

# Did Germany Enrich Uranium during World War II? Part 2

(As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column the week of December 23, 2024)

This two-part series is the result of a long-standing friendship with the author of a book that challenges accepted history in a way I have never seen before. Carter Hydrick researched and wrote *Critical Mass*.

This book, now in its third edition, identifies the possibility that Germany enriched uranium during World War II that ultimately helped fuel Little Boy and furthermore the key to successful detonation of Fat Man were both provided to the United States by Germany. These two are but part of the cargo of the U-234 German submarine that surrendered to the U.S. in May 1945.

Now come with me as I bring us up to date on Carter Hydrick and his struggles to gain recognition of the research in *Critical Mass* and the impact on current history of the Manhattan Project and World War II.

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Nearly twenty years later, in August 2024 and September 2024, recalling Mr. Hydrick's discoveries and still desiring they should get the exposure and be embraced as the important piece of history they are – in fact, perplexed that they have not become that – I contacted him again and asked if he would be my guest on our video cast, *Hidden History: Stories of the Secret City*, which he kindly did. Warming to this important subject once more, a couple of weeks later I invited him to teach an online class I instruct for the Oak Ridge Institute of Continued Learning.

The videos of these two events are available at these links:

Hidden History: Stories from the Secret City video cast:

[https://youtu.be/ByOswS2cH\\_g?si=Rlxj1KNmotEbE8kl](https://youtu.be/ByOswS2cH_g?si=Rlxj1KNmotEbE8kl)

Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning:

<https://youtu.be/EPhJa9st3-c?si=qQKQf9njQmzzqLDW>

During the video cast, the subject came up as to why his research hasn't gained traction, become common knowledge, and embraced as fact. Then, and in following communications with him driven by my determination to understand this travesty, he shared with me that, "to much of academia and the media the thought of challenging the ingrained history of the Manhattan Project is taboo."

Both because they don't believe it is assailable, and to protect the attachment Americans have to the idea that the achievements of the Manhattan Project stood alone as an American accomplishment and are unequalled.

Some unfortunate but otherwise irrelevant events in the publishing industry early on in Mr. Hydrick's endeavors, also combined to close all avenues of properly establishing the findings.

For example, Carter at first, two different times, tried to get leading history professors to take on the task of completing the research and writing a book about it – offering his initial research to them as a beginning. They refused, indignantly suggesting that he did not know what he was talking about; that the history is well-documented and established beyond reproof.

Feeling certain, however, that his research findings were proving otherwise – and, more importantly, that they revealed a compelling important revision to history – as a professional writer he had the skills to complete the task. He felt he should go forward and write the story himself, despite his lack of academic or journalistic credentials.

He prepared and presented a publishing proposal to The Curtis Brown Literary Agency in New York, which had represented Winston Churchill, Ayn Rand, and many other New York Times historically famous and bestselling authors. Curtis Brown's CEO, Perry Knowlton himself, personally took on the project.

Knowlton pitched the proposal and a writing sample to Random House, Simon and Schuster, and other major publishers. Because of the backlash, however, from a recent fraudulent series of diaries purported to be written by Adolf Hitler, which a publisher bought for \$3.7 million; and a fraudulent biography of Howard Hughes bought for over \$750,000, every publisher Knowlton approached refused to consider a non-fiction property written by a non-credentialed author.

Knowlton was surprised, disturbed, and disappointed, but still felt the project was important enough to encourage Carter that, if he would complete the research and write the book, Knowlton would re-pitch it. Carter invested 10 years and over \$40,000 of his own money to research and complete the manuscript. Knowlton returned to the publishers but was again rejected, on the same grounds. At this point Knowlton stepped away from the project.

Very disappointed but having a manuscript now in hand that needed exposure, Carter could do nothing else but self-publish the book. It didn't sell well. Most people have an instinctive distrust in the viability of any self-published book, due to lack of critical review; and mass-marketing such a work through conventional means is almost impossible, while very expensive.

When he updated it in a second edition a couple of years later, to garner the deserved credibility for the history, he was fortunate to have been put in contact with Dr. Delmar Bergen, referenced above, who agreed to vet the work. After having done so for the second edition, Bergin endorsed it. (When a third edition came out a few years ago with important updates that further strengthen the conclusions written above, Bergin wrote the Forward, even more strongly, and in detail, endorsing the research, analysis, and conclusions.)

When Carter tried to get media support for the critically-reviewed second edition, however, the media demurred again, still on the grounds it was self-published, but also "old news," as well, because it was a second edition – even though most of the world had never heard about it. How could they without media support? It was caught in a circular trap. But mostly, Carter was told by one incensed journalist, that it was because journalists are understandably resistant to authors trying to sell their work using them as their salesmen.

But what else could Carter do to try to get the truth out for this important history? What channel is there besides the media to garner widespread exposure and acceptance of such an important event?

At the time the second edition came out, over 3 million books had been self-published but only 12 had been tabbed by Barnes and Noble to be sold on its stores' shelves. Carter's book, *Critical Mass*, was the 13<sup>th</sup>.

It was here that noted revisionist historian Dr. Joseph Farrell, unbeknownst to Carter, purchased a copy and went on to tout it to the fringe conspiracy theory crowd – excited for an important bona fide example of real conspiracy – quoting and promoting *Critical Mass* extensively in several of his own works. The result was, *Critical Mass* became a cult classic – still without Carter's knowledge – with copies being sold on the internet for \$600 to \$800.

Hydrick, by the time he found out about all this, was drained financially, emotionally, and mentally by the project, and so was satisfied to let it happen – feeling that at least the project had found an audience. At this point, Farrell convinced him to publish a third edition, updated with new information Farrell had discovered that proved Hydrick was right!

