

# DIE GLOCKE

BY  
KENNETH  
HITE



Pelgrane Press

# KEN WRITES ABOUT STUFF

DIE GLOCKE

## KEN WRITES ABOUT STUFF

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**Publisher:** Cathriona Tobin

**Author:** Kenneth Hite

**Layout:** Cathriona Tobin

**Artwork:** David Winship

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# DIE GLOCKE

## THE MYTH OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

The core of the Bell legend is this. In an abandoned coal mine in Poland, the Nazis built Something that violated the laws of orthodox physics. More than that – it blasphemed against them. That Something had the form of a large metal Bell (*Glocke* in German), and it could have won the War, but the Allies closed in. Those who built it were killed, and it was taken away to a hidden place where its power slowly poisons any mind that beholds it, even now. Where the Bell rested remains a desolate place, guarded by a concrete henge.

The legend of the Bell is an anti-Grail myth. It is a myth of man bringing poison and death up out of Hell, about a weapon forged in hatred, achieved by those who feared their enemies, and who fled at the last. The Bell turned the land to Waste and killed its initiates; the quest for it leads only to madness and ruin. Even the Bell's shape is an upside-down Cup.

Who would believe in such a legend? Who would create it?

## THE TALE OF IGOR WITKOWSKI

The Bell is truly a myth of the 21st century, in that its legend only dates to the year 2000. That year Igor Witkowski, a Polish editor and amateur aircraft historian, self-published a book he titled *Prawda O Wunderwaffe*, later translated into English as *The Truth About the Wunderwaffe*<sup>1</sup>. The word *wunderwaffe* means “wonder weapons,” and was the coinage of Goebbels’ propaganda machine to describe the various secret weapons that were sure to win the war for Hitler any day now. While Witkowski’s book avidly – even gulpingly – discusses the rocketry, experimental aircraft, and monster tanks most commonly associated with the Nazi Secret Weapons trope, only in its third section, *Kriegsentscheidend* (“war-decisive”), do things get really good.

In that section, Witkowski tells the tale of a conveniently unnamed Polish intelligence officer who in 1997 allowed Witkowski to read and take notes from, but not photocopy or take away, a dossier compiled by Polish officers attached to a secret NKVD unit in 1946. That dossier contained, among other things, transcripts of the interrogation of SS Gruppenführer Jakob Sporrenberg, and of SS Hauptsturmführer Rudolf Schuster, who were part of a Special Evacuation Kommando headed by

Martin Bormann<sup>2</sup>. And what was the SS SEK supposed to evacuate, at the end of the war? Surprisingly, the answer was not “Martin Bormann.”

## PROJEKT RIESE

Another of Witkowski’s bugaboos, besides Nazi secret weapons, is the vast panoply of underground factories, fortresses, and bunkers tunneled into the Third Reich. The appropriately named “Projekt Riese” (Riese is German for “giant”) is conveniently located inside the modern boundaries of Poland and even more conveniently an almost complete mystery. The Riese establishment includes at least ten separate excavations, running generally southeast from Castle Fürstenstein (called *Ksiaz* today) through the Owl Mountains in Silesia. Started in November 1943 and apparently still unfinished at the end of the war, Riese comprises 10 kilometers of tunnels, multiple shafts and chambers apparently wired for industrial power consumption, sewer systems, a phone exchange, and several narrow-gauge railways. Riese contains over 300,000 cubic meters of concrete: Albert Speer claimed it used more concrete in 1944 than all the air-raid shelters in Germany combined.

It also used around 13,000 slave laborers taken from the nearby Gross-Rosen concentration camp, 5,000 of whom died before the Russians captured the site in May 1945.

<sup>1</sup> He has since gone on to write books on the Indus Valley civilization’s connections to Easter Island and the city of Tiwanaku in Peru, predict victory for al-Qaeda in 2012, and author a novel in two volumes called *The Adolf Hitler Code*.

<sup>2</sup> No evidence of this Kommando had emerged before the NKVD interrogated Schuster and Sporrenberg. And indeed, none has emerged since. Also, Rudolf Schuster does not seem to have had an SS record, while we’re being all pedantic down here.

