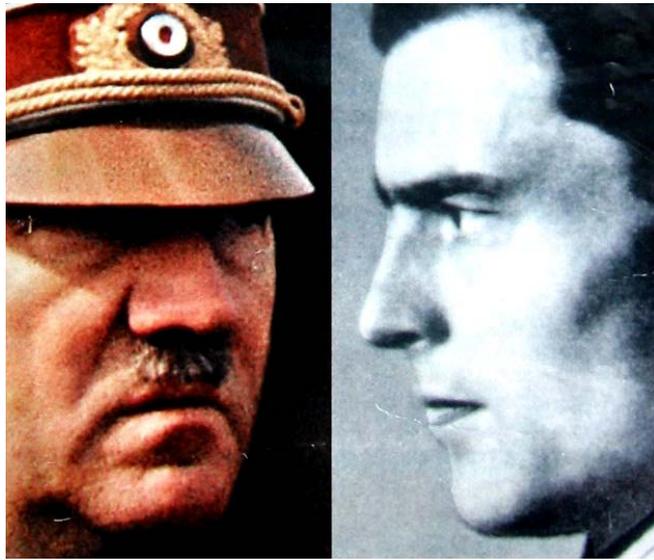


SCHWARZ & COMPANY  
In association with  
PANTHEON STUDIOS

Present

# OPERATION VALKYRIE:



## THE PLOT TO KILL HITLER

A new documentary  
by the producers of

*Howard Hughes – The Real Aviator*  
and  
*Beyond the Golden Compass*

We have just wrapped our shoot in Europe, which was scheduled to both conduct interviews and shoot B-roll of key locations in Stauffenberg's life on location. Our re-enactment shoot is scheduled for May, when we hope to have conditions more resembling those of the summer of 1944.

In the UK, we filmed Prof. Ian Kershaw, Britain's leading WWII scholar, as well as Roger Moorhouse, author of "Killing Hitler." In planning our shoot in Germany, however, we faced some obstacles. The Tom Cruise film is highly controversial in Germany, not only because of his religious affiliations, but also because Germans take a dim view of Hollywood dramatizing their history for them.

It was therefore quite a coup when we secured the full cooperation of a pivotal German foundation, which goes by the name of the "Forschungsgemeinschaft 20. Juli 1944" (Research Society of July 20, 1944). This society was founded by the immediate sons and daughters of Stauffenberg's co-conspirators, who were all put to death after July 20. It is the most prestigious and respected entity in Germany (and Europe) dealing with the German military resistance against Hitler. Upon review of my academic credentials (always a big deal in Germany) and past film work, they agreed to assist us wholeheartedly, not in the least to correct any mistakes that they are convinced will be all over Tom Cruise's film.

- As a result of the foundation's endorsement and active participation, we were given access to all still living sons and daughters of the Valkyrie conspirators, many of whom gave us gripping eyewitness accounts. We also interviewed the last living member of the Stauffenberg conspiracy who somehow escaped Hitler's wrath -- Philipp Baron von Boeselager, the man responsible for getting Stauffenberg the explosives.
- We also interviewed the last living widow of the conspirators, Frau Rahtgens -- who gave us an emotional account of her husband being dragged in front of the Volksgericht judges. In addition, we have testimonials from all the leading families in the story: von Tresckow, von Hofacker, von Plettenberg, Goerdeler and von Hase. We also have two Stauffenberg ladies fondly recounting stories of Nina and Claus' courtship and marriage.
- The foundation's involvement also persuaded Peter Hoffmann to grant us an interview, even though, as he said, he had previously rejected offers from National Geographic Channel and other networks, and had initially declined an interview with us also. A complete list of all of our interviewees is attached.
- Similarly, we were also granted permission to film inside and outside Lautlingen Castle, which Claus considered his home. Given that this private estate rarely opens its doors, it would make a wonderful bonus feature.
- And, last but not least, we have an extended interview with the oldest Stauffenberg still living, Maria Countess von Stauffenberg, who was only seven years younger than Claus and knew him all of his life. She also told us the harrowing story of how all the Stauffenberg family -- parents, uncles, aunts, and herself -- after July 20 were shunted by the SS from one concentration camp to the next, for nine months -- until the incredible moment when the Wehrmacht, and later the American army, liberated them. Just a few days before, the SS had resolved to kill them all, but the Wehrmacht intervened just in time. She has never told her story on film.

I think this will be a terrific finale to our picture -- a story of incredible suffering, of being witness to what happened in the extermination camps, of the headlong flight to Danzig after the Russian troops overran the German defenses, and finally a desperate retreat to Bavaria -- only to be saved at the very last minute. It will give the otherwise tragic story of Valkyrie a wonderful end -- a moment of redemption that Claus' sacrifice was not in vain.

## "OPERATION VALKYRIE: THE PLOT TO KILL HITLER"

“Operation Valkyrie: The Plot To Kill Hitler” is the definitive film on Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg and the ‘Valkyrie’ conspiracy to assassinate Hitler on July 20, 1944. Produced in collaboration with the official German Foundation dedicated to the memory of the conspirators (the “Forschungsgemeinschaft 20 Juli 1944”), it features testimonials and eyewitness accounts from all leading aristocratic families involved in the plot, including von Stauffenberg, von Tresckow, von Hofacker, von Hase, von Plettenberg, Voss and many others.

