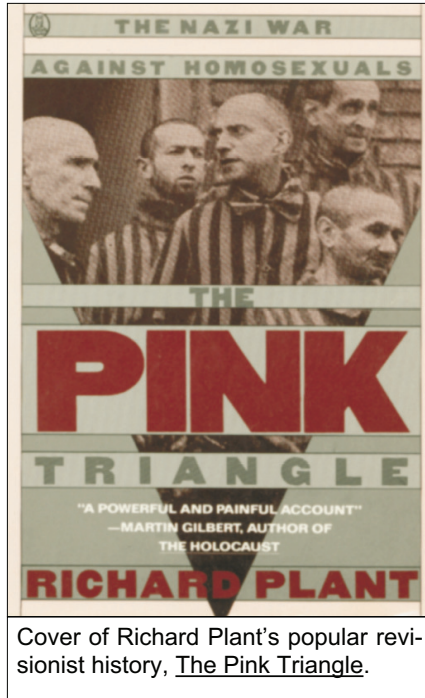


## Chapter Five

**THE PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALS**

Homosexualist revisionists assert that Hitler's ascension to the Chancellorship marked the beginning of a homosexual Holocaust in Germany. For example, as early as 1978, homosexual political activists claimed that "[m]any thousands and hundreds of thousands [of homosexuals] were...imprisoned in concentration camps where they died" (ONE Letter, May, 1978). Over the years the story has assumed ever more fantastic proportions. In 1986 Plant wrote, "After years of frustration...Hitler's storm troopers now had the opportunity to smash their enemies: the lame, the mute, the feeble-minded, the epileptic, the homosexual, the Jew, the Gypsy, the Communist. These were the scapegoats singled out for persecution. These were the 'contragenics' who were to be ruthlessly eliminated to ensure the purity of the 'Aryan race.'" (Plant:51). Rector writes, "Hitler's homophobia did not surface until 1933-1934, when gays had come to affect adversely his New Order designs -- out of which grew the simple solution of murdering them en masse" (Rector:24).

Unsupported assertions such as these have allowed the theory of a "Gay Holocaust" (in which homosexuals are portrayed alongside the Jews as victims of a campaign of



Cover of Richard Plant's popular revisionist history, The Pink Triangle.

extermination) to gain currency in the United States. The evidence does not support this theory. Unfortunately, the portrayal of homosexuals as Nazi victims has assumed a kind of “untouchable” status among supporters of “gay rights,” probably because the success of the movement depends so heavily on public sympathy. Thus, today we see active suppression of information linking homosexuals to the Nazis and misrepresentation

of homosexuals’ experience in the Third Reich. A few “gay” academics are more forthright. For example, homosexualist scholar Manfred Herzer admits:

As far as the scope of homosexual men’s support of the Nazis is concerned, we face a self-imposed void in our knowledge that has taken on the dimensions of an ideologically motivated taboo. Within gay historiography, even such a repugnant figure as the Nazi leader Ernst Roehm has repeatedly been consigned to the role of victim, first of leftist and then of Nazi “homophobia,” for only by doing so has it been possible to perpetuate a slanted account of history that persistently portrays homosexuals as persecuted martyrs and passive victims (Herzer:199).

Homosexualists Johansson and Percy promote the use of “outing” (exposing public figures, past and present as

“gay”) to influence public opinion about homosexuality and the “gay” agenda. They advise that “[a]ctivists should clearly not out a notorious criminal or mass murderer as they would a famed medical missionary or celebrated inventor” (Johansson and Percy:284). They acknowledge that “[a]pologists generally prefer to deny that homosexuality was widespread among Nazi leaders after the purge of Roehm and his associates....[although Italian “gay” activist] Massimo Consoli has reversed this tendency by dwelling at length on the homosexuality of the early followers of the NSDAP (National Socialist Party). (Consoli is, however, a leading proponent of the “Gay Holocaust” public relations ploy -- Grau:5).

Then we have the problem of simple error in claims such as that made by homosexualist Claudia Schoppmann. She has claimed that German “gay rights” leader Martin Radszuweit was murdered in a concentration camp (Herzer:226). Herzer states authoritatively that Radszuweit did *not* die in a concentration camp: “...he died in the 1980s in his house in Berlin-Kopenick” (ibid.:226).

*The Harvard Gay and Lesbian Review* (Summer 1995) contains an admirably candid review of the book Hidden Holocaust? by Gunter Grau (in which Schoppmann was a minor contributor):

Grau and Schoppman conclude that there was no “holocaust” of gays — hence the question mark in the book’s title. This assessment is based on the wide range of contemporary documents...Grau discounts the current wild estimates of the number of gays killed by the Nazis, suggesting a figure closer to 5,000...How, then are we to read the widely quoted incendiary statements by Nazis like SS leader Himmler, who consistently called for the ‘eradication’ of homosexuals?...Much of this rhetoric, Grau says, was propaganda meant for public consumption...Gays were never the subject of pogroms, and never faced



The success of the "Gay Holocaust" myth has encouraged homosexual political activists to equate opposition to their agenda with Nazism. This March, 2000 cover of *Outworld* uses Nazi imagery to malign a pro-marriage ballot measure in California.

the danger that the Jews did in Germany and occupied Europe.

Dr. Judith Reisman, in "The *Pink Swastika* and Holocaust Revisionist History," wrote this comparison of the fate of the two groups under the Nazis:

Were homosexuals treated like Jews, 2-3 million out of 2-3 million German homosexuals should have lost their businesses, their jobs, their property, their possessions and most would have lost their lives. Ho-

mosexuals would have been forced to wear pink triangles on their clothing in the streets, they would have had their passports stamped with an "H," been barred from travel, work, shopping, public appearances without their arm-bands, and we would have thousands of pictures of pink triangle graffiti saying "kill the faggots," and the like. If German homosexuals were not Nazis, these 2-3 million men would have been homeless, walled in ghettos, worked as a mass labor pool, then gassed and their abuse recorded in graphic detail, as were the millions of Jews. And, if Germany's several million "gays" were not Nazi victims, they were Nazi soldiers, collaborators or murderers (Reisman: *Culture Wars*, April 1996).

**Lest we forget:**

**"HOMOPHOBIA  
and ANTISEMITISM  
are part of the same  
DISEASE."**

*-- Rabbi Bernard H. Mehlman*

In a small park near the Freedom Trail, a monument is being built in memory of the six million Jews exterminated by the Third Reich. To be dedicated on October 22nd, the **NEW ENGLAND HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL** will encourage millions of visitors to recall the Shoah -- the Holocaust -- and consider its many bitter lessons.

Carved in the Memorial's black granite path, alongside six haunting towers of steel and glass, is this horrible reminder of near-history:

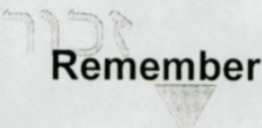
"German homosexuals were early victims of Nazi persecution. Many were imprisoned, some were castrated or used in medical experiments. Thousands died in concentration camps."

**NEW ENGLAND'S GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY** proudly joins a select group of generous corporations and civic leaders as a **Cornerstone Benefactor** of Boston's newest addition to the Freedom Trail.

Thank you to all who contributed.

**New England Holocaust Memorial**

*Public Dedication Ceremony featuring Elie Wiesel  
Sunday, October 22, 1995 at 11:00 am  
Congress Street between Faneuil Hall and City Hall  
For more information, call (617) 338-2222*



Gay and Lesbian Committee of the New England Holocaust Memorial Committee

Newspaper ad exploits the Holocaust to advance the cause of homosexual legitimization.

The fact is that relatively few homosexuals died in concentrations camps. They were never murdered "en masse" or "ruthlessly eliminated" by the Nazis. Yet many homosexuals were jailed and some did die in Nazi work camps. (Of course, those who were jailed were males; there was

never a systematic prosecution of lesbians -- Grau:15). What is the truth about Nazi persecution of homosexuals?

There are several incidents in Nazi history which are most often cited as evidence of their persecution of homosexuals. This list includes (1) the sacking of the Sex Research Institute of Berlin, (2) a series of increasingly harsh public pronouncements and policies against homosexuality by Hitler and Himmler, (3) the Roehm Purge (also known as "The Night of the Long Knives"), and (4) the internment of homosexuals in work camps. We will look at each of these issues in turn.

### **The Path of the Paranoid**

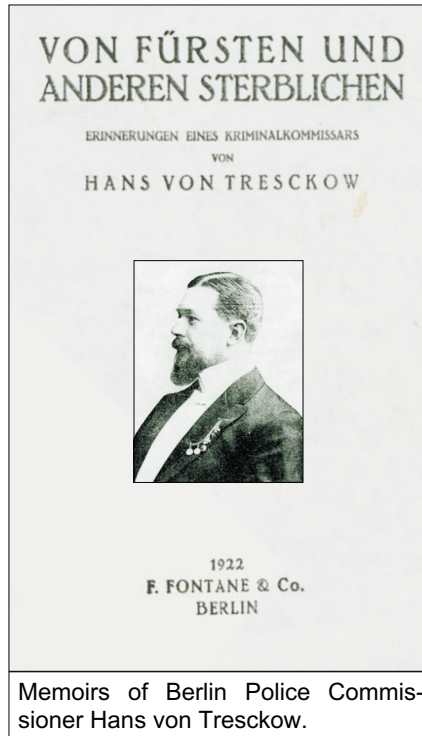
One overarching factor must be kept in mind as we examine the history of Nazi persecution of homosexuals: the paranoia of Adolf Hitler. Hitler was deathly afraid that his own homosexuality would be exposed to the German people, undoing all that he had worked for in his ascension to power. Indeed, Lothar Machtan argues convincingly that the entire Nazi campaign against homosexuality, from the initial anti-sodomy policies to the Roehm purge to the internment of homosexuals in the camps, was orchestrated to prevent the truth about Hitler from coming out. Machtan writes

Hitler's determination to destroy anything that might have provided an insight into his private life is well documented. He got rid of anything he could, and his arm was long, even before 1933. Those privy to his secrets were bribed, sworn to secrecy, blackmailed or killed....Hitler's...homosexuality...was the secret from his past that threatened at any time to rear its head as he rose politically....and he defended that secret by all available means (Machtan:20f).



One of Hitler's greatest problems was blackmail. Blackmail of homosexuals by estranged partners and prostitutes was a simple fact of life in Germany. "[H]omosexuals were particularly vulnerable to blackmailers, known as *Chanteure* on the homosexual scene," write Burleigh and Wippermann. "Blackmail, and the threat of public exposure, resulted in frequent suicides or suicide attempts" (Burleigh and Wippermann: 184).

Police Commissioner Hans von Tresckow, who served in Berlin during the years that Hitler was on the streets in Munich and Vienna, wrote the following in his memoirs:



One of the worst features of homosexuality is that it gives rise to an enormous amount of male prostitution. Many persons who are perfectly normal find it a lucrative though disgraceful trade. In Berlin there are many centers where homosexuals make the acquaintances of accomplices who will serve their requirements. And there are many cafés and taverns which are frequented almost exclusively by such people. The police are powerless to put down this practice, because they require legal authorization to interfere. My experience is that male prostitution has been steadily increasing for some decades past and cases of blackmail are becoming more numerous accord-

ingly; for a person who goes in for this profession is almost always a blackmailer. (Treschow in Lively:18).

For Hitler, the list of blackmailers included numerous political opportunists. Igra reports that Heinrich Hoffman, the official Nazi photographer, gained his position by using information about Hitler's perverse abuse of his (Hoffman's) daughter, Henny, to blackmail the future *Fuehrer* (Igra:74). (Henny Hoffman was later married off to reputed homosexual Baldur von Schirach, probably to quell rumors about his exploits with Hitler Youth boys). Heiden relates another story in which Hitler bought an entire collection of rare political writings to regain possession of a letter to his niece in which he openly revealed his "masochistic-coprophil inclinations" (Heiden, 1944:385).

Even more dangerous than the political opportunists were the political enemies who could not be bought off. As early as 1923, Hitler's enemies were relying on their proof of his perversion to secure an advantage, even if that advantage were only their own self-preservation. Eugen Dollman recorded his experience at a dinner meeting with General Otto von Lossow at the Bavarian war ministry.

Since November 9 [said Lossow], Hitler and his supporters have been well aware that any attempt on my life or those of my officers would cause a European scandal. I have some good friends in this world, and Adolf would lose that game just as he did on November 9 [date of the failed "Beerhall Putsch"]....The general produced from a desk drawer a police file containing secret reports and depositions about the private life of Herr Adolf Hitler dating from the time that he again turned up after the war -- all from the vice squad or police headquarters on Ettstrasse....What a dangerous weapon Otto von Lossow had forged during the years when he was at the height of his authority in Munich (Machtan:135).



