



Lützow Fighter Wing

Kampfgeschwader Lützow is a 1940 Nazi war and propaganda film , essentially a sequel to the film D III 88 (1939) and largely produced with the same cast and crew, but directed by Hans Bertram . The title was not chosen after the then little-known fighter pilot Günther Lützow , but after the general from the Wars of Liberation, Ludwig Adolf Wilhelm von Lützow . It premiered on February 28, 1941.

This film is now subject to the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Foundation's restricted collection . It is therefore part of the foundation's holdings, is not authorized for distribution, and may only be shown with the foundation's consent and under its conditions.

The film was primarily shot at Bodenhagen airfield (now Bagicz, Poland) near Kolberg (Pomerania), as well as in Wyszków (Masovia). Soldiers from the Hindenburg squadron of the Luftwaffe, stationed in Bodenhagen, served as extras. Some of the Polish soldiers were played by Slovak soldiers.

Plot

The comrades of the "Lützow" fighter squadron, forged together in the First World War , the Spanish Civil War , and through their experiences in peacetime, now have to prove themselves in the invasion of Poland . They bomb Polish positions and fortresses.

On the return flight, they discover large groups of displaced ethnic Germans being tormented by boastful Poles. When the German aircraft appear, the Polish escort crews hide among their prisoners. Nevertheless, in a daring attack, the German

film

title	Lützow Fighter Wing
Country of production	<u>German Empire</u>
Original language	<u>German</u>
Year of publication	<u>1941</u>
length	109 minutes
Age rating	<u>FSK <i>unrated</i> , restricted film</u> ^[1]
Production company	<u>Tobi's Film Art</u>
	<u>rod</u>
Director	<u>Hans Bertram</u>
script	<u>Hans Bertram</u> <u>Wolf Neumeister</u>
production	<u>Robert Wuellner</u>
Music	<u>Norbert Schultze</u>
camera	<u>Georg Krause</u> <u>Heinz von Jaworsky</u> <u>Walter Roßkopf</u>

occupation

- Christian Kayßler : Colonel Mithoff
- Heinz Welzel : Corporal Fritz Paulsen
- Hermann Braun : Lance Corporal Robert Eckhard
- Hannes Keppler : Sergeant Guggemos
- Karl Martel : Lieutenant Ludwig Becker
- Heinz Engelmann : Lieutenant Frank
- Paul Bildt : Staff Surgeon of the Flight Squadron
- Carsta Löck : Farm girl Lina
- Adolf Fischer : Zeissler

gunners manage to either kill or rout the Poles without a single German being harmed. This is followed by missions in the Western Campaign , and finally, the squadron flies its first missions against England.

- Peter Voss : Major Hagen
- Horst Birr : Lance Corporal Hasinger
- Ernst Stimmel : Teacher Lehwald
- Marietheres Angerpointner : Grethe Kubath

Awards

The film received the ratings "of particular value to the state and the arts," "of popular value," and "suitable for young people" from the Nazi film censorship board . In the post-war period, it was classified as a restricted film ; thus, its screening in Germany is now only possible to a limited extent.

Reviews

Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels was enthusiastic about the film. On February 14, 1941, he wrote about it in his diary: "A magnificent Luftwaffe war spectacle. With monumental images. Unique depiction of the milieu. I am thrilled." ^[2] The contemporary press celebrated the glorification of heroic death in the film. Regarding the character of Sergeant Paulsen, who is mortally wounded in an aerial battle before a letter from Grethe arrives informing him that she does not love him, the *Illustrated Film Courier* wrote : "But even the dying man proves what spirit is alive in the Luftwaffe. With his last strength, he lands his plane, saves his comrade, then collapses dead. But his spirit lives on in hundreds, in thousands. And his sacrifice will never be forgotten." ^[3]

"It's a report of a cheerful war with aerial ballets and enjoyable bombings. It's appalling how the war is trivialized here! Meanwhile, the German bomber and fighter pilot is portrayed as just and noble."

– KARLHEINZ WENDTLAND IN *GELIEBTER KINTOPP. YEARS 1941 AND 1942* , 2ND EDITION
1989–1996

Because of its Nazi propaganda, the film was banned by the Allied High Command after the end of World War II . Today, the rights to the film are held by the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Foundation , which only permits screenings of this restricted film within the context of special educational events.

reception

As Howard K. Smith , then the American correspondent in Germany for the United Press agency , explains, public interest in this film was not particularly strong. According to his observations, this film was shown in Berlin to a half-empty theater, while in the cinema next door a mediocre comedy had a packed house at every showing. ^[4]

See also

- [List of German feature films premiered in the German Reich during the Nazi era](#)

External links

- *Lützow Fighter Wing* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0159504/>) at IMDb
- *Lützow Fighter Wing* (<https://www.ofdb.de/film/57107,>) in the [online film database](#)
- *Lützow Fighter Squadron* (http://www.filmportal.de/film/kampfgeschwader-luetzow_d24fac4e46b34efeaf7242c18742d03a) at Filmportal.de
- *Lützow Fighter Wing* (<http://www.murnau-stiftung.de/movie/477>) near Murnau Foundation

References

1. *Lützow Fighter Wing* (<https://www.murnau-stiftung.de/movie/477>) at the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Foundation
2. Joseph Goebbels: *The Diaries of Joseph Goebbels* . Edited by Elke Fröhlich. Part I, Volume 9. Munich 1998, p. 143 .
3. Quoted in Erwin Leiser : *“Deutschland, erwache!” Propaganda im Film des Dritten Reiches* . Rowohlt Verlag, Reinbek near Hamburg 1968, pp. 28f.
4. Howard K. Smith: *The Enemy Writes Along. An American Correspondent Experiences Nazi Germany*. Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, Frankfurt 1986, (English original edition 1942), [ISBN 3-596-24371-8](#) , p. 134.

Retrieved from " https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kampfgeschwader_Lützow&oldid=261619613 "