O[illegible] f[illegible] h[illegible] Ni[illegible] t — [illegible]AN [illegible]LTI

SWASTIKA CASTS ITS SHADOW

[illegible] 1932 the Hitlerites al[illegible] control of the Govern[illegible] Oldenburg and Bruns[illegible] Prussia—which is two-[illegible] of Germany—was still firm[illegible] hands. On March [illegible] Socialist-controlled police [illegible] to thwart a planned [illegible] march on Berlin, [illegible] headquarters in Ber[illegible] in hundreds of lesser [illegible]. On April 17, a Govern[illegible] outlawed the military [illegible] of the Nazi Party [illegible] raided and closed the [illegible] of the Brown Guards. [illegible] prohibition of the storm [illegible] organizations became a farce, [illegible] it had been based on seri[illegible]. The military for[illegible] of the Nazis continued to [illegible] to grow. The only [illegible] effect of the new law was [illegible] the Hitler Guards wore white [illegible] instead of brown ones.

[illegible] million Nazis were con[illegible] by 8,000,000 Social Demo[illegible] half that number of [illegible] Catholics. The balance [illegible] lay in the hands of the [illegible] Party and its 5,000,000 [illegible]. For a time it seemed [illegible] the March and April raids [illegible] the Nazi fortresses signaled the [illegible] of a general offensive to [illegible] Hitlerism into impotent[illegible]. The Communist rank and [illegible] was eager to pitch in and [illegible]. But in Moscow, at the [illegible] session of the Executive [illegible] of the Comintern, D. Manuilsky, the mouthpiece of [illegible] in the Communist Inter[illegible], rose and said:

[illegible] order to deceive the [illegible] the Social Democrats [illegible] proclaim that the [illegible] enemy of the working [illegible] is Fascism. It is not [illegible] that Fascism of the Hitler [illegible] represents the chief ene-[illegible]

Manuilsky's voice was the voice [illegible] the Kremlin. To Communists [illegible] world over it was law. It [illegible] a hideous confusion among [illegible] leaders of the German Party. [illegible] half-measures were the re[illegible] swinging between extremes [illegible] ranged all the way from [illegible] co-operation with the Hit[illegible] movement to murderous am[illegible] against isolated storm [illegible] detachments.

[illegible] battles followed each [illegible] like waves before a storm. [illegible] time I returned to Ger[illegible] during 1932, I found myself [illegible] middle of a wild election [illegible]. The armies which were pit[illegible] against each other in those [illegible] were more numerous than [illegible] armies which fought the [illegible] War.

In the Spring of 1932, the demo[illegible] parties in Germany joined [illegible] for their one and only ma[illegible] attempt to stem the Nazi [illegible] by a concerted counter-[illegible] within the boundaries of [illegible] and law." They formed [illegible] of organizations which, [illegible] and financially, was [illegible] than the Hitler move[illegible]. They named the cartel the [illegible] Front, and established the [illegible]—activization — of all [illegible] resources against Hitler [illegible]. The daily Nazi aver[illegible] two thousand mass meet[illegible] to be countered by an [illegible] number of "Stop Hitler" [illegible]. The leaders of the Iron [illegible] proclaimed their intention [illegible] conquer Germany by a con[illegible] barrage of mass meetings. [illegible] copied the Nazi and Com[illegible] propaganda technique, but [illegible] their campaign from [illegible] by rejecting the use of [illegible] methods alongside their [illegible]. Shock-brigades of [illegible] — Hammerschaften [illegible] formed to protect the meet[illegible] and propaganda squads of [illegible] Iron Front against storm troop [illegible]

[illegible] sooner had the Iron Front [illegible] its counter-offensive than [illegible] the units of the Communist [illegible] received instructions to sabo[illegible] the enterprises of the Iron [illegible] at every turn. This we [illegible]

The Government of Chancellor [illegible], which had been sup[illegible] by the democratic bloc, was [illegible] on May 30, 1932. Democ[illegible] attempt to rule by decree [illegible] ended in failure. Franz von Papen, ex-spy and lion of the [illegible] Club, of intriguing [illegible], became Chancellor, and [illegible] Schleicher, the head of [illegible] Reichswehr, his Minister of [illegible]. Hitler had given his word [illegible] to support the Papen [illegible]—on two conditions: imme[illegible] dissolution of the Reichstag [illegible] new elections, and repeal of [illegible] Government ban against the [illegible] troops. The conditions were [illegible]. Re-arming of the na[illegible] became the chief topic among [illegible] adherents of the new regime [illegible] to Bolshevism" was the war[illegible] under which re-arming was to [illegible] accomplished without stirring [illegible] attention abroad, par[illegible] in France. The storm [illegible] unleashed a new wave of [illegible]. The number of political [illegible] reached a new high during [illegible] first week of June. Hitler [illegible] the Papen Government [illegible] a sudden ultimatum. The [illegible] demanded the procla[illegible] of martial law, suppression [illegible] the Communist Party, and con[illegible] of the Prussian police by Na[illegible] Socialists. Von Papen re[illegible]. Hitler threatened to let [illegible] take their course." Von [illegible], fearing that the Hitler [illegible] would surge upward be[illegible] the Government's control, [illegible] for a coup de main him[illegible]

