

National Swiss Press Agency AG (sda)

To all
Colleagues and Public Relations Persons
of the sda-Investigation

Bern, August 24, 2000

Dear Colleagues, dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the following enclosure, as many of you were promised, you will receive the results of the sda-Investigation regarding the problem of forced labor in enterprises with Swiss capital in Germany during the Second World War.

All who are familiar with this problem are aware of the fact that this inventory only represents a rough first attempt at approaching this complex subject. On the basis of the only partial investigation of source material, many questions remain open, above all regarding mid-sized and small enterprises.

The situation of East European subsidiaries is virtually unknown. In addition, research regarding firms in France, above all along the border, especially in Alsace, in Austria, especially in Voralberg, and in Northern Italy.

A further problem is the exact determination of the percentage of Swiss capital. Capital was often handled via a fiduciary, shares sold, or partially fictitiously transferred.

Thus, this investigation can only be an attempt to come to a closer approximation of this complex problem. The many open questions must be resolved by historians. The many mountains of still unexamined files and unanswered questions promise sufficient work for generations of young and older historians.

I would hereby like to thank you heartily for your cooperation. Archivists were spontaneously willing to examine files in their archives. The work I had to do was greatly eased by the work of numerous local and regional historians.

Also pleasing to me was the fact that the great majority of the enterprises, in part after initial hesitation, were willing to work together with us in this incomplete approximation of the historical truth regarding the history of their enterprises.

With many thanks and sincere greetings,

Roderick von Kauffungen
Head of Operations sda

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Firms with Swiss Capital and Forced Labor in Germany Over 11,000 Forced Laborers Were Employed

Bern (sda). During the Second World War, firms in Germany with Swiss capital employed over 11,000 forced laborers. This figure is the result of an sda-Investigation.

The numbers on the forced laborers are documented in firm-, city-, regional-, and federal archives. It must nevertheless be assumed that the actual numbers are greater.

Some numbers are only abbreviated numbers. Many middle and smaller sized enterprises have not been included. As well, Swiss enterprises in Alsace and Vorarlberg were not investigated.

In total, approximately 8 million foreign workers were employed in the greater German Reich, almost all of them involuntarily.

On August 25, the deadline set by Judge Edward Korman expires. By this date, all those enterprises who, in their German subsidiaries or associated companies, used any type of forced labor during the Second World War, must report this information.

Essential Forced Labor

All large industrial enterprises with Swiss capital, that were still productive after 1943, were considered to be vital to the war effort. Only these firms received contingents of forced laborers. They were proscribed what they were to produce.

Without the use of forced labor, a steady flow of mass produced products would not have been possible. German men were on the front and had to be replaced. Enterprises which required "man's work" depended more heavily on forced labor than those which required "women's work".

For the following firms alone, 8,709 forced laborers are on record: Aluminium-Industrie Gemeinschaft (ALIG) (4994), BBC (2008), and Georg Fischer (1707). For BBC and two ALIG subsidiaries, these numbers do not represent total numbers, but numbers recorded on a specific date.

Dramatic Labor Shortage

The economic reason for forced labor was the labor shortage. Ideologically, forced labor was legitimized as the economic exploitation of those whose lives were deemed inferior -- Jews, Eastern Europeans, Russians, the opposition, homosexuals, and 'gypsies'.

During the first phases, many enterprises strove to employ forced laborers. The economic efficiency of the untrained workers was minimal. During the course of the war, the firms, however, would not have been able to continue production without the use of forced labor.

BBC Subsidiary in the Concentration Camp Buchenwald

The moral responsibility of the enterprises is evident from today's point of view in their treatment of the forced laborers. The spectrum ranges from voluntary labor of foreign workers to slave labor.

Working conditions ranged all the way from occupation in family-owned, small-sized businesses and farms from which friendships developed, up to the sadistic murder practices in those enterprises which used concentration camp prisoners. The use of concentration camp prisoners has only been recorded for the BBC subsidiary Stotz-Kontakt.

Treatment largely depended on the "category" of the worker. Workers from the west enjoyed nearly the same labor rights as Germans. Polish citizens were much worse off. Workers from the area of the former Soviet Union were considered "subhuman".

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Although most enterprises were able to gain an advantage due to the lower wages paid to forced laborers, however, according to historians, these profits were not significant. Wages for workers from the West were paid out after deductions for room and board.

Costs of room and board were also subtracted from the wages for workers from the East. The remainder was, for the most part, paid to the state as "Eastern Worker Tax" [Ostarbeitersteuer]. For workers from the East, often only a few pennies were left over.

War Goods and Supplies

Vital for the war effort, the highest priority was accorded to armament goods (supplier Georg Fischer, producer Fahr) and metal suppliers (Alusuisse). Products for the Wehrmacht (German Army) were classified as important. The supplying of foodstuffs (Maggi, Sarotti/Nestlé) was also assigned a high priority.

Towards the end of the war, the sources from which the work force of forced laborers was drawn had also dried up. Many enterprises with products not considered vital for the war effort had to close. One other possibility was for the enterprises to change the assortment of products offered.

Enterprises which refrained from the use of forced labor had to accept considerable financial disadvantages. In the case of insufficient orders, these disadvantages could lead to bankruptcy. Still, in businesses not involved with armaments, there was room for maneuvering. This maneuverability reached as far as passive resistance against the regime.

Three-Fold Profit

Firms with Swiss capital profited many times over. Some enterprises were able, through the process of "Aryanization", to buy up Jewish businesses cheaply before the war. During the war, Swiss subsidiaries and affiliated companies, as well as their parent companies, profited from rising sales/ turnover and profits.

Thus, the German BBC group was able to increase its sales between 1939 and 1943 from 137 to 177.8 million Reichsmarks. The net profit for the years 1940 to 1943 totaled 6 million Reichsmarks.

In addition, at the end of the war, "letters of protection" [Schutzbriefe] protected all enterprises which were able to prove the existence of Swiss capital from threatened dismantling, confiscation and theft by the Allies.

Firms with Swiss Capital and Forced Labor in Germany: The Most Important Enterprises

Extra 1

Bern (sda) The most important enterprises with a majority of Swiss capital and employing forced laborers were:

Alu Rheinfelden (ALIG/Alusuisse/Algroup, total number: 2,879)
BBC Mannheim (BBC Baden/ABB, January, 1944: 2008, total number: unknown)
Georg Fischer Singen (Georg Fischer Schaffhausen, total number: 1,707)
Aluminium-Walzwerke Singen (ALIG/Alusuisse/Algroup, total number: unknown)
Tonerdewerk Martinswerk Bergheim/Erft (ALIG/Alusuisse/Algroup, total number for 1944: 671, total number: unknown)
Lonza Waldshut (Lonza/Algroup, Spring 1943: 623, estimated total number: up to 800)
Portland Zementwerk Golleschau ("Financial Sharing Company"
[Finanzbeteiligungsgesellschaft] Contvalor with SBV capital/UBS, total number: approximately 400)
Maggi Singen (Maggi Kempththal/Nestlé, total number: 378)
Aluminiumgiesserei Villingen (ALIG/Alusuisse/Algroup, total for 1945: 249, total number: unknown)
Erste Deutsche Ramie-Gesellschaft Emmendingen (Ramie-Seiler, June 1942: at least 160 forced laborers, estimated total number: 800)
Escher-Wyss Ravensburg (Escher-Wyss/Sulzer, total number: 198-203)
Escher-Wyss Lindau (Escher-Wyss/Sulzer, number in 1945: 43, total number: unknown)

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Nestlé Milchwerk Kappeln (Deutsche Aktiengesellschaft für Nestlé-Erzeugnisse/Nestlé, firm work camp: 30-40 positions, total number: unknown, estimates: approximately 100)

In parentheses the name of the parent company at the time is listed first, followed by successor enterprises.

The numbers are documented in city-, regional-, land-, and federal archives, as well as in firm archives. The total numbers are higher.

Some of the above documented numbers are only yearly figures or numbers for a specific date. Others are incomplete, and others refer only to positions reserved for workers. The estimates have been provided by historians.

Firms with Swiss Capital and Forced Labor in Germany - The Problem of Sources

Extra 2

Bern (sda) Figures on forced labor can only be an approximation. Firm and bureaucratic archives were bombed, disposed of, destroyed. Others are molding in damp cellars. Large archives have not yet been evaluated.

There are reliable numbers for some firms. For other firms, the numbers are only documented for specific dates [Stichdaten]. The large fluctuations in personnel present additional difficulties for research.

Some enterprises continually employed forced laborers, others according to their needs, and still others borrowed civilian workers for a few weeks from neighboring enterprises.

Bombed out armament firms were quartered in textile firms. Armament commands took on the transferal of foreign workers or forced enterprises involved with the production of consumer goods to produce armaments with the use of forced labor.

Detailed and, until now, only partially evaluated material about forced labor in Southern Germany has been stored in the Federal Archive - Military Archive in Freiburg (with figures on all the armament firms), in the Badischen General Land Archive in Karlsruhe, and in the Archive of the former French Occupation Authority, the Archives de l'occupation française en Allemagne et en Autriche, in Colmar.

Access to the Archives of the United Nations has not yet been granted to historians. On December 6, 1945 an order was issued to all firms in the former German Reich. It was the investigation about civilian workers and members of the armed forces of the United Nations.

The firms were ordered to hand over all documents and papers to the United Nations. Where this material is stored today is only partially known. In many city offices copies of the lists which were compiled at that time still exist.

Firms with Swiss Capital and Forced Labor in Germany The Search for Clues: Sisyphus and Sherlock Holmes

Extra 3

Bern (sda) The national socialist regime is characterized by its fanaticism and its meticulousness. The ideological mania also manifested itself in the administration: Almost everything was documented.

Information about forced labor, which has yet to be evaluated, is stored in innumerable German Archives. Many local and regional historians are in the process of evaluating this material.

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The search for clues and the safe-guarding of clues have intertwined paths. In large enterprises, the lists of names of foreign workers are often relatively quickly able to be found. Through a costly process the names were recorded in a computer data-base, compared, and counted up.

In smaller enterprises, the search proves more difficult. Workers from the West can be determined through residence registration offices, social insurance agencies, and local health insurance institutions. The workers from the East, for whom a tax was owed to the state, can be found among the lists of the tax offices.

Also helpful are furthermore the lists of the employment offices and armament commands. However, this information is often missing. In that case, only coincidences help.

A historian researching in a building permits office can happen upon a mountain of old files, which contains an application form for the construction of toilets and washing room.

The reasons for the denial of the application are as follows: it is not permissible that German employees use the same facilities as workers from the East. The safe-guarding of clues can thus begin.

Firms with Swiss Capital and Forced Labor in Germany Clarification of the Term "German Enterprise"

Extra 4

Bern (sda) In the joining the foundation initiative [Stiftungsinitiative] of the German industry, all subsidiary companies of Swiss firms received legal protection from all future legal action of individual forced laborers or groups of forced laborers.