Lossow would in fact survive unscathed until his death in 1938, despite “Hitler’s well-documented hatred of the ‘traitor Lossow’” (ibid.:137).

Others without benefit of hidden documentation of Hitler’s sexual sins did not fare as well, even those with whom he had been intimate. Sklar writes that “Hitler attempted to bury all his earlier influences and his origins, and he spent a great deal of energy hiding them...[In this campaign to erase his past] Hitler ordered the murder of Reinhold Hanisch, a friend who had shared his down and out days in Vienna” (Sklar:21). Hitler was enraged that Hanisch had collaborated with Konrad Heiden, the Hitler biographer who had aired the Nazis dirty linen (Machtan:52).

Until Hitler and his crew finally gained power in Germany, their methods for dealing with those privy to Nazi secrets were limited in form and scope. Afterwards, however, there were more and better ways to solve these kinds of problems and to punish their enemies at the same time.

### **The Sacking of the Sex Research Institute**

The Nazis’ hunt for incriminating evidence was obvious in the attack on Magnus Hirschfeld’s Sex Research Institute on May 6th, 1933. As noted previously, the Sex Research Institute of Berlin had been founded by Hirschfeld in 1919 as a center for the “study” of homosexuality and other sexual dysfunctions. For all intents and purposes, it served as the headquarters for the effeminate branch of the German “gay rights” movement. For this reason alone, the “Butch” homosexuals of the Nazi Party might have destroyed the Institute. Indeed, throughout the preceding years the Nazis had increasingly harassed Hirschfeld personally.

Victor Robinson, editor of an autobiographical sketch by Hirschfeld, wrote in 1936 that “[a]lthough the Nazis themselves derived great profit from Hirschfeld’s theories



Adolf Hitler speaking to the German parliament. Once he had taken power, Hitler quickly fashioned a political climate in which he could control, jail or kill all potential blackmailers.

(and called on him personally for help) they continued his persecution relentlessly; they terrorized his meetings and closed his lecture halls, so that for the safety of his audiences and himself, Hirschfeld was no longer able to make public appearances (Haerberle:368). Homosexualist James Steakley acknowledges the “Butch/Fem” aspect of the inci-

dent, saying that some German homosexuals “could conceivably have approved of the measure, particularly if they were Nazi sympathizers or male supremacists” (Steakley:105).

Ignorance of the “Butch/Fem” conflict in the German “gay” subculture left many contemporary writers puzzled as to why the Nazis would attack Hirschfeld. An obituary for Hirschfeld written in 1934 exemplifies this confusion:

There is a darker and more savage irony in the fact that the Nazis should have treated him as an archenemy; for the Nazi ranks are notoriously honeycombed with all degrees of homosexuality, and Hirschfeld is indisputably the man to whom it is mainly due that the right of these 2 percent of sexual abnormals in the masses of the European populations to exist and to function on their own lines is now a matter for public discussion and public agitation (Herzer:221).

The attack against the Institute, however, was not motivated solely by the Nazi enmity against effeminate homosexuals. It was also an attempt to cover up the truth about rampant homosexuality and other perversions in the Nazi Party. Hitler also knew that Hirschfeld’s facility had extensive records that could be damaging to himself and his inner circle. This was the reason for the raid, according to Ludwig L. Lenz, the assistant director of the Sex Research Institute, who was in charge on the day of the raid. His description of the situation, part of which was quoted previously, is given here at greater length.

[O]ur Institute was used by all classes of the population and members of every political party...We thus had a great many Nazis under treatment at the Institute. Why was it then, since we were completely non-party, that our purely scientific Institute was the first victim which fell to the new regime? The answer to this is simple...We knew

too much. It would be against medical principles to provide a list of the Nazi leaders and their perversions [but]...not ten percent of the men who, in 1933, took the fate of Germany into their hands, were sexually normal...Many of these personages were known to us directly through consultations; we heard about others from their comrades in the party...and of others we saw the tragic results: I refer here especially to a young girl whose abdomen was covered with pin scratchings through the sadism of an eminent Nuremberg Nazi; I refer also to a thirteen year old boy who suffered from a serious lesion of the anal muscle brought about by a senior party official in Breslau and to a youth from Berlin with severe rectal gonorrhea, etc., etc....Our knowledge of such intimate secrets regarding members of the Nazi Party and other documentary material — we possessed about forty thousand confessions and biographical letters — was the cause of the complete and utter destruction of the Institute of Sexology (Haberle:369).

Burleigh and Wipperman report that the ransackers had “lists” of materials they were looking for (Burleigh and Wipperman:189) and that they carted away two truckloads of books and files. The materials taken from the Institute were burned in a public ceremony, captured on film, on May 10th (Steakley:105). The spectacular and oft-replayed newsreel footage of this event has caused the burning of books to become synonymous with Nazism. What information went up in smoke on that day will never be known, but we can be sure that the pile of burning paper contained many Nazi secrets. According to homosexual sources who were in Germany at the time, the Nazis destroyed twelve thousand books and thirty-five thousand photographs.

The building itself was confiscated from the SHC and turned over to the Nazi Association of Jurists and Lawyers (ibid.:105). This may perhaps be interpreted to mean that it remained in the hands of homosexuals. We know that at least Hans Frank, Hitler’s private lawyer, and the Nazi

party's star attorney Dr. Alfons Sack were homosexuals (Machtan:219).

### **Anti-Homosexual Policies**

Whenever the Nazis arrested homosexuals and raided even the homes of their supporters they were looking for incriminating evidence against themselves. Machtan writes:

Hitler was mortally afraid of the obscurity of the homosexual milieu, which he himself had experienced firsthand in Vienna and Munich. He knew that this demimonde could at any time yield up disreputable secrets -- even some, perhaps, that might affect him personally....Although not interested in a policy of repression toward "ordinary" homosexuals, he was doubly so in cases where definite interests were involved (Ibid.:226).

However, there were also old scores to settle with the effeminate homosexuals who had opposed the Nazi rise to power. What developed, then, was a policy designed primarily to prevent embarrassment to Hitler in which all things homosexual were closely scrutinized by Himmler's secret police. But action was taken only when the Nazi nets caught enemies of the party or of the regime. These activities occurred independently of normal police functions in which violators of German anti-sodomy and anti-pederasty laws continued to be processed through the courts.

The law against homosexual conduct had existed in Germany for many years prior to the Nazi regime as Paragraph 175 of the Reich Criminal Code, to wit: "A male who indulges in criminally indecent activity with another male, or who allows himself to participate in such activity, will be punished with imprisonment" (Burleigh and Wipperman:188). When Hitler came to power he used this law as a means of tracking down and punishing those homosexuals who, in the words of one victim, "had defended



the Weimar Republic, and who had tried to forestall the Nazi threat” (ibid.:183). Later he expanded the law and used it as a convenient tool to detain other enemies of the regime.

In February of 1933, Hitler banned pornography, homosexual bars and bath-houses, and groups which promoted “gay rights” (Plant:50). Ostensibly, this decree was a blanket condemnation of all homosexual activity in Germany, but in practice it served as just another means to find and destroy anti-Nazi groups and individuals. Indeed, it is likely that Hitler had been a patron of some of the homosexual-oriented businesses that he shut down. The Berlin “Eldorado” club, for example, was a favorite haunt of the Berlin SA under Captain Paul Rohrbein, a close friend of Roehm and Karl Ernst (Machtan:185).



Was Hitler truly opposed to pornography and “gay” bars? Hitler’s close personal friend was the pornographer, Julius Streicher (center), seen here in March, 1934 with some Brownshirted “gay” bar regulars.

The “masculine” homosexuals in the Nazi leadership enforced the new policy selectively, “employ[ing] the



charge of homosexuality primarily as a means to eliminate political opponents, both inside his party and out” (Oosterhuis and Kennedy:248). Revisionist Frank Rector also admits that the decree “was not enforced in all cases” (Rector:66). Oosterhuis and Kennedy write that “Although he was well known as a gay-activist, [Adolf] Brand was not arrested by the Nazis” but nearly all of his files were confiscated (Oosterhuis and Kennedy:7) .

*The Washington Blade*, the newspaper of the homosexual community in Washington D.C., reported on the research of John Fout, a “gay” history professor at Bard College in New York:

The Nazis shut down the two or three active Gay political organizations that had been operating in German (sic) as soon as Hitler took power in 1933. However, according to Fout, Gay bars and bathhouses remained open until the late 1930s.... ‘The Gay urban subculture survived the Nazi period,’ said Fout (Researcher says Nazi persecution not systematic, *The Washington Blade*, May 22, 1998).

Jewish homosexual Gad Beck, Director of Berlin’s Jewish Adult Education Center, also challenges “gay” dogma on the degree to which homosexuals were persecuted in Germany. In his book, An Underground Life: Memoirs of a Gay Jew in Nazi Berlin, Beck claims “There was no problem be[ing] a homosexual Jew. Everyone turned a blind eye to whatever we boys were up to with each other” and cited only one case of the Nazi’s persecuting a homosexual man (Beck in “Fearless under the Fuhrer,” *The Advocate*, October 26, 1999).

In 1935, Paragraph 175 was amended with Paragraph 175a which broadened the scope of the law restricting homosexual conduct (Burleigh and Wiperman:190). (Interestingly, the new criminal code addressing homosexuality deleted the word “unnatural” from the definition --

Reisman, 1994:3). This new law provided the Nazis with an especially potent legal weapon against their enemies.

It will never be known how many non-homosexuals were charged under this law, but it is indisputable that the Nazis used false accusations of homosexuality to justify the detainment and imprisonment of many of their opponents. "The law was so loosely formulated," writes Steakley, "that it could be, and was, applied against heterosexuals that the Nazis wanted to eliminate...the law was also used repeatedly against Catholic clergymen" (Steakley:111). Kogon writes that "The Gestapo readily had recourse to the charge of homosexuality if it was unable to find any pretext for proceeding against Catholic priests or irksome critics" (Kogon:44).

The charge of homosexuality was convenient for the Nazis to use against their political enemies because it was so difficult to defend against and so easy to justify to the populace. Since long before the Nazis assumed power, homosexuals generally lived clandestine lives, so it was not unusual for revelations of their conduct to come as a surprise to their communities when it became a police matter. This is not to say that actual homosexuals were not prosecuted under the law. Many were. But the law was used selectively against the "Fems." And even in this case, many effeminate homosexuals, especially those in the arts community, were given protection by certain Nazi leaders (Oosterhuis and Kennedy:248). Plant writes,

The most famous example is that of the actor Gustaf Grundgens...Despite the fact that his homosexual affairs were as notorious as those of Roehm's, Goering appointed him director of the State Theater...[And] On October 29, 1937...Himmler advised that actors and other artists could be arrested for offenses against paragraph 175 only with his personal consent, unless the police caught them *in flagrante* (Plant:116).

Even the most visible “Fems,” however, were treated far differently than were the Jews. Kurt Hiller, successor to Magnus Hirschfeld in the “Fem” faction of the German “gay” movement, was interned in a concentration camp but released (battered but alive) after nine months (Steakley:103).

An unknown percentage of homosexual prisoners were arrested not for sex offenses at all, but for political reasons. A document from the Buchenwald archive states,

In the spring of 1942 a Berlin writer called Dahnke was sent to the camp as a homosexual. The main reason for his internment, however, was political statements which had brought him to the attention of the Gestapo (Grau:267).

A study of the Hitler Youth offers more examples that expose the meaninglessness of the Nazi’s harsh rhetoric against homosexuals. We have already noted Koehl’s observation that Himmler “mitigated his penalties privately” and tried to keep every incident of homosexual molestation of the Hitler Youth boys by the SS “as secret as possible” (Koehl:51f). But Koehl goes on to cite the records of the RJF, the security division of the Hitler Youth administration. “[D]uring the first six months of 1940,” he writes, “[there were] 10,958 crimes committed by Hitler Youths, the most common were theft (5,985), [and] homosexuality (901)” (ibid.:84). When he compared the number of homosexual offenses to the list of expulsions from the organization (an absurdly mild punishment for a supposed capital crime), however, Koehl found a low rate of expulsions for homosexuality:

Since the RJF Report listed 900 cases of homosexual crimes during a six month period alone, and only a third of that number were expelled during a twenty-five month period by court action, it suggests that the RJF was more



Hitler Youth were frequent targets of the sexual predators in the SA and SS.  
Yad Vashem

hesitant to uphold Article 175 of the Criminal Code than its official propaganda would have the public believe...[One] young delinquent with a record of minor thefts, for which he had spent eight weeks in jail, was not expelled from the HJ [Hitler Youth]. In September 1940...[officials] surprised him and several prison work-

ers in a wild homosexual orgy in broad daylight on a roadside. With sensational evidence like this in hand, the...leader then sought to have the culprit expelled from the HJ. But it took some time before this occurred, suggesting that the enforcement of Article 175 was lax (Koehl:85ff).

