

In 1945 World War Two was coming to an end and to the misfortune of the Nazi's the Allies were winning the battle. The Russians were fast invading into Berlin and because of the deteriorating situation of the Nazi's defeat was imminent. Hitler retreated into his private bunker where he faced the difficult choice; admit defeat and surrender to the Russians where he will pay for his crimes, or suicide.

- [1] There is a conspiracy theory claiming that the authenticity of Hitler's suicide was a lie and the truth was that he escaped in a ghost convoy to Argentina where he lived out the rest of his life. So the famous story goes that Hitler shot himself and also bit into a cyanide capsule.
- [4] This story was rejected by the public and the most popular theory that was widely believed on the death of Hitler was his escape to Argentina. This was more well believed because of the lack of evidence against the theory, in fact there was evidence pointing towards it. The witnesses to the account of Hitler being alive after his 'suicide' had a stronger validity compared to a dodgy story given by Rochus Misch. The story goes that Hitler faked his death in the bunker to cover any evidence that he was still alive and with the aid of high ranking officers, he moved around a few European countries first before finally landing in Argentina. Abel Basti is a famous author/historian who wrote the book "Hitler in Argentina" which was based on the theory. He did much research into the topic and came up with many plausible sources of evidence in favour of the theory. "I was able to confirm the presence of Hitler in Spain..."
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- [2] There is a strange conspiracy theory around the death of Hitler that lies outside of the normal claims. This is the theory that Hitler fled to the moon using secret and advanced rocket/space technology, it also ties into the fact that people have been linking UFO activity to the Nazi's. The theory states that upon the time of the end of the war Hitler faked his own death and flew to the moon with his new bride Eva, who also faked her death. There, on the moon, they established a top secret Nazi facility, living in an underground hideout on the moon. Many incidents of Alien activity has been linked back to the Nazi's and claimed that it was to do with the advanced technology that they developed. This also happened with the Roswell UFO crash in New Mexico, 1947, this was a famous incident that included the crash of a UFO in what is now known as Area 51. The spaceship was classified as alien when elements were found on the spaceship that were not on the periodic table and did not originate in any way from earth. There was also a claim on this theory that alien bodies were found but there is no real proof or evidence of that. However this incident has now been linked back to the Nazi's and that the spaceship was actually an advanced craft that was from the Nazi's and the moon base. Many people blew this theory off as another wild claim but people are looking into the incident again and the fact that there could be evidence pointing to the possibility that the Nazi's did move to the moon. Sir Roy Fedden, an aeronautical engineer and Chief of the Technical Mission to Germany for the Ministry of Aircraft Production states that 'The only craft that could approach the capabilities attributed to the flying saucers seen around the world during the late 1940s and early 1950s were those being designed by the Germans towards the end of the war.' He also said that "I have seen enough of their designs and production plans to realize that if they (the Germans) had managed to prolong the war some months longer, we would have been confronted with a set of entirely new and deadly developments in air warfare." This led people to believe the fact that the Nazi's had mastered the technology of anti-gravity because of their amazing technology and capability and resources to develop this. Fedden also mentioned the fact that the Germans were working aeronautical projects that were very different and unusual in shape, he however could not develop on this statement. The Nazi's would have had resources on the moon that would have been useful for life away from earth such as Helium-3 for Nuclear Fusion Reactors which would have provided light and power. As well as finding a Swastika shaped structure on the moon NASA explored further and found even more structures on the dark side of the moon. Is this tied in with aliens and the reason we have never returned to the moon, or is it Nazi activity? These theories and shreds of claims and statements gives the theory height but the fact that there is no solid evidence and nothing to prove the Nazi's being on the moon this makes the theory unlikely to have happened.

- [6] The most likely theory from all of the ones that have surfaced would be the escape route to Argentina and the fact he lived out the rest of his life there. This is because of the evidence that points towards the possibility that this is true, such as the research done by author and historian to find a witness that claimed to the fact that Hitler did in fact escape and confirmed his presence in Spain. Which was his fourth place of visit on his escape voyage to Argentina. This gives a piece of solid evidence towards the fact that Argentina was a plausible theory. As well as the second piece of big information that leads to the theory was throughout the death of Hitler the Russians were very secretive around evidence, Stalin himself then admitted to Western Leaders that Hitler may have escaped to Spain or South America, this is interesting as they are both places that he supposedly went during his escape. The fact that evidence supporting the suicide of Hitler is so sparse and flimsy sways people to believe the theory on Argentina.
- [3] The evidence that supports the suicide of Hitler is the statements from witnesses. Rochus Misch was one of the main witnesses to Hitler's suicide and the fact he claims he sees no blood after Hitler shot himself in the head is unlikely and points the fact that he faked it. On the psychological side he shows no remorse when speaking of the death of one of the people he was closest to is strange. Also the fact that the Army Officer who analysed the bunker said he could not find any evidence or remains that Hitler killed himself in here is also strange in terms of validity, no blood splatters on the wall or any other pieces of evidence. This all points to the fact that the most valid conspiracy theory is Hitler's escape to Argentina. However does this compare to the historically accepted version of the story that says Hitler committed suicide? Although the evidence points towards the escape to Argentina this is only the most valid conspiracy theory, the most internationally accepted story is the one including the big factor that Hitler did die that day in the bunker. The main factor that differentiates the two stories is the conspiracy theory is mainly based on the secrecy of the Russians. This was the main factor that raised questions in the first place. Although there is evidence that points towards the escape to Argentina, the whole theory was based on a mysterious suspicion anyway and therefore the foundations of the theory are flimsy and do not stand against the most worldwide accepted version.
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- [8] The death of Hitler was very significant to many New Zealanders. Throughout the duration of World War Two around 140,000 soldiers and staff served in the Allied Forces, 100,000 were stationed for home guard duty and at the end of the war 194,000 men and 10,000 women had served in the war. In total about 12,000 New Zealanders died. This was a huge impact on New Zealand because of the huge war effort meant that many sons, fathers and brothers were away in the name of New Zealand. At the death of Hitler it meant that the soldiers that had been away for so long could finally come home. It was also a symbol and a beacon of hope and relief for those families that had lost loved ones to know that the war was over and the person that had caused so much strife and tragedy was dead. It marked the end of the war, the end of a tyrannical reign from Germany and the end of economic stress as we did not have to export food and supplies to our soldiers anymore. The conspiracy theories that followed that said Hitler was still alive had a huge impact to many New Zealanders that had served in the war and people that had lost loved ones in the war were impacted as they felt all efforts were in vain as the man they wanted to beat was not really dead. This had an effect on the soldiers that had just come home from a long battle to find out that the man they had been fighting so long to bring down had actually escaped and made a break for locations elsewhere. This made the long world war a hopeless and worthless effort to find that the Germans in fact might have Hitler still alive and residing in another country, unknown to most people. The war in itself had a huge toll on the soldiers being in an environment of killing and war for so long, seeing some of their fellow soldiers die on the battlefield would have been a heavy an experience that would have had a damaging effect.
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