The term "German Enterprise" was defined in Paragraph 12 and 16 of the Law for the Establishment of the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility, and Future" as follows:

1. Enterprises, who had their headquarters within the 1937 borders of the German Reich or within the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as their parent companies, even in the case that their headquarters were or are located on foreign territory.
2. Enterprises outside of the 1937 borders of the German Reich, in which, during the period between January 30, 1933 and the time when the Law for the Establishment of the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" comes into force, German enterprises, according to Sentence 1, directly or indirectly had at least a 25% share.
3. The term "German Enterprise" does not include foreign parent companies with headquarters outside the 1937 borders of the German Reich in the case of legal actions, in which the only presented complaint, which can be traced back to the injustice of National Socialism or the Second World War, is not connected to the German subsidiary enterprises and its participation in national socialist injustices, unless the case be that, the plaintiff/plaintiffs has/have submitted a "discovery request" of which the United States were informed by the accused in writing (with copy sent to the plaintiff/plaintiffs) and in which documents are requested from a German subsidiary enterprise (or pertaining to a German subsidiary) about its actions during the Second World War or during the national socialist era.

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Firms with Swiss Capital and Forced Labor in Germany Forced Labor: A Complex System of Exploitation and Repression

Analysis

by Roderick von Kauffungen, sda

Bern (sda) During the Second World War over 11,000 forced laborers were employed in firms with Swiss capital. This number is the result of an investigation undertaken by the sda. The number is documented in archives.

The actual number is higher. The archival information provided by far too many enterprises is still incomplete. Furthermore, Swiss firms in Alsace and in Vorarlberg have not been included.

In addition, the percentage of Swiss capital is often unclear. More than just a few Swiss firms started out the 30s with Swiss capital and, after 1939, sold shares, which must be feared to be expropriations, to German owners of assets [Kapitaleigner].

Fiduciary relocation also took place. From 1944 on, these capital shares were transferred back again, in the knowledge of the inevitable defeat of Nazi Germany.

Double Protection Under the Law

On August 25th, the deadline, which was set by Judge Edward Korman, for Swiss firms to report all forms of forced labor used by their German subsidiary firms during the Second World War expires. If the firms report their information, then they are to be included in the matching fund.

If they do not report, then, according to Korman, they risk individual or collective legal action. However, those firms which joined the foundation initiative [Stiftungsinitiative] the German industry can no longer be legally sued.

Wolfgang Gibowski, spokesperson for the foundation initiative, maintains that according to agreements between the governments of Germany and the United States German subsidiaries of foreign firms who are members of the foundation initiative, also enjoy legal protection.

Pillars of the Armaments Industry

Between 1939 and 1945, approximately 8 million foreign civilian workers, POWs and concentration camp prisoners from 20 European countries worked in countless enterprises in the Greater German Reich. There were about 30,000 camps.

All larger industrial enterprises that remained productive after 1943 were considered to be vital for the war effort. They were the only ones to receive larger contingents of forced laborers. Armament firms had priority. Armament commands undertook the allocations.

Without the use of forced labor, a steady flow of mass produced products would not have been possible. German men were on the front or had fallen, and had to be replaced in the firms. Historians use the following guideline as their starting point: Firms with more than 10 employees had to rely upon forced labor.

Firms with Swiss capital which supplied metal (Alusuisse), produced parts for armament goods (Georg Fischer), processed foodstuffs (Maggi), or made textiles for the Army (Schiesser), continually used forced labor.

155 Firms in the French-Occupied Zone

Immediately following the end of the Second World War, the Swiss consulate in Baden-Baden compiled a list of 155 resident firms of the French occupied zone. With "letters of protection", they were to be protected from expropriation, dismantling, or theft.

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However, in part, it is a matter of insignificantly small enterprises. Some of the listed firms had to shut down their operations during the war.

Archives in Colmar

In 1946, the French occupation authority compiled a list with 91 names in South Baden. At that time, the enterprises also had to explain if they had used forced labor.

Important Swiss subsidiary and associated enterprises, including those using forced labor, are missing from both of the above mentioned lists.

Broad Spectrum of Treatment

The praxis of forced labor was not new. Forced laborers were already being employed by Swiss subsidiary firms during the First World War.

The economic reason for forced labor was the labor shortage. Ideologically, forced labor was legitimized as the economic exploitation of those whose lives were considered inferior -- Jews, Eastern Europeans, Russians, the opposition, homosexuals, and 'gypsies'.

During the first phases, many enterprises strove to take on forced laborers. The economic efficiency of the untrained workers was minimal. This changed during the course of the war. Without the use of unskilled foreign labor, the firms would not have been able to survive and continue production.

The spectrum of occupation ranged from voluntary foreign employment, to forced allocation, all the way to slave labor. There were occupations in family-owned small-sized businesses and farms, out of which grew friendships that have lasted until this day. And there were as well sadistic murder practices in enterprises using concentration camp prisoners.

BBC Subsidiary in the Concentration Camp Buchenwald

First, factories were constructed in the vicinity of the concentration camps. Then, hundreds of auxiliary camps were established near armament factories.

Only in one instance can the use of concentration camp prisoners in an enterprise with Swiss capital be documented. During the last weeks of the war, the BBC subsidiary Stotz-Kontakt moved machines and equipment to the concentration camp Buchenwald. For a short period of time, parts for the unmanned large-scale V2 missile were produced there.

The Privileged and the Sub-Human

The moral responsibility of the enterprises, from today's point of view, begins with their treatment of the forced laborers. Treatment largely depended on the "category" of the worker.

Workers from the West enjoyed nearly the same labor rights as Germans. Workers from the East, for example, the Polish, far less. Workers from the area of the former Soviet Union were considered "subhuman". They were often beaten to death.

Economy vs. Ideology

The intensification of the labor shortage during the course of the war also had an effect on the treatment and the payment of foreign workers.

The first years of the war indicate a higher efficiency of labor for skilled workers from the West in comparison to workers from the East. During the course of the war, many western workers - partly for political reasons - allowed themselves to be certified medically unfit, in order not to have to continue working.

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French POWs working at Lonza Waldshut swallowed mercury in order to be medically certified as unfit for work. Some died.

In the later years of the war, workers from the East achieved amazing work performances, in so far as they were medically capable of doing so. For it was of little use to the enterprises to harass unskilled and sick employees in such a way that they would contribute little or nothing economically to the enterprises.

In 1942, at the latest, the economic benefit of the workers from the East was valued more than the racial regulations. Retraining programs and performance premiums greatly increased work performances.

In General, No Wage Advantage

Although for the majority of enterprises were able to gain wage advantages through the use of forced labor, according to historians, such advantages were not significant. Wages for western workers was paid out after deductions for room and board.

Costs of room and board were also subtracted from the wages for workers from the East. The remainder was, for the most part, paid to the state as "Eastern Worker Tax" [Ostarbeitersteuer]. Above all in the first years of the war, workers from the East, were often left over with only a few pennies, which in some firms was only paid out in internal company credits.

Flexible Forced Labor System

Armament firms which were vital for the war effort were assigned forced laborers, meaning civilian persons, POWs and concentration camp prisoners, men, women and also children. Firms were required to submit applications, which were checked.

Enterprises which required "men's work" relied more heavily upon forced labor than did those which required what was traditionally "women's work". In cigar factories, in which around 90% of employees were women, a sufficient numbers of workers were available.

The Nazi ideology nevertheless banned the German woman to the home. She was to be present at the hearth, to bear children and raise them. Even up the end of the war, this ideological barrier was never able to be completely overcome.

War Goods and Supplies

Vital for the war effort, the highest priority was accorded to armament goods as well as suppliers, and the metal processing industries. Furthermore, products for the Wehrmacht (German Army), such as vehicles, uniforms, boots and pistol holsters were also classified as important.

The supplying of foodstuffs had likewise a high priority. Production in the foodstuff firms to the butcher's shop was essential.

Towards the end of the war the reservoir of foreign workers and POWs had dried out. Many enterprises with products not considered vital for the war effort had to close due to the lack of workers.

New Products and Relationships

One other possibility was for the enterprises to change the assortment of products offered. Silk weavers no longer had their traditional market. In order to survive, new customers had to be sought.

Silk fabric was no longer used for women's blouses but instead for parachutes. In addition, orders from the Wehrmacht for uniforms, or from the SS for black shirts were lucrative. The new customers ensured good relationships and a supply of forced laborers.

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Grenades, not Fabrics

Enterprises were as well externally directed. During the course of the war, the political and military leadership increasingly dictated what has to be produced in order to achieve the "Final Victory". Enterprises producing consumer goods were incorporated into the armament industry.

In October 1943, in the badisch textile industry there were 16,900 workers employed in original (textile) production and 2,300 workers in unrelated branches (19 firms). In September 1944, the ratio had significantly changed: 13,500 workers in original (textile) production and 4,907 in unrelated branches (32 firms).

In weaving-mills, from day to day, looms were removed. In the workshops, with new machines and under new management, parts for grenades were to be produced. The enterprises were to knuckle under and to produce.

However, they profited through the orders. Between 1939 and 1943, the turnover of BBC Mannheim and its subsidiaries rose from 137 to 177.8 million Reichsmarks. The net profit amounted to 1.4 million Reichsmark in 1939, in 1940 to 2.8 million, and in the following two years, supposedly due to increased investment, sunk to 1.8 million (1941) and 1.4 million (1942) Reichsmarks.

Room for Maneuverability up to Bankruptcy

Despite everything, in Germany during the Nazi Era, there was room for maneuverability in the enterprises dealings with forced labor, especially for those who did not produce goods which were considered vital for the war effort.

The political system was nonetheless unpredictable. The Party, Gestapo, and SS kept enterprises under surveillance, monitoring whether the ideological racial regulations were implemented in regard to the treatment of forced laborers. The classifications ranged from Aryans to the French and the Italians, all the way to the Polish and the "sub-human" Russians.

In the case of non-compliance, harassment such as expropriations, take-overs and closures were threatened. Enterprises which refrained from the use of forced labor had to accept considerable financial disadvantages. In the case of insufficient orders, these disadvantages could lead to bankruptcy.

Resistance and "Model Factory"

In Badisch-Rheinfelden, the Swiss subsidiary *Kraftübertragungswerke* (KWR) fought against all types of Nazi infiltration and the use of forced labor. Nearby, the Alu-Rheinfelden allowed Russian POWs to be beaten to death.

In Munich, the cigarette factory Villiger employed members of the persecuted Jehovah's Witnesses. The firm resisted the Gestapo's attempts to pressure it up to the time it was destroyed by bombing in 1943.

Maggi in Singen and Schiesser in Radolfzell developed into "National Socialist Model Factories," in part under the party and SS flag. The Nazi regime rewarded these factories with special honors.

Profiting Many Times Over

Firm with Swiss capital profited many times over. Firms, such as the cigar factory Burger, were able during the process of "Aryanization", to buy up Jewish businesses cheaply before the war. Other firms, such as the cigar firm Hediger acted in a proper manner towards Jewish business owners.

After 1940, through the use of forced laborers, enterprises who were considered vital for the war effort above all profited from a large percentage of men in their work force. Without the use of forced labor, these enterprises would not have been able to fill their orders and would have had to close down their factories.

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And at the end of the war, some companies who could prove the existence of Swiss capital, were able to fall back upon their neutrality.

Preparations in September 1944

Already on September 20, 1944, the Newspaper for Swiss in Foreign Countries [Zeitschrift der Schweizer im Ausland] asked the Swiss consulate in Baden-Baden to issue "letters of protection" for 20 firms, with Swiss capital, which were named by name, in the area between Constance and Singen.

Among them, are firms such as Maggi, Georg Fischer, Aluminium -Walzwerke, Scheisser, Schwarzenbach, and Fahr.