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The Russians stripped everything out of the site that could be stripped, leaving only the enigmatic tunnels, chambers, and concrete fittings behind. As a result, nobody quite knows what the Riese complex was meant to be, exactly. There may be completely undiscovered tunnels and chambers somewhere else in those mountains: the blueprints for Riese vanished in 1945. The closest thing to an orthodox theory is that Fürstenstein and the surrounding facilities were intended as a backup Führer HQ, against the loss of the “Wolf’s Lair” FHQ in East Prussia. If finished, Riese could have sheltered 27,000 people in almost 200,000 square meters of bunker space.

It might also have been intended as a potential headquarters for the nascent “Werwolf” resistance movement.

Witkowski believes that Riese was a strategic munitions factory and test bed for Nazi secret weapons, similar to the V-2 construction plant built underneath the Harz Mountains near the Mittelbau-Dora camp. The only known industry on the site was a factory near Ludwigsdorf (now Ludwikowice Klodzkie) producing the dynamite used to blast all those tunnels, but there might have been something more. Interestingly, the “Milkow Complex” beneath the dynamite factory remains inaccessible today: built on top of the Wenceslas coal mine, Milkow flooded some time after 1939. A mystery on the edge of an enigma, the Milkow Complex is just the place to put something nobody ever heard of.

### THE BELL

In mid-1944, so Witkowski’s story goes, a secret institute inside the Reich Research Council began construction of an experimental device. Its distinctive shape gave it the nickname “the Bell.” Made of an unknown “hard, heavy metal,” and possibly coated with ceramic or porcelain tiles, the Bell stood 4-5 meters tall, and was approximately 3 meters in diameter. Inside the Bell, two cylinders held a mysterious glowing purple substance called “Xerum 525,” which had to be stored in thick lead containers when the Bell was not in use. A mysterious Leichtmetall (variously identified as “thorium and beryllium peroxides”) was also part of the process. The cylinders rotated (or counter-rotated) inside the Bell and produced some sort of strange field effect accompanied by a hum or buzz “like a hive of bees in a jar.” The Bell used copious amounts of electrical power, and could only be operated for brief spurts of one or two minutes.

Power consumption might not have been what limited the Bell’s operation: the Bell also emitted dangerous radiation. It interfered with electrical equipment, and with its operators. Even 200 meters away on the other side of a coal mine, the scientists working with the Bell reported “sleep problems, a metallic taste in the mouth, nerve spasms, and a loss of memory and balance.” Organic objects exposed to the Bell disintegrated into blackish goo without putrefaction, or had a strange white crystalline matter invade their cell tissues. Blood and other bodily fluids gelatinized or distilled; chlorophyll in plants disappeared, leaving them white. The ceramic tiles lining the Bell chamber

had to be washed with brine after every test (by slave laborers, of course) and entirely replaced every 10 tests or so. The matting and other cloth in the lab had to be burnt immediately. Eventually, the physicists worked out a protocol, reducing the Bell’s output and running their tests while wearing rubber suits, helmets, and red-tinted visors or goggles; the deaths and debilities mostly stopped.

The Bell began its mysterious existence in a laboratory in Leubus in Silesia (now Lubiaz in Poland), although the initial experiments might have taken place underneath Gandau Air Base in Breslau (now Wroclaw) as early as November 1943. Wherever the Bell was forged, however, it wound up in the Riese complex by November 1944, removed ahead of the advancing Red Army. Also by 1944, the Nobel Prize winning German physicist Walter Gerlach had taken over the Bell program, bringing his early expertise in spin polarization and the behavior of mercury in intense magnetic fields<sup>3</sup>. The Bell spent the winter deep below the earth in the Wenceslas mine, spinning up and shrieking out its strange radiation.

### THE BELL VANISHES

And now SS General Sporrenberg returns to the scene. In 1945, as the Russian armies were blasting their way through the German defenses in the Silesian mountains, Sporrenberg and the SEK put their plans for “special evacuation” into high gear. Sporrenberg was the SS “Police Lieutenant” (essentially head of the Gestapo) for southern Norway, one of the Nazis’ few remaining conquests.