The Red storm brigades were [illegible] to be concentrating in [illegible] around Berlin. The [illegible] had been put in a [illegible] of highest alarm. The storm [illegible] spoke openly of the com[illegible] of long knives." Chan[illegible] Papen prepared to strike [illegible] a reactionary Na[illegible] Government in the Reich [illegible]-controlled Govern[illegible] in the largest German state [illegible] bed-fellows. The [illegible] the Marxists out of the [illegible] swelled to a [illegible]

[illegible]

working people, it was hoped, would induce the masses of trade unionists to counter-action over the heads of their own leaders. The Communist Party would then put itself at the head of the angry masses with the demand for a general strike and the arming of organized labor. The aim was to bring about civil war and complete alienation of the Socialist masses from their traditional leadership. The scheme was as criminal as it was absurd. But we Communists, living in a make-believe world of our own, went forward with the optimism of megalomaniacs from Mars.

The awakening was rude. It began on a Sunday in July. The high command of the storm troops had ordered all Brownshirt formations of the North Sea districts to assemble for a march through the Communist quarters of Hamburg-Altona. Immediately the Communist Party concentrated its military formation in Hamburg for a counter-demonstration. The intention was to have the two armed parades, each counting tens of thousands of marchers, to clash head-on in narrow streets.

The Socialist police chief of Altona, Eggerstedt, outlawed the planned Communist counter-demonstration at the last moment. At the same time, he reaffirmed the permission given to the Nazis to march, and furnished them with police protection. (The same Eggerstedt was later murdered in cold blood in a Gestapo concentration camp near Papenburg two days after his arrival there.) Communist spies in the storm troops ferreted out the route the Nazi parade was to take. Armed units of Red Front Fighters were stationed in advance on the roofs of houses along the route of the storm troop invasion.

The storm troops marched. They marched with bands crashing and swastikas flying. Their demonstration was flanked by police. Police lorries with machine-guns preceded and followed the marchers. The parade entered the sinuous old districts of the city, winding forward like an immense brown snake.

Then the first shots cracked from the roofs. The roofs were too slanting and the streets too narrow to take a direct aim at the marching troopers. The shooting was directed at the bases of houses facing the snipers. The ricocheting bullets flew then into the Brownshirt columns. Some women who had been watching the parade from the windows of their apartments were hit and fell screaming. The storm troopers crowded into the houses to trap the attackers on the roofs. Garbage cans hurtled out of windows.

Police trucks pounded into battle. Machine guns raked the roofs and the windows. Policemen hurled gas grenades and people ran like cockroaches. The storm troops were broken up in irregular, badly shaken groups. Some continued their march; most of them fled. The Communist Feuergruppen, who had set out to annihilate the Brownshirts, now found themselves locked in a hopeles combat with the police. The "day of long knives" ended in failure and bewilderment.

This was the "Bloody Sunday of Altona," which precipitated the ill-famed but historical "Rape of Prussia." The Western Secretariat of the Comintern could have done Hitler no greater favor than to provoke the Altona massacre. Chancellor von Papen seized upon the pretext that the Social Democratic Government of Prussia had proved itself unable to preserve law and order in that state, and demanded evacuation of the Berlin Government buildings by Ministers Severing and Braun. These two Social Democratic heads of the Prussian Government in turn branded the ultimatum of von Papen as unconstitutional, and announced that they would yield only to brute violence. Von Papen's coup d'etat became an accomplished fact on July 20, a few days after the butchery in Altona. A newly-appointed police president of Berlin, accompanied by fifteen soldiers, invaded the Prussian Government palace and arrested the ministers. The socialist chieftains followed the soldiers to the Reichswehr barracks, where they were released a few hours later against their pledge to do nothing. Thus, a handful of men had put out of office, in violation of the Weimar Constitution, a body of Prussian Government officials who had at least 30,000 armed and trained policemen under their rightful command.

The Communist masses were on the streets. Millions of manifestoes calling for a general strike were distributed by our "activist" brigades. Mass arrests of Communists followed. The Social Democratic forces did not stir. Too thoroughly already had the hearts of the workers been poisoned by brother-strife and mutual distrust.

