

INTERNATIONAL

Historian admits some gassing was carried out

Holocaust was a 'big lie' says Irving

By JAN COLLEY and CATHY GORDON

Special Correspondent

Historian Mr David Irving yesterday denied that millions of Jews were systematically killed by the Nazis in concentration camps and gas chambers.

Mr Irving, the 62-year-old author of *Hitler's War* and *Goebbels: Mastermind of the Third Reich*, told Mr Justice Gray at the High Court in London that the "gas chambers Holocaust" was a "big lie".

Mr Irving is suing Professor Deborah Lipstadt and Penguin Books for libel over the "evil" claim in her book, *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*, that he was a "Holocaust denier".

He alleges that they were part of an "organised international endeavour" to destroy his career and that the "waves of hatred" they had generated had robbed him of financial security for the future.

Prof Lipstadt, holder of the Dorot Chair in Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and the publishers deny libel and plead justification.

Giving evidence, Mr Irving of Duke Street, in London's Mayfair, said that the defendants would find it very difficult to suggest that the systematic extermination of the Jews "was a Third Reich decision, a Hitler decision".

He was asked if he accepted or denied there was any systematic gassing of Jews in concentration

camp, at Auschwitz or elsewhere.

Mr Irving said: "If we can leave out the word systematic I do not deny that there was some kind of gassing at Berkenau. It is highly likely that there was."

Cross-examined by Mr Richard Rampton QC, Mr Irving said: "I deny the gas chambers. I deny that the Germans killed millions in gas chambers."

He also denied that the killings were carried out in "purpose-built" establishments.

He said that a million people weighed 100,000 tonnes which presented a "major logistical problem".

He added: "I'm denying that any kind of multiple of millions of people were killed in the gas chambers at Berkenau."

Asked if he accepted that the Nazis killed millions by violent means and not just by disease, overwork or starvation, Mr Irving said that he did.

He added: "Whether it was in the order of millions or not, I would hesitate to specify. Perhaps one million. Less than four million."

He said that he had removed the word "Holocaust" from the second edition of his biography of Hitler because it was imprecise.

I found it misleading, offensive and untruthful because it's too vague and unscientific, and

should be avoided like the plague," he said.

Earlier the court was told that Prof Lipstadt had described Mr Irving as part of a "lunatic fringe" during a TV broadcast.

Prof Lipstadt said in the 1994 programme that the "absolute rubbish" talked about by "Holocaust deniers" was the equivalent to saying that Elvis Presley was alive and well.

"On the second day of the action before Mr Justice Gray, who is hearing the case without a jury, Mr Irving played a video extract from an Australian news programme broadcast in July 1994, called *The Big Lie*."

Prof Lipstadt was asked by the interviewer whether those who denied the Holocaust were just part of a lunatic fringe. She answered: "I think they are a lunatic fringe."

They were people who were "consumed and motivated by hatred", she said. But she told viewers she took them seriously "because of their potential impact on future generations".

Mr Irving told the court he had written about 30 books, most of which received exceptionally favourable reviews.

He had written not just about the Second World War but also the Hungarian Uprising and the German atomic research programme.

He said that he considered himself an expert on Hitler, Hermann Goering and Josef Goebbels, their archives, and on Holocaust research - although not on the Holocaust itself.

He added that he did not, contrary to rumours, have any kind of portrait of Hitler hanging from a wall in his office.

He said he paid no attention to Prof Lipstadt's book until 1996, when he was trying to market his biography of Goebbels, which took nine years to write and which he considered the "crowning point" of his career.

"In many bookstores, particularly Waterstones, the head of the history department took an aversion to the book, and after visiting a number of the stores, it became quite plain that the reason was that they were selling *Denying the Holocaust*," he said.

When, in 1996, his American publishers decided not to go ahead with the Goebbels biography, he decided he had no recourse but to take legal action against the book which he considered the cause of his problems.

Mr Irving said his case was that he was libelled in that references to him in the book meant that he was a dangerous spokesperson for Holocaust denial forces, and one who knowingly consorted with anti-Semitic, anti-Semitic and anti-Semitic forces.

The hearing was adjourned until tomorrow.



'Waves of hatred': Historian Mr David Irving.

Police quiz fan obsessed with TV's golden girl

Australian detectives have taken a statement from a man who is alleged to have been an obsessed fan of TV presenter Jill Dando and who left Britain within days of her murder, it was revealed yesterday.

The 29-year-old businessman was traced to Sydney following a request from Scotland Yard officers investigating the shooting of 37-year-old Miss Dando on the doorstep of her home in Fulham, west London, last April.

A Scotland Yard spokesman confirmed that inquiries had been made by New South Wales Police but said there were no plans for British detectives to travel to Australia.

The man, who lived half a mile from Miss Dando's home in Gowan Avenue, Fulham, is claimed to have developed an obsession with the TV golden girl, left Britain two weeks after the killing.

He is alleged to have plastered the walls of his flat with pictures of Miss Dando and sent sexually explicit e-mails detailing his fantasies about the presenter to a woman he befriended over the Internet.

Detectives in Sydney were reported to have spoken in recent days to the man, who is a British citizen, after tracing him through immigration records. He is thought to have arrived in Sydney in May.

New South Wales Police declined to comment on the details of their investigation but Scotland Yard confirmed they had been in contact with their counterparts in Sydney.

"We have been in touch with New South Wales Police and inquiries have been made."

"We have no plans at present for detectives to visit Australia," said the Scotland Yard spokesman.

Queen shares a fashion frump

By PADRAIC FLANAGAN, Special Correspondent

The Queen was yesterday declared a fashion frump by American dress designers in an annual guide to the "dull, old and devastatingly dreary" women list, a yearly roll shame for fashion victims.

Mr Blackwell's worst-women list, a yearly roll shame for fashion victims, featured the Queen in third place.

The former fashion editor who eschews a first name writes a column for a deemed her choice of a multi-coloured dress a disaster.

"Was she the Palace mas tress or just a royal at home, he asked from his Los Angeles home, after announcing his annual list of duff dresses."

Mr Blackwell was not to comment on the Queen's outfit, which was in December to the Variety Performance at the Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre.

Aussie megastar Dame Everage declared he delighted that Her Majesty following her flamboyant ion sense.

Some commentators jared the outfit to that of a "too loud".

But the harlequin look was quite enough to take p Mr Blackwell's book "too loud".

Others singled out for the include the singer Cher and American home-guru Martha Stewart.

NOTES OF THE DAY

We are moving into our new premises on the 13th of January. We are now at 3,000k issue this time.

Even Kerr, editor of the *Independent*, has been a bit of a problem. He's a bit of a problem. He's a bit of a problem.

It's not a new thing, an opera works really well. It's like picking hundreds of things, putting them all in a box, and then saying, "If they come down, it's a miracle."

Operatic Robert

I can't get up without a newspaper. I can't get up without a newspaper. I can't get up without a newspaper.

My waistline is far too low for my height and I have more chin than the Peking telephone directory, a sign of a well-lived life.

Tory candidate for the North of London, Steve N.

Women in Western society are naturally pear-shaped. Men have a far greater incidence of heart disease because they are prone to apple-shaped.

Juliette Kellow, editor of *Slimming magazine*.

There's always a wee bit when you see it written down. You're actually supposed to have it there, whenever your name's in print, apparently. So I've heard I don't really know what else you can do with Actor Robert Carlyle.

Income support, like rock bands, are something that judges don't know much about.

Alastair Darling, Scottish Secretary.

CLASSIFIED

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A NEW LICENCE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A NEW LICENCE

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LICENSING ACT 1964

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

THE INNOVATION ACT 1998

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