<sup>3</sup> Gerlach’s habit of wondering out loud about the connections between mercury under magnetic stress and the alchemical transmutation of elements makes him an ideal head of the Bell project, regardless of how busy he actually was failing to build an atomic bomb for Hitler.

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### CODE NAMES

The legend of the Bell is not short of mysterious and evocative code names. Any of them might be the real deal, the cover identity, or the misdirection. In the absence of actual historical evidence, you might as well go by their thematic weight.

#### CHARITÉ-ANLAGE

The “Charité Installation” may or may not have been an experimental industrial process using plenty of electricity. One document uncovered by Witkowski is a petition against the arrest of an engineer named Richard Cremer; Cremer has been linked to Gerlach and to a secret project headquartered under the Charité hospital in Berlin.

#### PROJEKT TOR

A tor, in German, is a gate. “Project Gate” is a natural designation for a device intended to Open the Way for aliens, Great Old Ones, or the Outer Dark. According to Witkowski, the research project that built the Bell was Projekt Tor, beginning in January 1942.

#### PROJEKT THOR

Now “Thor,” on the other hand, is the sort of thing you’d associate with death rays, atom bombs, and attempts to summon the Aesir. If, perhaps, the Bell contains Mjöltnir or some other god-space artifact, that could also explain the code name and the weird effects. Pseudonymous Internet gadfly “Symngun” seems to have singlehandedly brought this name to prominence as code for the Bell as a nuclear particle accelerator, deriving “Thor” not from the earth-shattering kaboom but from the supposed Gerlach process of transmuting thorium into uranium-233.

#### PROJEKT LATERNENTRÄGER

One of the two code names Witkowski gave the Bell after August 1943, meaning “Project Lantern-Bearer.” This might just be another reference to the Bell’s shape and propensity for glowing, of course, but Witkowski himself speculates that “Lantern-Bearer” is an oblique way of saying “Light-Bringer.” In Latin, “Lucifer.” This is the Bell as Prince of Darkness style “Satan in a jar,” with a weird connection to Grail scholar and SS Obersturmführer Otto Rahn’s gnostic insistence that Lucifer was on the side of the Grail all along. The Grail and Lucifer also both famously “fell from heaven,” if your Bell holds a big chunk of Colour Out of Space, kryptonite, or anything else meteoric. Witkowski says the Laternenträger side of the Bell project concentrated on its effects on organic life, an attempt to weaponize its deadly radiation for use against the onrushing Allied armies.

#### PROJEKT CHRONOS

Witkowski saves this code name for the Bell as torsion-field generator, referring to its ability to warp time. This would be the “physics” half of the Bell project, the key insights to antigravity, scalar weapons, or other superscience. If we shift the code name a bit to Kronos or Cronos, the reference to the Greek father of Zeus and king of the Titans implies an attempt to reach into a time before our gods existed. Symngun, meanwhile, notes that Kronos is the Greek version of Saturn, a planet noted for its bright, whirling rings, a clear reference to the counter-rotating spheres of plasma inside the Bell.



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Working with SS General Hans Kammler, by then the head of all Nazi construction and research programs, Sporrenberg set up a “rat line” through Norway, pre-cleared and secure airfields where planes leaving the collapsing Reich could land and refuel.

In the last months of the War, the special-missions detachment of the Luftwaffe, KG 200, flew numerous long-range sorties with aircraft painted in enemy colors. As Witkowski tells it, Kammler took an experimental six-engined Ju390 from the KG 200 airfield in Opeln and had it painted in Swedish blue and yellow. At Ludwigsdorf, Kammler separated out the crucial personnel from the captured Russian and Italian engineers (and any unreliable Germans) and executed anyone with knowledge of the Bell: Witkowski says the SS shot 62 Riese engineers and Bell scientists to cover the SEK’s tracks. Kammler then loaded up the Bell, and the archives of the Project, and disappeared into the gray skies over Scandinavia<sup>4</sup>.

