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# Trenck, the Pandur

**Trenck, the Pandur** is a German historical film from 1940, based on a play by Otto Emmerich Groh. The title role of the Hungarian Pandur Franz von der Trenck was played by Hans Albers , who can also be seen in two other roles: as the father of the Hungarian Pandur and as his Prussian cousin Friedrich von der Trenck .

The film, which premiered on 30 August 1940 in Vienna, was particularly entertaining due to its female actors and was a hit with audiences. In the years from 1942 onwards it was shown in Spain, in the opinion of the press poorly dubbed, under the title *Corazón de Fuego* and in Portugal. <sup>[1]</sup>

## Table of contents

**Plot**

**background**

**criticism**

**See also**

**Weblinks**

**References**

## Plot

"The film is set around the year 1748. At this time there is peace between Prussia and Austria, but Maria Theresa has to defend her inheritance claims to Alsace and Lorraine against France. The film is entirely fictitious while respecting the historical events in the lead characters."

– W. ZERLETT-OLFENIUS : Trenck the Pandur

	<b>film</b>
title	Trenck, the Pandur
	<span></span> <div></div>
Country of production	<u>Germany</u>
Original language	<u>German</u>
Year of publication	<u>1940</u>
length	96 minutes
Manufacturing company	<u>Tobi's Film Art</u>
	<u>rod</u>
Direction	<u>Herbert Selpin</u>
script	<u>Walter Zerlett-Olfenius</u> based on a play by <u>Otto Emmerich Groh</u>
production	<u>Heinrich Jonen</u>
Music	<u>Franz Doelle</u>
camera	<u>Franz Koch</u>
cut	<u>Friedel Buckow</u>
	occupation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span>■</span> <u>Hans Albers</u> : <u>Franz von der Trenck</u> , his father, his cousin <u>Friedrich</u></li></ul>

Franz von der Trenck, most recently a major in Russian service, is sentenced to death at the instigation of the Russian prince Soloviev. The prince wants to get rid of him because he is after Trenck's lover Natalie Alexandrovna (E. Flickenschildt). She is able to prevent the execution at the last moment by forging a pardon for Soloviev, allowing Trenck to escape from the now alarmed Soloviev. In these scenes, all the actors speak Russian for long stretches.

Trenck returns home to his father, who is angry because his son spent years as a mercenary in foreign service.

"Johann Trenck: Year after year you have fought in all sorts of countries for other people's countries, Franz. Just not for your own country [...] Well, you got your reward. What are you standing before me as today? As what? As a mercenary chased away by these foreign masters! And yet here in this country, whose language you speak, there is a clever, beautiful empress for whom I, even as an old soldier, would gladly fight again."

– W. ZERLETT-OLFENIUS : Trenck the Pandur

The old Trenck then used his son's inheritance to set up a Pandur regiment to support the young Maria Theresa, which Franz von der Trenck led into various battles.

Five years later. Major Löwenwalde (H. Hardt), also in Maria Theresa's service, calls Trenck's Pandurs thieves, whereupon the two fight for honour until Löwenwalde falls into a fountain. Trenck's subordinate Harun Bashi (O. Sima) had in fact stolen some of the major's utensils, including a roll of parchment. The French Countess St. Croix, who is a friend of Löwenwalde's, claims this roll - which contains deployment plans for the Austrian troops - as her own and successfully demands it back from Trenck. Trenck also recruits Laudon ( Gideon Ernst von Laudon ), who has previously been in Löwenwald's service, as captain of the Pandur regiment. Shortly afterwards, Princess Deinhartstein goes under Trenck's protection; she is to be married to Prince Solojew in Vienna against her will. Trenck, who is expected by Maria Theresa (Käthe Dorsch) in Vienna because of some incidents, pricks up his ears at the name of the groom. He promises her that he will definitely make things right.

In Vienna, Maria Theresa explains to the princess that she must insist on the marriage in order to keep Russia as a reliable ally. Trenck is resolutely reprimanded by the regent and has to submit his regiment to Prince Khevenhüller ( Ludwig Andreas von Khevenhüller ).

- Käthe Dorsch : Empress Maria Theresa
- Elisabeth Flickenschildt : Natalie Alexandrovna
- Sybille Schmitz : Princess Deinartstein
- Hilde Weissner : Countess St. Croix
- Hans Nielsen : Captain Laudon
- Oskar Sima : Harun Bashi
- Jaspar von Oertzen : Lieutenant Todt
- Peter Voß : Prince Khevenhüller
- Herbert Hübner : Prince Solojew
- Karl Fochler : Lieutenant Colonel Prokop
- Hubert von Meyerinck : Lord of Sazenthal
- Fritz Hinz-Fabricius : Lord of Sommerfeld
- Theodor Thony : Marshal Coigny
- Harry Hardt : Major Lowenwalde
- Boris Alekin : Russian lieutenant
- Friedel Hanses : noble lady
- Fritz Lafontaine : Lieutenant Fries
- Lucy Millowitsch : Marietta
- Lutz Götz : Adjutant
- Wolfgang von Schwindt : Master of Ceremonies
- Angelo Ferrari
- Hadrian Maria Netto
- Paul Otto
- Josef Peterhans

"Khevenhüller: Put your regiment on the move today! I can use you very well. You will occupy the right bank of the Rhine!

