

Gedenkstätte
HADAMAR



HADAMAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

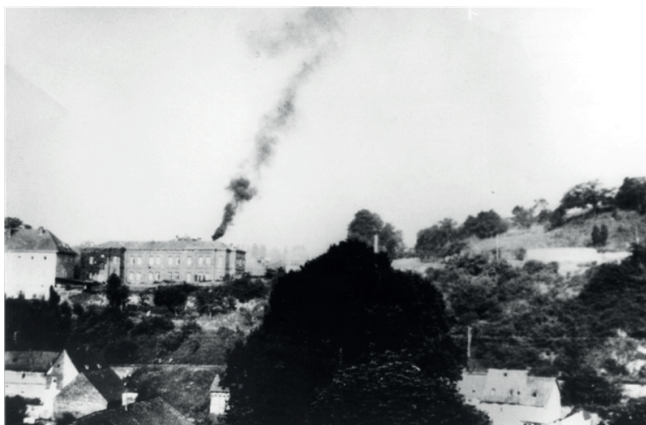
A Memorial to the Victims of
Nazi "Euthanasia" Crimes

THE NAZI "EUTHANASIA" MURDERS AT THE HADAMAR STATE SANATORIUM

1941-1945

The beginning of World War II not only marked the beginning of war outside of Germany but also a campaign of destruction directed inwards. This included the so called "Aktion T4", the systematic round-up and murder of patients in sanatoriums and care homes. An administrative office in Berlin (at Tiergartenstraße 4 - hence "T4"), which had been founded by the Führer's chancellery in cooperation with the Reich Ministry of the Interior, planned and organised the murders of people with disabilities and mental illnesses under the guise of "euthanasia".

At the end of 1940, the Hadamar State Sanatorium was converted into a killing centre. As such, Hadamar was to go down in the dark history of Nazi psychiatry as the sixth and last "T4" centre alongside Brandenburg, Bernburg, Grafeneck, Hartheim and Pirna-Sonnenstein.



Smoke from the cremation furnaces above the gassing centre in 1941

From January to August 1941, more than 10,000 children, women and men were murdered with carbon monoxide gas in the basement of the institution in a gas chamber that was disguised as a shower room. Their bodies were

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

subsequently incinerated in two cremation furnaces built specifically for this purpose.

Nazi "euthanasia" crimes did not end once the murders by gas ceased in August 1941. The murders in Hadamar resumed in August 1942, when people began dying from being overdosed with pharmaceuticals and the effects of a starvation diet. By the end of the war in March 1945, approximately 4,500 more people had lost their lives.

Among the victims of the second murder phase in Hadamar were patients of the psychiatric institution itself but also people suffering from shock after the air raids, "half-Jewish" children, forced workers afflicted with tuberculosis and mentally ill soldiers of the Wehrmacht and SS.



Starting in 1942, the bodies of those murdered were buried in mass graves in a newly established institutional cemetery.



The former bus garage

HADAMAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Hadamar Memorial Museum commemorates the victims of Nazi "euthanasia" crimes.

It is a place of remembrance as well as historical and political education aimed towards engaging children, youths and adults. The Memorial Museum's task is to provide educational opportunities to learn about Nazi "euthanasia" crimes but also to address current issues within the scope of political education.

This takes place within guided tours, workshops, study days or, upon prior arrangement, multi-day projects. At the same time, Hadamar Memorial Museum organises cultural events around specific topics hosting readings, theatre performances and concerts for anyone who is interested.

By dedicating itself to both regional as well as more expansive issues, the Memorial Museum makes an important contribution to Nazi "euthanasia" research. Another core area of responsibility within memorial work is to provide information on the fates of victims and offer support to the relatives of Nazi "euthanasia" victims.

A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1953, the inauguration of a relief in what had once been the main building of the psychiatric institution commemorated the victims of Nazi "euthanasia" crimes for the first time in Germany.

In 1964, the former institutional cemetery, where those murdered between 1942 and 1945 were buried in mass graves, was converted into a memorial landscape and a monument bearing the inscription "Mensch, achte den Menschen", meaning "Man, honour mankind", was erected.