### WHERE THE BELL MIGHT BE

The Bell, like the Grail, has been removed from human sight and human history, to some remote Castle Perilous. Where, exactly, is up to you. In theory, any coal mine or remote compound anywhere in the world could hold the Bell by now. The Fourth Reich has tendrils everywhere, and if you buy the theory that the Riese complex held looted art and gold from the Soviet Union, Kammler’s flight might have brought with it the wherewithal to restart the whole project.

### HUEMUL ISLAND, ARGENTINA

Argentina’s fascist dictator Juan Perón ran a regular employment agency for former Nazi engineers after the War. With copious deposits of Nazi plunder in Buenos Aires banks, Bormann arranged for the Argentine embassy in Copenhagen to cut through red tape and set up documentation for the Reich’s finest; almost 30,000 Nazis wound up in Argentina. Josef Mengele relaxed on the beach, Otto Skorzeny commanded Eva Perón’s bodyguard. Aircraft designers Kurt Tank and Reimar Horten built planes and missiles for Perón’s air force.

A plausible rogue named Ronald Richter, identified in Bell lore as one of the scientists on the Projekt team, came to Argentina to work for Tank. Best known before 1945 as a devotee of a strange theory of “earth rays,” in 1949 he convinced Perón to fund his experiments in controlled nuclear fusion. The resulting Huemul Project was an expensive boondoggle, revealed as a hoax in 1952. But perhaps it was a cover for the real project of rebuilding the Bell.

Witkowski mentions a 1945 report of a large German plane landing in Paysandu province in neighboring Uruguay, possibly on April 19, 1945. Another report of a Junkers aircraft unloading “a Bell” in Entre Rios province comes from a conveniently suppressed Argentine government investigation into Nazi collaboration.

### POINT 211, ANTARCTICA

On January 19, 1939, the Kriegsmarine catapult-ship Schwabenland under the command of German Arctic specialist Kapitan Alfred Ritscher

launched two modified Dornier-Wal flying boats into Antarctica from a position off the coast of Queen Maud Land. Pilots Rudolf Mayr and Richard-Henrich Schirmacher carried out extensive reconnaissance reaching 300 miles into the interior, mapping and photographing roughly 230,000 square miles of territory, dropping six-foot metal spears adorned with swastika fins to literally stake a claim to what Ritscher renamed “New Swabia,” or Neuschwabenland. After a brief landing on January 29 (during which the explorers examined an area of hot springs and entered a large cave system), a number of penguin photographs and the requisite flag-raising, the expedition departed for Germany, returning April 10, 1939. So much for provable fact.

During the war, legend has it, Kammler’s secret construction battalions “built for the Führer a Shangri-La on land” in the heart of Neuschwabenland, code-named Point 211. Here, the Nazis brought whatever they could from the borderland of madness: the Cathar Grail, Hitler’s brain in a jar, cloned Lebensborn super-soldier embryos, flying saucer craft, and of course the Bell.

### AREA 51, NEVADA

Of course, if one is looking for collections of Nazi engineers after the War, one doesn’t have to look very hard to spot the “rocket group” around Wernher von Braun, nestled safe in Huntsville, Alabama, working hard for the Americans. The U.S. “Operation Paperclip” (and the similar British “Operation Surgeon”) gathered up German scientists for

<sup>4</sup> Historical pedants will note that the airfield at Opeln fell to the Red Army in mid-March of 1945, while numerous witnesses put Kammler in Oberammergau in southern Bavaria on or about April 22, 1945. Historical pedants need to back off and let us have this.

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the coming space race and nascent Cold War, “bleaching” their political backgrounds where necessary to smooth their entrance into the U.S. A parallel operation, Alsos, tracked down and gathered up the Reich’s nuclear scientists, experimental materials, and documentation.

The Bell could have fallen under either rubric. An SEK flight out of Norway would have to cross Anglo-American radar and fighter cover on its way to Spain or Argentina. Kammler, in this reading, cut a deal with the Allies and transferred his personal staff, the Kammlerstab, intact to American control. Skeptics should note that this is essentially the same bargain the OSS made with Major General Reinhard Gehlen, former head of the Wehrmacht’s East Front military intelligence apparatus. Unlike the comically inept “Gehlen Org,” however, Kammler’s team produced results: superior secret aircraft that the U.S. could, and did, disguise as “flying saucers” under the code name Majestic.

