

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT No. NIK-6717
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

Krupp's Hospitals

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Medical Clinic

Chief physician: Dr. Wiele

Initial: G (Goerens) 18.12.

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" A.v. Bohlen

for information. Beusch 17 December 1942

Health Conditions in Autumn 1942

The sick rate among the staff was particularly favourable in the first year of the war and better than in pre-war times. It was 3.8 % in 1939 and dropped to 2.9 % in 1940. Since then a slow increase of the sick rate could be observed. It continued to increase through this summer in spite of favourable climatic conditions, and for a time reached 6% in the cast steel works and 9% in the mines. This means an additional deficit of approximately 2000 employees per day. For some weeks a decrease in the sick rate figures has been noticeable. There is no sign that infectious diseases are responsible for the height of the sick rate, apart from a distinct increase in tuberculosis. Besides the fact that personnel not in the forces are older; lower resistance, and additional work, play their part in the increase of diseases. Also medical attendance and periodical examination by the factory doctors has become more inadequate. Added to this their resistance was weakened this summer by the considerable shortage of potatoes and vegetables in this district in conjunction with the temporary cut-in the meat and bread rations apart from the fat shortage. These factors resulted in a considerable decrease in weight, which was particularly apparent this year.

The weight checks made revealed the following:
50 senior officials (plant managers, commercial managers etc.) showed an average decrease in weight during war time of

22 pounds

The decrease in weight of 57 employees in responsible positions amounted on an average to

31 pounds

In a mine the average weight of 263 miners went down since June 1940 from 70.1 kg to 63.9 kg, although these are workers doing the heaviest work and receiving the highest extra rations. So the average decrease in weight amounted during the last year to

12 pounds

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If the weight is related to height and age, the following figures result :

1.) Miners:

Average height	171.6 cm
average weight	63.9 kg
average age	39 years

2.) 209 Foundry workers.

Average height	170 cm
average weight	64.4kg
average age	44.5 years

54 % of them were getting extra rations for workers doing the heaviest work, about 3% heavy workers' rations and 12% overtime rations.

3.) 178 female workers.

Average height	158 cm
average weight	58 kg
average age	30 years

4.) 125 workers in a workshop with particularly light work

Average height	156.7 cm
average weight	60 kg
average age	23.5 years

This comparison shows that the employees who do heavy physical labor, both in mining and a foundry are equally underweight. Special consideration is to be paid to the great loss in weight suffered by key executives and clerical workers. The majority of them are overburdened with work and they do not get any additional rations.

The decrease in weight in the case of women and girls is smaller than in the case of men, although some of the women are equally strained on account of their additional house work. This observation was already made during World War I. The supposition that hormonal adjustments play a part in this is the most likely one. Furthermore the fact must be considered that women are shorter, on an average, than men. Also the female workers from the East who were assigned here were really in better physical condition than the male workers from the East.

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According to these weight checks male employees suffered a considerable loss in weight in the course of the third year of the war. In rather numerous cases observations in hospitals and examinations by the factory doctors during this summer

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disclosed physical disturbances which had to be attributed to insufficient nourishment. It is essentially a question of head-aches, dizziness, fatigue, remarkably slow pulse and low - sometimes temporarily too high - blood pressure, need to urinate during the night, perspiration during night-time, while the state of the organs is otherwise normal. In comparing these observations with the post-world-war literature on harm conditioned by malnutrition one can recognize that these are similar symptoms in their first stages. More serious pathological symptoms, especially so-called dropsical swellings (starvation oedemae) had not yet been observed in the case of German employees. They were only found in groups of workers from the East who arrived in a particularly bad state. In their case we did not succeed as yet, in the course of the last months, to cure these oedemic diseases with the available food-rations.

Another material cause of the weakening of resistance is to be found in the frequent disturbances during night-time caused by air-raid alarms and bomb attacks. Added to the prolonged working time there was the intensified air raid defense duty, whereas the loss in energy, resulting from curtailed sleep, could not always be compensated by food. Also the increase in the so-called vegetative neuroses, i.e. diseases which lead to nervous disturbances of organs, are explained by the still increasing strains of a general kind, but particularly by the additional disturbance of the night's sleep. We are referring here, among other things, to a considerable increase in digestive disorders with long periods of sick-leave. Also heart and circulation troubles of nervous and organic origin have greatly increased in number during last-summer. A state of nervous exhaustion was noticed in comparatively few instances yet permitting comparison with the time of nightly disturbances. In view of this the population of this district has to be characterized as calm, deliberate and rather tenacious. As regards organic diseases there were a great many cases of diarrhoea this summer. These were not infectious diseases of the intestines (such as dysentery, paratyphoid etc). A large part of the population was affected by these disorders, which were not severe to start with and later on accounted for up to 17% of the sick rate. It is not yet

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clear, whether this was to be attributed to the quality of the bread. In the meantime cases of diseases of the intestines have decreased in number.

Recently an increase of skin eruptions has been noticed, in particular of furunculosis. This increase is likely to be explained less by malnutrition than by the deterioration of the available means for cleaning the skin.

To sum up, there was a combination of several unfavourable factors during last summer: besides increased work, intensified air raid defense duty, frequent disturbances of the night's rest, bad food conditions.

So one has to come to the conclusion on the medical side that at the beginning of the 4th year of the war a great part of the working population has no longer any reserves of physical energy worth mentioning to fall back on. It must be emphasized that in the coming winter the population will probably not be able to overcome food difficulties, like those we had last year, as well as they used to. For this reason it is necessary that the food supply in this district will be subject to no fluctuation. There is also a danger that infectious diseases, if any occur will spread among the population to a larger extent than in normal times.

In the event of this summer's unfavorable conditions continuing a greater increase of the sick-rate and a decrease in individual efficiency had to be reckoned with although the population, because of the good qualities of their character is disinclined apart from a few exceptions to take sick-leave without good cause. Fortunately it seems that for the time being a further decrease of average weight has been prevented by the new extra food rations and the better supply of potatoes and vegetables. To give an example, the miners of the pit Amalie have gained one kg of weight on an average in the course of the last few months. Moreover there were only slight disturbances due to air raid alarms in the Essen city area during the last three months. Since that time a falling off in nervous functional disturbances can be noticed, which at present is reflected in change for the better in the sick rate.

(Signature:) TIELE

7 enclosures.

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT No. NIK-6717
C. NTINUED

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

24 June 1947

I, Mary Flack PERRY, Civ. No. 20 136, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages and that the above is a true and correct translation of document No. NIK-6717.

MARY FLACK PERRY
Civ. No. 20 136