

100



DEAR ESTEEMED READER,

For a century now, ABUS has stood as a family-owned brand, embodying value-oriented and forward-thinking entrepreneurship. From humble beginnings in 1924 in the small village of Volmarstein an der Ruhr, August Bremicker and his sons forged the first padlocks in the cellar of his house with a mission to protect people's lives and property. ABUS was founded 100 years ago **and is now in its fourth and fifth generation.**

ABUS is synonymous with safety, dependability, and durability. ABUS primarily focuses on delivering security and safety solutions that guarantee peace of mind for your residence, business, or leisure activities. The story of ABUS proves that with hard work, determination, and a commitment to values, anyone can build something remarkable that genuinely makes a difference.

Today, we are developing security solutions for businesses, homes, and people on the go. As a German family-owned and operated international company, we are committed to making

the world safer. Our company's pillars are products for home security, commercial security, and mobile security. We work closely with law enforcement, insurance companies, and international testing institutes to constantly improve our product line.

ABUS products embody the spirit of innovation, which is reflected in their multifaceted approach towards networking, convenience, intelligence, and security. By prioritizing these key components, ABUS products have set new standards in functionality and reliability, inspiring a sense of confidence and trust among discerning customers.

All of our actions are based on the Christian-oriented company slogan of the founding family: "God's blessing gained, all is obtained." We aim to give people a good feeling of security with this attitude yesterday, today, and in the future. Our commitment is to ensure your safety and security.

Sincerely yours,



Christian Bremicker
Managing Partner, ABUS



Ernst-August Bremicker
Managing Partner, ABUS

VOLMARSTEIN

The home of ABUS August Bremicker Söhne KG is located in Volmarstein, a small town situated on the banks of the Ruhr River. Nowadays, it is known as a district of Wetter in North Rhine-Westphalia. The small town became a center of padlock production in the mid-18th century when the first padlocks were manufactured here. Until the mid-19th century, Volmarstein's residents worked mostly from home and used hand labor. During the winter months, farmers would turn to lock-making since there were no agricultural tasks to tend to. Almost every farm had its own blacksmith shop.

Around 1850, the mechanization of individual work processes slowly began, leading to the industrial production of locks. Volmarstein's production figures steadily increased, leading to the global distribution of their high-quality products. In 1924, the year the company was founded, about 20 lock factories existed, including August Schroeder, where the Bremickers initially worked. Volmarstein accounted for 80% of the global market demand for padlocks.



1920s – Pictured here is a padlock from the company Carl Winzerling KG from Volmarstein.



1910s – The building of the local lock factory Stoltenhoff and Osthoff has been owned by ABUS since 1929.



1927 – Aug. Schroeder, Volmarstein was the previous employer of the Bremickers.



1920s – Pictured here is Volmarstein with a view of the Ruhr and Burgberg.

1930s – Pictured here are Emma and August Bremicker in the garden.





1930s – Left: the Bremicker family, together with Emma and August; right: Emma and August in Bad Wildungen

EMMA AND AUGUST

August Bremicker, born on June 12, 1861, in Lieberhausen near Gummersbach, was one of the locksmiths in Volmarstein. At 19, he relocated to Volmarstein and married Amalie Holdinghausen from Achenbach near Siegen six years later. They had ten sons and two daughters, with one son passing away shortly after birth. In 1909, Amalie Bremicker passed away. A year later, August Bremicker entered into a second marriage with Emma Bremicker, formerly Schilling.

Even before the First World War, August Bremicker and his elder sons, all working for the lock manufacturer August Schroeder, nurtured the ambition of establishing their own business. Unfortunately, the war disrupted these aspirations. Two of the six sons drafted into the First World War did not return. It was only after 1918 that the Bremicker family could gradually revive their entrepreneurial plans.

ESTABLISHED IN 1924

1924 – The “Iron Rock” padlock was the first product to leave Volmarstein



It took several additional years for the concept of a small family business to materialize. At the age of 63, August Bremicker, along with some of his sons, finally embraced the realization of their long-cherished independence.

