

Gedenkstätte  
**HADAMAR**



## HADAMAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

A Memorial for the Victims of the  
Nazi Euthanasia Crimes

# THE NAZI EUTHANASIA MURDERS AT THE HADAMAR STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

**1941-1945**

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The beginning of the Second World War not only meant the start of a war with the outside world but also the launch of a campaign of destruction directed against the people of Germany: the systematic rounding-up and murder of the patients in asylums, psychiatric hospitals and mental institutions. An administrative center based in Berlin (at the address Tiergartenstraße 4) and founded by Hitler's Chancellery and the "Reichsministerium des Inneren" (*Ministry of the Interior*) planned and organized these killings of handicapped and mentally ill people under the guise of "euthanasia".

At the end of 1940, the Hadamar State Psychiatric Hospital was converted into a killing facility, permanently placing the town of Hadamar in the dark history of Nazi psychiatry as the sixth and last "T4" gas killing center alongside sites in Brandenburg, Bernburg, Grafeneck, Hartheim and Pirna-Sonnenstein.



Smoke from the crematorium furnaces above the gas killing center in 1941

Between January and August 1941, a gas chamber disguised as a shower room in the basement of the center was used to murder more than 10,000 children, women and men with carbon monoxide gas. Their bodies were then incinerated in two purpose-built crematorium furnaces.

**15,000 PEOPLE WERE  
MURDERED  
AT THE HADAMAR STATE  
PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL  
BETWEEN 1941 AND 1945.**

The Nazi euthanasia crimes did not end when the gas murders stopped in August 1941. The murders in Hadamar resumed in August 1942, when victims died of pharmaceutical overdoses and starvation. Another approx. 4,500 people lost their lives between August 1942 and the end of the war in March 1945.

The victims of the second phase of killings in Hadamar not only included asylum patients, but also people suffering from the shock of air raids, "half-Jewish" children, forced laborers suffering from tuberculosis and mentally ill Wehrmacht and SS soldiers



Starting in 1942, the bodies of the murder victims were buried in mass graves in a newly created graveyard in the proximity of the killing facility.



The former bus garage

## THE HADAMAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

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The Hadamar Memorial Museum's task is to remember the victims of the National Socialist euthanasia crimes.

The Museum is a place of remembrance, historical enlightenment and political education and is aimed at children, young people and adults. Its task is to provide visitors with information about the Nazi euthanasia crimes and to discuss current issues of political education.

The Hadamar Memorial Museum meets this objective by offering guided tours of the site, study programs, multi-day project sessions and even theater workshops. It also organizes topic-related cultural events such as readings, theater performances and concerts for all interested parties.

By reflecting on regional and national topics, the Memorial Museum plays an important role in the field of Nazi euthanasia research. Another of the main focuses of its work is to provide information on the fate of victims and support for relatives of Nazi euthanasia victims.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

**1953** - The dedication of a relief in the former main building of the psychiatric hospital (now House 5) marks the first commemoration of the victims of the Nazi euthanasia crimes in Germany.

**1964** - The former center graveyard, where those murdered between 1942 and 1945 were buried in mass graves, is converted into a memorial site with a monument bearing the inscription "Mensch, achte den Menschen" ('Man, honor mankind').



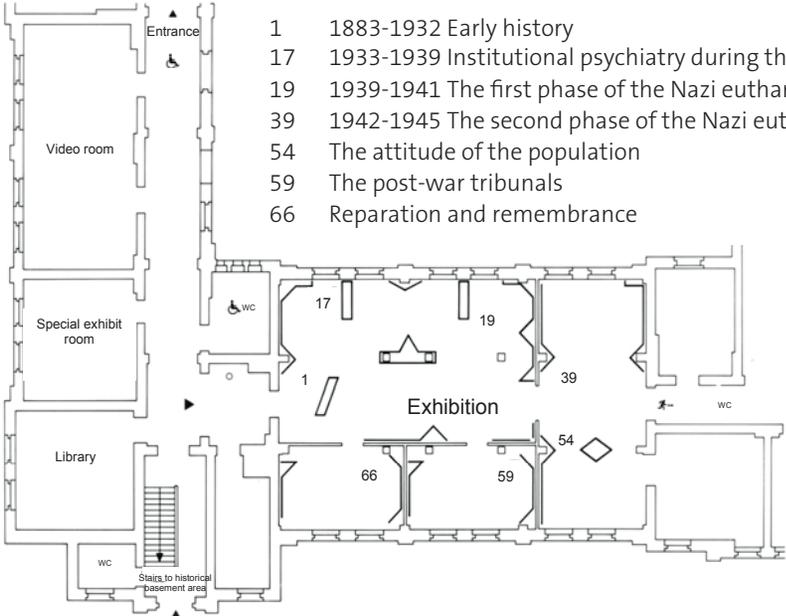
**1983** - A research group compiles the first documents describing the Nazi euthanasia crimes in Hadamar.



