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Field Marshal Erwin Rommel (1891 – 1944) was honored by veterans of the German Afrika Korps who erected a statue in his home town Heidenheim, in remembrance of his 70th birthday exalting his person and his military successes. But slowly a change in realization is taking place: in 2020 a sculpture of a one-legged victim on his crutches of a mine dating back to the Africa operations during World War II was added; it casts its shadow on Rommel's sculpter.

Whether military bases of the Bundeswehr still carrying Rommel's name will be renamed, asks ...

Oliver Schuster

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Bockfließ situated in the Vienna Basin: The Austrian Petroleum Administration (OMV) pumping oil in Bockfließ. The "nodding donkeys" are installed close to homes, vineyards and the church.

Bockfließ

Wandering in the Countryside

The small market town Bockfließ is located in the northern part of the Vienna Basin. It has 1 500 inhabitants and belongs to the district of Mistelbach on the Zaya. An “adventure bicycle path” promises to take one along a route of 45 km (30 miles) to a region of white and black gold. “White gold” means here not ebony or porcelain but the white wine made out of the grapes in this region. “Black gold” historically has been the term for profits derived from slave trade. Here, it means oil, petroleum. Quite a surprise, too, to find oil wells



Bockfließ: *Kellergasse (wine cellar way). Below it: A more than 200 years old gate to a wine cellar with the owner's marks and initials.*



in the middle of vineyards. An interesting discovery, away from well-trodden tourist paths around Vienna.

Walking uphill through a sunken lane lined on both sides with old wine cellars, some of them crumbled, one arrives at the “Frenchman’s Jump”. According to the local lore, late in the evening on 7th July 1809, during the Napoleonic Wars, a French cuirassier was in hot pursuit of an Austrian hussar. They both were unaware of the sunken lane ahead of them and both men and horses fell to their

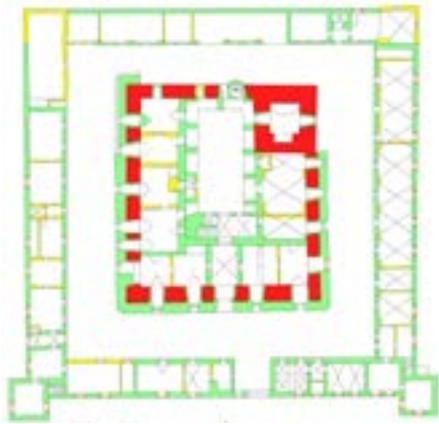
deaths. The daughter of the hussar buried both her father and the Frenchman side by side, close to the place where the tragedy happened, and she always brought flowers to the graves. Even many years afterwards, every anniversary there were fresh flowers put on the two graves. Some people from Bockfließ said they saw a crying woman dressed in white nearby, according to an information board erected by the town’s “enhancement council”.

From the “Frenchman’s Jump” it’s only a few more minutes walking to arrive at the top of the hill, a vantage point “Iron Cross” from where one has a nice panoramic view over the vineyards and in the midst of them about twenty nodding donkeys; in some places they are only a few yards away from the first vine. Each of the pumps is surrounded by a metal fence, and from time to time a service engineer from OMV is checking them. The “donkeys” raise and lower their heads silently; the oil they pump then runs through a system of pipes underground to storage tanks. The oil field is centered here but it stretches out close to the borders with the Czech Republic and Slovakia. As already mentioned production of this oil field covered ten percent of Austrian demand in 2019.

Approaching Bockfließ one notices immediately the sleek church-tower of the town’s Neo-Gothic church dedicated to Saint James the Great. Not far from it a massive building rises its top above the trees. Getting close to it it then rather disappears behind the trees. The signpost tells us that this is Bockfließ Castle.

The first owner of the castle mentioned in annals dating to 1168 is a knight by the name of Ludovicus

de Pochvlise. How the name later mutated from Pochvlise to Bockfließ is not reported. The closeness of Poch to “Bock” (buck; billy goat) — and therefore the mutation to it — certainly led to present day’s installations of billy-goat motives here and there in town some of them painted in various motives. Also, the coat of arms of the



Plan of Bockfließ Castle: historical construction stages in colors; red: 13th c., green: 16th c., yellow: 17-20th c.

town shows a reference to that motive: “party per bend sinister argent and sable surmounted of a buck rampant counterchanged with rape and grape-leaf in mouth vert.” The tinctures “argent and sable” (white and black) may also be a hint at the black gold — oil — and the white gold — the grapes in the vineyards.

