

DOCUMENT BOOK I, KRUPP
KRUPP DOCUMENT No. 61

A f f i d a v i t .

I, Fritz Gerhard KRAFT, 63 years of age, resident at Essen, Kaupenstrasse 91, am aware that by making a false affidavit I render myself liable to punishment. I declare on oath that my statement is true and was made to be submitted as evidence before the Military Tribunal in the Palace of Justice, Muenberg.

Having been employed by Krupp since 1 July 1902, I then worked from the autumn of 1905 onwards in the Historical Department which was founded at this time; its chief task was to collect and trace basic material for a centenary publication, and to write this document.

In 1931, the management of the Historical Department was then transferred to me, as keeper of the archives for the firm of Fried. Krupp. At the same time I organized and was in charge of the Krupp Family Archives "auf dem Huegel" near Essen, which was started in 1906. I was responsible for handling all matters concerning Krupp and von Bohlen und Halbach family history.

On 1 October 1946 I was retired.

In the position which I held for many years, using the archival material of the firm and family of Krupp as a basis, I cooperated in the writing of the following books on the family and works history of Krupp and von Bohlen und Halbach:

- 1) Krupp 1812/1912, Centenary Publication,

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- 2) Friedrich Krupp, the Founder of the Cast-Steel Factory, in Letters and Documents by Wilhelm Berdrow,
- 3) Alfred Krupp (Biography) 2 volumes, by Wilhelm Berdrow,
- 4) Letters by Alfred Krupp 1826-1887, by Wilhelm Berdrow,
- 5) ditto, English edition, translated by D.W. Dickes, published by Victor Gollancz, London 1930
- 6) The Krupp Family in Essen, from 1587-1887, by Wilhelm Berdrow, Illustrations by Fritz Gerhard Kraft,
- 7) The Family von Bohlen und Halbach by Wilhelm Berdrow, with 1 supplement by Fritz Gerhard Kraft,
- 8) Alfred Krupp and his Kin, by Wilhelm Berdrow, 1st edition Berlin 1937,
- 9) ditto, 2 supplements by Wilhelm Berdrow and Fritz Gerhard Kraft, Berlin 1943.

Based on my knowledge and experience in the sphere of Krupp family and work's history, and having referred to the documents subsequently mentioned:

- 1) Work's Magazine Krupp 1936/37,
- 2) List of canon manufactured by the cast-steel factory and the Grusonwerk, from 1847 to 1912. Publication for the inside business circle of the Fried. Krupp Firm,
- 3) The Krupp Firm in the World War and in the post war period, 2 volumes 1914/19, 1919/1926, by Wilhelm Berdrow,

I declare the following with regard to the development of the Fried. Krupp Firm and its activities in the sphere of production both of peacetime and wartime material:

The firm of Fried. Krupp, cast-steel factory in Essen, was founded

as a steel works in 1811, at the time of the Napoleonic continental blockade. The goal set at that time was to achieve a product equal in value to that of English steel, and to put it on the market. From the time of the firm's inauguration Krupp always held the development of steel to be of decisive value: from his world famous crucible cast-steel to the modern electro-steel.

In the first decades of the small factory's existence, principally tanners' tools, minting dies, and cast-steel rollers were manufactured. At that time Alfred KRUPP achieved 3/4 of his turnover from the latter. When the railway system began, the field of work shifted to meet the requirements of traffic. From the end of the eighteen-forties and on, springs and axles besides ship-shafts and tool-steel were manufactured in steadily growing quantities. Until the middle of the eighteen-sixties, about 7000 railway springs were delivered annually, in 1905 more than 100,000 per annum.

Already in the beginning of the eighteen-fifties the name of KRUPP became known all over the world, due to the discovery of the so-called Bandage - seamless forged wheel rims for railways. For his trade-mark he chose the "Three Rings", i.e. three rings placed over one another.

Furthermore, in the eighteen-fifties and eighteen-sixties, large deliveries of spinning mills, spoon and cutlery mills were made, among other places to France, England, Russia and Holland. The mint in Philadelphia also acquired large deliveries of rollers. Since the end of the eighteen-forties, KRUPP had his own agency in New York, namely the firm of Thomas PROSSER,

which achieved a large turn-over particularly from railroad materials - throughout several generations.

In about the year 1860, KRUPP was the first entrepreneur on the Continent to introduce the English Bessemer process. Added to this, as a further product there came the steel rail which soon captured the world market. About this time blocks of steel weighing 20 tons were cast, ship shafts, and cast pieces for marine construction were manufactured as well as boilers. Thus for a period of about 50 years, KRUPP production served peaceful purposes. Only after this did Alfred KRUPP go over to the manufacture of guns to any great extent. The manufacture of artillery was a natural consequence of the steady improvement in crucible cast-steel, new possibilities for the utilization of which were continually being sought. It was not KRUPP alone who in 1844 offered the first experimental tube made from his cast-steel to the Prussian Minister for War. The same offer was made simultaneously by the Bochumer Verein. If, in this manner, after years of the most costly experiments, Alfred KRUPP at last achieved success, then this was due to his stubborn pursuit of his plans and his unmatched technical knowledge. The Bochumer Verein did not proceed any further beyond a few small deliveries of guns.

