

GERMAN BABY FACTORIES

NAZI PROGRAM TO BREED MASTER RACE - LEBENSBOHN CHILDREN BREAK SILENCE

THIS ARTICLE HAS THREE PARTS

275



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PART ONE

HARD TO BELIEVE

After decades of hushed shame, the children of the Lebensborn program to create a blond, blue-eyed master race have started to speak out. Topic number one is the painful search for their true parents. And then that nagging question: "Was my father a war criminal?"

Guntram Weber, 63, found out his father was an SS major-general who escaped a death sentence for war crimes.

They were bred to be the elite of Hitler's 1,000-year Reich but ended up cowed by shame, alienation, and uncertainty for decades.,.

Now aged over 60, the children of the Nazis' "Lebensborn" ("Spring of Life") program to create an Aryan master race are starting to go public with their plight and are renewing efforts to find out who their true parents were.

More than 30 Lebensborn children, by no means all of them tall and fair, met at the weekend in the sleepy eastern town of Wernigerode, the site of one the program's birth clinics. The meeting was organized by a self-help group called "Traces of Life" which was set up last year to swap experiences, aid research and explode some of the myths surrounding the scheme.

Some 8,000 children were born in Germany and around 12,000 in Norway as part of Lebensborn, formed by SS leader Heinrich Himmler to encourage women of pure blood to bear blond, blue-eyed children.

Historians have refuted the public's perception that it was a system of Nazi stud farms where SS zealots mated with each other. But it was an integral part of a murderous racial policy that stretched from the forced sterilization of people with hereditary diseases to the killing of 6 million Jews.

Founded in 1935, Lebensborn was designed to halt the high rate of abortions in Germany which rose as high as 800,000 a year in the inter-war years because of a chronic shortage of men to marry after World War I. It aimed to prevent 100,000 abortions and its statute stated that it was to support "racially and genetically valuable families with many children."

It enabled unmarried pregnant women to avoid social stigma by giving birth anonymously away from their homes, often under the pretext of needing long-term recuperation. About 60 percent of Lebensborn mothers were unmarried. Lebensborn ran children's homes and an adoption service if the mother didn't want to keep the child.

It even had its registry office system to keep true identities secret. Most documents were burnt at the end of the war. That, together with the refusal of many Lebensborn mothers to tell their children about the program, has made it very difficult to find the truth.

THREE-YEAR-OLD "SS BASTARD"



Father an SS officer, mother a Lebensborn secretary: family therapist Gisela Heidenreich

In many cases, the fathers were married members of the SS who had obeyed Himmler's instruction to spread their Aryan seed even out of wedlock.

Gisela Heidenreich, pictured above, was born in a Lebensborn clinic in the Norwegian capital of Oslo in 1943, realized that there was something wrong when she was three or four years old and overheard people referring to her as the "SS bastard."

Her mother, a secretary for the Lebensborn program, had become pregnant after having an affair with a married SS officer and had traveled from Bavaria to Oslo to give birth discreetly in a Lebensborn clinic. She refused to answer her daughter's questions about the father, and Gisela didn't find out who he was until she was an adult.

Her reaction to locating her father has helped her understand why so many Germans lived with the crimes and cruelty of the Nazi regime, she said. "When I first met him it was on a station platform. I ran into his arms and all I thought was I've got a father". Heidenreich, strikingly tall with clear blue eyes and greying blond hair, told the Wernigerode meeting. "I accuse myself of shutting out who my father was. I never asked him what he did. My reaction has helped me to understand how people in those days just put the blinders on and ignored the terrible things that were happening.

Hitler believed the Nordic race was destined to rule the world. But many Lebensborn children struggled through life yearning for the truth about their family history, wondering if their father was a war criminal, feeling inadequate and alienated from their foster parents or mothers, or ashamed of their illegitimacy and association with a murky Nazi project.

MY FATHER WAS A "WAR CRIMINAL"

Guntram Weber, 63, a creative writing teacher from Berlin, knew for decades that his mother was lying about his father. His mistrust was so great that he would pore over history books looking for photos of soldiers that could be his father, or of women concentration camp guards that looked like his mother.

"My mother told me my father was a truck driver for the Luftwaffe who had never fired a gun and died in Croatia when he drove over a landmine. She told me she had married him in 1938 on a beautiful sunny day and that they had driven to church in a horse-drawn cart. She said she didn't want to say any more about him because it was too painful," said Weber. "But there were no documents and no photos.



A girl getting her face measured: the Nazis wanted "racially and genetically valuable children."

