

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL  
FOR PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: HERMANN GOERING  
By: Colonel Amen, 1 October 1945, PM.

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PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. GOERING:
  - a. Employment of Foreign Workers (pp.3-20)
  - b. Employment of Prisoners of War in War Industry (pp.6-8)
  - c. Armament production  
Subterranean factories
  - d. Relationship with: Himmler (pp.5,17); Pohl (pp.5,8,11);  
Sauckel (pp.3-4, p.18); Speer (p.3,pp.15-17); Frank (p.13);  
SS Gruppenfuehrer Kummeler (pp.3-4, 14,18);
  - e. Discussion of Documents: Exhibits, Goering, A-L (pp.4-16)
2. HIMMLER:
  - a. Employment of Prisoners of War in Armament Manufacture  
(pp.1-3, 17)  
(1) Documents involving orders by Himmler re (See Exhibits  
A-L, pp.4-15)
3. POHL:
  - a. Employment of foreign labor and Prisoners of War in Armament  
Manufacture. (pp.8-9, 5, 11)
4. SPEER:
  - a. Employment of foreign labor and Prisoners of War in Armament Manu-  
facture.(pp.15-17)

EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN LABOR

Goering stated that he had heard it was Himmler who suggested to Hitler that prisoners of concentration camps and prisoners of war be taken for work in industry (armament and aircraft manufacture).(p.1) Goering stated that as early as the beginning of 1942 prisoners of war were used for such work. Workers from concentration camps could be obtained through Himmler's offices. Inmates from other prisons were obtained from the Ministry of Justice. Speer generally requested workers without concern from what source they came.(pp.2-3)

Goering believes that SS Gruppenfuehrer Kummeler was responsible for the construction of subterranean factories manufacturing airplane parts.

Hermann Goering, 1 October 1945, p.m.

He submitted all plans to Goering for approval. (There was a special subterranean factory at Kahle, Thuringia under Gauleiter Sauckel.) (pp.3-4)

Goering stated that he had little or nothing to do with the requisitioning of concentration camp inmates for construction work in aircraft industries; that these matters were handled by subordinates. He disclaimed knowledge of the teletype to Himmler, dated 14 February 1944 concerning requests for additional prisoners for labor. However, Goering acknowledged the authenticity of this document as an official communication.

A series of documents was shown Goering regarding which he disclaimed any personal knowledge but which he identified as authentic, official communications.

a. Exhibit A, 1 October 1945: Refers to request to Himmler, dated 14 February 1944 signed by Goering calling for an additional allocation of prisoners. (pp.4-5)

b. Exhibit B: Refers to two teletypes, dated 18 February 1945, from Himmler to Goering regarding the matter of prison labor. In this connection Goering candidly admits that Russian and French prisoners of war were used in armament manufacture; the few if any British were used because they either refused the work or were not suited to the assignments. Goering evaded the question as to whether or not prisoners of war were forced to accept such work. He indicated, however, that certain incentives were offered which made such work particularly attractive, i.e. free time, etc. "... they preferred this arrangement to the stiff regimentation in the camps." (pp.6-8)

c. Exhibit C: Refers to document, dated 22 February 1944, from Pohl to Himmler re SS participation in armament production through use of concentration camp labor. (p.8)

d. Exhibit D: Refers to document, dated 8 March 1944, from Himmler to Pohl re the security measures required for guarding of concentration camp labor employed in factories. (p.9)

Exhibits E, F, G, H, I, J all referred to allied subjects. Goering identified them as authentic documents. (pp.11-15)

Exhibits K and L are identified on p.18 and p.19 respectively.

In March of 1944 production of fighter planes became of prime importance. Speer was in charge of the armament industry. In April or May 1944 he took over total production of the air force. He required many workers. He did not have the authority to requisition forced labor

Hermann Goering, 1 October 1945, p.m.

direct from the camps-- this was always handled by Himmler. In the case of larger requests the matter went through Hitler. Goering is of the opinion that the forced labor program as a whole worked out very successfully. Poles and Czechs were extensively used. (pp.16,18-20)