PART THREE

„KRIEGSENTSCHEIDEND“

The most beautiful feeling, which we can experience, is the feeling of mystery. This is the source of authentic art — of true science. He, who has never felt this emotion, who has never tasted it, is for me like a dead. His eyes are closed.

—— Albert Einstein
The third part of this book differs from the previous ones. It is not only a technical specification of a certain research project, but also a personal story—almost a diary of the toilsome research carried out by myself. This was carried out on three continents and took me four and a half years to complete. However I am convinced that this affair was worth it. I hope that with respect to at least the unusual nature of the project itself, this affair will also interest others. For this is something entirely new, and the facts introduced below have never been presented as part of a unified picture (with the exception of fragmentary specifications in my previous books). Of course there is no shortage of new elements, but to place them within the appropriate context, I must start from the very beginning...

Everything began in August 1997.

I was visited by a certain man well-informed (even extremely) about various aspects of World War II. Since he had asked for his name not to be revealed, I will refer to him as an "anonymous historian". Once, in the 1980s, he had had access to many interesting documents of an intelligence nature and relating to the Third Reich. He had come into contact with them while analysing files of the so-called special military cell at the National Council—at President Bierut’s office (President of Poland until 1952).

During the first meeting in the summer of the aforementioned year he simply asked me a few questions. He had been intrigued by a piece of information from one of my books and was curious, whether I would be able to amplify several not entirely explained issues. Among other things he asked me if I had ever come into contact with a device developed by the Germans, which was code-named "the Bell", and made a sketch of it. On a circular base was some kind of bell jar, cylindrical in shape with a semicircular cap and hook, or some other clamping device at the top. The bell jar was supposed to be made of a ceramic material, resembling a high voltage insulator. Two metal cylinders or drums were located inside.

This description conveyed nothing to me and I could not have forgotten about the whole affair within a few weeks. But obviously this didn’t happen—for several reasons, although at the time I still hadn’t realised that the explanation of this whole story would become my life’s ambition.

Firstly I was impressed by the level of knowledge of the person in conversation with me. This was no amateur living in a dream world. Of that I was sure.

Secondly—he described the quite simply unearthly effects of this device’s operation, arousing in me associations with the final scene from Spielberg’s “Raiders of the Lost Ark”, defining them as “absolutely shocking”. He did this with authentic conviction, which sowed a seed of true restlessness in me. I could not overlook this, and I was inwardly convinced that this was no mystification. I still didn’t know it, but the seed had already started to germinate...

Thirdly—he asked me the outright disarming yet seemingly trivial question: if I was able to state with full responsibility that the “Wunderwaffe” —that “wonder weapon”, was the V-1 or V-2, as was often mentioned. If in any German documents or in any original sources in general, I had come across information unravelling what the “Wunderwaffe” was. He stated that after all it could not have referred to the V-1 or V-2, since firstly these weapons had been from a military point of view not very effective (and therefore not “wonder”) and secondly that the term “Wunderwaffe” had begun to appear in earnest already after the “V” weapons had been deployed in combat. This was indeed intriguing. Later from the point of view of this, I looked over various volumes from my library and in actual fact it appeared that some kind of unusual weapon had existed, practically unknown till this day. As far as I remember Goebbels’ propaganda had promoted the “Wunderwaffe” even after the air raid on Dresden in February 1945. Some statement on this subject had been uttered by Goebbels during a speech made after the air raid.

In the biography of the Minister of Propaganda I found for example the following sentence concerning Goebbels’ wife:200 “Magda told her sister-in-law that Joseph had seen a new weapon, so visionary that it would undoubtedly bring the wonderful victory, which Hitler had promised to the Germans…” (bold –I.W.) This sentence was to have been uttered sometime around Christmas of 1944. So reference had been made to something that had physically existed at the end of that year, creating a “visionary” impression through its appearance alone—therefore it must have been something completely different to the weapons known up until then.

Later, in documents brought over from the American NARA archive at College Park near Washington, I found among other things a report referring to the interrogation of one of Otto Skorzeny’s commandos.201 He was Skorzeny’s aide-de-camp, 4-Sturmbannführer Karl Radl, at the same time Chief of the VI/S/2 Division at the General Office for Reich’s Security (RSHA-Reichssicherheitsamt). Radl stated—would you believe it—that since the beginning of 1944 Skorzeny simply had no head to organise acts of sabotage on the enemy’s rear areas, since he had come into contact with the “wonder we-
SS-Sturmbannführer Otto Skorzeny—because he was in command of the special “Jagdverbände” units, he was nicknamed the “first commando of the Third Reich”. (Archive).

apron” and as a result “been possessed” by the idea of “Sonderkampf” (“Special Warfare”), regarding the use of this weapon, to such an extent, that he considered it the only sure way to win the war. In light of the “Wunderwaffe” other matters became insignificant.

This issue reappeared again after the war. Skorzeny was to be found in Spain, where he had taken his secrets. The Spanish press, followed soon after by the American press announced, that he had tried to sell the secrets of the “wonder weapon”. Some statements present in these reports were too shocking to “take their word” for it although they had been written in normal newspapers and not in the tabloids, in pursuit of the sensational. As far as I know, the American press had for the first time included information about the nature of the “Wunderwaffe” (?) in November 1947. From this announ-
tation it followed that the article had arisen on the basis of intelligence agency information. It mentioned that among other things, what was involved was some unusual flying object, with “electromagnetic” propulsion, which simultaneously had been “responsible for a wave of flying saucer observations over North America that summer”.202

Really??

If this had been at all true, it would have signified after all, that the technology had already been sold.

A year and a half later the press published some even stranger information-declaration:203

“The USAF knows what the flying saucers are and where they come from. (...) They are new flying machines based in Spain, whose flight principle is based on gyroscope [what an interesting comparison! – note I.W.] and were built by German scientists and technicians, who escaped from Germany”.

Although for the time being we may pass over in silence any information about “flying saucers”, as can be seen from the reports of the 1940s it does not at all unequivocally follow that the term “Wunderwaffe” could be attributed to the V-1 or V-2. In this context the term began to appear much later—in popular literature and without references to specific sources from the period of the war.

For the time being, my reflection on this subject, caused by a “trivial” question, had led me to establish that something which had created such a “visionary” impression on Goebbels and Skorzeny must have been truly unearthly and that the “Wunderwaffe” remains something unknown. Therefore I arranged further meetings with my informant and tried to find out something more about the mysterious project—the private and who had realized it, where did the information come from and the like. During these meetings I gained the following picture:

That mysterious device—“the Bell” (“die Glocke”) seemed at first glance relatively simple, although the unusual effects of its operation contradicted this. The description was admittedly incomplete and non-scientific, since it had originated from military personnel, who had not had access to all of the data, but even then it included many valuable details. The main part of “the bell” was made up of two massive cylinders—drums around one metre in diameter, which during the experiment span in opposite directions at tremendous speeds. The drums were made of a silvery metal and rotated around a common axis. The axis was formed by quite an unusual core, with a diameter of a dozen or so, to twenty centimetres, with its lower end fixed to “the Bell’s” massive pedestal. It was made of a heavy, hard metal. Before each trial some kind of ceramic, oblong container was placed in the core (it was defined as a “vacuum flask” (?) surrounded by a layer of lead approx. 3 cm thick. It was approx. 1.15 m long and filled with a strange, metallic, substance, with a violet-gold hue and preserving at room temperature the consistency of “slightly coagulated jelly”. From the produced information it followed, that this substance was code-named “IRR XERUM-525” or

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An excerpt of the article from November 1947, cited in the text.
"IRR SERUM-525" and contained among other constituents the thorium oxide and beryllium oxide (beryllia). The name "Xeron" also appeared in the documentation. It was some kind of amalgam of mercury, probably containing various heavy isotopes.

Mercury, this time already in pure form, was also present inside the spinning cylinders. Before the start of each experiment, and perhaps also for its duration, the mercury was intensively cooled. Since information appeared about the use of large quantities of liquid gas - nitrogen and oxygen, it appeared that it was precisely these that were the cooling medium. The entire device, i.e. the cylinders and core was covered with the aforementioned ceramic housing, of a bell-like shape - a cylinder rounded at the top crowned with some kind of hook, or fastening. The entire device was about 1.5 m in diameter and about 2.5 m high. A very thick electrical cable led to the "cap". At the bottom on the other hand was situated a round and very solid (made of heavy metal) pedestal or base, with a diameter slightly larger than the ceramic housing.

This was about all that I had managed to establish during the aforementioned conversations about the device's construction. But it was more than enough to state, that this description did not match anything that we know about the Third Reich's secret weapons. The person in conversation with me had in any case emphasised that not once had the term "weapon" been uttered in relation to the described device. It was just a fragment of something greater, not of itself being any kind of weapon, despite having a very destructive effect on its environment.

Much more information than in the issue of construction remained about the course of the experiments themselves.

Each such experiment was carried out in a specially prepared chamber - a pool. In most cases it was located underground. Its surface was covered with ceramic tiles and the floor also with heavy rubber mats. The mats were destroyed after each test (!), while the tiles were washed - deactivated with a pink liquid resembling brine. In the case of tests conducted inside the chamber of an inactive mine, in 1945, such a chamber was always destroyed (blown up) after two-three tests. One of the individuals - a primary source of information, testified moreover that a special "set" had existed for conducting trials on open terrain. It was mounted on three railway carriages marked with large Red Cross symbols and consisted first and foremost of a power supply installation, connected to a high voltage line available at a given location. This individual was a certain Joachim Ihrom - an employee of Deutsche Reichsbahn (German Railways) in the Opole (Oppeln) district. These railway carriages were later struck off the Opole Railway Headquarters stock, formally as the result of an air raid. They were burned with flame throwers and the remaining metal elements cut with acetylene blowpipes and dispersed over the site. An undeniably odd procedure. Later however I was to become convinced that all the information which I had gradually managed to find in the course of my private investigation was absolutely unprecedented and constituted not only "something new", but in general through a series of facts, gave a picture of a project fundamentally different from all that has been written about German research from the time of World War II. Besides I would never have sacrificed several years for something, which did not constitute an evident and concrete challenge.

My aforementioned informant strongly emphasised that what was involved was a uniquely classified project, the most secret research project ever realised in the Third Reich! Therefore it is surely clear that regardless of the scale of difficulty it was worth verifying such a statement... However let us return for the time being to the description of the aforementioned experiments.

First of all the "bell" itself was prepared along with the considerable power supply installation accompanying it. A whole set of cameras, movie cameras and probably also some measuring devices were placed on a special rack in the research chamber itself. Then a series of samples or objects were placed nearby, on which the effect of the emitted energy was tested. These were animal organisms (live lizards, rats, frogs, insects, snails and in all probability also... people - prisoners from KL Gross-Rosen), plants (mosses, ferns, horsetails, fungi, moulds) as well as a whole series of substances of organ-
Concentration camp prisoners were considered one of the Third Reich’s economic resources. This was the domain of the Main Administrative and Economic Office of the SS (WVHA). (photo: ADM).

glow) around “the bell” — obviously a result of the emission of ionising radiation, as well as a very strong magnetic field mentioned in the statements. In addition participants of the experiments felt disturbances of the nervous system’s operation, such as formication (“pins and needles”), headaches and a metallic taste in the mouths.

After some time “long-term” effects appeared. At first some of the employees suffered disturbances of sleep, balance, problems with memory, muscle cramps and various types of ulceration. Later they succeeded in radically limiting these unfavourable effects.

The most shocking and at first totally inexplicable phenomena were observed in reference to the aforementioned organisms and substances subjected to tests in the research chamber itself. They suffered various types of damage, dominating being the disintegration of tissues structures, gelation and the stratification of liquids (among others blood) into distinctly divided fractions and others. From information made available it followed, that during the first phase of tests (May-June 1944) these kinds of side-effects caused the death of five out of seven scientists engaged in them. As a result, the whole first research team was dissolved. I have written “side-effects”, since from the information which survived the war it clearly followed, that one of the main aims of the research was to limit them.

The most unusual changes were observed in the case of green plants. During the first phase, spanning about five hours after the test had been completed, the plants paled or became grey, suggesting chemical decomposition or the decay of chlorophyll. Extraordinary is that despite this, such a plant lived normally, by all appearances, for a further period — the or-

SS-Obergruppenführer Oswald Pohl was in charge of the WVHA until the end of the war. He was a frequent guest at Gross-Rosen’s chancellery. On the photograph he is standing sideways, to the left of Himmler. (Archive).
der of a week. This was followed by immediate, almost rapid or cascade (8-14 hours) decomposition to a greasy substance, "with the consistency of rancid fat, resembling the mazout", enveloping the entire plant. This decomposition was devoid of all features characteristic of bacterial decomposition - among other things of smell. Besides, it was too rapid, giving the impression that all structure had decayed.

At the same time the formation of undefined crystalline structures was observed in the liquid organic substances, or something which resembled them. At that time these changes referred to the majority of samples.

On about 10 January 1945 they had managed, in an unknown way, to limit the number of damaged samples to about 12-15%. On 25 March a further drop in this number to 2-3% was recorded. Apart from this, another "side effect" emerged. After a certain number of experiments it was observed that mysterious "gas bubbles" were forming in the "bell's" metal foundation...

I realise that this information, devoid of any kind of interpretation creates an unintelligible impression - that it lacks any sense, or is simply non-scientific. But this is not the case. Due to the unremitting work of myself and many specialists, we finally managed to unite it into a single, compact and intelligible whole, documenting many facts. For the time being however I am forced to present the information in such form, in how it became a starting point to further research. I ask therefore for continued patience...

At this "starting point" I also had at my disposal quite ample information concerning the organisational side of the project as well as a certain theoretical base.

I will begin with this second matter, as it is more directly related to the aforementioned phenomena. This "theoretical base" was only a set of scientific terms most often used in reference to various aspects of the described device's operation. From the start they were also quite mysterious. To such a degree that nobody before me had managed either to unite them or attribute them to specific contemporary work (and such attempts have been made - at least concerning the aspect of the analyses, about which I know). Two notions were obviously treated as fundamental, being:

"Vortex compression" and:

"Separation of magnetic fields".

Does this convey something to anybody? - obviously a rhetorical question.

Within the context of one of the people the problem of "a simulation of dumping of centres towards the present of spherical objects" appeared. In this case it concerned Dr Elizabeth Adler, a mathematician from Königsberg University (this name appeared only once). In descriptions of "the bell's" effect on living organisms on the other hand the notion of "ambrosis" ("Ambrosium") occurred. This was perhaps invented to honour one of the scientists, who admittedly was not a member of the research team, but was in some sense connected with the whole project. It concerned Dr Otto Ambros - then chairman of the so-called "S" committee, responsible for chemical warfare preparations in Speer's Armament Ministry.

I must admit that from the beginning the plot connected to Ambros was totally belittled by myself, as not matching the whole picture. As it was to become evident a few years later, this was a big mistake - although there was never any doubt that chemical weapons were not responsible for "the bell's" operation, or any kind of chemical agent. Only in 2001 did I again turn my attention to the first note related to this affair from 1997, in which Ambros had appeared among two key names. As a result of this "omission", when information arrived about the importance of this person from another source, I had already managed to forget that his name existed in the original materials.

Some years ago I had made light of yet another fact on a similar basis, which did not match anything, partially because at that time it had already been designated as second-rate. From the present perspective however I can see that it was one of the hidden clues to the whole affair.

This was a reference about taking into consideration the process of transforming mercury into gold. I had ignored this as I came to the conclusion that whatever hadn't gone on inside "the bell", this process would have been economically unprofitable anyway and so of secondary importance, not describing the principle of operation of the whole "invention". The first conclusion actually turned out to be true, but the second part - not longer. For the aforementioned phenomenon can only occur in conditions characterised by quite narrow limitations, thus taking into account this or similar information allows one to exclude many incorrect explanations.

This is however only an added digression, but which indicates the great technical complexity of the whole issue. The first sketch of "the bell" which I had come into contact with gave me the impression of being something strikingly simple, although ultimately the whole device would turn out to be complex and technologically sophisticated.

We will return again later to the technical issues, but now let us move on to the "organisational and personal" aspect.

The entire research project as such was created in January 1942 - under the code-name "Tor" ("Gate"), which functioned until August 1943. After this its condition was either divided into two "sub-projects". The code-name "Tor" was replaced by the code-names: "Chronos" and "Laternenträger". Both referred to "the bell", but the project had been divided into physical and medical-biological aspects. It was not established which code-name corresponded to a given aspect of the work. The system powering "the bell" probably received the code-name "Charlotten-Anlage".

The meaning of the Greek word "Chronos" is I suppose obvious, the German word "Laternenträger" looks somewhat less certain. From a literal point of view it corresponds to a man carrying a lantern (who in bygone days lighted street gas lamps). But one can look at this from yet another angle. It could be, as it was suggested to me, a not too literal translation of a certain ancient name - the name of "Lucifer", i.e. "be,
A characteristic example illustrating the maintenance of secrecy with regard to research and development activities directed by the SS. It is a document (first page) pertaining to the establishment of an important branch of the High Frequencies Institute at Gross-Rosen. As was written, it enjoyed the "special support of the Reichsführer-SS", exploiting among others 150-200 prisoners, so something important must have been involved. However it is unknown to this day what this branch was specifically engaged in. (AAN, Alexandrian Microfilms: T-175/ files of the Pers. Stab RFSS).

who carries the light". Anyway, code-names cannot be treated too literally. They cannot reflect the true nature of a given issue, since it would then lose its point (unless with respect to an issue's particular unusualness there would be no risk of anyone guessing its true meaning anyway).

The entire work was supervised by the SS, at the same time their position in organisational structures was rather untypical. In general this made it considerably easier to keep the affair secret, among others because the SS was de facto an economic empire and so could alone ensure its own workforce and self-financing without the necessity of making comprehensive data available to other institutions. Present-day "black" arms projects are being much the same realised, among others in the USA. On the other hand the leading role of the SS enabled the employment of a "special procedure" for classified protection on site. This relied, e.g. on the possibility of guarding the site where work was being carried out by even two-three cordon of soldiers selected according to special criteria (e.g. from a foreign SS unit, not able to communicate with the locals, like in Fürstenstein) and on the other hand liquidating without hesitation all persons who knew anything ("Geheimnisträgern"—literally "bearers of a secret") and were no longer considered necessary. This even referred to German citizens, if the matter's standing justified it. At any rate it was endeavoured in this way to keep secret till the end also projects "Chronos" and "Laterntenträger". In the last days of April 1945 a convoy was formed from some medium and low ranking German cadre and the remnants of RWS-1 commando (in total 62 people). In consideration of the danger that they could fall into enemy hands, the order was issued to physically liquidate them, which was carried out on 28 April in an underground weapons factory near the town of Pattag-Nissebrück near Goerlitz (we will come to the locations where work was carried out later).

