

PATHFINDER

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Ludendorff vs. Hitler

In the World war, Austrian-born Adolf Hitler rose to be a German lance-corporal. From the beginning of hostilities, the veteran Erich Ludendorff was a high and mighty general in the Kaiser's armies.

Almost exactly five years after the Armistice, Lance-corporal Hitler and General Ludendorff found themselves fellows in a confused plot to make Bavaria, largest province of southern Germany, a state independent from



Ludendorff Won a Six-day Title

Berlin. Together, at the head of a few hundred Nazis, the two war veterans marched on the City Hall of Munich, nerve-center of Bavaria.

Under the fire of a superior force of local police, Hitler flattened to the ground so abruptly that he dislocated an arm, then fled. In an effort to overawe the opposition, General Ludendorff walked almost alone into the ranks of the enemy, where he was taken prisoner. Lance-corporal and General have never been friends since. As a result, Nazi officialdom has long been embarrassed by titan Ludendorff's refusal to endorse Hitlerism.

Besides his personal grudge against Hitler, the General has had two grievances. He has long regarded himself, and not the late Field Marshal von Hindenburg, as the real brains of the nearly successful imperial armies. Until late last month, however, he could never get German authorities to grant him the title he coveted—"The Field Marshal of the World War."

Nor was it until late last month that Ludendorff's second grievance seemed to be settled. Founder and leader of the pagan, anti-Christian, anti-Semitic Tannenberg League, Ludendorff published many magazines, only to have them suppressed by Nazi authorities.

To bring Ludendorff within the pale of Nazism, two weeks ago Chancellor Hitler paid a humble visit to the elder statesman in the latter's home near Munich. Shortly afterward Berlin announced that "difficulties" were over.

Presumably the General had promised to be less extreme in his championing of "German god realization," and would soon support Hitlerism. In return, the Berlin communique referred to him as "The Field Lord," and it was predicted that Hitler would confirm the title on the General's 72nd birthday this month.

But last week, reports from the German capital stated that Ludendorff had made a premature and "unauthorized" announcement that his Tannenberg League had been restored to freedom by the Nazi government. Hitler, it was said, would withdraw the birthday honor. If these reports were true, Quartermaster General Erich Ludendorff, "a heathen, and proud of it," had enjoyed his title as "The Field Lord of the World war" for only six days.

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