

"HELLO ADOLF"

by J. W. Crawford

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an imaginative personal communication of a staff writer to Adolf Hitler. The latter's reply is fiction also. All references to persons living or dead are purely unintentional. This material is written solely by the author, and is not the policy or in any way connected with the publication.)

Highland Park, Ill.
August 8, 1940

Dear Adolf,

At last you are starting something in the British campaign. We've certainly waited long enough for an attack, and now that it's a reality, it isn't so stupendous as expected. Being so secretive about operations across the channel from England had aroused a monstrous attack on England in our imaginations. Here we expected at least 1400 planes bombing England, and you only gave us 400. Are you unleashing the better part of your power, or are you just allowing Briton to taste a bit of a huge Blitzkrieg? I hope it's the former.

Originality is your middle name, Adolf. You've inaugurated a new form of warfare . . . that of mass attack at any point, and not linear demarkations for static combat. You've revolutionized war as far as armored forces go. Our army is still lacking essential tanks and armored divisions necessary in fighting a "Hitler war . . ."

Any originality on your part seems to be an asset in military circles. The construction of the great Maginot line by the French was indeed a ruse. You thought it wise to build a fort to compete with the French in publicity of "military preparedness," hence came the mighty Siegfried line . . . something you never used, but it was a threat that psychologically equaled the Maginot line. The construction of the Siegfried line was not completely original, Adolf. After the liberation of Germany by the Cheruscan Arminius at Teutoburg Forest in 9 A.D. (a little before your time . . .), Augustus built the Limes, or great fortified wall which was extended across the whole German frontier.

Power is a wonderful thing to have, Adolf. If anyone ever possessed power since the turn of the century, you certainly surpass him. There are many different denotations of power these days. Many prominent persons who have power, wield it in different ways. Power lies not only in the diplomatic, military and political circles, but also in industry, agriculture and labor. Some powerful persons derive much more from their positions than you do. Instead of inflicting hate and sorrow upon the world, they ameliorate and uplift prevailing standards of living by exerting their strength toward the betterment of mankind. Many of these persons build libraries, construct new homes in the slums, allot money for science, charities and the general culture of the people.

Real power has fulness and variety. It is not narrow like lightning, but broad like light . . . said Hitchcock. A man who succeeds in one line of endeavor, such as yourself, could easily have made a success in a change of circumstances. Who knows, if you had taken up art, you might have been one of the greatest artists of all time . . . though I doubt it.

Speaking of great Germans, Heine might have been an overbearing dictator, such as yourself . . . but instead he devoted his life to the literary channels. We hear much propaganda expressing hate for you, just as we read many newspaper writings expressing dislike for our own president. I wonder if the following excerpt from *Wit, Wisdom, and Pathos* (Heine) would fit into the present situation: *Whoever, by the irresistible force of genius, rises above the common herd is certain to be ostracized by society, which will pursue him with such merciless derision and detraction that at last he will be com-*

elled to retreat into the solitude of his thoughts . . . It leaves you something to think about, Adolf. Recollecting a little German history, we find some interesting facts which have current meanings. William I was truly a great German, but he didn't possess the peculiar qualities you do. A modern German writer called him a patriarchal educator of the German people, "a plain German, honest, sincere, just, benevolent, sensible, unselfish and God-fearing." I doubt whether your name will be inscribed in the books with anything such as that. It will probably read: ". . . a dynamic Austrian, dishonest, unscrupulous, unjust, unbenevolent, insensible, selfish and a man who defied God . . ."

Writers today compare you with Napoleon, for which they have good reason. Bismarck, successor to William I, and truly one of the German greats, opposed unnecessary centralization and redtape. Bismarck was successful and well liked by his people. Unlike Napoleon and yourself, after the state of saturation, on natural lines, was reached with the foundation of the empire, he never conspired to annex, or forced into the federation against their will, smaller states, such as Belgium, Holland, Switzerland . . . much less France, Denmark, Poland and Norway. It revives the old theory that different races cannot be molded into one heterogeneous whole . . . for any length of time.

It is said that Bismarck spent his whole life in uniting and consolidating the unity of his people. In his memoirs he left the Germans a treasure of history and political wisdom in classical German. It can be said that you endeavored to unite your people, but with the advent of conquest over many bordering nations, you left the trend foreshadowed by one of your great predecessors, Bismarck. German boys and girls must be mystified as to your conduct in foreign affairs . . . in comparison with such men as him. I doubt if you allow them to read about men of his calibre . . . if you do, it must be distorted to meet your wishes.

