

Krupp Dynasty Still Prospers But Mills Supplant Arms Today

By WERNER ZWICK
United Press International
Frankfurt, Germany — (UPI) —
The Third Reich was dying
that morning of April 8, 1945,
when American troops took
the German industrial capital
of Essen and sent a jeep roar-

ing out to a suburban hilltop
mansion.
A butler in knee breeches
and white gloves opened the
big front door of the Villa
Huegel and told the G.I.'s,
"Herr Von Gohlen expects
you."
The soldiers brushed past

the butler, dashed up the
sweeping staircase that em-
perors and dictators had
ascended before them and ar-
rested Alfred Krupp Von
Bohlen.

It seemed the end of the
Krupp empire, the mightiest
of all the industrial barons
and dynasties of the Ruhr.
The victorious Allies marked
their industrial complexes for
extinction.

Krupps Still Here

But the Krupps and their
fellows today are important
figures in the role West Ger-
many plays in the European
Common Market. Their stay-
ing power is historic.

Napoleon's armies came
and went. Kings and kaisers
entered and existed from the
German scene. The second
and third reichs had their rise
and fall. A century and a half
passed.

The Ruhr barons were here
then and they are here today.
In 1945 the name Krupp
was cursed as bitterly as the
swastika.

When Hitler was building
his war machine, Hermann
Goering called for guns in-
stead of butter. It was the
Krupp works that supplied
the guns.

Destroy Plants

On March 11, 1945, a raid
by 1,000 Royal Air Force
bombers on Essen converted
the major Krupp plants into
heaps of twisted steel and
debris. When the war ended
Krupp and a score of his
directors were sentenced to
12-year prison terms by the

Nuremberg Tribunals.
The Krupps had been down
before. Friedrich Krupp
founded the empire in 1811
when Napoleon's blockade of
Britain deprived the contin-
ent of the island's high qual-
ity steel. Krupp, a grocer in
the sleepy town of Essen,
thought he had discovered the
secret of producing the
famed "English steel." But the
firm was nearly bankrupt
when his son Alfred took over
at the age of 14.

Alfred eventually carried
the company to the heights by
inventing the seamless rail-
road wheel, producing steel
that was equal to the British
and turning out cannons for
the Franco-Prussian war of
1870-71.

Krupp, Sick Man

The next head of the em-
pire, Friedrich Albert Krupp,
was a sick man who died in
1902 under still unexplained
circumstances on the Isle of
Capri. His daughter Bertha
married Dr. Gustav Von Boh-
len-Halbach, who was granted
the right to call himself
Krupp by a decree of Kaiser
Wilhelm II.

Gustav headed the firm dur-
ing World War I, producing
the famed "Big Bertha" can-
non, named after his wife,
that was used to shell the out-
skirts of Paris.

He helped Hitler re-arm
Germany after the dictator as-
sumed power in 1933.

When Gustav Krupp suffer-
ed a brain hemorrhage in
1943, Hitler appointed his son
Alfred sole heir of the family

fortunes. A chain smoker with
a shy and reticent personality
who had lived his life in the
shadow of his overbearing
father, Alfred had to pay the
bill of four generations at
Nuernberg.

Serves Half Term

On Feb. 3, 1951, American
High Commissioner John Mc-
Clay pardoned Alfred Krupp
after he had served half of
his 12-year sentence in Lands-
berg prison. The dismantling
of his factories also had stop-
ped as the western powers had
little use for machinery that
was by then obsolete, and the
allied-supervised firm's ship-
ments to Soviet Russia were
halted when the Russians failed
to supply promised raw
materials in return.

Even before his pardon, the
Nuernberg Tribunal's decision
confiscating all of Krupp's
property had been revised.
Upon his release from jail, he
was ordered only to sell his
coal and steel holdings and
pay his relatives \$11.5 million
in cash and shares.

Krupp paid off his relatives
but fought to keep his "bread
and butter" industries, the
coal and steel holdings.

The Allied orders for sale
of the holdings still stand to-
day. But their deadline is ex-
tended periodically because
Krupp says he cannot find a
buyer with enough money.
Financiers agree.

The Krupp industries today
produce instead of arms entire
steel plants, rolling mills, ce-
ment and chemical factories
and, in 1962, had a turnover



CURRENT EMPIRE HEAD—Alfred Krupp von Bohlen, current head of the Krupp industrial empire, walks past a bust of his grandfather, the late Friedrich Alfred Krupp. Bust of the elder Krupp was unveiled in front of Yacht

Club building prior to opening of 1962 Kiel Regatta week. Krupps, once apparently an extinct breed, are again top figures in Germany. (UPI)

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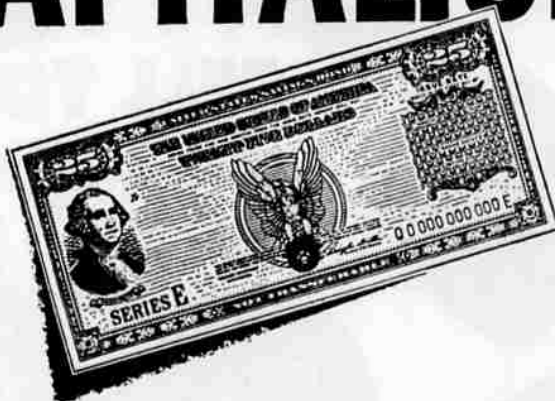
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FEET OF CLAY

Peoria, Ill. — (UPI) — George Washington was sentenced to one year in jail Wednesday for the theft of a local pair of trousers from a local department store.

Gambler Loses

All Three Bets

Dallas, Tex. — (UPI) — An anonymous caller Wednesday asked the Dallas Times Herald: "How many states are there in the United States?"

He was told 50.
"Does that include Canada?" he asked.
The answer: "No."
"What is the biggest one?" he inquired.
"Alaska," he was told.
"Well, what do you know," he said. "I lost on all three bets."