

= Gregor Strasser =

Gregor Strasser ( 31 May 1892 ? 30 June 1934 ) was a prominent German Nazi official and politician .

Born in 1892 in Bavaria , Strasser served in World War I in an artillery regiment , rising to the rank of first lieutenant . He joined the Nazi Party ( NSDAP ) in 1920 and quickly became an influential and important figure . He took part in the abortive putsch in Munich in 1923 and was imprisoned , but released early on for political reasons .

Strasser joined a revived NSDAP in 1925 and once again established himself as a powerful and dominant member , hugely increasing the party 's membership and reputation in northern Germany . Personal and political conflicts with Adolf Hitler led to his death in 1934 during the Night of the Long Knives .

= = Early life = =

= = = Childhood and education = = =

Gregor Strasser was born on 31 May 1892 into the family of a Catholic judicial officer who lived in the Upper Bavarian market town of Geisenfeld . He grew up alongside his younger brother Otto Strasser who was considered the more intellectual of the two . He attended the local Gymnasium and after his final examinations , served an apprenticeship as a pharmacist in the Lower Bavarian village of Frontenhausen from 1910 until 1914 .

= = = World War I = = =

When war broke out in Europe in 1914 , Strasser suspended his studies at Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich to enlist as a volunteer in the German Imperial Army . He served in the 1st Bavarian Field Artillery Regiment , rising to the rank of First Lieutenant and winning the Iron Cross of both classes for bravery . In 1918 , he resumed his studies at Friedrich @-@ Alexander @-@ University , Erlangen @-@ Nuremberg . He passed his state examination in 1919 and in 1920 started work as a pharmacist in Landshut .

= = = Paramilitary career = = =

In 1919 , Strasser and his brother joined the right @-@ wing Freikorps led by Franz Ritter von Epp . The aim of the group was to suppress Communism in Bavaria . He established and commanded the Sturmbataillon Niederbayern ( " Storm Battalion Lower Bavaria " ) , with the young Heinrich Himmler employed as his adjutant . By March 1920 , Strasser 's Freikorps was ready to participate in the failed Kapp Putsch , whereas his brother Otto had turned to the left of the political spectrum and helped combat this right @-@ wing coup d'état .

= = Political career = =

= = = Nazi Party activities = = =

By 1920 , Strasser , and his paramilitary group , had joined forces with Adolf Hitler 's Nazi Party ( NSDAP ) , another far @-@ right political party seated in Munich . During the autumn of 1922 , Strasser officially became a member of the Nazi Party and the SA . Strasser 's leadership qualities were soon recognized and he was appointed as regional head of the Sturmabteilung ( " Storm Detachment " ; SA ) in Lower Bavaria . In November 1923 , he took an active part in the unsuccessful Beer Hall Putsch , an attempt by Hitler and his party to seize control of Munich . He

was tried for high treason and in April 1924 was sentenced to five years ' imprisonment at Landsberg Prison .

After a few weeks on 4 May 1924 , Strasser was released because he had been elected a member of the Bavarian Landtag for the Nazi @-@ associated " Völkischer Block " .

Because Strasser led up to 2 @,@ 000 men in Landshut and was overworked , he began looking for an assistant . Heinrich Himmler , who obtained the job , was tasked with expanding the organization in Lower Bavaria .

On 7 December 1924 , Strasser won a seat in the Reichstag of the Weimar Republic for the Deutschvölkische Freiheitspartei ( " German @-@ Völkisch Freedom Party " ; DVF ) . In both elections , Strasser could not run for the NSDAP , which was banned after the abortive coup . Strasser remained a member of the Reichstag until December 1932 .

After the refoundation of the NSDAP by Adolf Hitler on 26 February 1925 , Strasser became the first Gauleiter of Lower Bavaria and Upper Palatinate . After the partition of this Gau , he was Gauleiter of Lower Bavaria from October 1928 until 1929 . From June 1926 until April 1930 , he was the NSDAP 's national leader for propaganda .

### = = = Role in NSDAP 's national organisation = = =

In January 1925 , Strasser became leader of the NSDAP 's national organisation . He reorganised the party 's structure , both in its regional formation and its vertical management hierarchy . The party became a strictly centralist organization with the party 's own control machinery and high capability for propaganda . Through much of 1925 Strasser took full advantage of his liberties as a member of the Reichstag , traveling extensively throughout northern and western Germany appointing Gauleiters , setting up party branches and delivering numerous public speeches .