The castle itself tries its best to hide from nosy tourists behind a thick mantle of vegetation. Also, a wall four meters thick encircles a 3-story arcaded inner courtyard. The castle rather resembles a fortress, also in a figurative sense — the family of Count Goëss prefers utmost privacy.

That a family tragedy took place in this location on 13 December 2018 is well known countrywide. The tabloids had a field day; because of the former



closeness of the family to the Hapsburgs — a number of family members held high positions in the times of the empire — some of them compared the tragedy to the one in Mayerling in 1889 where the crown-prince of Austrian and Hungary killed first his lover baroness Mary Vetsera and then himself. If one does a search for “Bockfließ” in the Internet, the first entries all start with: “Count Tono Goëss killed his father, stepmother and brother with a shotgun.” As motive the perpetrator cited hate of his dom-

Coat of arms of Bockfließ; Above it, two cut-outs of bucks, in the background a “nodding donkey”.





Castle Bockfließ

ineering father. On 13 February 2020 the Higher Regional Court (court of appellate jurisdiction) of Vienna rejected the appeal lodged by the defendant's attorneys and reconfirmed Tono Goëss's life sentence for committing this triple murder. The press however found it worthwhile to mention a connection between the family Goëss and Hedi Horten rumored to be the richest woman in Austria. The widow of the former German "king of department stores", Helmut Horten,

was born as Heidi Jelinek in Vienna in 1941. In her third marriage she wedded Anton Goëss, a cousin of Tono Goëss, the convicted criminal.

In olden times there were stories of ghosts in the castle, and the phantom of the woman in white. Maybe some time in the future, there will be performances of the tragedy at location, in the manner of "son et lumière" sending shivers down the spine of the spectators. For a fee they even could be offered coffee out of porcelain cups of Tono's stepmother he murdered. ☒

From Reflection to Relearning

A New Perception has Arrived in Everyday Life

Gone are the promises of adventure and liberating freedom by drawing on a cigarette. Currently, advertisements on evoking high spirits smoking a cigarette are still permitted on billboards along the highways and advertising pillars in the cities in Germany without pointing out the health dangers of tobacco. But come 2022 tobacco outdoor advertising will be prohibited. Advertisements for e-cigarettes will still be tolerated for another two years. According to its own reports for 2017 the tobacco industry spent 95.9 million Euro (US\$ 112.6 million) for outdoor advertising and 2 million Euro (US\$ 2.35) for advertising in movie theaters. Advertising companies that as a branch have already fallen on hard times will feel the loss of revenue and look for new sources of revenue.

The draft legislation created by the coalition partners CDU/CSU and SPD will also prohibit advertisements for e-cigarettes that do not contain any tobacco though these have become very popular among young people as a nicotine substitute. The long-term effects of vaping — vaping

found already its way into the German vocabulary — aromatic substances are not yet known due to the product having been introduced to the market only a short while ago.

There are other problems connected with a ban on smoking. If you ask yourself: Where is tobacco grown? What people do the cultivation? The answer is: generally in large plantations somewhere "in the South" and in large part by people with darker skin color. That's at least my impression: evoking memories of a large carved figure with dark skin offering cigarettes in a large wooden box that formerly could be found in smoking rooms of some German villas. In those days, the figure was matter-of-factly called *Mobr*, in German meaning black person. But I first encountered live black people only after the end of World War II, among U.S. American occupation forces in Germany.

Until recently, words like *Mobren-Apotheke* (Blacks' Pharmacy), *Mobrenstraße* (Blacks' Street", and of course *Mobrrübe* (black beets, i.e., the generally used name for carrots) were all designations without any pejorative connotation.