In 1924, ABUS was established, originally named "August Bremicker und Söhne." The startup's initial capital was sourced from selling a piece of land, yielding approximately 15,000 marks. This amount proved sufficient to construct a modest building spanning 50 to 60 square meters, acquire a few machines, and procure the necessary materials.

Given August Bremicker's advanced age for that era, some of his sons took on pivotal roles in the company's establishment, notably Werner, who became ABUS's first full-time employee. His sons Gustav, August Junior, and Siegfried initially contributed to the company after regular work hours. Emma, August Bremicker's second wife, actively supported her husband and sons during the company's founding. Through her unwavering dedication, she played a crucial role in the successful development of the business.



1920s – Left: August Bremicker and his sons; right: the two daughters Marie and Adele



1914 - Purchase agreement
for the Hegestraße plot

Volmarstein den 27. Juni 1914.

27/6/14
Hülsmann
Juni Mark — Pfg. in Marken entwertet.

Wetter-Ruhr, den 27. Juni 1914.

Der Königl. Stempelverteiler illmacht!

Hülsmann
Amtsgerichtssekretär.

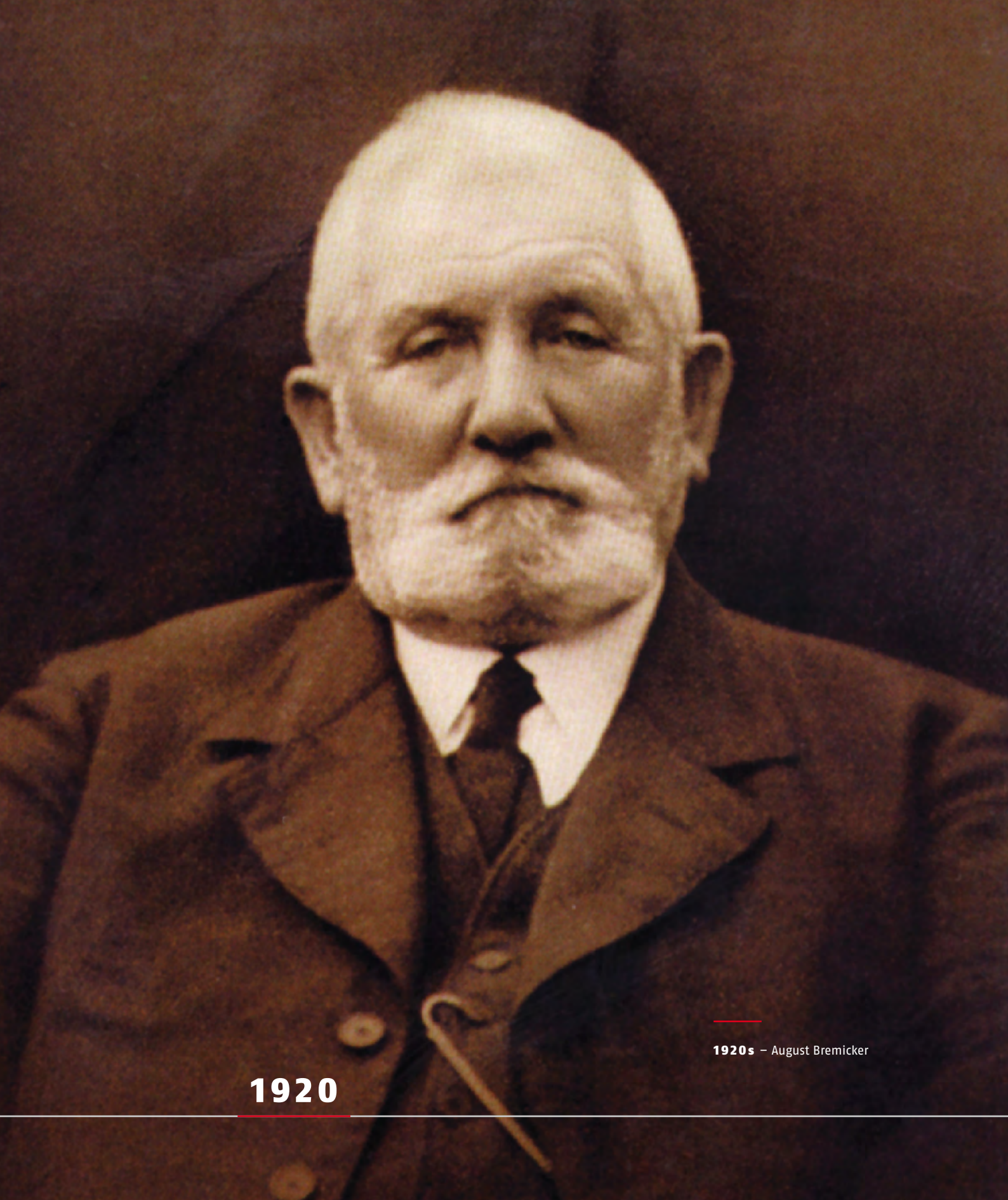
Der Unterzeichnete Schlossermeister August Bremicker
zu Volmarstein beauftragt hiermit den Bauunternehmer Herrn Lous Volp
in Steveling b/ Volmarstein, daß den Geschwistern Schmermund gehörige in
Volmarstein Hegestrasse gelegene Grundstück, die sogenannte Trichterwiese
6499 qm mtr groß, Kaufpreis 3750 Mk (in Worten Dreitausend Siebenhundert
fünfzig Mark.) *und alle Kosten* mit Ausnahme der Wertzuwachssteuer und Freigabeerklärungen,
käuflich für mich zu erwerben und einen notariell beglaubigten Kaufvertrag darüber abzuschließen.

