

Blood Brotherhood (1941)

Blood Brotherhood is a National Socialist propaganda film by Philipp Lothar Mayring from 1941.

It is now a reserved film of the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Foundation . It is therefore part of the foundation's holdings, is not approved for distribution, and may only be shown with the foundation's consent and under the conditions set by the foundation.

Plot

On November 11, 1918, the last day of the First World War , First Lieutenant Klaus Olden and his unit desperately try to hold a lost post. Rescue arrives in the form of pilot Jochen Wendler, who surfaces in his plane and drops ammunition. When Jochen's plane is shot down shortly afterwards, Klaus manages to pull him from the wreckage at the last second. Both are taken to the hospital , where they are cared for by the attractive nurse Barbara, a childhood friend of Jochen's.

The two men become blood brothers and travel with Barbara to East Prussia , where they plan to visit Jochen's relatives on their estate . However, the relatives' farm was destroyed in the war. The postwar period proves to be an economic disaster, with Klaus and Jochen forced to take any job that comes their way. But when one day they are asked to destroy German gun barrels in an army salvage depot, this goes so against Jochen's nature, who still hasn't mentally laid aside his uniform, that he suggests to his friend, whom he no longer understands, that they go their separate ways for five years.

film	
title	Blood brotherhood
Country of production	<u>German Empire</u>
Original language	<u>German</u>
Year of publication	<u>1941</u>
length	100 minutes
Age rating	<u>FSK <i>unrated</i></u> , <u>film with reservation</u> [1]
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Director	<u>Philipp Lothar Mayring</u>
script	<u>Philipp Lothar Mayring</u> , <u>Harald G. Petersson</u> , based on an idea by <u>Peter Andres</u>
production	<u>Walter Tost</u>
Music	<u>Michael Jary</u>
camera	<u>Ekkehard Kyrath</u>
cut	<u>Gertrud Hinz</u>
occupation	
▪ <u>Hans Söhnker</u> : <u>First Lieutenant Klaus Olden</u> ▪ <u>Ernst von Klipstein</u> : <u>Lieutenant Jochen Wendler</u> ▪ <u>Anneliese Uhlig</u> : <u>Nurse Barbara</u> ▪ <u>Rudolf Platte</u> : <u>Servant Stoldt</u> ▪ <u>Paul Westermeier</u> : <u>Fritz Blunck</u> ▪ <u>Axel Monjé</u> : <u>Peter Markwitz</u> ▪ <u>Walter Pose</u> : <u>Schulz</u> ▪ <u>Fritz Odemar</u> : <u>Factory owner Cunnings</u> ▪ <u>Gerda Maria Terno</u> : <u>Barbara's friend Lilly</u> ▪ <u>Max Gülstorff</u> : <u>Chief Medical Officer</u> ▪ <u>Ernst Stimmel</u> : <u>Doctor</u>	

Klaus finds a well-paid job and hires Barbara, whom he secretly loves, as his housekeeper . Jochen remains unemployed but finds ideological satisfaction in his work for a political organization fighting the "internal and external enemies of Germany." Five years later, the friends meet again as agreed, but part ways again in arguments, as their differences remain and Barbara realizes that it is Jochen, not Klaus, whom she loves. Barbara leaves Klaus and follows Jochen. Only when she is expecting a child and her life is threatened by a heart condition does Klaus realize that he shouldn't have abandoned his blood brother. They are reconciled, and on September 1, 1939, the friends - now united in their ideological goals - head off to war side by side once again at the head of their company .

- Erich Ponto : Director Gösch
- Wolfgang Staudte : Speaker
- Josefine Dora : Flower Woman
- Erich Dunskus : Foreman
- Josef Eichheim : Officer in the main guard
- Wilhelm Groothe : Chauffeur
- Hans Meyer-Hanno : Obersteiger
- Hans Paetsch : Communist
- Willi Rose : Corporal Brown
- Oscar Sabo : Civil servant at the residents' registration office
- Ludwig Schmid-Wildy : Officer in the guard
- Ernst Waldow : Mr. Nickel
- Franz Loskarn : Communist leader
- Paul Hoffmann : Count Trollberg
- Armin Schweizer : Prison officer
- Gustav Püttjer : Jürgensen
- Theo Shall : French officer
- Klaus Pohl : Newspaper dealer
- Gerti Kammerzell : Zenzi, Bavarian waitress

Production and reception

The film was produced and distributed by Berlin-based Terra-Filmkunst GmbH . Filming took place at the UFA studios in Berlin-Tempelhof , at the Hostivar studios in Prague, and in the Prague area (exterior shots) between May 10 and early July 1940. When submitted to the censorship board on December 23, 1940, the film was banned from youth screenings; no rating was awarded. The premiere took place on January 3, 1941, at the Berlin "Atrium" and the UFA theater "Tauentzien-Palast."

After the end of World War II, all copies of the film were confiscated by the Allied High Command , and its screening was banned. Today, the rights to exploitation are held by the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Foundation , which only allows the screening of this restricted film as part of special educational events.

See also

- List of German feature films premiered during the Nazi era in the German Reich
- List of German films banned under Allied military censorship

Weblinks

- *Blood Brotherhood* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0158503/>) at IMDb
- *Blood Brotherhood* (<https://www.filmportal.de/edc64e6a27034f83bee9134b951c13bf>) at filmportal.de
- *Blood Brotherhood* (<https://www.murnau-stiftung.de/movie/85>) at murnau-stiftung.de

- *Blood Brotherhood* (<https://web.archive.org/web/20071226234728/http://www.deutscher-tonfilm.de/b2.html>) ([Memento](#) from December 26, 2007 in *the Internet Archive*) at [deutscher-tonfilm.de](http://www.deutscher-tonfilm.de)

References

1. *Blood Brotherhood* (<https://www.murnau-stiftung.de/movie/85>) at the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Foundation
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