Mue-Document No. 72
Exh.No. .....

Curriculum Vitae

of

Professor Dr. Ing. Erich Mueller.

I, Erich Mueller was born in Berlin on 2 November 1892. My father was a railroad employee holding a medium position. He died in 1928. My mother died in 1936. I am single and living together with my older sister Elsa who is single too.

1.) Career and training.

I attended the Werner Siemens-Oberrealschule in Berlin, but left before the matriculation because I was particularly interested in technic and wanted to follow a practical profession as soon as possible. I worked as trainee in the Reichbahn repair shop Berlin-Grunewald and then wanted to attend a technical school in order to qualify as an engineer.

I soon realized that only reading at the technical university could impart to me full technical knowledge. After a private preparation I graduated from High School and became a member of the Technical College in Berlin. My sister Elsa made it possible for me to afford the costly private study and the study at the university under personal sacrifices through her earnings as voice teacher.

2. My service in the World War I.

At the outbreak of World War I, I had to interrupt my studies and I enlisted as a war volunteer. In 1915 I was made Second Lieutenant and towards the end of the war, First Lieutenant of the reserve. I commanded in succession an infantry and a machine gun company and towards the end of the war an infantry battalion. I was decorated with the Iron Cross I and II, as well as with the Hohenzoller order. After the armistice I remained for some time in the frontier guard.

3.) Completion of my university studies.

I resumed my studies at the Technical College in Berlin and tried to make up for the time lost as quickly and as intensively as possible. I studied General and Transport Machine construction, as well as electrical engineering in addition to the theoretical subjects, like mathematics, physics and chemistry because I wanted to get the most comprehensive survey concerning technical connections.

In 1921 I finished my studies by passing the "Diplom-examination". In my thesis, I developed a new kind of steerage. I passed "with honors" and received in addition the medal of the Technical College for successful work. Already during my last terms of study I worked as assistant with Geheimrat Professor Stumpf. I held this position for some time subsequent to my examination

since he wanted to give me the chance to take the doctor degree. He also wanted to make it possible for me to improve my knowledge in the States by employing me in his direct current steam-engine factory located in the States. He also advised me to choose the university career.

However, he sent another gentleman to the States and also hesitated to make known to me the subject of my thesis, as he obviously did not want to miss my scientific co-operation in his current work. This was a disappointment for me and I decided to leave the College and to join the engine-works Borsig in Berlin in the capacity of a construction engineer.

4.) The Second State Examination.

Although I liked this kind of research work, I thought, that in the interest of my future technical training it would be better to first thoroughly study in operation the vehicles and locomotives which were to be developed. For that reason, I took a job with the Reichsbahn to get the necessary preparation for my second state examination, the "Regierungsbaumeister" (Governmental architect) examination. Since, already during the time spent at College, I had come into touch with some influential officials from the Reichsbahn, whom I had met again at Borsigs, my time of training which actually would have amounted to three years was shortened in view of my career. Thus I took the "Regierungsbaumeister"examination in 1923. My chief task consisted in the drafting of a railroad shop employing rationalization methods. I passed again "with honors

and in addition to it I received a state reward which I used for a rather long stay for study purposes in the States. There I studied transportation means and installations and visited several industrial enterprises where the modern labor-rationalization methods were of the greatest interest to me.

B.) My work at the Reichsbahn.

After passing my examination, I was asked to join the "Deutsche Reichsbahn-Gesellschaft (German Railroad Corporation). As I was promised to be employed according to my inclinations, I accepted this offer. To start with, I worked as Prof. Nordmann's assistant in the engine development department of the Reichsbahn Central Office. Then, as chief of the Technical Department in the Reichsbahn factory in Koenigsberg. This factory was to be re-built for labor rationalization methods on the basis of my designs. When the re-construction was completed I was sent to the research laboratories of the Reichsbahn in Berlin where I became acquainted with all new technical devices concerning locomotives, rail-cars and vehicles. I myself also could introduce a few new devices.

There, I also wrote my thesis for my degree as Dr. Engineer with the heading: "The safety of tires for vehicles" on the basis of which I obtained the degree of a Dr.Ing. from the Technical College in Berlin in 1931. I again passed "with honors" and received a State Reward which I again used for an educational trip to improve my technical knowledge. This time

I travelled to the East where I studied the transportation situation and industrial enterprises.

My thesis was taken as basis for experiments which were carried out by a committee under my control. These experiments led to new knowledge concerning shrinkage and pressure and to new construction ideas.