Swiss Flag instead of Nazi Emblem

The Swiss subsidiaries quickly came to terms with the Occupation Authorities. According to eyewitness accounts, Maggi in Singen took down the emblem of the national socialist "Model Factory" during the night before the arrival of French troops in Singen on April 24, 1945.

In place of the "Model Factory" emblem, the Swiss flag was hoisted. On the very same day, the Maggi factories were equipped with Swiss "letters of protection", a notabene well prepared action.

In 1944/45, as the end of the Nazi regime became clear, and expropriation, this time threatened by the Allies, shares were bought back, and/or transferred back. Owners of Swiss capital armed themselves early on for having to start over again -- the "Zero Hour" [Stunde Null].

Firms with Swiss Capital and Forced Labor in Germany Numbers for Enterprises, Civilian Workers, and Prisoners of War

Firms with Swiss capital in Germany during the Second World War employed over 11,000 forced laborers. This number is documented in archives. This does not include enterprises in Alsace and Vorarlberg.

The deadline, set by Judge Korman, for Swiss enterprises to report any type of forced labor used in their subsidiaries during the Second World War is August 25.

Larger firms have long since allowed this problem to be researched either internally or externally. Smaller enterprises face substantial difficulties in reconstructing their firm histories. The sda investigated 76 firms.

1.5 Billion Swiss Francs

Already before the beginning of the war, subsidiaries and associated companies of Swiss firms settled down above all in South Baden. The "Association of Swiss Enterprises in South Baden" [Vereinigung Schweizerischen Unternehmer in Südbaden], founded in November 1945, represented their interests in the Regional Commission of Constance of that time.

This association comprised the regional areas [Landkreise] Constance, Überlingen, Stockach, Villingen, Donaueschingen, Waldshut, and Säckingen. Head of the association was the former chancellor (administrative head) and vice-consul of the Baden-Baden consulate, Franz Ghisler, who was named consulate representative in Constance.

The association represented interests in the sum of 1.5 billion Swiss francs. The sum of Swiss capital invested alone in the region between Constance and Singen in 1944 amounted to 48 million Swiss francs.

Possession Prior to 1945

The sda investigated the firms alongside the river Rhine. Moreover, important subsidiary and associated companies in the rest of Germany were checked. The following is a geographical listing, ordered from West to East, of enterprises with Swiss capital using forced labor.

Excluded are firms which were acquired by Swiss enterprises after the war. Furthermore, the question of forced labor in enterprises with Swiss capital located in the areas of contemporary France and Austria has not been researched.

Armaments Enterprises Brown Boveri and Cie

The German enterprise Brown Boveri and Cie (majority Swiss capital, headquarters BBC in Baden) employed over 2,000 forced laborers. During the course of the war, BBC Germany developed into the largest enterprise within the badisch armaments industry.

BBC produced turbines for battleships, altimeters and starters for airplane motors, and propulsion devices for submarines. The enterprise was accordingly considered vital for the war effort by the Nazi leadership. Weapons were not manufactured.

The group's central office was located in Mannheim-Käfertal, where, even after heavy bombing in 1943, production continued. Thereafter, the group's management relocated to Heidelberg.

Five further enterprises in North Baden were connected to BBC: Stotz-Apparatebau (Apparatus Construction) in Eberbach, Stotz-Kontakt in Heidelberg, as well as Isolation AG, Rheinkabel and Gleichrichterbau, all three located in Mannheim. Furthermore, there were factory branches in Dortmund, Gross-Auheim, and Vienna.

Politically Unpopular Enterprise Management

Despite its successes in both research and production, the management of this enterprise was politically unpopular. Nazi infiltration met with little success. In addition, board member Karl Schnetzler and his deputy Hans Hammerbacher had Jewish wives.

Hammerbacher made no secret of his anti-Nazi position. He was arrested in 1944 by the Gestapo, as Roland Peter writes in "Armament Politics in Baden" (1995), a book which is very relevant to this issue.

At least 2,008 Forced Laborers

According to files in the Federal Archive-Military Archive in Freiburg, on November 20, 1942, 1,269 foreign workers were employed by BBC (17.7% of the total work force), on May 31, 1943 the number was 1,757 (23.1%), on January 31, 1944 it was 2,008 (25.4%), and on July 31, 1944 it was 1,849 (23.5%). Due to large fluctuations in personnel, the total number can not be ascertained.

The spokesperson for Asea Brown Boveri (ABB), Martin Büllesbach, characterizes the situation of finding source material on forced labor as extremely difficult. Many firm files were disposed of during the fusion that took place in 1988.

Reliable information from the firm on forced labor are not available. Most of the bureaucratic files were destroyed when Mannheim was bombed.

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Production in the Concentration Camp Buchenwald

In the course of his research, Peter has established the fact that during the last weeks of the war, the BBC subsidiary Stotz-Kontakt relocated machines and equipment from Mannheim to the concentration camp Buchenwald. For a short period of time, parts for the unmanned, large-scale liquid missile [Flüssigkeitsgrossrakete] were produced there.

Thus, Peter corrects the passage in question in his book vis-à-vis the sda. The corresponding files can be found in the Badischen General Land Archive in Karlsruhe (GLA 4651/59/2/11766)

ABB has contributed to the Foundation Initiative fund, and has announced a payment to the Swiss Banks Matching Fund.

Sulzer in Mannheim and Stuttgart

In 1934, the machine factory in Ludwigshafen on the Rhine, which was founded by the brothers Sulzer in Germany in 1881 had pump as well as diesel motor departments, and a foundry at their disposal. Due to the difficult economic situation, the machine factory was sold in 1939 to Halbergerhütte GmbH.

Due to political reasons, shortly after the sale, Sulzer broke off all business contacts with Halbergerhütte. The Sulzer Centralheizungen GmbH, Mannheim, which was created by merging the heating heating and climate department with the firm Recknagel (taken over in 1913), took over the Southern German branches of Johannes Haag AG in 1932.

Due to the difficult economic conditions the firm headquarters were relocated from Mannheim to Stuttgart in 1936. In 1938, Stuttgart became the primary seat of the firm.

According to information provided by the State Archive in Ludwigsburg, there were Sulzer branches in Mannheim, Munich, Freiburg, Frankfurt, Berlin, Ludwigshafen, and Strasbourg. In 1943, the factories in Munich, Mannheim, and Ludwigshafen were destroyed during bombings.

Sulzer Had No Choice but to Use Forced Labor

Sulzer spokesperson Hans-Caspar Ryser states that, due to the difficulties in recruiting personnel during the war, the use of forced labor could not be completely excluded.

However, as industrial manufacturing was no longer being carried out, it must thus be assumed that the numbers of forced laborers at this time must have been very small. Neither the State Archives of Mannheim or Stuttgart, nor the firm records provide any documented evidence regarding forced labor.

Resistance at the Sulzer Subsidiary in Paris

According to Ryser, the French Sulzer subsidiary Compagnie de Construction Mechanique Procedes (CCM) located in occupied Paris, long rendered passive resistance against the interference of the Germans and the order to produce war goods.

It was first in 1944, that the factory was forced to manufacture some components for a FLAB canon. Attempts to deport staff were repeatedly sabotaged. Sulzer had a second subsidiary, the Societe Anonyme Chauffage Central Sulzer Paris (CCS).

Ramie Fabric Production in Emmendingen

The First German Ramie Company [Erste Deutsche Ramie-Gesellschaft] was located in Emmendingen. The German engineer Franz-Josef Baumgartner expanded the textile enterprise into an innovative firm. The enterprise processed Ramie fibers, a bast fiber. This product was used above all for manufacturing gas mantles.

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Ramie had a quasi-monopoly in Germany. During the 1930s, Alfred and Max Hopf, industrialist brothers from Basel, bought up the enterprise. According to a list from the consulate in Baden-Baden, stored in the Federal Archive in Bern, apparently prior to 1933, they held a majority share of 59%.

Apparently, the majority share was maintained during the war. However, it is possible that fiduciary relocations were undertaken. This is even more likely, as, according to descendants, both of the brothers were not allowed to enter Germany and feared expropriation.

On a list from the Swiss consulate in Baden-Baden, dated from 1951, the First German Ramie Company still figures as a company with Swiss capital. During the 1950s, the firm was evidently completely controlled by the Hopf family.

Airplane Parts for Opel

A section of the regionally significant Ramie enterprise manufactured airplane parts for Opel during the war. The armaments production increasingly gained importance. The Emmendingen city archivist Hans-Jörg Jenne has confirmed the usage of forced labor at Ramie.

A list with 2,016 forced laborers for the city of Emmendingen is stored in the city archive. Among them, there are 463 POWs and 1553 civilian workers.

A large percentage of these persons worked for Ramie. A documented total number is not available at this time. Jenne estimated the total number of forced laborers at around 800.

The city archivist refers to a document, in which Ramie wrote to the city administration on June 18, 1942. In this letter, the firm asks for support in the supplying of food for its workers.

160 Out of Approximately 800 Have Been Documented

According to Ramie, at this point in time a total of 400 persons worked for the firm. According to memoranda, approximately 160 civilian Russians and French POWs are not included in this figure.

This means that at least 160 forced laborers are documented working at Ramie in June 1942. According to documents, the number of workers from the West and other POWs remains open to question.

On June 20, 1942, in a request for an offer on canalization work, the fact that two barracks were to be constructed for between 350 and 400 civilian Russian prisoners on the grounds between Ramie and the machine factory Wehrle AG was mentioned. The majority of the civilian workers, above all women, worked at Ramie.

During the bombing of Ramie on February 28, 1945, a total of 125 forced laborers at Ramie were killed. The victims were listed individually. In total, 234 people died.

City files report of pitiful conditions. Many forced laborers were bedraggled. Some were maltreated and incarcerated in the Freiburg jail, without hope of release.

Today the firm is called Ramie-Seiler AG and is a combed yarn spinning-mill. According to the chairman of the Group, Robert Seiler, in 1975, when Seiler fused with Ramie, Seiler held a minority share. Since 1988, the Group Hopf no longer holds any shares.

Burger and Günzburger

Since 1936, the Burger Sons cigar factories have existed in Emmendingen. In 1936, the brothers Max and Rudolf Burger, from Burg in Aargau, bought up the cigar factories Günzburger from the previous Jewish owners, Marta Günzburger and Henri Richheimer.

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In his book "Unfinished Business. On the History of Swiss Cigar Factories in the Third Reich" [Unerledigte Geschäfte. Zur Geschichte der schweizerischen Zigarrenfabriken im Dritten Reich] the Swiss author Urs Thaler details and, based on files, describes how the brothers Burger were able to secure the significant Jewish enterprise at a price far below the market value.

The brothers Burger already had one leg in Spaichingen (in Württemberg), where in 1928 they took over the cigar factory Winker & Reiber. According to Jenne, forced labor was used at Burger. Exact numbers are not documented.

Swiss Cement Subsidiaries

The Breisgau Portland-Cement-Factory GmbH in Kleinkems near Basel was founded in 1907. In 1923, it was taken over by E.G. Portland. The cooperative consisted of the cartel of Swiss cement enterprises, which had one vote each.

In June 1941, 45.5% of the Swiss shares of the Breisgau firm were fiducially transferred to the cement enterprise Dyckerhoff in Wiesbaden, as expropriation was feared. This share was canceled again in 1944. During the war years, production had to be halted on numerous occasions.