The increasing indifference of Hitler Youth officials toward homosexuality was an attitude reflected in the larger society as well. In 1937 the Reich Minister of the Interior issued a change of policy regarding Paragraph 175. Under the new ruling only four-time repeat offenders could be jailed or sent to camps for homosexual offenses. This was reaffirmed in 1940 by Himmler (S. Katz:146).

### **The Roehm Purge**

The event in history most frequently cited as evidence of Nazi persecution of homosexuals is known variously as the Blood Purge, the Night of the Long Knives, and the Roehm Purge. Steakley writes that “[t]he indisputable beginning of Nazi terror against homosexuals was marked by the murder of Ernst Roehm on June 28, 1934, ‘the night of the long knives’” (Steakley:108). It was on this night (actually over an entire weekend), that Adolf Hitler’s closest aides orchestrated the assassinations of hundreds of his political enemies in one bloody sweep. Included in this purge were Roehm and several of the top officers of the SA.

We have emphasized that the leadership of the SA was mostly, if not entirely homosexual. The fact that SA leaders were the primary targets in the massacre could therefore be construed as a sort of “moral cleansing” of the Nazi ranks, which, in fact, Hitler claimed it was. But Hitler lied. The Roehm Purge was driven by political, not moral concerns. Hitler feigned disgust and outrage about the homosexuality of the murdered SA leaders to justify himself





to the German people; it was a tactic he had used previously to allay public suspicions about the sexual deviancy of his inner circle. The importance of this fact is asserted in many leading works by both mainstream and homosexualist historians. The following are excerpts from four different historians who have examined the issue:

Hitler eliminated his closest friend Roehm and certain SA leaders as potential rivals. The strictly political motivation of this ruthless power play was initially too obvious to be entirely denied, but later it was conveniently obscured by charges of homosexual depravity (Haberle:369f).

The formal accusations against Roehm and those arrested with him centered on their homosexual activities, which Hitler had of course known about for fifteen years and shrugged off, it being alleged that these activities disgraced the party. For those victims without any homosexual background, "the Great Blood Purge" continued all over Germany, as Nazi leaders got rid of all their most hated enemies, as well as the inevitable "mistakes" (Garde:726f).

Ernst Roehm wasn't shot because the Nazi Party felt outraged by the abrupt discovery that he was "having" his storm troopers — that had been known for ages; but because his sway over the SA had become a menace to Hitler. In the Hitler Youth the "dear love of comrades" was evilly turned into a political end. And if the Nazi hierarchy was well larded with homosexuals, so was Wilhelm II's court and so was the Weimar Republic (Davidson:152).

Hitler himself, of course, had been well aware of Roehm's sexual orientation from the earliest days of their long association....So strong was Roehm that the Wehrmacht [German Army High Command] was con-

cerned that he might seize control of the army. In 1934, Hitler became fearful that the Wehrmacht was plotting a coup against him to prevent such a takeover. To forestall this danger, Hitler had Roehm and about one thousand other men murdered one weekend in June 1934, the famous "Night of the Long Knives" (Crompton:79f).

There is some dispute among historians about whether Roehm had planned a coup against Hitler after Hitler's refusal to replace the regular army with Roehm's troops. This takeover of the army had apparently been part of the Nazis' original plan for the maximization of their political strength. Upon his appointment as Chancellor, Hitler was confronted with new and different challenges which required new and different alliances. For some time it appeared that Hitler would remain true to his pact with Roehm. From the time Hitler assumed control of the German government in January of 1933, until the spring of 1934, he allowed the SA to grow from 300,000 to over 3 million members (Plant:54). During this period of rapid growth, Roehm's rivals within the Nazi inner circle grew increasingly alarmed, as did the powerful industrialists and military leaders.

Tension between the SA and the army increased. General Walther von Brauchitsch, speaking for the majority of his fellow officers, said, "[t]hat gang of homosexuals, thugs and drunks should be allowed no part of [German rearmament]" (Gallo:87). For their part, the SA taunted the regular army soldiers, singing "The grey rock will be drowned in a sea of brown" (ibid.:87), meaning that the grey uniformed army would be swallowed up by the Brownshirts. Strasser writes,

At a meeting of the Cabinet, to which he belonged, [Roehm] demanded the incorporation of the Brown Shirts into the regular army, the Brown Shirt officers to retain their ranks. In other words he demanded supreme com-

mand of the Reichswehr, the S.S., and the S.A.. He confidently believed that he had Adolf's support...but Hitler remained silent...Blomberg, the Minister of National Defense, suddenly declared that the only course open to President Hindenberg would be to refuse outright. "The discussion is closed," Hitler then said, without daring to look his old friend in the face. Roehm, speechless with fury, walked quickly from the room. After June 30, General von Reichenau declared in an interview with the *Petit Journal* that Roehm's death sentence was virtually signed that day (Strasser, 1940:178).

As the conflict came to a head, SA conspirators created a "hit list" of Army officers who were to be killed (ibid.:218) and allegedly selected *Standartenfuehrer* Julius Uhl to assassinate Hitler himself (ibid.:237). It may be, however, that these allegations were invented as part of a fall-back rationale for the purge. It is well known that Himmler, Goering and Himmler's deputy, Reinhard Heydrich, worked behind the scenes to limit Roehm's power; and it has been reported by some sources that they generated rumors of a Roehm plot to drive a wedge between Roehm and Hitler. In any case, the Roehm Purge was not motivated by the homosexuality of its victims. The great majority of victims were not homosexuals at all. Otto Strasser, a high Nazi functionary whose brother, Gregor, was murdered that night, lists some of the casualties in Hitler and I:

Klausener and several other Catholic leaders were executed, as well as [Vice Chancellor] von Papen's secretaries. At Hirschberg, in Silesia, all the Jews, all the members of the Stahlhelm, and a few communists were arrested...beaten with rifle butts...and eight people were murdered...[V]on Kahr, an old man of sixty three...was taken from his bed, taken to Dachau, and tortured to death...His crime had been his failure to support the Munich *putsch* in 1923. Ballerstaedt...who had been in-



Gregor Strasser was murdered during the Roehm Purge

strumental in Hitler's being sentenced to three months imprisonment, was murdered by a special killer squad. [And] death was the penalty paid by Father Staempfle for having edited *Mein Kampf*, and therefore being familiar with the author's weaknesses (ibid.:200).

Igra provides us with a long and detailed account of the power struggle which led to the purge, beginning with a refutation of the idea that it represented a policy of extermination of homosexuals by Hitler:

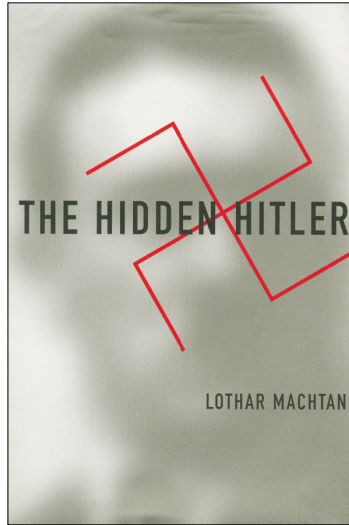
We shall find that, far from eliminating the sex perverts from his party, Hitler retained most of them, and that he moved against those whom he did eliminate only with the greatest reluctance and after he had been relentlessly pushed by outside forces and circumstances. On June 14 and 15 Hitler was in Venice to see Mussolini. It soon became common knowledge that the German Dictator and his entourage had made an unfavorable impression upon the Italians...Mussolini was never a stickler for puritan morality, to say the least, but there was one vice which the Italians particularly loathe; they call it *il vizio tedesco*, the German vice. The conduct of some members in Hitler's entourage at Venice disgusted the Italians. Mussolini protested against the moral character and political unreliability of the leading personnel in the Nazi Storm Troops and warned Hitler that he would have to sacrifice his favorite colleagues if he wished to save his own personal prestige and that of his regime. Among those colleagues, Roehm, Heines and Karl Ernst were mentioned.

What chagrined [Hitler] the most was that he knew Mussolini had been prompted...by...[German] President

Hindenberg...On June 21, Hitler went to Neudek, Hindenberg's country seat...[He] was literally dumbfounded when confronted on the steps of the Hindenberg family home by General Blomberg and Goering, both in uniform. They informed him that the President would not receive the Chancellor, and that if the heads of the SA were not dismissed martial law would be declared, whereupon Goering would take over civilian control as Chief of Police, and Blomberg, as Minister of War, would take over military control.

Hitler was still recalcitrant and conceived the idea of rallying the Storm Troops around him, as a gesture of defiance against those gentlemen of the right...But an event occurred...which led Hitler to change his plan...He was summoned to Krupp's headquarters and there was received by Goering, and the heads of the Krupp firm and other industrialists...[T]hey delivered their ultimatum: Either Hitler should get rid of his companions or the Goering-Krupp-Blomberg combination would withdraw their support for the regime. Hitler accepted the alternative, but in his own way. He would double-cross Roehm, but he would also double-cross his taskmasters to the Right. He would eliminate a few of the elements that had proved objectionable to the Right, but he would maintain the bulk of them. Besides, he would take the opportunity of the general massacre to remove those against whom he had a grievance -- General Streicher, General Bredlow, Gregor Strasser, etc.(Igra:77f).

Lothar Machtan's analysis, benefitting from an additional fifty years of hindsight, adds another important perspective on this critical event. His study emphasizes that while the German powers were forcing their will upon Hitler, the Fuehrer was confronted with one unescapable truth: the very men he must betray were the ones who held his own darkest secrets in trust. These were already hinting at blackmail due to the increasing tensions in the party. Machtan writes:



Roehm was not only acquainted with the shady beginnings of Hitler's political career, he was one of the very few people who knew about his homosexuality. It must have been Hitler's nightmare that he would one day launch a smear campaign....Roehm's friend Edmund Heines [once threatened in 1933] "Adolf hasn't the slightest reason to open his trap so wide -- one word from me, and he'll shut up for good"....As Hitler him-

self put it, he was faced with "a crisis that could only too easily have had truly devastating consequences for the foreseeable future." His political instinct for self-preservation, if nothing else, compelled him to escalate matters. At the same time, he was urged on by the prospect of concealing his own homosexuality forever by the elimination of dangerous witnesses (Machtan:211f).

Edmund Heines was an especially dangerous threat if former Freikorps soldier Peter Martin Lampel is to be believed. In his unpublished memoirs *Niemandes Knecht*, Lampel claimed to know "a lot about Hitler's homosexuality," including specific knowledge of a liaison with Heines (ibid.:138). Roehm, too, was alleged to have been a sex partner of Hitler, although these rumors were considered "highly exaggerated" by one-time Hitler favorite Putzi Hanfstaengl (ibid.:113).

Pushed to the wall, Hitler chose the Nietzschean path of merciless self-interest. Machtan writes:

Hitler could defend himself only by going to extremes, so the few people who knew that he, too, was homosexual



had to be either murdered or thoroughly intimidated. This is revealed by a closer look at the individual victims...Roehm, Ernst and Heines...Gregor Strasser...Karl-Gunther Heimsoth and Paul Rohrbein...senior civil servants privy to potentially explosive evidence about Hitler, for instance, [Prussian Police officials] Erich Klausener...and...Eugen von Kessel; Reichswehr Minister...Kurt von Schleicher and his right hand man, Ferdinand von Bredlow, the Munich police chief August Schneid-huber, the ex-premier of Bavaria, Gustav Ritter von Kahr....the attorneys of Roehm, Strasser, Ludecke and other senior Nazis...the Munich journalist Fritz Gerlich...and....Karl Zehnter [of the “gay” bar] *Bratwurstglockl*.

It may readily be inferred from these few examples that the operation carried out on and around June 30 was....a carefully planned campaign against people who knew, or were suspected of knowing, too much about Hitler (Machtan:216ff).