In 1932 I was appointed chief of a vehicle development department in the Reichsbahn Central Office Berlin and in 1934 Chief of the Reichsbahn work-shop Berlin-Tempelhof. I was supposed to return to the Central Administration of the Reichsbahn after a short service.

6. My employment with Krupp.

To my surprise I received in March 1935 a written request of Dr. Dorpmueller then Managing Director of the Deutsche Reichsbahn, "to report immediately to Krupp for the purpose of taking over a leading position". I went to Essen assuming that it concerned a position in the Krupp locomotive factory. To my surprise I was told that this was not the case, but that I was expected to take charge of the artillery development department.

I do not know anything about the circumstances leading to my being called. I only was informed later on by Dr. Gustav Krupp v. Bohlen und Halbach that he personally had asked Dr. Dorpmueller to put as his disposal a suitable technician to take over this position which would be vacant, because the present chief, Dr. Ritter, had reached the retirable age.

Although I had no reason to give up the position I was holding then, as I found it very interesting and it definitely guaranteed my career at the Reichsbahn, I still accepted the offer.

On one hand the recommendation of my highest chief, Dr. Dorpmueller was decisive for me. He obviously considered me the right man. By a refusal I would have given the impression that I did not think myself capable to fill this position. On the other hand this new activity also met my technical-creative interests. I always had some aversion against any administrative activity or any work performed at the writing desk, which I probably would have had to perform later on as Reichsbahn official.

I had no scruples with regard to the absolute novelty of this task. I only looked at this task which expected me from a purely technical viewpoint. No political or military consideration entered into the picture. At this time I surely would have preferred a free, unhindered development work for instance in the Krupp Motor-car plant or in the Krupp Locomotive Plant, in the plant for agricultural implements or in the Gruson plant at the industrial construction, as I could have moved there on familiar ground. The entirely different subject which, so to speak, represented a cross section of all mathematical, physical and technical branches of knowledge, however attracted me. My studies had covered so many fields and I had to deal with so many different subjects during my employment at the Reichsbahn

that I really considered myself capable of performing this task.

I never thought of any personal advantages. I only was offered a few hundred marks more than I had at the Reichsbahn for which I gave up my right to a pension. Furthermore the new position was not leading in the industry, since Dr. Ritter who had resigned and whom I was supposed to replace, had never held a higher position in his life than that of a department chief, a position which at the utmost corresponded to the position of a "Werkdirektor" (plant manager) which I already had held at the Reichsbahn.

7.) My work at Krupp until the begin of the Second World War.

I joined the Krupp firm on 1 May 1935 and was assigned to Dr. Ritter for training. After one year of intensive occupation with the technical problems, which were entirely new to me, I was put in charge of the department for Artillery construction (A.K.) in spring 1936. Dr. Ritter retired.

In the beginning, my work was rather disappointing for me. All the developments for the German Wehrmacht had already been initiated more or less. I only had to supervise the further development according to plan. Krupp's share in the armament industry was already fixed. Until the outbreak of World War II, comparatively few developments were added. Moreover every detail of the development was controlled by the Wehrmacht in such a way that there was no opportunity for

free, responsible work.

After having realized that, I already asked for my release while Dr. Ritter was there. The reason for my staying on was that the starting of the foreign business proffered to me the opportunity to develop freely my technical abilities.

From 1935 onwards, the foreign countries which already had close business relations to Krupp before the World War I turned again to Krupp for their requirements for arms. Naturally they wanted to have quite modern arms which however had not been developed yet.

The years following 1935 were therefore filled with the work for developing arms intended for these countries. How much of my time this work took up, is shown by the fact that up to 1939 I developed about 26 quite new types of guns for the foreign countries whilst Krupp only produced 5 new types of guns for the German Wehrmacht during the same period.

I was able to develop completely freely the guns intended for foreign countries, guns, all of which were more efficient than those of the German Wehrmacht, since they had to be able to compete with the guns available on the world market.

With regard to my responsibility concerning the field of armament, I have to state that it was limited to purely developmental work. The AK had no authority to accept offers.

AK. was under the control of Dr. Griessmann, the chief of the Gruson plant in Magdeburg who, up to his retirement in 1938, was responsible to Dr. Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach with regard to armament matters. It was only after that year that the AK. was attached to the cast steel factory belonging to the sphere of activity of Alfried v. Bohlen who became Vorstand member in 1938.

At this date I was appointed deputy manager, after having been appointed Prokurist and department chief in 1936. This appointment, however, did not affect my sphere of activities in any respect. There were no changes, as I already want to state here, to the end of the war, apart from an interruption of a few months in 1943.