Let us return for the time being to the organisational issues. The whole project was co-ordinated by a special cell co-operating with the SS armament office, subordinate to the Waffen-SS. This cell was designated the "FEP", which was an abbreviation of the words "Forschungen, Entwicklung, Patente"—research, developmental work, patents. The chief of this "FEP" cell was a certain Admiral Rhein, while the described project was co-ordinated by a quite mysterious individual—namely 35-Obergruppenführer (Four Star General) Emil Mazuw. Why mysterious? Simply because possessing one of the highest general's ranks in the SS, practically nothing is known about him. I got hold of his dossier in the USA in 1999, but through this he became in my eyes an even more obscure figure. It followed both from his dossier as well as cards from the course of his service, that Mazuw had been at the very top of the SS elite. He was promoted to the rank of 35-Obergruppenführer on 20 April 1942, in other words he had possessed the highest possible SS rank at that time (in 1944 the 35-Oberst-Gruppenführer rank was further established, four people being promoted to it). He was awarded with the Honorary sabre of Reichsführer SS (Ehrenzeichen des RFSS) and honorary SS ring with skull and crossbones (35-Totenkopfring). Such a ring was given by Himmler for special service to the organisation. Their bearers constituted the highest caste of SS-men, given admittance to the greatest secrets. Each ring was personally dedicated by Himmler. In the event of the owner's death it had to be returned and was then exhibited as some kind of "relic" in a mystical sanctuary.
In 1936 he took part in a mysterious expedition to Iceland, organised by Himmler—the mystic, to search for the purest remnants of the original Aryan race. One can therefore assume that he was a member of the so-called “inner circle” of the Reichsführer SS. In likeness to King Arthur’s knights he united twelve of the most faithful Obergruppenführer, regularly conducting meetings shrouded in deep secrecy in the crypt nicknamed “Walthalla” at Wewelsburg castle.

Most extraordinary however was that despite such a high position Mazuw not only never graduated from any military academy, but in general completed his education in the first (yes, first!) class of primary school (Volkschule)! This was clearly written in his dossier204. Mazuw didn’t die until 1987, but I never managed to gain access to official records from his interrogations.

However I was mostly interested in the scientific aspect of this enterprise. The individual responsible for the aspect rela-

The complex system of the SS ranks

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<th>SS</th>
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<th>US ranks</th>
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<td>Privates:</td>
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<td>‣ ‣ Mann</td>
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NCOs:

| ‣ ‣ Rottenführer | Obergefreiter | Corporal |
| ‣ ‣ Unterscharführer | Unteroffizier | Sergeant |
| ‣ ‣ Scharführer | Unterfeldwebel | Staff sergeant |
| ‣ ‣ Oberstürmer | Oberfeldwebel | Technical sergeant |
| ‣ ‣ Oberstürmer | Oberfeldwebel | Master sergeant |

Officers:

| ‣ ‣ Untersturmführer | Oberleutnant | 2nd Lieutenant |
| ‣ ‣ Obersturmführer | Obersturmführer | Captain |
| ‣ ‣ Oberndorfführer | Hauptmann | Major |
| ‣ ‣ Oberstührmeter | Oberstührmeter | Lieutenant colonel |

A vague letter to Gerlach, seized by the US “Allos” mission from the archives of the Reich’s Scientific Research Council. One of the scientists reports in it about the “structural changes of leucocytes”, which occurred on a far larger scale, than theory predicted. It is not exactly known to what project this letter refers to. (NARA/RG-319: Reports and messages 1946-51/Allos Mission).
ting to physics was Professor Walther Gerlach. At first I knew only that he had been one of the most outstanding scientists of the Third Reich. Soon it was to become evident that he had also been some kind of “power behind the throne”.

After my informant had handed me his information I simply tried to find anything on the subject of Gerlach’s scientific work from the time of the war. It became evident that such information was so scant and fragmentary that the whole problem practically remained a “blank area”. All the same, Gerlach had directed the Reich’s Scientific Research Council (Reichsforschungsrat – from 2 December 1943), so he must have been a key person from the point of view of scientific research important with respect to the war effort. After all during this period one would not expect that the management of German science would be turned over to a scientific researcher of butterflies or primitive people’s folklore... The role of science during the total war was after all quite specific.

Admittedly Gerlach is often associated with the nuclear program, but he was never de facto directly involved in this matter and never published any scientific work concerning nuclear weapons, or the construction of a nuclear reactor. He constituted therefore a further part of the riddle, requiring an explanation practically from scratch... During my years of research I managed to get hold of some scant, but extremely important information related to the war-time research work of Gerlach, but we will come to that later. For now I am all the time presenting the starting point of my research - the information, which I had acquired in 1997.

As I mentioned, the entire project was divided into two segments: physical and medical-biological. As far as the latter is concerned, 45-Gruppenführer Prof. Dr. Ernst Grawitz was Gerlach’s equivalent, that is to say scientific co-manager of the project. He was at the same time chief of the medical service of the SS and police, chief of the Institute of Hygiene of the Waffen-45 as well as president of the German Red Cross. Nothing is known about his specific “contribution” to the realisation of the “Chromos”/”Lateinenträger” project. Anyway I was never hot on his trail, as I considered it would be more promising to concentrate on the role of other people.

As far as the SS generals were concerned, yet another name surfaced: 45-Brigadeführer Heinrich Gärtner. He was responsible for ensuring electric energy supplies and probably for logistical issues in general. He was chief of the “research and development group” at the armament office of the SS (how it is possible, that such a person is practically unknown??). I was however mostly interested in physicists, since the most crucial and probably most difficult problem was the interpretation of the device itself (of “the bell”). The names of the physicists could be the thread leading to the solution of this riddle. Fortunately the personal data about the key people from this group was known. Apart from Professor Gerlach and the aforementioned Dr. Elizabeth Adler, the name of a physicist from Darmstadt was also brought into light, who was responsible for the analysis and utilization of the initially mysterious phenomenon of “separation of magnetic fields”, and for development of the high voltage generator to power “the bell”. This was Dr. Kurt Debuss. In 1997 I did not know anything else about him. It was however obvious that shedding light on his role would be the primary task. Two other individuals appeared out of “the background”: Dr. Edward Tholen (Tohlen?) and Dr. Herbert Jensen. The former was to have worked at Peenemünde and was the designer of some kind of super-resistant alloy, used in the V-2 rocket structure. So he could have designed a fundamental part of “the bell”, in which, considering the project’s standing, materials “from the top shelf” had undoubtedly been used. This is only an assumption, but Tholen could also have worked on something, of which “the bell” was only a part.

I never managed to get hold of any information on the subject of Tholen, if in fact this had been his real name. I assumed that because of its mechanical and heat resistance coefficient/specific gravity, titanium or its alloy would have been the most suitable material. Contrary to appearances and the suggestions of various people, the Germans were already using titanium at that time - on a very small scale. I managed to obtain (unfortunately incomplete) a British intelligence report about German research and development work on tita-
Niederschlesien (Lower Silesia/Dolny Śląsk)

Lower Silesia was a special region in the Reich, whose significance rose systematically in due course of the war’s passage. It was distinguished by the richness of raw materials (from coal to uranium) as well as modern industry, often dispersed in the form of single plants, even in small towns in the mountains. The perfectly developed infrastructure favoured this, including a road and rail network. Its central location in German occupied Europe caused this region to be located far from the front lines and hardly bombed, to which the diversification of industry was instrumental. The mountainous regions has not been encircled by War-time operations at all. From the point of view of wartime production Lower Silesia seemed to be therefore almost an oasis of fortune, situated in a diametrically different situation than e.g. the Ruhr basin, or great industrial cities such as Hamburg or Munich.

It was recognised as the “Reich’s anti-aircraft shelter” (“Reichsluftschutzraum”), where in particular key branches of the armament industry were expanded and after the start of carpet bombing, industrial plants were evacuated here from other parts of the Reich. By the end of 1944 as many as 323 evacuated plants could be found on the grounds of the local Armament Inspection VIIIa. The construction of new plants was commenced, including at least 20 underground factories which were to produce aerial armaments “enjoyed” particular success. At the turn of 1945 and 1946 were to be completed among others two great underground complexes of facilities, associated with these weapons - “Riesa” (on the line of the towns of Waldenburg – Ludwigsdorf, commenced in the spring of 1943) and “Concordia” (in the triangle of the towns of Aslau/Zittau/Landershut, commenced in 1944).

An excerpt of an intriguing report by the Polish Home Army Intelligence (resistance movement) (sygn. MM 3/44, from March 1944), probably regarding Tholen's invention. It describes the mysterious activities carried out in underground “Mittelwerk” plant (among others the “thot” alloy). Regardless of the technical data given in the report it cannot refer to the V-2 for the simple reason that there is reference to “the end of 1943”, while by 5 December of that year only the first technical drawings of the V-2 had reached “Mittelwerk”. Therefore it must refer to previously unknown issues. (source: "Polish Home Army Intelligence"—see bibliography referring to part 1)

A SURVEY OF GERMAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK ON TITANIUM


The first page of the British report referring to German work on titanium. (BIOS)
sau and Joachimstal. This assumption comes from the fact that after the war many shipping receipts and access passes were found in the adjacent buildings of Lubiaz, on which the names of these towns appeared.

Mazuw's personal card — from his files. (Berlin Document Center).

Due to the threat of a new Soviet offensive and other factors, described further on, in November 1944 the main complex of laboratories was relocated to Fürstenstein (presently Książ) near Waldenburg (now Walbrzych). They were specifically moved to a small underground facility lying not far from the so-called "old castle" (Altburg), in the vicinity of a great castle-palace, until 1930s in the possession of the von Pless Dukes. This place was located in the mountains, far away from the possible front line.

As it was to prove, these redeployments were only temporary. The research & development team was waiting for the preparation of a final research and production infrastructure. They did not wait for long. The last removal took place on about 18 December 1944. In the source materials which my informant had relied on, it was only mentioned that it involved "an inactive coal mine, adopted for military purposes — in the vicinity of Waldenburg". There are not many mines near Walbrzych (especially "in the vicinity" and not "in" — where there are many) and so determining which was exploited for purposes other than that of mining coal, was in actual fact one of the simplest tasks. However we will return to this in a further section of the book...

In order to recapitulate and conclude the initial phase of my research, i.e. the level of knowledge from 1997, I will move on to the final issues — to the sources of both this information and information about the evacuation of the project at the end of April 1945 (the Sudety region in question was cap-
tured by the Russians no earlier than 7-10 May). It so happens that both these issues are connected to each other, since the source of information were the officers responsible for evacuation.

As I have already mentioned, the last link in the whole chain of information sources (referring to the 1940s) was the military cell at the National Council (KRN), and specifically a certain Major Walczak, who without any records, according to a special procedure, drew up reports for President Bierut concerning matters of the highest importance. He co-operated with the Soviet counter-intelligence service (NKVD - "Smiersh"), and specifically with a special cell code-named "MIP".

A few years later Walczak followed in the footsteps of his professional colleagues and died in unexplained circumstances, but the documents remained. The first information connected with the affair that interests us arrived from the Polish Military Mission in Berlin, as far as I remember, in 1946. At the same time the intelligence officers co-operating with the mission seized in Germany a certain wanted German officer, called Schuster. He had false documents, declaring that he was Jewish.

I do not know if this had been a "shot in the dark", or not, at any rate his interrogations supplied some extremely interesting information. He was interrogated by Col. Władysław Szymański (the spelling Władyimir Szymanskyj also appe-
The Ju-390 and its loading. (Archive).
Schuster also supplied information about his direct superior—the chief of the “Special Evacuation Command SS-ELF”. Despite intensive efforts undertaken after the war, he was never captured. He was:

½-Obersturmbannführer (LtCol) Otto Neumann, son of Karl. An official of the Amt III of the RSHA, from 28 June 1944 chief of the ELF Commando with abode in Wrocław (Breslau). It was established that after the war he went into hiding under various names: Hans Hildebrant, Hans Erlich, Jacob van Ness (a Dutch citizen). In 1954 he was seen in Rhodesia, in 1964—in Switzerland.

Undoubtedly Neumann would have been an invaluable source of information and not only with respect to the project described in this book. He was one of the key individuals who executed the so-called operation “Regentropfchen”, launched by Bormann with the objective of evacuating the Reich’s crucial resources, so that they could be later used to rebuild Germany’s potential.

However Sporrenberg remained...

From 28 June 1944 he performed among others the function of “Commander for Special Evacuations” in the “North” District, i.e. in Norway. This was the so-called northern evacuation route leading through the Scandinavian countries, the southern one led through Italy and Spain. On 11 May Sporrenberg was arrested by the British and interrogated, among other things for being suspected of directing operation “Elster”—from March of that year, based on an attempt to bombard New York with V-1 missiles launched from U-boats, in all probability carrying biological warheads. However considerably more serious accusations were to weigh heavily on Sporrenberg—involvement in crimes of genocide committed earlier in Poland. So he was soon deported to Poland. Preparations for the trial and the trial itself took several years. In view of a very specific threat of the death penalty, Sporrenberg talked willingly and a lot, calculating in this way that it would extend his life. Owing to Schuster’s earlier testimo-
the so-called “operational measures” all persons obliged to be present during the execution have been changed, and instead of Sporrenberg a prisoner foreman (Kapo) from Stutthof concentration camp was executed, while Sporrenberg himself was flown to the USSR. In all probability he did not live there for very long—if only for the reason that the possibility of escape had to be excluded with 100% certainty. Sporrenberg however must have expected the deception and informed his family through his lawyer, since even in the 1960s petitions were sent for his release (to KC PZPR—central committee of the main party).

In 1947 Rudolf Schuster died suddenly in obscure circumstances (if he really died). Col. Szymarski, who had interrogated him was killed in an air crash along with a group of witnesses, soon after completing the investigation. His superior and Chief of the Polish Military Mission in Berlin—General Jakub Prawin died in 1950 (as far as I remember—he capsized on his boat and drowned). Major Walczak was killed in a car crash. President Bierut went on an official visit to Moscow, where he suddenly became ill, died and returned in a coffin.

The Soviets took over the whole affair and cut off all links, in Poland only traces remained. Removing everybody was neither possible nor necessary, but in the existing situation further progress didn’t come into play. Perhaps Poland’s neighbours from the east had a moderately comprehensive picture of the issue at their disposal, however in Poland nobody was able to define either “the bell’s” principle of operation, or why this device was considered so state-of-the-art.

**Kommando ELF**

The evacuation of materials associated with the “Chronos” and “Latententräger” programmes was initially not supposed to be the aim of existence of the “Kommando of Special SS Evacuations — ELF”. Polish and Soviet intelligence became interested in it for a completely different reason, which was also the guiding principle for its establishment. It had a connection with the creation of complex of eight underground depository shelters of the Reich’s Main Security Office (RSHA) to the north-west of Wroclaw (Breslau), in the town triangle of Parchwitz, Maltsch, Wohlauf, which were to serve the central institutions of the Third Reich. The securing of transports associated with this was realised at the turn of 1944 and 1945, yet after the start of the Soviet January offensive.

These depository shelters—or underground bunkers were numbered among the most important such objects in the whole Reich and received the highest priority applied in this regard (AA). They had specific designations: I/AAK-SS01 up to -08. It may sound strange, but their content has never been fully uncovered. Interrogations of German officers gave reason to believe that at least a large portion of the transported loads consisted of state bonds emitted for arms-producing companies, partially nationalised through their transfer to state-owned underground facilities. Apart from the officers themselves, numerous encrypted documents were intercepted, but despite persistent efforts, they have never been deciphered. The only outcome was the suggestion that they had been “translated” from a so-called synthetic lengu-
age – consisting of “normal” words, but having different meanings.

Interrogations of the officers from this Kommando brought to light among other things an odd description of the following incident, which took place at the time given above: A local road near the town of Rogow (Polish). Three vehicles are travelling in the direction of the town of Prauken (Prawikowo) – a tank for transporting milk, an ambulance and a lorry. On the horizon appears a single Soviet aircraft, which drops a small bomb and flies away. The lorry is damaged, the vehicles stand still. Several SS officers are standing on the road. The one who got out of the lorry’s cab begins to despair due to the “great loss of the German nation” – works of art from the Reich’s Chancellery had suffered damage. The one who got out of the ambulance interrupts him sharply and travestyng the words uttered by Christ during the “last supper”, states: “this is a loss, which from the perspective of time will turn out to be insignificant – whereas for that which I am transporting, I answer only before history, for it is the blood and flesh of the Führer!” During the conversation it became evident that what was involved were the tissue samples of Adolf Hitler and twelve leading SS generals, “who along with the Führer were creating the Third Reich”. The samples were to be found in a shining, metal container – a flat cylinder with low temperature and diameter approx. 2m. It came from the Wewelsburg castle, whereas it was supposed to find its way to a facility (place) code-named “Wolfskranz”. After a short stop the remaining vehicles continued on their way...

The Gauleiter

This was the party’s representative in the largest party-territorial unit, called the Gau (Gau is more or less the equivalent of the present-day “Land”). The Gauleiter’s authority was very great and rose in due measure of the war’s passage, at the same time one should single out two turning points (of this rise):

1. On 16.XI.1942 they were appointed the “Commissioners of the Reich’s Defence”, which made them responsible for the “unified management of the economy” over their territories – for the entire civilian sector of the state, related to the war effort. In practise the opportunity of almost unlimited interference in the functioning of industrial plants had the greatest importance. A supreme instance in relation to the Gauleiters was Reichsführer Martin Bormann.

2. On 25.X.1944 Hitler signed a decree on the establishment of the “Volkstum” – the territorial army, consisting of all men not yet incorporated into service, aged from 16 to 60. The Gauleiter had on principles of exclusivity the duty to create this formation as well as a primary influence on its command (the nominated commanders). The authorisations resulting from this were very significant – the manpower of the “Volkstum” exceeded 5 million men, i.e. was in all probability even greater than of the regular armed forces. The Gauleiters were the most important representatives of state authority “in the field” (except for the front-line). Apart from this they often performed yet another function, e.g. they also had, as a general rule, honorary ranks of the SS-Gruppenführers.

In order to properly understand the position of a Gauleiter, one has to take into account yet one more fact – the so-called “Führerprinzip” – or “Führer principle” (incidentally, the word “Führer” doesn’t have an exact English equivalent. It is not the same as the “leader”, in my opinion “warlord”, in a tribal sense, would be much closer to the truth). The “Führerprinzip” was one of the fundamentals of the Nazi political and administrative system, and consisted in granting a specific individual the attributes of an institution. According to this principle there wasn’t, for instance, the institution of a “Higher SS and Police Command” – in a certain district, but the commander was the institution itself (Der Höhere SS und Polizei-Führer / HSSPF), likewise was often the case of a commandant (see today: the institution of a rector or bishop). The aim of such a system was mainly to simplify the decision-making process and mete out responsibilities, so that for instance decisions could be enforced immediately, also to underline the authority of the state. The Gauleiter, as one of the most important links in the Nazi structure of power, also functioned according to these rules – a man-institution in a “state of emergency state”.