The Roehm Purge, then, was not a “moral” cleansing of the Nazi ranks, but a political one. Equally it was a realignment of power behind the German government which



Hermann Esser

was primarily forced upon Hitler by powerful political elements, whose support he needed to maintain control. Igra points out that not only did the majority of the SA homosexuals survive the purge, but that the massacre was largely implemented by homosexuals. He cites Strasser that the “Chief Killers of Munich [were] Wagner, Esser, Maurice, Weber and Buch.” These men



Walter Buch

“were all known to be sex perverts...of one type or another,” concludes Igra (ibid.:80). Plant records that the larger campaign of assassinations across Germany was orchestrated by Reinhard Heydrich, also a homosexual (Plant: 56). Igra addresses Hitler’s justification for the purge:

In his defense before the Reichstag a week later Hitler talked of “traitors.” That

was his alibi...In his speech to the Reichstag he admitted that one of the motives for ordering the massacre was to get rid of the moral perverts in his party and that they were traitors because they practiced homosexuality. But under the dictatorship it was not possible for anyone to put Hitler a question. Nobody asked him to explain how it was that, if his purpose was to get rid of homosexuals, he really didn’t rid himself of them but used them as the instruments of his own murder lust and still retained most of them as members of his personal entourage, as well as in key positions of the party organization and the government. Otto Strasser, in his book, The German St. Bartholemew’s Night (which has not been published in English), mentions sixteen of these highly placed homosexualist officials who survived the massacres of June 30 and retained their posts (Igra:82).

Following the purge, Hitler received a telegram from Hindenberg “expressing his ‘profoundly felt gratitude.’” ““You have saved the German people from a grave peril,’ the President wired” (Fest, 1975:470). Likewise, “Defense Minister von Blomberg congratulated Hitler for the successful completion of the ‘purge.’ (ibid.: 470). The army,

too, was pleased by Hitler's move. Only a week after the purge an anti-Nazi Reichswehr officer told the French military attaché in Berlin that the army was 25% pro-Nazi before the purge, but 95% pro-Nazi after the purge (Gallo:312).



Hitler with German President Hindenberg. Yad Vashem

### **After the Purge**

While it is certainly true that several of the most prominent homosexuals in the Nazi regime were killed on the "Night of the Long Knives" the fact of history is that Adolf Hitler did not purge his regime of homosexuals in this incident or at any subsequent time. On the contrary, a simple review of the historic record reveals that Hitler continued not only to surround himself with homosexuals, but to place them in key positions in the Third Reich.

Judith Reisman notes that "Kazimierz Mocazarski, a Polish resistance fighter, confirmed that homosexuals 'remained party members...got promotions...were protected by the top [Nazi] brass' and served on the battlefield and in prisons" (Reisman, 1994:3). Of the thirteen corps

commanders of the SA, all known or suspected homosexuals, only seven were killed in the Roehm Purge (Gallo:16). The rest, along with the probable thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of homosexuals remaining in the SA, were quickly reassigned by Hitler, who put the entire SA under the authority of Heinrich Himmler's SS. Many of these sadistic, brutal men had been useful to Hitler since the beginning, and he made certain that their talents would remain available to him. It is likely that some of these SA survivors were among the participants in Goebbels' dinner-party-turned-orgy in 1936 (Grunberger:70).

Not all SA homosexuals remained loyal to Hitler, however. Snyder records that at least 155 SS leaders were killed in late 1934 and 1935 by a group called "Roehm's Avengers" who "identified their unit on a slip of paper pinned to the body of each victim" (Snyder:298). These assassinations help to explain why Himmler's "anti-homosexual" policies were initially strictly enforced, but later (after the Roehm loyalists had been arrested) were much less rigorously applied.

Aside from the SA, Hitler retained all of the sexual deviants of his inner circle, including Goering, Streicher, Frank, Maurice, Schaub, Wagner, Brueckner, Weber and Karl Kaufman, gauleiter of Hamburg. Hess was to remain until 1941, when he left (whether of his own accord or as an emissary of Hitler is still unknown) on his ill-fated "peace" mission to England. As an aside, the loss of Hess must have been very difficult for Hitler. As Ebermayer noted, Hess "was for many years the Fuehrer's [homosexual] partner, especially during their joint detention in Landsberg" (Ebermayer in Machtan:232).

Hitler later openly rewarded some of these men with top jobs in the government. Rector, for example, writes that "Hitler knew about [Walther] Funk, a 'notorious' homosexual, when he appointed him Reich Minister of Economics on February 5, 1938" (Rector: 63). SS

Lieutenant-General Albert Foerster, the homosexual who is mentioned in Langer as a possible sexual partner of Hitler (Langer:178), and whose “black record of atrocities against the Poles” earned him a death sentence in later war trials, was appointed Reich Regent of the Danzig Free State just prior to World War II (Wistrich:178). And Graf von Helldorf, one of Rossbach’s original homosexual Brownshirts (Strasser, 1940:26), was appointed by Hitler to the post of police president of Berlin in 1935 (Snyder:145).



Hitler's personal financial advisor Walther Funk

As he had turned on Ernst Roehm, several of the homosexuals in his inner circle eventually turned on Hitler himself. Johansson and Percy write,

One gay scholar, Ricard Dey, for years has with others collected data computerized into what he dubs the Encyclopedia Homophilica. Recent publicity about Deputy Fuehrer Rudolf Hess’s homosexuality has led him to conclude that the tragically unsuccessful plot to assassinate Hitler in 1944 carried out by Colonel Count von Stauffenberg was masterminded by Admiral Canaris and backed by a *network of other conspirators, like them, rightest homosexuals* (emphasis ours. Johansson and Percy:285).

Discretion would be the watchword for Nazi homosexuals after 1934, however. In light of its public stance following the Roehm purge, the Party could no longer protect flagrant homosexuals in leadership positions. A case in point is mentioned by Oosterhuis. He writes that “[i]n

1937, a top leader of the Nazi movement of the *Sudeten* Germans in Czechoslovakia was arrested for a homosexual offense, once again embroiling the party in a scandal that resembled the Roehm affair” (Oosterhuis:243). In response to this incident, newspaper reporter Walther Bartz (undoubtedly at great personal risk) wrote a series of articles in *Die neue Weltbuehne* on “the homosexual roots of Nazism” (ibid.:243).

One additional incident must be mentioned here which, aside from exposing homosexuals in the post-Roehm party, has great historical significance in its own right: the assassination of Austrian Chancellor Englebert Dollfuss, July 25, 1934. Dollfuss opposed *Anschluss* (the Nazi plan to annex Austria) and Adolf Hitler personally. Igra writes,

A few days after the murder of Dr. Dollfuss in Vienna (July 25, 1934) the semi-official Italian newspaper, *Il Polo di Roma*, published the comment:

*Pederasts and assassins rule in Berlin.*

By intimating that the authors of the Vienna crime were directly associated with the ‘pederasts and assassins’ who ruled in Berlin, Mussolini’s paper made a grave accusation against the German government at a time when friendly relations existed between the two countries. Under ordinary circumstances the publication of such a statement would have given rise to a diplomatic protest and demanded an explanation. Yet, as far as is known, Hitler made no such protest. Moreover, Mussolini backed up his accusation by ordering the mobilization of Italian troops on the Austro-Italian frontier, as a gesture against Hitler’s designs on Austria. But Hitler made no counter-move.

The explanation of Hitler’s silence and inactivity in the face of the Italian challenge may be, and probably is, that he was cowed by Mussolini’s blackmail. Mussolini knew that the murder of the Austrian Chancellor had been ordered by Hitler and that this was not done from political



motives exclusively. He knew that personal revenge against Dollfuss was the chief motive working in the dark recesses of Hitler's mind. For Dollfuss had come into possession of an authentic affidavit which connected Hitler directly with the moral scandals I have spoken of....he had certified copies of the affidavit made and entrusted to the diplomatic representatives of [several] governments in Vienna. That is the account which has been



Austrian Chancellor  
Engelbert Dollfuss

given me, and I have every reason to believe it to be at least substantially true. Among others Dr. Hermann Rauschning assured me that he had seen a copy of such a document, which was in the hands of a foreign government. *It declared that Hitler had been a male prostitute in Vienna at the time of his sojourn there, from 1907 to 1912, and that he practiced the same calling in Munich from 1912 to 1914.* Mussolini obviously knew of the existence of this document, and had a copy of it at his disposal when he charged Hitler with pederasty and murder at one and the same time (Igra:66f).

Igra goes on to relate that the “leader of the gang who murdered Dr. Dollfuss and who actually fired the shots into the Chancellor’s body was a certain criminal named [Otto] Planetta who was also a well-known sex pervert” (ibid.:78). Hitler failed to take control of Austria at this time. That would occur in 1938 when Hitler forced the resignation of Dollfuss’ successor, Kurt von Schuschnigg in favor of Artur Seyss-Inquart (leader of the Austrian Nazis and also a homosexual -- ibid.:86, Snyder:8).

A few additional words are in order about the extent to

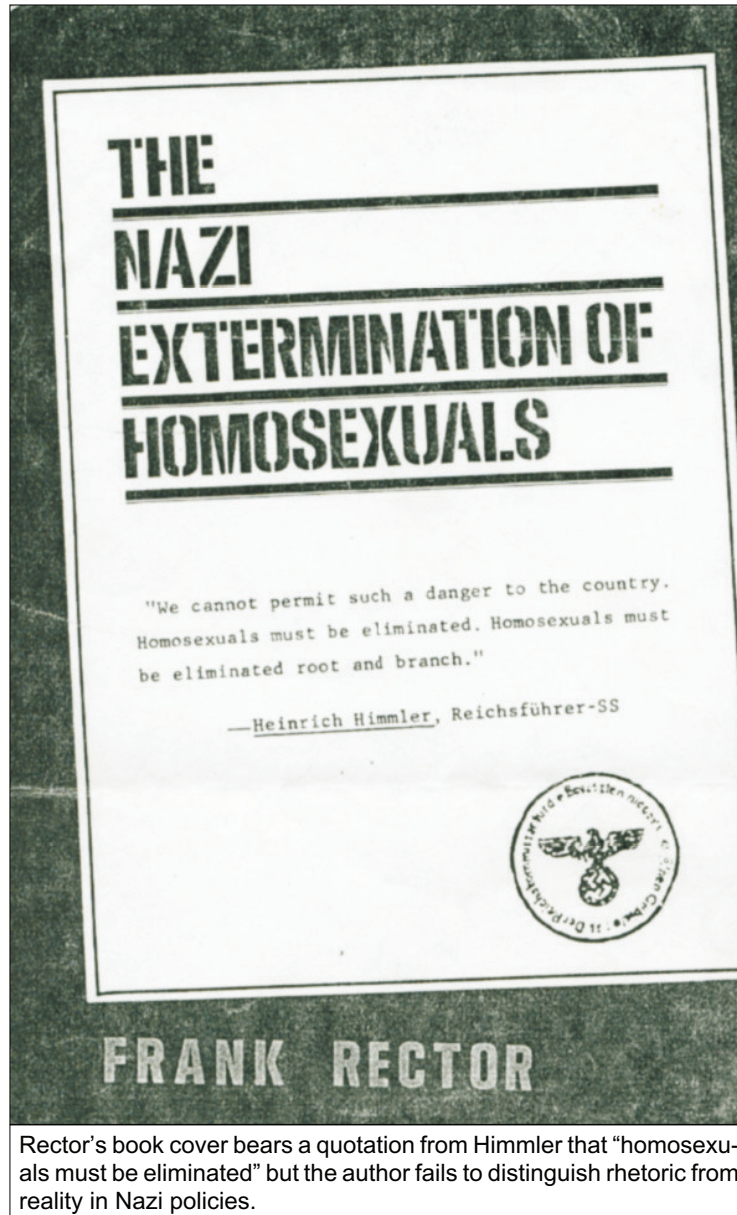
which Hitler's personal fear of disclosure dictated Nazi policy about homosexuality after the purge. Machtan writes:

The violent imposition of a "state of emergency" was intended to enable the authorities to gain possession, at a stroke, of documents considered dangerous by Hitler...His principle motive for taking action against "Roehm and associates" was fear of exposure and blackmail. What additionally confirms this is that the mountains of confiscated documents were not to be used in trials of any kind....Only six months after the Roehm murders, the so-called Malignant Practices Act came into force. This act penalized any remark that might "seriously prejudice the welfare of the Reich"....most of the remarks...related to Hitler himself and his homosexuality....from 1943, remarks to the effect that the "Fuehrer" was homosexually inclined were punishable by death (Machtan:220ff).

It is in this context that we must examine Hitler's instruction to Himmler to clamp down on homosexuality in the nation: "He wanted to get such a grip on the "problem" of homosexuality that it could never again present a threat to his position of power" (ibid.:225). For this reason he required a system of complete control over the homosexual community. The fact that he gained such control and did not use it beyond what was necessary to protect himself (and punish his enemies) is testament to his continued sympathy for his fellow "gays." Indeed, there was really never a campaign to eliminate homosexuality from German society, despite Nazi rhetoric to the contrary.

### **Heinrich Himmler and the SS**

Heinrich Himmler is an extremely important figure in Nazi history. He joined the Nazis in the early years of the party and "participated in the Munich Beer-Hall *Putsch* of November 1923 as a standard-bearer at the side of Ernst



Rector's book cover bears a quotation from Himmler that "homosexuals must be eliminated" but the author fails to distinguish rhetoric from reality in Nazi policies.

