

H.V. No. 3419

Guss-Stahlfabrik, 19 February 1942.
Muc/Voc.

S e c r e t !

TO: Herr ...

Subject: Simplification of our Armament Production.

In the following we submit an excerpt from the Fuehrer Order of 3 December 1941 for your information:

"The required higher efficiency in our production of arms and equipment must be obtained:

- 1) by a thorough-going revision of the designs of our weapons and equipment so as to render possible serial production according to modern principles which alone will bring about rationalisation of our production methods.
- 2) by placing and concentrating orders to the most economically operated firms, best equipped for the purpose;
- 3) by constructing new single purpose factories, limiting production to a single war item, most suited to serial production.

The ordered conversion to serial production requires a fundamental change in that the designs must be made to comply with the requirements of serial production and the production methods adjusted accordingly.

Therefore, it is our task to start from the beginning and revise the various elements of the designs of our arms and equipment and to correct them so as to render simplified production methods applicable. This will result in improved production methods as a whole and for a particular equipment

and thus in a saving of raw materials, skilled workers and time.

This requires a thorough-going re-examination of individual weapons and equipment in regard to the industrial material at our disposal, the service which may be reasonably required and the most simple shape answering the purpose.

On principle, suitability, easy manufacture and the saving of material takes precedence over beauty unjustifiable in war time and over any other extravagant demands not required for war use.

I. therefore, decree:

- I. The Wehrmacht branches must re-examine current orders for arms and equipment with the objective
 - 1) to limit technical demands to the requirements of war service;
 - 2) to limit demands as to the appearance, durability and completeness exclusively to war requirements;
 - 3) to concentrate production to items indispensable to the requirements of the front and to bar any other production beyond this.
- II. In order to be able to comply with requirements for simplified manufacture it is necessary to let the manufacturing experts participate already in the development of arms and equipment.
- III. Firms engaged in producing war equipment and other suitable firms as well as experienced technicians are to be requested in a suitable manner to submit suggestions for such improved production methods.

embracing particularly the following fields:

- 1) the elimination of obviously technical defects and shortcomings of heretofore existing designs or of designs intended to be introduced or which at present are being processed.
- 2) The most far-reaching simplification of the various elements of a design in favor of an easy manufacturing process suitable to serial production.
- 3) Extensive standardisation of parts unless it would impede the efficiency and the usefulness of the individual weapons and equipment
- 4) Abandoning extravagant demands which are delaying current speeded-up production.
- 5) Elimination of such exaggerated manufacturing specifications and acceptance conditions, especially in regard to the extent of tolerance specified for arms and equipment, if less strict specifications will do in this respect.

In the main, however:

Suggestions for the saving of manpower to be obtained by ceasing to apply the last extravagant finishing touches to non-essential parts in arms and equipment, which work in any case is made more for the sake of appearances than for any useful purpose."

The necessity to further increase our production in spite of inductions and the many difficulties in obtaining industrial materials and in connection with it the urgency to take all and any measures which might bring about a saving of manpower and materials required the cooperation of the entire circle of persons of the Gusstahlfabrik interested in the production of war materials.

We also request your cooperation! Suggestions concerning the simplification of our armament designs or of elements thereof, concerning standardisation, etc., with the objective of bringing about a higher efficiency according to

the Fuehrer Order are to be submitted currently and at once to Artillery Construction, Manufacturing Dept. (Herr Dr. Scholl) for the armament sector under AK/KI (artillery construction and war materials department).

Fried. Krupp
Aktiengesellschaft
The Board of Directors
(signed) Signatures.

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A f f i d a v i t .

I, Fritz Niedertubbesing, Essen-Fulerum, Ehrenau 15, born at Muelheim/Ruhr on 3 April 1902, Handlungsbevollmaechtiger of the Fried. Krupp A.G., after having been cautioned that by making a false affidavit I render myself liable to punishment hereby declare that my statement is true and was made in order to be submitted as evidence to the American Military Tribunal III in the Palace of Justice at Nuremberg, Germany.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the circular letter put in circulation by the Main Administration of Fried. Krupp A.G.

Essen, 19 March 1948.

(signed) Niedertubbesing.

I hereby certify that the foregoing signature of Herr Fritz Niedertubbesing was sworn to and attached in my presence.

Essen, 19 March 1948.

(signed) H. Link
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Attorney-at-Law.