The RSHA and other central offices of the SS

The Reich’s Main Security Office (RSHA – Reichssicherheitshauptamt) was one of the most important institutions of the country. It was the office of the SS and directly subordinate to the Reichsführer SS – Heinrich Himmler. It was established in September 1939 and operated until the end of the war. Apart from the inspectorates (among others - schools) and other detached cells, it consisted of six, and from the middle of 1940, of seven of the following offices:

I. – Administration and Law,
II. – This was engaged mainly in the control of publications, among others with the confines of the so-called “white intelligence”. In 1940 it was re-named to Office VII, number II acquired a newly created office occupied with budget planning and economic issues.
III. – Counter-Intelligence of the Security Service (SD), it embraced all domains of social, economic, cultural and scientific life in the Reich.
IV. – the Gestapo – the secret political police, operating in the territory of the Reich and occupied territories, also in command of an organised body of agents inspecting German societies in neutral countries.
V. – Office of the Reich’s Criminal Police, broadly co-operated with SD and the Gestapo.
VI. – SS Foreign Intelligence. In May 1944 it absorbed the foreign intelligence of the armed forces, i.e. the Wehrmacht (Abwehr – Ausland) and became the sole intelligence institution of the Reich. It was supported by Office VII, employed in analytical work relating to selected issues, mostly scientific.

Apart from the RSHA there existed 11 Central Offices of the SS, the most important being:

1. The Personal Staff of the Reichsführer SS – Himmler (Hauptamt Persönlicher Stab RSHA) – aide-de-camps, matters of protocol, distinctions, Almenrode, Lebensborn, the realisation of the four-year plan plus matters particularly interesting Himmler.
2. The Main Office of the SS – the SS-Hauptamt (RSHA) – recruitment and enlistment to the SS, chiefly matters associated with the formation of Waffen-SS combat units.
3. The Main Command Office of the SS – the SS-Führungshauptamt (SSEHA). This performed the function of the headquarters of the Waffen-SS, unless these units were not subordinated to the front-line command of the Wehrmacht.
4. The Main Administrative-Economical Office of the SS (SS-Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt: SS-WVHA). This supervised the economic enterprises of the SS as well as economic exploitation of concentration camp prisoners.

Operation “Regentröpfchen”

Contrary to official propaganda the leaders of the Third Reich realised quite early on the inevitability of defeat. On 18 June 1944 in the hotel “Maison Rouge” in Strasbourg the first of a whole series of councils took place, whose aim was to work out a method of transferring capital abroad and at the same time create the financial base for other evacuation measures. The initiator of the council was Reichsminister Martin Bormann – chief of the NSDAP party machine, Hitler’s personal secretary, SS-Obergruppenführer and the Reichsminister all in one individual. Present among others were Fritz Thyssen, the Krupp family and leading officials of the IG Farben consortium. The architects of these measures were: Hjalmar Schacht – president of the Reichsbank and Hermann Josef Abs – a financial advisor to the Reich’s government from Deutsche Bank and a financial advisor to the Vatican. Bormann’s goal was to set in motion, based on the creation of financial principles, a widely planned evacuation operation, with the objective of securing the state’s potential for the post-war period. It acquired the code-name “Regentröpfchen”. “Target points” were: Argentina and other neutral countries, among others Turkey and Ireland. Its most important component part was operation “Eichhörnchen” regarding material goods. Others were among others:

I. “Aktion 1”
Viking.

This was set up on 2 April and concerned the transfer of the scientific, political and military elite to so-called safe havens. The technical side of it was prepared by a member of Bormann’s staff – Maximilian Erth (from September to October 1944). He was accompanied in his preparations by:

a) Philipp Bouhler – chief of Adolf Hitler’s private chancellery,
b) SS-Standartenführer Dr Constantin Cursis (a nephew of admiral),
c) SS-Gruppenführer Dr Gerhard Klopfle and in all probability:
d) Karl Hanke – Gauleiter of Lower Silesia (Niederschlesien).

2. “Aktion 2”
Lüfter.

Evacuation of the financial elite, linked with operation “Eichhörnchen”, including a significant section of representatives of the aristocracy

Like “Action 1”, it was prepared almost exclusively by members of the SS.

Individuals responsible for the planning and co-ordination of measures were:

a) Franz Xavier Schwartz – treasurer of the NSDAP.
b) Franz Hofer – Gauleiter of the Tirol and:
c) Ernst Hohenlohe – Langenburg. He was responsible among other things for negotiations regarding the transfer of resources from a special fund of A. Hitler called “Spende der deutschen Wirtschaft”. This was a fund administering a special tax aimed at building up the economy. With this individual, co-worked among others: Otto Neumann and:

d) Bernhard Krüger – chief of the VI F4a Referat, employed among other things in the production of counterfeit money and forged documents, whose management was located in the town of Friedenthal. Bank notes as well as identity documents were perfectly falsified, the almost unlimited access to them considerably facilitated the realisation of the described measures.

B. Krüger survived the war, operating among other places in Argentina (along with his collaborator Dr. Herbert Scholz responsible for the transfer of foreign currencies to this country).

The greatest role during the realisation of “Action 2” was played by the following individuals:

e) Grand Duke Christof von Hessen,
f) Wilhelm von Hessen,
g) Grand Duke Josias zu Waldeck und Pyrmont (Higher SS and Police Führer),
h) Prince Waldeck,
i) Prince Hohenzollern – Signaringen,

I realised that if the matter was to be treated seriously, I would have to prove its existence – on the basis of fully independent sources, since presenting the evidence in the form of Polish special service documents from 1945-1952 did not come, as it had become evident, at all into play. After the wave of archives destruction from the end of the 1980s, it was not even certain whether the documents still existed. Sisyphean labours therefore awaited me, estimated for years...

I could not count on making any progress in the problem of “documental verification” within the first few months. Therefore during this period I resolved to concentrate on an attempt to understand and explain the nature of this strange device – a generator of mysterious radiation.

This seemed simpler and as a result could deliver certain clues, as far as further directions of research were concerned. I resolved to assemble as large a group of consultants from the field of physics, as it would be possible.

“The bell” possessed so many characteristic features that finding some kind of unequivocal explanation seemed to be attainable, i.e. there was a basis for verifying different hypotheses. These features were chiefly:

* the employment of very high voltages,
* an emphasis of the phenomenon of “magnetic fields separation”.
* the occurrence of “vortex compression”,
* the fact that the device generated very powerful magnetic fields.
* the spinning of masses / bulky elements as a means to achieve the above effects (directly or indirectly)
* as a result: the generation of powerful radiation.
* the continuous character of “the bell’s” operation – i.e. non-pulse.
* the reference about transforming mercury into gold.

So there was no shortage of information, the hitherto existing barrier being the issue of understanding them. But it was difficult to find any device, which even approximately wo-

...uld be reconcilable with the above features.

Hypotheses so promising from appearances no longer came into consideration, like:

• A centrifuge for isotope separation. Only the spinning matched this concept, all other features excluded it.

• It was difficult to assume that “the bell” was to be simply a source of powerful ionising radiation, some kind of great X-ray tube transformed into a weapon. The emphasis to limit these effects contradicted this as well as information that “the bell” was not a weapon in itself. For this it would not be necessary to spin cylinders in opposite directions.

• Suspecting some form of turbine or electric motor did not convince me at all. A turbine does not generate magnetic fields destroying the surrounding electrical system, and besides is usually noisy. No electric motor can be supplied by high voltage since its winding would not withstand this.

In this situation I attempted to concentrate on another plot. Mercury is after all a metal with a very high specific gravity -20 % higher than in the case of lead. Therefore perhaps the clue was the entry “spinning of masses”?

All the time I was making contacts with various consultants from the field of physics, asking in addition about this issue. One of them - Dr. Krzysztof Godwod from the Institute of Physics at the Polish Academy of Science advised me to contact Prof. Marek Demianiaski from the Institute of Theoretical Physics at the University of Warsaw, who was extremely well-informed as far as the phenomena caused by the very fast spinning of masses was concerned and would undoubtedly help me in solving this riddle...

In the meantime I received yet another signal referring to this trail. I was contacted by one of the scientists, to whom I had sent the description of the German research, with a request for an expert opinion. He was an employee of one of the Kraków institutes of the Polish Academy of Science: Dr. Mariusz Paszkowski - a man with a phenomenal research instinct and equally outstanding knowledge of physics. He stated that the description, I had sent him strongly matched work on the technical utilisation of effects associated with the Theory of Relativity, and that the clue to solving the riddle was the spinning of masses and occurrence of strong magnetic fields. What it concerned was that the adequately fast spinning of some object curves the space-time continuum, which in this case would signify the generation of a repulsive gravitational field! Paszkowski turned my attention to the fact that it had been attempted to exploit this branch of study before World War II in different countries, among others in Germany and the USA. As far as the latter country was concerned, the main establishment was located in Virginia (Virginia Polytechnic).

The work carried out there was based on the spinning of balls made from a special steel alloy, suspended in the magnetic field. A velocity reaching 18 million revolutions per minute was achieved, when the spheres exploded under the influence of centrifugal forces. The goal was precisely to generate “anti-gravitation”.

The Germans were also hot on the trail, although they had reserve for Einstein’s theory. This came about not only because it was an example of “Jewish science”, but also for purely scientific reasons. For Germany was the fatherland of quantum physics and the local physicists had serious difficulties with accepting the Theory of Relativity, which completely broke away from the quantum understanding of interactions in nature. Today we already know that this reserve was justified and that this theory - although confirmed by numerous astronomical observations, is incomplete and one day should be replaced by the quantum theory of gravitation. But at that time it was a novelty, which perhaps gave the scientists in Hitler’s service a kind of advantage... A sign of this school of “gravity generation” was among other things the work of O.C. Hilgenberg from 1931, treating this force as the resultant of the rotational motion of atoms (atomic spin) - i.e. as the “shadow effect” of atomic interactions.

Such were the clues of Dr. Paszkowski. In any case they tallied to a large degree with the suggestions of Dr. Godwod...
as well as my own assumptions and led me to the same person—Prof. Marek Demiański—an expert on gravitation. Soon I met with him. The person in conversation with me showed a genuine interest in the matter, was clearly intrigued and also stated that...vortex motion could be in this case the key to generating gravitation. Causing my amazement he even said that mercury would best suit this purpose “as a substance of high density and simultaneously as a liquid—i.e. a material characterised by a low viscosity”. (The lower the viscosity, the greater the freedom of atomic spin). Later, already in front of the video camera lens, Prof. Demiański hypothesised further his considerations: “if indeed they had succeeded in aligning the axes of nuclei rotation in one direction, with the aid of a strong magnetic field...”

For me all of this began to look strangely familiar!

For the first time the different elements of this scientific jigsaw puzzle began to fit each other—not yet all, but everything in time. Prof. Demiański recalled that some years ago an article was published in one of the professional periodicals, in which measurements of “rotational” gravitation had been described, generated by the rotors of gyroscopes. This was the result of a wave of interest from the 1970s, when it was observed that a rotating gyroscope slightly but observably weakens the Earth’s gravitational attraction.

We went to the Institutes’ library, where after about 10 minutes we managed to recover this article. It had been published in 1989 in the prestigious magazine Physical Review Letters and described the work of a group of Japanese scientists from Tohoku University. They were rather modest, i.e. they hadn’t exceeded the normal speed ranges of industrial gyroscopes. Nevertheless they delivered shocking results.

Serial gyroscopes of quite small dimensions were tested, by weighing them on a very precise laboratory balance. A suitable weight was placed on one of the scale pans and on the other a vacuumed container with the gyroscope, to which ultra-thin wires led, supplying the gyroscope’s motor. The container was made of glass so that through its panels and panels of the balance-cover it was possible to measure with the aid of a stroboscopic tachometer the rotational speed. In the next series of tests three gyroscopes were tested with rotors of masses: approx. 140 g (rotor median -52 mm), approx. 175 g (58 mm) and approx. 175.5 g (58 mm). Their rotors were accelerated to relatively low speeds of the order of 13,000 rpm, at the same time the measurements were carried out in both a state of rest and from a speed of 3,000 rpm upwards. Obviously rigorous care was taken to avoid any measurement errors and erroneous interpretations. Many other scientists (including from the editorial staff of Physical Review Letters) verified the course and results of the experiments. Even the influence of possible chemical transformations on the measurement results and influence of vestigial atmospheric convection [caused by temperatures differences] on the aerodynamic forces acting on the scale pans, were analysed. It took one and half years! These experiments delivered two unusual observations:

The anti-gravitational interaction (i.e. the magnitude of the gyroscopes’ decrease in weight) turned out to be far stronger than existing theories had predicted (based among others on the Einstein-Cartan theory). For the gyroscopes with a rotor weight of the order of 175 g it was admittedly only approx. 11 mg at 12,000 rpm, but the fact of there being a discrepancy with the predictions remains a fact. In the final part of the article it was written:

“If these theories are applied to describe our experiment, they give an extremely weak effect, but a giant reduction in weight (…) cannot be explained with them...”

Since the magnitude of the generated force was directly proportional to the rotational speed, it was possible on this basis to easily predict when the weight would fall to zero. It was calculated that this would occur with the two types of tested gyroscopes being accelerated to a speed of 3.27 MHz and 3.95 MHz (million rotations per second) respectively.

These speeds appeared to be simply astronomical and practically unattainable. I however acknowledged that since our understanding of these phenomena is limited anyway, perhaps it would be possible to increase this effect—which later proved to be true... By way of digression, it was precisely due to the “non-quantum” nature of Einstein’s theory, that the results of the Japanese measurements didn’t tally with the theoretical predictions. This theory simply fails, when it is necessary to calculate the relationship between gravitation and interactions on the atomic scale (such as atomic spin), even though it is undeniably a relationship of a fundamental nature.

The Theory of Relativity solution, which has in this case an application—the so-called Kerr metric and Cartan metric, was created to analyse astronomical phenomena and specifically phenomena occurring in the vicinity of a quickly rotating “black hole”. Their usefulness for the description of gravitational effects on an atomic scale (rotating atomic nuclei) is thus limited. However there is no doubt that on this scale gravitational effects are significant. The space-time continuum in the immediate environment of atomic nuclei is often described not as a homogeneous medium, but rather as a kind of foam (gravity itself is the same as the bending of the space-time continuum). The problem is that on a large scale these effects neutralize each other, if only because the atoms rotate chaotically—usually in various directions...

Despite this, the “classic” variant—using only the rotation of a mass, already finds application in various technical devices. There is already a large number of such patents, among others the German patent DE 4017474A1, British patent WO 86/05852 or patents of Professor Laitwithe from Imperial College in London. During an official presentation in the mid-1970s, his device apparently lost several dozen percent of its weight! What is interesting, in both this as well as in the majority of similar cases, not one element is rotated, but two—in opposite directions. Again a familiar element?

Could the key lie here?

In scientific journals even analyses appeared indicating the possibility of a significant increase in the gravitational interac-
tion as a result of "combining" the rotations with a strong electric charge.209,210 This in turn recalls the reference to "very high voltages", used in the case of "the bell". In spite of this, all these elements connected current work on the generation of gravitation with that from the time of the war only indirectly. The key ideas in this last issue: "separation of magnetic fields" and "vortex compression" didn't seem to have a contemporary equivalent. But this was to be only for so long...

The precious clue proved to be hidden in the results of other contemporary research - research which a dozen or so years ago had wide repercussions in the world of science and is undeniably one of the precursors of a breakthrough taking place. It concerns work carried out under the direction of a Russian physicist - Yevgeniy Podkletnov,208,211 (in English literature the spelling Eugene Podkletnov is also met). Here is an excerpt from the description of the first revolutionary experiment, which was published by the British press211:

"Finnish scientists are on the eve of revealing the details of the first anti-gravity device in the world. Measuring around 12 inches [30 cm] the device may significantly reduce the weight of a given object suspended above it.

This property, which has been subjected to rigorous testing by scientists and whose description is to appear in journals devoted to physics next month, may prove to be the ignition spark of a technological revolution...

The Sunday Telegraph has learned that NASA is treating the issue seriously and will finance research with the aim of interpreting in what way can the anti-gravity device be used to propel flying vehicles.

Scientists from the Technological University in Tamperé in Finland, who made the discovery, state that their device may become the heart of a new source of energy, in which it will serve to displace liquid through the turbines of current generators.

According to the declaration of Eugene Podkletnov, who conducted the research, the discovery was accidental. It occurred during the routine research of "superconductivity", i.e. the ability of some metals to lose their electrical resistance at very low temperatures.

The research team conducted experiments with a fast spinning super conducting ceramic [disc], suspended in a magnetic field generated by three electrical solenoids, at the same time the whole assembly was sealed in a container called a cryostat designed to maintain the low temperature.

"Our colleague entered the room in which the experiment was being carried out - recounts Dr Podkletnov - who smoking a cigarette released a little smoke over the cryostat and noticed that the smoke kept on drifting upwards. This was very strange and we could not explain it".

The research revealed that objects placed above the device lost a small part of their weight, as if the device shielded the given object from the influence of [the Earth's] gravity - an impossible effect, in the opinion of most scientists.

- We presumed that perhaps some mistake had crept in -recounts Dr Podkletnov - and we did everything we could to eliminate it. It became evident however that the effect didn't disappear. The team discovered that even the air pressure immediately above the device fell slightly, at the same time this effect was visible on every floor of the laboratory.

In recent years many so-called "anti-gravity" devices developed by amateurs as well as professional scientists have been rejected by the scientific establishment. That what distinguishes the last discovery from previous ones is that it defined the research of a sceptically disposed team of independent specialists and has been accepted as worthy of publication in such an important scientific journal like the "Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics".

Podkletnov conducted this experiment in 1996, achieving a weakening of the Earth's gravitation by 2-3 % (in 2000, already working for the Japanese Toshiba consortium he stated that he had cancelled gravity completely).212 Most important is the idea of his invention itself - in all cases it involved the spinning of a superconducting disc in a spinning magnetic field. In 1996 this disc was made from a composition of yttrium, barium and copper oxides, achieving the "modest" speed of 5,000 rpm. I must confess that this issue absorbed my thoughts for a long time and no association ever crossed my mind that would allow this effect to be placed within the context of generally accepted physical knowledge. The main limitation resulted simply from the non-quantum nature of the Theory of Relativity, which makes it impossible to link for example gravity with an electromagnetic interaction. This caused that the associations sought after by myself in principle do not exist in academic physics. At the same time this added a certain aura of mystery to the work of Podkletnov.

I started to reflect on what was so inherently unusual in superconductors... After some time a kind of revelation occurred to me. A superconductor is after all not only a material characterised by a zero electrical resistance. It is also an ideal diamagnetic material. This means that it "does not let in" any magnetic field whatsoever. In the case of Podkletnov's devices it involved therefore something that should be called "separation of magnetic fields". Despite many previous attempts, this was the first event which had imparted some kind of practical meaning to the basic idea applied by the Germans. It was the second clue after "Kerr's metric" linking "the bell" with gravitation, or with relativistic physics in general. The only thing still lacking was linking this with the high voltages and strange radiation.

In any case I had succeeded in taking another step forward.

I spoke a couple of times with my British co-worker -Nick Cook, an aviation expert from Jane's Defence Weekly, and who knew Podkletnov personally; on the subject of various current events from Podkletnov's "experimental plot". I heard from him among other things, that Podkletnov had specially studied material engineering so as to be able to make a highly resistant superconductor, capable of spinning at a very high speed. In 1999 the director of Toshiba, for whom the anti-gravity project had become "the apple of his eye", stood on such
a plate 30 cm in diameter and was very proud that through this it was not damaged.