In the years when it was being fought to introduce cast-steel artillery, the results of peacetime production alone, already offered the factory a possibility of further development. The manufacture of the rail-road wheel rim was for many years the source from which Alfred KRUPP drew the means for

the extension of his factory and the subsidies which throughout many years he had to invest in the manufacture of guns. Only in 1847, which was 36 years after the KRUPP factory was founded, was the first canon tube delivered to Prussia. In 1849 it was subjected to trials. The continuously increasing toughness of the steel gave rise to the idea of using it for artillery purposes, and in the course of time, the artillery armament of many states took on an entirely new development due to the invention of the cast-steel canon by KRUPP.

Therefore in practice, hardly any war material was produced during the first fifty years of the factory's existence. Its production at that time was extremely hesitant and lagging. It was only at the beginning of the eighteen-sixties that large orders began to come in, after Prussia ordered the first 300 guns in raw casts (rohen Guessen); KRUPP only delivered 24 of these as finished guns, while the large remaining part of the order was completed in Berlin factories. From 1847 to 1859 the artillery delivered by KRUPP to foreign countries amounted ^{to} 97 pieces, and that delivered to Prussia and the German Federal States to 45 guns and 276 ingots. These figures give a clear picture of the very small percentage of war material manufactured in the plant in the eighteen-fifties, in proportion to the over-all production.

In 1870 or thereabouts, KRUPP, again the first in this respect, introduced the Siemens-Martin process into Germany.

From the middle of the eighteen-sixties and on, KRUPP added his own sources of raw material to the works, as an indispensable

factor in meeting the ever increasing demand for high quality steel, and thereby acquired a sound basis for the supply of coal and ore. Towards the end of the 19th century, with the idea of procuring an assured market for the sale of cast-steel products, a dockyard was also acquired, the Germaniawerft in Kiel, and in addition to this, an important machine factory, the Grusonwerk in Magdeburg. To extend the raw iron foundation, the Friedrich-Alfred-Hütte was established in Rheinhausen at the beginning of this century, blast furnace works with steel works and rolling mills. To a larger extent than hitherto, the production of the works was sold not only in the form of finished products but also as semi-finished products in the form of blocks and bar iron. From 1850 to 1856, thus in a time occupied almost exclusively with production for peacetime purposes, the number of workers in the factory rose from 250 to more than 1000. During these years, a hammer works, a rolling mill, the first puddling works, an iron foundry, the first mechanical workshop and the bandage rolling mill came into being, all of them being workshops which were mainly used to produce rail-road materials. In the same period, the built-up area of the factory increased from 0.4 to 3 hectares (1 ha. = 10,000 sq-meters), all this at a time when the manufacture of guns was still at its earliest stage and played a completely subsidiary part in the factory's production. At that time, the production of peacetime material was of considerably greater importance than the slow orders which were received at home and abroad for gun tubes. In the year 1864 the rail rolling mill was completed and almost simultaneously a second Bessemer works was put into operation.

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Up to 1871 the factory had produced roughly 7400 guns, a production which would not have been sufficient for the maintenance of the plant. In the war 1870/71 the Prussian field gun, it is true, was made of Krupp cast-steel, but its construction was based on designs by the Prussian artillery authorities.

It was only the new field gun, introduced after the French German war, that was constructed by Krupp. It was probably the siege of Metz and Paris that prompted the German Artillery Chiefs to take a greater interest than hitherto in "heavy artillery". But even then Krupp was given German orders to a moderate extent only:

1872	182	pieces of 15 cm	siege guns
1873	30	"	ditto
1874	100	"	ditto
1876	5	"	ditto
1877	25	"	ditto
1878	28	"	ditto

Furthermore 227 15cm, 21 cm, and 28 cm coastal artillery guns were ordered from KRUPP in 1872/73.

From 1854 to 1866 the orders received from Prussia and the German Federal States amounted to only 161 12cm and 15 cm guns. From 1867 to 1871 no heavy guns at all were ordered from Krupp by Prussia and the German Federal States. The mentality and ideas of Alfred KRUPP under whose guidance the factory took up and carried out the production of guns, are known to me from thousands of his writings. None of these documents contain any grounds on which

to base the supposition that Krupp advocated the war as a means of policy or even furthered its outbreak. The contrary is the case. This is shown by the following letter addressed by Alfred KRUPP to Alexander von HUMBOLDT on 4 January 1858:

" I should like to make a brief reference to our activity here. The latter consists mainly of the manufacture of axles, shafts, and springs for railways and steam boats. Apart from these tools for peacetime traffic the tools of war, "guns" are being considered too. To obtain the greatest possible indestructibility is the task; for the former in the interest of safety of life and property, for the latter in the interest of greater destructive capacity. The former is more important and has to maintain us.

I cultivate the latter in the interest of progress, under great sacrifices, and it will only achieve any value for me when I can serve the fatherland in times of emergency. But for the sake of the blessing of peace I willingly renounce such an opportunity of proving what national industry can achieve, as well as the satisfaction of doing so."

