

Did Germany Enrich Uranium during World War II? Part 1

(As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column the week of December 9, 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.

Carter Hydrick has found evidence which indicates Germany had separated uranium 235 during World War II. When the defeat of Germany happened on May 7, 1945, the German U-boat (submarine) U-234 was transporting advanced German technology to Japan. When advised by the German command to surrender to the nearest Allied forces, the U-234 Captain decided to surrender to the United States.

The two Japanese military personnel on board did not want to do that so they committed suicide and were buried at sea. A German Officer, Ulrich Kessler, was on board.

Carter's extensive research is documented in his book, *Critical Mass*. Available in its third edition on Amazon.com.

Carter has said, "This super-secret World War II event kept the Soviet Union from becoming the sole global superpower, established Germany as the economic leader of Europe, and potentially saved the world from nuclear war in 1946."

What happened? I was the Y-12 Historian for the last 10 years of my 47-year career at the Y-12 National Security Complex. During the Manhattan Project the Y-12 electromagnetic separation plant provided much of the enriched uranium for Little Boy, the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

For many years I believed – as most of the world still believes – that Y-12 provided 100% of that enriched uranium with feed from K-25 gaseous diffusion and S-50 thermal diffusion. Over twenty years ago, however, I learned this isn't true. The difference in the amount of uranium separated at the Y-12 and how much was needed to create the bomb might have been historically insignificant if not for two facts provided by Carter Hydrick:

Fact One: The balance of enriched uranium needed to complete the bomb dropped on Hiroshima was not produced by, or anywhere in, the U.S.A.; it was produced by Nazi Germany. That uranium was delivered secretly to the United States – as well as infrared fuses that allowed the plutonium bomb dropped on Nagasaki to become operational – through a top-secret agreement between Nazi Germany and the United States.

In other words, if these nuclear materials had not been brought to us from Nazi Germany, neither of the world's first nuclear weapons would have been possible at the time they were dropped to end the war. This important update turns history on its head.

Dr. Delmar Bergen, retired director of the Nuclear Weapons Program at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where the bombs were designed; Dr. Anthony Stranges, professor of modern military science and technology at Texas A&M University; Dr. Gary Sandquist, instructor of Nuclear Engineering at the United States Military Academy at West Point; Dr. Douglas Tobler, professor emeritus of modern German History; are in support of what Carter Hydrick has stated above, and what is written below.

Fact Two: If these nuclear materials had not been brought from Nazi Germany when they were, the United States would not have had enough enriched uranium to complete the Hiroshima bomb, or fuses to trigger the Nagasaki bomb, until no sooner than the beginning of 1946. By then Stalin, who had declared war against Japan on August 8th, 1945, two days after Hiroshima was bombed, would have moved his army across Siberia and jumped the Sea of Japan to conquer the Japanese before the U.S. could island hop to Honshu and overrun it in a massive, costly extended battle using conventional weapons.

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Without the German nuclear materials, the U.S. would not have had the atomic bombs needed to end the war when it was. Instead, by conquering Japan, Stalin would have added all of Japan's holdings at the end of the war to his winnings in Eastern Europe: the entire Asia-Pacific Rim, minus Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

Most of the landmasses on Earth would have come under Soviet control: The greatest population in the world; expansive natural resources; the economic treasures of Singapore, Hong Kong, and Southeast Asia; strategic cities and globally important geographic locales.

The U.S. would have had no nuclear deterrent from the Manhattan Project before 1946, while the U.S.S.R. would have captured the German technology from the Nazis that were, instead, brought to the U.S. The Soviets then would have been able to make their own atomic bombs.

Imagine a world that experienced no Cold War but was governed as the Eastern European bloc and the – now nuclear-armed – Soviet Union were governed from the last half of the 1940s into the late 1980s! The world, today, would be a very different place!

Or worse, once the Manhattan Project *had* completed its own nuclear weapons in 1946, would the U.S. sit still and watch most of the Earth's population suffer under Stalin's communism? Or would nuclear war have occurred to overthrow the totalitarian regime?

How did this super-secret negotiation happen? At the end of World War Two, The United States' emissary in Switzerland, Allen Dulles, covertly negotiated with the Nazis' Italian overlord General Karl Wolf – under the auspices of negotiating the well-known unconditional (supposedly) surrender of Germany's southern front.

There is significant and substantial compelling evidence, however, that behind the scenes, the two traded the German nuclear weapons material in exchange for the United States assisting in the escape from Europe of Nazi Party Chief Martin Bormann, and then protected him after the war. Bormann was then allowed to revive a massive economic fortune he had hidden in a 'ghost' economy through several conglomerates spread across countries allied with or neutral to Germany.

