

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 3

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While Karl Gerchsheimer was relatively well-versed in the overall concept of implosion and also had a greater understanding of Nature's processes, Norman Dodd's life had been devoted to finance and investment. Dodd was therefore something of a layman during these discussions and unable to take any really effective part, having to rely on Gerchsheimer's opinion as to the substance and validity of Viktor Schauberger's ideas. In this way their roles gradually reversed, with Gerchsheimer gaining the more commanding position. In some ways, however, Dodd was more instrumental than Gerchsheimer in bringing the Schaubergers to America. His quiet, forthright and sincere nature inspired the Schaubergers with confidence, and it was essentially because of him that they eventually agreed to the Americans' overtures.

After about three weeks of talks, and feeling in better health, Viktor finally agreed to go, but reiterated categorically that:

One thing is to be thoroughly understood. This whole affair is not to take longer than three months; three months only and not a single day longer!²⁴

Early in June 1958, Viktor and Walter Schauberger were requested to fill out a comprehensive questionnaire for the purposes of obtaining visas to the United States. Shortly thereafter, on 17th June, ten days before their departure, they were taken to the American consulate in Salzburg to have the necessary visas stamped into their passports. Ten minutes after their arrival, their passports were returned to them. Shaking their hands after the formalities had been completed, the consul then congratulated them on the four-year duration of their visas. Both Viktor and Walter found this remark rather unsettling, for, contrary to the original agreement whereby Walter would be in the United States for only one year and Viktor for only three months, it now appeared that their presence was required for four years. At this early stage of the affair, however, this mooted extension of their sojourn may in no way have reflected what was actually planned at the time because visas are often issued with a currency of four years. The Schaubergers' trepidations, while well-founded from their point of view owing to their limited experience of postwar travel, would therefore have had no basis in fact.

From 8th June onwards, at Gerchsheimer's request and expense, Walter set about gathering together all the prototypes, working models, documents, designs, drawings and patents of whatever kind which he thought would be material to the research and development of implosion. These were eventually packed into cartons and crates and forwarded by sea to the Washington Iron Works, Inc. in Texas where Viktor's devices were to be fabricated.

Prior to leaving for Frankfurt to arrange the necessary air-tickets, Gerchsheimer advised the Schaubergers to leave all traditional Austrian clothing, *trachten*, *lederhosen*, etc., behind as they would be unsuited to the climate in Texas. More normal apparel would also permit their discreet and inconspicuous integration into American life.

On 25th June, Viktor, Walter and Dr Luib left Linz for Frankfurt by train. There they were met by Gerchsheimer and Dodd, who had arrived two days earlier, and were taken to an American-owned hotel for the night. At 10 pm the following day, all five boarded a Pan American Airways flight and were flown non-stop to New York—a relatively low-altitude, bumpy flight of eleven to thirteen hours according to headwind, which for Viktor in his low state of health would have been a gruelling experience. Here, Dodd had arranged for the Schaubergers and Dr Luib to be put up for two or three days at the University Club, at 1 West 54th Street, of which Dodd was a member, so as to allow Viktor to recover from the long flight. The following day, while Viktor remained in his room, Walter went sightseeing and was taken to the top of the Empire State Building. On

30th June, a small celebration was held for Viktor's 73rd birthday. While earlier reports have stated that a large banquet was held in their honour by the US Chamber of Commerce, Gerchsheimer denies this on the grounds that Donner would have shunned any such publicity.

When the time came for departure for Texas on 1st July, Dodd, who hitherto had been their constant companion, was apparently no longer to accompany them. In an unguarded remark by Gerchsheimer, Walter learned that Dodd was about to be dismissed by Donner. Dodd himself was only informed of this about three weeks after the Schaubergers had arrived in Texas. The reasons for Dodd's dismissal are not recorded, but a newspaper article of 21 August 1959 in the *Gazette Telegraph* of Colorado Springs reports on a lawsuit against Donner in which Dodd sought US\$100,000 in damages for wrongful dismissal. Unaware of his impending dismissal, however, Dodd set about arranging for the immigration of Renner and his wife to the United States, as stipulated in the contract signed in Linz. In this endeavour he apparently pulled a number of strings in high places in order to expedite matters, as no further progress could be made on the project until Renner had arrived. This took considerably longer than anticipated, owing to the emergence of certain unstated irregularities which delayed the Renners' arrival in Texas until 3rd September.

