

# ADOLF HITLER—WHERE IS HE NOW?

## THE MAN FROM THE MUNICH PUTSCH - ON THE VERGE OF A COMEBACK?



Sitting in a quiet bar not far from Munich, Adolf Hitler sipped at his afternoon tea. Wafting the cigarette smoke away from our table, he stared at the people laughing loudly and puffing on pipes and cigars. "I refuse to drink alcohol as it weakens the mind and body."

Firstly, we asked about his childhood. As we already knew his father was a violent man we asked him more about it. "He (his father) was a cold and brutal man. He beat my mother and I, he died when I was 14. I do not miss him; in fact I hate him to this very day.

On the other hand my mother was a devoted Catholic, when she died I was grief-stricken. I carry a picture of her with me, even now. I went to Vienna after her death." He looked downward at his tea, no emotion on his face but a flicker of sadness showed only once. "*Were you born in Germany? You are so passionate about the German welfare.*"



The Swastika, the Nazi party emblem and the beloved religious symbol to Hitler.

He looked up suddenly, as if being woken from a trance. "No, I was born in the pretty Austrian town of Braunau am Inn. It was painted in pastel yellows, pinks and blues." Again an understanding of how things

should be painted. He ran his finger over his cup. Sources told us that he got satisfactory for 'Moral conduct' in his final school report, also that his freehand drawing was excellent. I could tell that he was a painter from the way he held his china teacup. His steady hand held onto the saucer as he daintily drank. It began to shake when I asked him about his life in Vienna. "My life there (Vienna) was miserable.

« I refuse to drink alcohol as it weakens the mind and body. »

I was denied an entrant to the art academy twice. I loved to draw landscape paintings, but was obviously not good enough. For many months I was a tramp, I was forced to the streets after my allowance ran out. I fled to Germany in 1913 to avoid doing military service in Austria. But as soon as the Great War came, I signed up immediately. For many months I believed that the Jews were responsible. I had always had a hatred of them." A glint of destruction wavered in his eye, a little frightening so I pressed on with the conversation to see where it would lead.

"Do you think it originated from your violent childhood?" The glint faded away, "no, it was school of harsh reality that lead me down the path of Anti-Semitism. So when the Great War came I was determined to teach them a lesson."

His hand rose into the air in an attempt to waft the smoke from the air, I had given up in telling him that it was no good. "*I believe you had won three medals for bravery?*" He snapped to attention, even more alert than he was before. "Yes that is correct, I was a Despatch runner on the Western front. I was shot in the leg at La Barque in 1916, afterwards awarded my medals, including the iron cross. Obviously risking my life in the Battle of Wyttschaete paid off! In 1918 I was blinded by gas by Montaigne in 1918 I recovered my sight in hospital then returned to Munich."

He sipped his tea again, "Ironically, I was sent to Munich to make sure that extremist

parties weren't going to be a threat to the government. I liked the ideas of one party, the German Workers' Party and decided to join. Even though it was small and poorly organised it had some interesting ideas."

He smirked proudly, "soon after I was made one of the leaders. I organised meetings, put adverts in the papers and stuck posters on the walls. In February 1920 I renamed the party Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei, (National Socialist German Workers' Party)."

He took a deep breath and a gulp of tea and laid it on the table. "When I was a little boy I looked up at the swastika on top of the organ in church. It reminded me of mother and I decided to use it as our emblem."

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The Nazi party grew soon after Hitler came to it's throne, from having only 50 members in 1919, it rose to 50 000 in 1923. It published it's own newspaper to spread Nazi views. Also it created an army of Sturmabteilung, (Stormtroopers).

"Rumours are that you found the ability to put his ideas forward. Is this true?" He leant forward, as if telling off a small child. "One thing I have learnt from being a politician is to never trust rumours. But yes, I did find my ability of speech as a politician. It was the ability that I never really had, so I was quite surprised when I managed to persuade many people."

As our meeting came to a close, I believed that this man would be able to do powerful things. His air and grace would make him a powerful leader. Perhaps he is the future for a brighter, happier Germany.

By Melissa Smith