

Then—Now

# Guarding the Dictators

## Terror of the Assassin Drives Hitler to Cover

(Continued from page one.) or any other form of armament. But when on the ground it is closely guarded day and night to prevent sabotage.

More than once Hitler has had narrow escapes in the air, but not from assassins. There was the occasion when he was flying to Danzig, where he was due to make a speech. The weather was bad, and the pilot flew straight into a storm. Soon he lost himself in low cloud and fog, and, taking the wrong direction over Denmark, was flying out to the North sea instead of along the Baltic.

Hitler looked at his watch and found that he was already a quarter of an hour overdue for his meeting. Realizing that his pilot had lost his way, he gave the order, "Turn in your tracks and fly southward." Thanks to the Fuehrer's sixth, and in German eyes divine, sense of self-preservation, they regained land and came down safely.

Hitler considers his safest retreat is the Hans Wachenfeld, looking down on Austrian Salzburg. As a result he spends most of his time in this mountain retreat preparing to launch those week-end coups which upset the diplomatic week-ends of other nations. The road leading to his mountain chalet is heavily policed and only those with special permits are allowed to enter it. Moreover, the whole estate is surrounded by barbed wire, with armed patrols at strategic points.

Hitler knows all the wily ways of the underworld. He is one of the dictators who began his political career as a spy. So the business of espionage comes naturally to him. The story as told by Heiden relates how Hitler, serving as a noncommissioned officer, was in 1919 detailed to attend labor meetings, mingle with workers' groups, and report to his superiors the state of popular opinion. It was while upon one of these missions that he heard a man named Gottfried Feder speak. He was impressed by Feder's violent economic theories. He came again to hear him and joined excitedly in the discussion. He even spoke against an opposition speaker. He attracted notice and was soon one of the leaders of this new political party, which eventually became the Nazis. At the same time Hitler continued his espionage work, having then become the double spy.

There have been doubts cast upon Hitler's personal courage. It is related by his enemies that when he and his men were fired on in the Munich putsch of 1923 Hitler flung himself to the ground with such violence that his shoulder was broken. Whether this be true or not, the fact remains that Hitler sees that every precaution is taken to save him from the lurking assassin.

When Hitler drives in his high-powered seven-seater car three of the Black Guards sit directly behind their leader, who sits beside the chauffeur. When he addresses meetings four of them always keep him in sight from a position near the platform. If the bodyguard are not actually in his car they follow close behind, often standing on the running boards. Photographs show that their right hands are usually resting on pistol holsters. When Herr Himmler was appointed chief of the German police orders were given to double the leader's bodyguard. An extra car of armed guards was assigned to accompany him wherever he went. At the same time the route along which the leader's car will pass is lined with Black Guards alternately facing inward and outward.

Hitler has his own special guard at the chancellery. It consists of about a hundred Black Shirts. They wear steel helmets and carry rifles. Two are stationed at the main gates. A group is in the reception hall. Two more guard the archway to the inner court. And two more guard the courtyard doorway. Inside the building the corridor in the vicinity of Hitler's office seem to swarm with guards carrying automatics.

The story is told of a British politician who was invited to lunch with Hitler at the chancellery. Talk and the lunch proceeded. The British politician was nervous. In the course of making a gesture he knocked a

large vase off a pedestal. Instantly from behind each curtain in the room appeared Black Guards with leveled weapons.

It was when Hitler adopted the use of a double that his enemies chuckled and the assassins were bewildered. This double was Julius Schreck, a Bavarian, aged 38, who also acted as chauffeur in the giant Mercedes. Schreck bore a certain resemblance to the Fuehrer—he had the same type of small black mustache—though he was of sturdier and more powerful build. During the nine years he

On May 15, so the whispered tale tells, the two sat side by side in a car that was taking Hitler to Bernau. To all appearances Hitler sat in the passenger's seat while Schreck drove. But this time Hitler, his lank hair drawn back, a chauffeur's hat pulled forward, was driving the car. Schreck, his hair drawn forward in the Hitler manner, sat in the leader's place. They reached a railway crossing and slowed up. As they did so, shots fired with unerring accuracy burst from the roadside. The man in the passenger's seat

that date he canceled all engagements save one, the New Year's reception of the diplomatic corps. A film of that ceremony shows the central figure holding stiffly his left arm.

The only bravado that Hitler permits himself is to take tea in the public lounge of the Berlin Kaiserhof nearly every day when he is in the capital. It is seemingly possible for any one to enter that lounge and take a table for tea in close proximity to the leader. But should any one do so he would be the cynosure of all eyes. It is usual to leave all tables adjoining that used by Hitler unoccupied. At the same time a dozen black-coated guards, each with an automatic and each a crack shot, may be observed lounging about the room. Thus under such conditions Hitler is able to enjoy a modest cup of tea with toast.