Flur: I Parzelle: 104/6, 106/104
mit 103. —

August Bremicker



*Vorstaube eigenhändige Unterschrift des Volpfer
meister August Bremicker kon für mich hiermit beglaubigt.
Volmarstein, 27. Juni 1914.
*Hülsmann**



1920

1920s – August Bremicker

THE TWENTIES

The initial years were marked by strenuous labor, numerous night shifts, and the unwavering dedication of the entire family. August Bremicker and his sons, devout individuals who considered God's blessing their guiding force, prioritized their collective efforts over personal needs during the early years of the business. In 1926, only four employees were earning their livelihood at ABUS, but by 1928, the workforce had expanded to approximately 30 individuals. The company consistently developed and introduced new padlock models, with the inaugural proprietary lock being the "Iron Rock."

Abus

1920s – Pictured here is one of the first ABUS logos.



1924 – A lock from the first generation: No. 325



1925 – Catalogue from 1925



1924 – First factory in Volmarstein

1936 – Export manager Heinz Schmidt travelling



1930s – The first car, a converted "Wanderer"

THE THIRTIES

The company had now organized its operations into distinct departments based on the designated rooms: press room, toolmaking shop, barreling shop, grinding shop, paint shop, shackle annealing shop, locksmith's shop, packing room, shipping store, and office. By 1932, owing to consistent production growth, ABUS required an extension building. Subsequent expansions occurred in 1935, 1937, and 1938. Within 14 years of its 1924 founding on a 50 to 60-square-meter space, the company boasted a working area exceeding 6,000 square meters and employed approximately 300 individuals.

