Adolf Hitler Notes / WWII Europe – Mr. Parker

Family Life

* **Father** = **Alois Schickelgruber (born 1837)**
1. **1st wife = Anna Glassl.** They separated in 1880 due to his infidelity. Died in 1883.
2. **2nd wife = Franziska Matzelberger.** Died in 1884. Gave birth to two children:
3. **Child # 1** = **Alois Matzelberger.** Born Jan. 1882. \*Born an illegitimate child since Alois was not legally divorced from his 1st wife, Anna, yet. 6 April 1883 Anna (Glassl) Hitler died (60 yrs old), clearing the way for Alois to marry Franziska.
4. **Child # 2** = **Angela Hitler.** Born in June 1883.
5. **Franziska died 10 Aug. 1884! Alois was left with two young children – Alois was 3 and Angela was 2.**
6. When Franziska was sick, **Klara Poelzl** was invited into the Hitler residence to be nursemaid to the children. Franziska had a lung ailment and would go to a cabin in the woods to seek country air and rest as a treatment. While she was gone, Klara became Alois’ mistress too!
* **Mother** = **Klara Poelzl Hitler** {born 1860}{married Alois 7 Jan. 1885}

Since Klara was Alois’ 2nd cousin, Austrian law required that he get a papal dispensation before he was allowed to marry her. He did so.

**Children of Alois and Klara:**

* **Stepchild # 1** = Alois Hitler, Jr. (3 yrs old)
* **Stepchild # 2** = Angela Hitler (1 ½ yrs old)
* **Child # 1** = **Gustav Hitler.** Born 17 May 1885. Died 8 Dec. 1887 of diptheria (2 ½ yrs old at death)
* **Child # 2** = **Ida Hitler.** Born 25 Sept. 1886. Died 2 Jan. 1888 of diptheria. (1 ½ yrs old at death)
* **Child # 3** = **Otto Hitler.** Born June 1887. Died 3 days later.
* **Child # 4** = **Adolf Hitler.** Born 20 April 1889. Sickly child.

Since none of **Klara Hitler**’s prior 3 children had survived, she doted on Adolf and pampered him. She was always worried about his health.

* **Child # 5** = **Edmund Hitler.** Born 24 March 1894. Died 2 Febr. 1900 of measles. (6 yrs old at death) \*\*Adolf was 11 years old when Edmund died.

Adolf had a good relationship with Edmund. They were playmates. Adolf took his brother’s death hard. After Edmund’s death, Hitler stopped performing well in school.

* **Child # 6** = **Paula Hitler.** Born 21 Jan. 1896.

**Adolf’s Relationship with His Father, Alois**

Adolf had a poor relationship with his **father** who was 52 yrs. old when Adolf was born. Alois retired in 1895, at age of 58. Adolf was 6 yrs old. Alois was a strong and overbearing figure. He was a perfectionist and a controller. He drove other members of the family crazy once he retired. Alois argued intensely with his older son, Alois Jr. {son by 2nd wife – Franziska}, who left home at the age of 14. He became a failure and a minor criminal.

Alois saw Adolf as his last chance to produce a successful son to carry on the family name. Alois rode Adolf hard and constantly criticized him. **\*\*Alois physically beat Adolf, at one point, so badly that he was in a coma for 2 days.**

**School and Early Influences**

* **Karl May novels** -- German ex-convict that wrote a popular series of novels. Everyone read them. Stories based in American West. Focused on cowboys versus Indians. Cowboys ruthlessly slaughtered the Indians in violent and racially motivated annihilation. May had never been to the American West. **Interesting fact is that Hitler collected these books and continued to read them throughout his life. He would often read them 4 – 5 times each.**
* **Dr. Leopold Potsch** -- One of Hitler’s history teachers. He gave dynamic lectures which often focused on anti-Semitism and anti-minority messages. \*\* After Hitler came to power, Potsch is the only one he sought out and went to visit.
* **Failures in School** -- After the death of his brother, Edmund (died of measles in 1900), Hitler (was 11 years old at the time) became lazy in school and failed to complete his work. Throughout his life he had a problem finishing the things he started. He often started homework, but seldom finished it. Hitler failed the 3rd Form (9th grade) and had to repeat it a second time. He failed again the second time. His school in Linz made him promise that he would go to school somewhere else the next year before granting him the chance to take a special test to pass the 3rd Form! This was in 1903, the same year his father died.