Acting on a hint from his step-father, Weber started researching when he was 58 and found out that he was a Lebensborn child and that his father was an SS major-general convicted of war crimes and sentenced to death by a Polish court in 1949. He had escaped to South America and died peacefully in Argentina in 1970.

"From one day to the next I knew my father was a war criminal," said Weber, tall and quietly spoken. He was a man who allowed himself everything. And the SS enabled him to live that way. I assume my mother fell in love with a powerful military man. And he obviously couldn't resist any woman. It gave me a feeling of low self-esteem, of loneliness, of uncertainty. But then I came to one of these meetings and found out that other Lebensborn children had gone through the same experience," he continued. "It was a huge relief for me, although I haven't been able to shake this feeling of inadequacy. Maybe in 10 years, it will be gone. It's important that other children in Germany and abroad hear about this group because it could help them," said Weber.

There were 14 Lebensborn clinics in Germany and Austria, tucked away in small towns safe from Allied bombing, and nine in Norway where the Nazis had encouraged German soldiers to have children with women of Viking blood.

The children's suffering was worst in Norway, where many never recovered from the stigma of having a German father. Some were put in mental asylums as Norwegians feared they spread German genes and created a hostile fifth column. Clinics were also set up in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland and Luxembourg.

TUMBLING THROUGH LIFE

The alienation has left many children missing the security and warmth of family ties. Volker Röder, 62, a Lebensborn child living in Berlin, said: I tumbled through life till I was 50 and met my wife.

Given up for adoption by his mother, he was taken from a Lebensborn home in 1945 by foster parents. They just wanted a kid to help them get through the Russian lines to the West, said Röder. The parents later handed him to another children's home. In 2001, his wife encouraged him to travel to Wernigerode and find his real mother.

We immediately found out that she was living in an old folk's home here. I went and the first thing she said was There you are. I've been waiting for you! I was speechless. I see her occasionally but she still won't talk about that time. I'm bitter and angry about it but my wife has helped me deal with it. At least I found out that my father wasn't a war criminal, which was a relief. He was a policeman and even joined the Social Democrat party in 1936, which was unusual.

The entry requirements for the Lebensborn clinics were as strict as for the SS itself. The women had to prove that both they and the father were of Aryan stock back to their grandparents. Modern equipment and qualified staff made the clinics popular with the pregnant wives of SS and Nazi officials as well.

The children were often christened in an SS ritual in which the SS dagger was held over them as the mother swore allegiance to Nazi ideology.

GOLD MEDAL FOR EIGHT CHILDREN

The Nazis offered incentives to German women to bear many children. Mothers with three or more children under 10 years old got "honorary cards" allowing them to jump shopping queues and get discounts on their rent payments. Cheap state loans were offered for parents, and there was the "Mother's Cross" medal: bronze for four children, silver for six, and gold for eight.

It's common for the mothers of Lebensborn children to refuse to speak about the project. They build a wall of lies and then someone comes along and threatens to tear it down. It's almost life-threatening to them." That's why they don't talk, "said Heidenreich, who wrote a book about her search for the truth.

Many women swore the SS oath 'My honor is loyalty' which still seems to play a role in their lives. ***They'd rather die than say the truth.***

Tired of hearing lies, many children stopped asking and got on with their lives. But now as pensioners, their curiosity has returned, and they can look back on their past with more detachment.

"As you get older you get more interested in your youth. Being a registered association gives us a better chance to get information from archives and authorities," said Peter Naumann, chairman of Traces of Life. "A lot of us have only recently started to try finding out about where we came from."

Heidenreich said she wanted to keep younger German generations aware of their past and combat recent regional election victories for neo-Nazis. ***"I'm appalled how pupils listen to Nazi history with incredible distance these days. They know a lot about it but it doesn't touch them emotionally.*** It's like ancient Rome to them," said Heidenreich.

"We must tell our stories."

If you would like more visual information you might want to watch the following video's copy and paste the below link(s) into your browser to view. (All good YouTube videos)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fs4Uhrvs8Ts>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZD2z8N2OLc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o50h51729Yc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGMygtY5FOg>

PART TWO

THE WOMAN WHO GAVE BIRTH FOR HITLER



SOURCE



The official website for BBC History Magazine, BBC History Revealed, and BBC World Histories Magazine ***July 30, 2018***

In 1936, Nazi supporter and school graduate Hildegard Trutz was recruited as one of Germany's racially 'pure' women, chosen to have sex with SS officers in the hope of producing an Aryan child. She was part of a state-supported programmer called Lebensborn (*meaning the 'fountain of life'*), a Nazi initiative to counteract falling birth rates in Germany and *produce a "master race" under Nazi eugenics.*



It is estimated that some 20,000 such babies were bred during the 12 years of the Third Reich (1933-45), principally in Germany and Norway. Here, Giles Milton explores Hildegard Trutz's experience and reveals why the young German woman was so eager to give birth to Hitler...

