above men were indeed homosexuals, cites still other Hitler aides and close friends who also shared this proclivity. He states that Hitler's chauffeur and one-time personal secretary, Emile Maurice, for example, was homosexual, as well as the pornographer, Julius Streicher, whom Hitler appointed *Gauleiter* of Nuremberg. Igra

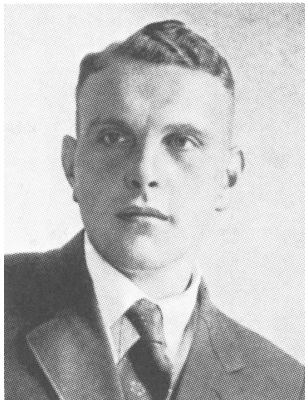
writes:

Julius Streicher, the notorious Jew-baiter, was originally a school teacher, but was dismissed by the Nuremberg School Authorities, following numerous



The Fuehrer and his close friend, the homosexual pornographer Julius Streicher, share an intimate moment (above). The two are caught on camera (right) on a private outing. A rare sight (below) as Hitler relinquishes the stage to Streicher.





A few of Hitler's closest personal friends. Clockwise from left: SA leader Edmund Heines; Hitler's private chauffeur, Emile Maurice; his financial advisor Walter Funk; his lawyer Hans Frank SA leader Karl Ernst, SA leader Wolf von Helldorf. Saluting (center) are two members of the closest ring of the inner circle: Rudolf Hess and Julius Streicher. All of these men were homosexual.

charges of pederasty brought against him...His paper, *Der Stuermer*, was frequently confiscated by the police, even at the height of the Nazi regime, because of the sexual obscenities displayed in the drawings and described in the text" (Igra:72f).



Among the homosexuals closest to Hitler, Heiden lists "Heines, Reiner, Ernst, Von Helldorf, Count Spreti [and] Count du Moulin-Eckhardt, jr" (Heiden, 1935:417). As noted above, Dr. Hans Frank, Hitler's personal lawyer was also a homosexual (Franck, p.259).¹⁰

The evidence for homosexual leanings in another leading Nazi, Joseph Goebbels, is not as conclusive, but adds further insight to the inner workings of the group. Goebbels, Reich propaganda leader and close aide to the *Fuehrer*, is reported to have had a party in 1936 that degenerated into a violent homosexual orgy. The party featured "torch-bearing page boys in tight fitting white breeches, white satin blouses with lace cuffs and powdered rococo wigs" (Grunberger:70).¹¹ Grunberger writes that Nazi roughnecks "were so affected by the rococo setting that they hurled themselves upon the bewigged page boys and pulled them into the bushes. Tables collapsed,



Above: Gregor Strasser with Joseph Goebbels and his stepson. Below: Goebbels with the boy at home.



writes. "He reached out a hand as though to stroke him, but Peter turned his face away. Only then did he give a little half smile" (Schneider:129)¹⁴.

We also know that homosexual SA leader Wolf von Helldorf escaped assassination in the Roehm purge due only to intervention by Goebbels (Reuth:137).

In his own diaries, Goebbels revealed an animosity

torches were dimmed, and in the ensuing fracas a number of Party old fighters and their comely victims had to be rescued from drowning" (ibid:70).

Goebbels may not have participated in the revelry himself, though Klaus Theweleit writes that "there is a significant moment in Rossbach's account where he contests the right of Goebbels 'of all people' to act as a 'moral arbiter,'" apparently assuming that his meaning is "common knowledge' on the internal grapevine" (Theweleit, Vol 2:327).¹² Ralf George Reuth, in *Goebbels* (Harcourt Brace, New York, 1993)¹³, reports that Goebbels was accused by Roehm of pederasty.

After Roehm's homosexuality was exposed in the German press, Goebbels [a longtime rival] tried to get him dismissed from the party. "Roehm took revenge by spreading in return all sorts of rumors about Goebbels' relationship with Magda Quandt. He went so far as to suggest that Goebbels was interested less in Magda than in her young son. So along with Roehm's homosexual excesses, people were talking about the "cloven foot's 'impossible (and immoral) relationship'" (Reuth:138f). (Goebbels' club foot apparently gave rise to the epithet.).

Lending slight weight to the suggestion that Goebbels inclined toward pederasty is the observation of Helga Schneider, whose estranged mother had been a concentration camp guard and torturer at Auschwitz, Birkenau and Ravensbruck. She writes in her biography, *Let Me Go*, of a childhood visit to Goebbels office with her little brother Peter. (Helga's aunt was Goebbels secretary.) "He barely glanced at me and immediately turned to Peter" she



Julius Streicher pinning a medal on Joseph Goebbels

toward homosexuals in the party, although that does not prove he did not have such inclinations himself. Diaries are, after all, generally written with one's posterity in mind.



Hitler presents Albert Speer with a gift.

Another close Hitler associate was Albert Speer. An October 30, 1995 book review in *Newsweek*, titled “Inside a Third Reich Insider” featured the book *Albert Speer: His Battle With Truth* by Gitta Sereny. The article speaks of a “homo-erotic [but apparently not consummated] relationship” between Speer and Hitler that was discussed in a previous book by German psychoanalyst, Alexander Mitscherlich. Sereny writes that “Speer himself acknowledged that Mitscherlich ‘came closest to the truth.’” Although Sereny claims this relationship was non-sexual, he reports that Speer’s secretary said Speer gave himself to Hitler “body and soul.” Sereny also observes that Speer never told Hitler he was married because of his “romantic” feelings for Hitler. (Sereny:109).¹⁵

In *Albert Speer: The End of a Myth*, German historian Dr. Matthais Schmidt commented on an “erotic” element to Speer’s relationship with Hitler. While Speer was remodeling Hitler’s official residence, Hitler invited him to lunch. “At lunch, Speer sat at Hitler’s side. The conversation became personal — and the two men ‘fell in love at first sight’” (Schmidt:41f).¹⁶ Aside from these insinuations we have no evidence of an actual homosexual relationship between Hitler and Speer.

In *The Mind of Adolf Hitler: The Secret Wartime Report*, Dr. Walter Langer’s



psychological profile of Adolf Hitler (commissioned by the U.S. government during World War Two), concluded that homo-eroticism infused every aspect of Adolf Hitler's life. He wrote that "[e]ven today Hitler derives sexual pleasure from looking at men's bodies and associating with homosexuals" (Langer:179).¹⁷ He adds, quoting Strasser, that Hitler's personal body-guard was "almost always 100% homosexuals" (ibid.:179). It should be remembered that Hitler's greatest hero was Frederick the Great, a well known homosexual (Garde:44).¹⁸

Clearly, Adolf Hitler was not anti-homosexual, at least not in his personal lifestyle. Indeed, the evidence of Hitler's apparent preference for homosexuals is so overwhelming that, as have many historians before us, we naturally ask the question, "Was Hitler a homosexual?"

The Homosexual Culture of Germany in Adolf Hitler's Youth

Before we proceed to explore the question of homosexuality in Adolf Hitler's personal life, it will be helpful to examine the cultural context in which he grew up. He was born in Braunau, Austria, April 20, 1889. At the age of fourteen his authoritarian father died, under whose dominance he had continually chafed. He was then coddled and pampered by his doting mother until she, too, died in December of 1908. At nineteen, young, spoiled Adolf Hitler was on his own, living in poverty on the streets of Vienna. But by this time his political opinions had already been influenced by the cultural trends of his day. In particular, he had adopted German Nationalist views during his school days under Professor Potsch of the Linz *Realschule* (Heiden:1936). Given his family profile and later lifestyle, teenaged Adolf had likely also already secretly self-identified as a homosexual. If so, a series of "gay" scandals that dominated the news during his early teen years would have held special significance for him.