The Bell, by now, is tucked away in Area 51 or, depending on one’s favorite flavor of conspiracy, Montauk, New York or Dulce, New Mexico. Wherever it is, it beats at the heart of the “black government” that conspires against everything you hold dear.

### DUBNA, RUSSIA

The Soviets, of course, had their own version of Paperclip and Alsos. Operation Osoaviakhim gathered up everything and everyone they could in their zone of Germany, including the physicists Manfred von Ardenne, Peter Adolf Thiessen, and Gustav Hertz. Their areas of specialty read like a maintenance manual for the Bell: plasma physics, isotope separation,

and transmutation of metals. The Soviets established the von Ardenne group in “Institute G” in Sukhumi, in Soviet Georgia, but shuttled the team around to various other secret facilities in the USSR, among them the “science city” of Dubna, near Moscow.

Dubna holds both the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research and MKB Raduga, an aerospace company specializing in missiles and rockets. It is also Ground Zero for a rich vein of postmodern alchemical conspiracy theory, or so claims an untraceable 1991 memorandum supposedly prepared for the Yeltsin government. In 1965 (or 1968), some nameless Soviet (or German?) scientist synthesized “red mercury” in a cyclotron at Dubna.

Specifics, of course, vary; the most common version indicates that the experiment had been designed to create implosive fusion, and in some variants, red mercury remains the key to clean, plentiful fusion power. More often, however, red mercury is an immensely powerful explosive, either a chemical explosive more powerful by weight than any other (“a grenade can sink a battleship; a baseball can destroy a city block”), a key ingredient in suitcase nuclear weapons production, or the code name for a brand-new nuclear material more potent than uranium-235 or plutonium-239. Red mercury is also supposed to provide an ultra-stealthy Stealth coating, sonar-proof submarines, enhance infrared sensors, coat money to make it counterfeit-proof, and so forth and so on.

Its connection to the Bell is twofold. First, the description of Xerum 525 as a glowing violet liquid similar to mercury is suggestive. Violet and red are close enough that a patriotic Soviet scientist might fudge the spectrum for

the sake of a good Bolshevik name. Like Xerum 525, red mercury comes out of a nuclear-chemical matrix rather than a particle-physics one; the “feel” of the two substances is the same. Second, of course, we have Witkowski’s own testimony that the NKVD was hot on the trail of the Bell in 1946, and had total control over the Riese site for any investigation they cared to mount.

## WHAT THE BELL MIGHT BE

The powers and nature of the Bell are, if anything, an even murkier mystery than its origins and its whereabouts. This, it should be clear by now, only makes the Bell better suited for games of weird science, horror, and conspiracy. If something strange is happening in your game, the Bell might have caused it. If the bad guys have some unknown card in their hand, the Bell is wild.

### NUCLEAR RESEARCH

The simplest theory of all is that the Bell, if it existed, was just another part of the Nazi nuclear research program. Sporrenberg’s testimony was what you might expect from a policeman with no scientific training who never saw the Bell, but for obvious reasons wanted to feed the NKVD anything he could think of.

Given the many wrong turns the Nazis went down in their quest for a bomb, the Bell could have been a bigger, more pointless version of the Huemul project that did nothing except irradiate everyone involved in it.

If one grants for the time being the notion of a functioning German atomic program, the Bell might have been a particle accelerator operating on the fringe of the possible.

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The presence of thorium in the legend indicates an attempt to harness the thorium decay cycle, producing fissile uranium without the Norwegian heavy water destroyed by the Allies. Gerlach remained interested in a process he called “photo-chemical transmutation” throughout his career, which similarly points to anything from a breeder reactor to an alchemical athanor.

Finally, the Bell has a passing resemblance to a spherical tokamak, a magnetic bottle intended to contain fusion reactions. This would explain why the Germans needed so much power to operate it, and why the Bell could only spin for a minute at a time. If the Germans harnessed fusion, or even got halfway there, that’s more than enough to explain the excitement of Alsos or Osoaviakhim.

