

*Germany
Hitler*

Studies in Pathography

II. Adolph Hitler

by

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Summary:

Adolph Hitler was born in Branau, Austria on April 20, 1889. He died, a suicide on April 30, 1945 at the age of 56. He began his career as a vagrant and a house painter, he ended it as the defeated leader of an empire that embraced most of Europe, a large part of Africa and, had he been victorious, would have included most of the world.

To attempt to explain his extraordinary career from a study of his medical history is extremely difficult. For the purposes of this report one must begin by dividing Hitler's medical history into two segments, (a) psychiatric aspects, and (b) somatic or physical aspects. Because of the vast number of writings which have already appeared about Hitler's mental states and also because of the controversial and speculative nature of the available data, very little has been said here about Hitler's psyche. The available data is attached hereto as Appendix 1.

His clinical history may be briefly summarized:

(1) In his youth Hitler was believed to have suffered from weak lungs. The nature of this ailment (whether pneumonia, pleurisy, tuberculosis, etc.) is not known with certainty.

(2) Many writers have stated that Hitler suffered from syphilis, but no clinically valid evidence has ever been produced.

(3) He suffered from gas injuries in World War I but he seems to have recovered without residual effects.

(4) It has been alleged that during his adolescent years he had epidemic encephalitis following influenza which in later years manifested itself as Parkinson's diseases. Again, there is no clinical substantiation of this hypothesis.

(5) He had some voice problems which were relieved by removal of benign polyps from his vocal cords.

(6) From 1936 to 1945, Hitler had as his personal physician, Dr. Theodor Morrell, described by his medical colleagues as a charlatan and a quack. He kept Hitler under the influence of a large number of drugs including vitamins, hormones, sulphonamides, belladonna, strychnine, etc. It was believed by those doctors close to Hitler who could observe him without participating in the treatments that this indiscriminate shotgun therapy caused the ultimate physical deterioration and final collapse of Hitler.

(7) Hitler committed suicide on April 30, 1945. It is generally believed that he shot himself. Recent information published from Russia alleges that he died from cyanide poisoning rather than from a gunshot wound.

ADOLPH HITLER

The man who gave immortality to Winston Churchill was Adolph Hitler, an Austrian by birth who at the age of 43 became Chancellor and Führer of Nazi Germany. Hitler was more than a man - he was a phenomenon. He blazed across the sky like a meteor and like a falling star fizzled into oblivion.

Adolph Hitler was born on April 20, 1889 in the town of Braunau on the River Inn which forms the border between Austria and Bavaria. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was still ruled by Emperor Franz Joseph. Hitler came of peasant stock (traceable to the 17th century) in a remote country district. His father was a minor official in the Customs service of Austria. He married twice but neither marriage lasted. He divorced his first wife, his second spouse died of tuberculosis. Six months after her death he married for the third time - now a second cousin twenty-three years younger. Adolph was the third child of this marriage. A brother and sister born earlier died in infancy, a younger brother died at six, only his sister Paula born in 1896 reached adulthood.

The father retired at 58 and settled finally on the outskirts of Linz where Adolph Hitler grew up. In "Mein Kampf" Hitler portrays himself as a child of privation and poverty. On the contrary, it is known that his father had an adequate pension and was able, within his means, to provide his son with a good elementary education. Alois Hitler, Adolph's father died in 1903 but his

widow still had his pension and thus she was still able to keep her son in school. He left the Realschule in Linz in 1904, not for financial reasons but because his school record was poor. He was transferred to another school which he finally completed at age 16. Hitler claimed later that his poor performance at school stemmed from the fact that he wanted to be an artist, a career his father opposed. While there is no doubt that father and son did not get on well, it is highly probable that the elder Hitler was in fact dissatisfied with Adolph's school performance in general and he let his son know this in unmistakable terms. One of Adolph's teachers at this school later described young Hitler in these terms:

"I can recall the gaunt, pale-faced youth pretty well. He had definite talent, though in a narrow field. But he lacked self-discipline, being notoriously cantankerous, willful, arrogant, and bad-tempered. He had obvious difficulty in fitting in at school. Moreover, he was lazy...his enthusiasm for hard work evaporated all too quickly...he reacted with ill-concealed hostility to advice or reproof; at the same time he demanded of his fellow pupils their unqualified subservience fancying himself in the role of leader..."

As indicated, Adolph was in frequent conflict with his father about his studies and the choice of a career. The elder Hitler apparently insisted on uniform excellence in scholastic performance, especially since he wanted his son to become a civil

servant like himself. This type of career repelled Adolph and the struggle between father and son reached a climax when young Hitler announced that he had decided to become an artist, i.e., a painter. Alois, the father became increasingly bitter and resentful at his son's intransigence; Adolph emerged as solitary, uncooperative, sullen and stubborn, doing only what he had to at home and just passing or more often failing at school. The mediocrity of his school record barred his way to higher education and filled him with confusion and resentment about his family, himself and his future.

It has recently been suggested by a German physician - Recktenwald (AH11a) that during this stage of his adolescence, Hitler may have had an attack of epidemic encephalitis, a disease often contracted in childhood or youth subsequent to a severe cold or influenza. The virus, even if the infection is silent or asymptomatic can produce middle brain damage which may manifest itself as Parkinsonism in later life. Since, in the period immediately before Hitler took his own life during the climatic days of the Battle of Berlin, he displayed a pronounced tremor, this may have given rise to the suggestion that he suffered from post-encephalitic Parkinsonism. The fact that epidemic encephalitis may produce dramatic changes in character and personality soon after the disease is contracted, could provide a possible explanation for Hitler's failure in school and his subsequent personality troubles.