Seeing that the Russian had commenced his university education from the point of view of this work it was obvious to me that he had been handed this "innovative" knowledge on a silver platter. I asked Nick to ask Podkletnov at the nearest opportunity what had made him think of the by no means obvious concept of "magnetic fields separation" — "the clue". I was not at all surprised by the answer — it had come from access to the results of German work from the time of the war! Podkletnov officially admitted this and Nick Cook has mentioned this in his latest book.  Certainly it was awkward for Podkletnov to admit that he had had access to secret intelligence materials, so later he explained that he had derived his inspiration rather from Schauerger's work — but this "researcher" never used, or even contemplated using magnetic field sources, neither he had any idea about the superconductors.

Besides Podkletnov, Nick Cook had contact with another outstanding physicist engaged in work on anti-gravity. He was Dr Hal Puthoff, the author of many revolutionary scientific works, and linked to aerospace consortiums such as General Electric (engines), Sperry, and also an employee of the CIA and NSA. Presently he holds the position of a director in the Institute for Advanced Studies in Texas. I asked Nick to convey to him my request for an interpretation of the "German" notion of "magnetic fields separation". Puthoff was to state that the links with relativistic physics are obvious...

So there was a further element to the puzzle, which — as usually happens in such cases, generated the next questions. Now I was "tormented" by the question of linking the "magnetic fields separation" with the high voltage occurring in the German specifications. Did the displacement of a magnetic field from superconductors (called the "Meissner-Ochsenfeld Effect") have any equivalent in the physics of high voltages?

I reflected upon the whole issue and quite naturally concluded that a high voltage current (as it later proved — over a million Volts) could not supply any engine or winding and the like. It must have led to a discharge, and consequently — it must have been a question of plasma physics. As it was to prove, this was the next step forward. At the same time I was reminded by the remark of Professor Demianski, who had stated that it is very important for the "active substance" to be characterised by a low viscosity. He had said this within the context of mercury, since by definition mercury has a lower viscosity than a solid body. If it indeed involved a key factor, it is possible to "extend" this reasoning and draw the conclusion that gas would have a lower viscosity than liquid, and lower than gas — plasma.

Therefore I began to look for a plasma equivalent of the Meissner-Ochsenfeld effect and... I soon found it — after a couple of days:

It became evident that under certain conditions plasma created through the flow of electric current, creates in turn a special kind of vortex. Such a vortex is called a plasmoid and is a stable or quasi-stable creation, being in a way a closed structure, capable of "living" for a certain time even after the disconnection of the power supply. After all it can even be considered proven that ball lightnings are plasmoids. They are quite special formations and bring the next clue in solving our puzzle. There is no shortage of descriptions of ball lightnings, even coming from fully credible groups of witnesses, where there is mention for example of a ball lightning passing through a window pane or other obstacle, without its destruction. Many such cases have been described among others in the very well documented work of Dr Andrezj Marks, published in Poland many years ago. Here there was even the description of an event in which a ball lightning entered through the cockpit’s windscreen of a large passenger aircraft and flew along the central aisle practically through the whole aircraft — in full view of the crew and passengers. This was yet another fact, which turned my attention to plasma vortices. For this kind of penetration to be possible, relativistic physics and hence also gravity physics would have to be involved — this object must have simply curved the space-time continuum. I still did not know how this was possible, but familiarising myself with the scientific literature on this subject threw light on the issue.

It became evident that such types of plasma vortices are credited with a certain, unique feature — namely the lines of magnetic field force are almost completely closed. This is defined in the literature as a "magnetically closed system". Only due to this is a plasmoid of this type extremely stable for a plasma vortex — it is simply almost isolated from its environment. As far as the Theory of Relativity is concerned, the importance of this phenomenon (separation of magnetic fields) is interpreted like this: since the fields are "coupled" with the space-time continuum, the isolation of a field (in this case magnetic), or speaking the language of physics; ensuring the field’s locality gives in effect a certain locality of the space-time continuum. In other words: separation of field(s) is the key to control gravity, because bending of space-time equals the generation of gravity and locality of space-time equals the screening of gravity. So we not only have "separation of magnetic fields" but in general a large similarity even to Podkletnov’s experiments. It is after all a plasma vortex as well as a spinning magnetic field — moreover very strong and spinning very quickly. Very quickly — since the magnetic field very strongly compresses the plasma. The compression is so strong that it is even compared by some to the conditions prevailing during a nuclear explosion. Exactly! Was this phenomenon, professionally called "pinch", not that sought after "vortex compression"? It had been managed to fit into place the next element of the puzzle...

Podkletnov’s problems

The problems which limited the efficiency of the anti-gravitational devices of Podkletnov and his copyists (NASA, Boeing...) result directly from the limited mechanical strength of modern superconductors.
Overcoming them is however possible even without interfering with the issues associated with the physics itself of this phenomenon. One can create a material which will resist much greater rotational speeds and above all, which will be able to perform the function of a "fields separator" in the very construction of the flying craft. Such a possibility is given by the so-called fullerens.

They are peculiar crystalline structures, built from carbon atoms—in such a way that a layer, one-atom thick, creates a spatial figure with a regular crystalline structure—approximate to a sphere or three. At that time they are empty inside. Very interesting quantum effects reveal themselves particularly in the tubes, which is associated among other things with the fact that they constitute "traps" for various particles and ions. The ions of certain metals, trapped in fullerene fibres cause e.g. that the entire material acquires the characteristics of a superconductor, at the same time it has a colossal superiority over Podkletnov's ceramic superconductor—regardless of order to sphere or diamond. It will be possible (this is a question of a few years) to make a composite from fullerene fibres, able to resist a rotational velocity of the order of hundreds of thousands of rpm. Perhaps this will completely solve Podkletnov’s problems, all the more that it will be possible to make from a superconductor not only a rotating disc, but even a complete flying object.

**Plasma**

We know four states of matter aggregation: solid, liquid, gas and plasma—ionised gas. They differ in the degree of matter ordering, at the same time in plasma the atoms have the greatest freedom of movement (also rotational) and usually travel faster.

We know two fundamental types of plasma: "high-temperature" with a temperature the order of millions of K and "low-temperature" (thousands of degrees Kelvin), occurring among others in electrical discharge in a laboratory. In so far as the first type is a material practically completely ionised, in the second case we are dealing with a mixture of ions, free radicals, electrons and excited as well as non-ionised atoms. In plasma conducting an electric current magnetic fields may occur with a colossal concentration of energy, e.g. in rotating plasma the magnetic fields compress the plasma and compensate with a centrifugal force. In this case this phenomenon is called "toroidal pinch".

These facts led to some very encouraging conclusions. It seemed that plasma physics was able to ensure a magnetic field strength (a charged plasma vortex itself generates a magnetic field on the basis of the so-called dynamo effect) and speed of rotation far higher than that of any mechanical system. It would obviously follow from this, that the German "bell" was some kind of "trap for plasma vortex".

At this stage of my quest I resolved to contact an expert in this field, and specifically someone specializing in the rotation of plasma.

I made my way first of all to the Institute of Nuclear Research in Świętokrzyski near Warsaw—and contacted Professor Marek Sadowksi, who stated however that plasma vortices itself lay somewhat off the beaten track of his field and directed me to the Institute of Plasma Physics and Laser Microfusion in Warsaw’s Bemowo district. Thanks to the help of the extremely kind Dr Zagórski I finally (in 2001) made direct contact with the most appropriate person, who turned out to be Dr Marek Scholz, chief of a department in this institute. I made an appointment with him at his study. After a few days, full of tension and uncertainty, I made my way on a beautiful summer’s day to the Bemowo institute. It so happened that to reach Dr Scholz’s study I had to cross a great hall full of various research devices (at its entrance I was greeted by the sign: "Warning! High voltages!"). I crossed its threshold and... was greatly shocked...

Before me stood "the bell"—or its contemporary counterpart. It appeared to embody a copy of the device from the descriptions of German prisoners of war, as all the details had been imitated exactly with special care. Its housing was admittedly steel and the whole device had been rotated by 90°, but apart from this even the overall dimensions exactly matched that of the German device. Other elements familiar from the war-time description were visible as well, such as huge feeder cables as thick as arms, and above all—powerful anti-radiation shields, including the heavy rubber mats described earlier.

It became evident that ions accelerated by the flow of high voltage current reach such horrendous speeds (in some devices even 50-100 km per second) that during collisions a thermonuclear fusion reaction takes place. This causes strong X-ray and neutron radiation to be emitted during the course of the experiment. This time several further elements of the puzzle had been explained at one stroke: the anti-radiation shields and the radiation itself, the transformation of mercury into gold (undoubtedly on a small scale—thermonuclear fusion), the gas bubbles forming around the base of the German "bell" (without doubt the influence of neutrons), and even the "humming" sound.

One could state that we were "home and dry", if not for one "small" detail—the device from Bemowo, i.e. the so-called "plasma focus" is not, in spite of everything, a revolutionary achievement of humanity, something worth the lives of its own scientists. Something here was still missing...

It became evident that it was simply the spinning that was missing. Yes, plasma sometimes creates a kind of vortex, but this is usually a side effect. Nobody yet, nobody after the war—has built a "plasma focus" device chiefly for the fast spinning of heavy ions (I am obviously taking no account of top secret work)—the internal construction of every "plasma-focus" is purely static. The conception of rotating or counterrotating cylinders remains unknown. Nobody has struck upon the idea of doing this!

So there is still an opportunity to display one’s talents in this field.

Due to the virgin nature of this field it was necessary to reflect on what specific way could it be possible to "spin" plasma—i.e. the ions of mercury.

This was a hard nut to crack. After many unsuccessful ideas and sleepless nights the following solution struck me:
I imagined a large, metal drum, in which a small amount of mercury was present. The drum would then be accelerated to a speed of say tens of thousands of revolutions per minute. Under the influence of the centrifugal force the mercury, as a liquid, would cover the walls of the drum creating a thin layer. After achieving the target speed a high voltage electrical discharge would be created between the circumference of the drum (the mercury layer) and its axis - the core. Theoretically this would accelerate the ions of mercury towards the core, with a speed of many kilometres per second. But since the mercury would already possess a certain torque, in due measure of approaching the core its angular velocity would increase on a similar basis as in the case of a skater, who during a pirouette brings the arms close to the torso thus developing an increase in the rotational speed. In the case of the drum with mercury this would lead to an overlapping of the two speeds - created by a preservation of the torque and a result of the flow of electric current. From my approximate calculations it followed that by this means it would be possible to achieve a speed of the ultimate "compressed" vortex of the order of even hundreds of thousands of revolutions per second (if a linear velocity of 50 km/s is otherwise attainable, then with a vortex diameter of 6 cm this would signify a rotational speed of 180 thousand revolutions per second). Obviously this is only an estimated value, however one can see that by this means it is possible to achieve much more than Podkletnov’s ceramic disc was able to withstand (approx. 100 revolutions/second). Of course the problem of the harmful, to put it mildly, radiation remains unresolved. Is this precisely why Podkletnov did not pursue the easy route? I recalled from somewhere else the remark made by a certain colonel, who “had heard that American pilots were falling apart” (in the 1960’s) as well as a program broadcast by the Discovery Channel, dedicated to the famous “Area 51”, titled “A billion dollar secret”. Reference was made to the flights of strange objects over this base being terminated, when the employees of this super-secret centre “unmasked” it en masse, by lodging summonses in court due to the occurrence of various diseases and ulcerations, body fragments falling apart etc (i.e. the symptoms already familiar to us). Couldn’t even the Americans overcome this problem?

In any case I introduced my concept of accelerating mercury ions through the spinning of drums to Dr Marek Scholz from the Institute of Plasma Physics. He seemed to be extremely intrigued by it and acknowledged it to be “interesting”. He said that he would try to prepare a complex analysis of this issue and assess the possibility of practically testing such a solution. He warned however that it was a complex task, which would take some time.

Before bidding farewell I asked however “for the sake of peace” if in his opinion, at first glance, such a device had any sense at all? He answered: “it must have sense, if something like that was made!”. This constructive approach sounded encouraging...

We will yet return to this purely physical aspect of the “Chronos”/“Latementräger” project. But this is only one
of many aspects, which I have attempted to unravel, and I will now turn to the description of another: medical-biological. The issue of what kind of effect "the bell" exerted on living organisms and organic substances constituted one of the more serious challenges.

However in this case I also managed to get in touch with a specialist, to whom—something incredible—everything was at once very clear. To such an extent that when I mentioned that plants were "dissolved" to the form of "a substance resembling rancid fat, but without any smell", this person showed me from memory some specific chemical formulas corresponding to this process.

This individual turned out to be the very pleasant Professor Alina Kacperska from the Department of Biology at Warsaw University. I found out from her that the whitening of plants was caused by so-called oxidative stress. This is based on the "photo-oxidation" of chlorophyll, i.e. its
oxidation under the influence of photons. The oxidizing action is indicated in this instance by the lack of smell. In the next stage an enzyme called lipoxidase is released, which oxidises the fatty acids to the form of the aforementioned greasy substance (I had earlier assumed that it involved so-called “autolysis”, i.e. the decomposition of a cell under the influence of its own enzymes, so I was not overly mistaken). Obviously chlorophyll and tissue are not oxidised by photons alone. If their energy is large enough they shatter the molecules of oxygen or chlorine into free radicals i.e. into single ions, whose reactivity is so high that they oxidise practically everything. This can be the effect of the interaction of highly energetic radiation of high intensity - for example close to the source.

The above sentences are a summary of my conversation with Professor Kacperska. At our farewell I received a photocopy of a book’s excerpt, touching upon these “exotic” issues. I learnt from it that in reality far more complex processes were involved than it would appear from this short summary. But only the chemical aspect was described, without any connection to the effects of particular types of radiation, so the description concludes little to solve our problems.

Despite the complex explanations of the Professor, I was struck by a certain divergence. The nature of the transformations caused by “the bell” appeared admitted to be known to science, but their intensity still turned out to be unusually high when compared to phenomena researched by contemporary biologists.

A purely intuitive suspicion remained in my mind that the “oxidative stress” was not the only mechanism responsible for these transformations. I suspected that the effect of generated energy on the structure as such was also involved - on the degree of matter ordering. I recalled the work of the Russian scientist Genadiy Shipov and works of the German physicist, Professor Burkhard Heim (working during the war at the Goettingen University). In all their works there was reference to changes being created in the structure of materials by artificially generated gravitational waves, also referring to metals. I am afraid however that a final settlement of this dilemma is not possible at the present stage of research...

For the time being let us leave it at that, as far as the physical and biological interpretation of the descriptions conveyed by the Germans is concerned.

As I have already mentioned, one of the key tasks, that I had set myself was proving, on the grounds of independent sources, the existence of this super secret and presently unknown research-armsment project of the Third Reich. Even by definition this was to some extent an almost unrealisable task - if it was easy we would have known all about it a long time ago. This issue has taken up a great deal of my time and from the very beginning constituted a “No. 1 priority”, but probably that’s why I managed to gather particular evidence.

First and foremost this involved a “verification” of the wartime career of Professor Walter Gerlach. This was intriguing to the extent, that as I have already mentioned, despite being labelled as a nuclear physicist, he never directly took part in research linked to the construction of a nuclear reactor or weapon. So if in spite of this he was appointed as chief of the Research Council (Reichsforschungsrat), then, as I mentioned, this must have reflected in some way the importance of his scientific activity. Generally accessible sources proved however to be extremely scant, as far as any description of his activity was concerned, and at any rate scant in relation to the function performed by Gerlach - superior in relation to the whole of German physics. I never managed to get hold of any of his wartime scientific work. Whereas after the war Gerlach in general “switched over” to universal subjects. His main publications from this period were “The Physics of Everyday Life” (1956) and “Humanity and Scientific Research” (1962). He apparently wanted to cut himself off from the wartime period of his life. It is difficult to ascertain, if he felt obliged to maintain the secret - rather not. It is more likely that as a universally recognised authority he was afraid of his past. The prospect of questions being put to him like: “were you a fanatic of National Socialism?” or “did you take part in experiments on people?” or “did you want to poison half of Europe?” must have seemed horrifying (I will come back to this later).

A certain picture can however be created on the basis of his pre-war work.

It is no secret, that Gerlach was first and foremost a physicist engaged in magnetism, electricity and quantum electrodynamics. His most important publications from this period were entitled: “The Experimental Foundations of Quantum Theory” - 1921, “Matter, Electricity, Energy” - 1923 and “Magnetism” - 1931.

He analysed the relationships between magnetism and atomic structure, calculated atomic spins and studied the spin polarisation of atoms in a magnetic field simplifying one can ascertain that spin is the rotary motion of an atomic nucleus while spin polarisation is the ability of a group of nuclei to spin in the same direction. Gerlach was the co-author of the pioneering “Stern-Gerlach experiment”, which brought him world-wide fame, and concerned precisely the behaviour of atomic nuclei in a magnetic field. In one of the most important publications referring to German wartime scientific
An excerpt of the American personnel record on Debus. (Debus's files—see bibliography).

work, this was defined as the realisation (still during the war) of research “with no practical significance”, at the expense of the nuclear program plunged into a state of stagnation.

Was this so?

Could he have afforded this?

At any rate it is a fact, that Gerlach was not especially interested in the nuclear program, which he formally supervised on account of directing the Reich’s Scientific Research Council. The Council had to regularly demand reports from this work, for whose writing he had neither the time, nor the desire. On one such report from the turn of 1944/45, which was out-of-date anyway, Gerlach changed the date to two months later before sending it, although in the end he didn’t send it anyway.223 The truth is that he was simply too busy with other issues, which he considered much more important.

As one can see, even a superficial analysis of his scientific work shows, that this was a person ideally suited to the research program described in this part of the book. A more discerning analysis only confirms this.

In 1924 for example he wrote an article for the Frankfurter Zeitung referring to the possibility of transforming mercury into gold. In this way he had shown his attitude to the work of Professor Adolf Miete from the Institute of Physics in Berlin—Charlottenburg.224 It involved mercury being subjected to an electrical discharge. Gerlach stated that such a process was of course possible, but unprofitable. He wrote that if only the cost of electricity was to be taken into account, a gram of gold would cost one hundred thousand Marks.

Other work proves that Gerlach was faultlessly well-informed in these issues. In 1929 he wrote an article devoted to the fluorescence of mercury ions in a strong magnetic field, in other words referring to the behaviour of mercuric plasma.225 He had obviously been engaged in these matters for a long time, because as far back as January 1925 he wrote to Arnold Sommerfeld about research on the spin (rotary motion of atoms) of ionised mercury—of mercuric plasma.227,224 An exception concerning the post-war period is that in 1954—at a conference organised by AEG and his home scientific establishment—Munich University (of which he became rector after the war), he made a speech about research in the field of plasma physics, mentioning the creation of new elements and employing a voltage of half a million Volts to accelerate ions.228

A very interesting element, although of a somewhat different nature is embodied by the pre-war correspondence between Gerlach and Peter Kapica—the great Soviet physicist, later a Nobel prize winner.224 It is interesting that, as it appears, a common attribute of both scientists was an interest in the nature of superconductivity. Of course the question comes to light—how could Gerlach have approached this phenomena? The assumption appears to be logical, that he could have approached this only from the aspect of the Meissner-Ochsenfeld effect—he was after all a “magnetician”. If this is combined with plasma spin and with mercury, we find ourselves much closer to the “ultimate” phenomena. Especially if we realise that at the same time Gerlach became interested in the nature of ball lightnings. He left behind an article published in Die Naturwissenschaften, in which he emphasised “the extremely strong induction activity of a flying ball”.229 So he must have been aware that a plasma vortex was involved, distinguished by a very strong magnetic field (spinning fast), of a special kind.

