

WOUNDED MAN ELUDES 1,000 TROOPS

IN ITALY AFTER GAOL ESCAPE

FREE TO LEAVE

AUSTRIA TO DEMAND EXTRADITION

THE Italian Government has decided, states Reuter, not to interfere with Franz Hofer, the Austrian Nazi who crossed the Italian frontier on Wednesday night after escaping from Innsbruck gaol.

He is free to leave the country when he likes. The Austrian Minister of Justice has decided, however, to ask for his extradition.

From Our Own Correspondent
VIENNA, Thursday.

Franz Hofer has escaped into Italy.

With his brown shirt ripped to pieces to form bandages for a wounded knee, he staggered across the frontier at 10 o'clock last night, half carried by his three companions, to whose daring he owed his escape.

Almost at the instant when the men broke cover in their final bid for safety they were sighted by an Austrian patrol, but before a shot could be fired they were on Italian territory.

It was Hofer's original intention to make for Bozen, whence he planned to proceed by aeroplane to the Nazi Congress at Nuremberg.

Italian frontier police, however, placed the four men under guard, sending Hofer to his relatives' home at Bressanone pending the receipt of instructions from Rome.

For nearly 20 hours after they had abandoned their car on the road to the Brenner Pass the men evaded 1,000 troops and police who, aided by powerful searchlights and using bloodhounds, were combing the mountains for them.

Hofer, who was hit by a bullet fired from a police post at the car in which the men were dashing for the frontier, suffered seriously from loss of blood.

At one period the men hid for six hours in a cavern to rest him.

It was learned here to-night that the Austrian Minister of Justice has decided to ask for the men to be extradited.

NOW IN HOSPITAL

From Our Own Correspondent

MILAN, Thursday.

Hofer is now in hospital at Bressanone, a small town about 30 miles from the Brenner Pass.

He reached the hospital at mid-day to-day with two companions, one of them being his father. He was limping badly and appeared very worn and was immediately given a bed in a private room of the hospital.

The Italian police have so far taken no steps to have Hofer watched.

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SHOT IN A FIELD



Mr. and Mrs. E. Knowles, of Meadow Farm, Canwell, near Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, who were found shot dead in a cornfield at Breedon-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire.

Jewish Professor Murdered

MAN WHO HAD TO LEAVE GERMANY

From Our Own Correspondent

BERLIN, Thursday.

PROFESSOR Theodor Lessing, a political firebrand, at one time attached to the technical high school at Hanover, was assassinated at Marienbad, Czechoslovakia, last night.

His wife found him lying across his desk with two bullet wounds in his head, and a ladder was propped up against the window-sill of his study.

The police allege that a man they have arrested on suspicion is a Nazi.

It is by no means improbable that the deed was committed on political grounds.

Born in 1872 of Jewish parents, Professor Lessing gained notoriety at Hanover in 1925 by publishing a bitter attack on President von Hindenburg in



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Born in 1872 of Jewish parents, Professor Lessing gained notoriety at Hanover in 1925 by publishing a bitter attack on President von Hindenburg in a Czechoslovakian newspaper.

Since he had many times expressed Communist views to his students, his resignation was demanded, and he became the centre of a storm of controversy which gained for him the name of "The Scandal Professor" throughout Germany.

After the publication of his next book, "The Intellectual Decline of the Human Race," Germany became too hot to hold him and he retired to Marienbad.



DR. THEODOR LESSING.

DOG TRACKS SUSPECT

From Our Own Correspondent

VIENNA, Thursday.

Two persons have been arrested at Marienbad for alleged complicity in the murder of Professor Lessing.

A bloodhound led the police from his home to the hut of a 31-years-old poacher, Max Eckert, in a neighbouring village; but there the trail was lost. The police think that Eckert was hired to commit the crime and that he afterwards left his hut on a bicycle.

Large forces of motor police have been despatched to the frontier in the hope of preventing his escape.