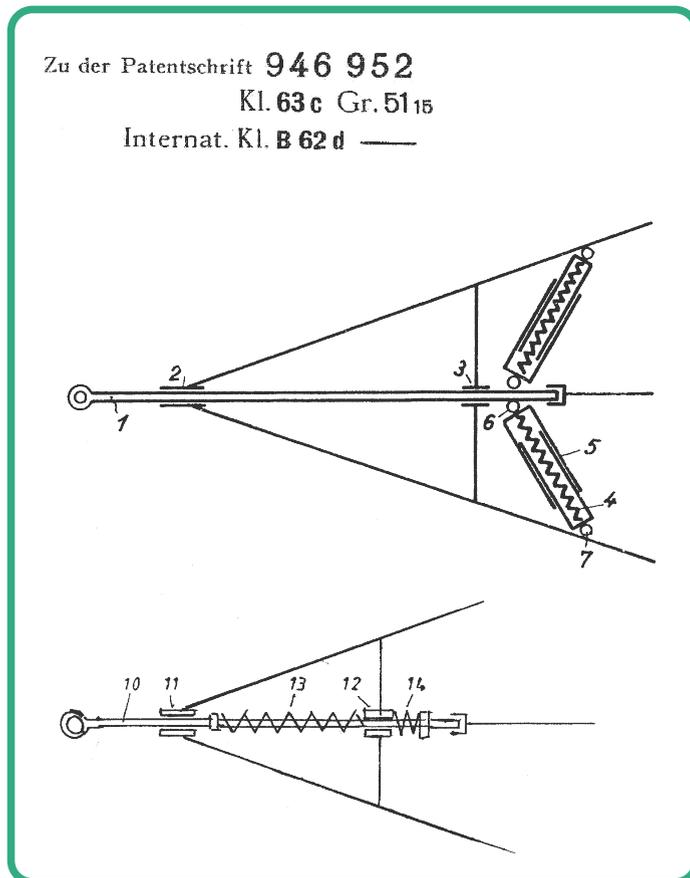


Graduate engineer Wilhelm Hermeier: The inventor of the overrun brake for trailers, especially for vehicle trailers



Extract from the patent document

Wilhelm Hermeier developed the overrun brake for trailers as part of a research contract at the Institute of Automotive Engineering in Hanover.

The background to the research assignment was the problem that truck and trailer brakes were failing due to overheating on long downhill stretches. The authorities required a reliable third braking system in addition to the parking and service brake. Many agricultural trailers, including Jenz trailers, had overrun brakes, but they only worked to a limited extent if they were not adjusted accurately.

Hermeier successfully tackled the problem. The patent specification of 1956 states:

„Dipl. Ing. Wilhelm Hermeier, Währentrup, Oelinghausen is named as the inventor of the overrun brake for trailers, especially motor vehicle trailers“.

Along the way the engineer developed a drawbar for dual-axle trailers, but it was not patentable. Both the drawbar and the overrun brake are still built today in a similar manner to those invented by Wilhelm Hermeier, except that hydraulic cylinders have replaced the springs.