All of this however does not automatically prove that Professor Walther Gerlach was engaged in the realisation of a super secret, promising research project during the war. Of course it couldn’t have proved this, as reference was made to pre-war work.

However such evidence exists.

At first it seemed to me that one of the simplest ways to acquire such evidence would be to gain access to recordings from the listening in of conversations held by leading German physicists after the end of the war. The British interned ten of the most outstanding scientists and during the period of June-December 1945 detained them (together) in the luxury estate of Farm Hall near Cambridge. Simultaneously an intelligence operation was carried out under the code-name “Epsilon”, aimed at recording all conversations, which the interned scientists carried on with each other. After several decades this fact was finally revealed and the contents of the conversations were published in the form of a book.230 I hoped to find in it the sought after details referring to Gerlach’s activity, who had obviously been present in this group. I was however sorely disappointed. The revealed text was the equivalent of only 200-300 pages of typescript, i.e. roughly a single full day of conversations, held by a group of people. It is completely out of the question, that each of them uttered only a few sentences daily. They were after all worried by the arisen situation and in most cases had not seen each other for a long time. The recordings rendered accessible give the impression of being fragmentary, for example there are questions without answers or answers without questions. Issues are amplified, with no knowledge of where they came from. Here is an example of a not entirely clear exchange of opinions, including at the same time some intriguing elements (bold by myself):230.

“Otto Hahn: Surely you are not in favour of such an inhuman weapon as the uranium bomb?”
Gerlach: No, we never worked on a bomb. I didn't believe that it would proceed so quickly. But I did think that we should do everything to construct sources of energy and exploit the possibilities for the future. After the first results, when the "cube method" had significantly increased the concentration, I spoke to Speer's right hand man - Colonel Geist, as Speer was not available at the time, and later Sauckel from Weimar asked me: "What do you want to do with these things?". I replied: "In my opinion, a politician who is in possession of such an engine can achieve anything that he wants".

Nowhere is there any explanation of what should be understood by the word "engine". The possible assumption that it involved a nuclear reactor is not at all obvious, since the Germans never called it an "engine". Irrespective of this even the statement itself: "we never worked on a bomb" may be shocking. There are a multitude of such insinuations in the recordings rendered accessible from Farm Hall. Here is another interesting curiosity, a quotation from p. 77 of the publication included in the bibliography (the previous one was from p. 80), forcing one to take a more discerning look at Gerlach's wartime role:320

"Hartee: If we had worked on an even larger scale, we would have been killed by the Secret Service. Let's be glad that we are still alive. Let us celebrate this evening in this spirit.

Diehner: Professor Gerlach would have been an Obergruppenführer and would now be sitting in Luxembourg as a war criminal.

Korsch: If one hasn't got the courage, it is better he surrender at once.

Gerlach: Please don't make such aggressive remarks!"

[he leaves the room]

Exactly! Perhaps Gerlach had been a high-ranking SS officer, on a similar basis as the other important scientists working for this organisation - for example von Braun or Prof. Grawitz. We will probably never get to know... From the materials in question it is difficult in any case to obtain any concise knowledge on the subject of Gerlach's work. The only interesting thing in my opinion, which still emerges, is evidence of the outright extreme Nazi fanaticism of this scientist, totally out of character even with the attitudes of the other informed men. When he learned about the dropping of the first atomic bomb he fell into a depression, started to cry and according to the British officers, intended to commit suicide. But not because he was perturbed by the fate of the victims. As Professor Mark Walker explained:

"Gerlach affirmed that he had never supported the idea of constructing inhuman weapons, such as an atomic bomb. (...) He was however dejected, because the Americans had demonstrated their scientific superiority".

Gerlach wanted to commit suicide, simply because he had once again experienced the defeat of the Third Reich! His associate - Werner Heisenberg, also interpreted it in this way.

Fortunately the way in which the materials from Farm Hall were classified was not 100% effective. For not only were documents or tape recordings left over from the affair, but also living people...

I tried to determine if there were any surviving witnesses, or best of all: historians' works based on more extensive factual materials, before "declassifying" (read: "abridging") of the original records. It turned out that something like that existed and furthermore - existed in Poland. Herbert Lipiński, a Polish historian, unfortunately no longer alive - and former employee of the Provincial Administration in Zielona Góra, had been engaged in a discerning analysis of this issue in the 1970s. The results of his work were published in the form of a series of articles - they referred of course to the German wartime scientific effort. He had had access to extensive source materials connected with Farm Hall. From his description something completely different followed, than from the "declassified" official version. Although the latter does not contain any specific references to the "Chronos" / "Lateinenträger" project, at a time when practically nobody had yet heard about it, Lipiński wrote in reference to Gerlach that:321

"The topics of conversations were most often: "atomic nuclei", "extraterrestrial space", "magnetic fields" and "the earth's gravitation"." (bold by myself - I.W.).

For somebody who approaches German physics from the point of view of the nuclear programme, these ideas don't match each other at all and in connection with this appear to be devoid of any sense. But we know that they match...

They could not match any better!

If in the materials in question, we would like to discover evidence that the Germans had worked on combining magnetism with atomic physics to overcome the earth's gravity and enter outer space, then this evidence would not look any different than it does...

However this is not all.

There is also evidence that Gerlach's project had a truly special standing. Another researcher, this time British - Philip Henshall, was analysing Martin Bormann's (Hitler's secretary) diaries and noticed the fact that in his correspondence with Gerlach the subject of the "Wunderwaffe" appeared.322, 324

Henshall wrote:

"At the end of 1944 Gerlach wrote to Bormann (...), that the project on which they were working might be "decisive for the war" [bold by I.W.]. As usual Gerlach was playing the role of a cautious scientist and did not want to state unequivocally that he had a "miracle weapon", which would end the war".

This quotation demands a few remarks. First and foremost the question springs up of whether it referred to a nuclear weapon - this was however impossible. The Germans were simply not constructing a nuclear weapon, this was still very far off. Werner Heisenberg stated unequivocally after the war, that:

"The Germans were interested in a nuclear reactor, but not a bomb".323

At the same time deserving reflection is the fact that in the decadent and at any rate practically hopeless stage of the war,
Gerlach dared to write about a weapon, which would decisively ensure victory. After all by this alone he had assumed great responsibility. One did not hurl such slogans at the Führer without backup. In any case we have confirmation that Gerlach was engaged in the realization of a project "decisive for the war"—this term is worth remembering, because it is going to reappear.

The term itself is also worth reflection. For it is, against all appearances, something completely new—as far as the designation of an arms programme is concerned. In 1944, when "total war effort" ("totaler Kriegseinsatz") was proclaimed, the term "important for the war" ("Kriegswichtig") appeared and began to function. It meant the lifting of other administrative restrictions. If for example in city X some work "important for the war" was being carried out, which demanded bronze, with the absence of another alternative, fences, monuments and fixtures were dismantled overnight and the next morning the bronze was at one's disposal. The term "Kriegswichtig" was the key that opened previously locked doors. The term "decisive for the war" ("Kriegsentcheidend") occurring (as it was to prove) as an official classification, was however something unusual and not only at the end of 1944. I personally analysed in depth cubic meters of German documentation referring to technology and never came across this term in a different context—as an official designation of any other research project or activity. So far I have not met anybody who was familiar with this term. As I have mentioned, we will return again to this issue. It is difficult however not to have the impression that what was to decisively change the outcome of the war, even in its final months or weeks, must have been equally shrouded in an unusual secrecy. This generates the next question: did Hitler know about all this? In the light of available information one should however answer this positively—and that unequivocally. This is indicated simply by the presence of the Führer's personal secretary in the whole affair. Besides: if Goebbels and Skorzeny had known about the "Wunderwaffe", then Hitler would have known all the more. He undoubtedly had set his hopes on the project no less than Gerlach himself.

I presented above some attempts to explain Gerlach's role in the described project, however there is also some new information about the remaining scientists. It has become evident that several of them were brought over to United States within the confines of operation "Paperclip"—aimed at gaining outstanding German specialists.

Their personal files have survived, initiated in connection with this project, which I had the opportunity to acquaint myself with in the NARA archive at College Park. Admittedly many documents are still excluded from the files and kept in the CIA archive (which in itself constitutes emphatic evidence of their importance), but most are accessible.

The most important among those persons was undeniably Dr. Kurt Debus—responsible for the "separation of magnetic fields" issue as well as the power supply of "the bell". His personal file was also markedly thicker than those of the remaining scientists. His parent institution was the Institute of High Voltages at Darmstadt Polytechnic (Technische Hochschule). In 1942 he was transferred to the research institute of the AEG consortium in Berlin—Reinickendorf, in addition he also co-operated with the centre in Peenemünde. He was the author of several publications and patents regarding high voltage measuring technology. He developed among other things instruments for high pressure measurement and high voltage discharge parameters measurement. At the AEG research institute he constructed a power supply unit, supplying over 1 million volts current and took part in the equipping of a supersonic wind tunnel. He also took part in the development of measurement instruments for the V-2 test launch pads. In light of Gerlach's character there is little wonder that Debus was an exceptional fanatic, linked to the Nazi movement from the very beginning. He was a member of the SA from 1 May 1933 and of the SS from 1 February 1939. He was awarded the cross of merit (Kriegsdienstkreuz). Some interesting information found its way into his personal file to a large degree by chance.

Everything began from the controversy surrounding his fanaticism. The Americans suspected that he was an SS officer. Debus declared on the other hand that he "only" had the rank of an NCO: 9-Staffelunterscharführer. Through the so-called de-Nazification court in occupied Germany all materials, that could be gathered, were assembled -especially court records. On this occasion an interesting issue was brought into light. In 1942 Debus had informed against one of his fellow co-workers from the AEG Research Institute—Richard Crämér, to the Gestapo. It all began very innocently. One day both met at work in the morning and Debus asked Crämér if he had slept well. Could a criminal affair arise out of something like this? It turned out, that yes. Crämér retorted: "I slept well, if not for that air-raid warning". This in turn caused Debus to remark: "well, the English shouldn't have started this war", Crämér smiled ironically and asked: "the English started it?" This smile was sufficient that Crämér had to make an appearance at Gestapo headquarters. He was sentenced to two years in prison. So for the second time we can see what is the meaning of an "exceptional fanatic". Such a mess and loss at the heart of the most secret research project! The leadership of AEG was horrified and felt obliged to explain why Crämér's detention was absolutely out of the question. This explanation has survived... I probably do not have to add that in a normal situation any attempt to likewise question the legitimacy of the Gestapo's activities, would mean balancing on the edge of life and death. Here however, the situation was far from normal.

The consortium headquarters and research institute in Berlin sent the adequate letters. I decided to translate almost the entire letter originating from the last institution, in my opinion the most substantial one. In addition it has been reproduced in the book. It was written by the chief of the AEG Research Institute, Prof. Dr. Carl Wilhelm Ramssauer. From the text of the document it follows—after collation with general
Getlach's article referring to the "transformation of mercury into gold" knowledge on wartime scientific work - that the "Kriegsentscheidend" was de facto the highest degree of secrecy employed in the Third Reich - is reserved for a single, exceptional case. Here are its contents (bold by myself).\[25\]

Certificate
Mr. Engineer R. Crämer from the AEG transformers factory in Oberschöneweide is developing together with the AEG Research Institute a project concerning high voltages [Hochspannungsprojekt], which was contracted to AEG by the Ground Forces Armament Office [Heereswaffenamt] and is being realised under the code-name "Charite-Anlage", as a secret device important for the war. The realisation of this project is in half dependent on Mr. Crämer, who as the sole employee of AEG possesses necessary qualifications, concerning this special field of electricity. Without the co-operation of Mr. Crämer further realisation of this project is not possible. The research and development work must be carried out with full energy, at least until the end of the war.

The "important for the war" or "decisive for the war" importance of this project results from the following issues:

1. The project is realised under special priority SS 1940, which is only granted in such special cases.
2. Mr. Ministerial Director Prof. Dr. E. Schumann, director of the Research Division of the Ground Forces Armament Office has granted this project the highest level of urgency [the highest priority - I.W.], which has been described as "decisive for the war" ["kriegsentscheidend"] (compare the protocol from the briefing of 21.07.42, which may be submitted upon request).
3. "The Plienspottery of the Marshal of the Reich for Nuclear Physics", Councillor of State Prof. Dr. A. Esau, President of the Physical-Technical Reich's Office [Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt] (...) has explained the signing below, that in addition he will prove the necessity of carrying out this work in the interest of the war. A written confirmation will be submitted.

[seal and signature]

For the Gestapo and court these were apparently sufficient arguments, to immediately forget about the whole affair. Crämer did not go to prison. It is unknown what happened to him after the war. It is known however that Debus was used in various rocket and space projects of the US Armed Forces. He was probably acknowledged as one of the most important German scientists, since in 1963 he was appointed a director of the J.F. Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral. It must prompt reflection that one of the leading governmental facilities of the USA was directed by a fanatical SS-man. The arguments which stood behind this must have been really strong... He died in 1983 at the age of 75, leaving behind two daughters, who according to SS tradition were given old Germanic names: Ute Imgard and Sigrid Monika. Perhaps they know something?

In the files of the "Paperclip" project I also found the personal files of several other interesting scientists, but there was no information of any particular value. I began from Professor Hermann Oberth. I have not mentioned him until now, because reference to him appeared to some extent in the background of the project in question. Immediately after the war a document was discovered in some buildings in Sroda Slaska, on which his name appeared. It referred to a delegation of several scientists, who had arrived from Prague, stopped on the way in Wroclaw/Breslau and Sroda Slaska/Neumarkt (3 days) and then made their way to Torgau. The business trip took place between 15.9 - 25.9.1944 and consisted of the following individuals: Professor Hermann Oberth, Herbert Jensen, Dr. Edward Tholen, Dr. Elizabeth Adler and two others, whose names are illegible. The importance of this information lies in the fact that Oberth was
A search has been made of the records of the 1939 War Crimes Group and no record of Debuss has been found.

Records of the 1939 War Crimes Group indicate that Debuss, a former associate of a political defendant in 1942, and caused him to appear before the People's Court. The former associate, Richard CREMER, was exonerated in the years of imprisonment. CREMER eventually avoided actual imprisonment through the intervention of the Siemens Electric Company (Berlin) which claimed his services were indispensable.

RESTRICTED

An excerpt from Debuss's files, referring to the "Debuss-Crêmer" case.

the most outstanding specialist in the world engaged in space flight theory, with a far superior authority than that of the young von Braun (at that time 32). In short he represented a potential, which is undoubtedly not wasted, particularly when a rocket programme was being put into effect, projecting several decades into the future. Like earlier in the case of Professor Gerlach this information reveals to us a certain unusu-

Below and on the next page: documents from AEG referring to the "Debuss-Crêmer" case. (see: this book's text; Debuss's files – bibliography)
Bescheinigung.


Die kriegswichtige bezw. kriegsentscheidende Bedeutung dieses Projektes geht aus folgendem hervor:

1) Das Projekt läuft unter der Sonderstufe 85/1940, die nur in solchen Sonderfällen gewährt wird.

2) Herr Ministerialdirektor Professor Dr. E. Schumann, der Leiter der Abteilung Forschung im Heereswaffenamt, Charlottenburg, Hardenbergstr. 10, hat diesem Projekt die höchste "Ringschleifens"-Stufe zugestanden, indem er es als "mit kriegsentscheidend" bezeichnet hat (vgl. Protokoll der Sitzung vom 21.7.42, das auf Wunsch vorgelegt werden kann).

3) "Der Bevollmächtigte des Reichsmarschalls für Kernphysik", Herr Staatsrat Professor Dr. A. E. Reiss, Präsident der Physikalisch-Technischen Reichsanstalt, Charlottenburg, Werner Siemensstr. 8-12, hat den Unterzeichneten erklärt, daß er ebenfalls die Notwendigkeit, diese Entwicklung in kriegsinteresse durchzuführen, bescheinigen wird. Die schriftliche Bescheinigung wird ausgereicht.

ALGEMEINE EHRMUTTS GESELLSCHAFT
FORSCHUNGS INSTITUT
Der Direktor:

[Signature]
wremie work of Oberth. The most important information appearing from his American personal file is that he was in general brought to the USA. A certain curiosity is represented by the fact that he was interested in... occultism. Information more worthy of keeping in mind is included in another document. It was signed by a US intelligence colonel and contains the “categorical demand” to establish the identity and recruit a German scientist -Herbert P. Jensen, within the confines of project “Paperclip”. This name is already familiar to us. It seems that the Americans were not interested in Oberth due to his purely theoretical pre-war analyses, but for altogether more specific reasons. It looks after all like it had been attempted to recreate the former research team -the information about Jensen probably came from Oberth, since it was found in his personal file.\textsuperscript{236} In this context it is worth taking into account that after the end of his internment at Farm Hall, Gerlach was also transferred to the USA and intensively interrogated. He finally returned to Germany, but American secret services had taken possession of his “work diary”. Almost nothing is known about it apart from the fact that as a valuable trophy it ended up in the CIA archive.\textsuperscript{238}

When I was in the USA, the files of yet another person interested me, who the Americans depended on. It concerned Prof. Hubertus Strughold. His name had never appeared in documents referring to the “Chronos”/"Laternenträger“ project, but in one of the interviews he confessed that in 1945 he had tested some kind of “space flight simulator” in the vaults of Książ (Fürstenstein).\textsuperscript{239} Strughold was a pioneer in the field of space medicine. However I only established that he found his way to the USA on 3 August 1947 and played a key role in preparations for the first American manned space flight...\textsuperscript{237}

We end on this the investigation of the scientists’ fates and activities. There is however one more aspect of the work, which was barely pointed out on the previous pages -reference to where the work was carried out and the specific facilities. I will remind one that it concerned in chronological order: the underground laboratory in Sroda Śląska (Neumarkt) near Lubiatów (Lebus), the underground facility in the vicinity of the so-called old castle in Książ (Fürstenstein) and the “inactive coal mine near Walbrzych (Waldenburg), which had been taken over for these purposes”. Nothing substantial is known about the laboratory in Sroda Śląska. The issue of Książ appears much better. A complex of two extremely picturesque castles -“old” and “new” is located there. It is no secret that during the war this area was closely guarded and was under the “guardianship” of the military -chief of the Luftwaffe and the SS. Two underground facilities were dug and tunnelled there on a large scale, on several levels. The one under the “new” castle is relatively well known, because part of the system has been researched and catalogued. The known section consists of tunnels with a total length of approx. 1 km. However in all probability most of the facility is not yet known, because out of at least six former en-
Entrances currently only one is accessible and after the war the main elevator shaft connecting the castle with the underground levels was filled in. Work was probably commenced in 1943, exploiting among others a commando of prisoners from Gross-Rosen, Italian specialists and approx. 400 Soviet miners from the Donbas region.
The purpose of the facility has never been fully unravelled. In all probability the Führer’s command post was to be established here, code-named “Rüdiger”, although on the other hand it is known that during the final months of the war a Luftwaffe research station code-named “Wetterstelle” was transferred to these vaults. Among other things the electronic equipment and bombsights from shot down Allied aircraft were tested here. From the reports of some prisoners it appears that this complex was connected to an underground facility in the nearby Sowie Mountains (German: Eulengebirge), by a tunnel 16-18 km in length. This facility or complex of facilities was code-named “Riese”.