Nevertheless, simplistic and attractive as this hypothesis may be, it is in the highest degree speculative. The diagnosis is not based on any clinical examination of Hitler. Furthermore, Hitler's own physicians who were close to him for a number of years up until the end, had advanced several other possibilities for the deterioration of his health and his physical symptoms. These included physical exhaustion, lack of exercise, extreme and prolonged stress and finally the large quantities of drugs administered by Morrell.

None of the tentative diagnoses offered by many writers of whom Recktenwald appears to be the most recent can either be convincingly sustained or summarily dismissed. Even Hitler's unproven syphilis can, in its later stages produce a Parkinson-like tremor. It is true that of all the provisional diagnoses about Hitler's childhood illnesses, epidemic encephalitis appears to have a possible relationship to Hitler's later pathognomonic states. However, we must be content to regard this only as an unconfirmed and even unconfirmable hypothesis. The only satisfactory way in which these questions could have been resolved would be on the basis of evidence from a thorough clinical examination supplemented by a most careful autopsy. No evidence exists that such examinations were ever carried out.

Another medical episode in Hitler's early life must be mentioned. This happened in 1905 about two years after the death of his father. Hitler returned home to Linz at the close of the

school semester where he had continued to make a poor record. The family usually went to Spital in the country for the summer and while there Adolph developed a lung disease. Hitler states in "Mein Kampf" that he had a pulmonary infection at this time. Although the disease is not named, the ailment is consistent with a family history of lung involvement over several generations. During the vacation at Spital, Hitler's mother brought him every morning a large cup of warm milk. This suggests that the traditional treatment for pulmonary disease of nourishing food, rest and country air were being applied. It is not clear whether Hitler's lung condition at Spital arose "de Novo" that summer or whether it was a recurrence of an earlier infection which had become quiescent. In any case the condition may have lingered on. Shortly before the outbreak of World War I, Hitler had gone to Munich and it was suspected that he may have left Austria among other reasons, to evade military service. However, after some finagling he was examined by Austrian army physicians and declared unfit for service.

After leaving school in 1905, Hitler spent two years with his mother in Linz and then went to Vienna to try to enter the Academy of Fine Arts as a student. He failed and was advised to try for the school of architecture but he refused. After a second rejection by the Academy of Fine Arts, Hitler drifted into obscurity in Vienna for about five years. He worked as a laborer, a sign painter and as a general handy man. Testimony of those

who knew him during this period indicates that he was lazy and moody, disliking regular work. He neither smoked nor drank and was too shy and awkward to have much success with women. Whenever he made a little money from painting picture postcards, he quit work and went to a cafe to read newspapers and talk politics, a consuming passion with him. He also went to the public library where he read extensively but indiscriminately and unsystematically. It was at this time that Hitler began to crystallize within himself the anti-semitic ideas, then endemic in Vienna, which provided the basis for, and gave direction to, his career from then on.

We come now to the beginning of Hitler's active political career.

The defeat of Germany came as a profound shock to the German people and its Army. Despite the fact that the war on the Eastern front had come to a successful conclusion for Germany, the catastrophic events on the Western front were kept from the German nation. Thus the fact that the Army, still intact had been brought to its knees was a stunning blow. When the Kaiser fled to Holland and the military refused to assume responsibility for the debacle, the legend of the "stab in the back" was born.

During the ensuing period of chaos until a semblance of order was restored with the creation of the German Republic, Adolph Hitler was still in the hospital recovering from his gas

injuries. It was during the chaotic and turbulent period following the imposition of the Peace of Versailles that Hitler took the decisive step to enter politics. He left the hospital - one of the millions of demobilized jobless men who faced an unknown future, and returned to Munich. Here the Army again provided an opportunity. He got a job in the Press and News Bureau of the Political Department of the Army's Munich Command. After a course of political instruction, he was appointed as an instructor. His task was that of preventing the contagion of the men by alien ideas such as socialism, pacificism and democracy.

In September of 1919, Hitler was directed by the Army to look into the affairs of a small group in Munich which might be of interest to the military. This was the German Worker's Party organized in 1918 by a locksmith, Anton Drexler. Drexler's objective was the creation of a party which would be both working class and nationalistic in outlook. There were only a few members present when Hitler attended his first meeting in a Munich beer-hall. Here he was his opportunity and he began his active political career. As he gradually assumed control, the party grew in numbers. In 1920 Hitler left the Army to devote himself full time to the affairs of the Party. The name of the Party was now changed to "National Socialist Germany Party" and soon it began to attract various splinter groups from Austria and the Sudetenland. It adopted anti-semitic ideas from its Austrian satellites and began to use the Hakenkreuz - the swastika - as its symbol.

Larger events now intervened. In 1929 a world-wide economic depression came to the aid of the fledgling Nazi Party which had been reconstituted at Munich. In the German elections of 1930 the Reichstag representation of the Nazi's rose from 12 to 107 seats. In 1932 Hitler ran for President of the Reich but although his party strength was increasing he failed to unseat the incumbent Hindenburg. On January 30, Hitler was appointed Reich Chancellor by the aging and senile Hindenburg and the Nazi's were now close to the seat of power. A few weeks later on February 27, a fire wrecked the Reichstag building, a conflagration Hitler was swift to blame on the Communists. The following day Hindenburg signed an emergency decree, "For the Protection of the People and the State" suspending those sections of the Constitution guaranteeing individual and civil liberties. When the Reichstag on March 24 passed the so-called "Enabling Act" legalizing the emergency powers, Hitler and his Nazi's were given full control of the State. All political parties except the NSDAP were outlawed. In 1934 Hitler purged a number of his opponents - dissidents were either shot or sent to concentration camps. Later that year following the death of Hindenburg, Hitler abolished the office of President and he took the title of Fuehrer and Reich Chancellor. The Armed Forces then took a personal loyalty oath the Supreme Commander. In 1935, Hitler announced a build-up of the Armed Forces and reintroduced military conscription - both in violation of the Versailles Treaty.

