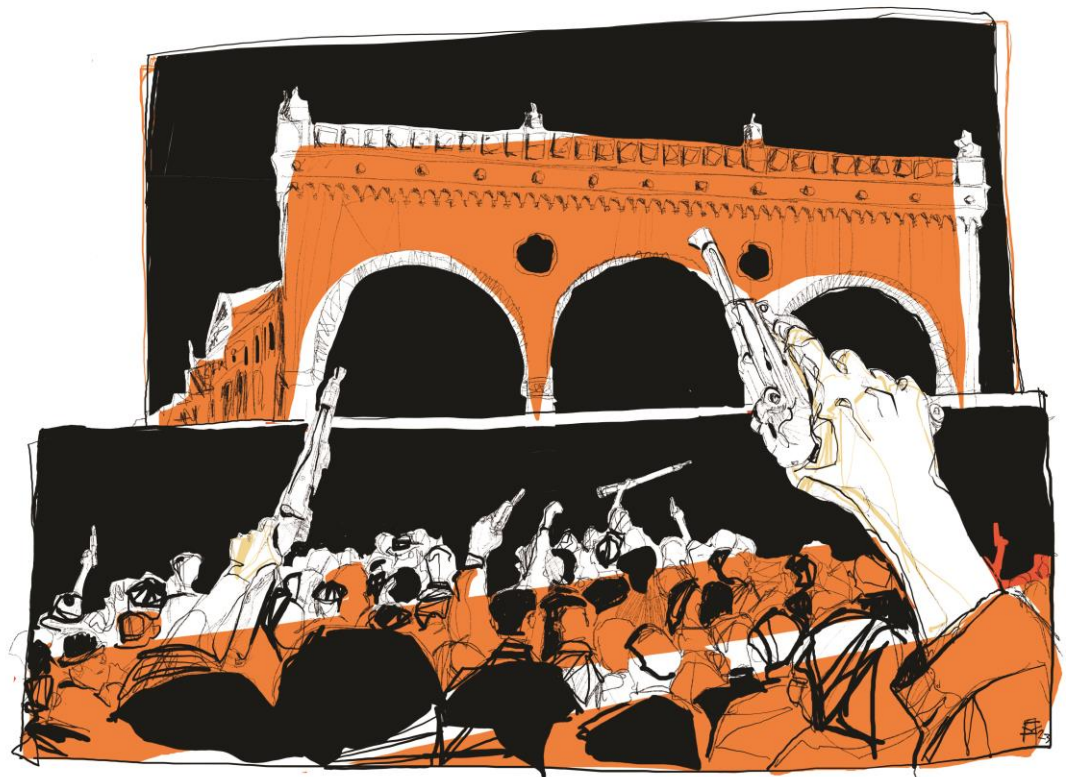


9 November 1923

In the night of 8 to 9 November, the hostages taken were held in the 'Bürgerbräukeller'. Hitler himself left the beer hall to continue his putsch elsewhere in the city.

This move came too late. The occupation of the main railway station, intended to prevent Jews and socialists from escaping, had failed. The seizure of communication centres, police buildings and newspaper offices, wherever this actually happened at all, had been inadequately prepared and failed because of resistance on the part of the soldiers and the police.

While small units moved through the city arbitrarily arresting Jewish families, Hitler returned to the 'Bürgerbräukeller' at around 11 p.m where he learned of the release of the most important hostages, the 'triumvirate' Kahr, Lossow and Seißer. They had already retreated to a military barracks to prepare to suppress the putsch.



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“The move was not a continuation of his undertaking but its conclusion. The undertaking was over.”

Lawyer Dr. Holl at Hitler's trial

A last attempt

In the morning, the newspapers announced the success of the putsch. There could, however, be no more talk of that. Ludendorff ordered all the putschists to gather in the city centre. *Reichswehr* soldiers as well as civilians reportedly enthused about the coup d'état. The streets were full of onlookers and the putsch gained a new impetus. The procession crossed the Ludwigsbrücke and on through Isartor to Marienplatz. The mayor and city councillors were arrested and the swastika flag raised over the Town Hall. Marching in the front row, Ludendorff and Hitler passed the Opera House and the Residenz to the Feldherrnhalle (Field Marshals' Hall) on Odeonsplatz. Units of the Bavarian State Police stood in the way of the advancing Nazis, their guns at the ready.

“The Munich putsch marks the certain end for Hitler and his National Socialist supporters.”

New York Times (November 1923)

A hail of bullets marked the end

The procession faltered, shots were fired. Hitler was pulled to the ground by his companion who had been fatally shot, and injured his shoulder. 15 putschists, 4 policemen and a bystander were killed in the course of the attempted putsch. Hitler fled to Uffing, to the villa of the Hanfstaengl family of art dealers. When the police appeared on 11 November 1923, Hitler panicked and wanted to shoot himself. A gardener had revealed his whereabouts. Helene Hanfstaengl was able to convince Hitler to put the gun down.

The putsch, that was referred to as an 'operetta' in Berlin, had finally failed. Nevertheless, Hitler would later claim that before the putsch he had had 'seventy or eighty thousand followers, after the march two million'.

“Hitler was standing in the room in white pyjamas, his arm in a bandage ... Hitler stared at him vacantly.”

Polizeioberleutnant Belleville on Hitler's arrest on 11 November 1923