

# Hadamar Memorial



## Nazi-„Euthanasia“-Crime 1939 – 1945

Between 1939 und 1945 some 100 000 to 200 000 people from Germany, Poland and the Soviet Union fell victim to the Nazi-„euthanasia“-crime. These people were psychically ill, mentally deranged, suffering from tuberculosis or were so called „jüdische Mischlingskinder“ (jewish half-breed children), educated in remand homes. They all had in common that they didn't match the nationalsocialist image of the „sound and strong Aryan“ who should succeed in the „struggle for existence“.

After the „Machtübernahme“ (seizure of power) in 1933, the Nationalsocialists converted the public health service according to their racial ideas of „Rassenhygiene“ (racial hygiene): so called „Erbgesunde“ (the genetically sound) were promoted, while the diseased, disabled and „Gemeinschaftsfremde“ (the socially alien) suffered neglect and discrimination. People living in asylums, mental and remand homes were considered an economic burden an official diction labeled them as „inferior“, „ballast beings“, and „lives not worth living“. According to the „Gesetz zur Verhütung erbkranken Nachwuchses“ (law for prevention of genetically ill offspring), valid from 1934, some 400 000 allegedly genetically ill humans – handicapped, mentally deranged and psychically diseased, backward schoolchildren, inmates of remand homes, „asocial“ persons, criminals and addicted alcoholics – were forcibly sterilized.

With the beginning of World War II a domestic campaign of extermination was also started: The systematic seizure and murder of the inmates of asylums, nursing-homes and mental institutions within the scope of the so called „euthanasia“-campaign. The state of martial law was used to keep secret these killings planned since 1935. Founded by the Fuehrer's office and the „Reichsministerium des Innern“ (Department of the Interior), an organisation based in Berlin (Tiergartenstr. 4) planned and organized these killings which were termed „euthanasia“. Named after their location „T4“, these headquarters listed all allegedly „unfit for work“ and „incurably diseased“ inmates of institutions and organized the holocaust in six specially established gas-chamber sites in the German Empire:

<b>Gas-chamber institutions 1940/41</b>	<b>victims</b>
Grafeneck/Württemberg	9839
Brandenburg upon Havel	9772
Bernburg upon Saale	8601
Hadamar near Limburg	10072
Hartheim near Linz	18269
Sonnenstein near Pirna	13720

False information and forged death certificates were sent to the families. On request they received the alleged ashes of their deceased next of kin. Until the end of the gas killings in August 1941, more than 70 000 people had died in the gas-chambers, screened as shower-rooms. In 1942 the gas extermination insti-

tutions were reconverted to asylums or were used to kill inmates of concentration camps. The bulk of the „T4“ staff moved to concentration camps in Poland where they were involved in the „extermination of the European Jews“. In Germany „T4“ controlled „euthanasia“-murders expanded all over the „Reich“. In many institutions patients were killed by physicians and nurses with overdoses of medication or died of starvation. Due to intensified air raids inmates had to vacate their beds for military purposes and were moved to „euthanasia“-institutions like Hadamar, Eichberg and Kalmenhof/Idstein to be killed there. Additional victims of this second phase of „euthanasia“ were people found in a state of confusion after air raids, forced labourers suffering from tuberculosis and „half-jewish“ inmates of remand homes.

Not even ill or retarded children could escape this holocaust. In special „Kinderfachabteilungen“ (infant wards) between the years 1939 – 1945, 5000 babies and little children were first „kept under observation“ and „examined“ for „scientific“ reasons and subsequently poisoned.

Jewish inmates of institutions fell victim to earlier extermination campaigns. Regardless of their mental or physical state, they were all murdered in gas-chambers. The holocaust didn't end until allied troops marched in. Many patients died later on due to physical exhaustion and malnutrition.

