

Mural honoring former Nazi to be removed: [FINAL Edition]

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Abstract (summary)

[Hubertus Strughold] helped develop the U.S. space capsule and pressure suits worn by astronauts. He was the head of the German air force Institute for Aviation Medicine, which during the war conducted experiments on prisoners at Dachau concentration camp, the WJC said.

Although he was wanted as a war criminal after the war, Strughold was taken secretly to the United States by U.S. intelligence agents along with other Nazi scientists and intelligence assets in what was called Operation Paperclip, and went to work for Washington.

Full Text

NEW YORK - Ohio State University has agreed to remove a mural that honors a pioneer in U.S. space medicine, after being informed he was a Nazi who performed experiments on concentration camp prisoners during World War II.

The World Jewish Congress said yesterday it asked the university's school of medicine to remove a stained-glass panel honoring former Nazi colonel Hubertus Strughold because it "is an affront to every moral-minded person."

The WJC said the university told them it will cover the portrait, part of a stained-glass mural, and have it removed.

WJC president Edgar Bronfman praised the school for "acting swiftly to right a wrong not of its own making."

The WJC also said in 1977 the Aeromedical Library at the School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex., was named after Strughold, who died in 1986.

Strughold helped develop the U.S. space capsule and pressure suits worn by astronauts. He was the head of the German air force Institute for Aviation Medicine, which during the war conducted experiments on prisoners at Dachau concentration camp, the WJC said.

In the experiments, prisoners were left in tanks of iced water until they froze to death, or were put into chambers from which the air was gradually sucked out to simulate high-altitude conditions, the WJC said.

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Strughold's family objects to the renewed controversy, calling Strughold a "magnificent man."

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