

# TEMPORARY MONUMENT

„Wäscherei P“ („P Laundry“): A cultural initiative of the Hall Psychiatric Clinic in cooperation with Franz Wassermann

## The T-4 Euthanasia Programme

Nazi elimination of the so-called *life unworthy of life*

Franz Wassermann found out the names of 360 victims of Nazi euthanasia. These women, men and children were deported from the Hall Psychiatric Clinic (PKH) directly to the euthanasia killing centres Hartheim and Linz-Niedernhart. In cooperation with the “P Laundry” Franz Wassermann took great pains to enlist all names by using already published victim lists. The Hall Psychiatric Clinic granted access to all available files.

In reality, the number of victims among the patients of the Hall Clinic was even higher. They were deported from Hall to other clinics, from where they were taken to killing centres. It is still not possible to find out what exactly happened to each person, and there is no complete archive on the victims' fate.

What was officially called the *elimination of life unworthy of life* started after Adolf Hitler had issued a secret decree in October 1939. Hitler instructed the heads of the Gau offices for public health, directors of clinics, doctors and medical staff to implement the Nazi eugenics programme. The address of the Berlin Chancellery offices where the programme was headquartered was Tiergartenstrasse 4, hence the code name of the programme: T-4.

The T-4 programme was supposed to stay top secret. In the Tyrol, only two persons were officially informed about the project, namely Hans Czermak, head of the Gau office for public health, and Franz Hofer, the Gauleiter. At first, the euthanasia doctor Friedrich Mennecke came to Hall personally, in order to select people doomed to be killed. The programme was aimed at eliminating women, men and children suffering from such diseases as schizophrenia, senile disorders, therapy-resistant paralysis, feeble-mindedness and encephalitis.

Officially, T-4 stopped in August 1941. However, one year later 28 patients were deported to a killing center from Hall. It cannot be said for sure whether in Hall people were killed by starving or through medicine until the very end of the Nazi regime. It is a fact though that in other clinics euthanasia killings continued after 1941.

After Austria was liberated from the Nazi regime the people killed in the framework of T-4 were not acknowledged as victims. They were buried in oblivion for a long time. Now Franz Wassermann wants to talk about them. By initiating a process of remembrance he wants to see the victims' names and their death be discussed in public.

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