Boarding the American Airlines plane, Viktor, Walter, Dr Luib and Gerchsheimer then flew non-stop to Dallas. As they flew over the mid-western states, Viktor looked down despondently at the near-treeless landscape passing by underneath which was dotted here and there by bores and high water-towers, all of which provoked the remark:

*What's the point? From a biological point of view, what's down there is a dying land. The water's had it. The soil's had it and the earth is as dry as a hot plate! You haven't the vaguest idea what water is! Water belongs inside the Earth and not above it. What's in these water towers is no longer water, but fire water!*²⁵

Arriving in Dallas, they were greeted by Gerchsheimer's family and Harald W. Totten and taken to a restaurant to have something to eat and relax from the journey. Pending decisions as to their final accommodation, the Schaubergers and Dr Luib spent two or three days in a motel in Sherman before being comfortably installed in Harald Totten's large, air-conditioned ranch house complete with swimming pool, about three miles from town. Encouraged to rest and acclimatise themselves while waiting for Renner to arrive, here they were provided with all they needed, which included a telephone and a cook, and a car and chauffeur to take them into town when necessary.

For the first three weeks while waiting for Renner's arrival, Gerchsheimer continued to try to gain greater insight into Viktor's ideas. As has been mentioned earlier, however, the language and terminology Viktor used to describe the dynamics of implosion and the functioning of his machines were very difficult to understand in any concrete way. Moreover, Viktor continually reiterated that to understand it all properly it was imperative that an actual machine should be examined. This never happened. Walter was apparently of no use whatsoever in any of these explanations either, because at the time he was too insufficiently acquainted

with his father's theories and their implementation. As a result, Gerchsheimer found Viktor's description of the processes of implosion and his higher form of atomic energy increasingly incomprehensible. "Gobbledygook" was how Gerchsheimer described it to me. Becoming more and more exasperated and frustrated with the whole affair, he eventually came to the conclusion that the Schaubergers had nothing to offer.

Viktor also had problems but of a different nature. Together with the difficulties of communicating his ideas to Gerchsheimer, his isolation in the oppressive heat and vastness of Texas and his inactivity due to Renner's non-arrival, Viktor's psychological and physical condition declined. On Gerchsheimer's advice and with Dr Luib's agreement, Viktor was removed to a clinic near Sherman for observation. Eventually staying some four weeks, he apparently responded satisfactorily to treatment. The end effect of Viktor's physical lapse, however, was to increase his longing to return to his natural habitat in Austria. One full, moonlit night in August, while standing in the evening cool, Viktor said to Walter:

*You have no idea how wonderful it will be when I can tread European soil once more! I felt myself obliged to come to America despite my health and age. Whatever it was that I could do, I do believe I have now done.*²⁶

... that all further discussion of implosion and implosive devices in the future was restricted to US personnel. In other words, once in Europe, both father and son were constrained to total silence on the subject and the associated project.

Seriously concerned for Viktor's physical condition, Walter proposed a plan of work which he submitted to Gerchsheimer on 9th August. In this, Walter suggested that once Viktor was well enough to travel, both he and Walter should then return to Austria where Viktor would continue to act as consultant. Having safely installed his father, Walter would then return to America with his family for a year, with visitor status only, to oversee the development of the implosion devices. This proposal was evidently rejected by Gerchsheimer, who, unable to evaluate Schauburger's

data himself but being financially committed to the project, had meanwhile voiced his rising disquiet and disbelief to Donner.