Krupp's gun supplies to other countries were more extensive than those to Prussia-Germany. From 1847 to 1912, Krupp's total production for Prussia, the German Federal States and the German Navy amounted to 26424 guns, i.e. an annual average of 400 pieces.

Deliveries for foreign countries were: from 1854 to 1912

28 247 guns,

that is a yearly average of

478 guns.

I have no figures at hand regarding the production of other war material before World War I; I know however, that the centrifugal point of production during the decades before World War I was the manufacture of peace-time material.

Also under Alfred Krupp's son and successor Friedrich Alfred Krupp (deceased 1902), the produced quantities of steel were sold to a large extent in the form of sheets, rails and billets, i.e. for peace-time purposes. The increasing world traffic raised the orders for railroad and shipbuilding material, as e.g., for large-size shafts and crankshafts. The delivery of high-quality material was now as ever the uppermost aim.

With respect to the further development of the artillery armament of the German army and, in particular, the German navy, the firm of Krupp played a leading part. The orders of the navy, amounting to an average of 46 million RM during the last decade before World War I, represented by far the largest part of Krupp's deliveries for Germany, while the orders for the army amounted on the average to only about 30% of that amount. During the last period before the war 1914/13, however, the orders of the navy had decreased so much that since the autumn of 1913 even the number of workers of the war-material plants was decreasing. The orders of the German navy

called in 1911 for 186 guns, in 1912 only for 81, those of the army in 1911 for 139 guns, in 1912 only for 88.

The mobilization program of 1914 provided for the following production by Krupp:

200 guns and field-howitzers for the army artillery,
144 torpedo-boat guns for the navy, with a delivery date up to
29 months;
plus a small order for ammunition.

These mobilization orders required no essential change with respect to the current dispositions of the plants.

In spite of the good relations existing between Alfred Krupp and the "old Kaiser" Wilhelm I - proven by different visits of Wilhelm I to the factory, his decided intervention for Krupp, where the Fulfilment of justified wishes was concerned, furthermore by Alfred Krupp's reports on audiences held, and last but not least, by letters of the Kaiser to Alfred Krupp and his wife Bertha - there does not exist one word in proof of the fact that Krupp had somehow been the co-instigator or abetter of a war. The same applies in my opinion to the attitude of the firm of Krupp before World War I. However, the fact that the firm for patriotic reasons, aided its home-country with all its powers, when the war had broken out, is a matter of course.

That the family of Krupp did not act out of sheer cupidity is shown by the fact that from the profit of 1914/15 the family demanded for itself only an amount, which

was equal to that of the last peace year. Of the remaining amount of 23,7 million marks, 20 million marks were transferred to the National Foundation in the form of a Krupp foundation for the survivors of persons killed in the war, while the rest of 3,7 million marks was donated to war welfare.

Of the entire profit of the 3 war years 1914/17, which did not surpass the normal amount, - the year 1917/18 closed with a relatively small surplus - less than one half was used for payment of dividends, the rest was applied to the interior strengthening of the enterprise, for war victims and war contributions and for purposes concerning employees. During the first half of the war of 1914/18 Krupp then, as before, delivered large quantities of rolled and structural products, heaviest undercarriages for heavy locomotives, material for the construction of steam boilers and machines. Only the years of 1917/18 brought the intensive conversion of the plants to the needs of armament production. How little such a conversion corresponded to the real interests of the Krupp family is shown by the great difficulties, which Krupp experienced on the occasion of the conversion to peace-time production after the conclusion of World War I. These were of such magnitude that they repeatedly almost ruined the Krupp firm. At that time it was only with the greatest difficulty and effort that the situation could be overcome, partly by means of outside financing.

Viewed as a whole, my statements in respect of Krupp will show a different picture from that of a mere producer of war

material. That the propaganda and the outside world called Alfred Krupp the "cannon king" is an exaggeration. This denomination originates from the following note of a Berlin newspaper of the period around 1864: "The cannon king Krupp has arrived at Berlin and is staying at the Hotel Royal." Alfred Krupp sent this note to his wife at Essen with the remark: "Here you see who you are. They really ought to leave us alone." (Alfred Krupp biography, volume 2, page 55).

When Alfred Krupp was 50 years of age (26 April 1862), he wrote to his wife: "Please God that we shall be able to be of use to many people." (Alfred Krupp biography, volume 2, page 39). No man who confuses the conception of work with the ability to become rich would speak in this way.

Essen, 14 February 1948.

Fritz Gerhard Kraft.

No 209 of the Document Register for 1948:

I herewith attest the above signature of Mr. Fritz Gerhard Kraft, of Essen, Saupenstr. 91.

Essen, 18 February 1948,

Stamp

Dr. Rust
Attorney as
officially appointed deputy of the
notary Dr. Walter Ballas, Essen.

Fees:

Value RM 3.000,-
Fee according to article 144, 26, 39,
Reich Fee Regulations
Turnover Tax 3%

RM	4,00
RM	0,12
RM	4,12

Notary's Deputy:

Dr. Rust