Julius Schreck Adolf Hitler Unofficial "double"

was Hitler's chauffeur he drove him for many thousands of miles to every corner of the Reich. Joining the Nazi party in 1921, he was one of its oldest members and had taken part in many of its street battles, including the Munich putsch.

During election campaigns Julius Schreck sometimes slept in his clothes for weeks at a time, taking a short nap at the wheel while the Fuehrer was delivering a speech—and then on again through the night. Schreck in German means "terror," and he was nicknamed "der Schreck der Landstrasse" (the terror of the highway). Hitler, for various reasons, preferred to travel fast on the open highway, but his chauffeur was too good a driver to justify his nickname.

The fact that Schreck could pose as double for Hitler enhanced his reputation in the eyes of the leader. He was not only one of the highest-paid officials in the Reich, but he also formed one of the triple suicide pact. Three men were bound together to kill themselves if, despite their vigilance, something should happen to Hitler. The three men in this suicide pact were Bruckner, Schaub, and Schreck.

Lieutenant Bruckner is the immensely tall Black Guard who was at Hitler's side when he personally arrested Roehm in the blood purge of June 30, 1934. He sleeps in the next room to Hitler, always armed. Schaub, the second of the trio, has the job of planning the route for Hitler when he leaves Berlin. He has to confer with police chiefs and make certain that roads will be clear or else well guarded against assassins. Julius Schreck drove the car and at certain parts kept his foot down on the accelerator.

In June, 1936, came the news of the death of Schreck, the double, from meningitis. Hitler was reported to have visited his chauffeur in the hospital and wept when the news of his old friend's death was brought to him. When, instead of being buried in the normal manner of one of his rank, Schreck was interred with the highest military honors, strange rumors began to circulate in Germany.

It was said that Schreck had been killed by the secret anti-Hitler organization known by the initials R. R. Since that grim night in June, 1934, when Hitler had his right-hand man, Ernst Roehm, put up against a wall and shot, Roehm's friends have sworn revenge. They formed an organization called Roehm's Revengers. This murder club was feared by Hitler more than any other danger.

Mysteriously, on walls and bridges, the sinister letters "R. R." appeared overnight. Government officials scanning documents found "R. R." scribbled in the corners. It was because of the growth of this murder club that Hitler commanded that his guards be doubled and began to use Schreck as a puppet for himself in certain public appearances.

### HITLER DOESN'T DO THIS ANY MORE!



- As an example of the extraordinary precautions taken to safeguard Adolf Hitler from assassins in Poland or elsewhere was the announcement issued from Berlin Sept. 11.
- This announcement stated Hitler would not accept flowers while traveling through areas occupied by his troops.
- Donors were directed in the announcement to present their flowers to German soldiers instead of to Hitler.



1936—Adolf Hitler speaks before the Nazi congress in Nuremberg from unprotected rostrum.



1939—A glass shield protects the Fuehrer at Wilhelmstrasse as he launches a warship. The "wind breaker" was reported actually to have been bulletproof.



1936—On a surprise visit to Nuremberg Hitler appears without military guard.



1938—At Munich, backed up by trusted members of his staff.

But there are murder clubs other than Roehm's Revengers ready to seize an opportunity of assassinating Hitler and overthrowing the dictatorship. J. C. Little, president of the Amalgamated Engineering union, recently excited a gathering of trades unionists at Morecambe by telling of a secret group of Germans whose object was to overthrow Hitler. Mr. Little elaborated this statement in an interview.

This secret organization, he said, was formed about a year ago. Former trades union leaders began the movement. Only trusted members of works committees, corresponding to shops' stewards in England, were elected. Each was given a number, and elaborate precautions were taken to prevent incrimination. The international collecting committee had been formed, with

headquarters in capitals abroad. Funds collected from trade unionists and individual subscribers in many countries, including Britain, France, the United States, Italy, and Spain, were forwarded to the distributing committee.

The new movement consisted solely of Germans. It met periodically and frequently changed its headquarters in Switzerland, Belgium, and Holland to prevent detection. Arrangements were made to smuggle the funds into Germany. The German authorities knew that 15,000 pounds was distributed among supporters in Berlin alone last Christmas, but that was all they knew. They did not know who distributed the money. Some of it had been spent in relief and some in propaganda.

Plans were being formulated to extend the operations of the agents outside Berlin. An im-

mense amount of organization was involved, but a wonderful system had been set up. The chain of agents had been extended by innocent looking identification disks which conveyed nothing to the uninitiated. There was also a system of punching the disks to indicate the receipt of funds. "The definite object of this movement is the overthrow of Hitler," he said. "The German authorities are making frantic efforts to stamp it out. Nearly three weeks ago 600 persons were arrested in one Berlin suburb. Fewer than ten agents of the secret body have been rounded up, and they have resolutely refused to give away any information. I am convinced that in the near future more than 2,000 agents will be working in Germany for this movement."

NEXT WEEK—Guarding Mussolini.

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(Mrs. Robert Light)  
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