In 1904, Hitler started school in a nearby boarding school located in Steyr. He again failed and dropped out of school.

* **1905 – 1907 Living Off His Mother** -- In 1905, Hitler moved back to Linz and lived with his mother. He persuaded her that school was ineffective and that he could better educate himself through books and experience. For the next two years he attended the theater, joined a music club, checked out books from the library, and lived a life of leisure! During this time, he never held a job and never even looked for one!

## Life in Vienna {Sept. 1907 – 1913}

Hitler (18 years old), depressed by the lack of goals and direction in his life, convinced his mother that he should go to Vienna to study painting at the Vienna Art Academy. **October 1907 - - \*\*Hitler was denied admission {failure # 1}** due to lack of skill and his failure to graduate from secondary school. He was told to recover missing credits by finishing secondary school and then to try architecture instead of art.

Klara Hitler had surgery for breast cancer in early 1907**.** By late November, 1907, Adolf returned to Linz {from Vienna} to care for her as she was unable to do so herself. He also cared for his 11-year-old sister, **Paula**, kept house and cooked.

**December 1907** **- - \*\*Klara Hitler died.** Adolf was devastated by this. He felt he had lost the only person he ever loved and the only person that loved him. He was 19 years old and now totally on his own! Paula, Adolf’s 11-year-old sister, moved in with her stepsister and husband – Angela & Leo Rabaul.

**February 1908 - - Hitler returned to Vienna with his best friend, August Kubizek!** Kubizek attended the Vienna Music Conservatory. Adolf lived off his half of his mother’s pension (other ½ of pension went to his 11-year-old sister, Paula).

Each morning, Kubizek would get up early and attend his Conservatory classes. Hitler was always in bed when Kubizek left for school and Kubizek just assumed that Hitler did not have a class until later in the morning. **\*\*\***Hitler was too embarrassed to tell Kubizek that he had been rejected from the Vienna Art Academy and continued to act as if he was attending the Academy. Eventually Hitler was forced to tell Kubizek he was denied antrance to the art academy.

### July 1908 - - Kubizek was drafted into the Austrian military. He arranged to enlist in the reserve so he could continue his studies. August arranged to keep paying rent so he could rejoin in Hitler in the fall of 1908.

**September 1908 - - \*\*Hitler experienced his 2nd failure to get admitted to the Vienna Art Academy!** He was not even allowed to take the exam due to the poor quality of the sketches he presented. This devastated him!

Kubizek was having great success in the arts – evidenced by piano students assigned him by professors and invitations to important Conservatory events. Hitler could not have taken the humiliation of admitting his failure to Kubizek. **So, he moved across town ( to Felberstrasse 22) two days before Kubizek returned to Vienna. They did not meet again until 1938.**

In 1859, Charles Darwin published his book, ***\*Origin of Species***, which established the idea of evolution. This book contributed greatly to the beginning of race science or **\*eugenics**. It made racial characteristics and the idea of some races being better than others, a new and interesting idea.

While living on Felberstrasse, Hitler first encountered a magazine by the name of \*\*\***Ostara**\*\*\*, published by the mystic, Aryan supremacist, **Lanz von Liebenfels**. Ostara preached Aryan supremacy over dark-skinned, ape-like men (\*Afflings) who preyed on blonde Aryan women! The ape-like men were unusually potent sexually and thought to use Aryan women to raise their race’s status. Hitler purchased Ostara regularly and even tracked down and met Lanz von Liebenfenfels to purchase back issues..

Ostara was named after the German goddess of spring. Partially due to Hitler’s great interest in German mythology, it appears this magazine was very influential with him.

We know Ostara was critical to Hitler because it supported many of the same things Hitler did (i.e. German Nationalism, Georg von Schonerer, and anti-semitism). \*\*\***In the magazine, genetic selection, sterilization, deportation, and liquidation through labor and murder** were all suggested as methods for increasing the **superior \*Asings** and exterminating the **inferior \*Afflings**.

Wealthy industrialists financed part of von Liebenfel’s perchase of **Werfenstien Castle**, which became the headquarters of the **Aryan League** that would lead the fight against mixed races. Swastika flag flew over this castle.