### ZERO-POINT ENERGY

Although the physics was enough to defeat Einstein (who came up with the idea in 1913), as I understand it the basic notion of zero-point energy is that a constant energy state exists everywhere, even at conditions of absolute zero, as a necessary condition of mass existence. It should be possible, assuming a great many breakthroughs, to tap into this energy field and essentially draw free power from the entire universe.

The Nazis, having convinced themselves that Einstein’s Jewish relativity was a false trail, busily experimented with all manner of unorthodox physics. Crank physics is, if anything, harder to explain than real physics, but “torsion fields”

apparently exist around all spinning particles such that you can use their spin to bend local space-time. Other notions such as “scalar energy” imply that energy patterns are unchanging and can be transmitted instantly across space: this, one darkly hints, is what Tesla was up to when the Tunguska explosion went off in 1908.

It all reminds me of vril, the imaginary energy field created by the novelist Edward Bulwer-Lytton but vouched for by occultists ever since. According to Willy Ley, the Nazis were trying to harness vril, and indeed a nascent group of occultists did publish two pamphlets on vril and space-energy in 1930 before vanishing in the pre-Nazi furor. Ley said the “Luminous Lodge” behind vril research believed that it appeared most clearly in apples. Turn an apple upside-down and map its cardioid curve: a Bell appears.

### ANTIGRAVITY

Once you have nonsense science, you can do anything with it. Nick Cook, the aerospace journalist turned new apostle of the Bell, ties the “hunt for zero point” to “antigravity technology” right on the cover of his 2001 bestseller. Cook and Witkowski point to a strange concrete “henge” near Ludwigsdorf called the “flytrap” as the test bed for antigravity craft<sup>5</sup>. Whether the Bell produced antigravity or vril, the Nazis used the result to design their mighty UFO fleet, which carried the Bell to Antarctica, or the Moon, or the Hollow Earth.

Intriguingly, a UFO that crashed in Kecksburg, Pennsylvania on

December 9, 1965 looked remarkably like a bell, according to eyewitnesses. The Army carried the craft away before any but the traditional blurry photos could be taken; in 2005 NASA identified the crashed object as a Russian Kosmos 96 satellite.

### TIME TRAVEL

In his 2001 book Nick Cook quotes a pseudonymous physicist on the topic of the Bell and its torsion fields: “They were trying to build a ... time machine.” Conveniently, in 2002 UFO researcher Henry Stevens uncovered a hearsay anecdote concerning a very minor member of the von Braun rocket group, Otto Cerny. In 1961, Cerny was working at NASA in Huntsville and mentioned his time on the Bell project. After a brief warmup, Cerny gets to the punch line: “it was possible to go back and witness things.” A concave beryllium mirror near or above the Bell would reflect images of other times, or, in other versions of the tale, the Bell itself would warp space-time to open a gate into the time stream for Kammler’s mad scientists.

The question may not be where is the Bell, but when?

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

The sole source for the myth of the Bell is Igor Witkowski’s *The Truth About the Wunderwaffe*. Everything else is special pleading or fiction, acknowledged or otherwise.

