

Selected Documents Pertaining to Joel Hayward

Table of Contents

[NZ Jewish Chronicle Article, Feb 1991..... 2](#)

“...Irving has bought the revisionist story hook, line, and sinker... Having read eleven of Irving’s books, if someone was to ask me now who was the most “gifted” modern historian, I would still say David Irving. If someone was to ask me, however, which historian I despised most, I would answer in the same manner: David Irving. His incredible talent is wasted on sustaining his intellectual pride and furthering his hatred of the Jewish people. May his future efforts be thwarted.” - Joel Hayward

[WWII forum post, Nov 1998 \(reprinted by David Irving\)..... 4](#)

“...Unlike many of Irving’s detractors, I have actually read his books. In fact, I have critically examined ALL [sic] his thirty-one books... I can’t find serious flaws in his methodology and I have never found a single example of deliberate falsification of evidence...Irving is a researcher, biographer and military historian of outstanding aptitude...” - Joel Hayward

[Apology by Joel Hayward printed in NZ Jewish Chronicle, Apr 2000..... 7](#)

“...Looking back through the thesis now, I can see that it contains several significant errors of fact and interpretation. In other words, I stuffed up... I asked the University to withdraw the thesis from its library. The University declined...” - Joel Hayward

Most gifted, most despised

Historian's denial of Holocaust

Joel Stuart Hayward details the transformation of brilliant historian David Irving into a Holocaust-denying twister of history

If someone asked me a few years ago who was the most "gifted" modern historian, I would say without hesitation: David Irving. I would not be alone in holding that view; David Irving is the most widely read historian writing in English. Over the last thirty years Irving has sold millions of copies of his books, and has topped international "best-seller" lists many times with such works as *Hitler's War*, *Goering*, *Rise and Fall of the Luftwaffe* and *The Destruction of Dresden*, to name just a few.

Irving's books are extremely readable, his narratives are gripping and his arguments weighty. I have no hesitation in calling Irving a "gifted" historian; his writing style is both lucid and logical, and his use of original source material, in a variety of languages, is superb. When Irving's controversial biography of Adolf Hitler — *Hitler's War* — was published in 1977, the eminent British historian, Hugh Trevor-Roper, wrote: "No praise can be too high for Irving's indefatigable scholarly industry... I have enjoyed reading his long work from beginning to end." High praise indeed from one of Britain's most respected scholars.

So how then do we explain the fact that Irving, only a few months ago

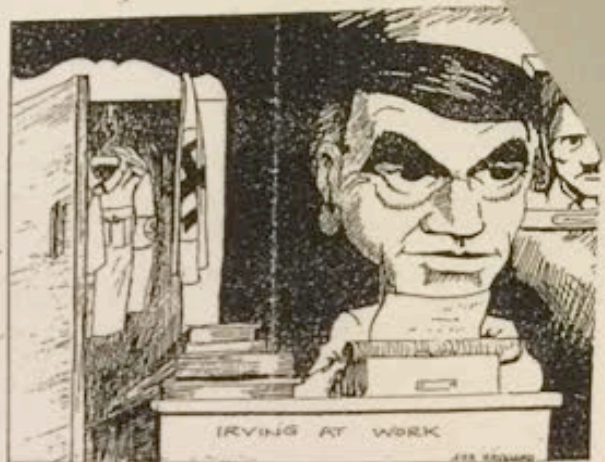
(October 1990), was a guest speaker at the 10th International Revisionist Conference, — the annual meeting of the Institute for Historical Review (IHR), the world leaders in Holocaust denial — delivering a speech on "the sinking of the Auschwitz Myth"?

The answer is simple: David Irving has joined the ranks of historians who no longer believe that there was any Nazi attempt to exterminate the Jewish people.

I am actually not surprised that Irving has become a "Holocaust revisionist" — a Holocaust denier. He has had a long association with the IHR, and over the last decade has spoken at three of their annual conferences. Whilst he had never directly spoken out against the accepted historical view of the Holocaust, Irving had made no attempt to hide the fact that he openly admired the Nazi regime.