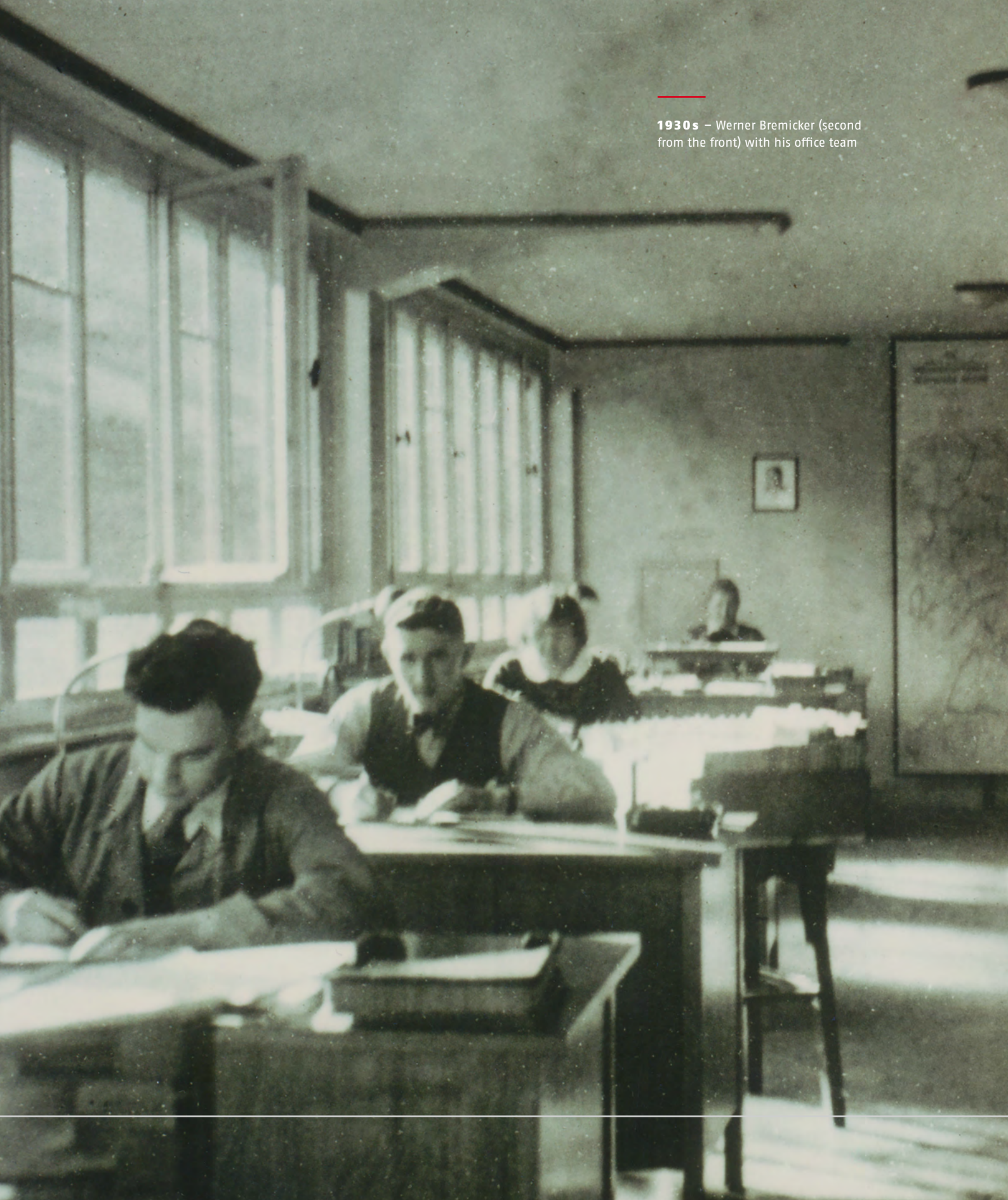
During this period, ABUS locks had already gained a reputation for quality in numerous domestic and international markets. The establishment of the first agencies in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Holland, Belgium, Spain, and Italy further amplified foreign activities. Overseas market management fell under the purview of export manager Heinz Schmidt, who played a pivotal role in the company's early international successes. In the late 1930s, ABUS participated in its inaugural trade fair, held in Leipzig. The founder of the company, August Bremicker Senior, passed away in 1938.