One of the strange facts in the German language is the word *deutsch*, which later translated "German," but originally denoted "popular." I'm sure that your actions frustrated any connotation of German being "popular" today. I like to think of German being aloof from Nazi. Nazi stands for something other than German, something sinister . . . a new denotation . . . disastrously taken for a synonym with German. I think the consensus would agree that German shouldn't be confused with Nazi. Nazi should be connected with a handful of maniacs including yourself, and not connected with the German people. (They are helplessly in your power) or their contributions to the world of music, science and art.

Hoping you lose that Cricket match with the British, I remain,
A. N. American

Berlin, den 13. August 1940

Dear American,
As yet, my real Blitzkrieg on Britain hasn't nearly begun. I gathered from your latest epistle that you understand this. Four hundred planes is barely a fraction of what I will eventually unleash. I have Italy's thousands of planes, besides my own air force and remnants of France's. No, I have not started my real war on Britain. It will be a

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slow and gradual process, each hack digging deeper into their soil.

Originality is not my middle name, as you so presumptuously stated. I have only done what my predecessors failed to accomplish. I have nothing to regret and retract the same amount . . . I saw that France would uphold the policies and tactics practiced in the last war, so I decided to be different. Your country was confronted with much the same problem in the Revolutionary war. The British, following traditional war tactics, marched in the open and donned bright regalia . . . while your Americans ducked behind trees and snipped them off like so many flies.

Then, as now, the British and French couldn't orientate themselves to a new environment. They followed tradition, and suffered the consequences. Tradition has its place, but not on the battlefield. In the current war, the French built forts and trained millions of men, while I concentrated on the chief implements of modern warfare . . . tanks and planes. Of course, I had to have men to take over newly acquired territory conquered by my armored divisions, but they played a very minute part in conquest.

I was hoping that the United States would depend upon tradition and therefore not make use of the tank. But, sadly to relate I see that the senate is passing bills that call for mass production of such implements.

Yes, Britain and France were founded on tradition, gradually expanded on tradition and have been utilizing tradition for the past quarter century. Tradition in a modified form has quite a stimulating effect on people. But when the English still insist on the "Changing of the Guard," and all that dilly-dallying, it seems to have traversed from stimulation to moral disintegration.

You made quite a fuss over my power in your letter. While reading it, I thought you inferred that my power pertained more to monetary strength, and not strength over people. I have no money . . . my power lies with my population. They are

my strength. Literally I possess the power. Figuratively any power exerted in Germany is propounded by the people themselves . . . because, I am the will of the German people.

Mentioning such men as Heine, William I and Bismarck meant nothing to me. Just as tradition is out-moded today, so is ancient history. I have no regard for what my predecessors have done for Germany. My one aim is to free Germans of the unnecessary homage they have been paying to Britain and other plutocratic nations. After this conflict is completed, I will endeavor to help my people more than ever. Just as the Thirteen Colonies fought for freedom, I fight for mine. Just as the United States has become one of the greatest nations on earth, so will Germany. Give her time. I may never see the day when she will dictate world affairs, but when I die I'll be fully aware that I have done my part in making this feat possible.

Well, terminating my letter today, I will quote one of my fellow countrymen . . . Richter. This little ditty, in the face of the present English predicament and my swift ascension to power, is very timely. *Men like bullets, go farthest when they are smoothest.*

Don't worry, I'll win the Cricket match. As always, I remain,
A. Hitler.

Tennis Tournament For Men Aug. 23-25 At Athletic Field

The Highland Park Young Men's club is sponsoring a tennis tournament. This tournament is open to any young man or older boy who desires to enter it. There will be a small fee which pays for the use of the court.

Young men wishing to enter this tournament may register at Nield's Sport Shop, at the Community Center, or at the Field House of the High School Athletic Field on Park avenue.

"Susan and God" Showing This Week At Deerpath Theatre

Joan Crawford and Fredric March, a new co-starring duo for the screen, score one of the sensational surprises of the year in "Susan and God," playing Friday and Saturday, Aug. 16 and 17 at the Deerpath theater. As the social gadabout, Susan, who adopts a new social movement as a fad and attempts to convert all her friends while ignoring the tangle of her own life, Miss Crawford wins new spurs as a dramatic actress. March turns in one of his most convincing performances as Barrie, the inebriate husband who gradually wins control of the situation.

Co-starring Madeleine Carroll and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. and featuring Tullio Carminati, the Paramount drama, "Safari," will be shown at the Deerpath theater Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 18, 19 and 20. The cast also includes Muriel Angelus, Lynne Overmann, and Billy Gilbert.

A small-town school teacher who finds her career handicapped by the open hostility of a powerful, vindictive family controlling the community, is the role portrayed by Anne Shirley in "Anne Of Windy Poplars." Adapted from the popular novel by L. M. Montgomery, sequel to "Anne of Green Gables," the film is laid on Prince Edward Island and presents Miss Shirley in the title role. Showing Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 21 and 22.

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