Upset at hearing this, and anxious for the success of the venture, Donner then flew to New York and on to the National Atomic Research Laboratories at Brookhaven, Long Island, to seek expert scientific opinion on Viktor's theories and his new form of atomic energy. In discussions held over the next three days from 15th to 17th August and culminating in a written agreement, the services of Eric A. Boerner, a native German-speaker and the head of a team of design engineers working on the Cosmotron Project, were retained and he was to act as go-between. (Used for the investigation of atomic structures and nuclear particles, the Cosmotron was a proton [ionised hydrogen atom] accelerator or synchrotron which made use of a large toroidal electromagnet to generate high electric and magnetic fields. These were required to guide and accelerate the particles to an energy of 3,000,000,000 electron volts [3 GeV] in preparation for subsequent collision with atomic nuclei, through which the behaviour of the scattered nuclear particles could be evaluated.) While no nuclear physicist himself, Boerner was sufficiently conversant with the terminology and fundamentals of nuclear physics to be able to translate and transmit any information to the scientific evaluators that the Schaubergers might provide.

At one point during these negotiations, Boerner apparently sug-

gested that a multimillion-dollar implosion research centre be set up in Arizona, perhaps with an idea of leading it himself. Boerner evidently mentioned this proposal to the Schaubergers who seem to have misinterpreted it as fact, although it had already been rejected by both Gerchsheimer and Donner. Having finalised the agreement, Donner returned to Colorado Springs the next day. From this point, matters began to accelerate, reaching their zenith in early- to mid-September.

On 20th August, some seven weeks after their arrival in Texas, Gerchsheimer instructed the Schaubergers to write up their own separate reports about implosion, at the same time announcing that a decisive conference was to take place in three weeks' time. Viktor was told that he should write his reports in his own words, regardless of whether the concepts or terms he used might or might not be correct, because any pearls of wisdom they contained would still be extracted. Headed "P.O. Box 28, Sherman, Texas", Viktor Schauburger's reports were addressed to Mr Eric A. Boerner, National Atomic Research Laboratory, Brookhaven, Upton, New York State. As a subheading it was further indicated that their submission was *at the behest of Mr Robert Donner or his representative, Mr Karl Gerchsheimer, in accordance with the agreement drawn up on 15th, 16th and 17th August 1958 at Brookhaven*. The writing of these reports took about ten days from 20th to 31st August—Walter's mainly addressing and reinterpreting the known facts of physics, with one twelve-page report discussing various aspects of bio-magnetic axes. When finished, these were collected on a daily basis by Gerchsheimer who forwarded them post-haste to Boerner for translation and transmission to the scientific evaluators.

On all accounts it seems that much of the communication between the Schaubergers and Gerchsheimer was fairly perfunctory, with few chances of real clarification about the personalities, project and programme. Being thus kept largely in the dark, patience and tolerance between both sides began to be very strained, with Gerchsheimer's communication becoming increasingly terse and he himself more distant. It would therefore seem quite likely that the Schaubergers were not wholly informed as to who Boerner actually was, and came to believe that he was the director of the Cosmotron Project.

Thus erroneously invested with high office at the National Atomic Research Laboratories, Boerner inevitably became bracketed with the cutting edge of nuclear research and, in consequence, fallaciously accredited with government backing and top-secret clearances. As a result, the Schaubergers came to believe that Boerner was an expert on all questions concerning energy.

On occasion during discussions at which I was present, Walter Schauburger admitted that, in the process of producing their reports, it dawned on them that a bomb could possibly be produced through implosion that was magnitudes more powerful than the hydrogen bomb. Assuming Boerner to be more influential than he was, Viktor and Walter became convinced that all the information they were supplying to him was being passed directly to the US Government and the military.

Since the Schaubergers' principal preoccupation concerned the enhancement of Life, and no doubt anxious not to enable or partic-

ipate in any way in the development of such a lethal device, this may well have contributed to the communication difficulties that peaked towards the end of the project. These problems were indubitably exacerbated by Viktor's later vow of silence, which in the light of the above realisation could well have been more than accidental, and would also go a long way towards explaining Walter's behaviour at the third and most important meeting in Colorado Springs, described later.