My responsible work always concerned weapon development. With the exception of the period mentioned above, I never handled production problems.

8.) My employment with Krupp during the first years.

The outbreak of World War II only brought along a certain change, since naturally the gravitational centre of the developmental work was shifted from the developmental work for foreign countries to the work for the Wehrmacht. Naturally, the work at the AK had to be intensified during the war. The extent of the work has changed, but not the kind and type of work.

It is evident that the developmental work in the AK always was somehow connected with the production shops. Upon request they had to construct test models and experimental guns and thus we came in certain contact with these shops. When war broke out we also had discussions with the shops regarding the change of the working program. The AK department however had no authority to interfere with these shops by giving orders.

9.) The management of the Krupp Machi[illegible] Fac[illegible]ory from Apr[illegible] to November 1943.

My appointment to a deputy Vorstand member in March 1941 did not result in a change of my scope of work. It only was an achnowledgement for my work in the sphere of the gun development.

Only after my appointment to a Vorstand member in spring 1943, the management of the so-called Maschinenfabrik for the whole combine in which the largest part of mechanical production plants were combined, was added to the management of the AK. The limits for the departments were finally fixed on 10 June 1943.

The supervision of the machine shops was confined to purely technical matters. Legal, commercial and labor questions were handled by other offices within the firm.

When looking back upon this period of my work with KRUPP I must point out, too, that shortly before I had taken up this additional task there were, after several light raids, already the first heavy bombing attacks in March 1943, which caused very extensive destruction in the cast steel factory. For lack of electric power, the works were almost completely shut down. Some of the factories were barely put on a makeshift basis again when more major raids concentrated on the factories in April, to be followed by others in July, August and September 1943. My task, therefore, consisted not in supervising normal production, but was taken up almost exclusively by the exhausting work of fixing up as far as possible damages suffered, and to get production started again, at least on a reduced scale.

For this purpose were required many conversations with the authorities concerned and the Armament's Ministry, which generally turned out to be unpleasant and fruitless. The promises for aid were in no ways kept, on the other hand, there was ever greater pressure brought to bear for deliveries as per agreement. Since this was impossible there ensued very serious reproaches from the Ministry. This made the situation so disagreeable for me that I was happy to give up my new scope of tasks toward the end of 1943. I was the more glad as I had realized at that time that, due to the continuing destruction in the cast steel plant as well as in most heavy industry, any effective

resistance against the enemy powers had become senseless. I also very candidly pointed out to important personalities since April 1943 that industry was menaced by paralysis due to air attacks, and I made myself no friends by doing this. SAUR commenced a systematic campaign against me. All my measures were described as insufficient and lackadaisical. Consequently, I grasped the first chance offered to shake off responsibility over the machine factories. This was offered in October 1943, when I did not want to promise him an unattainable production schedule and SAUR, after subjecting me to the coarsest kind of epithets, appointed a state commissar for the "Berthawerk". Immediately afterwards, in November 1943, I resigned from the management of the machine factory. I only remained nominally as a regular member of the Directorate, however, without a position of importance in the Konzern.

10.) The Time after November 1943 until the End of the War.

From this time on I devoted myself again exclusively to research work at "AM". I had ordered already in 1943 the moving of all research sections to near-by smaller Ruhr cities which were less exposed to bombing attacks. Only that part of the "AM" office which worked for "KM" and which had to take care for the necessary liaison with other departments remained in Essen.

For purely practical reasons I selected Kettwig as the place of my own work, because most of the moved AM offices were there,

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and because I had already transferred my residence to this town. I only rarely came to individual conferences in Essen. Since I had practically eliminated myself from the supreme management of the firm by resigning from the machine factory in 1943, I was barely invited and more to directorate meetings.

Although I was convinced already after the fall of Stalingrad that the war could not be won any more militarily, I nevertheless continued to work on the development of my weapons, even if less intensively than formerly. Notwithstanding the fact that I realized that only a small part of them would be used - for it was already difficult to produce even individual experimental weapons - I considered myself under the moral obligation to help the hard-fighting troops at the front w. m. that contribution which I could furnish by reason of my technical experience. To the extent as no more means were available for the realization of my ideas, I at least relieved my conscience as concerned our soldiers by my intellectual work.

11.) My Activities outside of KRUPP

in the Weapons Committee in 1940 and 1941.

