

Bielefeld, 14 June 1939

The Horst Wessel Memorial – Westfalenfahrt
der Alten Garde

Everything centered around
him: **Horst Wessel**, the Nazi
regime's celebrated martyr.

Here he stands elevated on
his pedestal on the
Oberntorwall, at the **former**
Hindenburgstraße in
Bielefeld, surrounded by
ribbons and wreaths for the
ceremony.



The day begins with the arrival in Bielefeld.

At the **Bahnhofsvorplatz**, the *Alte Garde* is welcomed beneath a temporary ceremonial column, while open Mercedes cars wait to transport the guests into the city.

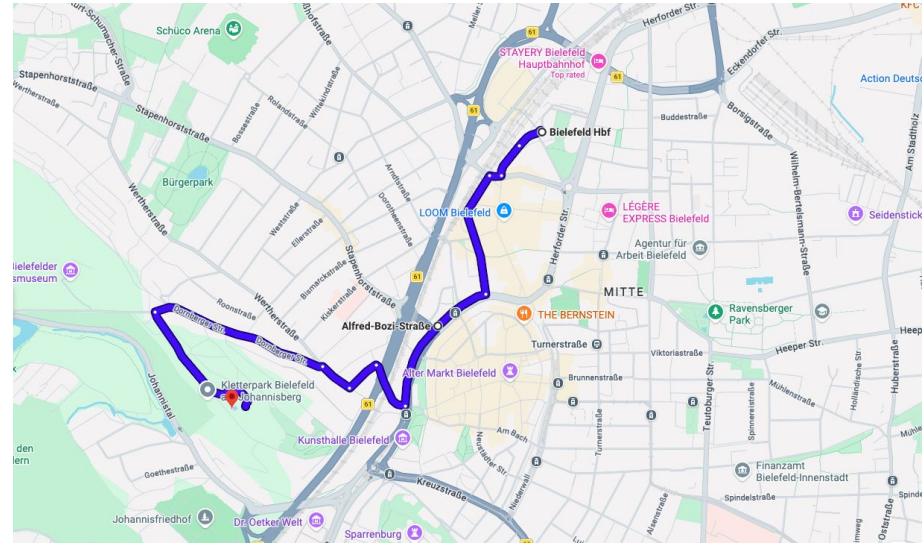
The great Horst Wessel ceremony has not yet begun — this is the moment before the spectacle unfolds.



THE ROUTE THROUGH BIELEFELD

#	Location in 1939	Location today
1	Bielefeld Railway Station	Bielefeld Hauptbahnhof
2	Bahnhofsvorplatz	Bahnhofsvorplatz
3	Hindenburgstraße	Alfred-Bozi-Straße
4	Hindenburgstraße 13 – Horst Wessel House / NSDAP District Headquarters	Alfred-Bozi-Straße 13
5	Horst Wessel Memorial	Alfred-Bozi-Straße / surrounding area
6	Johannisberg	Johannisberg
7	Rudolf-Oetker-Halle	Rudolf-Oetker-Halle, Lampingstraße 16
8	Procession through the city centre	Bielefeld city centre – exact historic streets still to be reconstructed
9	Kesselbrink	Kesselbrink

Based on my own research, this was roughly the route followed by the invited guests during the day, and the route along which our photographer was present before and during the events.



THE ROUTE — THEN & NOW

Based on my own research, **this is the approximate route** followed by the invited guests during the day, and the route along which the photographer was present before and during the events.

The route has been reconstructed using the photographs themselves, historical street names, surviving buildings and contemporary documentation. It should be regarded as a working reconstruction rather than a definitive route.

The map below shows the route as it looked in 1939 and how the same locations appear today on Google Maps.

A direction for further research

There is still room to take this research further. The most promising next step would be to compare the individual slides with 1930s Bielefeld address books, historical city maps, contemporary press photographs and Stadtarchiv Bielefeld material. In particular, the exact streets followed between the Rudolf-Oetker-Halle and Kesselbrink may still be recoverable.

For the new owner, this offers the opportunity to continue the reconstruction and potentially identify additional locations, buildings and perhaps even more about the photographer himself.

THE HORST WESSEL HOUSE

The former NSDAP headquarters of Bielefeld.

This imposing building at Hindenburgstraße 13 was the Horst Wessel House, directly associated with the memorial ceremony taking place nearby.

In 1939, this was one of the key locations of the day's events. **Today, the same location is Alfred-Bozi-Straße 13.**

The building itself provides an important landmark for identifying and placing the surrounding photographs in the series.



Senior members of the **NSDAP** take part in the procession.

This is another area where further research may be possible: **who are these men exactly**, what positions did they hold, and what were their official titles?





Before the procession begins, the photographer records the atmosphere of the city.

Buildings and streets have been carefully decorated with flags, ribbons and wreaths in preparation for the day's events.

Even the clock was captured — giving us a glimpse of the exact time at which the photographer passed by. 😊



Who was our photographer? What was his name?

He was clearly no ordinary spectator. Here, he is positioned remarkably close to the action, standing just behind a man filming the proceedings. This suggests that, while probably not an official press photographer, he had unusually good access to the inner circle of the event.

Was he an experienced amateur photographer? The use of **Agfacolor**, still a relatively new colour-slide technology at the time, certainly suggests someone with a serious interest in photography. Agfacolor had only been commercially available since 1936, and colour slides were still a relatively novel medium.

And he did not simply arrive for one ceremonial moment. **He stayed, photographed and followed the events throughout the entire day — right into the evening.**

Who was he?

What was his profession?

How did he obtain such access?

And why did he photograph the entire day?

These are questions we have not been able to answer.

Perhaps this is where the next chapter of the research begins.

We have not been able to locate another known set of slides documenting this day in anything approaching this completeness. **The next owner may therefore have the opportunity to continue the research — and perhaps identify the man behind the camera.**

THE STORY CONTINUES!?

As night falls, the procession continues beneath the banners and illuminated streets of Bielefeld.

From the arrival at the railway station in the morning to the Horst Wessel Memorial, the processions, the waiting cars and the evening ceremonies, our photographer followed the events throughout the day.

132 original Agfacolor slides. One day. One photographer. One remarkable photographic record.

We have reconstructed as much as the surviving evidence allows — but important questions remain unanswered.

Will you be the next owner to continue the research?

To identify the people, locations and photographer?

Or simply to preserve and document this extraordinary series for the future?

