

Who Was Viktor Schauberger?

Inspired by the workings of Nature, this Austrian-born genius developed simple concepts and technologies which could save humanity from the brink of environmental disaster.

Part 2

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In 1939 Viktor Schauberger's personal research virtually came to an end, all the materials he needed being appropriated for war production. In 1941, however, he was summoned by Air Marshal Ernst Udet to discuss the growing crisis of energy production and the means of solving it. Premises were subsequently set up near Augsburg for research and development, all of which came to nothing partly due to the death of Udet and partly because the premises were bombed by the Allies in 1942.

In 1943, despite his incapacitating war wounds and fifty-eight years of age, Viktor was declared fit for active duty and was inducted into the Waffen-SS, very much under duress. He came under the control of Heinrich Himmler who forced him into research to develop a new secret weapon. Provided with suitable accommodation at Schloss Schönbrunn, the nearby Mauthausen concentration camp to supply the workforce of prisoner engineers, Viktor was threatened with his life if he did not comply with orders and carry out this research.

In spite of these threats, however, Viktor put his foot down and demanded from the SS Command the absolute right to select the various engineers he needed. He further demanded that any technicians he chose were to be removed entirely from the camp, fed properly, dressed in normal civilian clothes and billeted in civilian accommodation, otherwise they would be unproductive. As he explained, people who live in fear of their lives and under great emotional stress could work neither consistently nor creatively. Surprisingly the SS agreed, and so Viktor selected somewhere between twenty and thirty engineers, craftsmen and tradesmen from Mauthausen, to be accommodated in various houses near the plant.

When they were all assembled, Viktor exhorted them to work as hard as they could, but under no circumstances were they to attempt to escape, otherwise his own life would be forfeited. They set to work with a will, and while not understanding what Viktor was trying to achieve they nevertheless carried out his instructions faithfully. Two machines were eventually built, one called a "Repulsator" and the other a "Repulsive", reflecting the forces of recoil active in them. Both machines operated with the densifying forces of *implosion*, which are far more powerful than those of *explosion*. Accurate information about them is difficult to obtain because, after the end of the War, all top-secret information was confiscated and sequestered by the Allies—the Russians, French, British and Americans—and is therefore no longer available to the general public. Nor is there any trace of Viktor's wartime patents for which, according to his usual custom, he is certain to have applied.

From a certain point of view, Viktor Schauberger could have been considered lucky at the end of the war because, together with his team of engineers, he had been moved by the SS to Leonstein in Upper Austria due to the bombing of Vienna and therefore, in May 1945, came under the jurisdiction of the American forces of occupation. In Leonstein, Viktor was placed in protective custody by the Americans for nine months and quartered inside a doubly fenced and guarded perimeter. This was done partly to glean information about his involuntary, though, to him, useful wartime research into 'higher' atomic energies at Mauthausen and Leonstein, and partly to prevent his abduction by the Russians. Confirmation of this can be found in a letter Viktor wrote to the German Minister of Defence, Franz Josef Strauss, on 28th February 1956. Here he relates how the last device upon which he had been working had been seized, only a few days after its successful flight, by American intelligence investigators who appeared to be very well-informed about it. Its most important component, on the other hand, which was forgotten in the haste to move to Leonstein, had been removed by the Russians from his Vienna apartment

and the apartment subsequently blown up. Once Viktor had been thoroughly 'de-briefed', he was apparently threatened with further internment should he be foolish enough to continue his research in this field. Apart from time spent in interrogation during this period of confinement, for Viktor—now almost entirely penniless—this was a time of reflection and reassessment of his future.

During this immediate postwar period, food was still extremely scarce and many people were suffering from malnutrition. When Viktor was ultimately released, eventually moving to Salzburg in late 1946, he then set about applying his wide knowledge to agriculture and the systems of cultivation then in use. In collaboration with Franz Rosenberger, he was able to demonstrate that significant increases in productivity could be achieved using the knowledge he had acquired in Bulgaria before the war. All progress in this area subsequently being blocked by corrupt politicians in 1949, Viktor then returned to his study of implosion, energy generation and water movement, trying with his limited funds to pick up the threads of his earlier research. This culminated in a scientific investigation and vindication of his theories on the natural flow of water, at Stuttgart Technical University in 1952 under the direction of Prof. Franz Pöpel.

