These Twelve Must Answer

For Part in Originating War
KRUPP
FROM AGGRESSION TO DEFENSE

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KEY EXECUTIVES of the once mighty munitions firm of Friedrich Krupp stand before the bar of justice this month to face charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, in the third Nuremberg case against German industrialists who helped Hitler along the road to war.

The indictment in the Krupp case accuses the 12 defendants of synchronizing Krupp activities with the German government in its plans and preparations for invasions and wars. The indictment describes Krupp's assistance as indispensable to Hitler's plans of aggression.

For 133 years, the machinery of death has been the business of the Essen firm of Krupp. Much of the artillery which has thundered on the battlefields of Europe for the past century has borne that name on the breech lock. The Krupp line began modestly with the hand manufacture of small firearms, and progressed to such instruments of destruction as large caliber artillery, submarines, warships, and high explosives.

In 1943, Hitler passed the "Lex Krupp," a special decree establishing the vast munitions combine as "a family enterprise" by way of reward to the Krupp firm for its "incom-
parable efforts to boost German's military potential."

But Krupp was not always so patriotic. Only after World War I did the firm restrict its sales to the German government. Four generations of Krupp before 1933 liked nothing better than to sell armaments to both sides in the struggles of Europe.

The duplicity of the house of Krupp is illustrated by an incident from the first World War. Krupp had before that war an agreement with the British firm of Vickers-Armstrong, Ltd., regarding certain royalties on a Krupp-patented fuse. Throughout the war, Vickers set aside a debit of 26 cents (one shilling and three pence) for each fuse, as a royalty to Krupp. After the war the German firm brazenly demanded settlement of the account through government channels. There is no way of determining the exact number of German soldiers who fell victim to the explosive mechanism, but Krupp computed its amount due as RM 120,000,000 roughly 60 marks for each of the two million dead German soldiers.

This huge sum was over and above the RM 800,000,000 of war profits which Krupp reaped from the carnage of 1914-18.

In the slim years following the first World War, Krupp profits were meager. Gone were the lush armaments contracts which under the emperor had proved so profitable. The then-functioning Allied Control Commission forbade the manufacture of any munitions in Germany.

Krupp embarked upon seemingly peaceful pursuits. A flood of peace-time goods—cash registers, paddocks, tractors, automobiles—rolled from the giant Essen plant that once had turned out cannon, but even in the midst of defeat the Krupp concern began to prepare for eventual war. Then began the "battle to strengthen Germany to rise."

During the trial the prosecution will seek to prove that hidden laboratories were constructed where Krupp engineers secretly experimented in the technique of armament production, and that Krupp concealed its activities by establishing "dummy" corporations in Holland and other countries in which it camouflaged its war research through the manufacture of various civilian products.

It will be alleged that experimental projects were farmed out in Turkey, Italy, and Soviet Russia and a secretly constructed submarine was tested in Spain, and that during the years 1918-20 naval armament was secretly carried out.

In 1921, through an arrangement with Reich Chancellor Joseph Wirth, who doubled as finance minister, RM 10 million were secretly made available for the "maintenance of armament technique." Subsequent artillery designs were based on the research during this period. The prosecution will introduce documents which, they say, will reveal Krupp's clandestine operations during these years.

Gustav Krupp, who was the firm's directing head until 1943, told how he hoodwinked the previous Allied Control Commission in an article in the Krupp magazine published in March 1942, and stated: "I knew German history well, and out of my experiences in the rest of the world I believed I knew the German mind; therefore I never doubted that, although for the time being all indications were against it, one day a change would come. How, I never knew, or asked, but I believed in it."

"But with this knowledge—and today I may speak about these things, as responsible head of the Krupp works—consequences of the greatest importance had to be risked. If Germany should ever be reborn, if it should shake off the chains of Versailles one day, the Krupp concern had to be prepared again. Without arousing any commotion the necessary measures and preparation were undertaken. Thus, to the surprise of many people, Krupp began to manufacture goods which really appeared unlike the former work of an armament plant.

"Even the Allied snooping commission was duped."

"After the accession to power of Adolf Hitler I had the satisfaction of being able to report to the Fuhrer that Krupp stood ready after a short warming-up period to begin the rearmament of the German people without any gaps of experience."

However, Gustav Krupp, who made the report, is not in the dock at Nuremberg. Old, senile, and sick, he cannot stand trial. Proceedings against him were suspended. Nor is Gustav's wife Bertha, former owner of the Krupp works, to be tried. The only member of the Krupp dynasty who will actually answer for the acts of the firm is Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, sole owner, and directing head of the company since 1943.

Other defendants include Ewald Oskar Loeser, Eduard Houdremont, Erich Mueller, Friedrich Janssen, Karl Pfirsch, Max Ihn, Karl Eberhardt, Heinrich Korsch, Friedrich von Buelow, Werner Lehmann, and Hans Kupke. All were directors of the huge Krupp combine, and held influential

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positions in the political, financial, and economic life of Germany. All of the defendants except von Buelow and Loeser were members of the Nazi party.

They were indicted last August on four counts. The charges include, specifically, planning and waging wars of aggression, plundering property in Nazi-occupied countries, exploitation of slave labor, and abuse of prisoners of war and foreign nationals. The "crimes against peace," which constitute count one, include the invasions of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Yugoslavia, Greece, and the USSR, and the declaration of war against the United States on 11 December 1941.

"In these invasions and wars," the indictment charges, "many millions of people were murdered, tortured, starved, enslaved, and robbed. Countless numbers became diseased; millions of homes were left in ruins; tremendous industrial capacity capable of feeding millions of people was laid in waste, and a large part of the world was left in economic and political chaos, and the lives and happiness of two billion people were adversely affected."