After 1925 , Strasser 's organizational skills helped the NSDAP make a big step from a marginal south German splinter party to a nationwide mass party , appealing to the lower classes and their tendency towards nationalism . Its membership increased from about 27 @,@ 000 in 1925 to more than 800 @,@ 000 by 1931 . Strasser established the NSDAP in northern and western Germany as a strong political association which quickly attained a higher membership than Hitler 's southern party section . The party 's own foreign organization was formed on Strasser 's initiative . Together with his brother Otto , Strasser founded the Berlin Kampf @-@ Verlag ( " Combat Publishing " ) in March 1926 , which went on to publish , among others , the left leaning weekly newspaper the Berliner Arbeiterzeitung ( " Berlin Workers Newspaper " ) .

The Strasser brothers ruled the Berlin party organization unchallenged and developed an independent ideological profile from the south German party wing around Hitler . They advocated an anti @-@ capitalist social revolutionary course for the NSDAP which at the same time was also strongly antisemitic and anti @-@ communist .

### = = = Conflicts with Hitler = = =

In the mid 1920s , support for the Nazi Party was dropping as hyperinflation ended and the economy improved . Strasser believed the party could regain their popularity if the movement was led in a less dictatorial way . He put forward his ideas to Hitler at the Bamberg Conference in 1926 . There was , however , to be no debate ; Hitler just spoke for an hour , repudiating Strasser 's proposals and was then cheered by his supporters .

The Great Depression greatly impacted Germany and by 1930 there was a dramatic increase in unemployment . During this time , the Strasser brothers started publishing a new daily newspaper in Berlin , the Nationaler Sozialist . Like their other publications , it conveyed the brothers ' own brand of Nazism , including nationalism , anti @-@ capitalism , social reform , and anti @-@ Westernism . Goebbels complained vehemently about the rival Strasser newspapers to Hitler , and admitted that their success was causing his own Berlin newspapers to be " pushed to the wall " . In late April 1930 , Hitler publicly and firmly announced his opposition to Gregor Strasser and appointed Goebbels to replace him as Reich leader of NSDAP propaganda . One of Goebbels ' first acts was to ban the

evening edition of the Nationaler Sozialist .

The ideological and personal rivalry with Hitler worsened dramatically when Chancellor Kurt von Schleicher offered Strasser the offices of Vice @-@ Chancellor of Germany and prime minister of Prussia in 1932 . Schleicher hoped to disunite the Nazi Party with Strasser 's help and to pull the left wing of the Nazi Party over to his " national conservative " side , so as to prevent a revolution or takeover by Hitler . Hitler was furious and demanded that Strasser refuse Schleicher 's offer .

In December 1932 , Hitler was offered the job of vice @-@ chancellor by President Paul von Hindenburg , but he refused to take it . While many in his inner circle , like Goebbels , saw his resistance as heroic , Strasser was frustrated and believed Hitler was wrong to hold out for the Chancellorship , declaring :

He should realize he 's being consistently refused this position by everyone ! I 'm not going to wait for the Führer to be appointed Chancellor , because by then our movement would have collapsed . I therefore resign from the party and am now going to recuperate in the mountains .

Hitler seized upon his resignation to remove all party officials whose first loyalty was to Strasser . All new or continuing NSDAP officials were then required to swear an oath of loyalty to the Führer ; this prevented any other influential Nazis from leading a break @-@ away faction .

= = Later life = =

= = = The Black Front = = =

Strasser continued acting as a publicist , as he did before his fall from power . From June 1931 until its ban in February 1933 , he published the weekly newspaper Die Schwarze Front ( " The Black Front " ) , named after Otto 's Black Front political organisation , which had little impact on contemporaries because of its small circulation .

= = = Death = = =

Having achieved national power in January 1933 , Hitler and the NSDAP began eliminating all forms of opposition in Germany . A " death list " of people regarded as dangerous to the survival of the regime was composed . While the list mostly contained the names of known anti @-@ Nazis and rivals , Hitler also used the opportunity to settle old scores . So as not to arouse suspicion , Hitler awarded Strasser the Golden Party Badge and rumors emerged that he would be named Interior Minister .

In what became known as the Night of the Long Knives , selected men of the Schutzstaffel ( " Protection Squadron " ; SS ) arrested and eventually killed at least 85 people from 30 June to 2 July 1934 . Among these was Strasser , who had been included in the purge on Hitler 's order . He was shot once in his main artery from behind in his cell , but did not die immediately . On the orders of SS general Reinhard Heydrich , Strasser was left to bleed to death which took almost an hour . His brother Otto , who had left the NSDAP in July 1930 , managed to avoid the Nazi purge and survived World War II .

= = = Online = = =

" Gregor Strasser ( 1892 ? 1934 ) " . Jewish Virtual Library . Retrieved 20 May 2015 .

" Hitler 's Bodyguard : Night of the Long Knives " . World Media Rights . Retrieved 20 May 2015 .

" The Dark Charisma of Adolf Hitler " . BBC . Retrieved 20 May 2015 .