

DOCUMENT BOOK V KRUPP No. 233
Exhibit No.

I, Dr. Walter Ballas, certify that the attached
19 letters of former Krupp workers were received by
my Essen office and handed on to me.

Nuremberg, 4 April 1948

(Signed): Dr. Walter Ballas,
Special Defense Counsel.

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EXHIBIT No. ..

Heimaterde, 15 December 1947

Re: Intercession on behalf of Herr Alfried Krupp
-- von Bohlen und Halbach --

Today on my 75th birth day I would not only like to thank the congratulators but also intercede in Nuernberg for our honored first citizen and his co-defendants.

He as well as his father, his grandfather and his great-grandfather were always upright men who stood entirely in the midst of the people helping the workers wherever there was need.

My deceased husband worked for 48 years with the Krupp firm. As the son of poor parents with a large family, they were not able to apprentice him to a trade for three years without earning any money. He came to the Krupp works to work picking up stones. But after a short while he was chosen by his superior to become an office apprentice. At the end he remained in the same place as office superior. We had a nice home from the Krupp firm and after my husband's retirement we had a little house in a Krupp settlement. For several years at Christmas we were even given a big Christmas gift package.

Thus did the Krupp family care for its workers in a fatherly way.

Now my big request. Please acquit Herr Krupp von Bohlen and his co-defendants, for they are innocent, everything they did was only for the people and their country.

May God grant this !

signed signature
Widow Elisabeth K r u e g e r
Muelheim-Heissen, Sonnenweg 14
Settlement Heimaterde.

Both my sons too the war took from me.

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EXHIBIT No. ...

Muelheim-R., 14 December 1947
Sonnenweg 6:

To the
American Military Tribunal
N u r n b e r g
Re: Krupp proceedings.

With deep sorrow did we hear over the radio about the Krupp indictment; as our bread-giver he was always just, not capable of an evil act, even against foreigners. On the contrary a benefactor of mankind (only one example to show this). In 1915 I contracted pulmonary disease but through the Krupp sick-aid I completely recovered. In 1931 I again fell seriously ill (operation), remained incapacitated and was retired with a small pension. Since I live in a Krupp settlement house (with a big garden) this was, economically, a big help. I must honestly admit that without this help from Krupp I and my six children, who were still at school or in apprenticeship, would have succumbed. And so, today, as a man of 70 years I can help many hungry and sick people with my vegetables and fruits and in a certain measure repay what Krupp did for me.

I implore the Tribunal: "Acquit our chief and his collaborators and give them an opportunity to help with the reconstruction of Europe.

Most respectfully yours
signed Friedrich Riffelmann
and family

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EXHIBIT No. ..

Essen, 30 January 1948

P.Schroer
Essen
Muelheimerstr.117

To the
Prosecutors of the American Military
Tribunal

N u e r n b e r g .

re: Krupp Trial

In connection with your indictment of Herr Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach and 10 other directors of the Krupp works I respectfully ask you to note the following statements for your information. It is certainly not only known in Krupp works circles that only 20-30% of the Krupp production consisted of war material and that peace-time material made up by far the greater part of the production. Furthermore it is a generally known fact that the first and biggest buyers of Krupp war material were foreign states which preferred this material due to its good quality and reasonable price and which thereby created the foundations for this firm and helped to build and enlarge it to its unique size. The combination of the basic material and finishing industries during the last 20 to 30 years was carried out according to foreign models.

In the field of social welfare for employees and workers and their families both the Krupp family and the plant management lead in setting an example. Whenever a plant member got into need or straits through no fault of his own and sought help from the Krupp family or the plant management, he could always count on a receptive ear, no matter what his position was or what political party or confession he belonged to.

I, for my part, am 68 years old, for over 41 years I was a commercial employee in Krupp's service and since 2 years I have been retired. I am married and have 5 children. Of

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these two sons were employed by Krupp over 20 years until the capitulation. Thanks to my always receiving an adequate salary I was able to allow my children to receive an appropriate education and have a nice healthy and cozy home.

As I fared many thousands of other employees and workers fared also, they were satisfied and today they are following the fate of the Krupp family with the inmost concern and respect and consider themselves indebted to the family and to the Direktorium.

