

Hitler

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a red glow in the sky and rushed to the building. I saw how the flames were following a definite line—perhaps a trail of gasoline—and I implied in my dispatches that the Nazis were removing this last democratic obstruction to their taking complete control.

My hunch proved correct, of course, and the very next day Hitler's henchmen began creating a wave of hysteria, blaming German communists for the fire while taking dictatorial powers upon themselves to cope with the "emergency." I was in a group of newsmen gathered to hear Hitler speak and when he spotted me it was obvious that he realized I wasn't a friend after all. He glowered at me hatefully, then thumbed his nose at me!

Over the years I interviewed Hitler 44 times, either privately or as a member of a group of newsmen. Whatever *der Führer* may have thought about me personally, he usually agreed to see me. In fact, I became known among other Berlin correspondents as "the man to see to arrange an interview with Hitler."

WHEN Germany was defeated, Hitler is supposed to have committed suicide. But no trace of his body ever was found, and I believe he may still be alive. In fact, a few years ago when I was in the Mexican city of Morelia buying some chocolate, a man came up to the counter; we stared at each other for a long moment. His eyes looked *exactly* like Hitler's!

By the time I had paid for my candy and turned toward the man again, he had vanished into the street. I informed the local police chief, but he only laughed at the whole affair. I suppose I will never know for sure.



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