

Hitler's Eastern Headquarters: The Wolf's Lair

Film by: Lutz Rentner and Frank Otto Sperlich

Produced by: rbb

Produced for: rbb

Length: 45'

Year: 2017

Language Versions: German, English Subtitles

Format: HD

Genre: History

Synopsis

Year after year, curious tourists make the trip to Kretzyn, Rastenburg in Poland, located in what used to be East Prussia, to view the former "Wolf's Lair". The visitors of today stand fascinated before the mossy concrete structures which once housed Hitler's military situation centre and reflect on history. The Wolf's Lair was the largest of the so-called "Früher headquarters" in WWII. It was cloaked in such secrecy that several rumours and legend were circulated about this mysterious place. The documentary tells the story of the clandestine construction of the place steeped in German destiny from the perspective of military personnel and former residents of the state. It also describes the power structure of the National Socialist state during the campaign against Russia. Approximately 2000 persons were stationed in the Wolf's Lair. They were organised as would a small city. The Wolf's Lair was a not only a military situation centre for the General of Germany's army, it was where the NS leaders discussed and made major decisions that led to the an inevitably catastrophic end. The decision to eradicate the Jews was discussed here with SS leaders Himmler and Heydrich. It was also in the Wolf's Lair that Goebbels presented the ideas of the war. Last but not least it is a place, where one can understand Hitler's farcical decisions, his sense of obfuscation while trapped in isolation in the bunkers of the facility. The Wolf's Lair is not just a symbol of the cruellest German dictator, here one also see that other Germany, those men of the 20th of July who had a burning desire to end the darkest chapter of German history.