Roehm" (Wistrich:138). After holding a number of mid-level positions in the party he was appointed "head of Hitler's personal bodyguard, the black-shirted Schulzstaffel

(SS), at that time a small body of 200 men” (ibid.:138). Over the next dozen years Himmler’s “astonishing capacity for work and irrepressible power-lust showed itself in his accumulation of official posts” (ibid.:138), eventually winning him the most powerful position in the Third Reich under Hitler himself.

The role of Himmler is also critically important to the assertions of homosexual revisionists. “Heinrich Himmler, Reichsfuehrer SS and head of the Gestapo,” writes Steakley, “richly deserves a reputation as the most fanatically anti-homosexual member of the Nazi leadership” (Steakley:111). Indeed, if one were to accept Himmler’s public pronouncements against homosexuality at face value, he would certainly deserve this distinction. For example, in a speech in which he commemorated the Roehm Purge, he said:

Two years ago...when it became necessary, we did not hesitate to strike this plague with death, even within our own ranks...in our judgment of homosexuality — a symptom of degeneracy which could destroy our race — we must return to the guiding Nordic principle: extermination of degenerates” (ibid.:111f).

However, as we have demonstrated, homosexuality was not the reason for the Roehm Purge. And if we look at other evidence we find that Himmler’s practice regarding homosexuals was far different than his rhetoric would imply. Grau notes in Hidden Holocaust? that

In these speculations about a supposed “final solution” to the problem of homosexuality, there is clearly a failure to differentiate what was said in Nazi programmes from what was actually carried out. If Himmler’s eradication rhetoric is thought to reflect the fate of individual homosexuals, then obviously the Nazi’s policy will be seen as a drive to exterminate them all in the literal sense of the



Himmler was obsessed with creating a race of “supermen.” But in his view, some of the most perfect specimens of Aryan manhood were being lost to this effort due to homosexuality. Himmler felt this “loss” more keenly in light of the fact that Germany had lost two million men in World War I. He also believed there were two million homosexuals in the population. “This meant,” write Burleigh and Wippermann, “that Germany’s ‘sexual balance sheet’ had gone into deficit because ‘four million men capable of sex’ had either died or had ‘renounced their duty to procreate’ on account of their sexual proclivities” (Burleigh and Wippermann:192).

Himmler’s solution to this problem was, logically enough, not the extermination of the delinquent males. Instead he placed great hope in the use of medical “treatments” to reclaim homosexuals for the race. One experiment involved implanting artificial glands in homosexual subjects to introduce additional male hormones to the body. Other efforts paired homosexual prisoners with female prostitutes (ibid.:195f). While the idea of forced medical experiments is abhorrent, the fact that Himmler invested time and resources in such projects shows that he had a very different view of homosexuals than of other prisoners, even of those effeminate homosexuals who were held in such contempt by the Nazi “Butches.” Himmler was determined to rehabilitate rather than dispose of them.

### **Was Himmler a Homosexual?**

Himmler may himself have been a homosexual. Filmmaker Walter Frenz, who worked closely with the Nazi elite (including a stint as Hitler’s private filmmaker), is reported to have traveled to the Eastern front with Himmler “whose pederastic proclivities he captured on film” (*Washington City Paper*, April 4, 1995). We also know that Gauleiter Helmut Bruckner of Silesia, upon being de-





Roehm and Himmler.

nounced as a homosexual by a Himmler underling in the month after the Roehm Purge, sent a veiled blackmail threat via Hess and Goering to expose Himmler's alleged homosexual tendencies (Machtan:226).

Himmler began his Nazi career as an aide to Ernst Roehm, a fact which clearly refutes the idea that he was a priggish anti-homosexual zealot. On the contrary,

Himmler's service to Roehm was not performed grudgingly. Himmler voluntarily wrote his own oath of loyalty to Roehm and repeated it ceremoniously each year in Roehm's presence. Gallo records a portion of a letter written to Roehm by Himmler: "As a soldier and a friend, I wish you all you could desire in obedience and loyalty. It has been and always will be my greatest pride to be counted among your most faithful followers" (Gallo:57). For many years Himmler had been pleased to serve the most brazen and outspoken homosexual in the Nazi Party.

It must be noted that even though Himmler helped to orchestrate the Roehm purge, the homoerotic components of his personality had not substantially changed. Herman Glaser, in The Cultural Roots of National Socialism, writes,

[Even after]...the murder of Roehm and the leading SA personalities...in a certain sense the sodomite romanticism continued to assert itself. The virtually manic search for beautiful male figures perpetrated by Heinrich Himmler, for example, could not just be explained by the delusions of the breeder; it was also compensation for a repressed physical inferiority complex, which especially in people with homosexual tendencies gives rise to neuroses" (Glaser:132).

Himmler, like Hitler, was closely associated with homosexuals throughout his adult life. His path to Nazi leadership, however, was not, like that of so many others, through the German "gay rights" movement. Instead it was through the occult movement, and his Nazi career was defined by his passion for the occult. We have seen how Himmler was profoundly influenced by Guido von List and Jorg Lanz von Liebenfels, the homosexual gurus of nationalistic and anti-Semitic occultism. It was List's dream of a hierarchical male supremacist social order which formed the blueprint for the SS. And it was from List that Himmler

appropriated the “SS” symbol. From Lanz, Himmler adopted other occult themes. Wistrich writes,

For him, the SS was at one and the same time the resurrection of the ancient Order of the Teutonic Knights with himself as Grand Master, the breeding of a new *Herrenvolk* aristocracy based on traditional values of obedience, courage and loyalty, and a vast experiment in modern racial engineering (Wistrich:140).

Lanz originated both the revival of the Teutonic Knights theme and the plan for German racial engineering. The latter idea manifested itself in Germany in 1936 as the “State-registered human stud farm known as *Lebensborn* [meaning “fount of life”], where young girls selected for their perfect Nordic traits could procreate with SS men” (ibid.:138). By 1945 over 11,000 births had resulted from the program (Conway:273), which Himmler was later to claim as his greatest contribution to the Third Reich. But the plan, down to some of its details, must be attributed to Lanz. Goodrick-Clarke writes,

The similarity between Lanz’s proposals and the latter practices of Himmler’s SS *Lebensborn* maternity organization... indicate the survival of these mental reflexes over a generation. Lanz’s advocacy of brood mothers in eugenic convents (*Zuchtkloster*), served by pure-blooded Aryan stud-males (*Ehehelfer*), was revived in the Third Reich (Goodrick-Clarke:97).

Despite his homoerotic inclinations, Himmler was dedicated to the fantasy of an Aryan super race through eugenics, which necessitated heterosexual breeding as a cultural priority. As long as a man performed his procreative duties to the state, Himmler had no problem with his other sexual practices. This attitude is easily recognized in the case of

his second-in-command, Reinhard Heydrich, whose own contribution to the Third Reich deserves special attention.



The homosexual Gestapo leader Reinhard Heydrich was one of the most feared men in Germany. Yad Vashem

**Reinhard Heydrich: “The Blonde Beast”**

In an organization which exemplified evil, Reinhard Heydrich was considered the quintessential member. “Tall, slim, blonde-haired, with slanting, deep set blue eyes,” writes Wistrich, “Heydrich with his military bearing and ice-cool hardness seemed to epitomize the ‘Nordic-Aryan type’ of Nazi mythology” (Wistrich:134). Himmler selected Heydrich as his right hand-man in 1931, and within a few short years he was feared by everyone but Hitler himself (Rector:61). Wistrich describes him well:

...ruthless, cold and calculating, without any compunction to carrying out the most inhuman measures, Heydrich made himself indispensable to the masters of the Third Reich...His cynicism and contempt for human beings led him to exploit the basest instincts...in weaving his gigantic spider’s web of police surveillance in the Third Reich. He filed extensive dossiers, not only on enemies of the Party but also his rivals and colleagues. The ‘Blonde Beast,’ who controlled the sole intelligence service after 1935, specialized in devious methods of blackmail alongside weapons of open terror and persecution. His hand was most probably in the Tukhachevsky Affair — which led to the purge of Red Army generals in the Soviet Union — and he fabricated the scandalous intrigue which brought down the leading German generals von Blomberg...and von Fritsch...[He] masterminded the mock attack on the Gleiwitz radio transmitter which provided Hitler’s excuse for invading Poland...[But] The most satanic consequence of this accumulation of power was revealed in Heydrich’s implementation of the order for the wholesale extermination of European Jewry (Wistrich:134f).

Like so many of the Nazis, Heydrich had been a member of the *Freikorps* and “was strongly influenced in his early years by the racial fanaticism of the volkish

circles” (ibid.:134). Heydrich also shared the sexual vice that marked Hitler’s circle of power. Stevenson created a profile of Heydrich taken directly from the BSC (Allied Intelligence) profile of Heydrich.

[Reinhard Heydrich] was the protégé of Heinrich Himmler, Reich Commissioner for Consolidation of German Racial Stock. Heydrich was fanatical in his hatred of Jews, having himself some Jewish blood. For this reason, Himmler considered him safe. It was always useful to have the means of blackmailing one's colleagues.... “Nobody,” Heydrich declared in his anxiety to reach the top, “has greater contempt for Jews than myself. I intend to eliminate the strain.”

The fate of “sub-humans” herded into Germany's new mercy-killing centers to be executed on the strength of a physician's oath that the victim was no use to society, the preparations that moved inexorably forward to redesign Europe's entire railroad system to serve the future death camps, all such obscenities before war were made tolerable by the pretense that if you could not actually see them, they could not be happening. In this atmosphere, Heydrich moved with single-minded purpose to a position so close to the Fuehrer that none dared touch him except perhaps Admiral Canaris, who directed the German High Command intelligence service (HICOMINTEL). But even Canaris lost control over young Heydrich. The Admiral had a dossier on Heydrich's homosexual activities after he had been cashiered from the navy, but Heydrich had also become expert at ferreting out embarrassing information about colleagues and superiors...

Heydrich’s career was guided and dominated by his relationship with an older friend, Freidrich Karl von Eberstein, son of Count Ernst von Eberstein, Heydrich’s godfather. Freidrich von Eberstein was Heydrich’s senior by ten years and had served in the navy during World War I. More importantly, Eberstein was one of the original Nazi



leaders in the SA and was a personal friend of Adolf Hitler (Calic:33). Historian Callum MacDonald writes,

While Heydrich was serving on the Naval staff in Kiel, von Eberstein had been leader of the Nazi Stuermaabteilung or SA, in Munich and upper Bavaria...In 1931, however, von Eberstein joined another organization, the Schutzstaffel or SS...On the recommendation of von Eberstein, now an officer on Himmler's staff, Heydrich became a member of the Nazi Party, number 544,916, in June 1931. He joined the SA in Hamburg and was soon involved in bloody street battles against the communists and other opponents of the Nazis. He took this step on the understanding that his association with the beerhall brawlers was to be purely temporary and that von Eberstein would use his influence to secure a speedy transfer to the SS...[Later, Hitler] began to look for someone capable of organizing the SS intelligence service on a professional basis and was handed Heydrich's file by von Eberstein (MacDonald:16f).

Outside of his involvement with the early SA we have little evidence to conclude that von Eberstein was homosexual, but we strongly suspect that he was. Other of Heydrich's close associates were known homosexuals. In 1931, when Ernst Roehm was faced with accusations of homosexuality under Paragraph 175, it was Heydrich who came to his defense (Lombardi:12). Heydrich's mentor in the navy, Admiral Wilhelm Canaris, was also alleged to be homosexual -- by Heydrich's successor in the position of Chief of the SD-SS, Ernst Kaltenbrunner (Rector:62). Rector questions this allegation because Kaltenbrunner "once said that 80% of the Abwehr [German Military Intelligence] were sexually perverted" and believed it "to be a center of every form of vice" (ibid.:62). This allegation, however, seems quite consistent with what we have come to know of certain segments of the German military, though

the specific statements are perhaps exaggerated. Heydrich and Canaris were very close during Heydrich's tenure in the navy (MacDonald:12), but Canaris later came to fear the man he had trained in intelligence tactics, and kept a dossier on Heydrich's homosexuality as insurance to protect his own career (Stevenson: 349). Much later Canaris was discovered to be a leader in the attempt to assassinate Hitler and was executed at Flossenbergr concentration camp on April 9, 1945.