The question of forced labor was not further internally researched by the firm. This is also due to the fact that in a show of solidarity the enterprise contributed to the fund of the Foundation Initiative of the German Industry, states Wolfgang Rüling, chairman of the management of the Holderbank subsidiary.

Since 1999, the Breisgau Cement GmbH in Efringen-Kirchen has been 100% owned by the Holderbank Group. This has been confirmed by Roland Walker, the spokesperson for the firm.

Verena Alborino, Head of the Museum in the "Alten Schule" in Efringen-Kirchen, states that in her prior research in the documents which are at her disposal, she has found no evidence of the use of forced labor.

Lonza's Limestone Quarry

Three kilometers away, in Istein, was the quarry of the Lonza Works in Waldshut. There, calcium was mined and limestone gravel was produced.

After the war, the Lonza site was sold to the Heidelberger Cement AG. It must be assumed that forced labor was used in the Lonza quarry.

Lonza and the Use of Forced Labor

The company headquarters of Lonza was located in Weil on the Rhine, furthermore a small production firm, the Lonza-Folien (Foil) GmbH. This factory was more or less insignificant.

According to files of the city archive of Weil, the Lonza Works Electrochemical Factories GmbH [Lonza-Werke Elektrochemische Fabriken GmbH], under the factory management in Weil, employed workers from the East. This was confirmed by the city archivist Bruno Richard Rabus.

Gerd Sprine, chairman of the company management for the German holding company Aluisse-Lonza GmbH has explained that in light of the insignificant position of the factories in Weil, the group did not undertake any internal research.

The Lonza-Group GmbH has contributed to the fund of the Foundation Initiative of the German Industry.

Located in Weil, was and is the precision screw factory Fahr GmbH. The manager and Swiss capital owner Bruno Fahr assumes that forced labor was used in the enterprise when it was led by his grandfather.

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The firm had to be relocated twice to Tiengen during the war. Fahr states that his grandfather was harassed because of his anti-Nazi position. Nevertheless, city files confirm that the factory employed workers from the East, states city archivist Rabus.

Clocks and Dyes

Likewise located in Weil was the Clock factory Tschudin & Co. K.G. It had Swiss capital. The firm also bore the name Tschudin & Schätzle. According to city files, the factory employed workers from the East.

Furthermore, the firm Vesal GmbH, Special Factory for Surgical and Electro-medical and Dental Instruments and Apparatuses was located in Weil. They also had Swiss capital. According to Rabus, Vesal also employed workers from the East.

The Dyeworks & Finishing Works [Färberei & Appretur] Schusterinsel, located directly on the Rhine in Weil had Swiss capital from the Wirth family of Basel. Due to the feared attack of the French in 1939, they had to retreat to the Hinterland, returned in 1940, and had to shut down in 1944.

After the war, the dyeworks was reopened at the same site, definitively closing in 1972. According to the local historian Albert Vögtlin, the "Schusterinsel" employed POWs. This is confirmed by files in the city archive of Weil.

Schwarzenbach in Weil

According to Vögtlin, the weaving-mill Rob. Schwarzbach (parent location in Thalwil), and the dyeworks Schetty (capital from Basel) likewise used forced labor. The forced labor used at Schwarzenbach has been confirmed by files located in the city archive of Weil. According to Rabus, there are no relevant file entries for Schetty.

Francois Schwarzenbach, administrative council president of Rob. Schwarzenbach in Thalwil, has not found any evidence of forced labor himself. Among other items, the firm produced silk for parachutes, a material which was considered vital for the war effort. This would constitute a basis for the use of forced labor.

Suchard in Lörrach

Markus Moering, director of the Museum in the Burghof in Lörrach, explains that there was a large number of firms with Swiss capital in the Lörrach area.

Important employers were the chocolate factory Suchard (today Kraftfoods Germany), the lozenge manufacturer Wybert ("Gaba"), and the Contemporary Screw-Industry-Lörrach Johann Mann [Neuzeitliche Schrauben-Industrie-Lörrach Johann Mann] (founded in 1934 by the Swiss man Johann Mann, taken over in 1982 by NSI Precision Drill Parts GmbH [NSI Präzisionsdrehteile GmbH]).

The spokesperson for Kraftfoods Germany in Birmen, Rolf Sauerbier, explain that there are no company documents which refer to forced labor at Suchard, although some exist for Kaffee Hag and Jacobs. The personnel manager from that time swore that forced labor was not used at Suchard.

Archivist Danuta Thiel-Melerski explains that in the well documented city archive, there is no evidence of forced labor at Suchard. The German Kraftfoods has contributed to the fund of the Foundation Initiative of the German Industry.

The Suchard company files of the parent company are stored in the Musee d'Art de d'Historie in Neuenburg. Staff there also found no evidence of forced labor at Suchard. A further Suchard factory existed in Bludenz, in today's Austria.

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Gaba-Wybert without Forced Labor

According to the enterprise spokesperson Inge Boscheinen, Gaba files do not refer to the use of forced laborers. In addition, regional historian Walter Jung, as well as the city archivist, say the city files do not contain any corresponding entries.

The manager of NSI, Wolfgang Wetzel, explains that neither company files nor interviewed eyewitnesses revealed any evidence of forced labor. The city archive, nonetheless, contains proof of forced labor.

Basler Merian Group

Furthermore, in the 1940s, in the entry area of the municipality of today's Lörrach, there were textile firms with Swiss capital, as well as the Printing House & Finishing Works [Drückerei & Appretur] Brombach (later incorporated into the Basel Textile Group Merian & Co GmbH).

The finishing works [Appretur] Brombach was bought up much later by the German Lauffenmühle Group. According to city archivist Theil-Melerski the finishing works [Appretur] employed forced laborers.

The spinning-mill and weaving-mill Steinen located in Steinen (likewise Merian Group) were productive during the war years and shut down later. A knitting factory Steinen [Wirkerei Steinen] still exists.

Forced Labor at Grossmann

The weaving-mill Grossmann [Weberei Grossmann] operated in Brombach. It had capital from the industrialist family Feer of Basel.

The fact that Grossmann employed forced labor is recorded in the Brombach town chronicle and in the city archive of Lörrach. Today, the successor firm Grossmann is a German real estate company.

Furthermore, during the war years, located in Lörrach were the no longer existing firms : the Silk Ribbon Factory Sarasin [Seidenbandfabrik Sarasin], with capital from Basel; the Silk Weaving-Mill Schubiger [Seidenweberei Schubiger], with capital from Basel; located in Lörrach-Rötteln with capital from Zurich were the Mechanical Silk Fabric Weaving-Mill Maeder [Mechanische Seidenstoffweberei Maeder] and the Ruvera Sewing Silk Factory GmbH [Ruvera Nähseidefabrik GmbH].

There is no documentation available on forced labor at Sarasin, Schubiger, or Ruvera. According to city archivist Thiel-Melerski, Maeder employed forced laborers.

No Use of Forced Labor at Packaging Firm

The packaging firm Meyerhofer & Fries, which still exists today, was 100% owned by the Riehener industrialist family Baltensberger during the Second World War. According to Willy Baltensberger, during the war years, production was extremely limited.

According to his knowledge, forced labor was not used. This was confirmed by the Lörrach city archivist. In the files, only frontier commuters are noted.

The list of the Swiss Consulate in Baden-Baden names 10 more firms with Swiss capital in Lörrach.

Danzas Examines Company Documents

The transport enterprise Danzas, headquartered in Basel, had multiple locations in Germany. Above all, alongside the border to Switzerland, there were many offices and dispatching locations, according to Danzas spokesperson Patrick Kaiser.

Notable were the offices in Lörrach, Kehl, and Breisach. Between 1933 and 1947, their German headquarters were located in Cologne.

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There is no evidence of forced labor at the Swiss Danzas. The spokesperson for Danzas has said that at this time Danzas Germany is examining the still existing company documents.

Basler Chemicals [Basler Chemie] in Grenzach

During the Nazi era, Basler Chemie [Basler Chemicals] had branch offices in nearby Grenzach and in Wehr, as well as in Nuremberg and Berlin.

In Grenzach, the firm J.R. Geigy was not a subsidiary company of Geigy Basel, but rather another location of the firm [Betriebsstätte]. According to information provided by Novartis, there were 33 forced laborers. Circa 10 person fled to Switzerland towards the end of the war.

The city archive of Grenzach does not have any lists at its disposal. There is evidence of forced labor camps in Grenzach, says head administrator Willi Pfründer. According to Novartis spokesperson Felix Raab, Novartis is inclined to contribute to the fund of the Foundation Initiative set up by the German Industry.

According to information provided by Roche, the firm F. Hoffmann-La Roche & Co AG, located in Grenzach (Roche), employed between 40 and 60 forced laborers, mostly Dutch, as well as some French. There were no POWs. In Berlin, the firm maintained a small sales office.

The list of the Swiss Consulate in Baden-Baden names three more firms with Swiss capital in Grenzach.

In Wyhlen, Eisenbau Whylen AG [Iron Construction Whylen AG] existed. It was founded by industrialist Albert Buss with 100% capital from Basel. During the war years, the firms also had Swiss capital. Among other things, the firm constructed iron bridges. Up to this point, the files have not indicated the use of forced labor. The question remains open.

Aluminium Rheinfelden

The firm Aluminium GmbH was resident in Badisch-Rheinfelden. It was a subsidiary of the German Holding Aluminium-Industry Association [Aluminium-Industrie Gemeinschaft] in Constance (ALIG).

ALIG was 100% owned by the Swiss parent company, Aluminium Industrie AG in Neuhausen (between 1940 and 1956 in Lausanne). The German Holding firm had companies in Rheinfelden, Singen, Villingen, Bergheim/Erft, and Lend near Saizburg.

Further information is expected from the work of the German historian Cornelia Rauh-Kühne, who is investigating the firm history of the Alusuisse enterprises.

The German subsidiaries Alusuisse in Bergheim, Alusuisse Singen, and Alusuisse-Lonza have contributed to the fund of the Foundation Initiative of the German Industry.

Close to 3,000 Forced Laborers

According to the study by Wolfgang Bocks "The Camps of the Foreign Workers and the Prisoners of War in Rheinfelden" (1992) ["Die Lager der Fremdarbeiter und Kriegsgefangenen in Rheinfelden"], throughout the entire course of the war, Aluminium GmbH Rheinfelden employed 2,879 forced laborers, 1,718 of them were POWs. Bocks counted up all the personnel cards in the city archive of Rheinfelden.

The most significant groups were the 858 Russian and 614 French POWs. Furthermore, 246 French civilian workers and 11 Russian civilian workers were employed. Further notable are 322 forced laborers from Italy and 171 foreign workers from Belgium.

The General State Archive [General Landesarchiv] in Karlsruhe contains a list dated from March/April 1943, listing 1658 workers, 622 of whom were foreigners. According to files in the Military Archive in Freiburg, on July 7, 1944 1,149 foreign workers were employed in the factory.

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The head of the management of Alusuisse-Lonza refers to internal research carried out by the firm. According to this research, in the end of 1944, 350 POWs and 200 civilian forced laborers worked in the factory. However, during 1944 production in Rheinfeld fell off markedly.

Like all Eastern workers from the former Soviet Union, the Russian POWs were considered to be "sub-humans". According to eyewitnesses, they were poorly fed and clothed in rags.