With enquiring mind and tenacity of purpose, Viktor continued to work on his various devices. Aloys Kokaly, the publisher of *Implosion* (a magazine devoted to Viktor Schauburger's theories) and a former corporal in the Waffen-SS who had managed by devious means to procure materials for Viktor's research at Schloss Schönbrunn, asked him why he was still working so hard, to which Viktor replied:

*I must furnish those who would protect or save life, with an energy source which produces energy so cheaply that nuclear fission will not only be uneconomical, but ridiculous. This is the task I have set myself in what little time I have left.*¹⁹

The product of this last personal effort is the Home Power Generator which, due to Viktor's very limited pensioner's funds and its resulting crude, unsophisticated construction, did not function as well as he had hoped; for, as it transpired, this machine was an unfortunate compromise between the geometry of mechanics and that of organics. It was a miserable culmination to the life's work of this quite remarkable man.

Being the enlightened individual he was, Viktor Schauburger had a remarkable standard of personal integrity, honesty and responsibility. His word in any undertaking was always his bond, even if he was ultimately the loser. He would brook no deceit nor underhand activity in any of those with whom he worked, either as employers or employees. This often created enormous difficulties for him and he suffered considerable personal losses as a result. He was not a businessman, nor had he any interest in the commercial exploitation of his inventions for personal gain.

His overriding desire was to provide present and future generations with the ability in terms of knowledge and machines with which to usher in and sustain a golden age of prosperity, peace and harmony. His chief problem was always to find honest and

unselfish people to help in the development and production of the various apparatuses needed to bring this about. In many instances his trust was sadly misplaced, as illustrated in extracts from a letter of 4th February 1958 to a friend, a certain "Mr R.", about seven-and-a-half months before Viktor died.

I was always challenged to provide proof. Whenever I did this, I was robbed to such an extent that no other course was open to me, other than to remain silent once more. In the February issue of Weltgewissen you will be able to read that these apparatuses, which the Austrian State Police took from me, are now being manufactured in Germany with enormous success. This has happened to me twelve times. Every time I had something produced, all I was given were the leftovers, while the best part was retained and exploited commercially by others. Or the apparatus was never made public, although I had paid all the agreed development costs myself. Subsequently, large sums were demanded of me, which lay far beyond my capacity to pay, and the machines I was struggling to build were withheld as security against payment.

I then began to work covertly and in this way succeeded in producing workable machines. I then first became aware of what I had discovered, namely, higher-grade atomic energies. At this stage, "Demonstrate it!", "Prove it!", "Let it be examined!" was and is always demanded. If I concur, then all is lost. If I do not, however, then I am a fraud.

Then along came a major German industrialist with his scientific advisers. He investigated the process and found it in order. Statements were made expressing readiness to proceed with fabrication and cost evaluation and then, yes, then one will just have to wait and see. All they are, are empty promises, never kept.

Now representatives of the US Government have announced themselves. They too want to see and evaluate everything first, and then, only then will it be considered what might be done.

I requested a provisional agreement which would only come into force once I proved that I could achieve significantly increased output. This was rejected. First see, then negotiate, and the outcome was always the same.

Professors also want first to see, evaluate and then, aye, and then take over.

My dear Mr R., I have now reached the point where they can all kiss the place where my spinal column terminates. I am old and seriously ill. My only concern now is for all the poor children who are faced with a grisly future.

If I reveal everything it will only be hushed up because it not only involves the whole scientific establishment but also the doctrines of the Church. All power politics will collapse once the truth emerges that science is the actual causative agent of cancer.