Although Hitler insisted that “he was no one’s disciple, and all his knowledge had come from his own inspiration, by the grace of Providence and out of his dialogues with the spirit,” it seems obvious that much of his ideology came from Ostara. This appears to be further proved by the fact that **after** **Anschluss in 1938, Hitler forbade von Liebenfels from publishing.**

**Street life!!! September 1909-February 1910 (6 months)**

### August 1909

Hitler moved to a ghetto apartment on the far side of Vienna (2 days before Kubizek returned to their old apartment). Hitler stayed in the ghetto apartment for only 3 weeks and fled without paying rent. **\*\*Hitler spent the next 3 months on the streets,** initially living in cheap hotels or bars (slept in them like prof. tramps). At this time, he became friends with **\*Reinhold Hanisch**, a criminal from Bohemia (ex-convict).

### December 1909

Hitler entered a shelter for the desperate called **\*\**Obdachlosenheim***. Place was run by professional tramps and was survival of the fittest mentality. Hitler learned about intimidation here and how much human nature was driven by fear, brutality and greed.

\*Worst experience of *Obdachlosenheim* was in the daytime\*. Residents had to leave so place could be cleaned. Hanisch taught Hitler how to survive. Walked 2½ hrs to soup kitchen for breakfast. Then walked to warming house in Edberg. Then back to shelter in time to get in line to get a cot in the shelter. At one point, Hitler had sold his heavy coat and nearly froze-became seriously ill.

### February 1910

Hitler and Hanisch moved to a men’s hotel for the homeless called the **\*\*Maennerheim**. This happened as a result of Hitler’s Aunt Johanna. Hanisch and another tramp found out about her and convinced Hitler to ask her for money. Hitler lied to her and said he needed money to finish the term at the art academy. She soon sent the money.

The Maennerheim was a much better shelter than Obdchlosenheim. Was sort of like a YMCA. Each man got a sleeping cubicle-which meant some privacy and security. \*\*\***Most importantly it had a reading room and several lounges that the men could go to during the day.**

**\*Brittgenau** (Viennese district in which the Maennerheim was located) was an industrial suburb w/ 2nd highest population of Jews in Vienna. It was located next to **\*Leopoldstadt**, the district with the highest Jewish population. Both districts were rapidly growing, economically, so was shortage of housing and large vagrant population.

## BACK AT THE MAENNERHEIM

Hitler and Hanisch became partners. Hitler painted watercolor postcards of Vienna tourist attractions and Hanisch sold them on the streets and in bars. Eventually they made more money by painting bigger paintings that were used to fill picture frames in adjacent frame shops – many owned by Jews.

Hitler and Hanisch made enough money to elevate themselves at least among the homeless in the Maennerheim. Once they earned some money, Hitler became lazy – he stopped painting until the money was gone. He went to opera and sat in cafes eating sweets and talking politics. Hanisch had to constantly prod Hitler to continue painting.

At the time, H. was easily distracted by political discussions in the Maennerheim reading room. Many men worked odd jobs here to survive. Whenever someone contradicted H’s views, he would jump in and start a verbal tirade. He often personally attacked people to discredit them or played on the prestige of his father (Austrian Royal Customs Official).

Eventually Hanisch and H. split. Supposedly, Hanisch sold one of Hitler’s large paintings and did not give H. his 50% of the money. Hitler turned Hanisch in to the police & they arrested him for prior fraudulent documents charges.

**By 1911, Hitler had reached the pinnacle of success thus far in his life.** He was forced to both paint the postcards and sell them too. This doubled his income & made him financially independent, given the cheap rent of the Maennerheim.

## POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT OF VIENNA

**\*\*Karl Lueger {1844-1910}** was first a member of the Austrian Reichsrat (parliament) and later the Mayor of Vienna (Christian Social Party). Lueger was one of the most important political teachers for Hitler.

**Hitler learned the following things from Karl Lueger:**

1. To exploit middle class fears of returning to the lower class.
2. To use the main social issues of the day to get political support from the masses.
3. To exploit the existant base of **anti-Semitism**
4. Focused lower class working people against Jewish-controlled big businesses
5. Gained Catholic support by building fears that the rapidly growing Jewish population would discriminate against Catholics.
6. To use **propaganda** effectively
7. *Das Vaterland* - Catholic journal
8. *Christian Social Verein* encouraged Christians to struggle against the liberal Jewish materialism.
9. To give **dynamic speeches** to motivate followers along with **huge parades** of workers.

**Hitler Quote -** “The art of leadership consists of consolidating the attention of the people against a single adversary and taking care that nothing will split up this attention.”