

The Private Life Of ADOLF HITLER

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THE private life of Adolf Hitler is based on the same cold principle of ruthless simplicity, in world, thought, and deed, that distinguishes the political Hitler from the compromised politicians of England, America, and France.

Hitler neither smokes nor drinks alcohol, and eats only vegetarian food. Like Mussolini, another son of simple parents, his personal tastes and wants are few. Music and reading are the only recreations for which he will sacrifice time.

He is a stern and humorless man who rarely laughs. Only children bring smiles to his lips, and the proud knowledge that the youth of Germany are wholly on his side is his greatest joy. The Pied Piper of Ger-

many knows that he can pipe the youth to his will.

Dearly as he loves children he has none of his own. He has not carried out that ideal he so strongly advises to his followers—marriage.

He has had love affairs, but no adventure has scarred or really touched his heart. It is doubtful if he will ever marry and settle down. He is married to his work and his books. He has a library of 6,000 volumes, all of which he has read. Most of them concern architecture and history, and formed the quarry for his colossal work "My Struggle," a million copies of which have been sold.

He is a devout church-goer, and honours three men—Frederick the Great, Nietzsche, and Mussolini.

Spartan is his life. He is called at 7 a.m. gives himself a quarter of an hour to dress and shave, and breakfasts off porridge and milk.

There is no coffee for breakfast, as coffee is bad to fly on,

and Hitler must always be ready at a moment's notice to take the air. A vegetarian lunch is usually served at his desk in the Chancellery, but very often there is no lunch for him at all.

Hitler's mode of life is military, like that of a general at the front during an offensive, rushing in person or imagination from danger point to danger point, without heed of comfort, meals and time.

He writes every word of all his speeches himself. Inspiration comes to him at the most extraordinary moments, even while he is chatting to a friend. At other times his ideas are the fruit of long hours of concentration alone. His speeches he dictates pacing his room, gesticulating as if he were addressing a crowd.

Motives of speed and security render his activities secretive and mysterious. Nobody knows where he will be next.

HE is the most widely travelled man in Germany. The distances he has covered by car and airplane are many times the circumference of the earth.

His favourite, indeed only, resting place is a little wooden villa in his beloved Bavarian mountains, the home of his sister, and it is there that he goes for an occasional week-end, to rest, to change out of uniform into leather shorts, woollen stockings and heavy mountain boots. Herr Hitler enjoys himself as much as if fame had never reached him, carrying his own rucksack to a picnic and peeling an apple with a penknife for lunch.

The Chancellor dislikes banquets and soires as much as Mussolini, and the only social events which appeal to him are operas and concerts. To hear Furtwangler he

will even change into evening dress.

His most intimate friend is Dr. Goebbels, and his favourite party is a musical evening at the "Little Doctor's" home.

With ambassadors he is ill at ease, and usually says exactly the same thing to every diplomat, of whatever country, who calls on him in any one day. This feeling of inferiority, due no doubt to a lack of experience of the social world, is most marked when he is with the leaders of the army. Photographs of Hitler at the recent army manoeuvres showed him to be painfully ill at ease. No doubt it is difficult for him, as an ex-corporal, to talk on terms of equality with the debonair commanders-in-chief.

ON the eve of great events Hitler likes to seek inspiration and comfort in Wagnerian operas. "The Meistersingers," his favourite, or "Lohengrin" or "Rienzi." With his soul drenched in music, decision comes easier to him. Hitler at heart is a real artist, and German artists are going to benefit from the leader's titanic schemes for buildings that will represent to the world the flaming truth of his political ideal.

Art for nature's sake, not for private commercial profit. Art must be heroic, to stimulate Germany to brave and noble deeds—that is his aim. As if young man he passionately desired to become an architect, but poverty directed his activities to less glorious fields.

Now he has become the architect of Germany's fortunes in a strange, new world.

Blue is his favourite colour for his clothes. He usually wears a blue suit, hard white collar, and a dark tie. He seldom wears a hat, and prefers a macintosh to an overcoat. He is a man of nearly strong physically, and his three-hour speeches leave him exhausted and spent.

EIGHT months' fulfilment in office have caused a remarkable change in his appearance. He is considerably stouter and fresher looking than in January, with red cheeks and bright, handsome eyes.

When he is alone he likes to carry a whip in ironical memory of the time when he was forbidden by the Government to carry a weapon and when his whip was his only weapon, which he often used.

He has only twice cried in his life: on the day his mother died and when the revolution broke out after the defeat of Germany in 1918. His mother's portrait, which he has carried over his heart through the perils of war and peace, is his most precious and dearly-loved possession.

Dogs are his only pets. He keeps a stud of Alsatians in the grounds of his sister's villa, and Alsatians are very much in evidence in National Socialist Germany to-day.

Communists poisoned Hitler's favourite Alsatian. They knew it would wound him, touch his hard heart.

Most of the other National Socialist leaders and "martyrs"—Goering, President of Prussia; Rohm, leader of the storm troops; the murdered Horstwessel, the symbol for German youth—have not kept their names free of scandal.

Politically, Hitler's life is black with crime. But the private life of Hitler is without reproach. Alone among his fellow leaders his shield is pure.