

# Hitler: Most Ruthless in World History

(By United Press)

Adolph Hitler, the Austrian who destroyed his own country, made himself master of Germany in 14 years and became known as the most powerful and ruthless conqueror in history.

Before he conquered, he was a hod-carrier, a house painter, a common laborer. Viennese workmen called him a bum when he went there after his mother died. Hitler lived in a flophouse.

Workers despised him. He had an almost femininely smooth white skin and soft, muscleless limbs and arms, with a caved-in chest. They laughed at vague arguments about Germany which he could not back up, at his picture of a Germany in which he would be a laborer or a vagabond, so he began to read facts to back up his theories.

**'Dangerous Fanatic'**

During World War I, Hitler joined the Bavarian army, swearing allegiance to Germany's cause. Officers said he gloried in bloodshed, and they awarded him an Iron Cross for bravery. But they refused to give him a commission. He was termed a "dangerous fanatic."

Hitler was beaten when Germany fell. He went as a spy for the Reichswehr to a meeting of six men fighting for anti-Semitism and stayed to become the seventh member, beginning his whole race theory which gave rise to one of the greatest waves of persecution in history.

By 1923, the little man who would not eat meat, drink beer and who rejected women, had harangued himself into leadership of Deutsches Arbeiter Partei, a recognized force in Munich. He overplayed his hand in the abortive beer hall "putsch" when he tried to abolish the Bavarian government. But during his year in prison for his attempt, he wrote "Mein Kampf," outlining the plans which he later carried out step by step until stopped by the allies.

**Dictator of the Reich**

Aided by Rudolf Hess, Paul Joseph Goebbels and other "believers," he stumped Germany. He became a German citizen to run against the aging Field Marshal von Hindenburg, German leader in 1932. He won 11,000,000 votes, 40 per cent of the total. However, he forced his way into Hindenburg's cabinet and, in 1933, was made dictator by the Reichstag. He immediately began his boycott of Jews, repressed all religions, and threw thousands of opponents into concentration camps.

He encouraged paganism and neo-paganism, and Hitler, himself, became somewhat of an astrologer. Locked away in his files were hundreds of pictures of constellations. On one afternoon, shortly before the settlement of the Czech crisis, Hitler was not available to anyone. He was consulting with his astrologers regarding the wisdom of the measure he was about to take.

In 1934, Hitler purged his own party in a blood bath in which 1,000 persons died, and he set out to prove himself one of the greatest opportunists of all time, seizing presidential powers when Hindenburg died.

Still, very few persons knew the dictator well enough to call him Adolf, though his faithful party leaders supported him blindly when he sent his armies



into Poland, in 1939, to touch off the bomb which rocked the whole world. They cheered before that when he took Austria and Czechoslovakia. They helped him when he drove through Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, eliminating enemies at home and forging ahead to control the European continent, aided by a new type of warfare, the Blitzkrieg, and a fifth column of opportunists who wanted a share in Hitler's world.

**Took Personal Command**

Only when his forces in Russia were beaten back, when Der Fuehrer took personal command in December, 1941, did the people's confidence show signs of tottering. But Hitler shouted to his people, lauding his losing ally, Benito Mussolini, and promised "victory in 1942."

"We shall never capitulate," Hitler exhorted later, still unshaken in the belief in his destiny. But his armies were beaten in North Africa, and in Russia the Wehrmacht turned and ran from the tremendous momentum of the red

drive. The allies closed in from the west and in Italy there no longer was aid for the axis.

Hitler retired more and more to Berchtesgaden with a Bavarian girl, Eva Braun, whom he met in 1935. By 1938, Miss Braun had been established as "Die Chef" (feminine counterpart of Hitler's intimate title, Der Chef) in Hitler's household. Reports of unrest grew in Holland, France, Denmark, throughout "festung Europa" which Hitler's armies controlled. Hitler ordered additional purges, to enforce the Nazi dictum of "one party and absolute obedience to der Fuehrer."