The cartons and crates despatched from Europe having meanwhile arrived in Sherman, the conference was convened on the appointed day in early September. It was attended by Viktor and Walter Schauburger, Donner, Boerner and possibly Renner. This first of three meetings then took place at Totten's ranch outside Sherman. Although chaired by Donner, it was addressed principally by Boerner who declared that Project Implosion was now a viable proposition because Viktor's ideas and basic premises had been found to be in agreement with newly established facts of physics, namely, the functional dynamics of implosion. An energy concept in accord with Nature's processes could therefore be realised.

In Boerner's view, the solution of the problem of energy lay in the proper interpretation of Max Planck's equation, $E = hv$, formulated in 1900, and the Friedrich Hasenöhr-Albert Einstein equation, $E = mc^2$.²⁷ Walter's unveiling of the true interpretation of c^2 had clarified the way in which Nature's energies were accumulated, and therefore there was now a sound mathematical and physical basis upon which Project Implosion could proceed.

This having been established, a start could now be made. Viktor and Walter were then told that a four-year period of development would be required before fruition. Energy was problem number one for the United States, and its solution required an all-out effort, particularly from Viktor and Walter, which would necessitate their presence in America for eight years. With this statement, no doubt all Viktor's and Walter's earlier suspicions about the four-year currency of

their visas were thoroughly confirmed. To be fair, however, the possibility exists that a stay of such length had not originally been envisaged but evolved into a necessity, the result of the far more comprehensive information the Schaubergers had supplied.

Viktor was deeply shocked at this announcement, partly at the prospect of an eight-year sojourn in a foreign land isolated by language, but more importantly at the enormous deceit, if deceit it was, that had been perpetrated on them. When Viktor interjected animatedly that in the initial agreement he was only required to stay for three months, he was told that he would have two days to accustom himself to the idea because Viktor, too, would have to make some sacrifices. Donner then closed the conference and all present left for their cars except for Viktor and Walter who remained behind.

The second conference, which was scheduled not long after the first, took place in the main workshop of the Washington Iron Works in which the crates despatched from Austria had meanwhile been placed. Some employees were ordered to dismantle the most important prototype—namely, the one built by Thurner whose central core element was a single casting consisting of a number of whorl-pipes. As an eyewitness, Walter relates how this

... in the process of producing their reports, it dawned on them that a bomb could possibly be produced through implosion that was magnitudes more powerful than the hydrogen bomb.

was brutally cut open with metal-cutting power saws, leaving Viktor totally speechless. While some continued their examination unmoved by this event, Viktor and Walter were asked to accompany the others to a nearby office for further detailed discussion of the project. Both Viktor and Walter had many questions arising from the previous meeting and urgently asked for more information and clarification. Their questions were brushed aside, however, and they were told that these would be answered at the next conference.

On the way back to their quarters, Viktor confided to Walter that he was going to insist that he be returned to Austria after the agreed three months had passed, otherwise he would henceforth remain silent. When Gerchsheimer appeared the next day, Viktor at once informed him that since they had broken their agreement with him he would remain silent and would not cooperate in the project.

About three days after this second meeting, Viktor having returned to hospital, Walter accompanied Gerchsheimer on a trip to Colorado Springs for a decisive third meeting with Donner and executives of the Eastern Oil Company and Trunk Line Company. Attended by their scientific advisers, they had flown specially from New Mexico for the meeting to be held on the following day. While Gerchsheimer stayed with Donner, Walter was put up at a nearby hotel, Gerchsheimer having lent him his imported white Mercedes to drive to the meeting at the Broadmoor Hotel in the morning.

