

BOARD OF ECONOMIC WARFARE
~~ECONOMIC DEFENSE BOARD~~

~~WASHINGTON, D.C.~~
61 Broadway
New York City

CONFIDENTIAL

May 26, 1943

To: Arthur Beach

From: P. W. Loomis

Subject: Survey of Foreign Experts report N 1942, N 1943

Attached hereto please find Survey of Foreign Experts report N 1942 and N 1943 in the usual number of copies.

This report contains information regarding the Krupp works in Eseen. Will you kindly route a copy of these reports to W. P. Armstrong, inasmuch as it was at his request that this interview was held?

P. W. L.

Copy to W. P. Armstrong

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2000

NND 991485A Doc #1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EXEMPT from Declass. SURVEY OF FOREIGN EXPERTS
Per E. O. 12065, Sec. 3-4
11 West 42nd Street
New York City

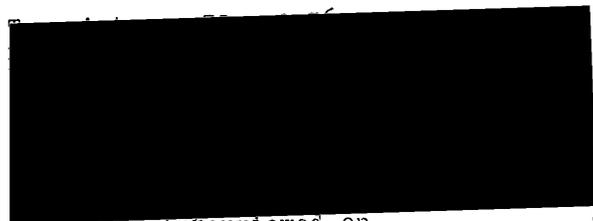
Re-review - 1989
#N1942 and #N1943

May 18, 1943.



COUNTRY: GERMANY

SUBJECTS:



they were interviewed on

CONDITIONS IN ESSEN (as of the summer of 1941)

KRUPP WORKS

Employment

It was generally known that 150,000 to 200,000 workers were employed in the Krupp Works.

Air Raid Damage

Subjects heard from the wife of a Krupp worker that some times whole departments of the plant had to be closed down for several weeks because of damage caused by the RAF. In such an event the workers of the affected departments were transferred to a non-damaged section of the Essen plant or frequently to a Krupp factory in another city, such as Rheinhausen, until repairs were completed.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC WARFARE
Equipment Security Section
33814

ELM

Th. GOLDSCHMIDT CHEMICAL WORKS

This plant was considerably expanded and according to rumors current in Essen, was manufacturing poison gases.

FOREIGN WORKERS

Many Italians were employed in Essen in the Krupp Works as well as in various coal mines, but they were not considered very efficient.

Poles worked in large numbers in the mines of Gelsenkirchen. War prisoners of various nationalities were used for road repair work in and around Essen.

AIR RAID EFFECTS

Up to the time of subjects' departure from Essen in August 1941 there were frequent but small air raids on Essen. Subjects estimated the raiding force at not more than 20 at any one time.

Damage to residential sections was inconsiderable and the general opinion was that the RAF sought only military objectives and that damage to civilian property was accidental.

#N1942 and #N1943

May 18, 1943.

Railroad communications were frequently interrupted after air raids hampering the food supply of the city. The water supply systems of some sections of the city were also damaged occasionally. The supply of electricity and gas was never affected.

The population accepted the air raids as a natural consequence of the war and showed no hatred for the British or the RAF. Subjects even sometimes heard expressions of regret when British planes were shot down.

MORALE

Grumbling was widespread, particularly among the workers and small businessmen. People expressing their dissatisfaction too openly were sent to labor camps in the interior of Germany, and after being "educated" there for several weeks or even months were glad to be able to work again under the conditions they previously grumbled about.

The war generally was considered to be a private venture of the Nazis and the possibility of Germany's defeat did not cause any particular fear. A temporary occupation of Germany by the Allies was expected and statements such as, "anything would be better than the Nazis" could be heard.

In subjects' opinion only terror and fear of the Gestapo were holding Germany together, and any relaxation of the pressure under which the population was kept would cause a rapid collapse.

Subjects did not know of any organized anti-Nazi group but were sure that many individuals would welcome and assist an Allied invasion. The only absolutely pro-Nazi group and the most serious problem for the future peace of the world, were the young people who grew up under the Hitler regime and who know of no other way of life.

R.G. Carroll, Interviewer