ALSO CITED in the count of "crimes against the peace" are the systematic violations by Krupp of the restrictions imposed by the Versailles treaty—openly boasted about by Gustav Krupp—and the Krupp firm's contribution to the Nazi party of Adolf Hitler. The prosecution charges that Krupp used its name, prestige, and financial resources to bring the NSDAP into power because the Nazi party's program coincided with its own aspirations.

The Krupp family and firm were not admirers of Adolf Hitler from the beginning. Until 1938 the man who became the Fuehrer of Germany was regarded as something of a gutter-snipe, and far too radical, but Krupp was willing at all times to support any movement which might restore Germany to her old prominence.

A speech by Hitler on 20 February 1933 in which he set forth his political aims so impressed Gustav Krupp that he initiated a collection of RM 3,000,000 from industrialists, with a pledge of an additional RM 1,000,000 from the Ruhr. From 1933 to 1939 Krupp contributed RM 12,000,000 (then valued at $4,000,000), in support of Hitler, concurred in Hitler's four-year plan.
to prepare Germany for war, Gustav Krupp, volunteered to organize German industry on the Fuehrer principal and accepted the title President of the Federation of German Industries and Leader of Economy. Much of this responsibility evolved upon Alfried Krupp when he succeeded his father in the Krupp management.

From the forges at Essen and other Krupp plants came the principal supply of offensive weapons. Krupp shipyards were turning out U-boats at the rate of one a month as early as 1939 and work on battleships, cruisers, and an aircraft carrier was under way. It was Krupp who armed the Bismarck, Tirpitz, Admiral Graf Spee, and the Deutschland. The firm turned its talents also to other prime requisities of war and began the manufacture of synthetic gasoline.

Krupp rapidly expanded all of its plants, built many new ones, and by 1939 had increased the number of its employees from 35,000 to 112,000, all for a publicly-proclaimed policy of aggression. These preparations could hardly be termed defensive, as Germany had not been attacked, as was the United States on December 7, 1941, when American industrialists were called upon to produce war implements for the national defense. Krupp led the way to war presumably because war meant huge profits such as no peacetime production could ever achieve.

How did the Krupp firm and its directors profit from the aggressions of Hitler? The prosecution expects to show that from a deficit in 1932, Krupp profits rose to RM 57 million. The book value of the firm rose in the same period from RM 170,592,000 to RM 513,824,000. Prosecution documents show that spoilage of industries in other countries accounts for much of this increase in Krupp assets.

The Indictment against Krupp states: “In consequence of deliberate design and policy the territories occupied by Germany in the course of its aggressive wars were exploited in a ruthless way far beyond the needs of the army of occupation, and in disregard for the needs of the local economy.” Krupp’s actions in conquered countries fitted into the Nazi aim of strengthening Germany at the expense of defeated nations, to insure German economic domination in Europe.

Testimony is to be introduced to demonstrate that, through deals negotiated under duress, Krupp gobbled up Wolfram mines and factories in France and machinery and raw materials from Belgium, Austria, Yugoslavia, and Greece. Soviet resources were ruthlessly exploited when the Wehrmacht invaded Russia.

A question often asked in connection with the trial of the German industrialists at Nuremberg is: “What did they, the Krupp defendants, particularly do which American industrialists did not do, in supporting our own war effort?” The indictment itself answers that question:

“Prisoners of war were assigned to work directly related to war operations, including work in armament factories,” this in clear violation of the Geneva convention.

“The defendants sought out, requested, and recruited foreign workers, prisoners of war, and concentration camp inmates from the Third Reich and satellite government ministries . . . Krupp employed over 55,000 foreign workers, over 18,000 prisoners of war, and over 5,000 concentration camp inmates.”

Prisoners of war and concentration camp inmates were exploited under inhumane conditions and subjected to atrocities, ill treatment, and offenses against their persons.

“Repressive measures were used to force workers to enter into and remain in involuntary servitude.”

“Penalties, torture, and abuse, including cruel beatings, were often inflicted by persons under the supervision and control of the defendants. The defendant von Buelow encouraged brutality by publicly commending a guard for killing a Russian prisoner of war for attempting to pick up bread while clearing rubble of the Krupp bakery in Essen . . . .”

It is for these things that Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach and his 11 associates stand before the international bar of justice at Nuremberg.

In the effort to convict them, a staff headed by Joseph W. Kaufman, US deputy chief of counsel for the Krupp case, has searched 10,000 documents for evidence. Approximately 1,000 of the documents are to be offered in evidence to prove that the Krupp defendants supported the German war effort, not as patriotic business men, but as conspirators in a ruthless scheme of conquest long-antedating Hitler.

The house of Krupp, gunmakers to Bismarck, Kaiser Wilhelm, and Hitler, has been called to account.

Border Check Ordered

Effective 1 December, German border police of the US Zone will require proper identification of all persons, including members of the US and Allied occupational forces, crossing the borders of the Zone by foot, rail, or vehicle, the Public Safety Branch, IA&C Division, OMCUS, announced.

Indigenous personnel driving US or Allied vehicles must produce proof that the trip is authorized by military authorities before German border police will allow them to pass in or out of the US Zone.

To forestall the unauthorized use of military vehicles and the possible theft of US Government property, passengers of US and Allied vehicles who do not properly identify themselves at designated border stops as members of the occupational forces or show proper authority for crossing the border will be detained by German police and turned over to the nearest Constabulary unit.

Persons properly identified as US or Allied occupation personnel will be permitted to cross the border. If the crossing takes place at an unauthorized point, the incident will be reported to proper military authorities.

It is believed that this action will minimize illegal border crossings, black market activities and stolen vehicle incidents occurring in the US Zone.

Drought Spurs Slaughter

The recent drought in Germany resulted in shortages of forage for livestock and made it necessary to slaughter many animals in the US Zone.