The meeting took place as scheduled, but without Walter's attendance. Instead, he had apparently driven up to the top of the famous Pike's Peak (about 14,000 feet), returning from there only in the late afternoon. When he eventually arrived at the Broadmoor Hotel, Gerchsheimer was almost speechless with fury because Walter's attendance had been crucial to the success of the conference, which, in his absence, had been a total fiasco. Demanding an explanation, Walter apparently answered that he had simply forgotten. This only added fuel to Gerchsheimer's fire because Walter is an intelligent man and his non-attendance could therefore not have been an accident. Why Walter did this will never be known. Perhaps he was motivated by his and Viktor's desire to withhold any further information on implosive nuclear energies. Whatever the reason, it effectively scuttled the whole project. Donner was equally furious, and, after ordering Gerchsheimer to send the Schaubergers home at once, instructed his lawyer, Mr Ross, to draw up a final contract for the Schaubergers' immediate signature.

Two days later, on 13th September at about 5 pm, Viktor and Walter were collected by Gerchsheimer for the fourth and final

meeting, which took place in Totten's office. While Totten looked on grimly from behind his desk, Donner sat at a small table in the middle of the room. When Viktor entered he was shown to a seat opposite Donner, the remaining company—Gerchsheimer, Donner's lawyer and Walter—standing at the back of the room. Donner then signed a document in front of Viktor and passed his golden pen over for Viktor's signature. Picking up the document, Gerchsheimer handed it to Viktor and announced that it had been decided to permit his return to Austria, the only stipulation being that he should countersign the document. At first, Viktor demurred because it was written in English, a language he could neither read nor understand. Looking to Walter for help, an argument then broke out between Walter and Gerchsheimer, Walter insisting that the document be translated into German so that Viktor would know what he was supposed to sign. Gerchsheimer became extremely irritated at this and asked Walter to keep silent. He then turned to Viktor and assured him that he could safely sign

the document unread, for with its signing all his wishes would be fulfilled.

At this point Gerchsheimer reminded Donner that they had to be at the airport in ten minutes, whereupon Walter demanded that the contents of the 'contract' should at least be translated to Viktor orally. By this time in a state of semi mental paralysis born of his desperation to return home and to get the whole matter over quickly, Viktor told Walter that he wanted to sign the agreement whatever it contained. Walter then asked Gerchsheimer for a copy of the document so that he could check, as far as he was able, the accuracy of the salient points of the oral translation.

It is not known how fluent Walter's English actually was. In London in 1951, however, he was invited by Richard St Barbe Baker to give lectures and conduct experiments at the Dorchester Hotel, to which the full diplomatic corps had been invited—an event that St Barbe Baker described as highly successful. While in England, Walter gave lectures in Cambridge, Birmingham and Oxford, and also took the opportunity to visit Sir William Lawrence Bragg (who won the Nobel Prize

for Physics in 1915 for his X-ray study of crystal structures) and Sir James Chadwick (Nobel Prize for Physics in 1935 for his 1932 discovery of the neutron). Apparently there had been few communication difficulties during their exchanges of view, although both Bragg and Chadwick may well have spoken German. All this having happened some seven years previously, however fluent Walter may have been at the time, his English had no doubt become extremely rusty in the interim.

This demand to sight the document, however, provoked even further argument. When it was finally explained to him in



Viktor Schaubberger

30 June 1885 - 25 September 1958

German, Viktor quickly signed it. It was only later that the soul-destroying realisation dawned on him that he had signed away his whole mind, his whole life and everything for which he had striven. I have studied this document myself and it does state in quite unequivocal terms that not only were all Viktor's models, sketches, prototypes, reports and other data to become the sole property of the Donner-Gerchsheimer consortium, but Viktor was to commit himself to total silence on anything connected with implosion thereafter. Moreover, any further concepts or ideas he might develop in the future were also to belong to Donner and Gerchsheimer, and under no circumstances whatever could he discuss these or anything else with anyone else.

While on the face of it this coercive action by the Americans might appear reprehensible, it could equally well be argued that, having expended considerable sums on this venture, they at least wanted to recuperate some of their losses by legally acquiring possession of Viktor's apparatuses as collateral. This would no doubt have been done with a view to exploiting them commercially in some way in the future. The manner in which this was achieved notwithstanding, to legitimise such acquisition, the signing of the above document by Viktor personally would have been a legal necessity.

