

# Holocaust Survivors Sue Firm for Producing Gas For Death Camps, Processing Gold Teeth for Nazis

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## ▣ Abstract (summary)

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## ▣ Full Text

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As a 13-year-old, Michal Schonberger was sent with his family to Auschwitz.

"I had to watch as they took my father . . . and started to pull teeth out of his mouth because they were gold," said the 69-year-old Schonberger, who lives in New York City and was in federal court with other survivors when the lawsuit was filed.

Zyklon-B cyanide tablets, used to gas concentration-camp inmates, were produced by Degesch, which was owned by

Degussa and IG Farben, a chemical concern dissolved after the war.

A Degussa spokeswoman in Germany acknowledged business ties with IG Farben during the Nazi era, but she wouldn't comment further.

Degussa already had opened its archives to researchers to "clarify" its smelting of gold, silver and jewelry confiscated from Jews by the Nazis, as well as its part in making Zyklon-B.

The lawsuit was filed in Newark because its U.S. subsidiary, Degussa Corp., is based in Ridgefield Park. The subsidiary's general counsel, Dennis J. Taylor, said the corporation was formed in 1973 and has "no connection to whatever may have occurred in Europe in the '30s and '40s."

Taylor said the parent company had few options under Hitler. "It wasn't like Degussa determined what they wanted to refine. Everyone in Germany did what the government wanted."

Other German companies, including Allianz, Daimler, Volkswagen and Deutsche Bank, have enlisted independent historians to examine their files and determine how they behaved during World War II.

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