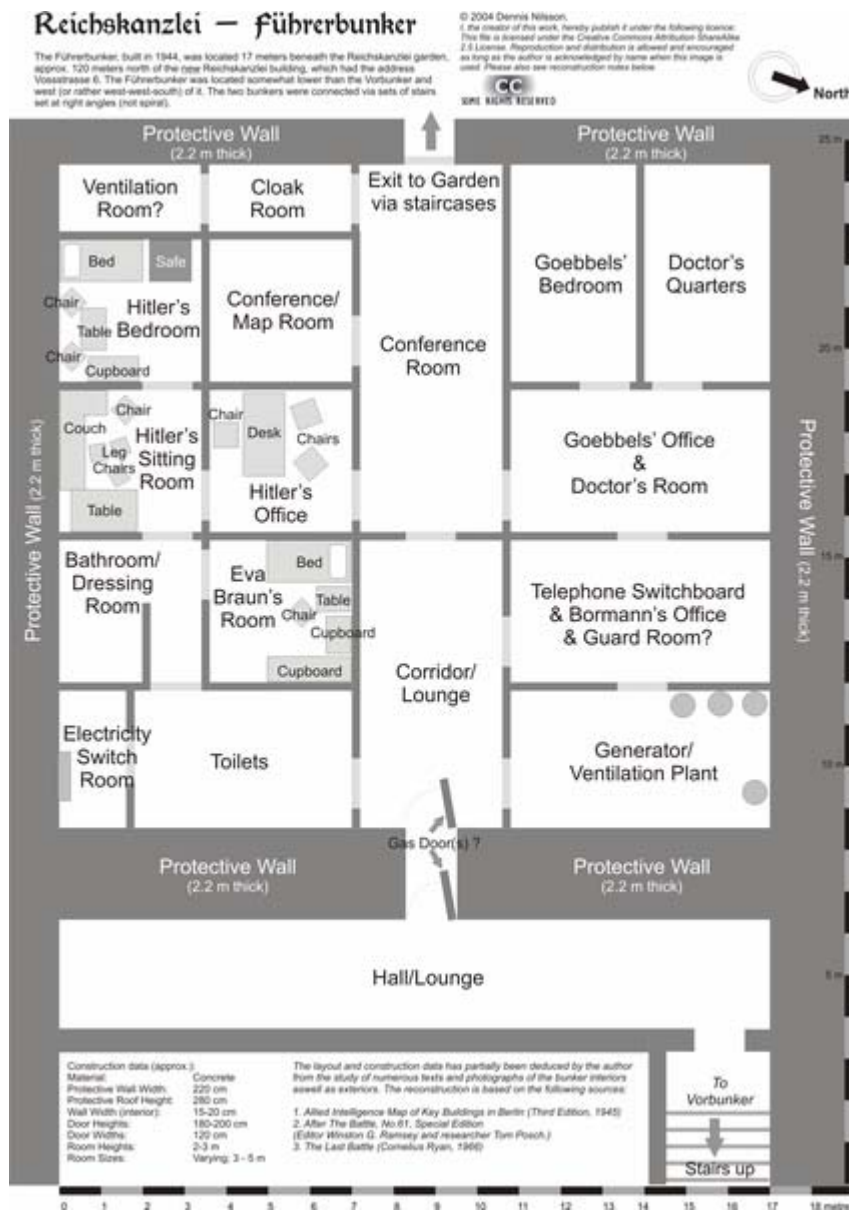


1113-9862

Hitlers bunker, April 30 1945 - event

Tasking:

Move to the optimum position/location and describe the event as it unfolds. Describe the people and the place where the event took place.



Additional feedback:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hitler%27s_bunker

The *Führerbunker* (or "Fuehrerbunker") is a common name for a complex of subterranean rooms in Berlin, Germany where Adolf Hitler committed suicide during World War II. The bunker was the 13th and last of Hitler's *Führerhauptquartiere* or *Fuehrer Headquarters* (another was the famous Wolfsschanze).

There were actually two bunkers which were connected - the older *Vorbunker* and the newer *Führerbunker*. The Führerbunker was located about 17 meters beneath the garden of the *Reichskanzlei* (Reich Chancellery), approx. 120 meters north of the new Reichskanzlei building, which had the address Vossstrasse 6. The Vorbunker was located beneath the large hall behind the old Reichskanzlei, which was connected to the new Reichskanzlei. The old kanzlei was located along Wilhelmstrasse, and had probably the address Wilhelmstrasse 77. The Führerbunker was located somewhat lower than the Vorbunker and west (or rather west-west-south) of it. The map opposite shows the approximate locations of the two bunkers. The two bunkers were connected via sets of stairs set at right angles (not spiral as some believe).

The complex was protected by approximately 3 m of concrete, and about 30, rather small, rooms were distributed over two levels with exits into the main buildings and an emergency exit into the gardens. The complex was built in two distinct phases, one part in 1936 and the other in 1943. The 1943 development was built by the Hochtief company as part of an extensive program of subterranean construction in Berlin begun in 1940. The accommodations for Hitler were in the newer, lower section and by February 1945 had been appointed with high quality furniture taken (or salvaged) from the chancellery building along with several framed oil paintings.

Hitler moved into the *Führerbunker* on January 16 1945. He was joined by his senior staff, Martin Bormann, Eva Braun and Joseph Goebbels with Magda and their children who took residence in the upper Vorbunker. Two or three dozen support, medical and administrative staff were also sheltered there. These included Hitler's secretaries (with his favourite, Traudl Junge among them) a nurse named Erna Flegel and telephonist Rochus Misch.

The bunker was supplied with large quantities of food and other necessities and by all accounts successfully protected its occupants from the relentless and lethal shelling that went on overhead in the closing days of April 1945. Many witnesses later spoke of the constant droning sound of the underground complex's ventilation system.

Many of the bunker staff left between April 22-23, before Berlin was wholly encircled by Russian forces. Hitler had chosen to stay until the end and committed suicide in the bunker by gunshot and cyanide on April 30. The Goebbels poisoned all of their children and committed suicide the next day. Most of the bunker's remaining occupants left within hours thereafter, trying with varying success to break through the lines of the encircling Red Army, which by this time was only a block or two away in any direction. A very few people remained in the bunker and were captured by Russian troops on May 2nd.

Soviet intelligence operatives investigating the complex found more than a dozen bodies of suicides along with the cinders of many burned papers and documents.