In *Sexuality and Homosexuality: A New View*, Arno Karlen describes the rise of the homosexual controversy in Germany during Hitler's youth:

[Two] scandals brought Germany to public discussion of homosexuality -- the Krupp and Eulenberg-Moltke affairs. The German police had a secret file about highly placed homosexuals who might be liable to scandal and blackmail. It included dossiers on the armaments king, Friedrich Krupp, one of the Kaiser's brothers, the Kaiser's aide, Prince Eulenberg, the Kaiserin's private secretary, Count Kuno von Moltke and others. In 1902 the Krupp scandal some of the file's secrets into the open...[Krupp] was married but he and his wife lived separately so that he could lavishly indulge his homosexual desires. At his Grotto of Fra Felice, a cave above the sea on Capri, he created a private pleasure palace where he ...[became notorious for] seducing minors. Krupp had to leave Italy as *persona non grata*. Soon a German paper picked up the story, and Krupp's homosexual ventures hit Germany as the [Oscar] Wilde trial had struck England....Four years later, other names that had been in the secret police files appeared in the press. (Karlen:256).¹⁹

The German government, politically joined-at-the-hip with the Krupp industrial empire, attempted to contain the scandal, even committing Krupp's wife involuntarily to an insane asylum to silence her, but the newspapers would not let the story die, and result was massive public uproar (ibid:256). Friedrich was soon found dead, probably by his own hand, but the Krupp family name had been irreparably damaged. Indeed, the name of Krupp continued to be associated with homosexual perversion well into the



Alfried Krupp

20th Century, when another son of the dynasty was implicated in the homosexual trafficking of children in the Nazi concentration camp system. Friedrich's grandson Alfred Krupp, an heir to the family's industrial empire and its morality, established his own private concentration camp for children who were subjected to sexual abuse and experimentation of the most depraved nature (Reisman, Kinsey: Crimes and Consequences:311)²⁰. (See Chapter 6 for additional details).

For our purposes here it is important to note that the newspapers which exposed the Krupp Scandal were primarily Jewish owned. The young Adolf Hitler, just beginning to explore his own homosexual orientation in these years, as we have supposed, would almost certainly have identified with Krupp and perceived him as a victim of moralistic Jews. In particular, the Jewish media magnate Maximilian Harden seemed to have made it his mission to shame the government for its association with homosexuality, following the Krupp affair with even more scandalous news stories. Karlen writes:

Maximilian Harden, publisher of the periodical *Die Zukunft*, had been told by

Bismarck about the “perversions” of the Kaiser’s personal aide, Prince Eulenberg...Harden ran an editorial saying that the imperial court was controlled by a clique of “catamites,” a shadow government who had the king’s ear more than his own ministers did. Homosexuals, said Harden, formed an international conspiracy, “a comradeship which is stronger than that of monastic orders and of free-masonry, which holds closer and throws a bond across all the walls of creed, State and class, which unites the most remote, the most foreign, in a fraternal league of offence and defense...All rally together against the common enemy (Karlen:256-257).

In her book, *The Entourage of Kaiser Wilhelm II: 1888-1918*, Cornell history professor Isabel Hull explains that Wilhelm himself had orchestrated the diplomatic rise of his friend Prince Philipp Eulenberg to the role of political advisor. Eulenberg then further strengthened his position until he was able to “manipulate personnel appointments and, through them, policy. He made and broke chancellors, ministers, and diplomats...[elevating] his own friends” (Hull:47). Observers of the modern homosexual movement in the United States will recognize this process as the way homosexual activists conquered the corporate business world and numerous government agencies -- first gaining control of hiring positions and then recruiting their own fellow activists to fill key positions. In the court of Kaiser Wilhelm II, this “clique of catamites,” as Harden called them, were known collectively as the “Liebenberg Round Table.”

Hull makes it very clear that Eulenberg was very much the homosexual activist in his day.

Before going on to discuss Eulenberg’s political career, we must examine his own character and the personal relationships that formed the basis for his political importance. This discussion must include Eulenberg’s sexual life. There are doubtless many persons whose sexual tendencies, in whatever direction, are irrelevant to their careers, their ideas, even to the structure of their social lives. Eulenberg, however, was not one of these. His love of men was the central, shaping impulse of his private and public self. If one ignores or misunderstands this aspect of Eulenberg’s character, one will also misinterpret his political activity and importance (Hull:47-48).

One final point deserves attention here, and that is the dual phenomena of both power-seeking and intense mutual loyalty in homosexual circles. This was perhaps best described by Hans von Tresckow in his memoirs of his service as Police Commissioner of Berlin in the late 1800s and early 1900s:

[I]t is not the sense of duty towards one’s fellow men or the nation that forms the rule of conduct for homosexuals; but in every turn of life and in all their striving they think only of the good or harm they may do to their own clique of friends (Von Tresckow in Lively,1997:23).²¹

Was Adolf Hitler a Homosexual?

Until the publication of Professor Lothar Machtan's powerful biography *The Hidden Hitler* in 2001, we were much less confident in stating that Hitler was indeed a homosexual. Machtan, a history professor in Bremen, Germany, set out to prove Hitler's homosexuality and did so most convincingly, drawing upon hundreds of period documents. We shall consider the evidence at length. One point upon which we remain unpersuaded by Machtan was his assertion that Hitler was exclusively homosexual. Machtan writes,

[A] small number of contemporaries...were pretty explicit on the subject of Hitler's sex life. These include August Kubizek, Kurt Ludecke, Ernst Hanfstaengl, Rudolf Diels, Erich Ebermayer, Eugen Dollman, Christa Schroder and Hans Severus Ziegler. They are all unanimous in stating, quite positively, that Hitler did not have sex with women. Some of them expressly say that Hitler was homosexual; others convey the same thing obliquely (Machtan:23)

There are at least four women, however, including his own niece, Gely, with whom Hitler is reported to have had sexual relationships. These relationships were not normal, if in fact they occurred.

Both Waite and Langer write that Hitler was a coprophile (a person who is sexually aroused by human excrement) and suggest that his sexual encounters with women included expressions of this perversion as well as other extremely degrading forms of masochism. It is interesting to note that all of these women attempted suicide after allegedly becoming sexually involved with Hitler. Two succeeded (Langer:175f).

Hitler contemporary Otto Strasser writes of an encounter he had with Hitler's niece Gely:

Next day Gely came to see me. She was red eyed, her round little face was wan, and she had the terrified look of a hunted beast. "He locked me up," she sobbed. "He locks me up every time I say no!" She did not need much questioning. With anger, horror and disgust she told me of the strange propositions with which her uncle pestered her. I knew all about Hitler's abnormality. Like all the others in the know, I had heard all about the eccentric practices to which Fraulein Hoffmann was alleged to have lent herself, but I had genuinely believed that the photographer's daughter was a little hysteric who told lies for the sheer fun of it. But Gely, who was completely ignorant of this other affair of her uncle's,



Above right: Gely Rubal as a teen. Above: Hitler with the Rubal family shortly before Gely's suicide in 1931.

confirmed point by point a story scarcely credible to a healthy-minded man (Strasser,1940:72).

(The Fraulein Hoffman mentioned above by Strasser is none other than Henny Hoffman, daughter of the official Nazi photographer Heinrich Hoffman, who will be featured in a special segment below.)

