



Where are you taking us? 1940/1941



- 1 The Grey-Buses-Memorial – The memorial on the move, Ravensburg 2007 © Hoheisel & Knitz
- 2 A Bus of the "Charitable Ambulance Service" (Gemeinnützigen Krankentransportgesellschaft - GEKRAT) with drivers and GEKRAT personnel in front of the farm building in Grafeneck 1940 © State Archive NRW
- 3 Deportation of patients from Liebenau ca. 1940 © Stiftung Liebenau

Front Side: The photograph shows the castle courtyard at Bruckberg Sanatorium during one of the three transports to »T4«-Death Centres, Spring 1941
The photographer cannot be determined. It was probably taken by the sanatorium's director Hilmar Ratz. © Central Archive Diakonie Neuendettelsau

Approximately 200.000 mentally ill and handicapped were victims of the National-Socialist's Euthanasia programme during WW II.

Many patients in state sanatoriums died of malnourishment, lack of treatment or were murdered with drugs by the end of the war.

More than 70.000 men, women and children were gassed in six death centres during the secret "Action T4" in 1940/41.

"Action T4" was continued clandestinely even after the official end had been announced in August 1941. The mass murder was run from a central office at Tiergartenstrasse 4 that resulted in the abbreviation "T4".

The Grey-Buses-Memorial commemorates the death transport of patients. The artists Horst Hoheisel and Andreas Knitz created the memorial for the Centre for Psychiatry "Die Weissenau" in Ravensburg in 2006.

Two buses made of concrete and cast in the original size of the buses that drove from the sanatoriums to the death centres in 1940 and 1941 commemorate the mass murder. Both buses bear the question of one of the patient's: "Where are you taking us?"

A bus permanently blocks the old entrance gate to the former Weissenau Sanatorium through which the busses departed for the death centre at Grafeneck.

A second identical bus changes its position from year to year and thus upholds memory by being permanently on the move.

The first buses left for the death centres of "Action T4" in January 1940.

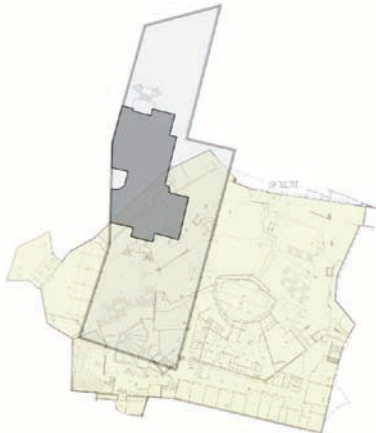
They were at Grafeneck, called "A" by the perpetrators and "B" for Brandenburg. The first deportations and murders took place almost simultaneously on January 18th, 1940.

The grey bus – a replica of the perpetrator's crime tool – is intended to serve as a sign of remembrance at the site where the mass murders were planned and organised by the National Socialists in the heart of Berlin.

A memorial and documentation centre that serves to represent the significance of the site is being planned for the not too distant future.

The Grey-Buses-Memorial will be inaugurated at the site of Tiergartenstrasse 4 at 11 am on January 18th, 2008. At present it's a bus stop next to the Berlin Philharmonic Hall which partly overlaps the site of the former building.

The Grey-Buses-Memorial



Most of the Berlin Philharmonic Hall

Stands on the site of the former special office "T4" and overlaps the former property that was destroyed by bombs in 1944.



Left: Former Building of the Special

Office "T4" (Tiergartenstraße 4)

© State Archive Berlin

Right: Bus Stop at the

Philharmonic Hall

© Hoheisel & Knitz

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www.dasdenkmaldergrauenbusse.de