**Present** - The memorial now consists of the preserved authentic basement area containing the former gas chamber and an exposed crematorium furnace, the former bus garage, the permanent exhibition and the graveyard.

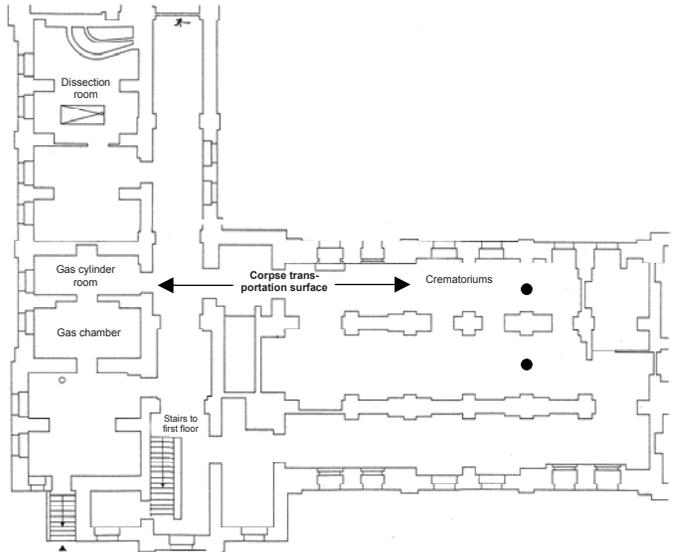
# FIRST FLOOR LAYOUT AND EXHIBITION PLAN

The documentary exhibition provides information about the Nazi euthanasia crimes, their context and the aftermath of the crimes.



- 1 1883-1932 Early history
- 17 1933-1939 Institutional psychiatry during the Nazi era
- 19 1939-1941 The first phase of the Nazi euthanasia murders
- 39 1942-1945 The second phase of the Nazi euthanasia murders
- 54 The attitude of the population
- 59 The post-war tribunals
- 66 Reparation and remembrance

# BASEMENT LAYOUT



**IMPRINT:**

Landeswohlfahrtsverband (LWV) Hessen  
 (Public Welfare Association of the German  
 Federal State of Hesse)  
 Ständeplatz 6-10  
 34117 Kassel  
 Germany

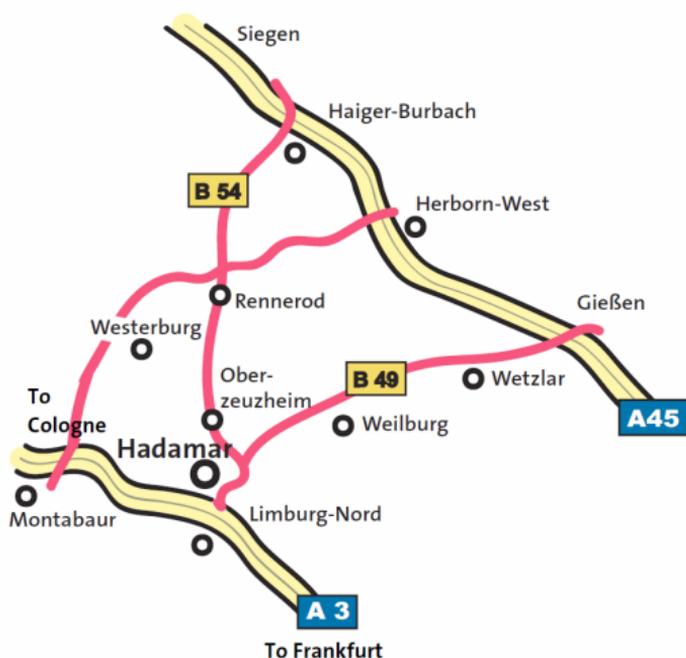
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## GUIDED TOURS/VISITOR SERVICES

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Guided tours are only available when booked in advance and can also be held at the weekend on request. Guided tours last approx. 3 hours and include an introduction to the topic, a walk through the exhibition, the historic basement area and the graveyard and a concluding discussion. On request, the Memorial Museum also offers project days and seminars.

## OPENING HOURS

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Tuesday to Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(closed on holidays)

The Memorial Museum is open from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm every first and third Sunday of the month. On these days, interested visitors can take advantage of a public guided tour at 2:30 pm. Unrestricted access to the basement area is guaranteed.

## CONTACT

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Eine Einrichtung des  
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