### Literature (in German)

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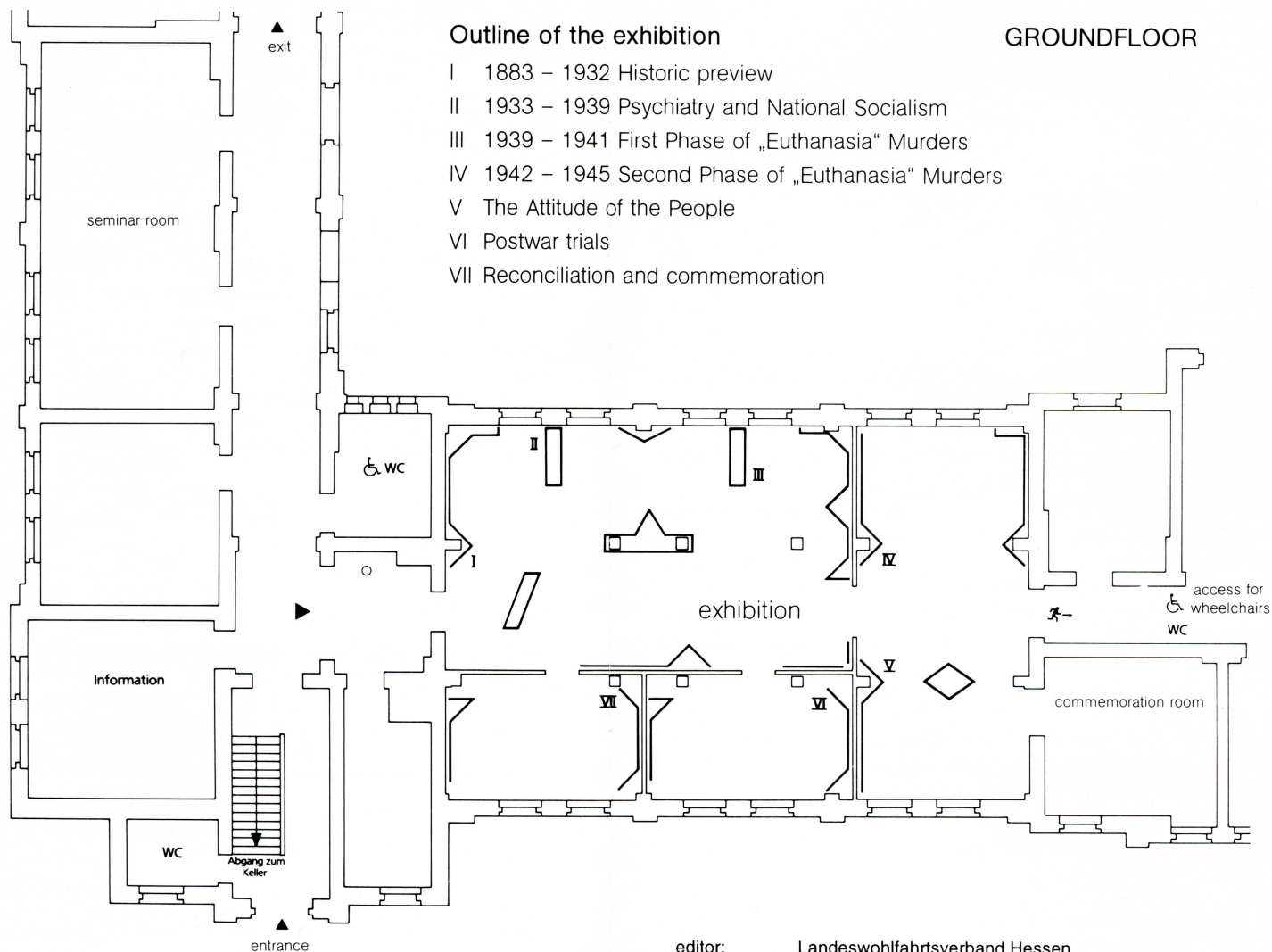
Psychiatrie im Faschismus. Die Anstalt Hadamar 1933 – 1945, herausgegeben von Dorothee Roer und Dieter Henkel, Bonn 1986.

Ernst Klee, „Euthanasie“ im NS-Staat, Frankfurt am Main 1983.

1) Informationen zur Wanderausstellung sind erhältlich über den Landeswohlfahrtsverband Hessen, Referat „Archiv, Gedenkstätten, Historische Sammlungen“ Ständeplatz 6-10, 34117 Kassel.

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Memorial for victims of the  
Nazi „euthanasia“-crime



(display arrangements: Christian and Johannes Jaxy)

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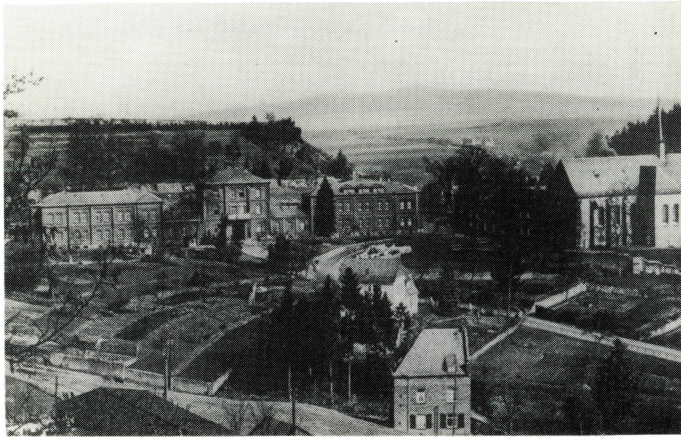
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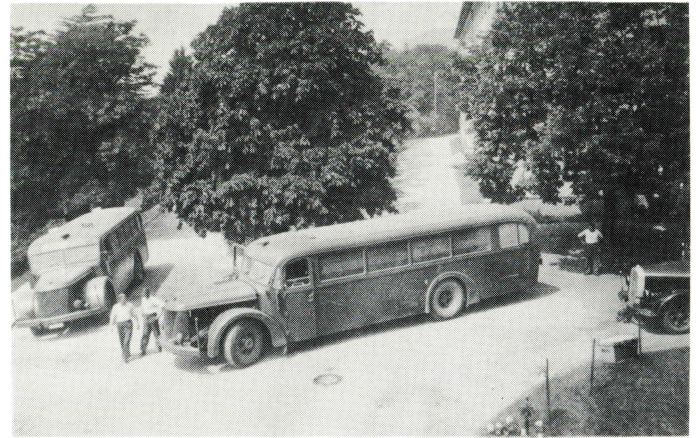