In the spring of 1940 I was appointed by the Ministry TODT as honorary co-worker and I was put in charge of the management of the so-called "Working Union for Heavy Weapons" (over 10 cm caliber). These working unions were merged in the fall of 1940 in the Weapon's Committee, with myself as manager.

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My work at the Working Committee did not take up very much of my time. During the first war years there were only minor losses of weapons which could be easily replaced by current production. Certain defects, however, were discovered in some type of armament, that is to say, some of the army's equipment of weapons proved partly inadequate. For their replacement more efficient types had to be developed, and in this respect the Committee exercised a certain supervisory function. In addition, my principal task was during meetings to try for a uniform utilization of the production capacity of the entire German armaments industry. As Committee manager I always avoided in this connection to try to get, within the frame of these tasks, a preferment for KRUPP. I rather left it up to the competent Wehrmacht procurement offices, whose representatives took part in each Committee meeting, to distribute their orders in the customary manner to the individual firms. My work in connection with manufacturing techniques was confined to a statistical enumeration of production figures of the various plants. For my work I had no special staff at my disposal. A single KRUPP employee, Dipl. Ing. WAWERSIK, and one typist, were the entire personnel with whom I took care of my work in the Committee.

13.) My Resignation from the Weapon's Committee at the Beginning of 1942.

This situation changed in the winter

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of 1941/42 when, due to reverses on the Eastern Front, the weapons losses increased. The problems of replacing heavy infantry and light artillery weapons specially pressed for comprehensive and quick solutions. Upon the efforts of TODT, and SAUR, his co-worker in the Ministry, who also was "Hauptdienstleiter" (Main Service Manager), the hitherto customary form of completely finishing each piece in one plant was to be discarded, and the concept of the so-called group production was to be carried out. This meant that the production of individual weapon's parts was to be distributed to various manufacturing places. Thus, for instance, one factory alone should build the gun barrels, another the gun carriage or only individual parts for it, and another one the direction finders, etc. This was of course only possible by seriously interfering with the responsibility of the various factories concerned, because the means of production, the machines, etc. had to be drastically split up to be reassembled in other factories. Since I had strong technical misgivings with regard to the expediency of such basic measures right in the middle of the war, I got into sharp arguments with TODT and SAUR, in whose opinions I was obsolete and without energy. This brought it about that I completely retired in the spring of 1942 from my work in the Weapon's Committee and that I officially tendered its management to TODT, who transferred it to Director TIL, of the Vereinigte Stahlwerke (United Steel Works). From this time on, production was ruled in an ever more dictatorial manner.

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13.) Difficulties with the Ministry on account of the "Berthawerk".

Independent of the general change-over of industry to "group production", HITLER ordered the establishment of new plants for the mass output of particular gun types on the basis of conveyor systems. KRUPP was ordered to set up a new factory for light field howitzers. The firm selected Maerkstaedt near Breslau as site because a project was pending there for other reasons, which subsequently developed into the "Bertha-Werk". For the purpose of planning this plant extensive technical preliminary work had to be done with which Department AK was entrusted, and which was discontinued when a Vorstand was appointed in the summer of 1942 for the Berthawerk.

I myself designed such conveyor systems already in 1923 when I passed a "government-architect-examination", and subsequently built them for the Reichsbahnwerk (railway works) in Koenigsberg. In addition, I studied in the United States in 1928, while on an informative trip, such conveyor systems at FORD and other firms where they were operating in an exemplary manner. Thus I set up the necessary plans and redesigned the weapons for the purposes needed.

The planning and the actual building of the plant was the proper job for the Technical Office; the construction itself was carried out on its own responsibility by "Ruestungsausbau" (Armament Construction) SPEER" of the Armament's Ministry.

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Although not KRUPP but the SPEER Ministry was responsible for the progess of construction, and therefore for the earliest possible date when production could start up, it was the firm which was charged with responsibility for all the delays which prevented production. This gave rise to serious differences between the Ministry and KRUPP. I myself got enmeshed in these differences by the fact that SPEER Ministry officials, especially Herr HAL SAUR, preferred to turn to me because I happened to get in touch with them due to my work in the Weapon's Commission. Since SAUR's demands did not only by far exceed the limits of the technically possible, but since he also committed in our business relations the most primitive rules of courtesy, there arose serious arguments between us. In September/ October 1943 I declined to promise him the production figures which he dictatorially demanded. In September 1943, HITLER conferred upon SPEER, and thus on SAUR, extraordinary power over the entire industry. They used it immediately, namely already in October 1943, in connection with personal attacks against me, to appoint a state commissioner for the gun carriage production in the Berthawerk; KRUPP was thus eliminated.