Not many of Irving's books reflect this admiration for the Third Reich, and, in fact, several of his specialist books, such as *The German Atomic Bomb* and *The Destruction of Convoy PQ 17*, have become the standard texts on those subjects.

Despite Irving's extraordinary talent for historical research, he has not always been able to break free from



CORRECTION

Joel Stuart Hayward is the secretary of Opposition to Anti-Semitism, Inc.

In the last issue, references to this organisation may have inadvertently given the impression that it is a Christian organisation.

This is not the case. While it does have some non-Jewish members, the majority of its membership is in fact Jewish.

riax cannot grasp that he was an ordinary, walking, talking human weighing some 155 pounds, with graying hair, largely false teeth, and chronic digestive ailments."

Despite the fact that Irving believed Hitler to have been innocent of the attempted extermination of the Jews (and that view is unpalatable enough), he still believed, right through the 1980s, that many millions of Jews were systematically murdered by the Nazis. He still believed that the Holocaust happened.

(Continued on page 19)

his desire to rehabilitate the Third Reich, and, in particular, Adolf Hitler.

On a 1977 BBC programme, for example, when asked whether he thought Hitler was "evil", Irving replied, "I will go further. He was as evil as Churchill, as evil as Roosevelt, as evil as Truman."

The most controversial thesis of Irving's book, *Hitler's War*, caused howls of outrage in 1977: Irving acknowledged that the Holocaust took place, but that Hitler probably had no knowledge of it.

"Hitler may not have known about Auschwitz, to put it in simple terms. To put it the other way round, so far nobody has proved that Adolf Hitler did know about Auschwitz. Nobody has proved with war-time documents that Hitler knew that the Jews of France, of Holland, of Czechoslovakia were being liquidated, murdered systematically. He knew about their transportation; he didn't know about their murder."

This line of argument, of course, is part of Irving's attempt to "de-gonimize" Hitler, "Confessed by the phenomenon of Hitler himself, histori-

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Historian's denial of Holocaust

(From page 12)

So what has happened in the last few years to change David Irving's mind, so that now he believes no Holocaust occurred, that the Nazis never had a plan to exterminate the Jews of Europe, nor was any such extermination attempted?

What happened was this: In 1988 Mr Ernst Zündel, a German-Canadian, was on trial in Toronto for "spreading false information" by publishing a book, *Did Six Million Really Die?*, which claimed, amongst other things, that no-one was gassed at Auschwitz.

Zündel had been previously tried on the same charge in 1985 and was sentenced to fifteen months imprisonment. However, in January 1987, the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned the judgement, and ordered a re-trial, which began on January 18, 1988.

Fred A. Leuchter (pronounced "Loosher"), a specialist engineer and consultant in the United States for the design and construction of execution gas chambers, was asked by the defence to travel to Poland to discover if the rooms at Auschwitz could have been used to gas people, as claimed.

His written statement to the Court, on his return, sets out the methodology and findings of the first forensic examination of the actual Polish sites where the gasings are stated to have occurred. Leuchter's verdict, after examining the sites and analysing samples taken from the floors and

walls for their cyanide content, is that the "chambers" in Auschwitz could not have been used, then or now, as execution gas chambers.

It should be remembered that Leuchter was a witness for the defence of Zündel. His court appearances and trip to Poland were paid for by Zündel, as were all his expenses. His findings have been regarded as a result of his total lack of objectivity.

David Irving was also present at the Zündel trial of 1988, giving "expert evidence" on the Third Reich. Upon reading the *Leuchter Report*, as Leuchter's report came to be called, Irving said on April 22, 1988 that the report was a "shattering" document which would become essential for any future historian writing on the Second World War.

Irving must indeed have been impressed by Leuchter's expert "findings"; later in 1988 he wrote a praising foreword for the *Leuchter Report*, and, at the 9th International Revisionist Conference, he publicly praised the "courage" of Leuchter, adding that he wished "all Americans were like Fred Leuchter."