Most respectfully yours

signed: Peter Schroer

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Essen, 29 January 1948

To the
Prosecution of the Krupp Trial

N u e r n b e r g .
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In connection with the Krupp trial I make the following statement:

For 50 entire years I stood in the service of the Krupp firm as a commercial employee. For 35 years my father was cooperation director and my father-in-law was a master foreman in the Bessemer plant of the Krupp firm. My father had the honor to be invited to the wedding of Berta Krupp and Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach. Father, father-in-law as well as I myself benefited from the welfare arrangements of the Krupp firm. The relationship between myself and the firm was the best possible. In this connection I would like to mention some of the many benefits such as the nice and cheap homes, the pensions, hospitals, sick fund, lectures and concerts by the cultural society, etc. etc.

I would like to ask the prosecutor to take all these excellent social and cultural institutions into consideration in the proceedings.

Respectfully yours,

signed: Ernst Claas

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Essen, 20 January 1948

To the
Prosecution of the American
Military Tribunal

N u e r n b e r g

Subject: Krupp proceedings.

Due to the Krupp proceedings recently taking place I feel that I should send you the following information:

For almost 48 years I worked for the Krupp firm, 33 years of which as foreman. I can say without hesitation that throughout this long period of service I always received kind and just treatment. The Krupp firm also paid constant attention to the social & care of its employees and workers. At work and works jubilees or other celebrations we were always very well remembered with special allocations. The Krupp family took special care of plant members which fell in need through no fault of their own by giving them money or commodities. In this the members of the Krupp family very often intervened personally. That the Krupp family also took special care of old and invalid former employees and workers through extensive social care is certainly known the world over.

In my family the third generation is already working for the firm. My father was 31 years in the firm's service and two of my sons also worked for the firm. Their work was interrupted through the war and through their still being prisoners of war.

signed: Ferdinand Solf
Foreman (retired)
Essen-W., Adelpkampstr. 13

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Essen, 17 January 1948
Leipzigerstr. 33

To the
Prosecution of the
American Military Tribunal

N u e r n b e r g .
- - - - -

Re.: Krupp Trial.

It is possible for an outsider to form an opinion of the mentality of the Krupp family differing from the observations which we made at close-range over a period of many years. Without having the intention of commenting on the indictment against Herr Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach I take the liberty as a former plant member of long standing of the Krupp firm to make the following statement:

My father was a worker in the Krupp hammerworks and lived with his 7 children in a pretty Krupp apartment in the Krupp settlement Baumhof right near the municipal garden. My father had to pay a monthly rent of only 14 RM for this apartment consisting of 3 rooms, a big attic, a supply room, 2 cellars and a vegetable garden. After about 30 years of work my father was retired at the age of 57 and received an adequate pension for 30 years from the Krupp firm. The firm even did more in that it let my parents have a little settlement house - after their children were married - with a garden in the colony Altenhof built along the Essen Stadtwald for which they paid no rent. Besides fuel for the house was given free. For the golden wedding of my parents the Krupp family, following an old tradition, gave them a big present consisting of food and drink.

I myself began my career in 1897 as office apprentice in the information dep't of the Krupp firm. Here I received, together with the other apprentices, as well as members of other departments, lessons in the English and French languages during office hours free of charge. These lessons were given by the translator Herr Menken.

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In 1904 I became Direktions secretary and in the course of the years I advanced to department head in the Krupp agricultural machinery plant.

The Krupp family, due to its generous donations and incomparable social welfare arrangements enjoyed the high esteem of all and its present fate is being regretted very deeply. Especially the son, Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, whom everyone could always talk to, was very much liked because of his human attitude. And now I even take the liberty, after writing the above, to request that in judging the counts of the indictment the friendly human attitude of the Krupp family, if at all possible be put into the scales and that corresponding leniency may prevail.

Respectfully yours

signed: Wilhelm Conrads

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Essen, 1 February 1948

To the
Prosecution of the American
Military Tribunal

As an old "Kruppianer" (73 years of age) I was a works foreman for many years and ever since I was 14 years old until my retirement I was employed by the Krupp firm. My father and also my father-in-law worked with the firm too until their retirement. With the wages they received they could feed their families well and were even able to lay aside a nice little sum for their old age.

In celebration of my 25 years of service Herr and Frau Krupp personally presented and honored me with an honorary badge and a sum of money. I as well as countless other former employees and workers are filled with the deepest gratitude towards the Krupp firm as the result of the generous social arrangements, known the world over, of the firm and their social work certainly unique in its kind.