The anti-Jewish Nuremburg laws were passed in September and early in the following year. Hitler repudiated the Treaty of Locarno and sent German troops into the Rhineland.

The pace of events now increased. In 1938 Hitler took direct command of the Wehrmacht and Austria was annexed to the Third Reich. Then came the Sudetenland crisis which led to the Munich Agreement and the German occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939. Shortly after Hitler signed a non-aggression pact with Russia, Poland was invaded and World War II began. The years 1940/41 were the apex of Hitler's conquests. In what came to be known as the Blitzkrieg, Hitler's armies took over Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg followed by France and the Scandinavian countries. The British were driven from the continent. Yugoslavia and Greece were occupied in 1941 and then in June of that year Hitler launched his assault on Russia which carried him almost to the gates of Moscow. During this time Hitler also began his systematic extermination of European Jewry. On December 7, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and Hitler promptly declared war on the United States. The war was now truly global in scope. However, in 1942 it began to become evident that Hitler had now over-extended himself and tide began to turn against him. 1943 saw the defeat at Stalingrad, the invasion of Sicily and Italy by the allied forces which earlier had already destroyed the Nazi threat in North Africa. The collapse of Mussolini's regime in Italy added further to Hitler's woes.

In 1944 came the Normandy invasion and Hitler was now caught between the Russian anvil and Anglo-American hammer. By 1945 Hitler's empire was breathing its last and on April 30, Hitler, committed suicide in his bunker beneath the ruins of his Chancellory in Berlin. The Thousand Year Reich had come to a crashing and flaming end.

A medical history of Adolph Hitler is extremely difficult to compile. One is confronted simultaneously with a plethora of material on Hitler's mental state which undoubtedly governed his life and a paucity of clinical data on his bodily ailments. However, because so much has been written about Hitler's megalomania, and also because many authorities disagree both in their findings and interpretations, no attempt is made here to summarize or evaluate this material. As a matter of fact such a summary together with documentation does already exist and a copy is attached as Appendix I.

However, without going into detail, it may be said, with hindsight, that by ordinary psychiatric standards Hitler would be diagnosed as insane. The outstanding characteristic of Hitler which dominated all others was that he was a man of most violent passions. Even as a child he had to have his way and as he matured, the temper tantrums, which most normal children outgrow, became in the man-ever more virulent. His frenzies, his bitterness and hates, his rages and crying jags were legendary, and one of the major causes of his phenomenal rise to power was

his ability to intimidate and even paralyze his opponents, shouting, screaming and even chewing the carpet as he rolled on the floor. He often threatened to commit suicide if he could not get his way.

Hitler emerged on the world stage, as already indicated shortly after World War I. By 1924 he had become head of the political party which within a few years became the dominant force in Germany and almost achieved domination of the World. How he achieved his power and used it is, again, so well documented that it needs no repetition here.

There are however, aspects of Hitler's life which may still be described as shadowy. These concern his private life, especially those of a medical nature. Thus he has been described as impotent, incapable of normal sexual intercourse, a victim of phimosis and a practitioner of sexual perversions. It is even today not possible to document these allegations with certainty. It has been mentioned also that Hitler was afflicted with syphilis. Again, it is impossible to confirm this with clinical evidence. It is a fact however, that Hitler did have a deep-seated aversion, an obsessive horror of this disease since he devotes an extensive passage to this affliction - he calls it a Jewish disease - in Mein Kampf (pp 336-352). He considers this disease to be one of the consequences of the failure to maintain the racial purity of the Aryans - a condition he regards as the God-given duty of his Party to correct.

What is known with certainty is that Hitler was abstemious in his habits. He neither smoked nor drank and he was a vegetarian. Indeed, he believed that meat-eating was harmful to humanity. One might speculate that had Hitler won World War II, he might have imposed vegetarianism on those whom his armies had conquered.

One of the most reliable and authoritative sources on Hitler's health, especially in his later years is the book "The Last Days of Hitler", by H.R. Trevor-Roper. (3rd ed. 1962) Trevor-Roper, now Professor of History at Oxford was given the task by the British Intelligence Services of determining as far as possible what actually happened to Hitler and Hitler's body during the last days of the crumbling Third Reich. Much of what follows is drawn from this book.

In mid-1944, it was plainly evident that Hitler's Third Reich which he had promised his people and the world would last a thousand years ^{was} disintegrating under the hammer blows of the Allied armies in the West and the Russian forces in the East. Germany was trapped in a gigantic vise from which there was no escape. On July 20, 1944, a group of Hitler's generals made one final effort to assassinate Hitler and bring his lost war to a halt. The attempt failed.

The General's Plot
July 20, 1944

It is now known that Hitler's regime was not the monolithic totalitarianism which most of the world saw and believed. It was

in fact a Hollywoodian facade which as the tragic drama reached its climactic end, crumbled into dust. From 1939, at least seven attempts were made to assassinate Hitler and thus bring his regime to an end.

