

Armament in the Weimar Republic

The armament of police officers in the Weimar Republic had only few parallels to today's police weapons. What was the same then as now was that officers went out on patrol with a pistol. Apart from that, however, the conditions at that time, in which there were sometimes the most serious battles with politically insurgent groups of the population and also large strike events that often turned violent, demanded heavier armament than today. The police tank in the photo above expresses this in a martial way. The five-man tank crew could shoot at insurgents from a combat tower. Machine guns were also used. In the photo, one can see such a weapon in the front area in front of the kneeling officers, with long cartridge chains for continuous fire. The picture reminds us today of wartime conditions, but it was part of the street scene during uprisings. Hand grenades were also part of the armament of the closed units in the Weimar Republic. Incidentally, hand grenades as police weapons were not abolished until well after the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany. (Photo: Kawelowski)