

French Slave Labor

Krupp Armaments Factory at Essen, subcamp of Buchenwald

In every occupied country, the Nazis established a civilian bureaucracy to conscript laborers for German war industries. The Krupp armaments firm was a major employer of slave labor, and an estimated 70 to 80 percent of that labor force died as a consequence of inhuman treatment. After the war, owner Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach was arrested as a major war criminal, but he escaped trial on grounds of poor health. Alfred Krupp and eleven other directors were found guilty and sentenced to prison terms of two to twelve years.

The 520 slave laborers for the Krupp factory at Essen were supplied by the Nazi SS, managed with exemplary cruelty as a subcamp of the Buchenwald concentration camp.

A November 19, 1942, letter from forced laborer R. Dollet, slave No. 379 at the Krupp factory in Essen, to his wife in occupied France, examined by German censors at Frankfurt.