Hildegard Trutz had been a loyal supporter of the Nazis ever since Hitler came to power. She had joined the Bund Deutscher Mädel (*BDM, the female equivalent of the Hitler Youth*) in 1933 and loved attending its weekly meetings. 'I was mad about Adolf Hitler and our new better Germany,' she later admitted. 'I learned how tremendously valuable we young people were to Germany.'

Trutz quickly became a figurehead of her local organization, in part because of her Germanic blonde hair and blue eyes. 'I was pointed out as the perfect example of the Nordic woman,' she said, 'for besides my long legs and my long trunk, I had the broad hips and pelvis built for child-bearing.'

In 1936, when she was eighteen, Trutz finished her schooling and was at a loss as to what to do next. She chatted with a BDM leader who made a suggestion that was to change Trutz's life forever. 'If you don't know what to do,' said the leader, 'why not give the Führer a child? What Germany needs more than anything is racially valuable stock.'

Trutz was unaware of the state-sponsored program known as Lebensborn. It aimed to raise the birth rate of blond-haired, blue-eyed 'Aryan' children through interbreeding. Racially 'pure' women were chosen to sleep with SS officers in the hope that they would fall pregnant.

The BDM leader explained to her exactly how Lebensborn worked. She would be given a series of medical tests, along with a thorough investigation of her background. She needed to have no Jewish blood. Once given the all-clear, she would be able to select a breeding partner from a group of SS officers.

Trutz listened with growing enthusiasm. 'It sounded wonderful,' she later admitted, and she signed up immediately. Aware that her parents would disapprove, she told them she was undertaking a residential course in National Socialism.

She was escorted to an old castle in Bavaria, near the Tegernsee. There were forty other girls in residence and all were living under assumed names. 'All you needed to be accepted there was a certificate of Aryan ancestry as far back at least as your great-grandparents.'

The castle itself was the height of luxury. There were common rooms for sports and games, a library, a music room, and even a cinema. According to Trutz: 'The food was the best I have ever tasted; we didn't have to work and there were masses of servants.' She was by her admission self-indulgent and lazy and she quickly learned to enjoy life in the castle.

'The whole place was in the charge of a professor, a high-up SS doctor, who examined each of us very thoroughly as soon as we arrived,' Trutz said. 'We had to make a statutory declaration that there had never been any cases of hereditary diseases, dipsomania, or imbecility in our family.'

The professor also warned the girls that they would have to sign a document renouncing all claims to any children they produced, as they were to be the property of the state. They would be brought up in special institutions that would instill an absolute loyalty to the Nazi ideal.

After their initiation, Trutz and the other girls were introduced to the SS men who were to be their breeding partners. Trutz liked what she saw. 'They were all very tall and strong with blue eyes and blond hair.' There was a getting-to-know-you session, with the group playing games together, watching films, and enjoying social evenings in the castle.

'We were given about a week to pick the man we liked and we were told to see to it that his hair and eyes corresponded exactly to ours,' said Trutz. The girls were not told the names of any of the men: anonymity was a key principle of the Lebensborn program.

'When we had made our choice, we had to wait until the tenth day after the beginning of the last period.' Each girl was given another medical examination and told to receive her chosen SS man in her room that very night. Trutz was unbelievably excited, not just about the sexual activity, but the fact that she was doing it all for her beloved Führer.



A walk with the children at a Lebensborn home

'As both the father of my child and I believed completely in the importance of what we were doing, we had no shame or inhibitions of any kind.' She was particularly impressed with the 'smashing looks' of her chosen partner, although she thought he was probably a little stupid.

The officer slept with Trutz for three evenings in that first week. On the other evenings, he had to sleep with other girls at the castle.

Trutz fell pregnant almost immediately and was moved into a maternity home for the next nine months. 'My confinement came neither too soon nor too late,' she said. 'It was not an easy birth, for no good German woman would think of having any artificial aids, such as injections to deaden the pain as they had in the degenerate Western democracies.'

She weaned her baby son for two weeks and then he was removed from her side and taken to a special SS home where he was to be brought up as a loyal servant of the Nazi state. Trutz never saw him again. Nor, for that matter, did she see the father.

In the years that followed she was tempted to breed more children, but she eventually fell in love with a young officer and they got married. When she told her new husband about her involvement in the Lebensborn program, she was 'rather surprised to find that he was not as pleased about it as he might have been'. But he could not openly criticize her, 'seeing that I had been doing my duty to the Führer'.