Beaten to Death

Rheinfeld archivist Karin Wortelkamp states that many were sadistically tortured and beaten to death. Forced laborers who violated company discipline were transported to a punishment camp near Oberndorf.

Eyewitnesses, who were interviewed by Wortcamp, testify that residents of Rheinfeld put out food on the Russian's daily route. The POWs were so starved that they almost beat each other to death over the pitiful crumbs.

The work itself was hard and, due to the poisonous flouride bonds, unhealthy. In addition, 8 hour shifts without any kind of nourishment were dictated.

Drowned in the Rhine

Some Russians could not stand the torture any longer. They fled across the Rhine, and most, being non-swimmers, drowned.

On the other hand, many well organized French succeeded in fleeing across the river border. In the border areas, escapes across the Rhine took on such dimension that, after 1942, attempts were made to replace French POWs with Russian POWs in a 20 kilometer wide zone.

The defeat at Stalingrad thwarted this plan too. After 1943, Russian POWs became a "scarce commodity."

Those POWs who were not able to reach the rescuing bank in Rheinfelden were captured, and some were shot. 84 escape attempts across the Rhine are registered in the city archive. 70 workers from the East chose this way to freedom, which, for the most part, ended in their deaths.

The Head of the Concern Alu Rheinfelden was the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

According to Bocks' research, there was regular contact between the management in Lausanne and the factory in Rheinfelden. Every two weeks relevant measures were discussed.

Alu Rheinfelden was honored as a national socialist "Model Factory". The head of the factory was the Reichsgerman Achim Tobler, who came from a professor's family in Lausanne. Tobler was a member of the SS. The president of the parent holding company Swiss Aluminium (Alusuisse) was Max Huber.

The ethnologist was also the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (IKRK) between 1928 and 1947. In the end of 1992, the factory was sold by Alusuisse-Lonza.

The tin wares factory Gempp + Unold, with capital from Basel, existed in Badisch-Rheinfelden. According to Bocks, it employed 16 forced laborers, 10 of them Russians. Whether the firm was connected to the long defunct Nuremberg firm Gempp & Unold could not be clarified.

(18)

Anti-Nazi Factory Management

According to Bocks, the Kraftübertragungswerke Rheinfelden (KWR) [Energy Transmission Works Rheinfelden] were resident in Badisch-Rheinfeld. They were majority owned by Elektrobank (later Elektrowatt in Zurich).

The works, whose management was critical of the Nazis, did not employ forced labor. The absence of forced labor can generally be valid for all energy works during times of war, because the threat of sabotage was classified as too great.

CIBA in Wehr

After 1943, CIBA AG was resident in Wehr. After the bombing of its factory site in Berlin-Wilmersdorf on March 1, 1943, the German factory relocated its production of pharmaceutical products to the Swiss border. The legal headquarters remained in Berlin until 1946.

CIBA quartered itself on the premises of the carpet factory Wehre AG. At that time, carpets were a luxury. Sales had completely collapsed.

The small CIBA firm above all hired German employees. Eyewitness interviews conducted by Reinhard Valenta, head of the Cultural Office of Wehr, have not provided any evidence of forced labor for the year 1943.

However, forced labor was used in many enterprises in Wehr. Whether forced laborers were employed after 1943 has not yet been researched by the city archive of Wehr. According to Valenta, it remains open to question.

Parachutes of Silk

Between Badisch-Rheinfeld and Waldshut, there were a variety of silk weaving-mills with Swiss capital. Schwarzenbach had a further silk weaving-mill in Bad Säckingen.

There is no documentation of forced labor there. The weaving-mills had a higher percentage of female workers than the heavy industries. However, if parachutes were woven, then it must be assumed that forced labor was used.

Lonzona in Bad Säckingen

The small processing plant Lonzona AG was resident in Bad Säckingen. According to Peter Müller, city archivist in Bad Säckingen, like all other firms, no written evidence exists about the use of forced labor in Lonzona, which ceased operations in the 1970s.

City archivist Müller states that due to the structure of the firm, it must be presumed that forced labor was used. This has been confirmed by regional historians. Alusuisse-Lonza Germany has not initiated an internal company investigation of Lonzona.

Tools from Suhner

In Bad Säckingen, the Otto Suhner Werkzeugmaschinen GmbH [Otto Suhner Tool Machines GmbH] (parent company Brugg) existed. The factory was founded in 1928. Hand tools were produced there. Forced labor can not be proved on record.

Otto Suhner, head of the Group Suhner Holding AG in Brugg, says that he interviewed three workers who were employed at the branch factory in Bad Säckingen during the war years. All expressly assured him that no forced labor had been used. However, none of those who were interviewed were continually on site at the factory.

Whether the factory was a supplier for the armaments industry is not known. The city archive does not have any such documentation at its disposal.

(19)

Burning Mountains of Files

The reason for missing files in many of the city archives alongside the Rhine is understandable. In April 1945, shortly before the invasion of the French troops, it was observed from Switzerland how, on the German side of the border, mountains of files were burned.

This was reported, for example, on April 23, 1945 in the Basel "National Zeitung" [National Newspaper]. In the article, it states that the mayoral offices alongside the Rhine were to destroy all compromising material.

In Badisch-Rheinfeld, at the edge of the Rhine, many large bundles of files were burned. Two days prior to this, the Hitler Youth of Bad Säckingen had set fire to mountains of files on an

embankment of the Rhine. In Waldshut, incriminating material was burned in the blast furnaces of the Lonza factory.

Forced Labor in Albrück

According to eyewitnesses, the paper factory Albrück (owned today by the Finnish firms Metsä & Myllykoski), during the war years called Holzstoff AG, employed forced laborers.

Up to this point in time, the municipal administration of Albrück has received about 30 requests, above all from former Polish forced laborers. This allows a higher number to be inferred.

The firm has explained that no information is available. The paper factory Albrück has contributed to the fund of the Foundation Initiative of the German Industry.

Lonza in Waldshut

Of significance were the Lonza Works in Waldshut, which above all produced fertilizers for agriculture. According to the historian Wolfgang Glaeser from Freiburg in Breisgau, the works, which were closed down in 1993, employed more than 500 foreign workers.

According to files in the Federal Archive- Military Archive in Freiburg and in the General State Archive in Karlsruhe in March/April 1943, out of 1,496 workers 623 were foreigners. In the city archive of Freiburg there is a file, according to which the Waldshut chemical plant had already constructed a barrack for 200 POWs in July 1940.

Otto Turza, the city archivist in Waldshut, has a list with 410 POWs and 95 civilian workers at his disposal. Nevertheless, the city archives have not yet been completely evaluated.

According to Turza, the list of civilian workers is incomplete. Eyewitnesses report of larger numbers and of brutal working conditions. Historians assume there were up to 800 forced laborers.

For the head of the group Springe the research conducted by the firm provided the following numbers for the war year of 1943: The work force consisted of 1527 employees, among which 120 were POWs.

Silk Weaving-Mill Gessner

The silk weaving-mill Gessner & Co GmbH [Seidenweberei Gessner & Co GmbH], founded in 1906 and closed in 1966, operated in Waldshut. It was a subsidiary of the textile firm Gessner AG Wädenswil.

According to the head of the Gessner group, Thomas Isler, his father's firm produced high quality products, above all silk fabrics. Eyewitnesses report about forced labor. Evidence of forced labor has not yet been found in the files from the city archive which have thus far been evaluated.

The list of the Swiss Consulate in Baden-Baden names four more firms with Swiss capital in Waldshut.

The Energy Works Reckingen [Kraftwerke Reckingen], which belonged to the Lonza-Group, were located nearby Waldshut, in Reckingen-Küssaburg. The plant was responsible for supplying energy. Although nothing is known about forced labor, it can be excluded on the basis of the threat of sabotage.

In Tiengen (administrative district Waldshut), the operative seat and factories of the cigar factory Villiger were located, smaller suppliers were located in the vicinity. A further factory was located in Griessen. Forced labor for these factories has not been documented, as stated by the Villiger-Works in Waldshut-Tiengen.

Swiss Stogie Firms

Urs Thaler, author of the book "Unfinished Business. On the History of Swiss Cigar Factories in the Third Reich" [Unerledigte Geschäfte. Zur Geschichte der schweizerischen Zigarrenfabriken im Dritten Reich] waded through Waldshut's city archives. On the lists of forced laborers, he found no entry on Villiger. This was confirmed by city archivist Turza.

According to Thaler, the issue of forced labor did not play a mentionable role in the cigar industry. According to information provided by the firm, the Villiger factories in Munich, destroyed by bombing in 1943, where the operative seat was located, employed two French POWs.

Little Forced Labor at Burger

The traditional Swiss firm Burger used forced laborers in its factory in Emmendingen. The German parent branch was located in Spaichingen in Württemberg. In the city, there was a forced labor camp.

Burger was the most important employer and tax payer. Nevertheless, files indicate that there were only three forced laborers. Significantly, in Spaichingen smaller firms -- metal processing suppliers and food suppliers -- used far more forced laborers.

Transformed into Armament Companies

According to a former foreman at Burger, who was interviewed by Thaler, since 1942 no more stogies were produced at the Ostrach branch, instead sanitary bags for the firm Bollmann of Tübingen were produced.

According to foreman, the branch in Dürbheim produced switches for the electric Markwart in Spaichingen. Both places where stogies were produced had been turned into armament suppliers.

Luxury Ware Cigars

The reasons why only few forced laborers were employed by stogie manufacturers is plausible. The first reason being that cigars were not classified as vital for the war effort. Soldiers on the front had no time to smoke cigars, but nonetheless they had time to smoke cigarettes.

There were no Swiss cigarette manufacturers. The products of the German concerns were classified as vital for the soldier's morale. Forced labor was used by these concerns.

The second reason was that the cigar manufacturers traditionally employed a high percentage of females, sometimes up to 95%. German women were not on the front and could provide for themselves and their children by means of traditional, and thus tolerated by the party ideology, jobs.

The third reason was that the manufacturers of luxury and consumer goods were not allocated any forced laborers, even in the cases when they wanted them.

Forced Labor at Klettgau

The entrepreneur Johann Bucher, from Niederwenigen, had a branch factory in Griessen in Klettgau, the machine factory Johann Bucher (today Bucher Klettgau GmbH). Bucher owned 100% of the shares.

(21)

According to information provided by Rudolf Hauser, the head of management for Bucher Industries AG, the holding company in Niederwangen, the subsidiary firm produced, above all, muck pumps as well as fruit presses for agriculture.

According to Hauser, the firm did not manufacture armament goods. According to research conducted by the firm, around 10 French POWs were employed in Griessen in 1941, and later, approximately the same number of Russian workers.

The textile firm Stehli & Co AG (parent firm in Obfelden) was located in Erzingen. Until the beginning of the 1990s, Stehli produced silk in Switzerland. Today, the enterprise only administrates the company property. At this time, the enterprise is examining the Obfelden company files about the factory in Erzingen and, if need be, about forced labor.

Schaffhauser Brick Factory

The Ziegelwerke Mühlingen [Brick Factories Mühlingen] (70% owned by Swiss shareholders) and the limited company [AG] of the brick factories Thayngen and Rickelshausen (100% ownership by Swiss shareholders), both with capital from the Schaffhausen industrialist Theodor Schäfle, can be found on a list from 1944 of those seeking "letters of protection".