Much less is known about the facility under the “old” castle, distant from the “new” castle by only approx. 500 m. In spite of the short distance, both complexes of tunnels and halls have so far been treated separately, since the 60-80 m deep ravine of the Pelcznica stream divides them (German: Polsnitz). In spite of this the possibility of a connection existing between them is not excluded. Mr. Tadeusz Słowiński among others has quoted such reports, the local researcher, who has devoted half of his life on researching Ksiaz and probably has the most documents on this subject. In addition the first professional and in general first geological reconnaissance of the underground facilities under the “new” castle—conducted in 1960 by the District Mine Rescue Station in Walbrzych (when the main shaft was still accessible)—validated such suppositions. Four levels of tunnels were catalogued at that time and not the two widely known at present. The lowest was located “at the level of the stream”. Such a number of levels was also indicated by such a simple detail like the still existing until not long ago, lift distributor box.

The facility under the “old” castle has been completely inaccessible since 1948. Its existence however was confirmed by the two main researchers of Ksiaz, the aforementioned Tadeusz Słowiński as well as Sławomir Orłowski from Wroclaw. The former stated moreover that the whole area around the castle was closely guarded during the war by at least two rings of Luftwaffe posts, and was also prepared to show the blown up entrance to the underground facility. Orłowski described in one of his articles (from 1977) the mysterious events connected with this facility:

“Among people researching the old plans of Ksiaz the conviction prevails that the small castle had a well developed system of underground passages, which at the bottom of the ravine and Pelcznica brook were connected to the oldest castle corridors. (...) I heard the solution of this riddle in 1967. (...) I met Ivan Konkov in a group of Soviet tourists, combatants from the last war, who had fought in Lower Silesia. (...) Just then Konkov recalled that he had been stationed at Ksiezno castle as Ksiaz was called at the time. (...) Seeing my interest in this subject, Konkov asked if I knew why the small castle at the summit had been destroyed. I asked for his account of the event. And here is his story:

“One day some soldiers spotted two people moving about in a grove of evergreen rhododendrons. Being called to halt, they fled into the undergrowth, returning fire. (...)”

The escaping men dodged and wove, but when the ring tightened, they disappeared on the grounds of “the old castle”. Several soldiers reached the castle yard, but here they were
caught by strong machine gun fire. (...) Just then a powerful explosion occurred. The walls of the gothic ruins shook and crashed onto the yard, which undulated and collapsed from the force of an underground explosion".

In this way, in 1948, the guards from Werwolf sealed the secret of these underground vaults. Little information has survived, which would allow it to be unravelled. The reason for this was the close guard of the whole region and the fact that almost all prisoners who worked here during the final months of the war, were slaughtered. Some unusual information however has appeared. I heard from Mr. Słowiński, not asking him at all about such matters, that at the turn of 1944/45 one of the inhabitants had seen some objects vertically landing and taking off, which he called "flying barrels". On 23 June 1999 the Polish television network TVN presented the report of an anonymous witness - a woman, whose husband was taken as a prisoner of war after the Warsaw uprising, and worked and lived at Książ castle until the last days of the war. He survived the execution by firing squad of the prisoners in April 1945 thanks to a steel corset, protecting his damaged spine. He stated that he had seen there some rounded, experimental flying vehicles. Mr Jerzy Rostkowski, an extremely reliable researcher and the author of a film about the history of Książ, in turn got hold of a written account of a Gross-Rosen prisoner, working at Książ. One day he had overheard a conversation between SS-men, concerning a kind of "super weapon" that was being created here. He remembered the following words:

"Only those in the forests or high in the mountains will survive, because no shelter will protect them from death".

The above accounts are in principle a compilation of already known information related to Książ. But finally I managed to get hold of some new facts, which put everything in a completely new light. Before happened however, I concentrated on unravelling the role of yet another mysterious place - that undefined "former coal mine near Wałbrzych (Waldenburg)".

For this objective I contacted a scientist, an employee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, who was engaged in mine research, and especially in the history of mines in this area - Michał Banas from Cracow. I had the impression that my question gave him some kind of relief, since shortly before he had "discovered" a rather strange mine, meeting the above criteria and he was curious what it had been used for during the war. Simultaneously he did not know of any other facility, which would match this intrigue - and this one matched to perfection. This mine was located in Ludwikowice Kłodzkie (then: Ludwigsdorf) and until 1945 bore the name "Wenzelslau". It is situated about 20 km from Książ and practically adjoins the earlier mentioned underground facilities complex ("Riese") in the Sowie Mountains. Michał Banas managed to gather a great deal of documentation, from which it appeared, at least concerning the ground section, that great changes had taken place here during the war. It was enough to compare pre-war, wartime and post-war aerial photographs. Banas established that in 1931 a big accident had occurred here, which caused the mine to become bankrupt and be taken over by the state. From initially available information it appeared that during the war an explosives factory was established here, and at the same time some chemical plants of the Dynamit A.G. consortium. Since from Banas's account it appeared that this was generally an interesting area, we made our way to this place...

The whole area, in the centre of which was located the main lift shaft, proved to be the interior of a deep valley, which was accessible only through two "mountain passes". Since the remnants of watch-towers could be seen in them, it was obvious that the whole area had been closely guarded, and its configuration caused that in this way the whole valley was physically cut off the outside world.

Even first glance at this once "prohibited zone" was sufficient to be seized by the irrefutable impression that a lot had gone on here during the war, and truly important things at that. First and foremost was one struck by the unusually developed infrastructure, typical for underground facilities of a military nature, and not for mines - kilometres of perfect con-
A labyrinth of concrete roads around the mine lead to numerous bunkers scattered in the forest. (photo: I. Witkowski).

One of the bunkers camouflaged with trees. (photo: I. Witkowski).

The outlet of one of ventilation shafts, leading to a wartime level; similarly camouflaged. (photo: I. Witkowski).
Here, throughout the entire levelled ground, once extended a large railway station, around 100 metres from the mine’s main shaft. (photo: I. Witkowski).

Concrete roads in forests, a mass of bunkers, the remnants of gates and fences within the sealed zone and the like. The other unusual detail, even for military facilities, was the painstaking camouflage. All the reinforced concrete buildings and bunkers possessed either so-called trough roofs, on which normal sized trees were growing or were covered with earth - for just the same effect, to which camouflage paint was added.

One structure especially intrigued us, one of the concrete roads leading us to it. On an area of flat ground was a dodecagon-shaped pool, with a diameter of almost 40 m. Its edges were painted with a still visible green camouflage paint. Inside the pool towered a pretty unusual structure. It was formed by 12 massive pillars about 10-12 metres high, connected at the top by a dodecagon-shaped, reinforced concrete ring with a diameter of around 30-31 m. It was strange, since it did not have any roof and between the pillars there were no walls, or even the slightest trace of them. The structure gave the impression of being a complete whole, plastered and painted with green paint. Only on the circumference of the ring at the top were some kind of metal fixtures visible. At first, before we had taken a more thorough look, it appeared to be the scaffolding of an incomplete cooling tower or cooling stack, belonging to the nearby, pre-war power plant. However Michał Banaś produced a photograph from 1934 and said: “the power plant had its own cooling towers, they stood here... this does not resemble any cooling tower”. In his opinion it was first of all too low in relation to its diameter and secondly the pillars would have had to have been connected by walls. Besides, this explanation was contradicted first and foremost by the pool - larger than the structure itself.

The whole structure gave a pretty eerie impression, but simultaneously reminded me of something. At the time I still did not know of what, but after returning home I retrieved a photograph of something very similar. It was called a “fly trap” and was designed to test objects vertically taking off and landing.

Later Nick Cook from “Jane’s”, who arrived from Great Britain among other things to see “it”, showed me yet another photograph. I daresay resembling even more the structure from Ludwikowice. It bore the caption: “AVRO’s test-rig for the Mach 4 Project 1794 Saucer” - designed for testing disc-shaped flying objects, built in the Canadian factory AVRO. What a provoking explanation... Of course I am not sure if it is real, although the photograph of the aforementioned, my-

Ludwikowice – the “fly trap”. When viewed from inside, the ring gives the impression of a finished whole... (photo: I. Witkowski).
A post-war inscription on one of the pillars: "swimming in the pool is forbidden". Therefore it must have once been filled with water. (photo: I. Witkowski). A fragment of the pool's border. (photo: I. Witkowski). Sterious structure has been reproduced a few years ago in several thousand books and so far I have not met any clear-cut alternative explanation. The “fly trap” has also been shown several times on television, as something of an unknown purpose – also with no response.

Pretty unusual in all of this is the aforementioned pool. It matches the description of the surface covered with ceramic tiles and washed with brine. There is yet another detail – a coupling link exists between the “fly trap” and the power plant standing nearby. This is a concrete installation duct (made from prefabricated elements), through which cables were led under the central part of the pool. I write this, because remnants of them are still there – such a cable – as thick as a man's arm – can be seen on one of the photographs. As Michal Banas explained, high voltage current is not used in mines, and in those with a gas hazard – like this one, the electrical power supply is replaced by a pneumatic one. So as to avoid any misunderstanding, an explanation is necessary: a gas hazard only exists during the mining of a deposit, there is no problem when the underground space serves other purposes.

In order to obtain additional information, we decided to talk with the inhabitants of the buildings lying in the valley. We wanted to discover somebody who had been settled here relatively early (the Germans were displaced) and had seen more traces of wartime activity. We made contact with such a person – Mr. Henryk Lasak, who had found his way here in 1947. However he knew little, although he remembered that in the area of the power plant and the fly trap some notices prohibiting entry with the “SS” insignia had been present. We heard from others, that a huge amount of chemical weapons had been produced here, containers of which are still sealed in bunkers and that from time to time sappers find chemical ammunition. We found such bunkers in the forest – with the danger notices: “caution, poison!”

Vegetation has covered part of the “fly trap’s” structure from Ludwikowice. On this photograph a fragment of the “pool’s” border is visible (1) and located much closer to the centre, one of the pillars (2). (photo: I. Witkowski). A modern “fly trap” for testing helicopters at a plant of PZL. (photo: PZL/ Skrzydlą Polska).
The installation channel duct, leading from the power plant (approx. 50 m away) up to the "fly trap", the ring of which is visible behind the trees. The lower part of the photograph shows a typical high voltage cable, pulled out of the duct. (photo: I. Witkowski).

Thanks to the help of Mr. Piotr Kahuza we managed to make contact with somebody who had worked in the buildings of the former mine in 1948 - Mr. Frank Szczogel from Łądek Zdrój. He was to have discovered at that time the personal files of workers employed there during the war. It appeared from the files that a large number of electrical engineers and mechanics had been employed - therefore not only explosives and chemical weapons had been involved. A former female prisoner discovered by Mr Kahuza stated in turn, that those working underground had to take some kind of tablets several times daily and that the staff walked around in white lab-coats. Michał Banas then established, that the mine had been a true underground city. Excavations were found on many levels, up to 610 m. down and had occupied an area of 9 x 16 km horizontally. From the south-east they approached a distance of only 200 m to the mysterious "Riese" complex, built during the war by tens of thousands of prisoners from Gross-Rosen (according to Dr Jacek Wilczur from the Main Commission for the Research of Nazi War Crimes by over 70,000246, according to other sources, at least 40,000247). So the whole issue began to appear on a totally different scale! The only problem, that remained was that since the end of the war the mine has been completely flooded with water and there is no access to the underground section.

It is made clear by the existing documentation, that even before the war the combined area of the tunnels and halls of "Wenzeslaus" amounted to thirty million square metres (!) - it was one of the largest coal mines in Europe.248 This means...
Plans of some sections of the "Riese"/"Riesa" complex - the "Wlodarz" facility. (I. Wiktowski).

about 50 times more, than in the case of the giant Mittelwerk complex near Nordhausen.

Since I was unable on the basis of existing sources to unequivocally determine the connection between the sites in question where work was carried out, I turned to an authority in this field - the only living person who had had direct access to the German documents and other wartime sources. This individual was Prof. Mieczysław Molenda, who as a prisoner of Gross-Rosen - and expert, worked in the so-called technical chancellery of the camp, making various plans (for example plans of nuclear shelters for German cities), but generally concerning "camp" construction projects.

Taking this opportunity - Molenda stated that he had designed cooling towers (be was a Professor of building engineering), but authoritatively pronounced that the construction from Ludwikowice was without fail not one. Prof. Molenda had direct contact with Hans Kammler and Oswald Pohl. I turned to him, since in his book concerning Gross-Rosen there was some information which could be some kind of link.²⁴⁴

"Kommando "Fürstenstein" in Krus near Wolszczyn, on the grounds of a Luftwaffe headquarters with an aerial weapons study centre and special inspection (Sonderinspektion) of underground factories construction in the Sowie Mountains massif. A small Kommando, established in 1944 and administratively connected to the nearby Kommando "Wustegiersdorf", building an arms production complex, working on the construction of camouflaged chambers, shelters and store houses for military research posts" (p. 192).
"Riesa"—some of the underground tunnels. (photo: I. Witkowski, M. Banaś).

One of the ventilation collectors, evidently from the time of war, in Ludwikowice. It is a camouflaged bunker, which was protecting the shaft and housed the fans. Above it are four concrete ventilation chimneys, each having internal cross-section of 1 m². I have to admit, that I wrote a book about Hitler’s underground factories, but this is the largest such an object, that I have ever seen. Larger may only be the elevator shafts. It looks, that the giant mine was treated as just a starting point, just the first element of a larger complex. The second one would be the level(s), to which the wartime ventilation shafts are leading (top level of the mine is about 100 m deeper). The third one forms infrastructure on the surface. The fourth one would consist of the nearby „Riesa“ or „Riese“ complex—after finishing of the connecting tunnel, mentioned by Prof. Moldawa. (photos & translated: I. Witkowski).

"Riesa"—one of many piles of fossilized cement bags, that the Germans never managed to use. (photo: I. Witkowski).

One of the entrances to the underground facility. (photo: I. Witkowski).
A document from the so-called Operation to Disarm the Oder Line from 1947, in which there is reference to the existence of a large underground complex near the town of Głuszyca (Wüstegiersdorf). Machines/engines were plundered from it and the entrances probably later blown up. Now only legends circulate about Głuszyca's huge underground facility. On the margin is a note to send the document to the Minister of Public Security – Różański. (photo: CA MSW).

Wüstegiersdorf is present day Głuszyca—the official German location of the “Riese” complex.

First and foremost the questions arose of what was the mysterious “aerial weapons study centre”, and what in the aforementioned mountains was to be produced... Only the element linking Książ with the “Wenzeslaus” mine was missing.

Armed with a video camera and backup of tape I headed, after prior appointment, for Prof. Moldawa’s apartment. Frankly speaking I had no hope that he would be able to tell me anything more than he had written in his book. However he was able to—and delivered some outright crucial information.

He began with the issue of the so-called “Jägerstab”. Therefore before I begin to give an account of the conversation, I will explain what this was. The year 1943 was a period of systematic loss of the Luftwaffe’s control over the skies of Germany. Air raids were sowing the seeds of devastation in the German armament industry. Counteracting this was only possible with the aid of extraordinary measures. As a result, on 1 March 1944 the so-called “Jägerprogramm” was brought to life and the institution which was to put it into effect—the
Cross-section of the „Fly trap“. It is standing in a „water tank“ or „pool“, that has significantly larger diameter, than the visible upper ring. Presently the tank is filled with ground and slag. Possible connection with the installation duct has not been explored. The „entablatures“ in the centre of the tank has been described by a witness – presently are not visible. (drawing & translation: I. Witkowski).

Hans Kammler

Dr Kammler was, alongside Karl Otto Saur and Xavier Dorsch from Speer’s Ministry, one of several individuals responsible for the most important armament undertakings. His position rose systematically in due measure of the war’s passage, proportionally to the growing influence of the SS on the production of arms and their deployment.

He was born in 1901. After completing technical university studies he began work in the Air Ministry, and after the creation of the SS passed along with a group of Luftwaffe specialists to work at its headquarters (V-Hauptamt). Initially he performed one of the managerial functions in the department responsible for finances and construction enterprises. In February 1942 he became chief of “group C” in the Main Economic-Administrative Office of the SS (WVHA). Driving the expansion of SS concentration camps and building engineering, he contributed to the tremendous rise in its income as well as political and economic standing. From the beginning of 1943 Kammler acquired moreover a series of “special tasks” to carry out, connected with particular armament projects. According to Speer’s words he displayed during their execution “an unusual energy, freshness and ruthlessness”. After Himmler as the SS-Reichsführer had taken control over the V-1 and V-2 programmes he became responsible for their production and military deployment. At the turn of 1944 and 1945 he directed not only programmes directly subordinate to the SS but entire branches of the armament industry – among others the production of jet fighters and guided surface-to-air rockets. He was also responsible for construction of the underground armaments facilities associated with them. Officially he was commander of an army corps for special missions (Armeekorps z.b.V.).

“Jägerstab”. It involved accelerating the production of new fighters and other revolutionary aerial weapons. The basis for it was to be formed by underground factories, resistant against air raids. They were initially to be under the authority of Speer’s Armament Ministry and the Luftwaffe, but during 1944 the SS and specifically the “Rüstungsstab“ of SS-Gruppenführer Hans Kammler seized ever greater control over these projects. By the end of 1944 he had already seized control over both Luftwaffe research work and the construction of underground factories.

At the instant that the “Jägerprogram” was called into being it became a key armament programme. Few researchers fully realise this, but the leaders of the Third Reich assumed, that the new weapons would cause a complete change in the situation in the skies over Germany and the Luftwaffe to regain air superiority. The mass use of the revolutionary armament was to be synchronised with the countoffensive in the Ardennes.265

We return to the account of Prof. Moßdau.

He delivered the first, very important piece of information: the “Jägerstab” was based in Zytawa (Zittau), whereas in Książ (Fürstenstein) – “under the control” of the Luftwaffe was situated its department responsible for the development of new weapons. It was precisely the most revolutionary of them that was to be produced in the Sowie Mountains. A special commando of prisoners has been created specifically for this purpose... The unusual care about the prisoners (non-Jewish) assigned to realise this task testified to the great

Above: a modern aerial photograph of the “fly trap’s” surroundings (from the collection of Jerzy Cera). Below: a similar photograph from 1954. It is almost identical to the Allied aerial photograph from the autumn of 1944—on which, for the first time, the mysterious ring-like structure appeared.