These events still more strengthened my decision to resign from the management of the machine factories.

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14.) Difficulties in the Weapon's Commission.

After resigning from the Weapon's Committee in the spring of 1942, I was appointed by SPEER, who succeeded Dr. TODT after his death, to manage the newly-formed Weapon's Commission. It was to confine itself exclusively to weapon's research, which was separated from the Weapon's Committee. My fears concerning renewed arguments with SAUR were allayed by SPEER because he stated that SAUR would not mix in the development of weapons because he knew nothing about it. I had to accept this function because weapon's research was my very own domain of work.

I have carried out my work in the Weapon's Commission according to the same principles as originally in the Weapon's Committee, that is to say, I did not interfere in the developments of the various works but I confined myself to co-examine and solve research difficulties.

In the beginning, SAUR refrained from interfering with the work of the Weapon's Commission, but when the difficulties at the front increased in 1943, he demanded an impossible acceleration in the development of weapons and the making of technically inadequate arms, provided they could be turned out quickly enough. I most vehemently opposed such speed-up developments, for they were bound to have disastrous results for the troops.

Since at the same time severe differences existed between Saur and myself because of my resistance against his impossible demands upon Krupp, which, as already mentioned had led to my resignation from the Department Machine Production, I also informed Speer in November 1943 that I would resign from my position on the Weapons Commission. Speer, however, did not accept my resignation because, as he stated, my resignation would not be possible for propagandistic reasons.

I had to remain, therefore, but I refrained from exerting any influence and, upon suggestion of Weissenborn, my deputy, I created sub-commissions, which carried out research work independently. Upon my request, those representative duties which could not be avoided at all were carried out by Weissenborn.

Saur himself took over the demonstration of the equipment to Hitler so that I, from the end of 1943 on, was not ordered to report to Hitler any more.

15) Political attitude.

As I have stated already in the beginning, I have a strong one-sided technical talent which exclusively governed all my life. Most intensive personal work in my special field overshadowed everything else. I do not have any personal hobbies, I am not a society man and have not family ties. Political activities, too, were something I never thought of.

In this the seizure of power by National-Socialism made fundamentally no difference either. To be sure, the idea of the peace of labor (Arbeitsfriede) propagated by the NSDAP and its alleged social endeavors did appeal to me. For this reason I joined the NSDAP in 1933. I saw in it no avowal of a philosophy of life. I remained a party member without office or rank until 1945. During the Third Reich I never put in my appearance as a party man. My being called in consultation by ministerial offices and also my contacts with Hitler were based exclusively upon my capabilities and the consequent accomplishments as developer of weapons of the Krupp Konzern. It was also in recognition of these accomplishments that I was appointed Professor in 1943. I did not receive any honors or distinctions from the NSDAP. Nor did I move in party circles and did not even know whether my fellow workers were members of the Party. My political horizon was no larger than that of the other Germans. Especially the contacts with Hitler in which exclusively technical questions on arms were discussed, did nothing to widen it. I never was with Hitler alone, always only in connection with extensive technical discussions to which I was ordered as expert on arms. Since the end of 1943, I was, by the way, not called to Hitler any more, obviously in connection with the aforementioned differences with the ministerial offices.

16) The Time after the Collapse.

After the collapse I remained at first in Essen and several times Allied Commissions looked me up and asked me mainly technical questions on arms. On 10 September 1945 I was arrested and taken to the prison in Essen. I was told that criminal proceedings against the Krupp Konzern were to be counted on and I was constantly interrogated by an American-English Commission concerning affairs of the Konzern. On 18 October 1945 I was transferred to the internment camp Recklinghausen. On 31 January 1947 I was transferred to the Court-Prison at Nuremberg,

Dr. Erich Mueller.

I, Prof. Dr. Erich Mueller, at present Nuremberg, am aware that I render myself liable to prosecution if I make a false statement in lieu of oath.

I declare in lieu of oath that the above statements about my life are according to the best of my knowledge and are the full truth.

Nuremberg, 25 May 1948.

(signed) Dr. Erich Mueller.

I hereby certify that the above signature of Prof. Dr. Erich Mueller was signed in my presence and is authentic.

Nuremberg, 25 May 1948.

(signed) Dr. Link,
Attorney-at-Law.

C e r t i f i c a t e .

I hereby certify that all the documents are true copies of the originals submitted to the Military Tribunal No. III.

Nuremberg, 25 May 1948.

(signed) H. Link
Attorney-at-Law