1931 – Top: the lock No. 300; bottom: the foundation of the Mobile Security division: the bike lock No. 1000

1930

1930s – Werner Bremicker (second from the front) with his office team



1940s – Assembly of the padlocks



1940



1949 – Anniversary celebration for the 25th anniversary of ABUS



1940s – Ewald Bremicker, August Bremicker junior and Adolf Uszkurat during the breakfast break

THE FORTIES

The onset of the Second World War in 1939 halted the company's rapid growth, leading to the gradual collapse of many export markets. ABUS persevered in padlock manufacturing until the middle of 1944. In 1947, the company embarked on a new beginning with just a few employees. By 1949, ABUS marked its 25th anniversary, albeit on a modest scale.

The currency reform in 1948 sparked a notable upturn for ABUS. In the same year, the company showcased its products at the industrial trade fair in Hanover.



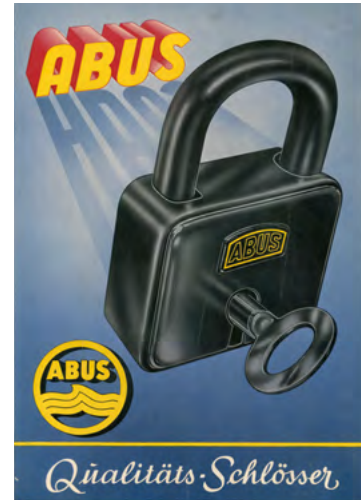
1940s – Original sales folder



1949 – The first Diskus lock

THE FIFTIES

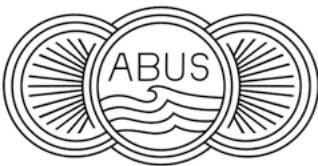
During the 1950s, ABUS witnessed the development of new foreign markets and the systematic rebuilding of the German market. This decade marked crucial steps in shaping the company's future, involving exploring additional product areas, establishing new production sites, and potential collaborations. While ABUS had primarily focused on iron padlocks and bike locks, the product range expanded to include hasps and brass padlocks. In 1957, a branch plant was established in Rehe, Westerwald. ABUS also intensified initial contacts for long-term production cooperation in Italy and Hong Kong. Throughout, the Bremicker family maintained a profound trust in God.



1953 – Anneliese Bremicker, Ruth Weißberg and Gisela Bremicker in the office (from left to right)



1950s – Advertising poster for padlock No. 236



1950s – Hardware store in Bavaria

1950



AUG. BREMICKER SÖHNE
VOLMARSTEIN
VORHANGSCHLOSSFABRIK

1950s – Exhibition stand at the Cologne Hardware Fair, Anneliese Bremicker in the foreground

1960s – Checking and packing the locks



1960

THE SIXTIES



1960s – Bicycle spoke lock No. 428



1961 – The first door cylinder C83

In the 1960s, ABUS began producing door cylinders in collaboration with the Italian company CISA. The C83 door cylinder, first introduced in 1961, has since become a timeless classic. The mid-1960s saw an expansion in the production of security systems for households, including introducing the SR95 locking bolt, security door chains, additional door locks, and security hasps.

This era was also marked by strategic and logistical decisions. The collaboration with Hong Kong was initiated in 1969, leading to manufacturing brass padlocks and bike locks at multiple locations. Simultaneously, in the same year, ABUS relocated its administration and logistics departments to a new building at its current leading site in the Am Nielande industrial estate.