The Ziegelwerke Mühlingen burned down in 1941 and was not rebuilt during the war. 1944, the Swiss parent company was renamed as "Tonwerke Thayngen AG" [Ceramics Works Thayngen AG]. Hans Schäfle explains that this firm was bought by the AG Ziegelwerke Horw-Gettnau [Limited Company Brick Factories Horw-Gettnau].

In Engen, the stogie manufacturer Kauz & Co of the industrialist family Kauz are mentioned. 50% of the capital were in Swiss hands. Among other things, the family Kauz had two more factories in Denziingen. Nothing is known about forced labor there.

Traditional Enterprise Fahr AG

The deutsche Landmaschinenfabrik Fahr AG [German Agricultural Machinery Factory Fahr AG] was founded in 1870 by Johann Georg Fahr in Gottmadingen. The expanding enterprise had a

foundry in Stockach and numerous branches throughout Germany, for example in Berlin-Lichterfeld, Wesseling/Cologne, Nuremberg, Bremen, Stettin, Neumünster and Frankfurt/Main.

In 1938, Fahr had 3,000 employees. Today, the Gottmadingen firm is owned by the Kverneland Group.

According to a request for a "letter of protection" the Fahr branch in Gottmadingen had 21% Swiss capital in September 1944. Johann Bucher, the entrepreneur from Niederwenigen, owned a small portion of this.

From Agricultural Machinery to Motors for Tanks

At that time, Fahr was already an important manufacturer of agricultural machinery. Above all the tractors, the combines, and the grain binder were essential to agriculture. The production therefore was assigned a high priority for the supplying of the country. Consequently, early on, Fahr already used forced labor.

According to the historian Albert Georg Frei, from Singen, in the 1930s, former concentration camp prisoners, communists, and social democrats worked at Fahr. For reasons which are unclear, in the early 1940s, forced laborers, among them Russian POWs and Russian children, were employed.

The factory increasingly became a supplier for the firm Maybach-Motoren GmbH [Maybach Motors GmbH] in Friedrichshafen, before employing their work force to work directly for Maybach. Maybach manufactured motors for tanks.

According to the history of the firm, the compulsory quartered armament production first reached 50% of the total production in 1943. According to the city archive of Friedrichshafen, Fahr AG transferred a large group of workers to Maybach for retraining. Among them were 14 Russian men and 34 Russian women.

(22)

Relocation of Maybach

After the bombing of Friedrichshafen on April 28, 1944, sections of the Maybach Works were relocated to Gottmadingen, as well as, between May and June 1941, 481 persons. The historian Christa Tholander writes that 21% of them were German.

Previously 1246 employees had already been detailed. Tholander, who evaluated the archive in Friedrichshafen, arrives at a total number of 1727 workers in June 1944, both Germans and foreigners, working at both of the factories in Gottmadingen.

According to research conducted by historian Ingeborg Meier, during the end phase of the war about 600 forced laborers were still employed at Fahr and Maybach. In the end of 1944, 2007 German workers were registered, as well as 397 workers from the East, and 441 other foreign employees.

The Big Three in Singen

In his study, "Shadows on Hohentweil. Forced Laborers and POWs in Singen" [Schatten am Hohentweil. Zwngsarbeiter und Kriegsgefangene in Singen] (1995/7) the local historian Wilhelm J. Waibel, from Singen, investigated the issue of forced labor in three large Swiss subsidiary firms.

These are Maggi GmbH, the AG der Eisen- und Stahlwerke, [the limited company of the iron and steel works], formerly Georg Fischer, and the Aluminium Walzwerke [Aluminum Rolling Mill] (Alusisse). According to Waibel, the city and factory archives list a total of 3,147 forced laborers between 1939 and 1945.

SS Management at Maggi

Maggi GmbH in Singen was a subsidiary firm of Maggi in Kemptthal (today Nestlé). In 1944, Swiss capital amounted to 10.17 million Reichsmarks. This corresponded with a 90% Swiss ownership.

Maggi was a national socialist "model factory". The company captain Rudolf Weiss was an old comrade of Adolf Hitler, holder of the Blood Medal (Blutordensträger) and a member of the SS.

On May 1, 1940, Maggi was awarded the title "National Socialist Model Factory". According to Waibel, a total of 328 forced laborers were employed , among them 184 foreign workers and 164 POWs, and, according to statements of the survivors, some under miserable conditions.

Maggi had further enterprises in the Ukraine (Kiew), in Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Netherlands, and Belgium. Little to nothing is known about these enterprises.

In 1947, Maggi was taken over by Nestlé. Nestlé has announced they will make a payment into the 1.25 billion U.S. dollar matching funds fund.

Georg Fischer Study in Progress

The limited company Iron and Steel Workds, formerly Geord Fischer in Singen was an operation of Georg Fischer Schaffhausen. In 1944, Swiss capital amounted to 25 million Swiss francs. This corresponded with 100% Swiss ownership.

According to Waibel, in Singen there was a total of 1,604 forced laborers, among them 1,536 foreign workers and 68 POWs.

According to files in the Federal Archive-Military Archive in Freiburg, on November 20, 1942, there were 564 foreign workers employed at Georg Fischer (28% of the workforce), on May 31, 1943, there were 706 (33.3%), on January 31, 1944, there were 904 (40.7%), and on July 31, 1944, there were 779 (36.2%) foreign laborers.

(23)

On behalf of Georg Fischer, the former city archivist of Schaffhausen, Hans-Ulrich Wipf, worked out a detailed study on the firm's history between 1930 and 1945. The study will be completed at the end of this year.

1,707 Names

Wipf more or less confirms Waibels figures. After viewing the 40,000 to 50,000 personnel cards, the cards on foreign workers during the war years were sorted out and entered in a computerized database.

Between September 1939 and April 1945, a total of 1,707 foreign forced laborers were identified by Wipf. Some only worked for a few days at Georg Fischer, others never began their jobs.

Wipf assumes there were circa 1,500 long term workers. In the end of 1943, out of 1977 workers, there were 904 foreigners, 850 German workers were absent, most having been called to duty at the front.

Castings for Grenades

The standard product were fittings, meaning pipe-joiner parts. Furthermore, on special order, castings were made. For the Wehrmacht, tempered castings were cast, which were used for hand-grenades.

Over the course of the war, production was increasingly shifted from civilian to armament goods. According to Wipf, the percentage of war goods in 1938 amounted to 7.8%, in 1944, they already made up 60% of total production in Singen.

Reconciliation and Help

After 1939, Alfred Horstmann, a fervent patriot held the scepter, and who, according to eyewitness, despite strong pressure by the Nazis nevertheless was able to show a social side. According to Waibel, the firm remained an ideologically moderate enterprise.

Georg Fischer has demonstrated itself to be cooperative in the historical research and in the process of dealing with the past. 11 former forced laborers and the head of the forced labor union of the region of Poltava (Ukraine) were invited to the 100 year anniversary of the founding of the firm in 1995.

The German Georg Fischer supports the partnership between Singen and the Ukrainian city Kobeljaki. In addition, the hospital located there benefits from donations from the firm.

1,195 Forced Laborers at AWS

The Breisgau rolling-mill in Singen was also owned by the Aluminium-Walzwerk GmbH Singen [Aluminum Rolling-Mill GmbH Singen] (AWS) (today Alusuisse Singen/Algroup). In 1944, Swiss capital amounted to 6.45 million Reichsmarks. This corresponded to over 95% Swiss ownership.

According to Waibel the AWS employed a total of 1,195 forced laborers, among them 792 foreign workers and 413 POWs.

According to files in the Federal Archive-Military Archive in Freiburg, on November 20, 1942, 603 foreign workers were employed by AWS (27.4% of the workforce), on May 31, 1943 there were 645 (28.5%), on January 31, 1944, there were 767 (33.7%) and on July 31, 1944 there were 741 (33.6%).

Research conducted by Alusuisse-Lonza yielded the following figures for the year 1944: out of a workforce of 1813 workers, there were 248 POWs and 521 civilian workers.

(24)

According to Waibel, after initial resistance, the concern in Singen actively assisted in the reassessment of the firm's history. In an act of solidarity, the Alusuisse subsidiary in Singen supports the city's assistance program for Kobeljaki.

Partial Numbers in Villingen

A smaller factory was the Vereingten Aluminium Giessereien in Villingen [the United Aluminum Foundries in Villingen] (AGV). In 1944, Swiss capital amounted to 1 million Reichsmarks. This corresponded to 100% Swiss ownership.

According to Villingen's deceased local historian Hermann Riedel, the numbers for April 1945 identify 437 employees. Among them were 249 foreign workers, of whom 192 were civilian workers, 38 were French POWs, and 19 were workers from the East.

According to the Federal Archive-Military Archive Freiburg and the General State Archive in Karlsruhe, in March/April 1943, out of 349 workers there were 118 foreigners. Total numbers are not available.

After the war, AGV carried on production in joint ownership with Alusuisse, and the scale manufacturer Bizerba (Balingen). The factory changed hands repeatedly. In 1994, it declared bankruptcy.

The present day AGVS is a re-founding of the enterprise. In an act of solidarity, the AGVS has contributed to the fund of the foundation initiative of the German industry.

The enterprise did not initiate any research into the history of the firm. Due to the new ownership, Alusuisse also does not have any information at its disposal.

Incomplete Numbers in Bergheim

The Tonerdewerk Martinswerk [Aluminum Oxide Factory Martins Factory] in Bergheim/Erft also belonged to the Alusuisse concern during the war. According to research conducted by the firm, in 1944, out of 1,214 workers, there were 431 POWs and 240 civilian workers there, says the head of the concern of the German Alusuisse-Lonza.

On the specific date of December 31, 1943, 1,331 people were employed in the factory. Among them were 395 POWs and 222 civilian workers. No total numbers are available. According to the city archivist, the documents in the city archive of Bergheim were destroyed after the war.

In Lend near Salzburg, a further Alusuisse subsidiary operated. Today, the factory no longer belongs to the Alusuisse-Lonza concern. In 1992, the factory fell into Austrian hands.

According to management, documents from the Second World War no longer exist. The question of the use of forced labor in Lend must therefore remain temporarily unanswered.

Factories in Singen with Forced Laborers

There were two smaller factories with Swiss capital in Singen. According to Waibel, the Calorienwerk Gautschi & Brandt employed 13 forced laborers, its entire capital stemmed from the industrialist Rudolf Gautschi from Kreuzling. The firm August Meier manufactured bicycle parts and, according to Waibel, employed 6 forced laborers.

Since the 19th century, the industrialist family Brink, originally from Holland, owned operations in the region of Singen. The owner of the firm during the war, Karl von Brink, was a Swiss citizen.

His main factory was the Baumwoll-Spinn & Weberei Arlen Rieslasingen [Cotton-Spinning & Weaving-Mill Arlen Rieslasingen]. According to a Swiss list from September 20, 1944, the shares amounted to 2 million Reichsmarks and were 100% Swiss owned. Furthermore, Brink's enterprise had a branch office in Volkertshausen.

(25)

Mauser Factories from Karlsruhe

Waisel refers to the fact that at times the Mauser factories, a significant armaments firm from Karlsruhe, were quartered in the spinning-mill Arlen. Logically, this had the consequence of the use of forced labor, a fact which has been confirmed by Waibel.