Swayed by the 'scientific' evidence of Leuchter's report, which has yet to be appraised by an objective scientific inquiry, Irving has bought the "revisionist" story, hook, line and sinker, and has progressed [perhaps 'retrogressed' is more appropriate] from

being an especially talented — but pro-German — historian, to a full-blown

Holocaust denier. At this point my respect for Irving's "talents" vanished. Irving's transformation was quickly 'seized upon' by anti-Semites all around the world. Even the League of Rights here in New Zealand made a large mention of Irving's "change". In the *League's On Target* (Oct. 30, 1989) can be found an editorial which includes these words:

"Irrespective of what may be said about British Historian David Irving, it is obvious that he is a man of great intellectual integrity. At a press conference held in London on June 23rd, Mr Irving announced how he had come to reject the story of the mass gassing of Jews at Auschwitz, Poland..."

Bear in mind that this is a New Zealand anti-Semitic organisation praising Irving for denying the Holocaust!

The League of Rights have, for well over a decade, been selling Holocaust denial books (now they even sell the *Leuchter Report*) in New Zealand, so I was not startled to read of their obvious joy at Irving's new "Holocaust revisionist" attitude.

On February 13, 1990, forty-five years to the day after the Anglo-American bombing of Dresden [which caused over 100,000 deaths in a single night], David Irving addressed a Dresden audience of well over a thousand people at the Kulturpalast in the city known as "Florence on the Elbe". Irving had been invited to address the meeting by Dresden's Director of Culture, and was warmly greeted by many German public figures, presented with flowers, and applauded tumultuously as he attacked Winston Churchill, the architect of the bombing raid. Irving then spoke these astonishing words:

"My dear Ladies and Gentlemen, survivors and children of survivors of Dresden, the holocaust of the Germans of Dresden was real. The holocaust of the Jews in the Auschwitz gas chambers is a fabrication."

Afterwards, Irving told the audience and press, including the East German state TV, how he had come to reject the "Holocaust myth", and then revealed what he called "stunning new finds" on the manufacture of the Auschwitz lie, from the archives of Britain's war propaganda ministry.

More recently, as mentioned above, David Irving addressed the 10th International Revisionist Conference (Washington, D. C.; October 13-15, 1990) and spoke, after talking at length

on Erwin Rommel, on the "sinking of the good ship Auschwitz".

Attacking Jewish leaders who "propagate the lie" and those Jewish scholars who have, for example, now admitted that no soap was made from human fat, Irving stated that - "They have realised that they are way out of line with the Auschwitz story, and they are frantically engaged in damage control at present. They're pulling their entire army of liars back from the main battlefield, into the second line, because all the artillery that's coming down on the front line is now making it too dangerous for them."

So what will Irving do next? The obvious answer is that he will write a Holocaust-denial book. In fact, it has been stated that this is his intention. The problem with this — and it is a definite probability — is that Irving's book will attract a very wide readership, as have all of his previous books. He is, as mentioned earlier, the most widely read historian writing in English, and his books sell in most "good" bookstores.

Imagine the damage that would be done in New Zealand by having a Holocaust-denial book selling through the major chains of bookstores!

It is hoped that this article will forearm those who can counter this, when it happens.

Regardless of Irving's reputation and large readership, any attempt he makes at spreading his vile arguments must be opposed.

Having read eleven of Irving's books, if someone was to ask me now who was the most "gifted" modern historian, I would still say David Irving. If someone was to ask me, however, which historian I despised most, I would answer in the same manner: David Irving. His incredible talent is wasted on sustaining his intellectual pride, and furthering his hatred of the Jewish people. May his future efforts be thwarted.

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Posted Friday, November 6, 1998

Internet

New Zealand's leading Holocaust historian has a word or two to say about David Irving (and about Deborah Lipstadt too)

Dr Joel S Hayward, of Massey University, New Zealand, has posted this contribution to the German Armed Forces in WWII Online Forum on the Internet on November 5, 1998

David Irving, the Third Reich and the Holocaust

by Dr Joel S Hayward 

Dear Forum readers,

I HAVE READ the discussion on Irving with great interest. As a professional historian who has written a lot about Holocaust Revisionism in general and Irving in particular (and plenty on WW2), I can speak with some confidence about the issues raised.