1969 – The new administration building



1966 – Advertising poster "File XY Unsolved"



1969 – Export Manager Werner Fischer (left) and Friedrich-Wilhelm Bremicker travelling



1974 – 50th anniversary celebration in Olpe



1974 – IMT joint venture

THE SEVENTIES

In 1971, ABUS introduced the first high shackle lock, or U lock. Initially designed for mopeds, it later gained worldwide recognition. Celebrating its anniversary in 1974, ABUS unveiled "electronic" products for the first time at the prestigious Cologne Hardware Fair. Among them was the AS30 additional door lock with an alarm, and shortly afterward, other products featuring electronic alarm functions were introduced. The product range also expanded to include various mechanical security solutions for homes and apartments, such as security door bars, window security locks (e.g., No. 3010), door viewers, door fittings and escutcheon plates, external window blind and cellar grate locks, door security locks with alarm function, lockable window handles, four-bolt locks, cylinder box locks, and boat locks.

ABUS's entry into the IMT joint venture to produce door cylinders and padlocks marked a significant step forward. In 1979, Friedrich-Wilhelm Bremicker assumed management of the company, succeeding his father, Werner Bremicker.

1970s – Sales stand for additional door locks



1971 – The first high shackle lock for two-wheelers No. 42HB





1970

1970s – Cologne Hardware Fair

1988 – Administration building



THE EIGHTIES

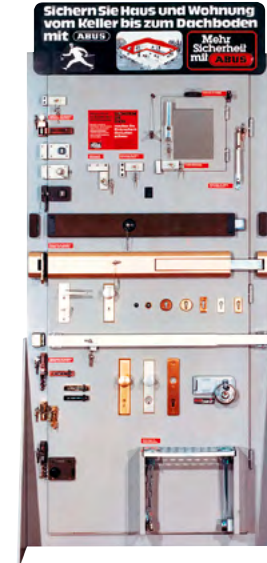
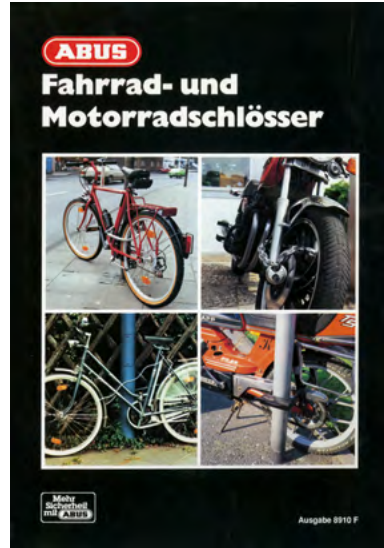
The 1980s proved to be a pivotal period for the company's development and expansion. However, the decade began with the challenging loss of Werner Bremicker, the second-generation managing director, in 1981. During this time, ABUS introduced the Security Guide, offering essential security tips in a concise format to help individuals safeguard themselves and their property.

In 1982, a global success story commenced for ABUS that continues to this day. The GRANIT – “Made in Germany” padlock series was launched, gaining widespread acclaim worldwide due to its groundbreaking standards in security and quality. Another milestone for ABUS occurred in 1984 with the introduction of the first security door. This innovative door brought security technology to life and found installations in security shops and police advice centers across Germany.



1983 – GRANIT padlock

1980s – Security Guide, catalogue and security door



1980



1999 – 75th anniversary celebration



1994 – New product line: bike helmets

THE NINETIES

A new era unfolded, influenced also by the reunification of Germany. The introduction of the Mobile Security division marked a strategic reorientation, expanding the product range to include bike bags and helmets. Innovations in home security were also evident, with the replacement of the trusted security door by the security house in 1994. This move allowed ABUS to provide retailers and authorities with a practical tool to elucidate security vulnerabilities. In 1997, collaboration with the police deepened with the offering of training courses for criminal investigation authorities in Rehe.



1994 – The security house

In 1996, the German institution VdS, in collaboration with the police and ABUS, established a test standard for mechanical security products. This new quality seal set a standardized foundation for consultations. Management of the company transitioned to Christian Bremicker and Ernst August Bremicker in 1997, succeeding Friedrich-Wilhelm Bremicker. ABUS launched its inaugural website a year later, and the company celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1999.