On several earlier occasions, explosive charges had been conveyed to Hitler's headquarters but returned unused for some technical reason. Finally Count von Stauffenberg, on July 20, 1944 carried a bomb concealed in a briefcase to a conference called by Hitler in his Eastern front headquarters at Rastenberg. The Count placed the briefcase under the table against the table-leg adjacent to Hitler. He made an excuse to leave the room seconds before the bomb went off. Stauffenberg was already in his plane flying to Berlin to announce to his co-conspirators and the world that Hitler was dead but the announcement as they soon discovered was premature. It is not clear just what happened - whether Hitler moved around the table or whether the table itself gave some protection from the full force of the blast - but Hitler survived. His ear-drums were shattered, his right arm was bruised and his uniform was in shreds. Again, as Der Fuhrer was to repeat so often, Providence had intervened to preserve him for the completion of his mission. The conspirators were soon rounded up and most were executed, several being hung with piano wire. One of the results of this plot was a further withdrawal of Hitler from publicity. He made no public speeches, no public appearances and it was even rumored that he was either

dead or the prisoner of Himmler. The facts are that Hitler was very much alive. A personal diary kept by his valet Heinz Linge has survived. From this we learn that until November 20, 1944 Hitler was in residence at "Wolfschanze" the Wolf's Lair in Rastenberg where the abortive attempt on his life was made; until December 10 in Berlin; from December 11 to January 15, at Bad Nauheim whence he directed the futile Ardennes offensive (the Battle of the Bulge) and finally from January 16 to the end in Berlin at the Chancellery which Hitler never left alive.

From this diary we learn that Hitler usually awoke about noon and then carried on a continual series of conferences with generals, politicians, secretaries, his doctors and others. His meals were snatched at irregular intervals, an occasional stroll in the open and then a short evening nap. Then conferences till 2 a.m. and finally a non-political tea party followed some two hours later by bed.

As Trevor-Roper has written: "When he became the great war-lord, the greatest strategical genius of all time, (as Speer described him), Hitler's company changed, his hours of work became monotonously regular, the pressure of events gave him no release, he had no relaxation, no safety valves, for the harmless discharge of pent-up dynamism. Defeat intensified the process. If the German people must cut down their pleasures, he must sympathetically cut down his; and his were not only pleasures but the necessary conditions of his political life. More and more

the once sociable Fuehrer became an isolated hermit, with all the psychological repressions inherent in that dismal condition. He was isolated from persons, isolated from events. Convinced that only he could lead the German people out of defeat to victory, and that his life was therefore of cardinal importance and yet convinced that every man's hand was against him, and assassination awaited him around every corner; by a logical consequence, he seldom left the protection of his underground headquarters or the banal society of his quack doctor, his secretaries, and the few spiritless generals who still paudered to his inspiration. He seldom visited the front, never knew the true extent of the disasters to his armies, his towns, his industries: never in the entire war did he visit a bombed city. He remained a frustrated recluse, restless and miserable.

They style of life reflected itself inevitably in Hitler's physical condition. Dr. von Hasselbach, one of the most critical and reliable of Hitler's doctors said: "Up till 1940 Hitler appeared to be much younger than he actually was. From that date he aged rapidly. From 1940 to 1943 he looked his age. After 1943 he appeared to have grown old." "In his last days," said Speer (Economics minister) "he was positively senile; and those were not yet the last days of all, the last days of April 1945, when all who saw him described him as a physical wreck. This rapid deterioration in Hitler's health has often been attributed to the effects of the bomb explosion of the 20th of July 1944;

but this is wrong. The wounds which Hitler received on that occasion were trivial and temporary. The real damage to his health in the last months proceeded from two causes: his manner of life which has been described, and his doctors. "What Hitler's psychological condition may have been - and on such a subject and in so unique a character, it would be imprudent to speculate - there can be no doubt that his physical stamina was exceptionally strong. It could not have been otherwise, to have endured for so long the tenancy of that violent personality. (AH 14, p 120-121) It seems that before the war, Hitler became concerned about his voice and sent for a throat specialist, Professor Von Eicken of Berlin. A polyp was diagnosed and surgically removed. Hitler made an uneventful recovery from this operation. Apart from an occasional tingling in his ears and tendency to stomach cramps he continued in good health until 1943. He believed that he had a weak heart and after 1938 he avoided all forms of exercise. As part of his hideaway at Berchestgaden, Hitler had built, on a mountain top above his lodge a gazebo with a fabulous view over the Bavarian Alps. This was reached via an elevator shaft bored through the mountain. But Hitler used it only rarely. At 5400 feet he complained of a constriction in his chest due to his weak heart. However, despite numerous examinations no clinical evidence of a cardiac condition was ever found by his doctors. Like his epigastric pains and cramps, his heart symptoms were considered to be of hysterical origin.

Hitler's Doctors

During most of his career, Hitler was attended by three doctors Karl Brandt, Hans Karl Von Hasselbach and Theodor Morrell, the latter being closest to him as his personal physician. Brandt, a surgeon had been with Hitler since 1934. However, since his surgical skills were never required by Hitler, Brandt achieved notoriety in another direction.

He directed and participated in the infamous medical experiments at the concentration camps and for these crimes against humanity he was tried by the Nuremberg Courts, condemned to death and executed in 1947.

Of Professor Theodor Morrell, Hitler's personal physician for nine years, it is difficult, in the words of Trevor-Roper (AH 14, p 122) "to speak in the measured terms and discreet vocabulary proper to his profession. He was a quack. Those who saw him, after his internment by the American forces, a gross but deflated old man, of cringing manners, inarticulate speech and the hygienic habits of a pig, could not conceive how a man so utterly devoid of self-respect could ever have been selected as a personal physician by anyone who had everⁿ a limited possibility of choice. But Hitler not only chose him; he kept him for nine years, in constant attendance, preferring him above all other doctors, and, in the end, surrendering his person, against unanimous advice, to the disastrous experiments of a charlatan. From 1936 to 1945, Morrell, in his own words, was Hitler's

"constant companion;" and yet the health of his patient was to him only a secondary consideration.