*I intend to return to the forest once more, there to die in peace. The whole of science and all its hangers-on are nothing but a band of thieves who are suspended like marionettes and must dance to whatever tune their well-camouflaged slave-masters deem necessary.*²⁰

This letter, most probably written to Alois Renner in the light of what follows, heralded the final disastrous chapter of Viktor

Two machines were eventually built, one called a "Repulsator" and the other a "Repulsine"... Both machines operated with the densifying forces of implosion, which are far more powerful than those of explosion. ...after the end of the War, all top-secret information was confiscated and sequestered by the Allies...and is therefore no longer available to the general public.

Schauberger's life, a chapter that started with much hope for the final realisation of all that he had striven for in his life. Having had no appreciation or support from the government or anyone else in Austria, when he was eventually approached by the Americans—who expressed an enthusiastic interest in developing his theories on implosion—Viktor felt that at last something positive would happen as America was such a powerful country with tremendous entrepreneurial energy. He was by this time quite exasperated at the behaviour of Europeans and what he had suffered at their hands, and in a conversation with Aloys Kokaly, Viktor somewhat embitteredly declared:

An American aircraft consortium offered me 3.5 million dollars; a similar offer was made by Canadian interests.²¹

You didn't want it in Europe, so now you'll have to get it back from America expensively!²²

This all came to pass, but, as we shall see, nothing ever came back to Europe, nor to the rest of the world for that matter, which has been the greatest loss and misfortune for humanity at large.

WHAT HAPPENED IN AMERICA

Before embarking on this last and lamentable chapter in Viktor Schauburger's life, I would like to state at the outset that significant and verifiable detail about it is extremely difficult to ascertain, mainly because all those involved, with the exception of Karl Gerchsheimer with whom I spent two days, have passed away in the interim.

In whatever information is available concerning this tragedy, there is a profusion of conflicting statements, interpretations and timetables which, thirty-seven years after the event, makes the unravelling of what precisely took place in this (for all concerned) abortive endeavour rather problematic. That nothing eventually came of this unfortunate affair is, in my view, due largely to cumulative misunderstandings, misapprehensions and inadequate clarification on both sides, which finally culminated in a complete breakdown not only in communication but in mutual trust. The three principal factors that brought this about were, firstly, the difficulty Viktor Schauburger had in describing accurately, in language that others could understand, exactly what forces, motion and energies were involved in the processes of implosion. His demonstration of their most elementary form—the centripetal inwinding vortex that forms over a waste pipe—was deemed far too simple and too familiar a phenomenon to be of any consequence. This provoked a rising scepticism and dwindling belief in the validity of Viktor's theories. The second factor relates to Viktor's and Walter's nervousness about possible theft and exploitation of the implosion idea, the result of the many misfortunes experienced by Viktor, as told to "Mr R." in the above letter. The third factor was the absence of a working prototype.

While earlier accounts of this 1958 venture infer the involvement of the United States Government, the initiative actually came from Karl Gerchsheimer. Born in 1903 to a well-connected family in Würzburg, Bavaria, in his youth Gerchsheimer spent a great deal of time in the surrounding forests and had developed an

understanding of Nature, of the importance and function of trees and water, very similar to that of Viktor Schauburger. In this particular area both Gerchsheimer and Viktor seem to have had a great deal in common. Leaving Germany in 1922, Gerchsheimer's life followed an eventful path. Under contract to the Mexican Government from 1926 to 1935, he reformed Mexican agriculture and introduced the pineapple and banana. He also installed the potable water supply system for the whole of Mexico City and set up the Mexican Highway Police which, under his stewardship, became renowned for its incorruptibility. Moving in 1937 to Texas where he married his present wife, it would appear that he later became involved in US counter-espionage activities during World War II, the most likely agency being the CIC (Counter-Intelligence Corps). From war's end in 1945 to 1950 he was the US Civilian Property Administrator-in-Chief in charge of all civil administration, logistics, transport and accommodation under the American Army of Occupation, and in this role was the most powerful non-military individual in the American zone. Returning to the United States in 1950, he set up his own metal fabrication business which manufactured a large number of components under contract to NASA and from which he retired at age eighty-one.