1990 – Hartmut Schleicher, Leipzig, one of the first customers in the new German states

1990

THE 2000S

During the 2000s, ABUS experienced significant expansion. Fire protection products, including smoke alarms, were introduced into the product range for the first time. The integration of two companies, Security Center Augsburg (2001) and Schließanlagen GmbH Pfaffenhain (2003), played a pivotal role in expanding the product offerings. This expansion included the incorporation of alarm systems, video surveillance systems, and complex key systems into the extensive portfolio. Moreover, additional branches were established worldwide over the next decade.

In 2005, ABUS set a new standard in two-wheeler protection with the production of the first Bordo folding lock. The introduction of the first shop-in-shop system in 2006 allowed for a globally standardized brand presence that continues to this day. The Leisure and Creative Center was inaugurated in 2008. In 2009, Friedrich-Wilhelm Bremicker, Managing Director of the third generation, passed away.



2005 – The first Bordo folding lock



2005 – Video system TV1620



2008 – Joint trade fair stand of the ABUS Group at the Security exhibition in Essen

2008 – Restructuring and digitalisation of logistics

2000

THE 2010S

The 2010s were characterized by continuous innovation in product solutions. ABUS launched the TITALIUM padlock series, which was 30 percent lighter than traditional brass locks. The introduction of occupational safety products – lock-out/tag-out products for maintenance safety and identification – occurred shortly after.

In 2017, ABUS successfully entered the cycling arena with the GameChanger racing bike helmet, which quickly lived up to its name. The development of SmartX Bluetooth technology, initially enabling the unlocking of bike locks via smartphone, set new standards. The product range further expanded with the integration of SECCOR high-security GmbH into the ABUS Group, introducing the access control product category. ABUS has also received the "Brand of the Century" award on several occasions.

Additionally, ABUS Security World opened at the headquarters in 2015, featuring a bistro, showroom, and in-house museum, and has since become a focal point for numerous events.



2012 – ELT
electronic door
fitting



2012 –
New TITALIUM
product series



2018 – World champion with the ABUS AirBreaker:
Alejandro Valverde



2015 – Inauguration of the new ABUS Security World



2010s – Love locks on a bridge

2010

ABUS SHOP IN SHOP



2022 – New Mobile Security
exhibition area

THE 2020S

ABUS has aimed to integrate new technologies into its proven products throughout the 2020s. The company introduced its own digital security platform, ABUS cMap, featuring the smart lock. Notable additions include the high-end Bravus MX Magnet locking system and the ABUS Touch, a classic padlock with a fingerprint function. ABUS has also directed attention to advancements in helmet production, incorporating the Italian bike helmet manufacturer Maxi Studio into the ABUS Group in 2021. The marketing of high-quality riding helmets commenced in 2022.

In response to the growing number of employees, ABUS inaugurated the ABUS Office World in 2022—a spacious office building featuring a large exhibition area for Mobile Security and an in-house archive providing an overview of the company's past 100 years.

ABUS MARKS ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN THE YEAR 2024.



2020s – Bravus MX magnet



2022 – ABUS Touch fingerprint lock



2022 – The ABUS archive

2022 – New Commercial Security exhibition area

2020



WINTECTO One

DIGITALIZATION

Terms like AI, Industry 4.0, and Big Data are increasingly shaping our daily lives, and experts agree that we are just at the beginning of a new digital era. This era has already brought fundamental changes to society and the economy and will continue to usher in further structural transformation processes. The dynamics of communication and the devices we employ are in a state of constant evolution.

However, the impact extends beyond interpersonal interaction; everyday devices are also undergoing a surge in technological enhancements. Examples include doors that can be opened with a smartphone, helmets capable of sending messages in case of a fall, or padlocks equipped with tracking and geofencing functions. These innovations contribute to making our daily lives a bit safer, a goal that ABUS consistently pursues in the digital age.



