



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

Peenemünde Interviews Project: Karl Heimbürg 11/9/1989 (Tape 3 of 3) B

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 04:44:15

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

WEBVTT

00:16:14.000 --> 00:16:49.000

<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: Mm-hmm. So you were, then went to?

<i>Karl Heimbürg</i>: I went to Bleicherode from there. I did not go to southern Germany. I went to Bleicherode, and uh in Bleicherode, there was a transfer from Bleicherode which was occupied by the Russians too, then to Witzenhausen.

00:16:49.000 --> 00:17:01.000

[SILENCE] [[background noise- "hello! --- hi, hi"]]

[SILENCE]

00:17:01.000 --> 00:17:15.000

<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: OK um, you were at Witzenhausen.

<i>Karl Heimbürg</i>: At Witzenhausen, [[cross-talk]] and at Witzenhausen we put the group together which should go to the united States, and -
-

00:17:15.000 --> 00:17:35.000

<i>Karl Heimbürg</i>: the first group was selected, and I belonged to the first group of five, and we were sent to Frankfurt and brought into a camp. I had mentioned that to you before. Uh--

00:17:35.000 --> 00:17:50.000

and then, completely unknown to us, the British and the American side, the British requested that they wanted to see the launch of a V-2,

00:17:50.000 --> 00:18:09.000

<i>Karl Heimbürg</i>: and this was built up at Cuxhaven, and all of a sudden the five of us, we got the order, you go to Cuxhaven, and we met on the, on the way to Cuxhaven another group, by the way Rudolph belonged to that group too, and --

00:18:09.000 --> 00:18:35.000

we uh got vehicles which were partly destroyed and brought them into shape so that they could be launched, and I believe there were three or five launches, I don't even know any more. And then we went to Landshut and from Landshut we were shipped to the United States, and I was then at that time in the third shipment.

00:18:35.000 --> 00:18:58.000

<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: Mmm-hmm. Which was towards the beginning, in the beginning of 1946 or something?

<i>Karl Heimbürg</i>: No, this was in November, November '45.

<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: Uh-huh. Um, Did you question much the uh, the idea of going to the United States, or did it seem pretty natural?

00:18:58.000 --> 00:19:19.000

<i>Karl Heimbürg</i>: Uhh, It seemed to me natural, in this way. Here is a lost war. This takes quite some time until everything is reorganized. So you are better off when you are not in Germany but you are outside of Germany, because I knew the company in which I was in, they would

00:19:19.000 --> 00:19:40.430

have a slow start until they would work again. So I figured you are best off if you are for one year outside, and we figured, well, probably one two years we will be outside and then we will come back, because the idea mainly was not to start a rocket business, but the United states was interested--



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)