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## **Peenemünde Interviews Project: Karl Heimbürg 11/9/1989 (Tape 2 of 3) A**

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WEBVTT

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<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: We had instrumentation so that you could say

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: 'until here everything was fine, from here on. Okay, what happened now?'.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: And you started out with less, uhh, instrumentation and added more and more during the time of testing strictly on account of the experience which you gained.

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<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: Mmhmm.

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: You were, umm, were you doing— were you assigned to Test Stand One for static engine tests of A4?

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<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: No, that was 7—

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<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: Mmmhmm.

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<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: —Test Stand number 7.

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<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: 7— so 7, in addition to being the main launch area, was also a static test area?

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<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: Yeah— [[Bell or Phone Ring]] —I was down in southern Germany because that plan didn't—

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<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: —at Lehesten?

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<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: No. Close to it, not too far from Salzburg.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: And uhh,

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: Obert's daughter worked there too.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: And I was sent once in order to help out—

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: Okay that I can give you later on in detail if you are interested —but anyhow, that plant was a lousy situation.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: One day there was an explosion, and Obert's daughter was killed in that explosion.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: And von Braun told me— "Look, take a car, get Obert to the funeral".

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: And Obert was working in the middle of Germany, so we left Peenemünde early in the morning, got Obert in the middle of Germany. When I told Obert— Your daughter was killed.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: He said— Well, can I get my wife from Feucht? I said— Sure.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: So we drove to Feucht, and his wife and daughter came along in the truck.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: And we came through Munich, that was midnight, and Munich was absolutely dark.

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<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: Was this about 1943?

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<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: It was 1944.

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<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: '44.

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<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: '44.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: And the question was— How do you come through Munich to the Autobahn on the other side?

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<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: Mhmm.

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<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: And Obert, that's the reason why I tell you that story, said— Let me go out on the dashboard.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: And he directed the driver according to the stars through Mu – through Munich[[Neufeld laughs]] - and we came to the Autobahn—

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<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: Mhmm.

<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: —without

00:07:13.000 --> 00:07:17.000

<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: any difficulty, strictly

00:07:17.000 --> 00:07:18.000

<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: [[laughs]]

<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: [[laughs]]

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: - according to the stars. Okay that was the story I wanted to tell you.

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<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: About Obert.

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<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: Ummm -

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: [[laughs]]

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: - While we are on the subject of Obert, did you meet him in 1942/43 at, uh, Peenemünde?

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<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: I did not meet him at Peenemünde, that was the first time I met him

<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: Mhmm.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: officially when his daughter was killed.

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: Mhm.

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<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: And he was not working at that time at Peenemünde. He was working in the middle of Germany, somewhere on a solid rocket plant.

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<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: Mhhmm, yeah, I gather he was not happy with his job at Peenemünde—

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<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: No.

<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: —and went to find the solid propellant job.

<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: No, no not at all, and maybe I give you an explanation.

00:07:57.000 --> 00:08:08.000

<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: Mhhmm.

<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: Which explains, umm, Obert. You know, Obert was absolutely convinced of himself.

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<i>MICHAEL NEUFELD</i>: Mhhmm.

<i>KARL HEIMBURG</i>: And in designing the injector for the rockets, you know we had enormous difficulties.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: And, we finally succeeded against the end of the war with an injector plate, which didn't explode after 2,3 seconds.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: And Obert didn't understand that. And they were trying to explain to him,

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: we need – we need to have finer holes, smaller holes than we have, but we do not have drills—



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