Although I may discuss particular details of David Irving's scholarship at a later date (knowing a fair bit about it but wanting first to plan my comments carefully to reduce my chance of joining Irving in the gun sights of his most vitriolic critics), permit me at this time to make one or two observations.

Irving's enemies claim that he is not a 'real' historian because he lacks higher qualifications in history and has never held an academic position. Consequently, they state, his work should be discounted or at least treated with greater circumspection than that of established historians.

It is certainly true he never completed his Bachelor degree at the University of London (where he read Physics), let alone completed a post-graduate degree or Doctorate. It is also true that he has never held a university position.

However, if those grounds are sufficient to call his scholarship into question, then they must also call into question the scholarship of almost all the important and influential writers of Holocaust history from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, upon which supporters of received opinion on the Holocaust still rely.

For example, the late Gerald Reitlinger, author of the very influential and still-cited 'The Final Solution: The Attempt to Exterminate the Jews of Europe', was an art dealer with no academic qualifications. Yet



Reitlinger's book had a profound impact on both scholarly and popular perceptions of what happened to Eastern European Jews.

A number of those still writing on the Holocaust also lack the 'proper' credentials.

- **Georges Wellers**, a prominent French writer on the Holocaust and a bitter opponent of Revisionism, is the former director of a medical research laboratory. He has no historical training.
- **Jean-Claude Pressac**, author of several 'seminal' books on the Auschwitz gas chambers, has a diploma in pharmacy but no historical training whatsoever.
- **Walter Laqueur**, former Kibbutznik and author of many well-received and best-selling books on the Holocaust and modern European history, may be an academic icon in Israel (the Jerusalem Post has produced glowing full-page feature articles on him, for instance), and he may head his own institute and edit his own journal, but he has never completed a university degree.

Clearly, if Irving is unworthy of the title 'historian', then these Holocaust writers (none of whom has written anywhere the number of books Irving has) are also unworthy. If Irving's works are to be discounted or treated with unusual circumspection because of his lack of formal credentials, then so are theirs. Do Irving's highly-partisan critics care that their own favourite historians of the Holocaust lack 'legitimacy'; that, like Irving and his ilk, they are not 'real' historians?

OF COURSE, titles and qualifications mean little, as I wish Irving's critics would realise. An author's degree of formal historical training and position within the academic world are unimportant if he or she has employed sound methodological principles. Countless excellent works have been written by so-called 'amateurs' whose careful and systematic piecing together of evidence has cast new light on their objects of inquiry. University-dropout Laqueur, one of my favourite historians, is a case in point. His scholarship is usually terrific and I buy most books he writes.

Unlike many of Irving's detractors, I have actually read his books. In fact, I have critically examined - keeping issues of truth, objectivity and bias at the forefront of my mind - ALL his thirty-one books, from Und Deutschlands Städte Starben Nicht (published in Zürich in 1961, when Irving was only twenty-three) to his recently-published biography of Dr. Goebbels.

"I can't find serious flaws in his methodology and I have never found a single example of deliberate falsification of evidence."

I have also conducted extensive research into Irving's character and career, this information forming a substantial part of my Master's thesis on the historiography of Holocaust Revisionism.

Further, in the course of my doctoral and subsequent research on aspects of Third Reich history, I worked in or obtained documents from several of the archives frequented by Irving, including the Bundesarchiv in Koblenz, the Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv in Freiburg im Breisgau, the Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes in Vienna, the National Archives in Washington and the United States Air Force Historical Research Agency. I have thus been able to check his sources and the way he used them.

Therefore, I can say with confidence that I am as well positioned to comment on Irving's scholarship as anyone. My judgement: I certainly don't agree with all his arguments and conclusions, and strongly disagree with some, but I can't find serious flaws in his methodology and I have never found a single example of deliberate falsification of evidence.