Trenck: Your Excellency. If ordered, the left bank too.

Maria Theresia: (to herself, skeptically) the left bank too?! (to Trenck) Does he even know what the first person to reach the left bank of the Rhine and drive the French out of there will get?

Trenck: No, Your Majesty.

Maria Theresia: It is the golden sword of the crown of Hungary."

– W. ZERLETT-OLFENIUS : Trenck the Pandur

At the evening ball, Trenck realises that Countess St. Croix, in league with Solojew, wants to convey the Austrian deployment plans to the French. Trenck flees Vienna with the princess and goes to his regiment, where his cousin, the Prussian Trenck Friedrich, who is on his way to Vienna, is waiting for him. Franz convinces his cousin to let himself be arrested by the approaching police and taken to Vienna in his place. The Prussian agrees, and in Vienna he again uses his real identity and delivers Maria Theresa a message from Frederick the Great ( Frederick II (Prussia) ), "her cousin".

On the banks of the Rhine, Trenck manages to convince Khevenhüller to give him a few days to catch the leader of the traitors. He is his fellow countryman, Lieutenant Colonel Prokop (K. Fochler), who has defected to the French and is serving as a colonel in their army. Trenck meets Countess St. Croix again. She is the sister of the French commander-in-chief and has the authority to offer Trenck a position as general. Trenck pretends to accept this and hands over false deployment plans for the Austrian army. He manages to win Prokop over to his side with a patriotic appeal. Prokop now helps him to obtain the French deployment plans, but dies during the subsequent escape. Trenck reaches his troops and achieves a brilliant victory.

In the presence of Laudon and Princess Deinhartstein, Trenck is promoted to colonel by Maria Theresa and receives the golden sword of the Crown of Hungary.

## background

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Filming took place from January to April 1940 in the Berlin area and at the New Palace in Potsdam . The premiere was on August 23, 1940 in Vienna and on August 30, 1940 in Berlin. By the end of the war, the film had a running time of about 96 minutes. In 1953, it was reviewed again and released for screening in a version of 84 minutes. <sup>[2]</sup>

The film, shot in 1940, is set primarily in 1748, when Austria-Hungary was at war with France, not with Prussia. In fact, however, Trenck's Pandurs were involved in fighting against Prussia during the first two Silesian Wars from 1741 to 1745. Baron Laudon was also in Trenck's regiment at this time. Furthermore, around 1748 neither the Austrian nor the Prussian Trenck held the positions mentioned in the film. The Pandur had been imprisoned since 1746 and died in Brno in 1749. His cousin escaped from prison in Glatz in 1746 and was subsequently considered a deserter in Prussia. In the 1973 television series The Strange Life Story of Friedrich Baron von der Trenck , Franz von der Trenck is still fighting in front of Passau in 1747.

In the film, the Pandur fights with a Major Löwenwalde and lets him go to the bathroom. In the entry for Franz Trenck in the *BLKÖ* , it is mentioned that Trenck offered Löwenwalde a kick for an insult, and that in 1746 the latter was president of the military court against him. In *Trenck (1932)*, Löwenwalde is the president of the Austrian court and is played by *Paul Hörbiger* .

## criticism

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"A military and espionage adventure entertainment film with a brisk production and presentation. The film became such a paean to lusty soldiering that it was only approved for screening by the FSK in 1953 after major cuts."

– *LEXICON OF INTERNATIONAL FILMS* <sup>[3]</sup>

"A National Socialist propaganda film with clear anti-French tendencies and a hymn to noble soldiery."

– *FILMPORTAL.DE* <sup>[2]</sup>

"A nasty National Socialist propaganda film in which audience favorite Hans Albers plays the strong man who not only makes every woman's heart beat faster, but of course also defies every danger and overcomes it."

– *PRISM* <sup>[4]</sup>

## See also

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- *List of German feature films premiered during the Nazi era in the German Reich*

## Weblinks

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- *Trenck, the Pandur* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0033184/>) at *IMDb*
- *Trenck, the Pandur* (<https://www.filmportal.de/3923d0f96df0455bb960d19e6affaf05>) at *filmportal.de*
- Film poster, crew and cast at *deutscher-tonfilm.de* (<https://web.archive.org/web/20071226234728/http://www.deutscher-tonfilm.de/tdp1.html>) ( *Memento* from December 26, 2007 in the *Internet Archive* )
- *Hans Albers as "Trenck, the Pandur"* (<http://film.virtual-history.com/postcard.php?id=10654>)

## References

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1. Bogusław Drewniak: *The German Film 1938–1945. A General Overview* . Droste, Düsseldorf 1987, ISBN 3-7700-0731-X , p. 552, Spain p. 767, Portugal p. 769.
2. *Trenck, the Pandur*. (<https://www.filmportal.de/3923d0f96df0455bb960d19e6affaf05>) In: *filmportal.de* . German Film Institute , accessed on 26 June 2021 . (<https://www.filmportal.de/3923d0f96df0455bb960d19e6affaf05>)
3. *Trenck, the Pandur*. (<https://www.filmDienst.de/film/details/37748>) In: *Lexicon of International Films* . *FilmDienst* , accessed on 23 May 2021 .

4. *Trenck, the Pandur*. (<https://www.prisma.de/194487>) In: *prisma* . Retrieved on 26 June 2021 .

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