Langer suggests that Hitler may very well have engaged in homosexual behavior, saying “persons suffering from his perversion sometimes do indulge in homosexual practices in the hope that they might find some sexual gratification. Even this perversion would be more acceptable to them than the one with which they are afflicted.” (Langer:179). He reports, for example on the testimony of Hermann Rauschning, a trusted Hitler confidante whom Hitler appointed President of the Danzig Senate in 1932 (Wistrich:240, Snyder:282). He later fell out of favor and fled Germany in 1936 (ibid.). Langer writes,



Rauschning reports that he has met two boys who claimed that they were Hitler’s homosexual partners, but their testimony can hardly be taken at face value. More condemning would be the remarks dropped by [Albert] Foerster, the Danzig gauleiter, in conversation with Rauschning. Even here, however, the remarks deal only with Hitler’s impotence as far as heterosexual relationships go without actually implying that he indulges in homosexuality. It is probably true that Hitler calls Foerster “Bubi,” which is a common nickname employed by homosexuals in addressing their partners. This alone is not adequate proof that he has actually indulged in homosexual practices with Foerster, who is known to be a homosexual (Langer:178). [Significantly, Foerster was Julius Streicher’s protégé.]



Albert Foerster, in portrait above, stands on the steps of the school that bears his name.



One of the early Nazis (left), Wilhelm Bruckner was one of Hitler’s most trusted bodyguards.



Waite concurs:

There is insufficient evidence to warrant the conclusion that Hitler was an overt homosexual. But it seems clear that he had latent homosexual tendencies...It is true that Hitler was closely associated with Ernst Roehm and Rudolf Hess, two homosexuals who were among the very few people with whom he used the familiar *du* ["thou"]. But one cannot conclude that he therefore shared his friends' sexual tastes. Still, during the months he was with Hess in Landsberg, their relationship must have become very close. When Hitler left the prison he fretted about his friend who languished there, and spoke of him tenderly, using Austrian diminutives: "Ach mein Rudy, mein Hesserl, isn't it appalling to think that he's still there." One of Hitler's valets, Schneider, made no explicit statement about the relationship, but he did find it strange that whenever Hitler got a present he liked or drew an architectural sketch that particularly pleased him, he would run to Hess — who was known in homosexual circles as "Fraulein Anna"—as a little boy would run to his mother to show his prize to her...Finally there is the non-conclusive but interesting fact that one of Hitler's prized possessions was a handwritten love letter which King Ludwig II had written to a manservant (Waite, 1977:283f). [*Hess was known by other names in the German "gay" subculture. In recent years, long sealed Soviet archives have been opened to the West. In Deadly Illusions, authors John Costello and Oleg Tsarev report of seeing the "so-called 'Black Bertha' file, named from Hess's reported nickname in Berlin and Munich" (Costello and Tsarev:xix).*]



Hitler, Emile Maurice and Rudolf Hess in Landsberg Prison (dark-suited man is unidentified).

Other writers offer similar assessments. According to Wilfried Daim, Frau Elsa Schmidt-Falk of the Nazi Genealogy Office of Munich observed that Hitler was so enraptured by the 'maennerbuendleische' (the young male students) on parade, that on this fact alone she concluded that Hitler was at least unconsciously homosexual (Daim:41).²² Desmond Seward, in *Napoleon and Hitler*, quotes Italian dictator, Benito Mussolini, who referred to Hitler as "that horrible sexual degenerate" (Seward:148).²³ He also reports that "the files of the Viennese police list him [Hitler] as a homosexual" (Seward:299). Writer Charlotte Wolff, M.D. quotes Magnus Hirschfeld about Hitler in her book *Magnus Hirschfeld*. (Hirschfeld was Director of the Sex Research Institute of Berlin which was destroyed by Hitler in 1934).



Magnus Hirshfeld

About three years before the Nazis came to power we had a patient at the Institute who had a liaison with Roehm. We were on good terms with him, and he told us a good deal of what happened in his circle...He also referred to Adolf Hitler in the oddest possible manner. 'Afi is the most perverted of us all. He is very much like a soft woman, but now he makes great propaganda in the heroic morale'" (Wolff:438).

Adolf, the Boy Prostitute

In *Germany's National Vice*, Samuel Igra wrote that as a young man Hitler "had been a male prostitute in Vienna and Munich" (Igra:67). Lending credence to this is the fact that for quite a long time Hitler "chose to live in a Vienna flophouse known to be inhabited by many homosexuals" (Langer:192). That "flophouse" was the *Meldemannstrasse* Hostel. Hitler's long-time "gay" friend Ernst Hanfstaengl identified this residence as "a place where elderly men went in search of young men for homosexual pleasures" (Machtan:56). "It was an open secret at the beginning of the 20th century," adds Machtan, "that municipal hostels for homeless males were hubs of homosexual activity...[where many young men] kept themselves afloat by engaging in prostitution. Hitler spent over three years in this environment" (Machtan:51).

This would help to explain Hitler's close relationships to his purportedly homosexual patrons Dietrich Eckart and Karl Haushofer. Rector writes that, as a young man, Hitler was often called "*Der Schoen Adolf*" ("the handsome Adolf") and that later his looks "were also to some extent helpful in gaining big-money support from Ernst Roehm's circle of wealthy gay friends" (Rector:52).

But Hitler was apparently not involved with homosexuality solely to survive financially. Even in his pre-Nazi years, most of Hitler's reputed homosexual encounters

were consensual meetings in which no money changed hands. Machtan suggests that each of Hitler's longer-term relationships in his youth -- with Reinhold Hanisch, August Kubizek, Rudolf Hausler and Ernst Hanfstaengl -- were homosexual "love affairs." There are also numerous other incidents ("one night stands") in which Hitler was purported to have been the solicitor and not the solicited one. Eugen Dollman, former member of Himmler's staff and one-time Hitler interpreter, cited testimonies from the files of the Munich vice squad in which a series of young men identified Hitler as the man who had "picked them up" on the streets for homosexual relations (Machtan:135ff). Dollman himself was also homosexual (ibid.).

Additional allegations addressed homosexual conduct by Hitler during the first World War. The so-called "Mend Protocol," a document prepared by German military intelligence under Admiral Canaris, contains the testimony of Hans Mend. Considered highly credible, Mend had this to say about Hitler:

Meanwhile, we had gotten to know Hitler better. We noticed that he never looked at a woman. We suspected him of homosexuality right away, because he was known to be abnormal in any case. He was extremely eccentric and displayed womanish characteristics which tended in that direction....In 1915 we were billeted in the Le Febre brewery at Fournes. We slept in the hay. Hitler was bedded down at night with "Schmidl," his male whore. We heard a rustling in the hay. Then someone switched on his electric flashlight and growled, "Take a look at those two Nancy boys." I myself took no further interest in the matter (Ibid:68).



Inseparable "Nancy Boys" Ernst Schmidt (left) and Adolf Hitler (right) during World War I.

Hitler and “Schmidl” (Ernst Schmidt) were, in Schmidt’s words, “always together” during their war years. They remained very close friends and were occasional housemates for over thirty years (ibid.:89ff).

A year or so after the incident described by Mend, Hitler supposedly “posed nude for a homosexual officer named Lammers -- a Berlin artist in civilian life -- and subsequently went to bed with him” (ibid.:100). This may be the incident to which Rauschnig referred when he later told U.S. Investigators “that Lance Corporal Hitler and an officer had been charged with engaging in sexual relations” (ibid.).

The homosexual connection certainly helps to explain how Hitler became involved with the nationalists generally, and Ernst Roehm in particular, after the first world war. It is likely that Roehm’s homosexual inclinations were the reason that Colonel Ritter von Epp, the *Freikorps* commander, chose Roehm as his adjutant. “There are many indications that the relationship between Roehm and Epp was homoerotic,” writes Machtan, “and Hitler once let slip in later years that Roehm’s homosexuality first became known around 1920” (ibid.:106f). Roehm, in turn, brought Hitler into the homoerotic *Freikorps* brotherhood.