Fourteen Nazis and Communists were killed on July 31, the day of the new Reichstag election. Nazis emerged as the strongest political movement in the country. The Socialists still maintained the second place. The Communist Party came third. On August 13, Adolf Hitler, in reply to his clamorous insistence, was offered a share in the Government. He rejected the offer. He wanted all— or nothing. On Aug. 30, Captain Goering became the President of the Reichstag. But that body proved itself again unable to function; there was no majority capable of forming a Government. The deputies rejected the Papen Government by a vote of 513 against 32. Whereupon Chancellor von Papen dissolved the Reichstag. That happened on Sept. 12. New elections were scheduled to take place on Nov. 6.

The eve of the elections, the strike wave culminated in the great Berlin transportation strike. Chancelor von Papen threatened martial law and the calling out of the Reichswehr. The National Socialists and the Communist Party countered with an armed concentration of their brigades in the environs and the suburbs of Berlin. The strike continued, dominating the election of November. Hitler lost nearly two million votes and 33 mandates in the Reichstag.

We all breathed freer. The Party press burst out in jubilation. "Hitler's Ship is Sinking!" the headlines announced. The socialists lost seven hundred thousand followers who had joined the Communist camp. With almost six million votes, the Communist Party now commanded an even 100 mandates in the Reichstag. But in truth the battle had again ended in a stalemate. The Hitler movement, though on the decline, was still the strongest party in the land. No parliamentary majority was possible; again the Reichstag was a machine that could not run. The strikes went on. Twelve days later von Papen tendered his resignation.

General von Schleicher became Chancellor of the Reich on Dec. 2. They called him the "Social General." Secret rearming of the nation with the aid of the trade union millions was the gist of his program. He sought to alleviate the acute factional bitterness in the country by a sweeping amnesty of political prisoners. Thousands of incarcerated Communists and storm troopers left the German jails; they were soldiers immediately returning to battle.

"Away with Schleicher!" raged the Nazi press.

"Down with the Schleicher Government!" the Communists echoed.

(To be continued)

Hunter Page Of Cheraw Dies

Walter Hines Page Kin Succumbs in Hospital

CHERAW, S. C.—A. Hunter Page, 46, died in the Veterans' Hospital at Fayetteville, N. C. this morning after a few days illness. Last Monday he underwent an abdominal operation from which he did not rally.

He was the son of the late A. H. Page and his wife, Nancy Guess Page of Cheraw. He was a cousin of Walter Hines Page, who was Ambassador to England during the first World War. His father was president and builder of the Chesterfield and Lancaster railroad, and Hunter Page was employed by the road for twenty years until the road went out of business a few months ago.

He is survived by his wife, who formerly was Miss Kathleen Murray; a son Ralph Page of Cheraw, and a daughter, Miss Virginia Page of Cheraw; two brothers, Alfred G. Page of the Internal Revenue Department of Washington and Wilbur Page of Cheraw.

Four sisters, Mrs. William Godfrey, Mrs. Ethel Wannamaker and Mrs. P. A. Murray of Cheraw and Mrs. George F. Goodwyn of Hagerstown, Md., also survive. He was a member of the Methodist Church and the American Legion. Funeral services will be held Sunday at an hour not yet decided and burial will be in St. David's Cemetery.

Continue Dance Although Water Covers Floor

KANSAS CITY—(P)—But the dance went on.

A foot of water covered a tavern dance floor. The twenty patrons, refugees from the deluge outside, peeled off their shoes and stockings and went right on with the rhumba.

Hold Everything — By Clyde Lewis

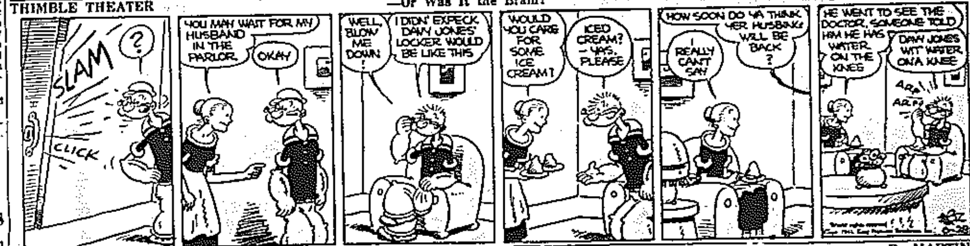
"We're a little short of new equipment—you'll have to use some older stuff for a while."

BLONDIE — Food for Thought — By CHIC YOUNG

GASOLINE ALLEY — Don't Flatter Yourself — By FRANK KING

RED RYDER — Pull for the Shore — By FRED HARMAN

THIMBLE THEATER — —Or Was It the Brain? — STARRING POPEYE



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES — Hmmm! — By MARTIN

LI'L ABNER — The New Recruit — By AL CAPP

WASH TUBBS — Never Say Die — By ROY CRANE

SUPERMAN — On the Trail — By JERRY SIEGEL and Joe SHUSTER