Heydrich's loyalty to Hitler never wavered. Rector writes that "Hitler considered him the ideal Nazi, and Nazi inner circles regarded Heydrich as a likely successor to Hitler even though Hermann Goering was officially slated for the post of Fuehrer" (Rector:62). Hitler's support gave Heydrich nearly unlimited power. As Snyder writes, "Heydrich could order immediate arrests and preventative detention, and he could send any persons to concentration camps at any time. He was the absolute master of life and liberty in the Third Reich" (Snyder:317).

### **The Grynszpan Affair — Kristallnacht**

Perhaps the single most infamous incident orchestrated by Heydrich was the November 9, 1938 *pogrom* known as *Kristallnacht* ("Crystal Night"), in which hundreds of Jews were killed and synagogues and businesses were destroyed across Germany. "In fifteen hours," writes Snyder, "101 synagogues were destroyed by fire, and 76 were demolished. Bands of Nazis systematically destroyed 7,500 Jewish-owned stores. The pillage and looting went on through the night. Streets were covered with broken glass, hence the name *Kristallnacht*" (ibid.:201). Michael Berenbaum, in The World Must Know, adds that ninety-six Jews were killed and thirty thousand were arrested and sent to the camps. Jewish cemeteries, schools and homes were destroyed. As a final insult, the Jews were held responsible

for the damage and collectively fined one billion Reichsmarks (Berenbaum:54).

The Nazis characterized this wave of terror as the German people's spontaneous response to the assassination of German Embassy Councilor, Ernst vom Rath. While the "spontaneous" rioting was actually a calculated act of terrorism, the incident that allegedly sparked it was not planned. Ernst vom Rath's murder was a legitimately spontaneous occurrence which the Nazis exploited to justify an attack on the Jews which they had undoubtedly been planning for some time. Interestingly, however, the one common element in the story of the assassination and the story of *Kristallnacht* is homosexuality.



Herschel Grynszpan

Ernst vom Rath was a high-level SA official who had received a diplomatic posting to the German embassy in Paris. While serving there he had taken up with a seventeen-year-old male prostitute by the name of Herschel Grynszpan, a Polish Jew (Read and Fisher:33). In partial payment for his services, Grynszpan had extracted a promise from vom Rath that his parents would be spared the consequences of a recent law that "revoked the citizenship of Polish Jews who had been living abroad for more than five years and who still retained Polish citizenship" (Rector:57). But vom Rath apparently failed to keep his promise; Grynszpan's family, along with thousands of others "were herded into camps in a no-man's land along the border region of Zbonszyn in freezing weather" (ibid.:58). In retaliation, Grynszpan shot vom Rath on the night of November 7, 1938. Two days later the Nazis staged the "Night of Broken Glass."

Grynszpan was seized by the Gestapo in 1940 (ibid:58).

When at last they had him in their possession, however, their planned high-profile courtroom prosecution went up in smoke. "At the last moment the trial was canceled on Hitler's orders: Grynszpan had threatened to reveal a homosexual relationship with Rath" (ibid.:58). The Nazis were furious. "Vom Rath had been sold to the world as an official martyr, shot down in the service of the Fuehrer. He had even



Joseph Goebbels.

been given a state funeral at which Hitler himself had been a mourner. Was he now to be portrayed in the world's press as a queer with a taste for seventeen-year-old boys?" (Read and Fisher:252).

Of course, the Nazis claimed that the confession was a lie, but apparently there must have been enough evidence to support the story, or the prosecutors could have easily refuted it. Instead, they delayed the trial. Read and Fisher explain:

The delay gave Goebbels the time to create a new myth about the late Ernst vom Rath, and he set about it in a highly ingenious manner. He arranged for the letters of French prisoners of war to be specially vetted by one of his men, who seized the more passionate and erotic messages. The letters were then doctored to make it appear that they had all been written to vom Rath by various mistresses, with the aim of producing them in court as written evidence of his heterosexuality. At one stroke, Goebbels would have created a new Don Juan, a German womanizer irresistible to Frenchwomen (ibid:253).

Clearly the Nazis could produce no legitimate evidence that vom Rath was a heterosexual. But even their falsified evidence went unused because, in the meantime, the Justice Ministry had obtained additional information that made a public trial impossible. “[A] story had been circulating in public that Herschel had in fact been vom Rath’s male whore and procurer for some time in 1938, and that vom Rath had been known in Parisian homosexual circles as ‘the ambassadress’ and ‘Notre Dame de Paris’” (ibid.:253). Additionally, it was learned that vom Rath’s brother “had been dismissed from the service for homosexual offenses” (ibid.:253). This was too much for even Hitler’s propaganda machine to overcome, so the trial was again postponed.

To be fair, we must acknowledge that Read and Fisher concluded that the allegations of a homosexual affair between vom Rath and Grynszpan were untrue, merely the creation of Grynszpan’s lawyer. A review of all the evidence, however, including much which was apparently unknown to Read and Fisher, compels us to conclude that the incident occurred as we have described it herein. Our conclusion is further bolstered by the fact that the Nazis had placed pederastic homosexuals in other foreign posts. The German consul in Casablanca, Morocco, Dr. Theodor Auer, was homosexual as well. His “affair with the son of a local sheikh and his ‘behaviour’ with Arab, French and Jewish ‘bumboys’ were detailed by the British Secret Operations Executive (SOE) (‘How sex became a weapon of war,’ *Daily Telegraph*, July 23, 1998).

Grynszpan’s young life began and ended in tragedy associated with homosexual perversion. His home town of Hanover (perhaps not coincidentally the birthplace of Karl Heinrich Ulrichs) “was a center of homosexuality,” according to Read and Fisher:

There were no fewer than 500 male prostitutes on the police books in 1918, and the chief criminal inspector put the number of homosexuals in the city at about 40,000, out of a total population of 450,000. The Grynszpan's neighborhood earned particular notoriety during the early year's of Herschel's childhood through the activities of one Fritz Haarman, known as "the Butcher of Hanover," who picked up his victims, mostly adolescent boys, in the railway station, and took them home...When he had finished with them, he strangled them, butchered their corpses, and sold the flesh as meat. He was executed in 1925 (ibid.:33).

Grynszpan never did go to trial, though he remained in Nazi custody. Interestingly, the organization which came to his aid during this time was called the Society for Human Rights (ibid.:245). [We are not certain if this was the same "homosexual rights" group which had once boasted Ernst Roehm as a member, but it may have been.] Victor Basch, then head of the SHR "had pleaded for 'liberty or judgment'" in an effort to get him freed, but to no avail (ibid.:245). After 1942 Grynszpan just disappeared, probably killed secretly by the Gestapo.

*Kristallnacht*, the "spontaneous" incident which Grynszpan's act had supposedly sparked, has also been described as being defined by homosexuality. As all of Europe struggled to understand the cause for this horror, an answer was offered by British Consul-General, R.T. Smallbones. Smallbones was a "self-confessed Germanophile" who had served in Germany, from 1932 to 1939 and "had developed great admiration and respect for the sterling qualities of the people" (ibid.:127). "His opinion, therefore," writes Igra, "rests on first-hand experience of the German people for a long period of years" (Igra:7). He continues:





Victims of the Lidice massacre.

[Smallbones authored] a British White Paper, “Concerning the treatment of German Nationals (including the Jews) in Germany,” in which the following statement is made: “The explanation of this outbreak of sadistic cruelty may be that sexual perversion, and, in particular, homosexuality, are very prevalent in Germany. It seems to me that mass sexual perversion may offer an explanation of this otherwise inexplicable outbreak”...I am convinced that this explanation is the correct one [writes Igra]. For, as a matter of fact, the widespread existence of sexual perversion in Germany...at the time the Hitler movement rose to power...is notorious. And authorities on criminal sociology are agreed that there is a causal connection between mass sexual perversion and the kind of mass atrocities committed by the Germans (ibid:7).

Heydrich, the man most responsible for this atrocity, met his death in May, 1942, at the hands of two Czechoslovakian resistance fighters. A bomb was tossed into his car, shattering his spine. He died on June 4, 1942. In retaliation “the Germans took savage revenge, after the manner of the

old Teutonic rites, for the death of their hero” (Shirer:1288f). Over 1,500 people were immediately executed and thousands more followed, including the entire population of Lidice (ibid.:1289). The Lidice massacre was orchestrated by Heydrich’s replacement, Kurt Daluege, formerly a unit leader in Rossbach’s notorious homosexual *Freikorps* (Wistrich:43).

As for the official legal resolution of the *Kristallnacht* affair, that matter was handed to homosexual Walter Buch. A former early SA leader, now President of the Nazi Party Supreme Court, Buch concluded that the Nazi rank and file who had participated in the murderous pogrom were innocent of any crime (ibid:33f).

## Chapter Six

**HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE  
CONCENTRATION CAMPS**

We have now arrived at one of the most sensitive topics in our discussion of homosexuality in Nazi Germany. As we have noted, revisionists have attempted to define homosexuals as a class of people who were “targeted for extermination” by the Nazis. One homosexual group went so far as to stage a high-profile “pilgrimage” to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem in May of 1994. They were met by a delegation of Jewish Holocaust survivors who were so overcome with outrage that some of them had to be restrained from physically assaulting the contingent of (mostly American) political activists. One man cried, “My grandfather was killed for refusing to have sexual relations with the camp commandant. You are desecrating this place...” (*The Jerusalem Post*, May 30, 1994).

Yet, as we have noted, some homosexuals did in fact die in Nazi concentration camps. We do not diminish the tragedy of any life lost under the Nazi reign of terror; however, we must reject the implication that homosexuals as a class should be given moral equivalency to the Jewish people and other victims of genocide. There are five reasons why we must reject this claim of the revisionists.

First, we know that regardless of Himmler's anti-homosexual rhetoric, homosexuals as a class were never targeted for extermination, as their continued role in the Third Reich demonstrates.

Second, those homosexuals who died did so primarily as the result of mistreatment and disease in slave-labor camps -- not in the gas chambers. As reported in the *Washington Blade*

John Fout, professor of history...said his research shows that about 50,000 men were imprisoned for homosexual related "offenses" by the Nazis between 1933 and 1945. Most of them, he said, were imprisoned for relatively short sentences and in regular German prisons, not concentration camps as has been generally believed (Researcher says Nazi persecution not systematic, *The Washington Blade*, May 22, 1998).

Third, though we cannot condone the form of punishment meted out by the Nazis, homosexual sodomy was a legitimate crime of long-standing for which individuals were being jailed both before and after the Nazi Regime (and in this country during the same time period). Indeed, Fout acknowledges that rather than being arrested indiscriminately simply for "being" a homosexual, "the overwhelming majority of those arrested...were charged with engaging in sex in public places, such as parks and public restrooms" (ibid). This is in contrast to the internment of Jewish people, whose ethnicity is morally (and in pre-Nazi Germany, legally) neutral.

Fourth, the *actual* number of homosexuals in the camps was a tiny fraction of both the estimated number of homosexuals in Germany and the estimate of the camp population. The camp homosexual population, estimated at 5,000-15,000 by Fout and by Joan Ringelheim of the US Holocaust museum (Rose:40), contained an undetermined percentage of non-homosexuals falsely labeled as homo-



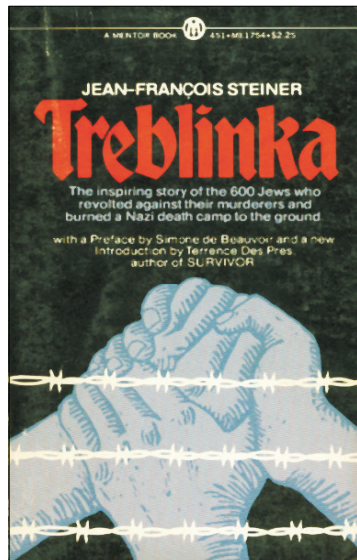
Dachau Concentration Camp was the first to open.

sexuals (see section titled “Anti-homosexual Policies” above). Homosexuals who died were “a small fraction of less than 1 percent” of homosexuals in Nazi-occupied Europe (S. Katz:146), compared to more than 85 percent of European Jewry. To be more specific, Buchenwald was the camp with the highest number of supposed homosexual prisoners. According to Grau, it’s annual population count of “pink triangles” peaked at just 189 in 1944, with fewer than 100 such prisoners in the years prior to 1942. “The figures were small in comparison with the total number of prisoners there -- well below one percent in every year” (Grau:264).

Fifth and last, many of the guards and administrators responsible for the infamous concentration camp atrocities were homosexuals themselves, which negates the idea that homosexuals *in general* were being persecuted and interned.

