

What U.S. Drug Company Produced a Drug Named After Adolf Hitler?



• Eli Lilly: Purveyor of dangerous drugs.

• In July 1945, Lilly research chemist Ervin C. Kleiderer led a civilian research team which examined the I.G. Farben pharmaceutical plant in Hoechst am Main, Germany.

I.G. Farben is the firm which produced lethal Zyklon B gas, used to annihilate millions of people in prison camps thought "undesirable" by the Nazis.

Kleiderer brought back the formula for an addictive, deadly drug of which Lilly became the

major manufacturer. The drug's name was Dolophine in honor of Adolf Hitler.

• Though Lilly later took the Dolophine name brand off the market, the company did not stop selling the drug.

Today, Dolophine is marketed under a different name - methadone.

Just as heroin was originally touted as a cure for morphine addiction, today methadone is claimed to be a cure for heroin addiction.

• Today Eli Lilly's deadly drug is used in "maintenance programs" which "treat" heroin addicts by giving them a two-

drug addiction - heroin and methadone.

In fact 60% of New York City's 31,000 methadone patients still are active abusers of other drugs as well - about triple the number in 1985.

"The effect of another drug is enhanced while on methadone," wrote a former addict. "My friends and I commonly used other drugs..."

"When I finally kicked methadone eight years ago, I told myself that if there was anything that I could do to help someone else avoid what I went through on methadone maintenance, I would gladly do it."

"The clinic has now become my dealer," said another addict.

"I am now committing crimes to pay for an addictive drug [methadone]. It's really not much different than the street."

In New York, about 200 people die each year of methadone-related drug overdoses - usually in combination with cocaine, crack, amphetamines or heroin.

Said one addict who managed to make it through methadone withdrawal, "It is this attitude of futility and hopelessness that methadone gives you - it takes away the promise that you can live a drug-free existence."

Look for the special advertising supplement on TIME magazine appearing June 14 in USA Today.

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