Trutz never discovered what became of her child and his eventual fate remains a mystery. Like so many Lebensborn babies, he almost certainly found himself ostracized in post-war Germany, his birth and upbringing a stigma that could never be completely expunged.

It is estimated that some 20,000 babies were bred during the twelve years of the Third Reich, principally in Germany and Norway. Many were adopted after the war, by which time the records of their birth had been destroyed. To this day the majority have never been able to discover the terrible truth about their conception and birth.

OTHER SITES: <https://www.dw.com/en/himmlers-children/a-1569029>

PART THREE

WHAT HISTORY DIDN'T TELL US ABOUT THE NAZI "SUPER BABY"

BREEDING PROGRAM

ARTICLE DTD APRIL 6, 2017



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<https://www.messynessychic.com/2017/04/06/what-history-didnt-tell-us-about-the-nazi-super-baby-breeding-program/>



If there was one subject that could ever truly capture my attention at school, it was the monster story that was Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime. I've admittedly always been a 'bad reader', but outside of class I devoured books on the war as a teenager, and still to this day, there seems to be no end to its disturbing secrets buried beneath history's hidden rocks. Today, I fell into another dark pool of World War II's repressed footnotes by discovering the details of the Lebensborn breeding program ... a story that I would only recommend for those who, like myself, have that insuppressible desire to learn history's most uncomfortable truths



Lebensborn, meaning "fount of life" was an SS-initiated program that encouraged anonymous births by unmarried "racially pure" women who were selected to breed with Nazi officers and secure the future of a "super race" for the German Reich. The program expanded into several Nazi-occupied countries including Norway, France, and Belgium, resulting in a shameful post-war ostracism of surviving Lebensborn mothers and the mistreatment of their displaced children across Europe after Germany lost the war.



Frida Lyngstad. the third from the left, of ABBA, was a survivor of the Lebensborn

An estimated 8,000 children were born in Lebensborn institutions in Germany, up to 12,000 children in Norway, and countless others across occupied countries where “super babies” had been selected to become part of the German master race. The most famous of the surviving Lebensborn children is Frida Lyngstad of the iconic Swedish pop band, ABBA (pictured third from left).



With their blue eyes and blond hair, Norwegians were regarded by the Nazi regime as especially Aryan. Heinrich Himmler, the head of the SS and the creator of the Lebensborn, favored Norwegian women for his perverted program and set up the majority of its institutions in Nazi-occupied Norway.



League of German Girls

To counteract falling birth rates in Germany, and to promote Nazi eugenics, leaders of the League of German Girls were also instructed to recruit young women with the potential to become good breeding partners for SS officers.



A Lebensborn Nursery

Young women who could prove their Aryan ancestry were given incentives for bearing Aryan children, including financial support and privileged treatment in maternity homes. For many Norwegian women, it became a survival strategy during the war, when their country was one of the poorest places in Europe. At a time when abortion was illegal, they could also have the option of leaving or donating their children in the Lebensborn's special homes, where the child would receive special nutrition and an upbringing and education which reflected the Nazi way of thinking.

The Iron Cross award was given to the woman who bore the most Aryan children.



A Lebensborn Christening

Due to the destruction and widespread cover-up of Lebensborn records, it cannot be confirmed whether young girls were *forced* to mate with Nazi officers, despite strong suggestions that they were (sexual assault was almost official policy within the Third Reich). The program was undoubtedly, however, a system of supervised selective breeding, and recently discovered records show that "some SS men did sire children in Himmler's Lebensborn program".

In 1939, membership of the Lebensborn stood at 8,000, of which 3,500 were SS leaders.



Heinrich Himmler pictured with his daughter in 1938 in Berlin.

On 13 September 1936, Heinrich Himmler had written the following to members of the SS:

The organization "Lebensborn e.V." serves the SS leaders in the selection and adoption of qualified children. The organization "Lebensborn e.V." is under my direction, is part of the Race and Settlement Central Bureau of the SS, and has the following obligations:

1. Support racially, biologically, and hereditarily valuable families with many children.
2. Placement and care of racially, biologically, and hereditarily valuable pregnant women, who, after a thorough examination of their and the progenitor's families by the Race and Settlement Central Bureau of the SS, can be expected to produce equally valuable children.
3. Care for the children
4. Care for the children's mothers.

It is the honorable duty of all leaders of the central bureau to become members of the organization "Lebensborn e.V.". The application for admission must be filed before 23 September 1936.