The Nazi system of concentration camps began with Dachau in 1933, but by the fall of the Third Reich the number of sites which had held prisoners in German occupied

territory surpassed 10,000 (Parshall:57). It is not generally known that only six of these camps were the notorious “death camps.” In his introduction to Jean-Francois Steiner’s Treblinka, Terrence des Pres addresses this distinction:



The first Nazi camps, which were set up soon after Hitler came to power in 1933, were designed as places of detention and as training grounds for the SS. Dachau and Buchenwald were among the most notorious, and although we cannot forget that thousands of people perished in these places, we should keep in mind that camps of this kind were not intended or equipped to be instruments of genocide...however, as the Nazi policy of extermination took shape with the Jews as primary target, the

major “killing centers,” as they came to be called, began to operate...The great killing centers were six: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Sobibor, Chelmno, Belzec, Maidanek, and Treblinka (Steiner:x-xi).

We make this point simply to show that the internment of homosexuals in the concentration camps was not equivalent to that of Jews and other racial groups who were, under Nazi policy, targeted for extermination. As terrible as life could be in the work camps, it offered better chances than being herded into gas chambers or shot in front of mass graves.

An additional point that deserves mention here is that the uniform pattern of brutality for which the camps are

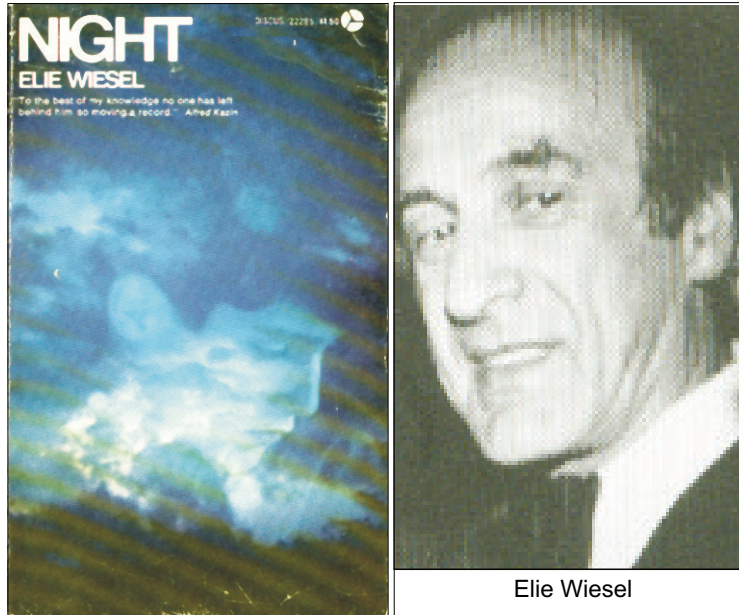


known was established as a deliberate and calculated policy by the SA under Ernst Roehm in 1933. Heiden writes that “[t]he S.A. had learned...that the will of an imprisoned mass must be broken by the most loathsome cruelty” (Heiden, 1944:565). He later adds that “[f]rightening reports also trickled through from the concentration camps, and the public began to realize that the Fuehrer’s picked troops had organized artificial hells in Dachau...Roehm admitted publicly that these things seemed unbearable to many people, but said he saw no reason for stopping them” (ibid.:732f). Though Roehm was soon killed, his system of mass torture and degradation endured.

### **The Guards and Kapos**

There is one aspect of life in the concentration camps that is seldom noted by historians, yet is profoundly significant in this discussion. That aspect is the unique status of homosexuals in the camps. For while any prisoner could be chosen as a *Kapo* (a slave overseer), none other of the interned groups *except* homosexuals had counterparts among the Nazi guards and administrators (for example, there were no Jewish guards or administrators). Stephan Ross, founder of the New England Holocaust Museum, estimates that “about 20 percent of those guarding Jewish prisoners were homosexuals.” Ross was himself interned for five years in Nazi camps as a child and was repeatedly sexually abused by the guards. “[T]hey would beat you and make you do that [perform oral sex]” he said. “To this day I am very angry about it” (“Holocaust Survivor: Molested by Guards,” *The Massachusetts News*, April 5, 2000).

Examples of the homosexuality of the concentration camp guards can be found in many of the personal accounts of Holocaust survivors. Elie Wiesel, sent to the Buna factory camp in the Auschwitz complex, for example, acknowledges this in his book Night:



The head of our tent was a German. An assassin's face, fleshy lips, hands like wolf's paws. He was so fat he could hardly move. Like the leader of the camp he loved children...(Actually this was not a disinterested affection: there was a considerable traffic in young children among homosexuals here, I learned later) (Wiesel:59).

In Treblinka, the narrative account of the Treblinka uprising, Steiner records the story of another Nazi administrator, taken from interviews with survivors:

Max Bielas had a harem of little Jewish boys. He liked them young, no older than seventeen. He had a kind of parody of the shepherds of Arcadia, their role was to take care of the camp flock of geese. They were dressed like little princes...Bielas had a little barracks built for them that looked like a doll's house...Bielas sought in Treblinka only the satisfaction of his homosexual instincts (Steiner:117f).

Walter Poller, a German political prisoner who was interned in the Buchenwald concentration camp, also noted the homosexuality of certain guards. In Medical Block Buchenwald Poller describes the camp practice of mass beatings, and reports on the perverse pleasure these guards derived from the torment of the prisoners:

If the camp doctor happened to pass by after a mass whipping, and knew that a certain type of homosexual Scharfuehrer [platoon leader] and SS officer stood at a certain gate, he arranged a little special entertainment for them, which he called a medical examination (Poller:103).

Poller leaves the details of these “medical examinations” to our imagination. But this brief glimpse into the ranks of the SS guards reveals much about the camps. Poller’s distinction between “types” of homosexual SS officers, for example, implies that there were more than a few such guards. Furthermore, their homosexuality was a matter of public knowledge. Both of these inferences are supported in another passage which tells of the retaliation against the Jewish prisoners following the attempted assassination of Hitler in July, 1944:

Two Scharfuehrer came along the empty camp roads at about nine o’clock. One of them was...an Oberscharfuehrer [commander of platoon leaders] known to the prisoners by the nick-name of “Anna,” because of his undisguised homosexuality. They entered one of the Jewish barracks, and there indiscriminately chose five Jews and brought them outside. From a second barracks they brought out eight more. From a third they selected another seven...the twenty Jews were ...[marched] off under Anna’s orders...Some time later we heard a burst of firing from the direction of the stone quarry. It was now clear that the earthly existence of our...Jewish comrades had ended (ibid.:136f).

Plant, though a revisionist, admits that “a few SS guards were homosexual” and that they “made some younger inmates, usually Poles or Russians, their ‘dolly boys’ (Pielpel)” (Plant:166). These homosexual antics were not carried out in secret. Plant writes that such guards would “occasionally compete with *Kapos* for these teenagers. They even drew lots to determine who should go to whom” (ibid.:166). Primo Levi, in *Survival in Auschwitz* notes that “young attractive homosexuals” had a much higher survival rate than average prisoners (Levi:81).

Younger children were not spared from abuse, but in fact many suffered more harshly. Dr. Judith Reisman writes that Nazi industrialist Alfried Krupp maintained a “children’s concentration camp” called *Buchmannshof* where very young children were used in sexual experiments.

Infants and children under six years of age were torn from their Krupp enslaved mothers and interned in Buchmannshof for their brief lives. Buchmannshof children died at the rate of some 50 per day for years, newly born or taken from parents brought to the Krupp slave camps. Krupp’s older slave children were called “slave youth” and little is known about their lives (Reisman, Kinsey: Crimes and Consequences:311).

Reisman believes that the Krupp camp was one source of the appalling “child orgasm” statistics cited in Table 34 of the 1948 Kinsey report (ibid.). Krupp, an exceedingly ruthless and cruel man, was tried and convicted at Nuremberg, but not for his involvement with *Buchmannshof*. The existence of the camp was never mentioned in the Krupp indictment (Manchester:537). (Significantly, Alfried was the grandson of Fritz Krupp, the notorious pederast who committed suicide when his sexual abuse of boys became public knowledge in Germany. The Krupp scandal exposed a powerful and corrupt homosexual clique in the government and led to high-profile courtroom

trials between 1907 and 1912. For more on this chapter of German history see Lively, "Germany's National Vice Revisited," in The Poisoned Stream, 1997).

Although homosexuals constituted one of the smallest numerical minorities in the camps (Plant:153), they apparently were appointed in disproportionately large numbers as *Kapos* (roughly the equivalent of "trusties" in our penal



Alfried Krupp

system). Psychoanalyst and medical doctor Edmund Bergler writes that "[i]t is...well known that the *capos* in Hitler's concentration and extermination camps were only too frequently recruited from the ranks of homosexual criminals...I had firsthand information on this point from a patient who had spent six years in the infamous camp at Dachau (Bergler:279). Jan D. (who wishes to remain anonymous), in Auschwitz and Gross Rosen from 1940-1945, comments on the role of these prisoners: "The most cruelty inflicted on the Concentration Camps prisoners was done by the '*Capos*' (work detail supervisors), mostly German criminals and homosexuals" (Private letter).

In Hidden Holocaust?, Gunter Grau includes a report from the Buchenwald archives. It reads,

The kapo, Herzog, was a former member of the foreign legion, extremely brutal, apparently homosexual-sadistic

and with a frightening tendency to become frenzied; if someone was beaten by him it was all over (Grau:268).

These testimonies are supported by Raul Hilberg, author of The Destruction of the European Jews and a member of the (U.S.) President's Commission on the Holocaust. Rector cites a December 10, 1979 *Village Voice* article in which Hilberg said "that homosexuals were highly valued prisoners [relative to the Jews], and that many kapos — inmates who administered the barracks and dispensed instant discipline (beatings and killings were common) were gay" (Rector:139).

There seems to have been a great dichotomy between the experiences of homosexuals in the camps. While on the one hand, Plant claims that homosexuals were treated more harshly than the members of other groups, citing Kogon's Dachau memoir, The Theory and Practice of Hell, other researchers refute this. Shelly Roberts, one of the Shoah Foundation's researchers posted the following comment on the World Wide Web, March 6, 1997.

I am one of the privileged who is interviewing holocaust survivors for the Spielberg video history project....I have encountered at least half a dozen survivors who offer fragments and indications and scraps of information that some German lesbians and international homosexual men were in fact treated better (a really relative term here) than the average Jewish prisoner....This is separate to any Nazi officer who collected young boys to keep in his private collection (read harum [sic]). These boys were not given any options.

If the information I am hearing from these nice Jewish survivors, who don't appear to have any axes to grind, is true, than [sic] it WOULD seem that (some?most?all?) homosexuals...may have been given some kind of favored status.



Roberts, interestingly, is no fan of The Pink Swastika, which she (or he) characterizes as “a spite-filled revisionist document on the net that purports to be a reality-based treatise on privileged gays” (ibid).

In any case, there are conflicting claims about the status of homosexuals relative to other prisoners in the camps. To some extent this may simply reflect the differences between camps and the philosophies of their administrators. But the enduring “Butch/Fem” conflict clearly had a substantial bearing on the treatment of homosexuals.

Plant writes of one survivor who reported that “the guards lashed out with special fury against those who showed ‘effeminate traits’” (Plant:172). And Rector records a statement from an interview with a former Pink Triangle named Wolf (a pseudonym) in which the issue of effeminacy was raised. “The ones who were soft, shall I say, were the ones who suffered terribly” (Rector:157).

Rudolf Hoess, the infamous commandant of Auschwitz, defined “genuine homosexuals... [by their] soft and girlish affectations and fastidiousness, their sickly sweet manner of speech, and their altogether too affectionate deportment toward their fellows” (Hoess in ibid.:137f).

These “genuine homosexuals” were considered incorrigible and held in special barracks, while many non-effeminate homosexuals were released (ibid.:137). It is probable that Hoess was homosexual. He had been a member of Gerhard Rossbach’s homosexual *Freikorps* and a close friend of Edmund Heines (Snyder:301), the procurer of boys for Roehm’s pederastic



Rudolf Hoess

orgies.

Wolf's testimony about the homosexual behavior of the SS guards also reveals the sadistic characteristic of the "Butches." "In the cell next to mine was a young male prostitute from Steglitz who the SS forced into [sexual acts]" (Rector:156). He also described a game the SS played each evening. "There were holes in the walls and they would reach through the holes and play with the genitals of the men sleeping close to the holes. Then they would say that they had caught them jacking off, and they would beat them" (ibid.:156). During his imprisonment, Wolf was also forced to witness an execution of six political escapees who had been recaptured by the guards. "They were stripped naked, tied to the table spread-eagle face up, and beaten to death with clubs, one by one," he reported. "You could see that the SS executioners became sexually stimulated while beating the screaming prisoners to death" (ibid.:157).