According to all the evidence, Morrell was money mad, completely indifferent to either truth or science. Research was too slow for him - quick drugs and fancy nostrums were his metier. He claimed to be the discoverer of penicillin which was stolen from him after years of dedicated research by the ubiquitous British Secret Service. The truth of the matter was that Morrell had no real need to build himself up as a scientist - Hitler exploited his weaknesses - not his skills. Hitler in fact liked quacks. He liked magic, astrology and somnambulism. Among the tenets of the Nazi party line may be found anti-vivisectionism - anti-vaccination ideas - vegetarianism, etc.

Hitler would have felt at home among the bizarre medical cults which flourish in California and other parts of this country.

Morrell before meeting Hitler had practiced as a specialist in venereal disease among the artistic demi-monde of Berlin. It was there that he met Hoffmann who was a member of Hitler's entourage as his official photographer. It was Hoffmann who brought Morrell to Hitler's notice at Berchtesgaden and the doctor's fortune was ^{now} ~~not~~ made. Under Hitler's patronage he built factories and manufactured patent medicines. In some cases he was able to secure compulsory purchase of his nostrums throughout Germany - in others he was granted a monopoly on his own brands.

One of his most financially successful concoctions was a chocolate vitamin preparation. Under an order from Hitler, Morrell's "Russia" lice powder became a standard item for use by the armed forces. Construction of factories for the manufacture of this product had the very highest priority.

Another of Morrell's preparations was a sulfa drug called "Ultraseptyl" manufactured by one of his companies in Budapest. It was tested by the Department of Pharmacology of the University of Leipzig and found to be inferior to the corresponding German product. It was found, among other things to have a deleterious effect on the nerves. This report was shown to Hitler who brushed it aside. Indeed, he gave Morrell the priorities to enable him to increase his production. As Trevor-Roper (AH14 p 124) tells it:

"These drugs were not so lucratively dispersed among the German people without preliminary trial. The experiments were made on Hitler. An almost complete list of the drugs used by Morrell upon Hitler, compiled from his own account (which is unlikely to exaggerate on such a topic) and excluding the morphine and hypnotics which were also used, contains the names of twenty-eight different mixtures of drugs, including the proprietary "Ultraseptyl" condemned by the pharmacologists, various fake medicines, narcotics, stimulants and aphrodisiacs. The way in which Morrell made use of these drugs is thus described by Dr. Brandt:

"Morrell took more and more to treatment by injections, until in the end he was doing all his work by this method. For instance, he would give large doses of sulphonamides for slight colds, and gave them to everyone at Hitler's headquarters. Morrell and I had many disputes about this. Morrell then took to giving injections that had dextrose, hormones vitamines, etc., so that the patient immediately felt better; and this type of treatment seemed to impress Hitler. Whenever he had a cold coming on, he would have three to six injections daily and thus prevent any real development of the infection. Therapeutically this was satisfactory. Then Morrell used it as a prophylactic. If Hitler had to deliver a speech on a cold or rainy day, he would have injections the day before, the day of the speech, and the day after. The normal resistance of the body was thus gradually replaced by an artificial medium. When the war began Hitler thought himself indispensable, and throughout the war he received almost continual injections. During the last two years he was injected daily. When I asked Morrell to name the drugs employed, he refused. Hitler came to depend more and more on these injections; his dependence became very obvious during the last year. With the exception of General Jodl, all the members of Hitler's staff were treated from time to time by Morrell." (AH14: p 124-125)

Although it must be admitted that Brandt had good reason to hate Morrell and therefore his opinions of Hitler's doctor may therefore be suspect, there is sufficient corroborative evidence

to indicate their accuracy. Every other doctor in a position to know, as well as many lay observers close to Hitler's court support the facts as stated by Brandt. Thus Speer, Hitler's economics minister said: "I believe that anyone who does a great deal of intellectual work can understand this condition of mental over-exertion; but there can hardly be another person who has endured such an ever-increasing strain over so many years, and who has further found himself a physician who tried out completely new drugs on him, in order to keep him capable of work, and at the same time, to carry out a unique medical experiment. It would be interesting to analyse Hitler's handwriting during the last months; it had the uncertainty of an old man. By his stubborn ways, his sustained outbursts of anger, he often reminded me of a senile man. This condition became permanent after 1944, and was seldom interrupted.... For purely physical reasons...most other men would have broken down under the strain of such a life, and after an enforced relaxation would have regained the capacity for work; or else nature would have come to the rescue with an illness. But Hitler's physician, Morrell, managed to cover up his exhaustion by means of artificial stimulants, a method, which, as is well known, ends by completely ruining the patient. Hitler became accustomed to these means of keeping up his endurance, and kept on demanding them. He admired Morrell and his methods, and was in some sense dependent on him and his remedies."

(AH14: p 125)

Only a powerful constitution could have preserved Hitler from an earlier collapse under the combined pressure of his way of life and the medical treatments he allowed himself to be subjected to. The first symptoms of physical change began to manifest themselves in 1943. Hitler's extremities began to tremble, especially his left arm and left leg; his left foot dragged and he developed a stoop. The nature of this tremor has never been satisfactorily explained. The possibility of Parkinson's disease has already been mentioned. Other medical authorities have suggested a hysterical origin. There is a general consensus however, that the tremors were not a consequence of the July 20, 1944 explosion, the tremor which had been progressively worsening, stopped altogether but then it resumed in a more severe form and continued to worsen until the end.

