

## DIE GASSCHLEUSE

The recently opened Bunkermuseum in Hamburg is a well restored Air-raid Shelter-Bunker from WW2. Most WW2 air-raid shelters in Hamburg have long since filled with rain water but in this new Museum, for DM5.- entrance fee, one gets to carefully negotiate the steep stairs down into the murky past. Three long tunnels are on display, each capable of holding 50-60 people, but we were told, 'As the war progressed often more than 200 people were crammed into each tunnel' .

On reaching the bottom of the stairs , some 10 meters underground, the first sign that caught my eye was written in large letters in front of each tunnel...and it was THAT word again... 'GASSCHLEUSE'.(Gas tract).

I asked the lady guide what it meant....she told me,,,,.....'We were expecting gas attacks from the Allies and every Air-Raid Bunker had a gas tract and all the doors had peepholes in them so the people inside could look out to see if it was safe to leave the Bunker...It was forbidden for people to stand in the Gas-Tract but as the war progressed and the Bunkers filled up there was no other shelter available.

Every Bomb shelter had a Gasschleuse and peephole in the door.....why should the Germans build Shelter-Bunkers outside of Germany (eg: Poland) any differently....Paul