This extreme savagery exhibited by the "Butch" homosexuals of the camps was not rare, but some accounts of brutality are more gruesome than others. At Auschwitz, for example, *Kapo* Ludwig Tiene became the most prolific mass murderer of all time by strangling, crushing and gnawing to death as many as 100 boys and young men a day while he raped them (ibid.:143). Incidentally, the second most prolific serial killer in history was also homosexual, the infamous "Bluebeard." The man believed to be the legendary mass killer, Bluebeard, is Gilles De Rais, born in Machecoul, Brittany, in 1404. In The Gay Book of Days, Martin Greif, reports that after being arrested on charges of blasphemy, Gilles de Rais "confessed to having killed some 150 boys 'for the pleasure and gratification of my senses'...He decided that sodomizing his victims would satisfy both his needs and the Devil's, and so more and more boys disappeared into his castle, never to be seen again" (Greif:21).

Perhaps the most grotesque story of all, however, is told by Rector in his chapter on the camps, grotesque not because it is bloodier, but because it reveals how widespread and acceptable these extremes of perversion had become among the Nazi elite. He writes,

As for the SS, their behavior was typical among those who engaged in sexual bestiality. An example is a film, in color with a sound track, that was secretly made for the pornographic enjoyment of a select coterie of Nazis showing a wild drunken orgy of beautiful boys and handsome young men being whipped, raped and murdered by the SS (Rector:144). (Note: Rector adds that this film is still today “very discreetly and very privately shown to only an inner circle of certain homosexuals in Europe”).

No study of homosexuality in the Nazi concentration camps would be complete without mentioning a book called The Men with the Pink Triangle. In recent years this book has become a standard text for revisionists because it is purportedly the only autobiography written by a former pink triangle prisoner. The book itself, however, written by Heinz Heger, cannot be considered reliable. It is presented as an autobiography, yet translator David Fernbach admits in his introduction that Heger’s account is *not* his own but is the story of “an anonymous victim of the Nazis, an Austrian” (Heger:9). And though it contains quite a number of anecdotes about homosexuality among the SS guards which would otherwise be useful in this discussion, these stories all have a distinct quality of sexual fantasy. We are asked to believe that nearly every male authority figure whom “Heger” encounters requires him to perform oral sex, for example.

Other ostensibly true-life histories of camp survivors are sober chronicles of enslavement and degradation, but “Heger’s” account is almost whimsical in places and includes numerous implausible scenes, such as one in which

“Heger’s” *Kapo* lover countermands an order to punish “Heger” which comes from the camp commandant himself. For this reason we will not credit the many examples of homosexual sadism reported in this work.

Before we leave the subject of guards and *Kapos*, we must mention one of the few accounts of lesbians in Nazi history, again in connection with the prison system. In Paris Under the Occupation, Historians Perrault and Azema describe the activities of the French Gestapo. They identify “Sonia Boukassi, a drug addict, and Violette Morris, onetime French weight-lifting champion, both lesbians, [as] the chief women’s interrogators” in the notorious torture chambers of *La Carlingue* (Perrault and Azema:38).

### **The Prisoners**

Homosexual prisoners did not integrate well into the prison populations, writes Eugen Kogon. The prisoners ostracized “those whom the SS marked with the pink triangle” (Kogon:44). Kogon attributes this dislike to the fact that the homosexual population included “criminals, and especially blackmailers...Hostility toward them may also have been partly rooted in the fact that homosexuality was at one time widespread in Prussian military circles, as well as the SA and the SS” (ibid:44).

Kogon implies that the prisoners associated homosexuality with their tormentors and thus saw the “pink triangles” as objects of fear and hatred. Plant supports this view, noting that “homosexual prisoners were often tainted by the crimes of the homosexual guards—even though they themselves were often the victims” (Plant:167). There is evidence, as well, that the homosexuals in the camps alienated their fellow prisoners because of the predatory nature of their sexual drive. Polish sociologist, Anna Pawelczynska, in Values and Violence in Auschwitz, describes this situation:

Sometimes a confirmed homosexual would lead a prisoner of normal inclinations into homosexual practices. Such relationships were usually deeply immoral or deeply demoralizing. A prisoner-functionary's [*Kapo's*] desire to satisfy his or her pederastic sexual needs could also manifest itself in various brutal forms of terror and blackmail used to bring the partner into compliance (Pawelczynska:98).

Pawelcznska's record also refutes Plant's suggestion that homosexual prisoners were "utterly disunited" and therefore powerless. She cites the use of prostitution as a form of currency among the homosexual prisoners. This was likely a common means of getting favors from the homosexual guards as well. She writes,

...paid prostitution existed in the camp and the choice of erotic partners was dictated by one's ability to pay — either in the form of help in gaining a better place in the camp structure or, at each visit, in the form of food or better clothes. Homosexual erotic availability became a coin of incommensurate worth, in return for which the chance of biological survival could be won, depending on the client's possibilities (ibid.:99).

In Buchenwald, however, we are told that "[a]ssisted by isolation from the other camp and more supported than supervised by the SS, a number of bandits were completely terrorizing the workforce, stealing the packets they were supposed to receive since winter 1941, and holding real orgies of brutality and the most shameless sadism. Sexual abuse and the foulest murder were the order of the day" (Grau:268).

There is one other distinction between homosexual and other prisoners. Toward the end of World War II, many homosexuals were released from the concentration camps and drafted into the *Wehrmacht* (Shaul:688). A leading his-


**The Massachusetts News**

### Holocaust Survivor: Molested by Homosexual Guards

Founder of Boston Holocaust Museum spent five years in Nazi camps

Massachusetts News

It's commonly accepted that Hitler targeted homosexuals for extermination – just as he did the Jews.



"Not so," says Stephan Ross, the Newton resident who is the founder of the Holocaust Museum in Boston.

And he should know. Ross was there. He lived, and almost died, in Nazi prison camps from the age of 9 to 14.

And while the abuse of the Nazis took many forms, he says he was sexually molested more than once by homosexual Nazi prison guards. He knew it was also going on with other prisoners, "although I didn't go looking for it."

Founder of New England Holocaust Memorial tells of his abuse by homosexual guards in a concentration camp.

torian of the period, Steven Katz cites records that "indicate that 13% of all homosexual camp inmates were reprieved and released" (S. Katz:146). This, of course, happened as the Nazis frantically increased their "production" in the death camps, trying to exterminate every last Jew in Europe before the Allies could liberate the camps.

Were these homosexual volunteers mere cannon fodder in the Nazi military? Not for those with the right sadistic temperament. Many homosexual men chose to "transfer to a delinquent battalion like the vicious 'Strafbataillon Dirlewanger' (*IGLA Euroletter* 52, August, 1977).

Oskar Dirlewanger, a former Freikorps commander in the 1920s, was the creator of this extremely barbarous unit,



also known as the *Sonderkommando*

*Dirlewanger*, “the most notorious of Waffen-SS units under perhaps the most sadistic of commanders” (“36th

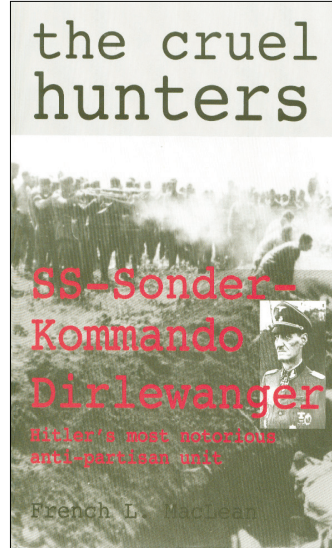
WaffenGrenadier-Division der SS,” [www.wssob.com](http://www.wssob.com)).

Dirlewanger put together this unit from concentration camp inmates after he himself was released from a camp after serving a sentence for sexual assault of a female child under fourteen “and other sex crimes of a vile nature” ([www.eliteforcesofthethirdreich.com](http://www.eliteforcesofthethirdreich.com)).

Survivor Stephan Ross says that many homosexuals were released without any requirement of military service:

All they [those accused of homosexuality] had to do to get out [of the camp] was to sign a paper to say that they had been rehabilitated and wouldn’t do it [engage in homosexual behavior] anymore...They were not targeted to die. Not like we were. (*The Massachusetts News*, April 5, 2000).

Before we leave this subject we should mention the fact that many of the non-effeminate homosexuals interned in Nazi work camps were former Storm Troopers whose allegiance had been to Ernst Roehm and not to Hitler. When “Roehm’s Avengers” began killing SS leaders in retaliation for Hitler’s assassination (Snyder:298), Himmler cracked down on these homosexual former SA soldiers and many were sent to the camps. (This would account for many of the incidents of sadism and brutality.) Holocaust survivor Eugen Zuckerman wrote the following in a letter





to the *New York Post*, protesting the portrayal of homosexuals as Nazi victims in the New York Holocaust museum.

As a Jewish ex-inmate of several concentration camps, including Mauthausen, and as one who grew up in Berlin from the late 1920s until October 1939 and knows the history that led to the internment of gay men in concentration camps, I am opposed to a memorial to homosexuals...The first thousands of homosexuals interned were all members of the Sturm Abteilung (SA), the Nazi Storm Troopers (*New York Post*, February 16, 1997).

(For the reasons he cited above, Raul Hilberg also believes that the inclusion of homosexuals in any memorialization of Holocaust victims “would be a travesty” -- Hilberg in Rector:139).

Thus, if we add up the numbers, it appears that very few of the millions of European homosexuals were ever sent to concentration camps and of those who were, only a fraction were interned for purely sexual reasons. If, of the 5,000-15,000 homosexuals interned, the “first thousands” were SA Brownshirts and many others were non-homosexuals falsely charged with homosexuality, it is possible that mere dozens or hundreds were actually sent to camps for homosexuality over the twelve years of Nazi rule.

<b>DEBUNKING THE “GAY” HOLOCAUST MYTH BY COMPARING “GAYS” TO JEWS</b>		
<b>Variables</b>	<b>Jews</b>	<b>Homosexuals</b>
<b>1. Number of victims</b>	As many as six million.	5,000-15,000 of which an undetermined number were political prisoners falsely accused of homosexuality.
<b>2. The % of population sent to concentration camps</b>	Up to 85% of all Jews in Germany and German-occupied countries.	Less than 1% of European homosexuals were interned.
<b>3. The % sent to camps of those who were arrested</b>	Virtually all Jews arrested were sent to extermination camps.	Of all homosexual arrests, criminal and political, 10-15% were sent to work camps.
<b>4. Destination upon arrest</b>	Directly or indirectly to one of six death camps: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Sobibor, Chelmno, Belzec, Maidanek or Treblinka	Homosexuals were sent to several of the 10,000+ work camps.
<b>5. Reason for arrest</b>	Genocide. Jews were targeted for extermination. Compare to Gypsies, Slavs and other ethnic groups.	Criminal acts. Homosexuals were arrested for violating laws against sodomy and child molestation which predated the Nazi regime. Compare to thieves, blackmailers and other behavior-based groups.
<b>6. Number that died in the camps</b>	As many as six million.	Probably less than 6,000
<b>7. Primary cause of death</b>	Mass execution by firing squad, gas chamber, etc.	Starvation, disease, mistreatment by guards. Homosexuals as a class were not targeted for extermination
<b>8. Chance of release</b>	Jews had almost no chance of release.	Homosexuals were routinely released if they convincingly renounced homosexuality or joined the military.

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Jews</b>	<b>Homosexuals</b>
<b>9. Use in medical experiments</b>	Jews were used as guinea pigs in horrific experiments which usually resulted in mutilation or death.	To increase the breeding population, some homosexuals received surgical implants to raise testosterone levels or were forced to have sex with female prostitutes. Some were castrated. Death was rare and unintended.
<b>10. Punishment for harboring</b>	Punishment for hiding Jews was death.	There was no punishment for harboring homosexuals. Many were protected by Nazi leaders.
<b>11. Representation among camp guards</b>	There were no known Jewish guards in the concentration camps.	By some estimates, up to 20% of camp guards were homosexuals.
<b>12. Responsibility for the Holocaust</b>	The Jews were not in any way responsible for the Holocaust.	A high percentage of Hitler's cronies associated with Nazi atrocities were homosexuals.
<b>13. Use of Holocaust "victim status" as a political tool</b>	Jewish groups do not flaunt the yellow star or exploit the Holocaust for political gain.	"Gay" activists use the pink triangle as their movement's symbol and routinely invoke the "Gay Holocaust" myth for political advantage.
<b>14. Relationship of Holocaust memorial sponsors and benefactors to victims</b>	Jewish sponsors and benefactors of Holocaust memorials are often family members of victims. Non-relatives still share a 6,000 year ethnic and cultural heritage.	The only bond that links homosexuals in today's movement with those interred in Nazi work camps is the common practice of sodomy and a shared sense of social ostracism because of it.