**Escaped Generals' Plot**

The purges were not thoroughly carried out until after a group of Junker generals attempted to assassinate Hitler on July 19, 1944, as he stood in the inner circle of official headquarters. A bomb exploded only six feet away from the falling leader.

Hitler empowered Himmler to clean up the home front. Hermann Goering and Paul Joseph Goebbels were named "dictator" and "plenipotentiary" of the German home front and occupied Europe, as Hitler waited for the outcome of the purge which no one outside of Germany could know.

The leader of the super-nation was constantly guarded, apparently fearing for his life from every hand. But he shouted again that Germany would not give up, even when Russian armies, calling down revenge on the Germans, poured across Nazi soil, and Anglo-American armies advanced into France.

His plans were ended for conquering the world for the Aryan race of supermen, the pure race he sought to build while enslaving the rest of the world.

The allies ended his destiny when he was 56 years old and after he had ruled Germany for only 11 years.

The goal was a complete conquest of axis-held North Africa. But once again Wavell found himself thwarted by that besetting nemesis of every desert advance—faltering supply. Conversely, Rommel's resistance stiffened as his supply lines shortened.

The British reached Ey Aghelia, 400 miles west of the Egyptian border, on Jan. 7. They got no farther. Rommel had entrenched himself in the desert hills and salt bogs just west of the port. Repaired and replenished, his big guns and tanks slapped back fiercely at his pursuers, who were forced to encamp on a flat, exposed plain. After a week, the British were weakened further by troop transfers to Singapore.

**Rommel Counterattacks**

Another week passed and then Rommel launched a savage counterattack under cover of a stinging sandstorm. The attack was successful. The pattern of the previous months was repeated in reverse. In two days the British were swept back 80 miles to Agadaba. Benghazi fell once more,

and for its capture Rommel received the rank of field marshal. By Feb. 20, the British were back in the vicinity of Tobruk.

They regrouped, held desperately and forced a stalemate on a line running from Tobruk 40 miles south to the desert crossroads of Bir Hacheim. The lull lasted three months. The two armies rested, fidgeted and waited for reinforcements under a desert sun that withered men and made metal too hot to touch.

On May 26, Rommel opened his final desert campaign. He ordered his tanks forward. For two weeks, the struggle swirled back and forth below Tobruk. Then, on June 13, British Gen. Neil M. Ritchie sent his tanks into a Nazi trap and lost 230 of them. Stripped of their armor, the British lost Tobruk and 25,000 men stationed there. The squat Nazi tanks roared on eastward over the coastal plain.

# Early Axis Strategy Called For Control of Suez Canal

By Malcolm Muir, Jr. (United Press Staff Correspondent)

The lid had flown off the North African powder keg with the fall of France in June, 1940.

For the French collapse had given the Axis French Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, handing it effective control of the entire central Mediterranean. Jumping at this chance to cut Britain's eastern lifeline for good, Axis strategists now selected the Suez, the vital valve leading to the Indian ocean, as their next military goal.

The first blow was struck in July, 1940, from East Africa at the Suez's rear. From Ethiopia, Italian armies drove south into Kenya and north into the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, posing a grave threat to the canal's western coast. This was followed in August by Italian occupation of British Somaliland on the Gulf of Aden, virtually plugging the ditch from the south.

Up on the north African coast, a month later, another Italian force under Marshal Rodolfo Graziani launched the first of the Axis' desert campaigns—designed to seize and block the Suez from

**Nazis Reach Matruh**

Bardia, on the Egyptian border, fell after a week, and then Sidi Barrani, 100 miles inside. By June 29, the Nazi tide had reached Matruh, the largest town west of Alexandria, and Rommel was nearer the green valley of the Nile and the brown dunes of the Suez than ever before. England and the Empire, Churchill told commons, were in mortal peril. At a sun-baked collection of huts named El Alamein—a name now fixed in history with Waterloo and Gettysburg—the British finally called a halt. Grimly they threw up a defensive line running inland 35 miles to a vast alkali bed called the Qattara depression. Rommel flung his panzers furiously against the makeshift defense, and for several critical days the decision hung in the balance. But although the line bent perilously, it failed to crack. For a third time the pay-off victory had eluded the axis grasp. And now Rommel's Afrika Korps was out of tanks, ammunition and water—everything a desert army needs. It dug in to await supplies and reinforcements.