With a thankful heart and deep sympathy I hope that the Krupp family may soon be relieved of its strain by the proceedings being abandoned.

(Signed): H. Lindemau
Frohnhauser 171

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Essen, 21 January 1948

American Military Tribunal

N u r e m b e r g

I am 76 years old and was employed 37 years by the Krupp firm. During my time of service I came into contact as workman and employee of the construction plants, with all the welfare arrangements of the Krupp firm which are due to the initiative of the Krupp family. Mention may be made of the world famous workers settlements which caused a sensation and were admired by all foreigners; the model hospitals and sanatoria, the settlements for retired people put at their disposal free of charge including fuel for heating. Further, the allocations and current financial aid for plant members who suddenly found themselves in distress, the scholarships for talented sons and daughters and personal help for workers and employees of the plant out of the Krupp firm. Then should be mentioned the pensions which are still being given out today even in the time when Germany has reached the lowest depths; the plant sickness insurance office and its high achievements. In addition the contributions and funds given to public and private institutions such as religious societies, for childrens' homes, old age homes, etc. To make a list of all the good done in the service of humanity would go too far, but the help given by the Krupp family since generations should also be taken into consideration at the Nuremberg trials. If one speaks of injustice to humanity, the services rendered humanity should be considered as attenuating circumstances. It is not possible to condemn the bearer of a name just because a firm only did in war what firms of a similar standing on the opposing side also did for their country and still do today. If today countries, outside of America, after almost 3 years after the war make Germans work partly under conditions not fit for human beings, for their own ends (not for reconstruction), this has nothing more to do with humaneness. I would ask that the defendants in the Krupp trial be acquitted.

(Signed): Ludwig Koenig

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Essen-West, 11 January 1948
Krupp-Str. 280

To the
Prosecution of the
American Military Tribunal

N u e r n b e r g .
= = = = =

Re.: Krupp trial.

I hereby politely request the American Military Tribunal to receive the following information in connection with the proceedings:

During almost 40 years of service as an employee of the Krupp firm in Essen, I received a good salary which never gave me reason to complain. After 25 years of service the said firm honored me by presenting me with a valuable pin and a sum of money and again gave me a money present when I left in 1940. Especially to be mentioned is the fact that the social and cultural institutions of the firm were of a very high order which not only benefited the workers and employees of the firm but also had a beneficial effect far beyond the firm especially on our home town Essen.

May the star of reconciliation which causes justice to be dispensed to those directly affected, accompany the venerable tribunal in its great responsibility, and may humanity, when so much good in man is already disappearing as it is, be spared another war which most probably would mean the end of civilization.

Yours respectfully,

signed: Emil Lause

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Essen, 18 January 1948

To the
Prosecution of the
American Military Tribunal

Nuernberg

Re.: Krupp trial

I, Johann Niggemann, became a mechanic at the Krupp firm in its railroad repair shops. After my training period I worked in various plants of the firm as mechanic, fitter and later^{as} master foreman until my retirement. I enjoyed very much being with the Krupp firm just as did my work mates whose acquaintances I made in the course of the years. Krupp always cared for his subordinates in a paternal way. The Krupp firm was exemplary in the building of healthy houses. Also for his invalids he built the wonderful Altenhof situated along the forest. Still other welfare arrangements were brought about upon the instigation of the Krupp family. Upon my 25th service jubilee I received a golden pin of honor and a present consisting of a sum of money. I worked 39 years with the firm. My father died very early, before the end of my apprenticeship and worked 24 years with the Krupp firm. My son was trained as a mechanic by the Krupp firm and later as a traveling mechanic. Thus several generations worked with the Krupp firm and they always liked it there very much. From the foregoing it can be seen that Krupp always cared for the well-being of his employees and workers. This I certify with these few lines and sign :

signed: Johann Niggenann,
Foreman (retired)
Essen-West,
Adelkampstrasse 15/p.

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To the
Prosecutor
American Military Tribunal

N u e r n b e r g

Subject: Krupp trial.

At the request of the prosecution against Herr Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach and his directors, I submit the following statement.