German historian Brigitte Hamann in her biography *Winifred Wagner* confirms Machtan’s observations, saying “Rohm was an old friend of the [Wagner] family, a frequent visitor to the [Bayreuth] Festival, and even had the privilege of staying overnight at Siegfried’s house with his friend Franz von Epp. The Wagners had always known about his homosexuality and had never held it against him” (Hamann:167)²⁴.

The Bayreuth Connection

We have mentioned above that Hitler allegedly identified his favorite composer, Richard Wagner, as a pederast. We are not certain that this is true. What is certain is that Wagner’s Bayreuth was “a notorious international rendezvous for prominent homosexuals” whose absorption with Wagner achieved “a cultlike quality” (ibid.:39). One factor in this attraction may have been that Wagner’s sons Richard and Siegfried were homosexuals. Richard later committed suicide (ibid.:254). Siegfried, pressured to have an heir, married a woman much younger than himself and had several children,



Ernst Roehm (above) was adjutant for and likely homosexual partner with Colonel Franz Ritter von Epp (below), and a close friend of the Richard Wagner and Siegfried Wagner families. The Wagners frequently hosted Roehm and von Epp, and later Adolf Hitler as houseguests.



but surreptitiously continued his homosexual affairs (Wagner:p.197).

Hitler was very close to the Wagner family and spent a great deal of time in Bayreuth. He made numerous private visits there between 1925 and 1933, often with male homosexual companions (ibid.:253ff). One common companion was Julius Schreck, whose photograph hung beside that of Hitler's beloved mother in his (Hitler's) private quarters (ibid.:174f). Machtan cites one incident, however, in which he and Schreck failed to keep an appointment to vacation with their Bayreuth hosts. Instead, Schreck and Hitler turned aside at the *Bad Berneck* health resort, some 20 miles away, where they spent Christmas alone -- the only guests at the inn (ibid.:174).



Above: At Beyreuth (?) Hitler receives flowers from children watched over by his bodyguard Bruckner and "gay" traveling companion Julius Schreck (insert).
Left: Schreck is seated with the Wagner family at a performance .

Hitler may have had yet darker motives for visiting the Wagner home. Only recently revealed is the accusation by Wagner family members “that Hitler sexually abused the young Wieland [Wagner’s grandson, now past 75] during the ‘20s.” These allegations came to light in a *Time* magazine interview with American author and former diplomat to Germany, Frederic Spotts, whose research for the book *Bayreuth* (about the Wagnerian opera festival of the same name) included interviews with the Wagner family (*Time*, August 15, 1994:56). “Spotts says that his original source was one of Wieland’s own children...Now a respected academic, Spotts says it was while he was researching *Bayreuth* that he interviewed his source -- whom, he insists, is totally reliable and has no reason to lie. Spotts writes:

This family member told me Hitler sexually abused Wieland in the 1920s when the boy was a preadolescent’...Hitler, who idolized Richard Wagner’s supernaturalistic operas (as well as his anti-Semitism), had become a close friend of Wieland’s mother. Winifred Wagner gave him the run of the child’s nursery. Far from being revolted by what allegedly happened to him, Wieland avidly collaborated with his right-wing family during World War II (*Penthouse*, undated:32).



Hitler with Siegfried and Winifred Wagner and their sons (Richard Wagner’s grandsons) Wolfgang (left) and Wieland.

Weiland later became Hitler’s protégé (Wagner:228) and was exempted from military service by Hitler’s personal intervention (ibid.:105).



Hitler's Inner Circle: Goebbels, Hitler, Roehm, Goering, Rosenberg, Himmler and Hess.

The weight of evidence indicates that Hitler was deeply involved in a series of short and long-term homosexual relationships. Even more certain is that he knowingly and deliberately surrounded himself with practicing homosexuals from the time he was a teenager. His later public pronouncements against homosexuality were designed to hide the life-long intimacy -- sexual and/or homoerotic -- which he maintained with the various men he knew and accepted as homosexuals.

Finally, in our look at Adolf Hitler, the man, we turn to Samuel Igra, a Jew who fled Germany in 1939 after twenty years of observing Hitler and the Nazis:

For the purposes of the present investigations Hitler is important for what he has represented...when he embarked the German people on the policy that brought about the world catastrophe. He was the central figure around which a number of men grouped themselves, from the 1920's onwards, in a movement to gain supreme control of the German people. As the movement developed they were aided and abetted and supported financially as well as politically by the industrial capitalists of the Rhineland; but the initiative did not come from the latter. It came from Hitler as the condottiere [leader] of a band of evil men who were united together by a common vice [homosexuality] (Igra:26).

Heinrich Hoffman, the Fixer

Rarely seen in front of the camera was one of Adolf Hitler's most important aides, Heinrich Hoffman. We have no information about Hoffman's sexual lifestyle, but we know that he was a deeply immoral man and Machiavellian strategist, which made him invaluable to the Fuehrer.

As we reported in Chapter One, Hoffman gained his lucrative position as Hitler's exclusive photographer through blackmail. Hitler had involved Hoffman's young daughter Henrietta



German Chancellor Adolf Hitler's professional staff, including official photographer Heinrich Hoffman (right)

("Henny") in his perversions and Hoffman parlayed his silence in the matter for the exclusive right to photograph Hitler. Ever the opportunist, Hoffman then convinced Hitler to demand a royalty on any use of his image for any purpose, even official governmental uses such as postage stamps. The two of them split the royalties, and Hoffman became a very rich man.

Normally, blackmail of Hitler would have earned a death sentence, but Hoffman proved so creative and resourceful as an informal Nazi strategist that he instead became one of Hitler's closest friends and confidants.

Hoffman, it appears, became a special kind of "fixer" for the Nazi Party. He found "cover wives" for homosexual members of the Nazi elite.

Political observers of the current presidential administration in the United States might be familiar with similar allegations about the Reverend Jeremiah Wright who is said to have served the same function in the Black community in Chicago for prominent homosexual men, including President Barack Obama.²⁵

In the modern "gay" lexicon, women who agree (wittingly or unwittingly) to these marriages are known as "beards." We don't know what they were called in Nazi Germany, but we know for certain there were many of them. Indeed, even to the present day, despite changing social morays, it is extremely common for homosexual men to marry women and even bear children as a means of hiding their perversion from their families and the community.

Early fascist theorist Hans Blueher noted that the practice was extremely common in Nazi circles:

What was immediately striking about (Hitler's) bodyguards was their handsomeness. He surrounded himself with young men of extraordinary beauty -- men worthy to become the pride of our line, with the delicate features we know as "Nordic." Such was the male company kept by Hitler, the type to which he professed allegiance. At first glance their eyes seemed empty, only on closer scrutiny did they seem to flicker with some distant mystery. Were these the men I knew from the youth movement? What had become of them?And then it came to me...they were in love with the *Fuhrer!*...These young men were banished unwillingly into marriage (Theweleit:339).²⁶



Hitler greeting Frau Goebbels (wife of Joseph) and Frau Raubal (Hitler's half-sister and mother of Gely, whose 1931 suicide was allegedly motivated by Hitler's perverted abuse of her). Was Frau Gobbles a "beard" for Joseph as some believe? The evidence makes the allegation seem plausible.

