



FOOTSTEPS

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MAY 2019

DATES

INTRO

Welcome to our Newsletter of May. We introduce Guido Pringnitz, as a member of Footsteps who is now working with us on a remembrance project to commemorate the victims of the KL satellite camp "A7-Zeisig". A project with over more than 20 years of Guido's research. In our article section you will read about the dark side of the persecution of homosexuals during the Second World War. Written by Giuseppe Leone.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate co-founder, colleague and friend; Simon Bell, with receiving his MA degree in Second World War Studies: Conflict-Societies-Holocaust.

Furthermore we shall give you a glimpse of our latest project in cooperation with none other than **Morgan Freeman** and his team.

Keep an eye on our website and social media for more news and updates
The Footsteps team.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ARTICLES

Article by Guido Pringnitz:

Footsteps has been working for some time on a remembrance project to commemorate the victims of the KL satellite camp "A7-ZEISIG", Bruttig und Treis in the Moselle region, in the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

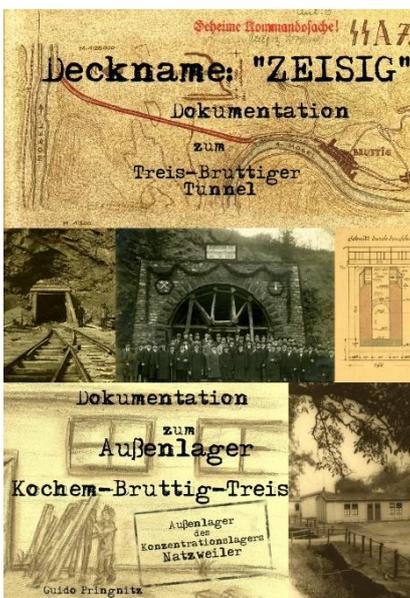
Review...

In 1944, the Treis Tunnel, built during the First World War near Kochem-Bruttig-Treis on the Moselle, was converted into a top secret SS project A7 with the code name Zeisig for the Robert Bosch company in Stuttgart. Spark plugs and engine parts for fighter planes were produced.

The SS project A7-Zeisig was one of 10 top secret A-projects, which were started at the beginning of March 1944. Its purpose was to relocate German fighter aircraft production (ME 262) to protect against Allied air raids in mine tunnels and railway tunnels.

In order to realize these secret A-projects, an overall SS command staff was deployed on site for each A-project.

In order to implement the A7 armament project, thousands of concentration camp prisoners from all over Europe were deported to the Moselle for forced labor in addition to civilian companies.



Oswald Pohl, head of the SS Economic Administration Main Office, assigned the administration of the prisoners to the commandant's office of the Natzweiler concentration camp.

The first 400 mostly (NN)night-and-fog prisoners were deported to the Moselle on 10th of March by the KL Natzweiler, for about 4 weeks to prepare the secret SS construction site and the construction of 2 prisoner camps in front of the tunnel entrances. The prisoners were provisionally accommodated in the towns of Bruttig and Treis.

Of the 400 prisoners, 319 NN prisoners were deported back to KL Natzweiler on April 7th, and replaced and increased by 700 prisoners from the Majdanek concentration camp (Lublin, Poland). On 3 May 1944, the number of KL prisoners in the SS subcamp Kochem-Bruttig-Treis was increased to 1,578 by a further 850 prisoners from the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Duration of the measure A7-Zeisig:

The A7-Zeisig project lasted from March 1944 to January 1945.

Number of prisoners:

A correct number of KL prisoners cannot be stated in the prisoner documentation due to the incompleteness. A rough estimate is more than 2,000 prisoners.

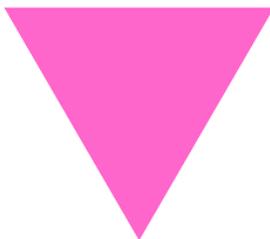
Deaths:

According to official information in verdict No. 61 of the General Court of the Military Government

for the French occupied zone in Germany the number of fatalities amounts to 95 Prisoners.

Perpetrators:

Heinrich Himmler, Oswald Pohl, Rudolf Höß, Hans Kammler, Albert Speer, Josef Kramer, Friedrich/Fritz Hartjenstein, Heinrich Schwarz...etc.