I am 73 years of age. In 1895 I started work with the Krupp firm in Essen where I was active for 32 years. Since 1903 I was a clerical worker. In this period of time I worked in an agreeable relationship to the firm and my superiors. My salary was adequate at that time. Owing to the then bad economic situation, I was pensioned in 1928. Since 1916 I was given an attractive, reasonably priced works home which I still occupy. The firm had an aid fund for special emergencies in the family which I too utilised. At Christmas each pensioner was handed a Christmas present consisting of food, 3 cwts. of potatoes, 10 cwts. of coal and a money gift of RM 10.--. From this it is clear that the social provisions of the firm for workers and employees were very good, and I therefore appeal to the high court in Nuernberg to quash the proceedings.

Very truly yours,

signed: Signature

Essen-West, Messings-Garten 16

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To the
Prosecutor in the Krupp Trial

N u e r n b e r g .
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I wish to make the following statements relative to the serious charges in the Krupp trial against the directors and especially against Herr Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach:

I am in my 79th year and entered the Krupp services in 1906. During my many years' activity as employee, the relationship between the firm as employer and myself as employee was unobjectionable in every way and cordial beyond all praise. With joy and love I worked in this firm, which knew in every situation to take and treat a man like an individual. On the eve of my life I still feast grateful memory and recognition on all the care bestowed on me so often and so lavishly. The many welfare provisions speak a clear and abundant language in this respect, as well as one of the noble disposition of the firm towards its fellow men. Not only was the firm a benefactor towards the members of the works, in the truest sense of the word, but far beyond these confines it has acted charitably and kindly and was instrumental in drying many a tear in all silence. A firm and also the house of Krupp which did so much good in an unselfish manner, as for example, the care for its workers in the eventide of their lives, the model homes, the rest homes for convalescents and other welfare arrangements, also the many installations for education of every kind, etc., certainly testify that all this was created and constantly improved by men of noble character. Men of such noble mentality as the gentlemen of the Direktorium of the Krupp firm, and particularly Herr Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach - so loved, honored, and respected by all his fellow-workers - are absolutely incapable of transgressions of the kind of which they are accused in the charges. The woe and welfare of the fellow-workers entrusted to them lie too near their hearts to permit it. May a high court also convince itself after extensive investigation of the certainty of the innocence of the defendants in the Krupp trial.

Essen, Kruppstr. 298

signed: Heinrich Born.

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Essen, 15 January 1948

After about 18 years as mechanic and fitter and 24 years as plant charge-head in a machinery shop of the Krupp firm, I may surely be allowed an opinion on conditions in general in the works and on the many social institutions created by the Krupp house. The wages were good and everyone could lay aside a penny for an emergency. Workshops and installations were clean and unobjectionable in every way. I only actually perceived all that the Krupp house had done for us pensioners when I retired. I now regret very much that these sources of assistance which were given to us older folk by Krupp had to end so tragically. Also in my need, I wish the house of Krupp all the best for the present and for the future.

signed: Anton Wiegenbock
Messings-Garten 17

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EXHIBIT No.

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Essen, 23 January 1948

To the
Prosecutor of the
American Military Tribunal

N u e r n b e r g .

With reference to the Krupp trial I feel compelled to submit the following statement.

The Krupp firm was always a charitable firm; thus it built thousands of homes at low rents for employees and workers, and an entire colony of houses rent free for the old-age pensioners. For churches and school-houses it made considerable contributions. I was employed by the firm for 42 years, my father for 37 and my son for 18 years and was always completely satisfied with the treatment and wages, and therefore I wish to ask the prosecutor to take this into consideration.

signed: Heinrich Haardt
Essen, Langenkaempferweg 10

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Subject: Krupp Trial.

In consequence of the charges against Herr Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach and the directors, I wish to state the following:

I entered the services of the firm in 1897, and was active as a turner until 1914. Then I was inspecting charge-hand and after that instructing charge-hand for turning and milling in the training workshop. In 1928 I was pensioned owing to a gall and intestinal illness. In all these years I can only praise the humane and decent treatment which was always accorded me. Likewise I can bestow the highest praise on the social arrangements of the firm which were provided equally for all the workers and employees, in all cases of need and also in old age. Moreover, I wish to mention that in all those years I was well paid and could live decently. Relative to Herr Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach I can bear testimony that I came to know him in his practical activity in the training workshop as a cultured, and blameless man from a human point of view. He did not shrink from lending a hand and to do his duties in the circle of his fellow-workers.

In view of all the facts given it is my hope and desire that Herr Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach and the directors will be acquitted as war criminals and inhuman beings.

I have written this letter without pressure or influence from any source.