In the years immediately following his return to America in 1950, Gerchsheimer gradually developed a close friendship with Robert Donner who was the former owner of the Donner Steelworks of Philadelphia, a large and prosperous company. Very much a patriot who waged constant war against subversive activity in the United States, Donner eventually retired to Colorado Springs, Colorado, an extremely wealthy man. (Gerchsheimer placed his personal fortune in 1958 at about US\$400 million.) He was also the chief executive of the Donner Foundation, a philanthropic organisation set up by his father in Philadelphia in the mid-1940s to fund cancer research, which in the 1950s and 1960s awarded grants for educational and other charitable ventures.

Over the years Gerchsheimer had become increasingly disenchanted with technology's use of explosive forces to generate power and motion. Viewing with disdain Werner von Braun's efforts to conquer space with rockets powered by explosion—a matter he discussed with von Braun himself at NASA—Gerchsheimer gradually became convinced that some other antithetical system of propulsion would solve the problems of powered flight and open the way towards a safe and effective exploration of space. During the course of their rising friendship, Gerchsheimer had often expressed these views to Robert Donner, engaging the latter's interest in the potential of these other forces if they could be harnessed. In late 1957, Gerchsheimer's convictions became more concretised upon his reading about Viktor Schauburger and implosion in a German publication—most probably Leopold Brandstätter's booklet, *Implosion statt Explosion*, published in 1956, although Gerchsheimer does not confirm this—in which Viktor's theories were elaborated.

With this more definite information to hand, Gerchsheimer then



Viktor Schauburger, photographed with his Home Power Generator.

enthused Donner with the idea of visiting Viktor Schauberg himself, because his theories, if valid, were worthy of closer examination. Moreover, to maintain American supremacy as a world power, it was important that an invention of such promise should be developed in the United States rather than in any other country. Agreeing to this, Donner then told Gerchsheimer to make arrangements for immediate travel to Austria. In addition, however, and much to Gerchsheimer's annoyance, Donner also insisted that he be accompanied by his financial adviser, Norman Dodd, who was to be in overall charge of the expedition. A man in his early sixties, Norman Dodd moved in financial and investment circles in New York and was Donner's trusted financial consultant, a position he had held for the preceding ten years or so and which had resulted in a firm friendship between the two men. Dodd was also the author of an investigative study carried out on behalf of Congress into the financial structures, administrative procedures, taxation, etc., both legal and fraudulent, of various American foundations and like organisations. According to Gerchsheimer, this study, though completed and backed by Congress, was never published because too many people in high places would have been implicated.

Donner's decision having been made, Gerchsheimer then contacted his business acquaintance, Harald W. Totten, the proprietor of the Washington Iron Works, Inc. in Sherman, Texas (some reports claim that Gerchsheimer actually worked for Totten). He suggested that Totten's foundry, pipe-making and precision-engineering works would be the ideal venue for developing and replicating Viktor's devices. Totten's interest was immediately aroused, and he agreed to make his premises available. All this having been arranged, Gerchsheimer and Dodd informed Viktor of their impending visit. Flying to Frankfurt in mid-April 1958, they proceeded from there by chauffeur-driven car to Linz, on the Danube, where Viktor lived.

After the initial introductions were over (at which Walter Schauberg was also present), Gerchsheimer began to explain the purpose of their visit. Speaking in fluent German with a Bavarian accent, Gerchsheimer told Viktor—or the "Old Man" as he came to be called—that they had come as representatives of Robert Donner, an American financier interested in the rapid development and practical implementation of Viktor's theories on implosion, for which almost unlimited funds could eventually be made available.