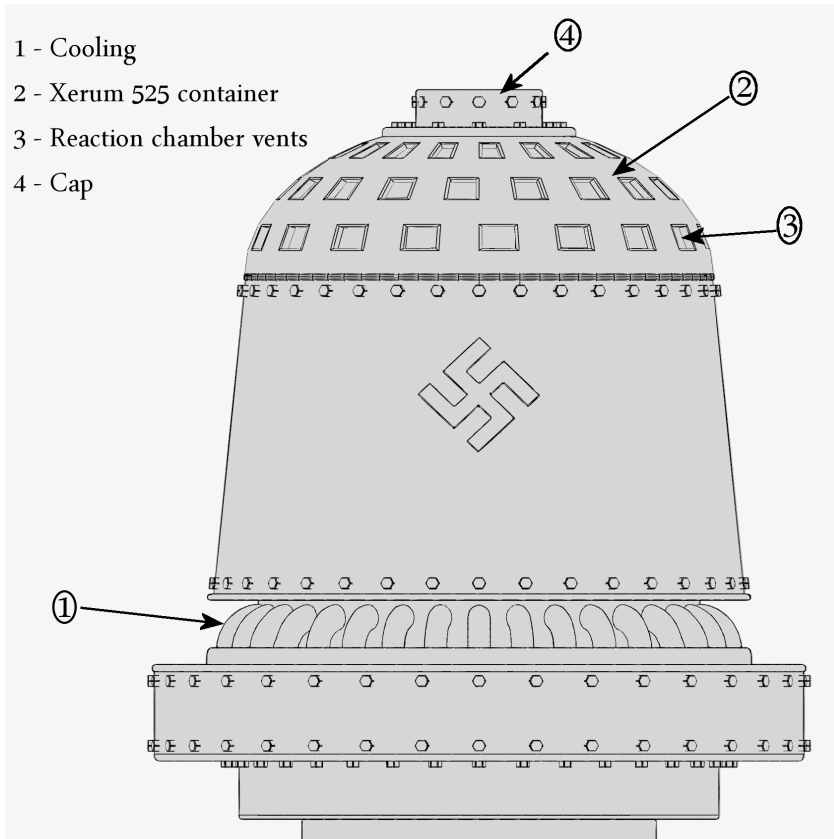
Nick Cook’s *The Hunt For Zero Point* is probably the best and most accessible “straight” version of the Bell, once you realize his breathless tone of gullibility exists primarily to sell books.

<sup>5</sup> German air force staff officer Gerold Schelm has fairly conclusively demonstrated that the Fly Trap at Ludwigsdorf is actually the remains of a cooling tower, probably left over from the dynamite factory and power station at Milkow.



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The various works of Joseph P. Farrell (especially *The SS Brotherhood of the Bell*) provide an excellent starter conspiracy theory of Die Glocke, tying it to the JFK assassination, the faked moon landings, and UFO coverups on its way to the luminiferous ether.

Along those lines, Henry Stevens' *Hitler's Suppressed and Still-Secret Weapons, Science, and Technology* is another good primer on the mad and multifarious rumored supersciences of the Third Reich. The Bell only shows up in one or two chapters, which is kind of a relief at this point.

Searching the Internet for tales of the Bell will rapidly bring you the Germanophile atomic rantings of Symngun, whether you want it to or not. They are, at least, a treasure of tossed-off connections and proper names, and an instructive example of how to confidently bluff your way

through matters occult or obscure.

## RINGING THE CHANGES

As retailed by Witkowski and his successors, the story of the Bell is rich in telling details. Names, ranks, secret projects, allusive notes, and mysterious places abound. These are the hooks on which you can hang adventures using the Bell. Drop obscure figures like Otto Cerny or General Jakob Pruwa (the Polish liaison with that mysterious NKVD unit) into the story early on, and weave your own campaign histories around them.

You can use these elements as plot threads. Perhaps the Conspiracy org chart lists Hans Kammler, or the yellowed dossier captured in Yemen is signed by Manfred von Ardenne. A weird ghost sighting on Huemul

Island, or reports of a humming noise coming from Milkow in Poland, can tease players and invite investigation.

Or just throw them in as flavor. NPCs can name-drop and hint just like the "sources" in Nick Cook's breathless memoir. Make the Bell a secret origin for *Mutant City Blues* supercriminals, or for an alien clade in *Ashen Stars* (time and space travel, remember?). Riff on the films *Chernobyl Diaries* and *Grave Encounters* and send "adventure travel" PCs into the maze of tunnels under Castle Fürstenberg as the backdrop to a dimension-bending *Fear Itself* adventure.

Or try these hooks on for size. Like the ones set into the concrete at the top of the Ludwikowice Henge, they can support a surprising amount of narrative weight.

## TRAIL OF CTHULHU

A Keeper who wants to play with the time-twisting notion of the Bell can present Investigators with the puzzle of communications from the dark and horrible future of 1945. Dreams of ultraviolet glows and buzzing death haunt certain German physicists and electrical engineers of their acquaintance, their letters to the Investigators not yet clamped under Gestapo censorship. Perhaps the Investigators themselves sense watchful eyes looking at them, or find shards of concrete and soil from Silesia embedded in their rooms or friends.