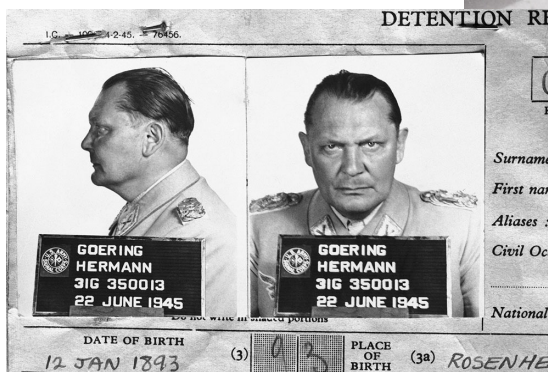
Heinrich Hoffman may have been the match-maker in many of these unions, but that is just conjecture. What we know for sure is that when Hitler Youth leader Baldur von Shirach needed a cover wife, it was Hoffman's own daughter Henny who filled the bill. And later, when questions again began to be raised about Hitler, himself, it was Hoffman's photo-studio employee (and Henny's friend) Eva Braun who was recruited to play the part of female escort (and presumed mistress).



Henny Hoffman (top left and bottom left and right) became the cover wife for Baldur von Shirach (bottom center), while Eva Braun (top center) served that role for Hitler. The boy (top right) with Henny and Eva is Heinrich Hoffman Jr., Henny's younger brother.

The Nazi Rise to Power

Through the 1920s, Hitler continued to capitalize on the political unrest of the German people to build the Nazi organization. The party's public image was greatly enhanced by the recruitment of Hermann Goering, a former World War I fighter ace who was revered as a war hero. Goering may not have been a homosexual though he was said to have been very fond of "painting his nails and putting rouge on his cheeks" (Fuchs:160). He joined the party after hearing a speech by Hitler in which he vowed to rebuild Germany's military and throw off the yoke of the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler immediately set him to the task of training the SA as a military organization (Toland:123), an accomplishment that further increased Nazi power.



While the Nazis promoted a hypermasculine ideal, Herman Goering (seen here in rouge and make-up, top left) was reputedly a transvestite. He enjoyed enormous power as a Nazi leader, but was sentenced to death at Nuremberg.

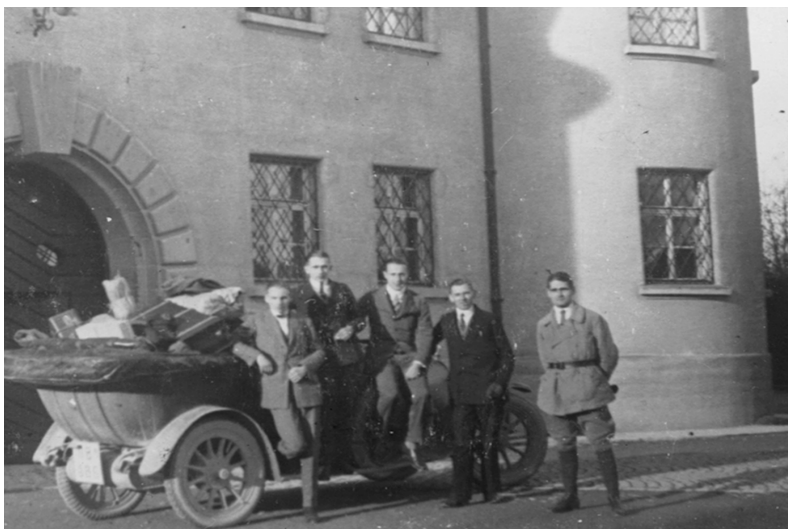
By the fall of 1922, Hitler had become the symbol of renewed German nationalism to many in Germany, although the average citizen had little knowledge of Hitler's personal life or the lives of the Nazi leaders. At this point Hitler believed he would ultimately assume power in Germany through military strength, and he was not terribly concerned with portraying an image of morality. "The Party newspaper," writes Edouard Calic, "explained that Hitler wanted to organize the movement on a military basis to achieve power, and that if it was necessary he would lead an uprising to renounce the Versailles Treaty" (Calic:33). However, his attempt to implement his plan in the infamous Beer Hall *Putsch* proved so disastrous that Hitler was forced to develop a different strategy.

On November 8, 1923, Hitler attempted to take advantage of a period of political

turmoil to seize control of the government of Bavaria. This ill-fated maneuver (later dubbed the Beer Hall *Putsch*) not only failed militarily, it put Hitler in prison for nine months, thus nearly ending the party. It was during this time, for example that Herman Esser (Nazi Party card-holder #2) briefly formed his own political party, the *Grossdeutsche Volksgemeinschaft* (roughly the “Grand German People’s Party”) along with close Hitler confidante Julius Streicher and Arthur Dinter (Reimann:Footnote 32 in Chapter 1)²⁷.



Reunion of the “Old Fighters” (above) who had been with Hitler in the early days of the Nazi movement. Below, Rudolph Hess (far right) upon his release from Landsberg Prison, the last of Hitler’s inner circle to receive his freedom.



When he was finally released from Landsberg prison on December 20, 1924, Hitler announced that thereafter the Nazi Party would seek power through legitimate political means (ibid:64). This decision put the actions and goals of the party to the test of public opinion. Immediately, Hitler was confronted

with this challenge. Shirer describes the internal condition of the party:

...in those years when Hitler was shaping his party to take over Germany's destiny he had his fill of troubles with his chief lieutenants who constantly quarreled not only among themselves but with him. He, who was so monumentally intolerant by his very nature, was strangely tolerant of one human condition -- a man's morals. No other party in Germany came near to attracting so many shady characters...pimps, murderers, homosexuals... Hitler did not care, as long as they were useful to him. When he emerged from prison he found not only that they were at each other's throats but there was a demand from the more prim and respectable leaders such as Rosenberg and Ludendorff that the criminals and especially the perverts be expelled from the movement. This Hitler frankly refused to do. (Shirer:173).



Hitler and Early Nazis in 1926

Hitler learned that public opinion was not with him in the matter of homosexuality, despite Germany's international reputation as a haven for homosexuals. Incriminating letters which had been stolen from Roehm by a male prostitute (Plant:60) became a public matter when Roehm took the matter to court (Hohne:81). This, of course, exacerbated the conflict among Hitler's lieutenants, and led Hitler to initialize the first in a series of public relations efforts designed to hide Nazi perversions from the German people.



Ernst Roehm with "gay" aide-de-camp
Count von Spreti.

Roehm was not the only embarrassment to the Party, of course. E.J. Gumbel quotes in his book from the *Munich Post* of March 6, 1923:

On 27 February 1923, another of Hitler's great followers, Franz Kirschtaler, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for unnatural sexual practices. Kirschtaler has committed numerous acts of indecency; the majority of his victims are youths. A former member of the "Iron Division," Kirschtaler later served as deputy sergeant in the Ehrhardt Brigade (Gumbel: [*** need date and add to endnotes and biblio])

The greater part of the conflicts mentioned above were between the homosexuals themselves who, according to Shirer "quarreled and feuded as only men of unnatural sexual inclinations, with their peculiar jealousies, can" (Shirer:172).²⁸ He writes,

By 1926...the charges and countercharges hurled by the Nazi Chieftains at one another became so embarrassing that Hitler set up a party court to settle them and prevent his comrades from washing their dirty linen in public. This was known as the USCHLA from Untersuchung-und-Schlichtungs-Ausschuss — Committee for Investigation and Settlement. Its first head was a former general, Heinemann, but he was unable to grasp the real purpose of the court, which was not to pronounce judgment on those accused of common crimes but to hush them up and see that they did not disturb party discipline or the authority of the Leader. So the general was replaced by...Major Walter Buch, who was given two assistants. One was Ulrichs Graf, the former butcher who had been Hitler's bodyguard; the other was Hans Frank, a young Nazi lawyer...This fine judicial triumvirate performed to the complete satisfaction of the Fuehrer. A party leader might be accused of the most nefarious crime. Buch's answer was, "Well, what of it?" (ibid.:174).



