

# POTSDAM REPARATIONS BEGIN

**Bremen Shipyard Moved First Under Control Council Capital Equipment Allocations. Three More Plants on the Way Out.**

The first shipment of industrial capital equipment to be removed from Germany as reparations under terms of the Potsdam Agreement, was recently loaded at the port of Bremen on the Soviet freighter "Alexander Pushkin" for shipment to the USSR.

Deschimag shipyards (Deutsche Schiff und Maschinenbau AG) were allocated to Russia by the Coordinating Committee of the Allied Control Council last December. This shipbuilding concern, located at Bremen Weser, was one of the largest in Germany. Despite some bomb damage and depreciation, the shipyards are estimated to be worth 12,000,000 pre-war marks. It is estimated that it will require at least five additional ships of the size of the "Alexander Pushkin" to load the entire shipyard.

Before the war, large numbers of merchant ships were built by the Deschimag shipyards — cargo vessels up to 10,000 tons, tankers up to 16,000 tons and freighters and transports up to 25,000 tons. During the war, however, naval construction, including large numbers of submarines, almost entirely replaced merchant marine shipbuilding.

Ten launching ways, a floating dock, a large machine shop, foundry, power plant, five 7½-ton cranes and one 150-ton crane are included in the equipment of the shipyard. Seven hundred and fifty German laborers, most of them former employees of the shipyard, have been working for more than three months dismantling and crating the machinery.

At the same time, MG announced that equipment from three other large German industrial plants, allocated to the USSR, was on its way to Bremen. One of these was Germany's largest ball-bearings plant, the Kugelfischer Works, which had a value of RM 25,000,000. One half of this plant was allocated as reparations to the western European nations, and the other half to the Soviet Union. Twenty carloads of equipment from this plant, formerly located at Schweinfurt, have been sent to Bremen for shipment to Russia.

A fifteen-car trainload of heavy machinery from a Bavarian power-plant, located at Gendorf, started on its way to Bremen Monday. The plant, which is valued at ten million pre-war marks, is large enough to supply a town of 35,000 with electric current. Built during the war, the plant supplied power to the Anorgana Chemical Works, a factory engaged in the production of chemicals for explosives and mustard gas, now slated for destruction.

Also on its way to Bremen for shipment to Russia as reparations, is equipment from the huge Daimler-Benz underground aircraft engine plant near Oberingheim. Six thousand slave laborers worked two years constructing the plant, which was located in an underground gypsum mine of steel and concrete construction. During the war it was producing 600 aircraft engines per month.

## Found: Wehrmacht Documents

Sealed behind heavy iron doors in river caves which had once been used for the storage of ice, eight tons of German military Documents have been discovered by the MG Detachment at Marktheidenfeld in Mainfranken, Bavaria.

The documents consist of personnel files on 50,000 troops of 30 divisions, including members of the Wehrmacht, Marine and Waffen-SS. Among the files were records of German courts martial revealing that German soldiers had been shot for desertion and political crimes on Gestapo charges. Families of such soldiers were notified "that their relatives were missing."

Most of the Waffen-SS files came from the Mainz Corps Area Headquarters, which had apparently retreated down the Main River ahead of the American advance, and deposited its files in the river caves.

## Raw Cotton Imports

Arrangements are being made for the importation of 50,000 tons of American cotton into Germany for the manufacture of textile products, of which forty percent will be made available for German use and the balance used to pay for the cost of the imported cotton, MG has announced. (See **Weekly Information Bulletin** No. 36, 8 April 1946).

This will mark the second shipment of United States surplus cotton stocks to Germany. In February, 10,000 tons of raw cotton were procured by MG for the manufacture of vitally needed agricultural supplies in the US Zone.

In addition to clothing for farmers, miners and others performing essential

jobs, the finished textiles to be manufactured in German mills will include a variety of essential medical supplies and industrial products, such as cotton belting, twine and flour sacks.

The agreement on cotton imports is being negotiated with the Commodity Credit Corporation Agency and the US Commercial Company, both representing the US government, and OMGUS.

Ten thousand tons are expected to be shipped this spring and the remainder will arrive in several shipments spread over the next twelve months.

## Civilian Labor

If you wish to employ US civilian personnel in trades, craft and laboring positions, first make certain that German personnel is not available or that the use of German personnel is impracticable from a security standpoint, according to a USFET letter (AG 230.14 GAP-AGCP, 11 April 1946). An increasing number of requests for authority to employ US civilians in ungraded positions are being received with insufficient information to justify such action.

USFET wants you to submit job descriptions which really cover the duties and responsibilities of the unfilled positions and the reasons for requesting US rather than German civilian personnel. If your objections to using Germans are based on security factors, furnish a statement showing the security elements involved, and if your objections are on the grounds that no Germans are available to do the job, indicate what efforts have been made to recruit German personnel.