In addition, “Operation Valkyrie: The Plot To Kill Hitler” features the last living conspirator who escaped Hitler’s wrath: Philipp Baron von Boeselager, the man who procured the explosives by which Claus von Stauffenberg intended to assassinate Hitler. The film also includes the gripping and highly emotional story of Maria Countess von Stauffenberg, who knew Claus all her life. She vividly recounts how during the last nine months of the war, she and all other members of the Stauffenberg family were shunted by the SS from one concentration camp to the next, in the company of other high-ranking prisoners such as the Prime Ministers of France and Austria, always under the threat of execution, until their liberation by American forces in the final days of the war.

“Operation Valkyrie: The Plot To Kill Hitler” also features leading scholars and historians on the conspiracy, including Prof. Peter Hoffmann, author of the definitive biography “Stauffenberg;” Prof. Ian Kershaw, renowned World War II scholar and BBC consultant; Prof. Klemens von Klemperer, the leading authority on German resistance in the Wehrmacht; Prof. Ekkehard Klaus and Dr. Johannes Tuchel of the German Resistance Museum in Berlin; and Roger Moorhouse, author of “Killing Hitler.”

In the course of the production, writer/director Prof. Jean-Pierre Isbouts was given unprecedented access to key locations in the Stauffenberg story, including the Bendlerblock building in Berlin where the Valkyrie uprising was launched; Jettingen Castle, where Stauffenberg was born; and Lautlingen Castle, which Claus considered his home and where he spent many hours reading and writing poetry in a small turret on the estate.

“Operation Valkyrie: The Plot To Kill Hitler” is illustrated with rare footage of Hitler’s inner circle, including color home movies shot by Hitler’s lover Eva Braun; a painstakingly researched dramatization of the actual assassination attempt; and a detailed CG reconstruction of Wolfschanze or “Wolf’s Lair,” Hitler’s military headquarters near Rastenburg, where the assassination attempt took place.

For anyone interested in the real story of the Wehrmacht resistance and the Stauffenberg conspiracy in particular, this is a must-have documentary and the definitive record of what happened before and after the pivotal events of July 20, 1944.

## Bonus Materials

The DVD also includes the following bonus materials:

- A visit to the Bendlerblock, the military complex in Berlin where the Valkyrie uprising was launched.
- An exclusive visit to the Stauffenberg estate of Lautlingen Castle in southern Germany, which Claus considered his home
- An overview of all other major attempts on Hitler's life, by renowned author Roger Moorhouse, author of "Killing Hitler"
- What If? Leading scholars address the question whether the Valkyrie uprising could have succeeded, regardless of whether Hitler would have been killed or not.

## SUMMARY OF TESTIMONIALS AND EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS BY IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE STAUFFENBERG CONSPIRACY

February 21 – March 1, 2008-03-03

Filmed for „Operation Valkyrie: The Plot To Kill Hitler“

NAMES	RELATION
Philipp Baron von Boeselager	Nee Sept. 1917. The last living member of the Stauffenberg conspiracy against Hitler
Prof. Dr. Klemens von Klemperer, Northampton MA	Nee 1916, emigrated 1938 via London to the US. Historian and leading scholar on the German resistance.
Dr. Christine Korenke, neé Schleicher, Hamburg	Daughter of Ruediger Schleicher, shot April 23, 1945
Nina Graefin von Stauffenberg	Granddaughter of Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg & his wife Nina
Sophie von Bechtolsheim, neé Stauffenberg	Granddaughter of Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg & his wife Nina, shot July 20, 1944
Karin & Ivo von Trotha, Hamburg	Son of Carl-Dietrich von Trotha & his wife Margarete von Trotha, survived and died in an accident in the US in June, 1952
Dr. Axel Smend, Berlin	Son of Guenther Smend, executed August 30, 1944
Johanna Rahtgens, neé von Cramon	Wife of Karl Ernst Rahtgens, executed August 30, 1944
Dr. Cajetan von Aretin	Grandson of Henning von Tresckow, suicide on July 21, 1944
Berthold Goerdeler	Grandson of Carl Friedrich Goerdeler, executed Febr. 2, 1945
Dr. Rainer Goerdeler	Grandson of Carl Friedrich Goerdeler, executed Febr. 2, 1945
Dr. Alfred von Hofacker, Muenchen	Son of Caesar von Hofacker, executed Dec. 20, 1944
Karl Wilhelm Freiherr von Plettenberg	Son of Kurt Freiherr von Plettenberg, suicide March 10, 1945
Ruediger von Voss, Bonn	Son of Hans Alexander von Voss, suicide Nov. 8, 1944
Guenther Habermann	Son of Max Habermann, suicide Oct. 30, 1944
Clemens Schaeffer, Berlin	Grandson of Karl Ernst Rahtgens
Prof. Dr. Peter Hoffmann, Montreal Prof. Dr. Friedrich-Wilhelm von Hase	Historian and author of „Stauffenberg,“ the definitive biography. Son of Paul von Hase, Commander of the Guards in Berlin charged with taking control of the Berlin Government during Valkyrie
Prof. Dr. Ekkehard Klaus	Head of the Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand
Maria Gabriela Gräfin von Stauffenberg	Countess von Stauffenberg at Jettingen Castle; cousin of Claus; oldest living Stauffenberg family member