Essen, 2 February 1948

signed: Wilhelm Muesse
Instruction Charge-Head, retired

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To the
Prosecutor of the
American Military Tribunal

N u e r n b e r g .

Subject: Krupp Trial.

I worked for the Krupp firm in Essen for 40 years. The relationship between the firm and the workers was good. If a worker had sickness or trouble in his family he was always given assistance. After 25 years' service a man was remembered by the Krupp family itself with money and other gifts. The firm also did a great deal for housing. For 30 years I lived in a works home, very cheaply and well. If a man was pensioned, he personally received from Herr Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach a gift of money and a family picture. Many of the old people received a home at the Altenhof (old age foundation) which was rent-free. As the Krupp firm was known as a world producer of peace material, thus the Krupp family was known in Essen as benefactors.

signed: Otto Fritz

Essen, 15 January 1948
Muelheimerstr. 117

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Essen-W., 25 January 1948

To the
Prosecutor of the
American Military Tribunal

N u e r n b e r g

Subject: Krupp Trial.

Relative to the serious charges against Herr
Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach and the directors
of the Krupp firm, I herewith submit the following
statement:

My maternal grand-father worked with the firm as
a carpenter up to his 75th year, he lived to be 89 years
of age. My father, a sand molder by trade, unfortunately
served only slightly more than 24 years, he died at
the age of 53.

I myself was a commercial employee, served for
36 years, and am in my 68th year. In the last years of
my activity, I directed the office for workers relations
in the Baggerbau shop and thus had insight into the
social and welfare activities of the firm. What was
done was unique, indeed exemplary. The housing settle-
ments were without equal, e.g., Alfredshof, Fried-
richshof, Heimerde, Margarethenheide and Altenhof.

To my knowledge Krupp also manufactured a large
quantity of peace material, I believe actually over
50 % .

The pay with Krupp was very good, everyone could
live well and still put away a penny for a rainy day.
The relationship with the Krupp house was always very
good. This was well demonstrated at the jubilee
festivities where 3 to 4 or 5 persons always represented
the Krupp family. We old Krupp men sorely regret that
our firm was destroyed as it was, and is now being
further destroyed. At Krupp and in the whole of Germany,
the works and workshops are being dismantled and set
up again in other countries, but not to produce war
material there. I trust in other countries there
are certainly firms just like Krupp which manufacture
defensive arms for their fatherland.

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Is this manufacture being stopped there too?

There are thousands of others with me who earned their living with Krupp, and I believe that they all share the same opinion. Decide justly and reach an acquittal.

signed: Johannes Pingel

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To the
Prosecutor
American Military Tribunal

N u e r n b e r g

Subject: Krupp Trial.

Relative to the charges against Herr Alfried Krupp and the directors of the firm, I submit the following statement.

I worked for 36 years with the Krupp firm in Essen. For 17 years I worked as a turner, and for 19 years I was employed as a charge-head. Both as a worker and charge-head I enjoyed the best relations with the firm. My pay was such that I could well provide for my large family consisting of 7 children my wife and myself.

Through the numerous social and cultural institutions, especially housing old age assistance, the jubilee celebrations and the congratulations at golden weddings, we old Krupp people felt most intimately bound to the firm and the Krupp family. We were proud to belong to a firm whose products had a world reputation and which gave work and bread to thousands of workers.

We have deep sympathy with the Krupp family and the defendants whose guilt is nothing more than that they did their duty towards our fatherland and nothing else than what is done in other countries of the world to the present day.

signed: Johann Simon
Raffelbergerstr. 3

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Wilhelm Hirsch

Essen, 4 February 1948
Hauptplatz 3

To the
American Military Tribunal

N u e r n b e r g
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Subject: Krupp Trial.

Although now 77 years old I have been pensioned off for several years, I still feel closely bound to the Fried. Krupp firm where I worked for 38 years as a worker and later as a foreman.

From this feeling I want to give the Krupp family and thus the firm my unsolicited confirmation that their social institutions as there are housing, sick fund, consumer stores, old age pensions, etc., were exemplary not only for Essen, but beyond it, as is freely acknowledged in all Germany, assuring the works complement and the pensioners a life free from worry. Moreover, the firm and its complement were like a big family.

Hence I sincerely regret that in consequence of the lost war so much ill has befallen the Krupp family, and beg the high tribunal to acquit the Krupp defendants.

Yours very truly
Sincerely
signed: Wilhelm Hirsch