

AFFIDAVIT

I, Elisabeth Bachner, Muenchen-Laim, Agricolastr. 33, have been duly warned that false statements on my part will render me liable to punishment. I declare on oath that my statement is true and was made in order to be presented as evidence to the Military Tribunal at the Palace of Justice Nuremberg, Germany.

From 1929 to the end of 1942, I was private secretary to Dr. Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach. In the years of my activity in Essen, I naturally had opportunities to learn of the attitude of Herr von Bohlen in respect of the Party, through private conversations and also through various events during my business activities. Dr. Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach assumed a completely negative attitude towards National Socialism prior to 1933. Even after 1933 he did not at all alter his attitude at once. I remember that only the Black-White-Red flag was flown on the Hill, and a Swastika flag was only procured when there was no other way out. The director of the Hill Administration at that time, Lintz, finally called attention to the fact that the procurement of a Swastika flag was necessary.

In November, 1932, Hitler gave a speech in the Industrial Club in Duesseldorf. Herr von Bohlen received a written invitation to attend. I heard him telling several gentlemen of the direktorium about it in his office, and how he said he and a number of other men would not go to this speech. Herr von Bohlen answered the invitation briefly in the third person, and expressed his regrets that he could not take part because of other engagements. Years later Herr von Bohlen learned through Herr Geheimrat Guntz, a deputy member of the Vorstand of the Fried. Krupp A.G. who had somehow been informed of the matter, that the Party was extremely angry at this manner of declining an invitation. He had me show him the related correspondence again, and then gave it back to me with

DOCUMENT BOOK V KRUPP No. 28
EXHIBIT No.

- 2 -

the comment that I should take it back to the files without further action.

Upon his 70th birthday, Herr von Bohlen received the Gold Party Emblem from Hitler. Then he was informed by Herr Alfried v. Bohlen or some other member of the Direktorium - I no longer remember exactly by whom - that as a wearer of the Golden Party Emblem he automatically became a member of the Party. Thereupon I had to fill out the requisite questionnaires for admittance to the Party.

In his normal associations Herr v. Bohlen never used the Hitler greeting, nor did he demand it. It would even have been contrary to custom to enter the room of Herr v. Bohlen with the German greeting. I can not recall that this was ever done by any of the gentlemen.

Herr v. Bohlen did not attach the slightest importance to his personnel belonging to the Party. I hold it to be particularly characteristic that, the members of his personal secretarial staff, neither my colleague Fraulein Christel Kronen nor I myself, were members of the Party. The governess on the Hill, Fraulein Emmi Corper, was even a violent opponent of National Socialism.

How little Herr von Bohlen and his family thought of a war is shown by the fact that still a few days prior to the outbreak of the war, English and American friends of the family were guests on their estate in Bluehnbach (Austria). Herr and Frau von Bohlen were quite surprised at the outbreak of war in spite of the seriousness of the situation at the time, and sorely regretted this development.

Stuttgart-Waihingen, 10 January 1948

(Signed): Elisabeth Bachner

- 16 -

DOCUMENT BOOK V KRUPP No. 28
EXHIBIT No.

- 3 -

Sworn to and signed before me, the district notary
and public notary Rathgeber, by Fraeulein Elisabeth
Bachner, student in Muenchen-Laim, Agricolastrasse 33,
known to me to be the person making the above affidavit.

Stuttgart-Vaihingen, 10 January 1948

District Notary and Public Notary
(Signed): Rathgeber

- 17 -