Balls of Fire Stalk U. S. Fighters In Night Assaults Over Germany

By The Associated Press

AMERICAN NIGHT FIGHTER
BASE, France, Jan. 1—The Germans have thrown something new into the night skies over Germany—the weird, mysterious “foo-fighter,” balls of fire that race alongside the wings of American B-17s flying missions over the Reich.

American pilots have been encountering the eerie “foo-fighter” for more than a month in their night flights. No one apparently knows exactly what this sky weapon is.

The balls of fire appear suddenly and accompany the planes for miles. They appear to be radio-controlled from the ground and keep up with planes five miles above them.

Donald Miesel of Chicago said, “One is red balls of fire which appear off our wing tips and fly along with us; the second is a vertical row of three balls of fire which fly in front of us, and the third is a group of about fifteen lights which appear off to the distance—like a Christmas tree up in the air—and flicker on and off.”

The pilots of this night-fighter squadron—in operation since September, 1943—say these fiery balls the weirdest thing that they have yet encountered. They are convinced that the “foo-fighter” is designed to be a psychological as well as a military weapon, although it is not the nature of the device.”

One of the press articles from 1944, describing the unusual objects observed over Germany.
hopes that the Luftwaffe command had for this work. Apart from standard camp rations they were guaranteed a pretty solid military diet including milk (1). The airmen, knowing the brutality of the SS-men didn’t even allow them to escort the prisoners. This obviously gives an idea of the high priority granted to what they were working on.

According to Moldawa, this “forgotten” Kommando, controlled by the Luftwaffe was large and operated in complete abstraction from the rest of the Kommandos, administered by this concentration camp. It appears that none of its members survived the war...

As a supplement to this information, Prof. Moldawa pointed out, that not very far from Ksiaż (about 85 km to the West), in Zelezy Brod a “planning centre for operations with the use of strategic, radio-guided weapons” was constructed for the Luftwaffe. The person in conversation with me emphasized that it was hard not to notice that a series of key facilities had been concentrated in such a narrow region. When treated as a whole, they give a picture of a defined armament program.

I asked of course: what was this weapon?

According to him, it was to be a weapon “decisive for the war” (!), composed so to say of two components. The first was a flying object or combination of such objects with revolutionary new capabilities. It was to reach “safely” all major cities of the enemies, Prof. Moldawa mentioning “Moscow, London and New York”. The person in conversation with me did not know what kind of object it would have been. He knows that various variants had been considered, he saw for example the sketch of a heavy bomber transporting an unmanned rocket-propelled aircraft. But this referred to the initial phase, when various concepts were being considered. He does not know what was chosen.

The second component on the other hand, was to be the most lethal weapon of the Third Reich and of the Second World War—the latest generation of chemical weapons (tabun, sarin, soman). After all they were also produced mainly in Lower Silesia, and...in Ludwikowice.

In connection with this I asked Prof. Moldawa about the role of the mine already familiar to us. He replied that it had been part of the whole production complex. After the war he talked with an engineer who designed the connection between the mine’s underground facilities and the “Riesa” complex (exactly! “Riesa” and not “Riese”, he stated that he remembers this precisely, so I will use this code-name from now on). It is not known if this connection was actually made. Only part of the “Riesa” complex is presently known—approx. 90,000 m³, while just a comparison of the consumption of materials and size of the labour force with similar facilities suggests at least 250,000 m³. In the unanimous opinions of Prof. Moldawa and myself, such a connection (a mine plus a horizontally constructed complex) resulted simply from the fact that the mine had admittedly a huge cubic capacity at its disposal, but had a very serious and irremovable shortcoming. The main transportation lines—two large shafts—were characterised by a series of limitations. First and foremost large elements—finished products—could not be moved through them, although the mine was perfectly suited for e.g. the production of chemical weapons—as transportation was ensured by pipelines. In a given case however a separate full assembly line was needed—precisely “Riesa”, characterised by huge halls and horizontal transportation lines leading to the entrances.

“Riesa” or “Riese” is another outstanding “object” on our journey. It is a complex of underground facilities, evidently unfinished, constructed on the circumference of a mountain massif, at the same level. Probably these facilities were to be connected near the centre of the massif, forming one underground structure over 3 km wide and about 5 km long (from east to west). It is very likely, that some part(s) of “Riese”/“Riesa” has not been “rediscovered” after the war, because there are large discrepancies between the German data and what can be seen today—e.g. there were large concentrations of the workforce in places where nothing has been found. According to probably the most reliable publication on this subject, written by Prof. Seidler (“Unvollendete Anlagen”), the complex was to be finished by August 1945 and was about to consume 359,100 cubic metres of concrete, which is e.g. significantly more, than the quantity of concrete used in the
Empire State Building (about half of the entire volume of the building). Obviously, this doesn’t include the “Wenzelslaus” mine and other materials used for the construction. Professor Seidler wrote, that part of “Riesa” was about to be comprised of various headquarters—for Hitler, military staffs and certain central institutions, while the remaining part was intended for industrial purposes—for the production of a new weapon.

It looks then like the true equivalent of the purely mythical “alpine redoubt”, which existed mostly on paper. A kind of underground capital of the state, connected with an arsenal of the last resort???

In this way, mostly thanks to the information from Prof. Moldawa, in the puzzle’s elements had been credibly fitted into place, including elements on the map. They occupy after all a large portion of the map. If one is to believe the accounts of the tunnel connecting the Sowie Mountains with Książ, we obtain an underground city 25 km in length!

The information (technical) presented above raises the fundamental question: could the described system have been “decisive for the war”?

Decidedly yes!

A carrier of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), out of reach of enemy fighters (manoeuvrability, speed) and with a long range, would have been the materialization of a technological jump of in calculable consequences. According to official data the Germans produced 10,000 tonnes of phosphoro-organic chemical weapons. This data however refers to only two factories, while in reality there were at least four of them. This amounts to around 100 million doses resulting in immediate death!!! The possibility of them being safely transported to the enemy’s main population centres would have signified a doubling of the number of war victims in the course of a week! It would have been enough to possess a “fleet” of around 50 large objects, which would have corresponded to approx. one tenth of a percent of the number of aircraft produced in the Third Reich during 1944. Germany could therefore have won the war even at the turn of 1944/45 - it followed in a letter from Gerlach to Bormann. In light of this it becomes clear why in Germany there had been no equivalent to

the American “Manhattan” project - which engaged well over 200,000 people, while the bomb dropped on Hiroshima killed directly “only” 78,000 people (more or less the same as the largest conventional air raid on Dresden). In the conditions of that time a nuclear weapon was simply devoid of any military justification (at least in the Reich, the Americans had no “chemical alternative”). Apart from all of this the question obviously arises of whether the Germans managed to bring into production and employ a revolutionary type of propulsion. This question seems rhetorical, but it is not because... it is known that they did.

This can be proved (although nobody before has succeeded in doing this). The documents which confirm this – rather unequivocally – are among other places in the NARA archive, and their copies—in my hands. As one can surmise, in this case it concerns unmanned objects—the reported problems with radiation “side effects” probably excluded the participation of a pilot, still at the beginning of 1945.

The documents in question refer to something which in the Allied mass media were labelled “Foo fighters”. In the last weeks of 1944, and more precisely in the second half of November, Allied pilots started to come into contact with a new phenomenon. Luminous, rounded flying objects were sighted, which sometimes only shadowed the approaching aircraft and sometimes performed strange aerobatics within their formations. Anti-aircraft weapons were totally ineffective against them, while radar sets ceased to work. The objects emit-
Has this development any relationship to our combat report of "balls of fire"? While it becomes readily apparent that all of these reports have not stemmed from the same causative source, it does not appear beyond the realm of possibility that some of the so-called "balls of fire" may have been generated by the rocket motor of the "Viper". In one form or another as many as 302 sightings by 140 crews which may be classified under the heading "balls of fire" have been reported. While a large percentage of these sightings have continued for at most two-three minutes, some have persisted for as long as 15 minutes. A few are quoted below.

1. "A yellow ball of fire about six inches in diameter observed moving upward at an angle of about 75 degrees. Fire burned out at 8,000 feet. Six white balls of fire seen to come up from Nagoya. A greyish ball of fire about the size of a soccer ball passing below the aircraft in the target area. A red ball of fire seen coming up from below."

2. "A red ball of fire was seen dropping slowly from 1,000 feet to 500 feet below and ahead of one B-29. Then, it dropped like a bullet and exploded on the ground. One crew member saw and object going away from the just before they reached the target. It was believed to have been a fighter. Flames seemed to be coming from it and as it turned two balls of fire came up toward the B-29 from behind but did not get close to it."

3. "Unidentified enemy aircraft launching what appeared to be a fireball on the withdrawal course."

4. "In one instance three balls of fire appeared to be launched from enemy aircraft."

5. "Four balls of fire about size of a fighter plane, flared at level height then drifted to earth flaring up or burning."

6. "Ball of fire first seen at five o'clock level about 300 yards behind B-29. Near as can be determined ball of fire was about the size of a basketball. When evasive action taken in form of turns, ball of fire turned inside B-29 and kept following. Appeared that each time B-29 made a turn ball of fire followed but on straightaway it would make up lost distance. B-29 lost altitude, going down to 6,000 feet in order to gain air speed and finally turned back toward coast. It was estimated that ball of fire followed for about five or six minutes."

7. "One crew member thought he saw short streamer behind ball of fire, which was faint and not steady. This light appeared to fade when ball of fire was making turn, then increased after resuming straight course. Streamer of light was seen for about one minute after ball of fire headed back toward coast, when it faded abruptly. Blister gunner of this crew thought he saw wing in connection with ball of fire; and that wing had navigation light burning on left wing tip."

8. "Just after leaving secondary target on course of 120 degrees and at 7,000 feet, observed what appeared to be ball of fire following at about four o'clock. B-29 immediately took evasive action gaining and losing 500 feet and Allied press started to write about this. A good deal of confusion was caused e.g. by an account printed in "The New York Times". yesterday, during a night air raid on Hamburg, a mysterious, luminous ball appeared near an Allied bomber squadron, which despite many attacks of escorting fighters, appeared to be indestructible. This mysterious and undoubtedly
Hitler's new weapon, very effectively jammed all radio-communication. None of our experts managed to explain as previously, what the principle of operation of these "luminous balls" was based on and through which at tremendous speeds demonstrated manoeuvrability at variance with the laws of aerodynamics!" (underlining by myself – I.W.).

This is by no means an isolated example. The day before a similar description had appeared in the British daily “South Wales Argus”:

"The Germans have produced for Christmas their new, secret weapon. It is clearly an anti-aircraft weapon and resembles the glass balls, with which one decorates Christmas trees at Christmas. They were observed over German territory, sometimes in groups. They are silver (...)

The culmination of reports on these objects came at the turn of 1944/45. A very interesting article devoted to these observations was published on 2 January 1945 in the important American newspaper “New York Herald Tribune”:

"BALLS OF FIRE STALK U.S. FIGHTERS IN NIGHT ASSAULTS OVER GERMANY.
By The Associated Press.
AMERICAN NIGHT FIGHTER BASE, France, Jan. 1
The Germans have thrown something new into the night skies over Germany – the weird, mysterious "foo-fighter", balls of fire that race alongside the wings of American Beaufighters flying intruder missions over the Reich.
American pilots have been encountering the eerie "foo-fighter" for more than a month in their night flights. No one apparently knows exactly what this sky weapon is.
The balls of fire appear suddenly and accompany the planes for miles. They appear to be radio-controlled from the ground and keep up with planes flying (...)
Donald Meiers of Chicago said:
"One is red balls of fire which appear off our wing tips and fly along with us; the second is a vertical row of three balls of fire which fly in front of us, and the third is a group of about fifteen lights which appear off in the distance – like a Christmas tree up in the air – and flicker on and off.
The pilots of this night-fighter squadron – in operation since September, 1943 – find these fiery balls the weirdest thing that they have yet encountered. They are convinced that the "foo-fighter" is designed to be a psychological as well as a military weapon (...)."

According to some reports the "Foo-fighters", or "Kugelblitz" – as they were supposed to be called by the Germans, sometimes also shot down the approaching bombers, creating explosions. From other accounts it followed that the objects were huge, rotating and emitted a large amount of heat. The most contradictory to common sense – in the opinion of the pilots – seemed to be however their ability for tremendous accelerations. But all of this was "only" press reports, although when I was once reviewing the microfilmed archive of the Reich’s Scientific Research Council I was taken aback by a report on those accounts. The "Council" was obviously very interested in the Allied reaction... However I managed to get hold of a considerably more important source than the press reports.

In the archive at College Park (NARA) I managed to retrieve a US Air Force intelligence report from April 1945, describing this phenomenon extensively. It is a really shocking document. Above all it says that as many as 302 observations of such objects were recorded (?), made by 140 aircrews. So we are talking about a mass phenomenon. What more – it can be clearly seen that it was a Luftwaffe weapon. New elements appearing in the report were among others:

- Observations referring to Germany and Japan to an equal degree.
- Several incidents, in which there was mention of the "Kugelblitz" (?) being carried by enemy fighters.
- Observation of several objects crashing into the ground, which were accompanied by explosions – so they were in all probability material creations of technology.
- The conclusion of the report’s authors, that it is difficult to explain the whole phenomenon by referring to jet or rocket propulsion. The expression: "a revolutionary method of defence" was mentioned.

Is an intelligence analysis, referring to 140 sources reliable material?

It is proof.

The Germans and Japanese, probably together, created flying objects having absolutely revolutionary characteristics, although they managed to employ in practise only the unmanned version.

In the NARA archive I found something else...

The huge majority of archive materials are unfortunately not precisely catalogued, however the main collection of documents handed over from the US military intelligence service (over 10,000 boxes) is provided with some kind of catalogue. In it is a considerable section referring to German research and development work from the field of aviation. It obviously aroused my interest. I found there something amazing – referring to work on a "flying saucer". Unfortunately in the main collection itself the document was not present – only a reference that it had been excluded from the files, so I have reproduced only the catalogue sheet. Such work, irrespective of other reasons, can no longer be solely the subject of speculation.

In the intelligence report mentioned a little earlier a totally new element appeared, which raised the question about the possible co-operation between the Reich and Japan in the field in question. Was this possible?

It is known from other sources that a certain exchange of technical information had existed, in the confines of which technical documentation of the Me-163 and Me-262 among other things had been given to the Japanese. Here however probably something greater was involved. I did not exactly check the Japanese plot, but there is some information suggesting the possibility of joint work on mercureic propulsion.

Since both Allies were separated by huge distances and enemy armies, almost exclusively the submarines of both si-
des were used for the transportation of materials within the confines of the technical exchange—which ferried like shuttles. The strange thing in all of this is that at the end of the war very large amounts of ... mercury started to “appear” on their decks. So large that this had undoubtedly taken place at something’s cost, after all the submarines’ internal capacity was very limited and fuel was “worth its weight in gold”. Mercury was evidently a strategic resource for both sides, which is not possible to explain in any “conventional” way.

The first such information had intrigued me long before now, and I had chanced upon it in a book about German polar research. There was reference in it to a U-859 submarine, which was supposed to have departed from Germany in April 1944 and soon after was sunk in the Malakka strait near Indonesia. Its cargo was retrieved in 1972, when it turned out that it contained 33 tonnes of mercury(I). In October 2001 the British Discovery Channel broadcast a documentary devoted to the great Japanese I-52 submarine, which in the summer of 1944 was sunk in the Atlantic, near Gibraltar, by an American bomber. It had taken from Germany plans and strategic materials, including a large amount of mercury. The cargo had been transferred at open sea from a U-530 U-boat, incidentally —the same, which later reached Argentina in an evacuation mission.

I even found in a book devoted to Hitler’s gold information that in one of the hidden deposit storehouses a “huge amount of mercury” had been found, apart from gold ingots.

These are all incidents not uncovered until after the war and in reality we do not know what truth hides behind them. However considerably more is known about one such cargo, since it was captured in entirety (the U-boat plus its crew) by the Americans—even in May 1945, which the Americans have disclosed. The vessel—a Type X-B U-234 left Norwegian fjords on 16 April 1945. It was to sail to the West, then to the Southern Atlantic and finally to Japan. Apart from the crew, on board were: three Japanese—two officers and a submarine design specialist, seven German military specialists from various fields, a military judge, who was to take over the Richard Sorge case in Tokyo, the new German military attaché as well as two experts from Messerschmitt.

Very interesting and symptomatic is the fact, that although the captain was aware of the capitulation of the Reich on 8 May, he recognised his mission as valid and sailed on. Only when the submarine’s radio watch notified him that Japan had recognised all agreements signed with the Third Reich as invalid, did Captain Johann Fehler decide to surrender to the Americans. On 19 May the U-234 stood moored at Portsmouth wharf, in the American State of New Hampshire. Its very interesting cargo was precisely catalogued within the next few days. The total cargo mass was 95 tonnes, if not counting the lead ingots placed in the keel to balance the vessel. There was all manner of “goods”, among others: new medicines, various electronic devices for aircraft, planospheric lenses, 56 kg of uranium oxide [“10 boxes, 56 kg”, which some authors interpret as 560 kg], electrical coils, va-

Reference to German work on a “flying saucer” in the NARA Archive (see: text).

rious munitions, a kind of fire control system, various Junkers plans, plans of the Me-323 and many smaller shipments.

First and foremost however, the U-234 was carrying mercury—in total 24,112 kg! As far as its mass was concerned, this was an absolutely dominating position. Of course the crew knew nothing about its purpose.

Isn’t this information indicating a previously unknown aspect of World War II? No particular professional knowledge is needed to come to the conclusion that at the end of the war they strived to launch, at any price, the production of some weapon, to which mercury was the key. We are talking after all about typically industrial amounts...

This issue once again beckons the question of what happened to the project in question after the war. I have to confess that I initially considered Argentina to be the most probable country of destination. Everything after all was evacuated.

Japanese giant submarines in Tokyo’s harbour. Their displacement reached up to 6,500 tonnes. (personal collection).
A teletype from the General Inspector of the Luftwaffe’s bomber air force—Werner Baumbach, ordering the urgent redeployment of the giant BV-222 hydroplane and Ju-290 to the Flensburg region. It was sent on 1 May 1945 and, as it follows from the memoirs of one of the KG-200’s pilots, was related to the plan to evacuate the Third Reich’s highest authorities to Greenland. (personal collection).