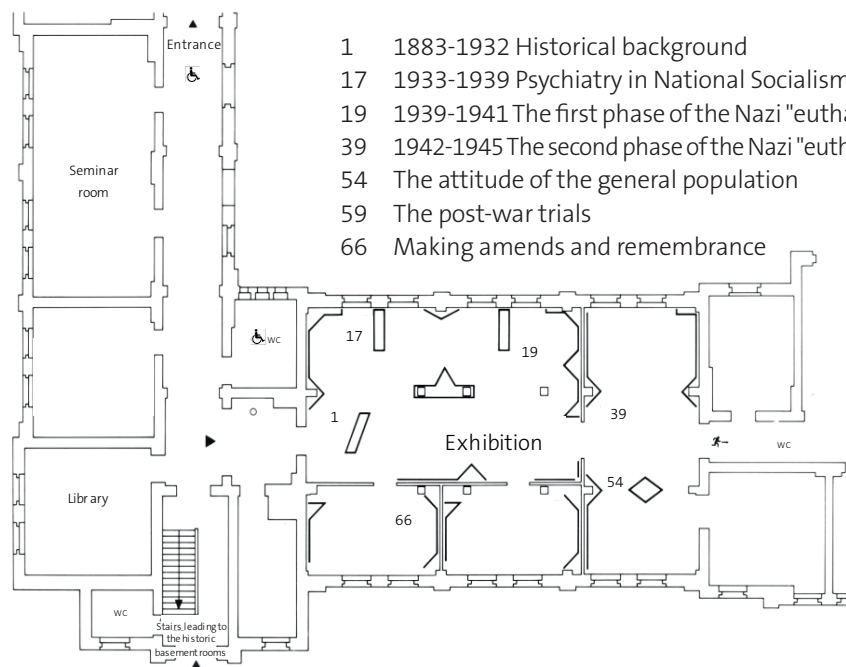
In 1983 - a research group compiled the first documentation on the Nazi "euthanasia" crimes in Hadamar.



Today - the Memorial Museum consists of the authentic basement rooms with the former gas chamber and an exposed crematorium furnace, the former bus garage, the permanent exhibition and the cemetery. These sites remain preserved to this day.

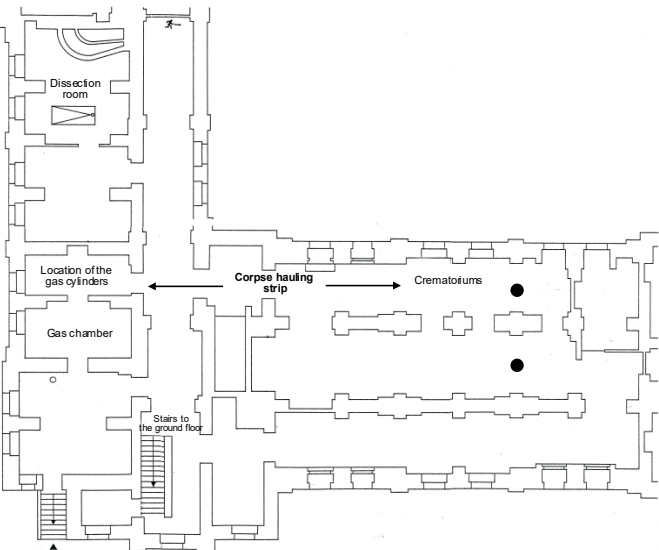
GROUND FLOOR LAYOUT WITH EXHIBITION STRUCTURE

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



- 1 1883-1932 Historical background
- 17 1933-1939 Psychiatry in National Socialism
- 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 general population
- 59 The post-war trials
- 66 Making amends and remembrance

BASEMENT LAYOUT



IMPRINT:

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EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

We offer guided tours, workshops and other educational services to groups of all kinds. The Memorial Museum's educational work focuses on the critical examination of the history of Nazi "euthanasia" crimes at the historical site of the former Hadamar killing centre. Group visits are only possible after prior registration (on weekends upon request).

OPENING HOURS

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

Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Closed on public holidays.

The Memorial Museum offers barrier-free access to the basement.

CONTACT

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