There were 126,000 barrels of spent uranium that had been found in Germany, documented as having been the uranium waste of the Nazi atomic bomb project. The finding did, indeed, prove Carter right, but it also got him, and his work wrapped up with the conspiracy theory crowd, further marginalizing broad review and acceptance of his important discoveries.

This is a shame, an injustice, and will continue to be a travesty if this important history – proven by

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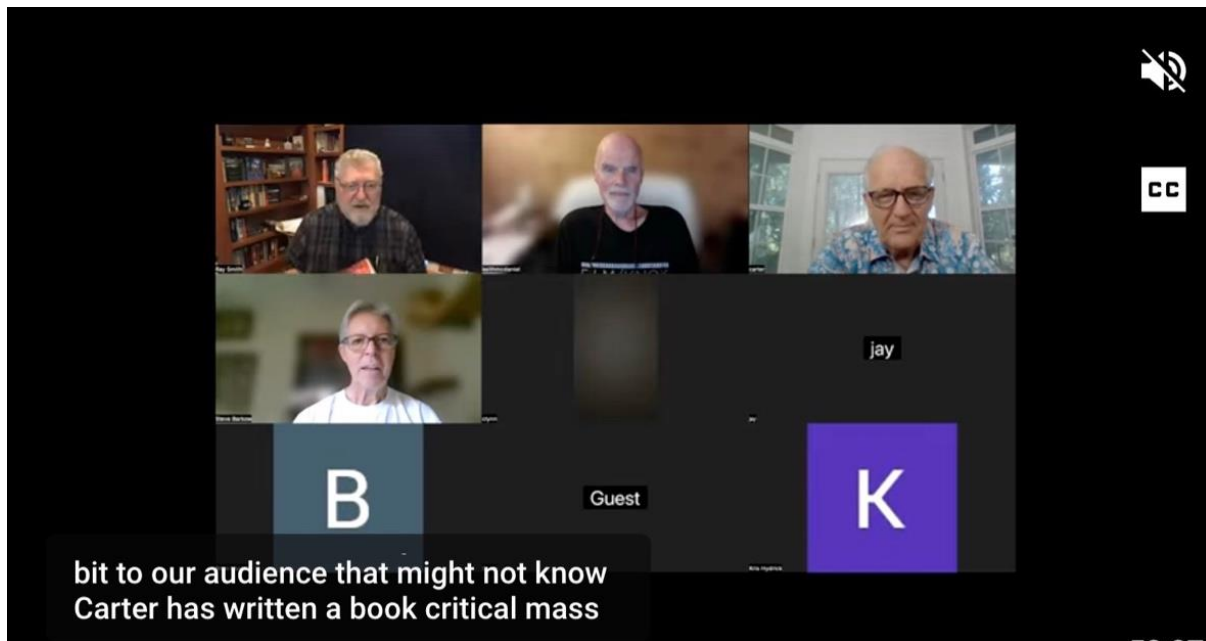
science and world-class scientists interpreting it – is allowed to remain in this oblivion. It should be embraced as the important historical event it is that shaped the modern world.

Please join me and the eminent scientists named above; and Curtis Brown CEO, the late Perry Knowlton, and recognize the amazing fact that *Critical Mass* was one of 13 works chosen from among 3 million to be sold at Barnes and Noble stores, as you consider helping revive and put in place this deserving, although secret, monumental world affair.

Lastly, from one of our nation's leading book reviewers, The Kirkus Reviews:

"This book marks a turning point in the history of atomic-bomb scholarship, and no future study can credibly ignore its compelling contentions.... A genuinely original book about a profoundly important topic."

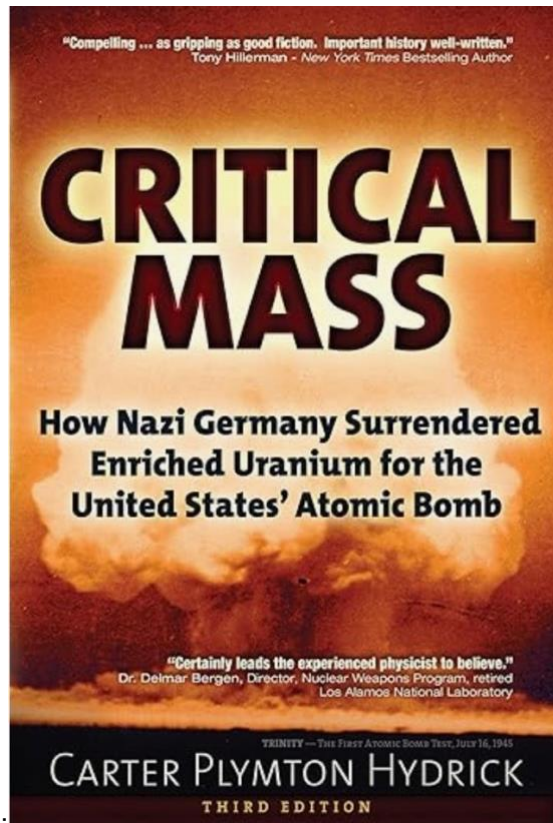
Please help this "profoundly important" piece of history take its place where it belongs, in the forefront of understanding of our modern world.



Carter Hydrick as a guest on Hidden History: Stories from the Secret City (Courtesy of Ray Smith)



Carter Hydrick as a guest on Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning (Courtesy of Ray Smith)



Critical Mass 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition is available on Amazon.com (Courtesy of Ray Smith)