Within official confines, probably within the confines of Martin Bormann’s “Generalladen 1945”. Part of it was the so-called “multi-plane” operation of strategic evacuations code-named “Regentörpfchen”. Its main objective was to secure the capital and cadre for the future re-building of the state’s potential. Argentina was the principle target link of these evacuations, several U-boats arriving there, undoubtedly including the U-977, U-530, and in all probability the U-650, which at the beginning of July 1945 “vanished” near the coast of the country in question. The trace, which had been the flight of the Ju-390 from Lower Silesia was severed after all near the sole, still moderately safe U-boat base of Trondheim. Apart from this, in the testimonies of one of the Germans the name of the evacuation’s target location appeared (only once) — “Eibores”, which was supposed to lie somewhere “far to the south”. It was never managed to unravel this question, in all probability it refers to a code-name and not a geographical name. A series of state-of-the-art aviation projects were continued in Argentina, and near the town of San Carlos de Bariloche (or shorter: Bariloche) a team of German scientists realised a not fully clear project related to plasma and high voltages. A large research centre, located on an island, was built especially for them and one of the key persons on the team was Engineer Hellmann from the AEG consortium. In any case I have described these issues extensively in a separate book. When I was there I spent several hours in conversation with one of the directors of a research centre in the mountains near Bariloche—with a scientist well-informed in the “post-German” archives (P. Florido). I showed him the characteristic features of “the bell”, but he was not familiar with any of them. Faced with a lack of specific clues, I was forced to abandon the Argentine trail.

It has been suggested to me many times, without providing the specific sources of these suggestions, that the Germans headed in the direction of one of the polar regions. However nothing confirms this and I do not think that such a possibility was particularly likely. The main problems were the extremely difficult geographical conditions, including navigational difficulties and the lack of infrastructure. The only plot from this group which I consider worth attention, is that which was initiated by the pronouncement of the U-boat Fleet Commander, Karl Dönitz from 1938, which was reproduced in the German press of that time:

“Die deutsche Kriegsmarine ist stolz. Sie baute für ihren Führer und Reichskanzler Adolf Hitler einen absolut unein-
nehmabren Versteck, wo er vor allen seinen Feinden sicher sein wird."

The English translation reads as follows:

"The German navy may be proud. It has built for our Führer and Chancellor of the Reich Adolf Hitler an absolutely impenetrable hiding-place, where he will be safe from all enemies".

Everything indicates that it referred to an underground U-boat base located in Greenland bearing the code-name "Biberdamm" (in all probability presently on the grounds of the American base of "Thule"). This variant was confirmed by a former pilot from KG-200 group. He wrote in his memoirs about "a hiding-place on the coast of Greenland". Even on 1 May 1945 Dönitz gave the order for the leaders of the Third Reich to be transferred there. But in the end this never came about, and all the more nothing indicates that "our" project found its way there.

It turns out that the most important traces point to... the United States. Even if the press reports from 1947, describing Skorzeny's contacts with US intelligence representatives and attempts to sell the "super weapon" had been false, it still remains a fact that he "advertised" this weapon in the press. But above all it is the fates of the scientists which point to the North American plot. All key persons found themselves or were to find themselves after the war in the United States (H. Jensen was intensively sought after by US intelligence).

An interesting and not fully unravelled clue here is the fate of 44-Gruppenführer Kammler - at the end of the war and afterwards. He was without fail a primary person in the organizational hierarchy associated with the Lower-Silesian "Chronos"/"Lateineträger" project, being after all a frequent guest at the Gross-Rosen head-office. Independently of the "Jägerstab's" department responsible for research and development work, Kammler's "Rüstungsstab" had an analogous department in the former plants of Škoda in Pilzno (Pilsen) and Brno (Brünn) - 160 km to the south of Ksiaż/Fürstenstein. The Waffen-44 liaison staff, which co-ordinated activity in that region, was in turn situated in Prague. All of these locations indicate as well the last known region of Kammler's abode. This is interesting in so far as all knowledge about him ends at the moment in which the last known element appears in his war-time CV - the flight of the Ju-390. In the period in question only one specimen of this type existed and it seems that Kammler simply flew away in it, together with "his" project.

The last known document, which was left after him, was a cable from 17 April 1945, referring to the use of a "Junkers transport vehicle" ("LKW. Junkers"). Simultaneously from this period - from mid-April 1945 comes the last known photograph of the Ju-390 - taken in Prague, during preparations for flight. Then the trace comes to an end - there was no aircraft, and no Kammler. Although he was intensively hunted after the war, he completely "vanished". The opinion prevails that only one of the superpowers could have so effectively hidden a high-ranking SS general. It is known from other sources that the Americans (Patton's army) drove a wedge deep into Czechoslovakia among other reasons to reach the employees and documents of Kammler's "department" and lengthily interrogated all of them. These materials are to this day kept top secret. This is very intriguing and once again points to the "American trail". There are many more similar corroborations. I am going to present only a chosen example...
The Argentine Trace

In the course of my research I finally considered the possibility of an evacuation to South America, and specifically to Argentina, as unlikely. One cannot however completely exclude this, although the location itself of Bodo base - in the north of Norway, rather suggests a Japanese direction. The Ju-390 could, as the sole aircraft, overcome this route without a stop-over - flying over the Barents Sea, and Northern Scandinavia is the part of Europe closest to Japan.

But why is it not possible to completely reject the Argentine trace? Apart from the elements mentioned in the primary section of the text, there exist the following:

- in 2001 one of the persons co-operating with me in the gathering of information came to see me, reporting a quite strange affair - his acquaintance, the son of a Polish diplomat residing in Uruguay during the war, had shown him a photograph of an aircraft already known to us. It was the Ju-390 (only one specimen of which existed in 1945), standing on a field airstrip, hacked out of the jungle - in Uruguay, near to the border with Argentina. It differed from the known version only in the lack of any kind of markings and the presence of a small, transparent cupola forelor navigation, placed in the fuselage. This photograph was supposedly taken precisely in 1945. I personally haven't seen it, and it hasn't been examined, but I have great trust in my co-worker and treat the whole affair as a valuable signal.

- Could such an event have ever taken place? Certainly it cannot be excluded. The Ju-390 prototype was one of the first aircraft adapted for mid-air resupply and in favourable circumstances would have been able to fly non-stop even so far. This was the region in South America closest to Europe, where the Germans felt relatively safe. Not far away was located the Nazi enclave of "Isla Pargais" and further to the south-west - the next (among others "Heide" near the border with Paraguay, "Santa Rosa" near Cordoba as well as "Cordier" and "Aldea" near Bariloche...).

- The possibility at least of a plan of continuation of research work in Argentina still matches the profile of "post-German" research carried out in a nuclear centre near Bariloche - built specifically for the Germans. Indeed officially researched was the behaviour of plasma under high voltage conditions in connection with a thermonuclear project, but other explanations were not even denied by an experienced employee of the centre, who to my amazement stated that not all the materials from this period have been declassed to this very day.

- Throughout the whole of the war and directly after it, the Germans operated in Argentina quite confidently, with the tacit assent of local intelligence. Rare raw materials and a vast amount of grain were bought - through neutral countries. It even came to this that they single-handedly worked mines. In Patagonia a coal mine called "La Tungai". It was closed before the war, since the coal was contaminated. As it became evident, one of these contaminants was the ore of vanadium, a metal very precious in the armament industry. A German company officially operating in Argentina (like hundreds of others) contracted over 200 miners, bought up the whole area and exploited the ore until it was exhausted.

The context of the operations of evacuation commando "ELF" also points to an Argentine plot. It was engaged among others in the realisation of the so-called "Operation Eichbäumchen" - financial evacuations, leading to the aforementioned country. Apart from this, after the war a German messenger was arrested who had tried to make contact with people remaining in the region of the Strada Słaska / Lubiaż. He possessed ID papers issued in Uruguay.

In 1981 in the Polish magazine "Przekrój" an article was published, written by Mr. Arnold Mostowicz, devoted to the alleged crash of some disc-shaped flying object near Laredo in the USA (1948). Mostowicz presented it as a UFO crash. In response to this article the editorial staff received a rather unusual letter, signed "Robert Allan Kolitzy", excerpts of which I will take the liberty to quote below:

"In my first sentence I wrote that it was fortunate that the article had found its way to me, so perhaps I will explain in short why I think so: well, as far back as 1948/49 I had the possibility to speak my mind about the Laredo crash. I was authorised to make these statements by the fact that I had lived in 1948 in Laredo, and on 7 July, around 18.00, along with my brother Miron and co-worker Dewey Reynolds, was already at the scene of the crash. The first search party reached the site, after receiving our radio report, at around 23.00, and scientists from the military laboratory, just like Mr Mostowicz mentioned, no earlier than around 2.00 a.m., already on 8 July. And so, along with the two people accompanying me, we were the first people who saw the still burning object and remnants of its passenger. Our recorded, written down and confirmed testimonies are present in archives and in their time have been made available to interested persons. Nobody ever demanded from me to keep all the details of this issue secret, so I never felt obliged to keep silent about it. (...)"

b) the creature, which died in the crash, was a laboratory rhesus monkey. I can even provide much more detailed information about him, or rather her, since this monkey was female. She was called Imu, was born in a Boston breeding institute and as a young specimen was sold to the army, along with a group of 23 other specimens. This was in May 1947. Imu was not 86.3 cm tall, and certainly not 135 cm, as some sources have mentioned. Admittedly the body was quite seriously injured, and its overall dimensions ranged between 67 and 72 cm. Citing the reliable report of Dr D.C. Hagen, I will also give additional information about the animal's height before the flight and crash: 96.5 cm.

The uncanny details about the body's appearance, provided for the first time by Spencer and Haskins, are only the inventions or arose in the imaginations of people who had sold information to them. It is true that the disfigurement, caused by trauma and fire, considerably altered the external and partially internal appearance of Imu. Despite this it was enough to examine more precisely the dead body, to reject as groundless all suspicions of the creature's extraterrestrial origin. (...)"

d) one can assume that none of the superpowers in 1948 had at their command rockets with a range of 1,600 km. I am
not going to deliberate whether a radar in Washington registered the cross-country flight of the object that interests us, or whether the object took off (or as some prefer - was launched) from White Sands. I do not want to discuss something of which I am not sure. I do not want to suggest anything. I can however ensure Mr. Mostowicz about one thing; that what fell, exploded and burned at Laredo, was neither a spacecraft from another world, nor the V-2 rocket. The trail leading to weapons formerly belonging to the Germans is correct. However no rocket was ever involved here. If in the case of Imnu I could provide more precise information to those interested, then regarding the object, of which she had been a passenger, I know much less. For obvious reasons I was not informed about all details. I can state however that the dimensions of the flying object and remarks about both its circular shape and lack of any traces of conventional propulsion ones should have only flown over uninhabited areas. However soon after take-off ground services lost control of it, and the last record of the device's operation came an hour before its impact. (....)

f) as I have already mentioned the monkey-pilot's body no longer exists. It is possible however that certain preserved organs have survived. The rest was burned on 16.07.1948. I do not know if any elements of the destroyed device have remained. Many of them were collected from the crash site. I saw some of these parts in a laboratory in the year after the crash. Whatever happened, it probably does not matter, since it is known that many complete specimens of the Kugelblitz are present in US Army collections. Also there are prototypes of machines, built on the basis of their design.

That is all that I have to say on this subject (....)

ROBERT A. KOLITZKY

The last known photograph of the Ju-390 aircraft, taken in mid-April 1945 at an airfield in Prague. At that time it was the only existing specimen of this type. (author unknown).

The possibility of this technology being seized by the Americans in effect forms the next question - why do we still not know about this officially?

I do not know if my explanation will be correct, however it is possible to explain it. If such revolutionary technology is involved, as the Germans assessed it, then common military practice orders this type of weapon to be kept top secret, and we will not find out anything about it until the outbreak of a truly major war. There is no doubt that work in this field was and is still being carried out under the protection of the US government. Proof of this is a book by Cook - a recognized analyst in the field of modern aeronautical engineering. I myself found very specific references, for example when searching for scientific work describing the rotation of plasma. Many scientific articles contained annotations about the fi-
nancing of work by the US government. To be more specific—in a publication devoted to the possibilities of generating plasma vortices, rotating in opposite directions and interacting with a magnetic field, the symbols of grants and contracts of the following institutions appeared: “Air Force Office of Scientific Research”, “Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories, Office of Aerospace Research” and “NASA”. In 1998 reports appeared about a new USAF reconnaissance aircraft, propelled by “rotating, superconductive mercuric plasma at a pressure of 250,000 atmospheres”. It is supposed to be designated the TR-3B. And even on the eastern side of the iron curtain quite serious reports about analogous Soviet work appeared, as early as the 1950s. It was even acknowledged in specialist military magazine that the Russians were building prototypes. So there is a chance that the present day will finish writing the sequel to the war-time story. As a result perhaps we will find out for example what was the unusual jelly-like metallic substance filling the core of “the bell”, or what happened to the giant Ju-390...

Anti-gravitation in the Universe

The year 1999 turned out to be a turning point in the history of science. A number of scientists and astronomers from such renowned institutions as Cornell University, the Space Telescope Institute or Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, after examining the latest data came (independently) to the conclusion that the Universe in which we live is expanding at a greater and greater speed. In the society of physicists and in specialist articles the once fashionable term “anti-gravitation” once again began to function—this time as a dominating force in the Universe, but only visible at large distances. It is it which repulses huge galaxies away from each other. After a previous discovery that stars in galaxies travelled along completely different paths than was expected, (the question of “dark matter”) once again it became evident that our knowledge about the nature of gravitation was only fragmentary and moreover at least to a large extent erroneous. For the described discoveries contradict the predictions of theorists. It became clear that in the scientific description of the world, the chapter referring to gravitation consisted mostly of blank spots, and moreover certain pages were placed in it back to front. In spite of this, surely many years must yet pass before the wall of the mental barrier finally crumbles and funds for researching anti-gravity in laboratories become significantly increased. Many scientists simply do not see the link between the possibility of this force existing in the Universe and the possibility of researching it on the Earth.

This data has been recently confirmed by NASA to have “a one percent margin of error”—thanks to the latest observations. In its edition from June 2003, the American magazine “Astronomy” quoted that: “Only 4 percent of the Universe is made up of ordinary matter. Some 23 percent is cold, dark matter and 73 percent (1% LWC) is thought to be dark energy—an anti-gravitational force, that is accelerating the rate at which the universe expands”. According to one of the scientists involved in the research, “this is the beginning of a new stage in our study of the universe”—this is something that doesn’t fit very well with Einstein’s theory.

A sketch of an antigravity craft from a 1950s military publication (WPL 7/58 - see bibliography). Why a disc?

As far as the Russians are concerned, it is also very probable that they seized and developed the German achievements in this field. Even Podkletnov’s declaration proves this. Some time ago I received a letter from a reader, whose grandfather had served immediately after the war in the area of the former German rocket range at Ustka (on the Baltic coastline, which was strewn all over with similar ranges). I will not cite the letter since it follows from the author’s suggestion that he wouldn’t have wished this. His grandfather was supposed to have been a witness to the crash of a strange flying object in June 1945, which in the opinion of Soviet officers had been concealed in bunkers not yet explored at that time. In the shattered wreckage found on sand dunes, it is rumoured that the bodies of two pilots were found, “with attached Nazi emblems”. I would have surely belittled the above account, if not for two odd looking details: according to the Soviet officers the Germans had managed to evacuate some objects to Spain, and initial examination of the propulsion revealed the presence of “an unknown, jelly-like substance”.

I could have left all of this unmentioned, however I have added a few of my own opinions on this subject after writing the main part of the book, because I managed to get hold of some documents, I dare to say, confirming this story. During my last archival query in the USA I acquired some intelligence documents, until recently top secret, referring to the so-called Scandinavian wave of strange flying object sightings from the summer of 1946. Over 300 cross-country flights were observed over Norway, Sweden and Finland. This issue has already been described in the press, but the intelligence reports revealed its origin. It turned out that the V-1 and V-2 missiles couldn’t possibly have been involved, because the range of the “guests” as a general rule greatly exceeded 1,000 km; apart from this their trajectories were rather flat and often involved ceilings of the order of only several hundred metres. On the grounds of these observations the objects were divided into two groups: “cylindrical” and “brilliant fiery balls”. They could perform sudden manoeuvres and reach a speed of “up to 2,800 km/h”! In short, here we have typical descriptions of the “Kugelblitz”. What more, none of the crashed “balls” was ever found, because, as it was ascertained, the objects were equipped with self-destructive mechanisms. This also appeared in the case of the “Kugelblitz”!
The Scandinavian Epilogue

The passing flights of strange objects from June-September 1946 were decidedly the “event of the year” throughout the whole of Scandinavia. As practically all objects approached from the Baltic, the conviction dominated that this way the Soviets wanted “to support” their diplomatic operations towards this part of Europe — namely enforce on it neutrality in the new, cold war. For obvious reasons this threat was treated seriously and was accurately recognised — above all by the Swedes. Relatively close to the Polish coastline, approx. 250 km to the north of Leba — on the island of Gotland, was located the telemetric
station of their radio-intelligence and radio-counterintelligence (FRÁ). As local authors mention (E. Svaln, A. Liljegren, L. Gross), it was noticed that the passing flights of the "guests" were preceded by strange radio emissions, arriving from directions coinciding with the localisation of the post-German bases of Peenemünde, Ustka and Leba. On several occasions a Swedish reconnaissance plane tried to approach them, but Soviet fighters always appeared in the skies at the right moment. In spite of this, the connection of the Russians with these events was never proved - first and foremost because debris was never found of a size enabling their identification. For these objects always exploded on hitting the ground or surface of the water. They also flew too fast and often too low, so as to be able to photograph them close up, e.g. from the deck of a fighter. An analysis of all information connected with this was engaged in by the so-called Jacobsson Committee, appointed by the Swedish Ministry of Defence. As far as I know, these analyses are still classified.

The Americans were particularly interested in the progress of the Jacobsson Committee's work, among other things on the 23 July Admiral James Forrestal held a conference with its members.

An intercepted French intelligence report had been attached to the set of American reports, prepared for the President of France (hence the very serious nature of the issue involved). From its text and attached maps it evidently appears that the objects were mainly flying from the area of Peenemünde! According to the French, the fact that the trials were conducted on foreign territory simply resulted from such courses being imposed by the location of the former German installations on the Baltic coastline. Materials of this kind, of which there is no shortage, unequivocally call on us to treat the existence of the "Wunderwaffe" as a fact...

However even in this case yet one more issue remains - how did it happen that scientists from the 1940s understood exactly where they were heading? They had applied after all ideas from XXI century physics. How is it, that they were conscious of bringing about a major turning-point? What arguments did they lay down (before the launch of work) that caused them to win the race for funds with the great and influential armament consortiums? And they won decisively...

It seems that the whole issue is something more than just a technical problem. The unusualness of all this is summed up by the fact, that descriptions of mercuric propulsion had appeared as long ago as in ancient times - in alchemy and old Hindu books - one can easily check this. The "Samarangnusasrsatdhara", a book at least 2,000 years old, said for example: "By means of the power latent in the mercury which sets the driving whirlwind in motion [held by I.W.], a man sitting inside may travel a great distance in the sky in a most marvellous manner". 263

It may prove that an explanation of all the technical questions related to work from the time of the war, will reveal a far greater mystery...

The whole affair is probably best summed up by the words of Albert Speer: "I sympathised with anyone who tried to unravel any kind of undertaking taken up by Himmler - the ingeniously weaved swindles and dreadful ideas, which this uncanny individual was capable of, seemed to come from a different world". 266

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