As Trevor-Roper points out, while the events of the 20th of July represent a military, political and psychological crisis, these had little physical significance in the life of Hitler. The doctors summoned to examine Hitler right after the explosion found that Hitler's tympanic membranes in both ears were broken (indeed such injuries were found in all the officers present in the room when the bomb went off). The labyrinths of his ears were disturbed and there was a subcutaneous hemorrhage in his right arm. Hitler was ordered to bed and in about four weeks he had completely recovered from the immediate effects of the explosion.

However, the cumulative effects of Hitler's overly stressful life plus Morrell's medication were not so easily cured. Hitler returned to an underground bunker in the damp unhealthy climate of East Prussia. He never left this bunker - he shunned the air, feared exercise, suspected danger everywhere. One of his doctors (Professor Von Eicken) begged Hitler to leave the dank dugout for the bracing air of Berchestgaden even for a week - Hitler refused. Others including Keitel urged Der Fuehrer to leave but he kept saying "If I leave East Prussia then East Prussia will fall. As long as I am here it will be held." Thus he hung on, a sick man, taking to his bed from time to time but dragging himself up for his daily staff conference.

In September and October (1944) Hitler was treated for an infection of the maxillary sinus and swollen glands in the neck. Another polyp was removed from his vocal cords. At the same time Hitler had continuous pain from stomach cramps and headaches. The stomach cramps were not new - Hitler had complained of them for several years but late in 1944 they became serious. Several doctors in addition to Morrell were visiting Hitler during the latter half of 1944. Among them were a cardiologist, a dentist, an ear specialist and a throat specialist.

In September 1944 there occurred a medical crisis in the affairs of Hitler. He was suffering from a continuing series of stomach cramps. Dr. Giesing, the ear, nose and throat specialist who had attended Hitler after the Bomb Plot discovered, more or

less accidentally that Morrell, for at least two years, had been treating the symptoms of Der Fuehrer with a proprietary drug known as Dr. Koester's Antigas Pills. They consisted of a compound of strychnine and belladonna (the prescription is given as Extr. Nux Vomp Extr. Bellad. a.a. 0.5; extr. Gent. 1.0) (AH14: p 128). The dose Hitler was taking was supposed to be 2 to 4 pills with each meal although 8 pills per day was considered to be the maximum safe dose. Morrell himself did not personally administer this medication but left it to Hitler's valet Heinz Linge. He received these pills in bulk lots from Morrell and gave them to his master as requested without medical supervision. Dr. Giesing discovered these pills by chance in Linge's room. Shocked by the discovery, Giesing consulted Dr. Brandt, the surgeon. They both agreed that Hitler was being slowly poisoned by Morrell's treatment. They concluded that the chronic poisoning not only was responsible in itself for the abdominal pains it was supposed to relieve but also for the discoloration of Hitler's skin which was becoming increasingly apparent. Brandt and Giesing now took their findings up with Dr. von Hasselbach and all agreed that something had to be done. Brandt and Giesing confronted Hitler with the facts they had uncovered and told him that he was allowing himself to be poisoned by Morrell. But Hitler was not shaken from his dependence on his "medicine man". Brandt, Giesing and von Hasselbach were all dismissed from Hitler's "court." Brandt himself was stripped of all political posts held by him, he was tried before a summary court, accused among

other things of having lost faith in a Germany victory. He was condemned to death but before the sentence could be carried out, the allied military tidal wave was approaching Berlin. Brandt was captured, tried by the Nuremberg Tribunals and was executed for crimes more serious than those charged to him by Hitler.

With Brandt and Hasselbach gone, Hitler needed to fill the vacancy of a surgeon at his court. Himmler's physician Professor Karl Gebhardt, recommended one of his students Ludwig Stumpfegger an orthopedic surgeon. Gebhardt himself already had an unsavoury and sinister reputation as an unscrupulous dabbler in politics. He had also carried out medical experiments on Polish girls at Auschwitz. Stumpfegger, although he rendered few medical services to Hitler, stayed with him to the end. He was astute enough to allow Morrell to maintain his baleful influence over his Fuehrer. Thus, with all the other doctors dismissed, Morrell's control of Hitler's person for the last six months of his life was unchallenged.

In his last days, although Hitler suffered from no organic disease, he had become, according to the testimony of all those about him, a physical wreck. As Trevor-Roper wrote: "Ceaseless work, the loss of all freedom, the frustration of all his hopes, Morrell's drugs, and perhaps more than all these, the violence of his temperament when bitterness and disappointment had multiplied around him, had reduced that once powerful conqueror to a trembling spectre. All witnesses of the final days agree when

they describe his emaciated face, his grey complexion, his stooping body, his shaking hands and foot, his hoarse and quavering voice, and the film of exhaustion that covered his eyes. They agree about certain less clearly physical symptoms too: his universal suspicion, his incessant rages, his alternation of optimism and despair. But two characteristics of his former temper he still possessed. The fascination of those eyes, which had bewitched so many seemingly sober men...had not deserted them.... Secondly, Hitler's lust for blood was unabated, perhaps even increased by time and defeat... In his last days, in the days of Radio Werewolf and suicidal strategy, Hitler seemed like some cannibal god, rejoicing in the ruin of his own temples. Almost his last orders were for execution; prisoners were to be slaughtered, his old surgeon was to be murdered, his own brother-in-law was executed, all traitors without further specifications were to die. Like an ancient hero, Hitler wished to be sent with human sacrifices to his own grave; and the burning of his own body, which had never ceased to be the centre and totem of the Nazi State, was the logical and symbolic conclusion of the Revolution of Destruction."

