

THE MUNICH BLOODBATH

Police Delving 15 Years Into Past To Seek Facts

HITLER'S FOES SHOT IN CELLARS

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The Munich police are delving 15 years into the past to seek the facts about Hitler's "Munich Bloodbath" on the night of June 30, 1934. They hope to reveal many of the behind-the-scenes moves which made that date one of the most gruesome in the history of Germany, and gave it the name "The Night of the Long Knives."

Details of the hour-by-hour executions of scores of Hitler's alleged enemies and rivals in the cellars of Munich are still the subject of speculation.

The only known facts are these:

After signs of discontent in the Brown Shirt Army, which was becoming "outdated" by the S.S. Blackshirts, Hitler's executioners suddenly swooped on its leaders on June 30 and dragged them away to the death cellars.

Hitler himself led several carloads of his henchmen about the town, rounding up the victims. It has been said that he himself shot Captain Ernst Roehm, his former Chief of Staff, after Roehm had refused for two hours to commit suicide.

Flesh and blood-spattered cellar walls afterwards gave testimony to the Blackshirt "shooting parties"—when the targets were charcoal-marked circles over the hearts of the victims.

What is not known is whether the Brown Shirts had planned on June 30 to kill Hitler and overthrow his regime—as the Nazi propaganda machine afterwards alleged—or whether he wanted them out of the way merely because they were a thorn in his side.

This is what the Munich police want to find out, according to the public prosecutor in a statement quoted by DENA, the German news agency. They will centre their enquiries on the murder of Roehm, attempting to discover whether Hitler did kill him and, if not, the identity of his real executioners. If still alive, they will be brought to trial.—Reuter.