*) refer to: Bundestag (Lower House of German Parliament), 19th legislative period — 3 Deutscher Bundestag – 19. Wahlperiode – 3 – Drucksache 19/19495

After the murder of George Floyd, a black U.S. American in Minneapolis by a white police officer, Derek Chauvin — what an irony that the family name brings to mind the word *chauvinism* — on 25 February 2020 led to a change in perceptions, also in Europe and the conclusion is not yet in sight. Different groups of people in Germany are now parsing Germany's *Grundgesetz* (Fundamental Law, comparable to the U.S. Constitution) for wordage such as *Rasse* (race). But, at the time of drawing and implementing the *Grundgesetz* 70 years ago, the term race had a different implication than *Rasse* today.

The mothers and fathers of the *Grundgesetz* were of course thinking of the National Socialists' mis-use of Race and related terminology like Ariernachweis (Aryan [Geneological] Certificate), Judenverfolgung (persecution of Jews), Rassenschande (race disgrace, i.e. sexual relations between Aryans and non-Aryans), and more which weighted heavily on them. Consequently, Article 3, Paragraph 3 of the *Grundgesetz* states explicitly that “no person may be discriminated because of his/her race”.

Today, feelings run high because use of the term race implied that there actually are different human races. And that concurrently with the perceived difference of races there is a ranking of them: from white as color and characteristic implies purity, clarity, beauty, to black as dark, villainous, bad.

When we were little kids we played: “*Wer hat Angst vorm schwarzen Mann?*” (Grundgesetz Who's afraid of the black man?) — a tag game, with the chaser [or “it”] called the “black man”. Question: Why “black” man?



Behind Masks: Young muscians evade racial profiling.

Classifying people according to their skin color once served to segregate non-white people considering them as not equal to humans. That removed the obstacle of eradicating the “primitives”, to take their goods, to drive them off their lands. They were dragged off their habitats, exploited, also sexually, without any scrouple. As a result of being raped by their white overlords one can find today that often descendants of black slaves are of a much lighter skin color. There was no further need to prove this transgressive behaviour by white males, no need for a “me-too” movement ... it was here for everybody to see. Children with a white father didn't have any higher social prestige; they belonged to the black stratum even with their lighter skin color.

Grouping descendants of a mixed white/black relationship with their lower black parent was also manifest with children of black U.S. soldiers of the occupation troops with German or Austrian *Fräuleins*. With their racial fanaticism about Jews during

the Nazi era now *verboten*, their new object became the “Negro-Babies”. The black soldiers were beyond their reach for racial slurs. Many mothers hoped that moving with their babies to the U.S. would make life easier for their children, a dream that is still awaiting its fulfillment. “I have a dream...”, Martin Luther King famously preached at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on 28 August 1963.

And the frowned upon term *race* has now been replaced with an acceptable loanword from English: *Racial Profiling*. What it really means is open to question. Apparently, and principally, it means to pick a person out of a group of suspects based on physical or external characteristics, such as tattoos, dress, hair style, body modi-

fication. The simplest way is selection per assumed descentance. The police opines, per newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung* in an article entitled “*Neustart für die Polizei für die Polizei*” (New Beginning for the Police, article 3/8, *Süddeutsche Zeitung* of 21 June 2020): “We have our good reasons to control a certain type of people more frequently”.

I was once robbed of my purse in a parking garage. I described to the police the assailant as young man from Northern Africa. The officer of the criminal police showed me a series of photos of young men sorted by their appearance. Ten years ago, Racial Profiling had not yet entered the German vocabulary.

During a riot in Stuttgart during the night of 21 June 2020, four to five hundred drunk young men looted stores in downtown. The rioters, some of them underage, first refused to give their particulars to the police and attacked them. But afterwards ask-

ing the police who the drunk hooligans were, the answer was: Germans. Whoever has a German passport is a German, which obviously wasn't helpful. The degree of violence during that incident was worrisome, not just for the merchants but also for many people in the city, irrespective of their citizenship or nationality. The prime minister of the state of Baden-Württemberg Wilfried Kretschmer and the mayor of Stuttgart Franz Kuhn asked that the sociocultural background of the rioters be investigated. They not only wanted to know the participants but also who of the spectators shouted their approval and egged them on. Only getting to know more about the social background of delinquents will ensure improvement of action to further integration and prevention. It may be more advantageous to use a term like social profiling instead of racial profiling, or simply put: “How were those rioters brought up?”

Impressum



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Picture: Maurice de Chlourigon

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