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### Annotated Bibliography

*In what ways did the evolution of the nazis mobile gas units play a role in the build up to the final solution?*

Bard, Mitchell. "The 'Final Solution': The Development of the Gas-van in the Murdering of the Jews." Gas-Vans, [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/gas-vans](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/gas-vans). Accessed 6 Nov. 2023.

A product of the Third Reich, the gas van was a van consisting of an airtight container mounted on its substructure, used to kill people by channeling engine exhaust into the cab. Looking back, there are multiple documents which talk about the creation of this van. These documents included information on which types of vans were best to transform, the producers/vendors of the vans, about technical improvements due to practical experience, about the operation and the operating locations of different vans, moreover the responsible official services and individuals in charge of the employment of gas-vans are named. These vans were only put into use due to the Einsatzgruppen wanting a more humane way of killing individuals. The vans could kill about 30 people at once.

Bard, Mitchell. "Gassing Victims." Nazi Correspondence Regarding Gassing Vans, 1993, [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/nazi-correspondence-regarding-gassing-vans](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/nazi-correspondence-regarding-gassing-vans).

There were several versions of the gas-vans, which all had their own issues. The first series could run fine in any weather while the second was unable to go in the rain. There was a third version which was camouflaged as a house-trailer. The manufacturers did this by putting one set of window shutters on each side of the small van and two on each side of the larger vans, which would give the impression of farm houses. The vans became so well-known, that they were notoriously called the 'death van.' Due to the fact these vans experienced a lot of rough terrain, a major issue was that the caulking and rivets would begin to loosen in the course of time. During the process of filling the container with gas, the men were ordered to be as far away from the vans as possible, so the soldiers didn't want to suffer damage to their health by the gas which eventually would escape. The gas vans were lethal weapons to the undesirables that were hunted for but these vans also had

a major effect on the soldiers' health. Gas vans were used to kill victims in a tragic way but the soldiers in charge found a loophole, which caused them to die in a more peaceful way.

Fichtner, Štěpán. “Mobile Gas Chambers (Gaswagen).” *Mobile Gas Chambers (Gaswagen)* |

Pinkas Synagogue, 1993,

[pinkas.jewishmuseum.cz/cesty-bez-navratu/belorusko/pojizdne-plynove-komory](http://pinkas.jewishmuseum.cz/cesty-bez-navratu/belorusko/pojizdne-plynove-komory).

Mobile gas chambers were first introduced in “euthanasia” operations in German-occupied Poland. Later on a more efficient version was created solely to be used for the mass killing of Jews in the extermination camp. The use of mobile gas vans by the German task forces was promoted by the SS leadership and Himmler as a way of relieving the psychological burden of the killing squads. There were multiple models of gas vans that were introduced. The first model was the Diamond, a small van that could hold 10 to 30 victims. The second model was the Saurer, a larger version that was designed to hold between 20 and 60 victims. A downside to the gassing mechanism is that it had a high breakdown rate, which is why the gas vans were often utilized to take prisoners to the execution site to be shot dead by firing squad. More than 97,000 victims were killed in mobile gas vans between December 1941 and June 1942.

Gerlach, Christian. “The Wannsee Conference, the Fate of German Jews, and Hitler’s Decision in Principle to Exterminate All European Jews.” *The Journal of Modern History*, vol. 70, no. 4, 1998, pp. 759–812. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.1086/235167>. Accessed 2 Nov. 2023.

Gas vans were a sort of model for gas chambers, while these camps were under construction German soldiers brought the use of poisonous gas into debate due to their prior experience with gas vans. The vans were used to exterminate various groups, including ethnic minorities from neighboring towns. Gas vans are speculated to be tied to the final solution.

Haberer, Erich. *The Russian Review*, vol. 74, no. 1, 2015, pp. 163–65. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43663873>. Accessed 11 Nov. 2023.

Though gas vans had a short reign during WW2, they still became very notorious on the streets as being something you do not want to go near. There is no doubt gas vans were used- there were at least three or four which were delivered and put into action.

Rees, Laurence. "Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State . Auschwitz 1940-1945 . The Killing Evolution." PBS, Public Broadcasting Service, 2004,  
[www.pbs.org/auschwitz/40-45/killing/](http://www.pbs.org/auschwitz/40-45/killing/).

The first use of the hell vans (another term for gas vans) in Nazi Germany occurred when undesirables were led through a basement corridor and then up a ramp to a small windowless room that turned out to be the cargo area of a large van. Once the van is filled with undesirables, the doors are slammed shut and it's driven into the nearby forest. While the victims were being transported, exhaust fumes were routed into the back compartment containing the undesirables, which would asphyxiate the trapped victims. The whole idea of switching to carbon monoxide-based weapons, such as gas trucks, came about when a Nazi officer passed out drunk in a garage with his car still running and nearly suffocated to death.