Landesheil- und Pflegeanstalt Hadamar

## The Killing of Patients in the Landesheilanstalt Hadamar 1941 – 1945

In November of 1940, the Hadamar institution was leased to the „Euthanasia-Zentrale“ in Berlin by the president of the province Hessen-Nassau and vacated. As the last of six gas extermination institutions it became part of the dark history of Nazi-psychiatry. Between January and August of 1941 more than 10 000 children, women and men were killed with monoxide gas in a gas-chamber screened as shower facility. Their bodies were buried in incinerators. To disguise the murders the so called „department for letters of condolence“ sent out death certificates not naming the real cause of death issued by a „Special Registry Office Hadamar-Mönchberg“. The victims were transported to their death from asylums in the provinces and states of Hessen-Nassau, Hessen, Hannover, Rhineprovince, Westphalia, Baden and Württemberg.

After the ending of „euthanasia“ in August 1941, „T4“-craftsmen rebuilt the plant in the summer of 1942. Nothing was to be left as evidence of its criminal function. But when the former proprietor took over again, the killing in Hadamar resumed by order from „T4“-headquarters in Berlin. Of the 4817 patients received from within the borders of the „Reich“ up to 1945, 4422 died of unnatural causes. During the day the institute's physician selected all the weak, ill or rebellious patients to be put to death. At night nurses and guardians carried out the order of death. Among them were staffmembers already involved in the gas exterminations of 1941.



The „grey busses“ in which victims were carried to Hadamar in 1941.

Starting in 1943 „half-jewish“ inmates of remand homes, labourers suffering from tuberculosis together with their children and psychically diseased soldiers or members of the SS were added to the Hadamar victims.

The bodies of the murdered were buried in mass graves at the asylum graveyard established in 1942. The graveyard was turned into a memorial site in 1964.

In today's Psychiatric Hospital Hadamar a memorial for the victims of the Nazi-„euthanasia“-crime has been established since 1983.

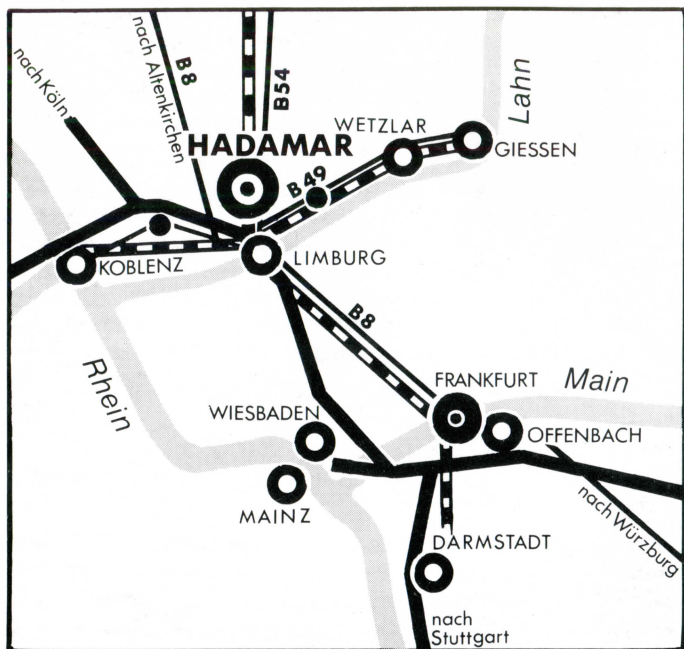
## The Hadamar Memorial

**1953** for the first time in the former main building (now house 5) a relief was dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Nazi-„euthanasia“-crimes.

**1964** the institution's graveyard with mass graves of the dead from 1942 – 1945 was converted into a memorial site with memorial monument and symbolic gravestones.

**1983** the first historic documentation of the „euthanasia“-crimes was developed and made accessible to the public in the basement.

**Today** the Hadamar Memorial consists of the graveyard, the preserved authentic cellar and the new exhibition concerning the Nazi-„euthanasia“-crimes. For visiting groups a seminar room, cinema auditorium, library and a memorial room are available.



# Hadamar Memorial

memorial to the victims of the Nazi-„euthanasia“-crimes

## Guided Tours/ Visitor Service

Guided tours are given by prior arrangement and on request even on weekends. Tours take two to three hours and include an introduction to the topic (with film or slide presentation), visits to the exhibition, the authentic cellar rooms, remains of the gas-chamber, dissection table, sites of the incinerators, and a closing discussion. The facilities of the Memorial can be used to hold workshops and seminars.

## Opening hours

Tuesdays to Thursdays 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
every first sunday in a month 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## Information

For arrangements for guided tours, request for information, please write to:

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An Institution  
of the Landeswohlfahrtsverband Hessen