The deplorable upshot of all this, however, is that all Viktor's models, prototypes, drawings and detailed data—including Prof. Pöpel's original report implying that what might be termed "negative friction" was an actuality—have remained in the possession of the Donner-Gerchsheimer consortium. That this report was actually part and parcel of this project is confirmed by Viktor's reference to it in one of his reports to Boerner dated 23rd/24th August 1958.

On the evening of 17th September, Viktor and Walter were told to prepare for an early start the following morning at 5.45 am.

Ready and waiting, nobody appeared until 8.30 am. Gerchsheimer had overslept. In great haste they left for the airport, Viktor being transferred to Totten's car in Sherman. Walter continued the journey with Gerchsheimer, who reminded him once more of the conditions stipulated in the last agreement signed with Donner—namely, that all further discussion of implosion and implosive devices in the future was restricted to US personnel. In other words, once in Europe, both father and son were constrained to total silence on the subject and the associated project.

Due to this late start, Viktor and Walter arrived at the airport only eight minutes before take-off for New York. Arriving there several hours later, they changed planes and flew to Frankfurt by way of London where they had to make an emergency landing. Always a man to stand by his word or signature whatever the ultimate outcome to himself, on the way back in the plane Viktor turned to Walter and expressed the deep sadness of his innermost being, saying with utter resignation words to the effect that:

I no longer own my own mind. I don't even own my thoughts. After all I've done, finally there is nothing left. I am a man with no future.

Leaving Frankfurt by train a few hours later, they arrived in Linz on 20th September at about midnight. On the afternoon of 25th September 1958, five days after arriving home in Linz, Viktor Schauburger, who throughout his whole life had fought so hard to heal the environment and improve the lot of humanity, died a broken man.

They call me deranged. The hope is that they are right. It is of no greater or lesser import for yet another fool to wander this Earth. But if I am right and Science is wrong, then may the Lord God have mercy on mankind!!²⁸

— Viktor Schauburger (1885-1958)

Endnotes

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

25. Op. cit., p. 5.

26. Lackenbucher, Raimund, "The Death of Viktor Schauburger" ("Der Tod des Viktor Schauburger"), *Neue Illustrierte Wochenschau*, no. 8, Sunday 22 February 1959.

27. While Einstein is generally credited with its formulation and it may well have been an almost simultaneous but independently-arrived-at discovery, chronologically it was first postulated in 1903, in the form $m = E/c^2$, by Prof. Friedrich Hasenöhr (30 Nov 1874 - 7 Oct 1915), head of Physics at the University of Innsbruck, and later Vienna, Austria. Since Hasenöhr died in the First World War, he was never able to establish his priority in the formulation of this equation.

28. *Implosion*, no. 99, p. 13.

About the Author:

Callum Coats was born in London, England, in 1939 and was schooled in Scotland and Germany, although he spent periods of his childhood in non-European countries, such as India, with his parents who had connections with the Theosophical Society. He speaks fluent French and German. In 1967 he received a Master's degree in Architecture from the Architectural Association in London, practising first in London and then in Queensland, Australia, where he now lives.

Callum first heard about Viktor Schauburger at the age of 17, but, in 1977, his mother introduced him to Viktor's son,

Walter Schauburger, a physicist and mathematician. When Callum discovered that no material on Schauburger's ideas was available in English, he decided to abandon architecture and devote himself to their study. He spent three years working full-time with Walter at his Pythagoras-Kepler System Institute in Lauffen, Austria, and studying Viktor's archives. He also helped revise the translation of *Living Water*, the introductory work on Viktor Schauburger by Olof Alexandersson (published 1981).

In the ensuing 15 years, Callum Coats devoted his time and resources to writing *Living Energies* and to translating, collating and editing Viktor Schauburger's books, articles and letters into the major archive of his work, *Eco-Technology: Viktor Schauburger's Writings on Subtle Energies in Nature*.

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