Walter Buch

Obviously, the act of assigning Buch, Graf and Frank to this intra-party “court” rendered it a complete sham (at least in regard to homosexual crimes), since all were homosexuals. The only purpose of this and later efforts ostensibly designed to address charges of sexual perversion among the Nazis was to hide the truth from the public. This was the root and branch of Nazi “anti-homosexual” policies.

As Nazi power grew, Hitler became increasingly dependent on the support of the German population. And, understandably enough, the German people were at the same time growing increasingly disgusted with the debaucheries taking place in German cities. This twofold influence on Hitler led him to take ever more hard-line public stands against homosexuality in order to cover up the truth about the party. The severity of his public reactions to each new scandal (especially the later ones) mitigated the impact of rumors which constantly circulated in German society about Nazi leaders. Hitler’s strategy regarding all moral issues was to craft his rhetoric carefully “in order not to offend the sensibilities of the people” (Mosse:159).²⁹



Roehm’s SA troops, seen here leafletting prior to an election, became known as the “Brown Fairies.”

Roehm, of course, presented a particularly difficult problem for the Nazis because of his militant support for what we know today as “gay rights.” His SA men began to be referred to by the anti-Nazis as the “Brown Fairies” (Rector:56).

Some time after Roehm’s exposure as a homosexual (in his 1925 trial against the male prostitute, Herman Siegesseites,) he left Germany to take a post in the Bolivian Army. It is unclear whether he made this move in response to a personal sense of disgrace about the publicizing of his pederastic activities, or whether Hitler had convinced him to get out of the

public eye for the good of the party. In any case, Roehm’s absence was only temporary. Plant writes,

In 1929 a party squabble threatened to tear the SA apart; a rebel group under Captain Walter Stennes had started a mutiny. Stennes taunted Roehm’s stalwarts at a rally, dismissing them as “sissies in frilly underwear who couldn’t order their boys around.” As the rebellion grew more serious, Hitler ordered his old friend to return to Germany. Roehm did not hesitate to heed his Fuehrer’s call and his armed squads quickly and ruthlessly suppressed the mutineers (Plant:60f).³⁰

While Roehm was away, the Nazis had been fairly successful at keeping their perversions out of sight. Most of the Nazis remained “in the closet,” or at least out of

situations that their political enemies could use against them. This, of course, changed when Roehm returned. Once again, stories of Roehm's exploits were passed along the grapevine.

It would be old news, however, that hurt the Nazis again when Roehm's damaging letters were published by the newspapers belonging to the Social Democrats. These, along with articles on the homosexual practices of subordinate SA leaders, were published on the occasion of Roehm's appointment to head the SA (Oosterhuis and Kennedy:239n).³¹ "Social Democrats and Communists," write Oosterhuis and Kennedy, "suggested [in their newspapers] that nepotism and abuse of power in the SA and the Hitler Youth had contributed to making homosexuality an essential characteristic of the fascist system" (ibid.:251). Herzer comments that the press campaign against Roehm "invoked the possibility that 'large segments of German youth' could be led to homosexuality through abuse of military authority by SA members, most of whom were teenagers" (Herzer:225n).³² He writes:

The prospect of Roehm's exploiting his military authority over young Nazis for his "private" interests was the target of such headlines in the leftist press as "Captain Roehm Abuses Unemployed Young Workers," "Fox Guards Chicken Coop," or "Physical and Moral Health of German Youth at Stake." It could scarcely go unremarked...that regulations otherwise rigorously implemented were suspended precisely in the Nazis private army, that the professional proscription of homosexuality that applied to every teacher, every officer, and every church functionary did not apply among the Nazis (Herzer:214).



Hitler Youth boys with adult mentor

Hitler, confronted with this threat to the Nazi image, responded with a dual strategy. He first offered a limited defense of Roehm, saying, "His private life cannot be an object of scrutiny unless it conflicts with basic principles of National Socialist ideology" (Bluel:98).³³ Hitler also attempted to draw a distinction between the party and the SA by portraying Roehm's proclivities as an aspect of military society. "[The SA] is not an institute for the moral education of genteel young ladies," said Hitler, "but a formation of seasoned fighters" (Bluel:98). The intended implication seems to have been that homosexuality was an odd quirk of military life that should be overlooked in light of the value of these soldiers' mission and experience. Furthermore, he promised expulsion from the party for anyone who continued to engage in "tongue-wagging" and "letter-writing" (Koehl:43).³⁴

Homosexuality was clearly not limited to the SA, however. Attorney and Hitler contemporary Erich Ebermayer, also a homosexual, observed in his diary that

During its time of struggle, the National Socialist movement -- and not just the Roehm clique -- was a fraternity such as Blueher portrayed in his books, its motive force being homoeroticism...My exceedingly trustworthy sources of

information about these confidential matters...have hitherto...*proudly* stressed the homoerotic orientation of the Fuehrer and his inner circle (emphasis in the original. Machtan:232).³⁵

Secondly, Hitler strengthened his rhetoric against homosexuality in German society at large. An article that appeared in the official Nazi newspaper went so far as to threaten homosexuals with extermination. Once again this was empty rhetoric. Adolf Brand, whose openly homosexual magazine, *Der Eigene*, was by this time widely read in Germany, responded to the Nazi article with one of his own. Brand writes,

Men such as Captain Roehm, are, to our knowledge, no rarity at all in the National Socialist Party. It rather teems there with homosexuals of all kinds. And the joy of man in man, which has been slandered in their papers so often as an oriental vice although the Edda frankly extols it as the highest virtue of the Teutons, blossoms around their campfires and is cultivated and fostered by them in a way done in no other male union that is reared on party politics. The threatened hanging on the gallows, with which they allege they want to exterminate homosexuals, is therefore only a horrible gesture that is supposed to make stupid people believe that the Hitler people, in the matter of male-to-male inclinations, are all as innocent as pigeons and pure as angels, just like the pious members of the Christian Society of the Virgin...The public threat against the homosexuals has in the meantime not frightened any youth-friend or man-friend into deserting this party. One knows perfectly well that all those public threats are only paper masks (Brand in Oosterhuis and Kennedy:236f).

Power and Abuse: The Burning of the Reichstag



Despite Brand's protestations, Hitler's ruse was quite successful in regard to the Nazis' political fortunes. As Machtan notes, "What would now be...condemned as discriminatory disparagement of a minority was then still regarded as a criminological fact: that homosexuals make exceptionally skillful liars" (Machtan:103). The party fared well in the elections of 1932, winning a plurality, and on January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany.

The Nazi Party had finally come to power and Hitler acted swiftly to consolidate his power, calling special elections just weeks after his appointment as Chancellor. Hitler was demanding the right of authoritarian rule over Germany, but public support for his plan was ambiguous and he feared he would lose the contest (Toland:288).³⁶ The greatest threat came from the Communists who had significant power and public support of their own, holding a number of parliamentary seats. Hitler's diabolical solution to this problem involved burning the German Reichstag

and blaming it on the Communists, just one month after his appointment as Chancellor. Carroll Quigley, in *Tragedy and Hope* writes,

[I]t was evident a week before the election that the German people were not convinced [that the Nazis should gain the increased power they sought]. Accordingly...a plot was worked out to burn the Reichstag building and blame the Communists. Most of the plotters were homosexuals and were able to persuade a degenerate moron from Holland named Van der Lubbe to go with them...Most of the Nazis who were in on the plot were murdered by Goering during the 'blood purge' of June 30, 1934" (Quigley:437f).³⁷ [Van der Lubbe was executed for the crime.]