Yes, I have studied all the books and articles that attempt to prove that he has fiddled with sources, but they are generally weak and unpersuasive, reflecting the authors' own biases, preconceptions and, saddest of all, lack of familiarity with the documents they purport to analyse. Deborah Lipstadt's book is hopeless. Very poor indeed. Gerald Fleming's 'Hitler und die Endlösung: Es ist des Führers Wunsch' (revised ed.,

1992?) is easily the best of the anti-Irving books, but even that ultimately fails to prove falsification or improper consideration of evidence.

Regardless of his attention-seeking antics and his tendency to say dumb, insensitive and sometimes inaccurate things to the media (which don't appear in his books, thank goodness), Irving is a researcher, biographer and military historian of outstanding aptitude. Many of his works are excellent. (By the way, none of them is specifically on the Holocaust or even deals with it at length.) Some of his books -- Churchill's War, vol. 1, springs to mind -- are not as strong, but, hey, very few scholars in any discipline consistently attain excellence.

Irving once told me by letter that, for financial reasons, he would not travel to New Zealand again unless it formed part of a wider Australasian speaking tour. With the recent decision of the Federal Court in Perth, Australia, to refuse a judicial review of Irving's original ban from Australia, it seems that Irving will never again travel to our neck of the woods.

This is a pity. If Irving had come back to New Zealand, I would have invited him to 'guest lecture' on Hitler's war leadership or the Wehrmacht High Command to my third-year modern German history class. After all, he is a leading expert in that field. I would not have invited him to speak on the Holocaust or the Reich's racial policies, however, because he has no expertise in that field.

Finally, in case anyone accuses me of being one of Irving's many groupies, let me add that I consider him to be a very good historian but an unpalatable person. I don't like many of the things he says. Some of them -- on race and nationalism, for instance -- offend me deeply. I would not permit him to address my students on those topics, but only because he is no specialist in them, not because of my personal feelings.

Best regards/Hochachtungsvoll,

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■ FOR MORE about David Irving's career see too Notes for Counsel, 1970, Torpedo Running, 1985, and Biographical Notes, 1991

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E-MAIL



write to David Irving

REVISIONISM

Dr. Hayward apologises for "mistakes I made as an inexperienced student"

Dear Sir,

In January 1995 I submitted to the University of Canterbury a Masters thesis on the historiography of Holocaust revisionism. I gained my M.A. with First Class Honours in History, and subsequently completed my Ph.D. (in military history), also at Canterbury. I am now a Senior Lecturer in Defence and Strategic Studies at Massey University in Palmerston North, where I teach and write on military history, strategy and operational art.

Unfortunately, my M.A. thesis has been copied and is now being used - actually misused - by certain racist and anti-Semitic groups and individuals to add credibility to their nasty beliefs. These people have also exploited me in other ways in an effort to present me as somehow sympathetic. I am not. I abhor all

racism.

When I wrote the thesis in 1991/1992, I was inexperienced at the historian's craft and know relatively little about the Holocaust and its complex historiography. Looking back through the thesis now, I see that it contains several significant errors of fact and interpretation. In other words, I messed up. The conclusions are wrong. Given that, and the fact that the thesis deals with a controversial and highly sensitive topic, and has already caused pain to the Jewish community through its misuse by anti-Semites, I would like briefly to make one point very clear.

I believe that, without doubt, around

six million Jews perished during World War II. They were murdered by Nazis and their allies. The perpetrators used a range of methods, including gas chambers, shooting, physical extermination, and starvation, to carry out this monstrous crime.

My thesis represents a sincere attempt on my part to make sense of events I wanted to understand better. Yet I now regret being so uncritical of people's receives and working on such a complex topic without sufficient knowledge and preparation.

I have advised the University of Canterbury of my deep regret that some of my inadequate research is deserving

of the Jewish community, and especially to Holocaust survivors. I asked the University to withdraw the thesis from its library. The University declined, but responded with understanding and sensitivity, and has kindly permitted me to attach a formal addendum which clarifies my position. Consequently, anti-Semites will not be able to use my old thesis in support of their vile crusade.