BORDO One 6500A

FROM VISION TO PRODUCT: ABUS ONE

Whether it is checking the weather, reading a book, or buying groceries, there seems to be an app for almost everything nowadays. With the company's own ABUS One app and SmartX technology developed in-house, you can confidently leave your keys at home without compromising security.

Products integrated with this encrypted Bluetooth connection can now be effortlessly accessed using a smartphone. This convenience extends beyond front and patio doors to include bike and motorbike locks, as well as smart padlocks. Users can even access images from surveillance cameras via the ABUS One app. It's a one-stop app for all home and mobile security products – digital is key.



Your
Keys
In one App

Manage your locks
Simple, safe & digital

Start

1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9
• 0 ↩



FOR
FUTURE
GENERATIONS



SUSTAINABILITY

The issue of sustainability concerns us all, as it directly impacts our future and that of generations to come. Our society is becoming increasingly aware of the impending ecological disaster, recognizing that this is not just a theoretical concept, but a potential reality. This awareness is compelling economic and political stakeholders to assume greater responsibility for both people and the environment.

A harmonious alliance between economic efficiency, judicious resource utilization, and social responsibility is imperative. The global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to which the German government is also dedicated, offer a fitting foundation for this endeavor. They serve as a framework guiding ABUS in its commitment to sustainability, providing direction and principles for responsible action.

SHAPING A RESPONSIBLE BRAND

As a family business with a century-long history, we have consistently prioritized sustainability. This commitment is our way of ensuring lasting perspectives for the preservation of valuable resources and the environment. We place a strong emphasis on a responsible approach to both people and nature, a principle deeply embedded in our brand DNA. People are at the center of everything we do.

This understanding dates back to our company founder, August Bremicker, and remains relevant today. Our goal is to implement measures now that will secure a future where upcoming generations can live with maximum safety. Sustainability, for us, rests on the three pillars of the environment, economy, and social affairs, and it is integrated into our actions as an ongoing, continuous process.



COMPANY FIRST
Careful handling of financial resources since the company's founding in 1924



**LONG-LASTING
HIGH-QUALITY
FUNCTIONAL**
The longevity, quality and functionality of our security solutions are of special importance to us



**MADE
IN
GERMANY**
Clear commitment to Germany as a business location



**PRODUCT
LIFESPAN**
Our products often last generations without having to be replaced



Regular optimisation of our
PACKAGING



**LESS PRINT,
MORE DIGITAL**
The proportion of paperless documents is steadily increasing



INDIVIDUALS CRAFTING OUR BRAND: A CENTURY OF INFLUENCE

For a century now, individuals have been the cornerstone of ABUS. They not only contribute to the development, production, and marketing of products but also play a pivotal role in shaping the brand through every action. The manner in which our employees conduct themselves, communicate, and carry out their work significantly influences our image and success. They are the architects of trust with customers and partners. The unique identity of ABUS is shaped by their creativity, dedication, and expertise. These individuals continually adapt to change, drive innovation, and preserve the company's heritage. Their ability to embody values and visions is invaluable for the sustainability and long-term success of ABUS. **Thank you!**



OUTLOOK

In the present day, ABUS positions itself as a forward-thinking and high-performance company, catering to the needs of its global clientele through an extensive and innovative product range. The consistent recognition with the "Brand of the Century" award inspires us to repeatedly uphold this commitment alongside our dedicated employees and partners. Remaining a family business for generations, ABUS is characterized by a people-centric, approachable, and local ethos. Our gratitude extends to God and all companions who, with significant personal commitment, have established the company as the "Brand For Security" over the past decades. Upholding tradition while charting a course for the future as a family business is our ongoing pledge. We will continue to embody this commitment in the times ahead!

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CONCEPT AND DESIGN:

FREUNDE VON UNS GmbH & Co. KG
Hildebrandtstraße 9, 40215 Düsseldorf,
Germany

PRINTING:

BasseDruck GmbH
Leimstraße 54–58, 58135 Hagen, Germany

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100 YEARS 1924–2024

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