Before 1950, camouflaged by the United States' Marshall plan, the hidden economy was revived, equipping Germany to lead the European economic community we now know.

What proof is there that Germany had a successful nuclear program when it is universally understood to have failed? Recognized as genuine even in the traditional history, among many U.S. Navy documents in U.S. National Archives describing uranium having been received from Germany on a U-boat. These documents include its having been logged in the boat's manifest (and besides an eye-witness account of it having been labeled "U-235", the correct isotope of enriched uranium). Among the documents is a document describing the uranium as having been stored in "gold-lined cylinders" that should be handled "like TNT," and that would become "sensitive and dangerous" when opened.

Drs. Bergen and Sandquist, listed above, as well as Dr. Bernhard Wehring, director of the nuclear engineering research center at The University of Texas, Austin; and Dr. John Poston, chair of the Nuclear Engineering Department at Texas A&M University, all agree that uranium stowed and handled as described would be nothing other than enriched uranium.

How did the Germans enrich the uranium? In interrogations preparing for the Nuremberg Trials, directors of Germany's IG Farben conglomerate described a synthetic rubber plant the company constructed during the war. This plant was built at a cost of 250 million reichsmarks (25 times the sum each of its previous four plants had cost), took four years to build (four times longer than any of the previous plants), consumed more electricity than the city of Berlin (the eighth largest in the world at the time), but never produced a pound of synthetic rubber.

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Based on consumption of electricity alone, Dr. Bergen insists this plant was a uranium enrichment plant. Synthetic rubber expert George M. Ladzun, retired director of process development for Zeon Chemicals, insists on the other hand that he, "cannot comprehend, nor do I believe, a buna (synthetic rubber) plant of that time period consumed as much power as the eighth largest city in the world."

The construction of that synthetic rubber plant was overseen for the Nazis by SS General Karl Wolff – the same general who negotiated with Dulles the nuclear materials to the United States.

There is significant and compelling smoking-gun and circumstantial evidence for all of this.

Why have these revelations not become more widely known? From the first time in 2004 that I viewed this research presented by Carter Hydrick at the American Museum of Science and Energy and at Y-12, I have expected to see this historically important series of events become an important, fully embraced addition to the existing history of the Manhattan Project and World War II. It deserves to be. And ought to be. It changed the world.

Recognizing this, the very day that I first saw and heard it, I importuned the researcher, Carter Hydrick, to present his findings again that evening to our local historical society, the Oak Ridge Heritage & Preservation Association. Nine months later, I invited Mr. Hydrick back to Oak Ridge, and secured a visitor pass for him to present his case again, this time Y-12 to scientists and technical personnel of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Y-12. This presentation was videotaped and posted on Youtube by Y-12 and can be viewed at:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=H1kWVnPNQac>

Part 2 will bring us up to date on Carter Hydrick and will include the difficulties he has faced attempting to gain recognition of the details in *Critical Mass* in light of the resistance exerted by accepted history and the secret nature of the handling of the cargo aboard U-234.



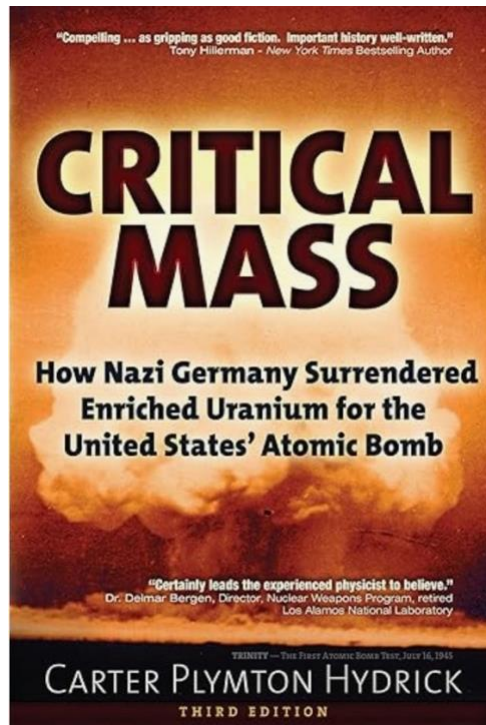
Carter Hydrick toured Building 9204-3 to see the original Calutrons there (Courtesy of Y-12 video screenshot by Ray Smith)

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Carter Hydrick making his presentation at Y-12 (Courtesy of Y-12 video screenshot by Ray Smith)



Critical Mass Third Edition is available on Amazon.com (Courtesy of Ray Smith)