May this letter serve as reassurance to the New Zealand Jewish community that I profoundly apologise for the mistakes I made as an inexperienced student, and that I have learned much since then.

Yours sincerely,

Dr J.S.A. Hayward

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Jewish Council president calls for Hayward degree to be revoked

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

documentary evidence showing that there was a plan to kill Jews."

"I also argue that at Auschwitz there were no homicidal gas chambers designed to gas chambers and that with the possible exception of Krasna I and 3, none were used as homicidal gas chambers."

"My estimate is ... probably more than one million Jews killed probably less than two million.... I personally don't think the Nazis ever gassed hundreds of six million Jews - I'm sorry, they didn't."

"One point - the majority of reputable historians on the Holocaust are Jewish... 85 per cent are Jewish and they're all professionals and they all have ties and connections with learning institutions in Israel."

QAS then decided to wait until the thesis was published before doing anything more. "The problem was that when he completed the thesis he immediately copyrighted it. This was unusual and meant no one could see it without his permission. That meant to get into the hands of the revisionists long before we ever got to use it. We only got to see it last last year," said Mr Entwhistle.

In a letter to the NZJC in 1998 to respond to an article referring to Dr Toben's wish to see the thesis, Dr Hayward said:

"I state emphatically to your readers my indebted belief, based on extensive archival research and a thorough reading of published sources, that European Jewry did experience a ghastly holocaust."

"To be more specific, I believe European Jews suffered dreadfully during the 1930s and especially during World War II, when Germans and others imprisoned, tortured and murdered great numbers."

It should be noted that the Holocaust Hayward refers to in his thesis is one without gas chambers and without any millions of so Jews were murdered.

What are the findings of the thesis dated

last year, Dr Hayward tried to have Canterbury University withdraw the thesis. They refused but agreed to an addendum being included.

In his own and a half page addendum Dr Hayward states:

"...with the benefit of hindsight and eight years of subsequent research, I can now see that it [the thesis] contains several errors of fact and interpretation."

He goes on to list three facts including:

- not giving sufficient weight to the matters driving numerous anti-Jewish actions on the Holocaust

- overrating the weight he placed on the Lushitz Report

- he is now convinced the scale of the murder was far greater than he stated

- he now considers the criterion of some oral testimonies too harsh and

- he now believes without doubt that "millions of Jews perished during World War II."

Future readers of the thesis will be headed the addendum with the thesis but Prof Bing says it is misleading and if published his letter to this newspaper labored the differences are "unavoidable."

"Dr Hayward refers to 'several errors of fact and interpretation' but in his letter he clearly states the errors were 'significant', that he 'messed up' and he was 'wrong'," said Prof Bing. "I believe the addendum should be removed and replaced with a clear and precise statement from Dr Hayward."

David Zwart, president of the New Zealand Jewish Council, said he would be asking Canterbury University to cancel the degree awarded to Dr Hayward on the basis of his thesis.

"The University's reputation for scholarship is in question as long as it stands by this thesis which has been repudiated even by its own author," he said. "I commend the actions being taken by Dr Hayward in trying to have his

thesis withdrawn, but can't understand how Canterbury University allowed it to be accepted in the first place. How can a reputable university accept a thesis based on flawed research?"

Mr Entwhistle believes New Zealand is now a prime place to validate the Holocaust denial message. "It has a very small Jewish community, people don't know too much about the Holocaust in general and the universities have small departments where you could slip something like this through."

Now that the thesis has been made public Mr Entwhistle would like to see

"some sort of response" from Canterbury University.

"Any response would be better than what they've done up to now. Up to now they've done nothing," said Mr Entwhistle. "I think they should face up to facts. They're the only university in the world which has authorized a thesis which supports the basic premises of Holocaust revisionism which are the whole thing as we know it is a lie. It might not say it in exactly those words but those are its basic conclusions. I don't think that's something you can just walk away from."

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