Relationships between German soldiers and Nordic women in occupied countries were strongly encouraged, provided both parents were proven to be “racially valuable”. The program also accepted women of Aryan descent who were already pregnant or had already given birth and needed aid. About 60% of the mothers were unmarried and the Lebensborn allowed them to give birth secretly away from home without social stigma. In most of these cases, the mothers agreed to adoption, but not all were informed that their children would be sent abroad to Germany.



One of the Lebensborn institutions

The first of more than 20 Lebensborn homes opened in 1936, in a tiny village near Munich in 1941, the first institution abroad was opened in Norway.



A Lebensborn house in France

In northern France, a home was opened in the town of Lamorlaye in 1944 where an estimated 200 children were born. The building (pictured above) now houses a branch of the Red Cross. The Lebensborn facilities included an on-site orphanage and offered adoption services. **They were often established in confiscated houses and former nursing homes owned by Jews.**

While the program initially excluded children born to foreign women and common (non-SS) soldiers for reasons of racial purity, the Lebensborn later expanded into countries with Germanic populations where parents and children were usually examined by SS doctors before admission.



Acceptable ????

But in an even darker twist to the Lebensborn program, the strict requirements of racial purity were practically abandoned altogether by Heinrich Himmler when he took his mission to an unimaginable extreme.

In 1939, under Himmler's direction, Nazis began kidnapping thousands of children regarded as "Aryan-looking" from foreign countries, most notably Poland and Yugoslavia, but also from Russia, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Estonia, Latvia, and Norway - for the Lebensborn program.

Himmler reportedly said, "We must take [the children] with us to remove them from their environment... either we win over any good blood that we can use for ourselves and give it a place in our people or we destroy this blood".

The policy of the *Lebensraum* had essentially given birth to the Nazi ideology of German expansionism and the regime's plan for genocide and ethnic cleansing on a vast scale. This was the real crime of Lebensborn, a seemingly helpful, almost innocent welfare solution for struggling women. How easily evil can disguise itself...



A Nazi nurse shares the light rays as scientists try vainly to lighten the hair coloring of Super Race children

An estimated 200,000 children were stolen from their parents in Poland, Russia, and several Eastern European regions for 'Germanization'. They were categorized into groups from the "most desirable" to the least Aryan-looking. If they couldn't be of use to help build Hitler's master race, they were discarded and sent off to concentration camps. If a child was considered "acceptable" they would begin indoctrination, spending time at 're-education camps' before being fostered out to German families or boarding schools where they could become culturally German. They were given new German names and forced to forget their birth parents and ancestry. Any children who fought against their indoctrination or resisted met a tragic fate.

All records of these mass kidnappings were destroyed in the final stages of the war, which made it nearly impossible to locate and identify children or even know exactly how many were taken. The Polish government has claimed that less than 15% of 10,000 children were returned to their biological parents.

Of the Norwegian children who were born into or indoctrinated under the Lebensborn program, the Norwegian government was able to recover all but 80 after the war.



Local communities who had lived in starvation for most of the occupation sought revenge on both the mothers and children of the Nazi maternity homes where members had received the best treatment available.



The press reported on the unusually well-fed “super babies” that had received two baths a day. **Lebensborn mothers were publicly beaten, shamed, ostracized, and often sentenced to slave labor.** The “superior” children who had effectively become German under the Third Reich’s program, were considered outcasts and placed in orphanages or even in insane asylums where they would be relentlessly bullied and abused. The Norwegian government itself even attempted (unsuccessfully) to deport the Lebensborn children to Germany, Brazil, and Australia.

Sweden took in several hundred unwanted children from Norway, including future ABBA singer Anni-Frid Lyngstad, whose father was a German sergeant. Her widowed Norwegian mother escaped persecution after the war and took Anni-Frid to Sweden, where their personal history could not be traced.

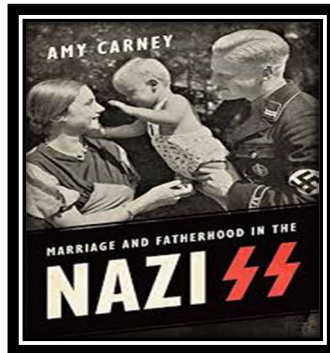


In 2008, a group of survivors brought a case before the European Court of Human Rights to fight the Norwegian government into admitting complicity in their mistreatment, revealing shameful details of the program’s aftermath. **The case was dismissed with a compensation offering of £8,000 from the Norwegian government.**



Nazi SS Troops christening a Lebensborn baby

There are so many facets of war that have been under-reported, swept under the carpet, and left out of the history books, in large part because we find them uncomfortable to talk about. I consider this sort of taboo historical knowledge as further education; a most fundamental one, that can help us identify dangerous patterns in society and recognize early on when history might be dangerously close to repeating itself.



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