Is the Bell a fane of Daoloth, a sentient plasma summoned from the Black Rivers of Yuggoth, a Tillinghast resonator (as in Lovecraft's tale "From Beyond"), or a cargo-cult device built based on information tortured out of a Yithian caught in human form in 1942 Berlin?

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Getting access to the Owl Mountains – a militarized border zone before and after the Nazi seizure of power in 1933 – may be challenge enough. Closing the time gate from their side, dealing with the hidden entity inside the Bell's topology, and reversing the streams to eradicate the whole project in the future may require life-or-death measures.

### NIGHT'S BLACK AGENTS

The role the Bell plays in the Conspyrmaid is up to the Director. The story's nodes spin off in many directions: the NKVD unit that interrogated Sporrenberg becomes a Mafiya bratva, the Kammlerstab remains a kernel of rich horrible bastards wired into the black physics base of the U.S. defense establishment, the Huemul project a multinational experimental energy conglomerate. Loose ends and threads for investigation abound in the Bell's vicinity. If the Conspiracy has a past tied into Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, the OSS' "Project Paperclip" or MI6's "Project Surgeon," the Bell was, or became, one of their fabulous toys. Whatever horrible thing the Bell does, the Conspiracy has a deep interest in recreating – or resuming – in the modern era.

How does the Bell specifically relate to vampires?

[[SU]] The Bell's energies, streaming chaotically back in time, shifted and mutated a clan of Poles living on the site in the 11th century. Their bodies leached of color and their minds destroyed by the radiation, they became the first vampires and spread their poison across eastern

Europe. The Bell's UV emissions are the source of their power; the sun's UV emissions their countervailing weakness.

[[DA]] The Bell was a demonic attempt to save the Reich instituted by SS Obergruppenführer Ernst Kaltenbrunner as part of his occult Projekt Leo. It was an athanor, an alchemical furnace built by nuclear alchemist Walter Gerlach to specifications the Projekt's scholars found in grimoires seized by the Gestapo in 1941. "Xerum 525" is the Azoth, the Alchemical Mercury necessary for the transformation. It brought forth the Red Elixir, the promise and power of immortality to those who drank blood.

[[AL]] The Bell was a crashed UFO engine, recovered by the Luftwaffe's Projekt Uranus from Czernika in Poland in 1938. The experiments did, indeed, attempt to harness alien zero-point (or torsion field) technology for the Third Reich. Whether that makes the Bell (and the heirs to Projekt Uranus) rivals or allies of the alien vampires is yet another enigma.

[[MU]] The radiation emitted by the Bell mutated the scientists who observed its actions, despite their red visors and rubber suits. Along with a hard core of Nazi surgeons and Ahnenerbe biological experimenters removed from Dachau by the SEK, those immortal scientists fled the Reich for the Congo, where they hid their activities under, among other things, the cloak of the rocketry group OTRAG while continuing their attempts to harness the mysterious power of the Bell.

### ESOTERRORISTS

The Bell never existed. But thanks to the tireless work of an Esoterror cell distributed between Warsaw and London, it is bringing itself into existence in the past. As it spins up, its radiations leave fragmentary traces of itself in the historical record. For now, there are deniable rumors, and half-seen documents, but with more belief in the Bell, more conclusive evidence hatches in archives or corrodes the concrete in Milkow. The Bell is a tulpa, an object created by the myth of its own being.

In 1992, two seekers of the Outer Dark met on line in an "Axis History Enthusiast" chat room: Wladyslaw Szymanski and Rudolf Schuster. From the tone of their postings, each recognized a fellow spirit, and they recruited more such, calling themselves the Miracle Weaponers. From his researches Szymanski knew of a fissure in the membrane near Milkow in Poland, caused by the collapse of the Wenceslas mine in 1930 and by the senseless deaths of the Riese laborers in 1944. These two events, linked by guilt, horror, and denial, opened up a pinhole to the Outer Dark. The Miracle Weaponers created a fascination around that location, feeding carefully forged documents to certain journalists in Warsaw and London until the Bell appeared in print – and on line – and on the History Channel – and in game sourcebooks ...