This time, it got them, but the British got more. They also got new leaders: the spirited and offensive-minded Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery and the master strategist Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander.

Under these talented soldiers, a new British army took shape that summer. Not only quantities of British men and supplies but long lines of U. S. Sherman tanks and more than 1,000 American planes were added to give it new bite and stamina. Visiting Cairo, Churchill told Montgomery his orders this time were to 'destroy Rommel and his army for good.' By autumn, preparations were completed.

The attack was launched just before midnight on Oct. 23 with a mighty, wheel-to-wheel artillery bombardment. At 1 a. m., the order came: 'Forward!'

Sappers led the advance, jabbing cautiously to uncover buried mines. Stain-faced tommy-guns followed, covering the sappers. Next came the PBI's—poor bloody infantry—holding their bayonets outthrust before them in the darkness. Their job was to widen with cold steel the breaches started in the enemy lines by the earlier bombardment. Then the allied tanks clanked forward to seek out the German armor.

Rommel, expecting Montgomery to attack in the center, had divided his divisions in the hope of crushing the British in their jaws. Instead, Montgomery struck from the north, aiming to overpower the German flank. For nine days, the Germans managed to hold on in brutal no-quarter fighting. Then, on Nov. 2, the speedy medium-weight Sherman drove a fatal gap in the enemy wall. Before the day was out 350 axis tanks and 400 big guns lay blackened and smoking among the desert dunes. The Afrika Korps crumpled and fled. Montgomery's lanes and tanks struck out in hot pursuit.

The British had won a victory whose importance it was impossible to exaggerate. Not only had they smashed the Rommel myth and lifted for good the axis threat to their eastern life-line. They had placed the initiative in World War II once and for all in the hands of the allies. The chase that began at El Alamein was not to end until Bizerte and Tunis six months later.

**Retreat to Egypt**

Racing on, Rommel's divisions—now known as the Africa Korps—chased Wavell's troops to the east of the way back to Egypt faster than they had come. Only at the battered port of Tobruk did a pocket of British resistance manage to hold out.

Not until he had crossed the Egyptian border early in May did Rommel finally call a halt, his supply lines stretched overlong.

In East Africa, meanwhile, the tide of war had been reversed. Converging on Ethiopia from both Kenya and the Sudan, strengthened British columns removed the threat to the Suez from that direction, more than wiping out the Italians' previous gains.



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# Fuehrer Ruins General's Plan To Take Suez

(By United Press)

For the Germans, the insatiable demands of the Russian struggle took priority over all other considerations in 1941 and 1942. None realized this more acutely than Gen. Erwin Rommel, whose Afrika Korps stood stranded just inside Egypt in October, 1941.

Rommel, called upon to recoup Mussolini's Libyan debacle, had done that and more. Now he threatened to snap the British Mediterranean life-line beyond repair. Once astride the Suez, he would be in a position to pry open the Near East and the Middle East, perhaps even to break through to the Indian ocean and join the legions of Japan.

But Hitler did not choose to play out what appeared to be a winning hand. Rommel waited for supplies in vain. British Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell saw his chance. On Nov. 15, five British spearheads sprang across the border in the greatest allied drive of the war up to that time: hailed by Churchill as the first undertaken with men and machines to match the enemy.

Rommel had no choice but to retreat. His main problem soon became to avert a full-fledged rout. For the British pressed their second Libyan offensive with impressive speed. Tobruk's gallant garrison was relieved early in December and by Christmas the flying Imperial columns were past the caravan terminals of Derna and Benghazi, hundreds of miles beyond.



# Are You Prepared, Hirohito?

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