On April 20, while the Russian juggernaut was storming the gates of Berlin, Hitler celebrated his 56th birthday. It was to be his last. Hitler was still hoping that some military miracle would break the siege of Berlin and that his armies would somehow reverse the onrushing tide of events. But it was too

late. On the night of April 27/28 Hitler finalized his decision to commit suicide. In characteristic fashion, he blamed not himself, but others, especially the Jews for the failure of his Thousand Year Reich to survive. And so, since neither Germany nor the world deserved him, Hitler decided to end it all. On April 29, he dictated his will and political testament (AH : p 793) naming Admiral Dönitz as his successor. Then on April 30, came the end. As Bullock, one of Hitler's biographers has written (AH5: p 799) "Meanwhile, having finished his lunch, Hitler went to fetch his wife from her room, and for the second time they said farewell to Goebbels, Bormann and the others who remained in the bunker. Hitler then returned to the Führer's suite with Eva and closed the door. A few minutes passed while those outside stood waiting in the passage. Then a single shot rang out.

After a brief pause the little group outside opened the door. Hitler was lying on the sofa, which was soaked with blood: he had shot himself through the mouth. On his right-hand side lay Eva Braun, also dead: she had swallowed poison. The time was half past three on the afternoon of Monday, 30 April 1945, ten days after Hitler's fifty-sixth birthday."

"Characteristically, Hitler's last message to the German people contained at least one striking lie. His death was anything but a hero's end; by committing suicide he deliberately abandoned his responsibilities and took a way out which in earlier years he had strongly condemned as a coward's way out."

Hitler's instructions for the disposal of their bodies had been explicit and they were carried out to the letter. Hitler's own body, wrapped in a blanket was carried out and up to the garden by two S.S. men. The head was concealed but the black trousers and black shoes which he wore with his uniform jacket hung down beneath the covering. Eva's body was picked up by Bormann who handed it to Kemmer. They made their way up the stairs and out into the open air, accompanied by Goebbels, Günsche and Gurgdorf. The doors leading into the garden had been locked and the bodies were laid in a shallow depression of sandy soil close to the porch. Picking up the five cans of petrol, one after another, Günsche, Hitler's S.S. adjutant, poured the contents over the two corpses and set fire to them with a lighted rag.

A sheet of flame leapt up, and the watchers withdrew to the shelter of the porch. A heavy Russian bombardment was in progress and shells continuously burst on the Chancellery. Silently they stood to attention, and for the last time gave the Hitler salute; then disappeared into the shelter.

Outside, in the deserted garden, the two bodies burned steadily side by side. It was twelve years and three months to the day since Hitler had walked out of the President's room, Chancellor of the German Reich."

"What happened to the ashes of the two burned bodies left in the Chancellery Garden has never been discovered. That they were disposed of in some way remains a possibility since an open

fire will not normally destroy the human body so completely as to leave no traces, and nothing was found in the garden after its capture by the Russians. Professor Trevor-Roper, who carried out a thorough investigation in 1945 of the circumstances surrounding Hitler's death, inclines to the view that the ashes were collected into a box and handed to Artur Axmann, the leader of the Hitler Youth. There is some slight evidence for this and, as Trevor-Roper points out (in the Introduction to his second edition, pages xxxii-xxxiv) it would have been a logical act to pass on the sacred relics to the next generation. The simplest explanation may still be the correct one. It is not known how thorough a search was made by the Russians, and it is possible that the remains of Adolph Hitler and his wife became mixed up with those of other bodies which have been found there, especially as the garden continued to be under bombardment until the Russians captured the Chancellery on 2 May.

The question would scarcely be of interest had the failure to discover the remains not been used to throw doubt on the fact of Hitler's death. It is of course, true that no final incontrovertible evidence in the form of Hitler's dead body has been produced. But the weight of circumstantial evidence set out in Trevor-Roper's book, when added to the state of Hitler's health at the time and the psychological probability that this was the end he would choose, make a sufficiently strong case to convince all but the constitutionally incredulous - or those who have not bothered to study the evidence."

However, the story does not end here. There has long been a suspicion that the Russians knew more than they were willing to tell about what happened to the remains of Hitler and others, notably Goebbels, and his family, whose bodies were found in the bunker. In 1968, a book entitled "The Death of Adolph Hitler: Unknown Documents from the Soviet Archives" (AH11a) provides additional data.

According to the author of this report, the Russians found a number of bodies underneath the ruins of the Chancellery when they occupied this area of Berlin on May 5, 1945. Among them were two partially burned corpses, that of a man and a woman. These were removed along with the other bodies later identified as those of Goebbels and his wife and children.

The two partially burned bodies were autopsied and on the basis of the observations made were presumptively identified as those of Adolph Hitler and his newly wedded wife, Eva Braun. The autopsy protocols, which appear below seems to have been "edited".

Several points may be noted: (a) Contrary to other published reports Hitler did not commit suicide by shooting himself. He died by poison - the odor of cyanide was still detectable in his mouth together with slivers of glass from the containing capsule. (b) Confirmation of the fact that the two bodies were in fact those of Adolph Hitler and Eva Braun, comes mainly from dental evidence. (c) In the body presumed to be that of Hitler, "the left testicle could not be found either in the scrotum or on the

spermatic cord inside the inguinal canal, nor in the small pelvis." It was further stated in the protocols that despite considerable damage by fire, no visible signs of severe lethal injuries or illnesses could be detected. This conclusion may refer to what might have been observed by simple visual inspection of the remains. Since no statement appears in these protocols about microscopic examination of the tissues, we are left in the dark as to whether histopathologic studies were made, or if made, were deleted from this publication.

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Hitler's Physical Health and Personality. The following doctors have been interrogated on Hitler's health and physical condition, and on other personal matters:

Brandt, Dr. Karl - Surgeon to Hitler's staff until October, 1944. Condemned and executed 1947.