Gerchsheimer relates that, at the time, both Schaubergs seemed to be in a state of high anxiety about espionage and surveillance, even to the point of expressing concern over the identity and presence of the German chauffeur and guide who had been left outside. Mindful of his nine-month surveillance by American intelligence in 1945-46—a period when Walter Schauberg had also been interrogated—Viktor was certain that they were once more being watched and expressed his deep-seated unease to Gerchsheimer. At this, Gerchsheimer laughed but at the same time offered to find out. In front of the Schaubergs he rang up

the Criminal Investigation Department of the Austrian Police. Though this produced assurances that neither Viktor nor Walter were under surveillance, Viktor was still not happy. Well-acquainted with US intelligence agencies as a former US property administrator, Gerchsheimer then contacted the FBI's offices in Germany, thus demonstrating an intimate familiarity with intelligence agencies. Gerchsheimer himself admits that, in hindsight, this well-intentioned action probably did more to confirm the Schaubergs' suspicions than to allay them.

All this took place at a time when Viktor was involved in a legal wrangle at the Salzburg District Court to recover a number of machines that he had commissioned Sebastian Thurner, a mechanical engineering professor at the Salzburg Polytechnic School, to build for him.

These devices were a further development of the Home Power Generator, which apparently had ruptured when first switched on. Due to obstructions or constrictions in the spiral core-pipes, strong pressures had been created within them instead of the anticipated suction, resulting in an explosion. Three redesigned models were supposedly built incorporating a pressure-relief valve, one of which Viktor had obtained, the other two being withheld against payment of Thurner's costs.

As discussions with the Schaubergs progressed, it became apparent to Gerchsheimer and Dodd that they were not the only parties interested in the development of Viktor's theories on implosion. A number of other organisations including certain Swiss interests were also in the process of negotiating for Viktor's devices. Wishing to put paid to any competition, Gerchsheimer regaled Viktor with assurances as to how much easier it would be to obtain large sums of research money in the United States than in Europe, where so much still had to be directed towards reconstruction. Taking Gerchsheimer's lead, Dodd then urged Viktor to come over to America to complete his life's work, pointing out that historically America had often shown that it was prepared to undertake ventures considered Utopian in Europe. Moreover, Viktor's and Walter's work had the potential to solve a problem whose solution, despite much research, had long remained unsolved—namely, the generation of virtually free energy.

Financing such research and development would present few problems in the United States, however, for once a small operational prototype had been successfully built, then a research foundation would be set up into which millions of tax-free dollars could be invested. Gerchsheimer then revealed that there was an engineering facility in Texas well able, ready and willing to develop and build Viktor's machines.

His interest awakened, Viktor asked for time to consider their proposal. After Viktor and Walter had discussed the offer between themselves, and with Viktor's still reluctant agreement because he did not really want to leave Austria, Viktor then gave his provisional assent.

Under psychological pressure from the rumoured competitors, and fearing a successful outcome to their already advanced negoti-



Inside view of the Home Power Generator.

ations with the Schaubergers, the following day Dodd offered Viktor US\$15,000 in down-payment on his various data and models—a sum that Viktor had previously requested in order to pay Thurner. In taking this step, however, Dodd apparently exceeded his authority for he had insufficient funds to back up the offer. Promising Viktor that they had every intention of developing implosion in America, and asking him to sign nothing until they returned, Gerchsheimer and Dodd hastened back to the United States to confer with Robert Donner and finalise arrangements. Just before they left, however, Viktor warned them, stating that:

*I am neither a technologist nor an engineer; all I understand is the principle. I could only agree to come provided certain conditions are met, as I don't feel very well physically and I don't think I am really up to the rigours of the journey.*²³

Viktor's concern in this respect was well-founded, for his physical condition at the time was not good. Apart from suffering from emphysema and an ailing heart (the result of his wartime experiences), the preceding winter had taken an enormous toll on him, to the point where he felt he had little time left to live. In response, it was immediately proposed that Viktor should be accompanied by an Austrian doctor in whom he had confidence and who would look after him, all expenses being paid by the Americans. At this, Viktor brightened and was eventually accompanied by his son-in-law, Dr Walter Luib.