The Spulenfabrik [Spool Factory] of the two brothers (who were the sole owners), Wilhelm and Theodor Stoll, was resident in Messkirch near Sigmaringen. The factory was shut down in 1953. Neither the successor firm MAZ nor regional historians know anything about the use of forced labor at Stoll.

In Radolfzell, the Radolfwerke and the Schiesser Trikotfabrik [Schiesser Jersey Factory] operated. In the city there were SS barracks. Prominent Nazis visited this city on Lake Constance also in order to pay respects to the Pfahlbauer, who were celebrated as German ancestors.

25 Forced Laborers in Radolfwerken

According to Achim Fenner, the city archivist in Radolfzell, the Radolfwerke in Radolfzell employed at least 25 forced laborers. The history of the firm Radolfwerke is complex.

It was founded in 1917. In the 1920s, the dairy farming department was dismantled. The soap businessman from Kreuzling, Carl Schuler, who had transformed his firm into a foodstuff concern, bought up 100% of the soap manufacturer Radolfwerke in 1926.

In 1944, Swiss capital amounted to 1 million Reichsmarks. This corresponded to 100% Swiss ownership. The Schuler firm no longer exists today.

The Radolfwerke were bought up in 1964 by the Schiesser Trikotfabrik, which needed the site for its expansion plans. Shortly after, they sold the company (as it was unrelated to their field of production) to the Hügli-Group

According to the manager of the Hügli-Group in Arbon, Alexander Stoffel, the Radolfwerke were in a miserable condition, near to bankruptcy. Stoffel wishes to initiate a search for the needed documents.

Schiesser with Swiss Capital

The Schiesser Trikotfabrik [Schiesser Jersey Factory] in Radolfzell was a German enterprise. In 1944, Swiss capital amounted to 1,2 million Reichsmarks. This corresponded to 100% Swiss ownership.

The industrialist Jacques Schiesser from Glam founded the firm in the end of the 19th Century in Radolfzell. Only much later was the Swiss subsidiary in Kreuzlingen created.

National Socialist “Model Factory”

Historian Ulrike Bühler-Ludwig, from Kreuzlingen, researched the German Schiesser firm for her master's thesis. Alongside Maggi, on May 1, 1940, the firm was presented with the (dubious) honor of “National Socialist Model Factory”. The honor was presented by Rudolf Hess in Berlin.

The firm was known for its social engagement regarding its German workers. At the end of the Second World War, the firm fell back completely on its “Swiss neutrality”.

The manager Walter Schellenberg, whose role was obscure, was the responsible person. The argumentation which has been handed down by the firm at the time of de-nazification is more than just embarrassing.

(26)

Pforzheim Firm on Schiesser Premises

The firm G. Rau, which had been bombed out in Pforzheim, was quartered on the Schiesser site. Rau produced contact parts for, among other things, gauges which were used in submarines.

According to the former Schiesser company captain Paul Wiggerhauser, mainly around 120 Russian female forced laborers were employed. The Russian women also worked for Schiesser.

In the end of April 1945, a French commission confiscated textiles, with a value of 1 million Reichsmarks, which had been intended for the Wehrmacht. A few days later, sewing machines which had originally belonged to Jewish owners from Alsace, were confiscated.

Confirmation through Hesta

Fenner says that, according to the resident registration card catalogue, at least 39 Ukrainian forced laborers worked at Schiesser, almost all of them being taken on in July/August 1942.

Today, Schiesser belongs to the Hesta group in Zug. The Hesta Director Samuel Moor explains that a study which was commissioned by Schiesser confirmed the use of forced labor.

According to this study, circa 50 female Ukrainian foreign workers were employed by Schiesser in Radolfzell. The Schiesser AG in Radolfzell has contributed to the fund of the foundation initiative of the German Industry.

Rieter in Constance with Forced Laborers

In Constance there were numerous Swiss subsidiary enterprises. The use of slave labor has been documented in one instance, in the Reiter-Werke which were Swiss owned. According to regional historian Arnulf Moser, 51 POWs were employed in January 1944 as forced laborers.

Historian Werner Trapp explains that a minority percentage was sold in 1939 to the German industrialist Walter Händle. According to a list from 1944, the industrialist Arthur Rieter, who resided in Minusio-Locarno, continued to hold 65% of the firm in the form of a loan for 300,000 Reichsmarks.

A further firm was the Seidenstoffweberei Rob. Schwarzbach [Silk Fabric Weaving-Mill Rob. Schwarzbach] in Constance-Wollmatingen (a subsidiary of the still existing firm Rob. Schwarzbach & Co in Thalwil). In 1944, Swiss Capital amounted to 1.6 million Reichsmarks. This corresponded to 100% Swiss ownership.

Furthermore there was the Karosseriewerk Franz Xaver Seitz [Bodywork Factory Franz Xaver Seitz] (100% Swiss capital), the firm Vorhausen & Nater (85% Swiss capital), the Werkzeugfabrik Wagner & Stein [Tool Factory Wagner & Stein](100%), as well as the Insel-Hotel on the lake of Rosalie Brunner (100%). At this time there is no information about these enterprises.

From Strael to Strellson

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the clothing factory Friedrich Strael existed in Constance. In 1944, the firm identified capital in the sum of 387,000 Reichsmarks. This corresponded with 100% Swiss ownership. The owners were Alfred and Walter Straehl.

In 1908 an associated factory was opened in Kreuzlingen. The enterprise manufactured coats and jackets. In 1973, production was halted in Constance.

In 1984, the brothers Jochen and Uwe Holy bought up the Kreuzlingen firm and incorporated it in the Strellson-Group (Hugo Boss). The brand name Strellson was created by Straehl in 1946.

Fritz Straehl, son of the former co-owner in Kreuzlingen, has declared that, to his knowledge, in the factory in Constance no forced labor was used. The percentage of female employees was very high, about 90%. Men were employed in the administration and in the cadre.

(27)

The family Straehl had a weaving-mill and a dyeworks in Zizenhausen near Stockach. During the war, a large portion of the firm was confiscated. The weaving hall was cleared out. An apprenticeship workshop of Dornier was installed in its place.

Adjustments of a tent manufacturer

The history of the firm Strohmeyer in Konstanz, which has been the focus of research by the regional historian Arnulf Moser, helps to understand adjustments made after the end of the war. The firm was then a leading manufacturer of tents. Like the firm, its owners were German; one family member was in the SS.

The family owned a Swiss branch plant of the firm, which was located in Kreuzlingen. After the end of the Nazi regime, the family remembered its Swiss origins and applied for Swiss passports.

Because the family's ancestors had the right to reside in Romanshorn, the passports were issued. However, the request for relocation to Kreuzlingen was rejected.

Traces of Capital in Friedrichshafen

In Friedrichshafen, the aircraft industry – with the flagships Dornier and Zeppelin – dominated. In 1920, the Maag-Zahnraeder (cogwheels) AG from Zurich (today called "Maag Holding AG") owned 20% of the shares of the Zahnradfabrik [cogwheel factory] (ZF), which in WW II produced gearboxes for tanks.

According to Maag spokesperson Karin Schardel, the percentage of shares dropped steadily because of a number of capital increases, in which Maag did not participate. According to ZF, during the war Maags shares amounted to about 4%. Since 1988, Maag does not own anymore shares at all.

According to historian Christa Tholander, the ZF in Friedrichshafen employed about 2000 forced laborers, a number that is confirmed by the company. ZF has contributed to the Foundation Initiative of the German Industry.

Still in existence today is a leather company which was founded in Friedrichshafen in 1859 with Horgen capital, a firm that was then called Lederfabrik Hueni & Co. The firm, which during the war manufactured leather products for the Wehrmacht, however, according to its own statements it did not hold anymore Swiss capital during the Nazi era.

Two Escher-Wyss Subsidiaries

Farther to the east, in Ravensburg and in Lindau, two Swiss subsidiaries of Escher-Wyss Zurich existed. According to Andreas Schmuder, city archivist in Ravensburg, the Escher-Wyss machine factory in Ravensburg-Weingarten employed between 198 and 203 civil workers and POWs.

The Escher-Wyss machine factory in Lindau also employed forced laborers, says city archivist Heiner Stauder. According to Stauder, in January 1945, 43 forced laborers, 38 men and 5 women, were still working for Escher-Wyys, in Lindau.

Lindau local historian Karl Schweizer states that Escher-Wyss temporarily maintained a small special camp for forced laborers on the premises of the firm. There, as well as in the city camp at Kameibuckel, mainly French, Italian, and Ukrainian forced laborers were housed.

The company produced cooling units for guns, and ice spurs. In 1969, the Escher-Wyss firms were completely taken over by Sulzer. Sulzer speaker Hans-Caspar Ryser has for the most part confirmed the findings of the research.

The chemical-pharmaceutical factory Sandoz A.G. had its operations in Nuremberg. According to existing documents of the city archive Nuremberg, the factory employed forced laborers. In 1947, five former foreign workers of Sandoz are mentioned by name in the context of a search mission for foreigners who were not fully compensated for their labor.

(28)

Swiss Schoggi firms

Next to Suchard (in Lörrach), the other important chocolate manufacturers had factories in Germany. There was a Nestlé factory in Kappeln an der Schlei (Schleswig-Holstein); Tobler in Stuttgart; the Sarotti (Nestlé) factory in Berlin; and, before the war, Lindt & Spruengli, also in Berlin.

During the war, the German chocolate industry was almost completely destroyed, but initially there was still a small production. On July 1st, 1942, a first wave of company shut downs was initiated. No more resources were allotted to the companies.

There was an import stop of raw cocoa. On September 10th, 1942, the manufacturing of raw cocoa was prohibited. "Drinking chocolate" for the people could be produced on a modest scale.

The 2nd big wave of company shut downs began in June 1943. Regarding companies which produced drinking chocolate, biscuits, chocolate for the Wehrmacht, coffee powder, milk powder, or condensed milk in significant amounts after 1942, one has to assume the use of forced labor.

In the case of the chocolate manufacturer Tobler in Stuttgart, nothing is documented in the national archive in Ludwigsburg, or in the city archive Stuttgart, nor at the local court in Stuttgart.

Nestlé in Germany

The parent company of Nestlé was the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company. In 1927, it founded - together with its merger partner Société Peter, Cailler, Kohler Chocolate Suisses SA (PCK) - the Deutsche Aktiengesellschaft for Nestlé-Erzeugnisse [German Corporation for Nestlé Products].

From 1927 on, the production and sales organizations of the Linda-Gesellschaft GmbH and the Otto & Quantz Schokoladenfabrik GmbH in Hattersheim were unified in this corporation.

In 1928, the Linda-Gesellschaft acquired the factory of the Milchwerke Angeln GmbH in Kappeln an der Schlei (Schleswig-Holstein), as well as shares of the Sarotti AG in Berlin, then a major chocolate company.

The branch of the Deutsche Aktiengesellschaft for Nestlé-Erzeugnisse in Lindau was closed during the depression. The company premises was sold to Dornier in the fall of 1933.

From 1935 on, the concern also had a factory in Prague, and from 1936 on one in Krumlov (Moravia), as well as one in Poland.

During the war, Nestlé-factories were flourishing enterprises. They produced instant coffee, condensed milk, and milk powder. During the war, these products were in very high demand.

