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MACHINES TAKEN FROM OTHER FRENCH PLANTS

The Krupp firm not only took over certain French industrial enterprises. It also considered occupied France as a hunting ground for additional equipment which was either shipped to the French enterprises operated by the Krupp firm or directly sent to Krupp establishments in Germany. The Krupp firm obtained this machinery from the local French economy, partly through their own efforts, and partly through those of various government offices. Some French machines were obtained from booty depots. Some were directly requisitioned from French firms, with payment offered to the owners after the confiscation. Some were purchased by Krupp through its representatives in Paris, and some could only be obtained after negotiations conducted by Krupp officials had been adequately backed up through the intervention of German authorities.

ROGES

In December 1940 the Raw Materials Trading Co. which had been referred to as Roges was founded at the request of the German Army High Command, the Economic and Armaments Office and the Reich Ministry of Economics "whose desire it was to utilize the raw materials in the occupied countries of western Europe and to accelerate their use in German war economy."

Goods were obtained by Roges in co-operation with the German military and economic agencies which could be placed in two categories, namely: (1) captured goods referred to as "Booty Goods" and (2) purchased goods (those secured through the black market by German official agencies).

Under a special Goering decree, the Office of Plenipotentiary for Special tasks was created which supervised and directed the procuring of goods in occupied countries through the black market. These goods and Booty goods obtained in occupied countries by the German Army Command were turned over to Roges.

These goods as a rule were gathered together in depots from which they were distributed to German firms under directions from the Central Planning Commission. Both the Booty and the black-market goods consisted of wares of all kinds, such as household goods, raw materials, textiles, machines, tools, shoes, scrap metal and other materials and were obtained in all the countries occupied by Germany. There were many machines and machine tools included in the Booty goods.

The Booty goods were not paid for and cost Roges only the cost of transportation from the occupied territories to Germany. These as a rule were confiscated by the German military agencies and turned over to the branch offices of Roges for shipment to Germany. The black-market goods were procured by buyers, acting under orders of the German Economic Ministry and the Armaments Ministry. All purchases had to be approved by the competent military commander in the occupied area. Prices were fixed by the buyers and the owners were paid by Roges in currency of the particular occupied country, which foreign currency was furnished by the Reich, which came out of occupation costs.

These goods were then distributed from the Roges depots to the various firms as requested by the Reich agencies and the Economic groups. A great portion of these booty and black-market goods was distributed at the request of the Reich Association Iron (RVE), of which defendant Alfried Krupp was vice-chairman, to its member firms. In many instances the goods were shipped by Roges direct from the occupied country to the firms in Germany when those firms had placed their order for certain goods in advance. In other cases the booty goods were sent by Roges to a special booty center where they were then allocated by the Reich agencies and sent to the respective business firms. As a rule the prices paid for these items were the prevailing domestic prices and lower than Roges paid for the black-market goods.

As Roges paid nothing for the booty goods, the surplus resulting was credited to the supreme command of the Armed Forces.

During the war, campaigns for the collection of scrap metal were conducted and Major Schuh carried on these drives in the occupied territories. These accumulations of scrap metal from the occupied countries were placed by Roges at the disposal of German industry. The Krupp firm regularly obtained large quantities of this scrap metal from Roges.

During the period of the war, the Krupp firm received wares and goods of all kinds from Roges, of a total valuation of 14,243,000 R.M. This amount comprised 3,458,000 R.M. for "Booty" goods and 10,785,000 R.M. for goods purchased on the black market. We are satisfied from the credible evidence presented that the Krupp firm knew the source of these goods purchased from Roges and that certain of these items such as machines and materials were confiscated in the occupied territories and were so-called booty goods. Invoices for goods purchased on the black market always accompanied the goods to the firm as Roges billed the firm for exactly the amount paid for the goods by Roges. In the case of the booty goods, however, Roges did not know the value as they had not paid for these items, hence the goods were sent to the particular firm without an invoice and the price was later settled between the firm and the Reich agency, after which the invoice was sent to the firm. Thus it will be seen that the firms knew when goods arrived without an invoice that they were booty goods as distinguished from the goods purchased through the governmental agencies on the black market.

An interesting item appears in the minutes of the meeting of the Vorstand of Fried. Krupp A.G., 18 September 1941, attended by defendants Krupp and Loeser, showing approval of an appropriation of 13,550 R.M. for purchase of machine tools through "Krupp Reparatur Werk in Paris, Kmawa".

On 31 December 1940 defendant Mueller was reporting to some of his colleagues - including among others the defendant Eberhardt - on

a meeting, copies of which were sent to defendants Krupp, Pfirsch, Eberhardt and Korschach, include the following paragraph:

"11. New Machines for Machine Construction 21
Dr. Mueller suggested that the new machines for Mb 21 be set up in Mb 20, as far as space is still available, in order to avoid any inconveniences in Mb 21. He said it would also be advisable to have someone accompany the shipments of machines from France, since that was the only way to insure the speedy arrival of the machines."

In a note to defendant Loeser, 26 August 1942, his subordinate

Schroeder stated:

" We are just now considering the intimation by the Wehrmacht to move our 12-ton tractor to France.... For this it is imperative that we purchase in Paris more machines etc. for our workshops necessitating an outlay of about 1.2 million R.M.... We request you to authorize the amount..."