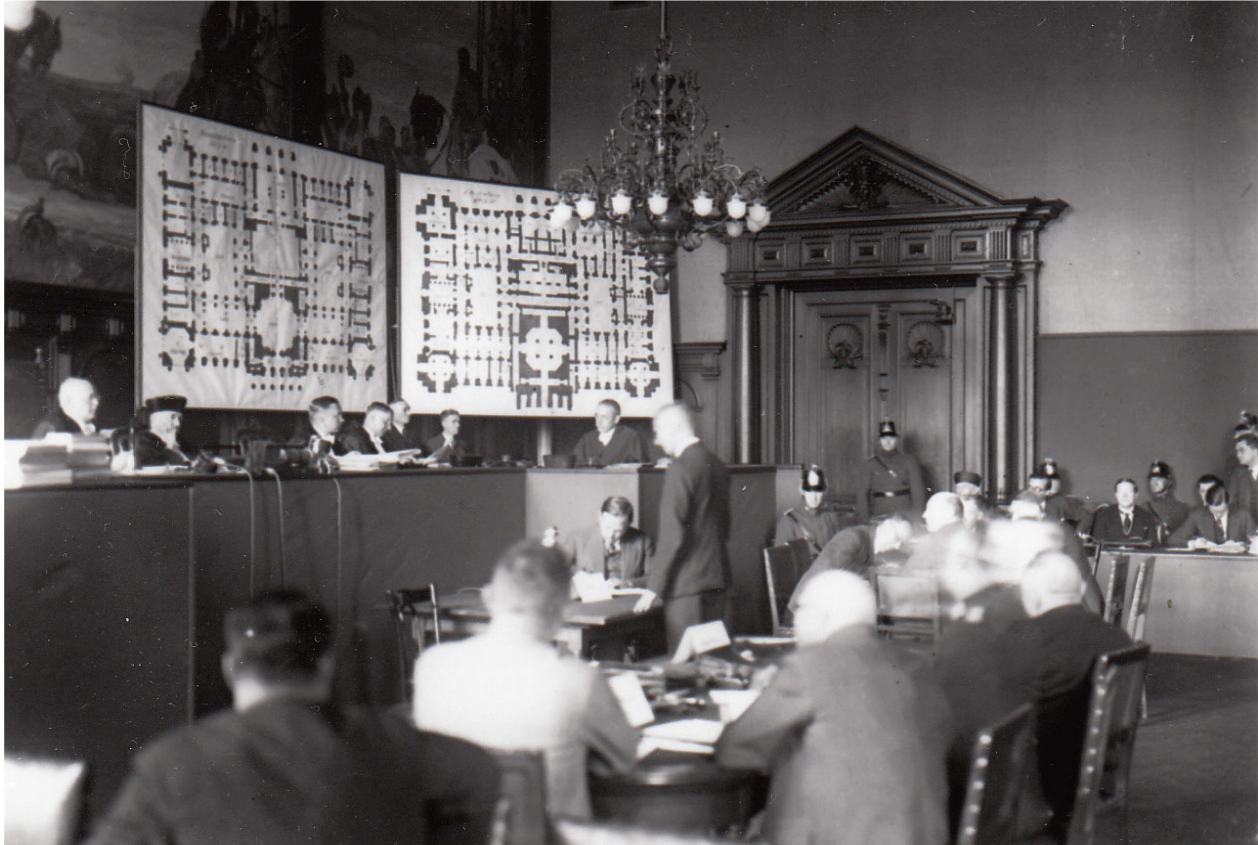
Prince Hubertus Zu Lowenstein, a severe critic of the Nazis who later fled the country to avoid persecution, was an eyewitness to the Reichstag fire and writes about it in his 1968 autobiography, *Towards The Further Shore*:

On the evening of February 27, I had an appointment with... [two friends who] were waiting for me at their front door in great excitement. "The Reichstag is burning, it has just come over the radio,"...we rushed to the next subway station...the man at the gate looked up at us, amazed: "Why are you running? Is your house on fire?" "It certainly is," I snapped back, "The Nazis have set the Reichstag on fire." We arrived at the scene [in] perhaps a half an hour...The big cupola was bursting in flames like a volcano. The wide square in front of the building overflowed with SA men. Many of them for the first time flaunted their armbands as "Auxiliary Police". The Berliners openly made fun of them: "They must have known in advance! They couldn't have come here so fast with their bandy legs!"...Now the Nazis had their self-created pretext. A special decree



signed by the senescent President gave them full power over life and death of the nation. A wave of arrests began to sweep through Germany. (Lowenstein:110-111)³⁸.

The strategy succeeded. With new dictatorial powers, Hitler stripped the Communists of their civil rights including Communist parliamentary members of their seats in the government. The people, perceiving the Nazis as saviors in a time of crisis, acceded to Hitler's demands and cast their votes to give the Nazi Party a majority of the seats taken from the Communists.



Trial of Nazi arsonist Marinus Van Der Lubbe, a homosexual partner of Ernst Roehm.

The “moron” Marinus Van Der Lubbe who confessed to the crime was apparently a willing scapegoat, also agreed to pose as a Communist to further the Nazi aims. Importantly, Lowenstein reports, citing a writer named Otto Katz, that Van Der Lubbe was a homosexual “boyfriend” of Ernst Roehm (ibid.:171). Oosterhuis concurs that he was a homosexual, citing a 1933 book prepared by the World Committee for the Victims of German Fascism:

Enquiries in Leyden have definitely established the fact that he [Van Der Lubbe] was homosexual. This is of great importance for his later history....Van Der Lubbe's homosexual connections with the National Socialist leaders and his material dependence on them made him obedient and willing to carry out the incendiary's part (Oosterhuis:253).

In *The Life and Death of Hermann Goering*, authors Ewan Butler and Gordon Young list the actual Reichstag fire conspirators. “The camarilla which finally drew up plans for the ‘frame-up’ against the Communists consisted, besides Captain Goering, its originator, of Goebbels, Roehm, Heines, Count Helldorf, leader of the Berlin S.A., Karl Ernst, a certain *StandartenFuehrer* (regimental commander) of the S.A. named Sander and two other members of the S.A., Fiedler and von Mohrenschild” (Butler and Young:111).³⁹

Germans who opposed the fascist party, however, knew that dark days were upon them at the hands of their new homosexual masters. Typical of their concerns was the comment of Former Chancellor Kurt von Schleicher, who gave voice to an inner fear that foreshadowed his own death: “This pack of scoundrels, these criminals, these filthy boy streetwalkers! Well, they better not come near me” (Rector:64). Little more than a year later Schleicher was killed in Munich by Hitler’s murder gang during the Roehm Purge (Fest, 1975:465).⁴⁰



Kurt von Schleicher

One group of Germans was, however, taken by surprise in the coming transformation of Germany. It was a small but arrogant faction of the larger body of Nazi homosexuals who threatened public support for the new regime by throwing discretion to the wind.

Overconfidence

Once the party had come to power a few of the more flagrant homosexuals in the Nazi leadership believed they could act with impunity in regard to their homosexual exploits. This attitude would lead to severe consequences for these men and indirectly dictate Hitler’s hardening of official policy regarding homosexuality.

By the spring of 1934, Ernst Roehm’s homosexual activities had become more outrageous than ever, to the extent that Himmler himself made a special trip to plead with Roehm to be more discrete. Roehm pretended to accede but, as Gallo reports:



“Party Comrades, Heed Discipline!” Pleads this sign on The Brown House,” SA Headquarters, Munich.

