

LITERATURE

Steinbichler, Hans: Landauer – Der Präsident, 2014 (Film).

Kämper, Dirk: Kurt Landauer, der Mann der den FC Bayern erfand. Eine Biografie. Zürich 2014.

CREDITS

Kurt Landauer, no given year (probably around 1930). The picture is originally in the archives of FC Bayern. **It is printed in:** Bayerischer Rundfunk (Hrsg.): Kurt Landauer. Von den Fans wiederentdeckt, 08.09.14. Online: <https://www.br.de/fernsehen/das-erste/sendungen/kurt-landauer-der-film/fans-wiederentdeckung-kurt-landauer-100.html> (zuletzt 29.06.18).

KURT LANDAUER

* 1884 – PLANEGG, MÜNCHEN, AUGSBURG



Hi there, I am Kurt Landauer. Football player, member of associations and a born-and-bred Bavarian. I was born on 28th July 1884 in Planegg. My brothers used to tease me that I am not a born Munich inhabitant, but I don't really care. I know who I am and where I'm from. Talking about brothers: I have four of them - Leo, Paul, Franz and my little brother Alfons. Additionally, I also have two sisters: Gabriele and Henny. My parents Otto and Hulda had a lot to do with all of us kids. My father owns and runs a store for women's clothes, which is called „Damenmode Otto Landauer“ and is located in Kaufingerstraße 28. This is where we used to live during my childhood. I always had a good relationship with my family. Especially to my brother Paul, who is the smartest person on earth, and to my father, whom I respect a lot. His motto was: „We Landauers like to live where there is enough freedom.“ He always focused a lot on our school education and he wanted that we take over the store at some point. This is why I learned from an early age on to work carefully ... which didn't quite work out in school though. I had to resit two school years. I attended the König-Ludwig-Schule, where mainly Catholic children went. Going to school was not a happy time for me. Due to my Jewish religion, I was often picked on and even beaten. And I don't even see myself as a Jew. I never denied it but I also didn't really live according to it. I see myself as a Bavarian and a German. I rather enjoyed wandering through the streets and admiring the beauty of Munich than to attend the synagogue.

Schwabing was a great place to grow up. One spot really fascinated me: The football area at the Clemensplatz. Football always has been and always will be my greatest passion. I will never forget the day when I was FC Bayern's goal keeper of their second team – I was only 16 years old. I was so happy I never wanted to leave the ground. If only there hadn't been the life that I still had to lead. I left Munich to do a job training for trading and merchandise in Switzerland. I went to the city Lausanne and worked for the Bank Masson & Cie. During this time, I learned to speak French fluently and I also improved my English skills although I really missed hearing the Bavarian dialect. At least I still had football. I was also playing in Switzerland: I played for Montriond FC. I enjoyed my time but I was looking forward to going home.

Coming back home, I had to report myself as a volunteer¹ for one year and I was transferred to Augsburg. During that time, I was elected as reporting secretary for FC Bayern, of course I hadn't lost contact to FC Bayern. When I finished my military service, I finally returned to Munich. In 1905 I started helping my father in his constantly growing business. Our family business was expanded to Kaufingerstraße 26 as well as Frauenplatz 5 and 250 employees worked for us. Most of the time, I only worked until lunchtime though flawlessly, carefully and efficiently. All I wanted was to spend time at FC Bayern as fast as possible. 1913 was a great year for us: I climbed the ladder in the club and after my predecessor had been arrested, I was elected president of FC Bayern. The family business flourished and we even became purveyor to the royal Bavarian court. Due to our success we moved to a bigger apartment in Leopoldstraße. The year was very nice but after all it was clouded by my father's death. Unfortunately, he was not able to celebrate the peak of his career a lot.

Soon after that, I moved into my first own flat, located in Franz-Josef-Straße 21. My fortune was clouded again – this time by the outbreak of the war in 1914. Naturally, I volunteered to serve in the army at once just like all my brothers did – except Alfons. We really had to persuade him not to volunteer because he had to keep the family business running. For a long time, I couldn't really grasp the war because I spent my time mainly in an office. As a merchant and a member of the

¹ Can be compared to the military service of the German armed forces, at that time it was obligatory

royal Bavarian 4th Chevauleger regiment² it was more than obvious that I would look after the administration of the horses, which were needed for the war. It was already 1917 when I was sent to the front and within eight months I experienced the whole west front. I worried a lot about my brothers because of what I saw in the war. You can say that I was disturbed by my experiences. In August, my appendix was being operated on in a field hospital. This was the end of the war for me personally.

When I returned home, I was happy to find all my brothers alive and well. Later on, I was even awarded the Eisernes Kreuz second class and promoted lieutenant. However, the city had changed, it was unsteady and a lot of uproars happened after the first Bavarian prime minister Kurt Eisner proclaimed the Freistaat Bayern and therefore ended the monarchy. I was sceptical about the new political situation. The street battles of the following days unsettled my world view especially because all the blame for the misery was put on the Jews. Totally intolerable!

At least the Club was still doing well. Although 61 members died during the war, we never gave up our hope. In 1919 I was re-elected as president. I think that football was very important to the people during that time because it gave them happiness and let them forget the horrors of the war. Unfortunately, our business was not doing too well. Due to the inflation we had to sell one store up to the point where we had to close all stores finally in 1928. In 1923, a coup happened in Munich: I was standing on Marienplatz when a crowd led by a certain Adolf Hitler and his antisemitic NSDAP came passing by. I can only hope that they will never be in power.

Soon, I was facing many anniversary celebrations. On the one hand, there was the 25th anniversary of the existence of FC Bayern in 1925 and on the other hand, in 1929, my 10th anniversary of being the president of the club. Yet again, the pleasant events in my life were overshadowed by something terrible. In 1929, my little brother Alfons committed suicide in Berlin. Apparently, the reason for this was the stock market crash in New York³. I am still reproaching myself for it... If only I had called him and asked him how he was. The following year, my mother died at the age of 76.

Soon afterwards, I got a job in the advertisement section of the publishing house Knorr&Hirth. Quickly, I was promoted office manager. I moved once again, this time to Clemensstraße 41, exactly on the spot of my old football ground. Football was as popular as ever. On 11th June 1932 FC Bayern won 2:0 against Frankfurt in the stadium in Nürnberg and became German champion for the first time in history. This can easily be described as the happiest moment in my life so far. I am interested to see what the future brings for us.

² Chevauleger: cavalry

³ In 1929, there was an economic crisis in New York that affected Europe. Many people were financially ruined.