Von Eicken, Professor - Ear, nose and throat specialist. Attended Hitler in 1935 and again after 20th July 1944.

Giesing, Dr. Erwin - Ear, nose and throat specialist. Attended Hitler after 20th July 1944.

von Hasselbach, Dr. Hans Karl - Surgeon, deputy to Brandt until October, 1944.

Morrell, Professor Theodor, Personal Physician to Hitler whom he last saw on 22nd April 1945. Died 1948.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF ADOLPH HITLER

- 1889 (Apr. 20) Born in Braunau, Austria, son of Alois Hitler (born Alois Schicklgruber), a customs official.
- 1900-05 In high school (Realschule); first in Linz, then in Steyr.
- 1903 Father dies.
- 1905 Drops out of school before graduation.
- 1907 (Sept.) Fails to gain admission to Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna.
(Dec.) Mother dies.
- 1907-13 Aimless existence in Vienna; absorbs ideas and techniques that later became central elements in his political ideology.
- 1913 Moves to Munich, Germany, probably to avoid military service in Austrian Army.
- 1914-18 Volunteers for service in German Army and serves with distinction as a courier until incapacitated by poison gas shortly before the end of the war.
- 1919 In Munich as political instructor in the postwar German army (Reichswehr).

(Sept.) Joins German Workers' Party or DAP (later NSDAP).
- 1920 (Feb. 24) Announces 25 point program of the NSDAP at a mass meeting in Munich Beer Hall.

(Mar. 31) Resigns from the Reichswehr to devote all his time to politics.
- 1921 Becomes Führer of the NSDAP with almost unlimited authority in party affairs.
- 1923 (Nov. 8/9) Leads abortive "Beer-Hall Putsch" in Munich
- 1924 (Feb./Mar.) Tried for high treason: convicted and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment at Landsberg.
Writes first volume of Mein Kampf.

(Dec.) Pardoned and released from prison.
- 1925 (Feb.) Formally reconstitutes NSDAP in Munich.

- 1929 World-wide economic depression.
- 1930 (Sept.) National election raises Reichstag representation of NSDAP from 12 to 107 seats.
- 1932 Runs for presidency; gets one-third of votes but loses to incumbent Hindenburg.
- 1933 (Jan. 30) Appointed Reich Chancellor by President Hindenburg.
- (Feb. 27) Reichstag fire; Hitler blames Communists.
- (Feb. 28) Prevails on President Hindenburg to sign an emergency decree "for the Protection of the People and the State" suspending those sections of the constitution guaranteeing individual and civil liberties:
- (Mar. 6) NSDAP gets 44% of the vote in the Reichstag election.
- (Mar. 24) Reichstag passes so-called (Enabling Act" which in effect gives Hitler authority to enact laws and to deviate from the constitution.
- (Jul. 14) All political parties except NSDAP outlawed.
- 1934 (Jun. 30) Purges, S. A.; Röhm and other storm troop leaders as well as a number of non-Nazi enemies of Hitler shot.
- (Aug. 2) Hindenburg dies. Hitler abolishes office of president and takes title of Führer and Reich Chancellor.
- Armed Forces take personal oath to Hitler as Supreme Commander.
- 1935 (Mar. 16) Announces build-up of Armed Forces and reintroduces general military conscription - all in Violation of Versailles Treaty.
- (Sept.) Passage of the anti-Jewish "Nuremberg Laws"
- 1936 (Mar. 7) Repudiates Locarno Treaty and sends German troops into Rhineland.
- 1937 (Nov. 5) Outlines to highest ranking military and civilian leaders his plans for territorial aggrandizement and war. (Hassbach Memorandum)
- 1938 (Feb. 4) Takes direct command of German Armed Forces (Wehrmacht) in wake of the Blomberg-Fritsch Affair. Also appoints Ribbentrop foreign minister in place of Neurath.

- 1938 (Mar. 13) Annexes Austria (Anschluss)
(Sept./Oct.) Sudetenland crisis; Munich agreement; German occupation of Sudetenland.
(Nov. 9) Organized program against the Jews of Germany (Kristallnacht).
- 1939 (Mar. 15) German troops occupy Czechoslovakia.
(Aug. 23) Nonaggression pact with USSR.
(Sept.) German invasion of Poland
World War II begins.
(Sept. 3) Gt. Brit. and France declare war on Germany.
- 1940 (Apr.) German conquest of Denmark and Norway.
(May/Jun.) German conquest of Belgium, Luxembourg and Netherlands.
France militarily defeated and largely occupied by Wehrmacht.
B.E.F. driven from continent.
- 1941 German conquest of Yugoslavia and Greece.
(Jun. 22) German invasion of Russia.
Systematic extermination of East European Jewry begins.
(Dec.) Germany declares war on U.S.
German advance in Russia stalled.
Hitler takes personal command of armies.
- 1942 (Jan.) Final solution - physical extermination of all Jews under German control decreed.
(Summer) Hitler's empire at peak.
(Autumn) Tide of war turns against Hitler.
- 1943 (Jan./Feb.) Catastrophic German defeat at Stalingrad.
(Jul.) Allied invasion of Sicily and collapse of Mussolini's regime in Italy.
- 1944 (Jun. 6) D-Day. Allied invasion of France.
(Jul. 20) Hitler survives assassination attempt by German Army officers.

- 1944 (Sep.) British and American troops reach Germany's western frontier.
- (Dec.) Battle of Bulge fails.
- 1945 (Jan.) Red Army breaks through German defense and advances rapidly through Eastern Germany.
- (Mar.) American troops cross Rhine.
- (Apr. 25) Berlin encircled.
- (Apr. 29) Marries Eva Braun
- (Apr. 30) Commits suicide.