The next morning Himmler’s agents report that one of the most fantastic orgies they had ever seen took place the night before at Roehm’s headquarters. Bottles thrown from the windows smashed on the pavements below, and the sound of raucous laughter echoed in the street. Roehm himself had been an all-night participant, with his *Lustknaben*, his male prostitutes. Himmler is furious. (Gallo:68).⁴¹

Roehm's exploits also began implicating the more genteel homosexuals in the party. Roehm's entourage now included "young sons of the nobility, who form a brilliant staff with the faces of perverse angels: Baron von Falkenhausen, Count von Sprei, the Prince von Waldeck: all aides-de-camp to Captain Roehm" (Gallo:46). (Waldeck was the first member of the old nobility to join the Party and had been recruited by Himmler, himself -- Snyder:371).⁴² At this same time Edmund Heines was appointed Chief of Police of Breslau. Gallo writes,

His staff resembles Roehm's -- they are the objects of its chief's amorous passion. The homosexual Engels is OberstuermbannFuehrer (Lieutenant Colonel), and the young Schmidt is aide-de-camp. This twenty-year-old is Heines' latest folly. Whatever that handsome young blonde does, he is protected by his lover. Once, in a moment of drunkenness, he publicly kills a drinking companion with his sword, but the Chief of Police forbids the public prosecutor to intervene....Beside this couple, the depraved Engels, a watchful intriguer, plays the part of Heines' evil genius. He is one of those who use the SA organization and the Hitler Youth to recruit participants for his erotic games (ibid.:70).



Samuel Igra also noted the increasingly public nature of the Nazi leaders' activities:

It was not merely that these men practiced their vices in private and among their own clique; but they made a system, almost a cult, of their moral corruption, and used their positions of power to molest with impunity innocent boys and girls whose features and physique they fancied. When Kube and his staff visited the villages of his district, *Kube ist da* was the warning passed from mouth to mouth among the people, whereupon parents hid their boys and girls in the cellars or in the back kitchens. The scoundrel needed so much money for his filthy orgies that he had his accomplices appointed to positions in the local savings banks and borough treasurers' offices, where they systematically robbed the tills. In Frankfort-on-Oder, for instance, Kube's accomplices robbed the Post Office Savings Bank of 180,000 marks (about £15,000), and though the case was proved against him in court, he was dismissed only for a while and reinstated in the Party again.



Wilhelm Kube

These incidents divided the Nazi elite as no other issue had. Amoral scoundrels all, the majority were nevertheless practical men who knew the importance of discretion, even for dictatorial tyrants. The unquenchable arrogance of these SA leaders forced Hitler into an untenable position -- one which Roehm's powerful rivals within the party would soon exploit. Hitler would first be compelled to assassinate the worst offenders in his ranks. Second, to counter the growing public awareness that his party was rife with homosexuality, Hitler would be forced to publicly take a harder line against the very forms of sexual deviance that he and his corrupt inner circle would continue to practice in secret long after the "Night of the Long Knives."



Rising to Power: The face of the Nazi Party in the mid-to-late 1920s.
From left to right: Goebbels, Ley, Unknown, Himmler, Dietrich (?), Hess, Hitler, Streicher.
Bodyguard Bruchner is behind Hitler. Goering, Roehm and Rosenberg are absent.

ABOUT OUR DOCUMENTATION

Since the late 1960s when it first came to power as a dominating force of American culture and politics, the homosexual movement has worked relentlessly to suppress all information about the role of homosexuality in the Nazi Party. Today, with American academia and popular culture in the iron grip of “political correctness” virtually the only domestic sources of information about this topic are out-of-print books published before 1970, with the exception of re-publications of impossible-to-suppress classics like William Shirer’s *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*. The majority of our citations are to these works, which are fortunately the strongest and most trustworthy sources of all since they are closest in time to the actual events of Nazi and pre-Nazi history.

Some sources, such as Konrad Heiden and Otto Strasser were actual contemporaries of and co-revolutionists with Adolf Hitler. Others like Jewish writer Samuel Igra and the philosopher Aurel Kolnai studied and chronicled the rise of the Nazi movement for many years from within Germany and Austria respectively before fleeing to safety in the late 1930s.

A category of American books and other literature that is an exception to the rule is that of “gay” publications written by and for the homosexual community. Predictably, these publications typically skew the facts to the best political advantage of the “gay” movement, omitting those most damaging to their cause, and interpreting the rest in a way that casts homosexuals as exclusively victims of the Nazi regime. Frank Rector’s *The Nazi Extermination of Homosexuals* and Richard Plant’s *The Pink Triangle* are two of these.

A few “gay” writers with more scholarly inclinations, such as James Steakley in *The Homosexual Emancipation Movement in Germany* and Günter Grau and Claudia Schoppman, editors of *The Hidden Holocaust?: Gay and Lesbian Persecution in Germany 1933-45* tell more of the truth but from a decidedly pro-“gay” perspective.

A very few “gay” sources such as Harry Oosterhuis and Hubert Kennedy (*Homosexuality and Male Bonding in Pre-Nazi Germany*) are more objective academic works with apparent disregard for the political implications of the shocking facts they document.

All three of these types of “gay” sources, while varying in their trustworthiness (relative to the underlying political sensibilities), nevertheless share one thing in common: they disclose individual specific facts about homosexual Nazis or the German “gay” subculture from which Nazism emerged.

Each of these facts stands alone as a trustworthy piece of evidence. Indeed, in the law of evidence used by courtroom judges, facts such as these are called “admissions against interest” and for that reason are considered among the most trustworthy of all evidence. So when a man like professor James Steakley, whose career reflects a deep devotion to the cause of “gay rights,” writes of a “truly striking affinity between [Adolf Hitler’s] views on homosexuality and those of [pederasts] Friedlander and [Hans] Bluher,” the weight of this evidence is enormous because it is an admission of facts that runs counter to the political interests of the “gay” movement (which wants very much to discredit any suggestion that Hitler was “gay” or in any way associated with “gay” culture).

An admission against interest by anyone, homosexual or not, is considered trustworthy even if other aspects of the person’s work reflect a biased perspective consistent with his or her self-interest (or ideology). This holds true even if the fact is admitted in a context which

attempts to explain it away, such as Alice Kaplan's painfully apologetic treatment of pervasive homosexuality among the Nazi's French collaborators in *The Collaborator: The Trial and Execution of Robert Brasillach*. Apparently too much a scholar to fully suppress the uncomfortable facts, she (or perhaps her editor) nevertheless spins them to limit the harm they may do to the "gay" cause. However, the admitted facts in works such as these stand firmly on their own, and we are not obligated to agree with the author's interpretation of them.

Another category of sources we have used are foreign works, primarily from Germany, where mainstream scholars are evidently still free to publish books that would cause their American counterparts to be drummed out of academia. Among these are the very important *Hidden Hitler* by German historian Lothar Machtan and *The Order of the Death's Head* by the eminent journalist Heintz Hohne. While the Machtan book is recent, Hohne's book was published long-enough ago that it could still be lauded as "A Monumental Achievement" by *The New York Times Book Review*. There is no chance of that today, or for quite a number of yesterdays. Such is the power of the "gay" movement.

What follows is a bibliography of the sources used in this chapter, presented in the form of "endnotes". We have flagged the first appearance in the text of each source with an endnote that gives its bibliographical listing. Select items in the bibliography are highlighted to emphasize their reliability. The fact that an item is not highlighted is not a statement that it is less reliable. Indeed, many of the items not highlighted in this chapter are highlighted in later chapters where the facts they cite are most relevant to the theme of the chapter. While not every source in the book will be highlighted, our selections have been chosen to give support to precisely the facts and assertions that are the most controversial.

Importantly, these highlighted sources show just how far from the truth the historical revisionists have strayed in their (largely successful) attempt to paint homosexuals as exclusively victims of the Nazis.

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