A few days later at Donner's house in Colorado Springs, Gerchsheimer and Dodd delivered a full report on events in Austria. While agreeing to authorise payment of Dodd's offer in full, Donner also wanted to secure his investment and asked his lawyer to draw up a contract for eventual signature by Viktor. The substance of this contract required Viktor to acknowledge the receipt of the US\$15,000, to be paid in cash as an initial payment towards the acquisition by the Donner-Dodd-Gerchsheimer consortium of all relevant data, designs, drawings and models related to Viktor's implosion theories. Walter Schauburger was also to receive an advance of US\$5,000 at the same time.

Returning to Europe in mid-May, Gerchsheimer and Dodd drove to Linz in a white Mercedes two-seater sports car that Gerchsheimer had bought on arrival in Germany. Finding Viktor unwell when they arrived, they picked him up or arranged for his transfer to Bad Ischl. Here, Viktor was accommodated in a villa just outside the town, where they could keep an eye on him while his health improved and also ward off any further contact with possible competitors.

First on the agenda was the contract. This stated that Viktor's sojourn in the United States would be for three months only, and that Walter Schauburger, a physicist and mathematician, was to accompany his father and would be expected to stay for a year in order to assist in the scientific interpretation of Viktor's ideas for which there was often no recognised scientific terminology. One further condition required that Viktor grant permission for all pertinent data and devices necessary for the success of "Project

Implosion" to be transferred to the United States. Before agreeing to sign the contract, however, Viktor stipulated that Alois Renner, his trusted friend and exceptionally gifted machinist who had manufactured some of Viktor's devices, would have to be brought over to the United States to collaborate with Viktor in building the models. Renner's salary in this regard was to be paid by Donner or the Washington Iron Works. Concurring with Viktor's demands, this first agreement, whereunder Viktor and Walter were required henceforth to maintain total secrecy, was signed on 9th May 1958.

While waiting for Viktor's health to recover sufficiently for the journey and to acquaint themselves better with his ideas,

Gerchsheimer and Dodd continued their discussions with Viktor and Walter on a daily basis, talking first with Viktor in the morning and Walter in the afternoon. While it has been contended that seeing Viktor and Walter separately was intentional, it was far more probably due to the fact that Viktor's health was better in the morning and that there was insufficient space in the Mercedes to seat more than two people comfortably.

In their morning talks over and after breakfast, Viktor tried to explain everything about his theories of implosion and how they could be implemented practically. Gerchsheimer admits that he was very impressed with Viktor's wide knowledge of forestry and water, though not comprehending his detailed explanation of implosion. In the afternoon, the attention of the two Americans turned to Walter, who, while alluding to a good knowledge of physics, mainly elaborated on his activities in connection with the *Grüne Front* (Green Front), a movement started by Viktor in the early 1950s to inaugurate large-scale reafforestation. In this way, Gerchsheimer and Dodd gradually obtained a more concrete idea of what the Schaubergers had to offer. In my discussions with Gerchsheimer he

revealed that, in his opinion, Walter neither knew nor understood much about his father's theories.

Moreover, to maintain American supremacy as a world power, it was important that an invention of such promise should be developed in the United States rather than in any other country.

Endnotes:

19. Kokaly, Aloys, "Home Power Generator an Illusion?" ("Das Heimkraftwerk: eine Illusion?"), *Implosion*, no. 29, p. 22.

20. *Implosion*, no. 17.

21. Reisch, Wilhelm, Ing., "Harmony as a Question of Existence" ("Harmonie als Existenzfrage"), *Implosion*, no. 83, p. 20.

22. Kokaly, Aloys, "The Legacy of Viktor Schauburger" ("Die Erbe Viktor Schauburger"), *Implosion*, no. 49, p. 17.

23. Lackenbacher, Raimund, "The Death of Viktor Schauburger" ("Der Tod des Viktor Schauburger"), *Implosion*, no. 93, p. 3.

Continued in the next edition of NEXUS...

[Callum Coats' article is reprinted from Chapter 1 of his book, *Living Energies: An Exposition of Concepts Related to the Theories of Viktor Schauburger*, published in 1996 by Gateway Books, Bath, UK.

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