Article by Giuseppe Leone : The forgotten extermination of gays.

Distinguished by a pink triangle sewn on the striped uniform, homosexuals crowded the concentration camps scattered throughout Europe, suffered humiliation and torture, were subjected to crazy pseudo-scientific experiments until their death. A page of Nazism too often overlooked

At least seven thousand dead and tens of thousands more in jail. These are the numbers, very difficult to estimate, of the "Holocaust", that still too hidden page of the Nazi extermination of homosexuals.

At least seven thousand dead and tens of thousands more in jail. These are the numbers, very difficult to estimate, of the "Holocaust", that still too hidden page of the Nazi extermination of homosexuals.

Distinguished by a pink triangle sewn on the striped uniform, the gays crowded the concentration camps scattered throughout Europe, suffered humiliation and torture, were subjected to crazy experiments pseudoscientific until death (the mortality of homosexual prisoners is estimated at 60%). A torn page of history because homophobic prejudice, exalted by the Nazi regime to the point of punishing even the "homoerotic fantasies", was certainly not absent in other countries, not even in those that opposed the Third Reich during the Second World War.

And so, when the gates of Auschwitz and the other lagers were demolished by the allied armoured forces, many of the survivors marked with the pink triangle preferred to keep silent the real reason for their internment, becoming victims without voice and without justice.

The Nazi obsession with gays had already become apparent with the "night of long knives", when Hitler wiped out the SA (assault troops, ed) and his boss, the homosexual Ernst Röhm. For the Führer there was a real "homosexual conspiracy that threatened the normal conception of a healthy nation". Delusions that do not surprise even today, unfortunately, since still in too many countries in the world homosexuality is still considered a deviance, a disease, when not a crime punishable even with the death penalty.

But the drama of the gays in the concentration camps was twofold: on the one hand the torture of the Nazi torturers, on the other hand the isolation operated by the other prisoners. Gay people were last among the last, pariah in that monstrous universe that was the lager. Many of them were castrated, some even at their own request, to show the regime the intention to "heal from the disease" and hoping to return home. Many others were used as guinea pigs for clinical experiments, such as the implantation of an artificial testosterone gland which, in the intentions of the Reich's butchers, was supposed to heal homosexual deviance. One hundred thousand homosexuals were involved in Nazi purges: 60 thousand served their sentences (from 5 to 10 years) in prison, from 10 to 15 thousand were interned in concentration camps. Important numbers of a forgotten Holocaust.

The extermination of the pink triangles, as well as that of Jews, Roma, the disabled and political opponents, represented the uncovering of Pandora's box, the valve of unavowable thoughts that were not foreign to the society of the time, in Germany as in Italy, England as in France or Russia. And Berlin, which until the advent of Nazism had been the capital of freedoms of the time, suddenly turned into a world base of homophobic regurgitation, hell in the land of men and women who paid with their lives their sexual inclination.

NEWS



Tomas Kraus and Rainer Höss

Netflix: “Story of God” – with Morgan Freeman

For now the only thing we can say ;
“Thanks to the **Morgan Freeman Team** for the opportunity to present our attitude and work at the **“Story of God”**... It was an incredible experience to be able to accompany this episode together with Tomas”.

More about this incredible project in the weeks to come.... Keep an eye on our website.



Simon during his graduation ceremony

Congratulations to Simon Bell

We would like to congratulate our team member, and co-founder of Footsteps Simon Bell. Yesterday he received his MA degree in Second World War Studies: Conflict-Societies-Holocaust. We had the privilege to read his dissertation which was absolutely brilliant. Dear Simon, congratulations with this wonderful achievement.

WORDS OF...



My name is Guido Pringnitz I'm a local history researcher, and a married father of 2 sons. I'm a trained concrete and reinforced concrete constructor, born 1965 in Treis in the Moselle region.

I am the author of the contemporary historical book "Documentation /SS-Subcamp under the code name: "ZEISIG".

When I was a child I played in the blown up ruins of the secret SS-project A7 with the code name: "ZEISIG".

That was more than 40 years ago. It was and still is a personal concern for me to work through the history of the satellite camp with all its interdependencies up to the present day.

Please follow our website where you can also contact the team by direct email.

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