According to a book published by Nestlé "Nestlé, One Hundred and Twenty-Five Years. From 1866 to 1991" ["Nestlé. Hundertfuenfundzwanzig Jahre. Von 1866 to 1991,"] by Jean Heer, (1991), the factory in Kappeln mainly produced condensed milk and cheese in boxes at the end of the 1920's.

In 1999, the factory was to be closed, but the employees protested vehemently. Finally, the Cremilk GmbH in Hamburg took over the firm and the employees.

Forced Labor at Nestlé in Kappeln

At the factory in Kappeln forced laborers were used. According to city archivist Hans-Peter Wengel documents containing lists of forced laborers exist neither in the city archive, nor in the company archive at Kappeln.

(29)

However, the city archive holds a construction-plan from the war era for a first housing barrack on the Nestlé ground dated from February 4th, 1943. On August 31st, 1943, Nestlé petitioned to be allowed to build a second, bigger wooden barrack next to the other one.

Claus Siemen, chairman of the Museumsverein [Museum Society] Kappeln, confirms the existence of the barrack camp. Furthermore, people in Kappeln say that mainly Polish women and French POWs used to work at the Nestlé factory.

Well documented

The Institute for the Contemporary and Regional History of Schleswig-Holstein in Schleswig refers to the detailed documentation that the book "Verschleppt zur Zwangsarbeit. Kriegsgefangene und Zwangsarbeiter in Schleswig-Holstein" ["Displaced for Forced Labor. Prisoners of War and Forced Laborers in Schleswig-Holstein"] by Gerhard Hoch and Rolf Schwarz (1985) provides.

The authors rely on the lists of the British military government to the state board of directors of the Vereinigung der Verfolgten des Naziregimes [Association of People Persecuted by the Nazis, VVN], and of the Belgian ministry of family.

In 1950, the State Government of Schleswig-Holstein answered a request made by the Belgian Government about Belgian civilian workers and POWs. The information was noted in the so-called # 96 Forms. There are stored in the Archive of the Belgian Interior Ministry in Brussels.

Guarded Firm Camp

In total, there were 6 foreign worker camps in the city of Kappeln. The Schleswig regional historian Rolf Schwarz has reviewed the files.

He elaborates upon the sda information in the information he provides in his book: two barracks were described as Camps of the Nestlé AG. It had space for between 30 and 40 Russian forced laborers.

Furthermore noted at Nestlé: forced labor for the Nestlé AG, Ukrainians and Russians, with firm camp fenced in by barbed wire, watched over by guard personnel. In a 1947 report of the British Military Government about the Nestlé milk plant, the following was laconically noted: female workers from the East.

Total of 6 Camps in Kappeln

A second industrial camp with space for 25-30 Russian workers was located in Kappeln in the Mühlenstrasse, a third in the Poststrasse with 10-12 places, this camp housed mainly French POWs.

A fourth industrial camp in the Fabrikstrasse had 10 places for Polish citizens, a fifth in the Gerichtsstrasse had space for 10-15 Polish citizens at its disposal.

The sixth camp, documented in a report of the Red Cross and the Mission Scapini, was the POW camp commando 950 and had space for 21. Nestlé was not mentioned among the firms which were listed by name.

How many Nestlé forced laborers were quartered in the camps in total and how many foreign laborers in the camps 2-5 worked for Nestlé remains unclear. According to city archivist Wengel, at that time, Nestlé was the most important firm in this city of 4,000 inhabitants.

Alongside Nestlé, another notable industrial enterprise during the war years was the Eisengiesserei and Maschinenfabrik Lorenz Claussen GmbH [Iron Foundry and Machine Factory Lorenz Claussen GmbH]. According to Wengel, this enterprise employed a few forced laborers.

(30)

Nescafé for the Luftwaffe

The Nestlé factory continued to be productive until 1945. According to Wengel, the workforce fluctuated between 200 and 250 employees, and had a high percentage of females.

According to Wengel, a further indication of the use of forced labor is the at that time most popular product of the Nestlé plant. In 1938, the instant coffee powder product Nescafé was brought on the market in Switzerland.

In Kappeln, the triangular aluminum cans with Nescafé were produced for the pilots of the German Luftwaffe, explains city archivist Wengel. Thus Nestlé was an enterprise which was vital for the war effort.

Forced Labor at Sarotti in Berlin

The Nestlé subsidiary Sarotti operated in Berlin-Templehof. After 1929, Nestlé had the majority of shares at its disposal. The plant manufactured the chocolate brands Nestlé, Kohler, Peter and Cailler.

In 1939, the chocolate production was halted in favor of the production of other foodstuffs. The plant in Templehof was hit by bombs. In 1998, Nestlé sold the firm Sarotti to the Stollwerk-Concern in Cologne.

Today, the former Sarotti in Berlin is called Karina. The chocolate factory of the Nestlé Germany AG is still located in the Teilestrasse.

During the war years, Sarotti had a camp for civilian forced laborers in the Teilstrasse 13-15, in which, among others, Soviet forced laborers were housed.

This information has been compiled by the Berlin historian Rainer Kubatzki, who waded through the city planning offices for requests for building permits for POW or forced labor camps.

Request for the Permission to Build for 80 Forced Laborers

According to files in the construction files archives in Berlin-Tempelhof, on August 19, 1943, Sarotti submitted a request to erect two barracks for the firm. In the course of his research the Berlin historian Matthias Heisig discovered that the barracks were planned for 80 forced laborers.

The "makeshift buildings for the armaments industry" were granted by the planning department responsible for such matters. This also means that the Nestlé subsidiary in Berlin manufactured foodstuffs which were considered vital for the war effort.

The Berlin state archive confirms that the former Ukrainian forced laborers have submitted requests for confirmation of the time that they worked at Sarotti to the archive.

In addition, the Berlin Chamber of Commerce [Industrie- und Handelskammer zu Berlin] (IHK) has also received many requests from former workers from the East who, according to their own statements, worked at Sarotti.

No Public Matter for Nestlé

The Nestlé-Concern in Vevey is the only enterprise asked by the sda which refuses to provide information about any forms of forced labor used. The spokesperson for the concern also did not want to provide any information about shares held and locations in Germany between 1939 and 1945.

The Nestlé spokesperson Hans-Jörg Renk says that the concern has provided the necessary information to Judge Edward Korman and to the Bergier Commission. The content of the letter to Judge Korman has not yet been made known to the public

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Forced Labor at the Licensed Firms of Lindt and Sprüngli

The chocolate factory Lindt and Sprüngli AG Berlin was founded in 1928. 51% of the shares were Swiss held. The firm had to close down operation in the 1930s.

In 1935, the business was set on a licensed basis. Manufacturing and sales of pralines and chocolate bars were transferred to the Berlin firm Mohnheim Trumpf. In 1942, this connection was also broken.

According to Kubatzki, the Mohnheim Trumpf chocolate factory, in April 1945, also maintained a civilian forced labor camp for approximately 150 persons in Berlin-Weissensee in the

Rennbahnstrasse. A second forced labor camp was supposedly located in the Gustav-Adolf-Strasse.

The spokesperson for the parent company Lindt and Sprüngli in Kirchberg declared that investigations conducted by the firm do not point to the use of forced labor at Lindt and Sprüngli. The activities of the firm were practically at a standstill at that point.

Thus, the possibility of use of forced labor can almost certainly be excluded. For the above mentioned reasons, Lindt and Sprüngli do not appear on any construction approval lists of the city planning offices.

The chocolate manufactures Lindt and Sprüngli Aachen have contributed to the fund of the foundation initiative of the German industry.

Schindler Elevators in Berlin

Schindler Elevators in Ebikon (LU) was re-founded in Berlin in 1906 and was registered as Schindler Aufzügefabrik GmbH [Schindler Elevator Factory GmbH] in 1926. The enterprise was able to continue to manufacture elevators during the Second World War.

First resident in Berlin-Tempelhof, the firm moved in 1927 to the Kopitschstrasse in Berlin-Kreuzberg. When the war broke out, the staff amounted to around 110 workers. In the course of decreasing orders for elevators, it sank to 12 workers.

The factory was first destroyed by bombs on January 30, 1944, and during the invasion of the Russians it was further damaged. Remaining material was finally dismantled. Today the Schindler Elevator Factory is located in Berlin-Mariendorf.

According to Schindler spokesperson Riccardo Biff, company files do not report on any use of forced labor. The possibility of the use of forced labor could not, however, be entirely excluded.

The organizations in Berlin which were interviewed – the state archive of Berlin, the history workshop which specializes in the issue of forced labor, and the Chamber of Commerce (IHK) had no evidence of forced labor at Schindler.

After the end of the war, the Schindler concern was bought up a variety of firms in Germany and in the occupied zones. The question of forced labor is still under investigation for this firm.

The Schindler Elevator Factory AG has contributed to the fund of the foundation initiative of the German Industry.

From Ciba to CIBA in Berlin

From 1928 to 1940, the Ciba Berlin Corporation, and from 1936 to 1941 the Teerfarben Corporation Ciba both operated in Berlin-Wilmersdorf. In 1941, the two companies merged to form the CIBA Corporation.

The premises of the firm in the Saalfelderstrasse consisted of offices, factory, and storage. Historical photographic documentation of Berlin show that the pharmaceutical plant was rather small.

(32)

The organizations in Berlin which were interviewed – the state archive of Berlin, the history workshop which specializes in the issue of forced labor, and the Chamber of Commerce (IHK) had no evidence of forced labor at Schindler.

Also the photographic documentation do not suggest the use of forced labor in Berlin. After the location in Berlin-Wilmersdorf was destroyed in a bombing attack on March 1, 1943, the firm relocated to Wehr in South Baden.

The legal seat of the company remained in Berlin until 1946. Furthermore, during the war, Ciba had a plant in Pabianice near Lodz (Poland).

Pump Enterprises in Halle

The Sulzer Concern in Winterthur must be placed in connection with a firm in Halle on the Saale. The enterprise Weise operated during the war years in this city close to Leipzig. It manufactured ships pumps for submarines and pumps for the oil industry.

In the company chronicle, forced labor is mentioned, states Ralf Jacob, head of the city archive of Halle. Around 100 foreigners worked at the end of the war in both of the subsidiary firms, and 30 Russian POWs also worked at Weise Söhne.

In 1952, the enterprise moved to Bruchsal. Weise was only acquired by the Sulzer Concern in 1972, a fact which was confirmed by the Sulzer spokesperson Ryser.

Cement Factories in Upper Silesia

In the 1930s, the Portland Cement Factory Golleschau in Polish Posen in Upper Silesia was owned by the Contentalen Gesellschaft für Bank- und Industriewerte (Contvalor).

This financial company, founded in 1930 on the initiative of the Austrian Creditanstalt, was also partly owned by the then Schweizerische Bankverein [Swiss Bank Association] (SBV, today UBS). Due to the collapse of the Creditanstalt in 1931, the Bankverein was able to gain a majority share of the holding company.

Under the Control of the SS

After the Nazi invasion of Poland, the Portland Cement Factory in Golleschau came under the control of the SS, who managed industrial enterprises in Germany and systematically used forced laborers. Out of documents in Berlin it can be inferred that about 400 forced laborers were used in the cement factory.

As Contvalor had lost any influence they had on how the cement factory was to be managed, its administrative council, in which had Bankverein representatives, unsuccessfully negotiated between 1941 and 1943 with SS about the sale of the factory to another factory which was under SS management. In 1969, Contvalor was liquidated.