

**United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives**  
**Finding Aid**  
**RG-10**  
**Small Collections**

**RG-10.435**  
**Acc. 2006.74**

**Title:** Records Related to Maximilian Koessler, 1946-1961

**Extent:** 5 folders

**Provenance:** Donors Dr. Joel M. Geiderman and Mrs. Roya Geiderman purchased the records from an antic dealer, and donated them to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives in April 2006.

**Restrictions on Access:** No restrictions on access.

**Restrictions on Use:** No restrictions on use.

**Language:** German and English

**Preferred Citation:** Standard citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections Division, Archives Branch.

**Organization and Arrangement:** Organized into three series: 1: Letter by Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands to Maximilian Koessler, 1946; 2: Depositions of Alfried Krupp, arranged in chronological order, 1947; 3: A translation fateful to Dr. Servatius' Nuremberg client, written by Maximilian Koessler, 1961.

**Scope and Content Note:** The collection consists of records pertaining to the post-war Nuremberg activities of attorney Maximilian Koessler (U.S. Army, War Crimes Branch).

**Biographical/Historical Note:** Maximillian Koessler (1889-1964) was born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and in 1912 graduated of the University of Austria in Czernowitz; immigrated to the United States and earned his American degree at the Columbia University in 1941 (LLB 1945). He became member of the California and New York Bars. Koessler worked as Attorney of the United States Army, and was employed on War Crimes Trials in Germany. He published articles in the American Bar Association Journal, the Yale Law Journal, the Columbia Law Review, etc. Later in his life he worked as editor for law book publishing firm Bancroft-Whitney Company in San Francisco.

**Inventory**

**RG-10.435.01** Prince Bernhard's letter, 1946 (1 folder)

26 June 1946 letter by Bernhard, Prince of The Netherlands [consort of the future Queen Juliana] to Maximilian Koessler  
The letter was written concerning some furniture stolen from the Koessler's Amsterdam storage facility.  
(In English, typewritten, signed, 1 page and envelope)

**RG-10.435.02**

Depositions of Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach recorded and signed in Nuremberg, 1947 (3 folders)

Folder 1

Deposition recorded and signed in Nuremberg on the 26th and 28th of June, 1947; sworn and signed before Maximilian Koessler on 3rd of July, 1947.

This deposition of Alfried Krupp contains his denials regarding his factories' use of foreign slave labor. He does not make it a secret that first and foremost he was against the use of a non-German work force, and it was only a minor problem that the non-German workers were also inmates of concentration camps. He claimed that he saw camp inmates only from afar when he visited the construction site of a plant. As far as he is concerned, he considers it impossible that inmates worked for the Krupp Firm in Auschwitz. He was only superficially informed about his firm's fuse production line in Auschwitz. Besides, when he started to suspect the involvement of camp inmates in the production, he and other members of the Board agreed that the Krupp Firm should get out from any Auschwitz related project as soon as possible. He puts the blame on the ministry headed by Albert Speer (who was at the time of the deposition already serving his 20-year prison term in Spandau). He argues that Speer dispatched an omnipotent Kommissar to the Bertha-Werke to oversee the production. He lists the names of the individual Krupp plants (Bremen, Wüstegiersdorf, Geisenheim, Märisch-Schönberg, Langenbielau, Berndorf in Austria, Essen, places at the Ruhrgebiet, e.g. Bochum, etc.) stating that he had no or very little knowledge about the use and abuse of camp inmates at those locations. In Essen he knew about the "employment" of 500 women, and he personally intervened to make their life easier. Once, when he saw the inmates stand at attention under the watchful eyes of armed guards, he was told that those particular inmates were criminal elements serving their prison terms there. He knew that the Markstädt plant (near Breslau/Wroclaw, Poland) used POWs, but those individuals were so called "Badoglio-Italians" (Italians captured after Mussolini, who was earlier deposed by General Badoglio, made his temporary return with the help of the Germans). Krupp testified

that Badoglio-Italians had not moved to Germany voluntarily, but this fact was something the entire Board of Directors knew about. The Czechs "employed" in Markstädt were civilians, and not POWs or camp inmates. They were the so called "Ost-Arbeiter", workers from the East. He does not know when the decision was made about the use of 1,000 Jewish camp inmates. (Alfried Krupp used the word Jew for the first time on page 9.) He suspects that the decision was made by Albert Speer's office, or by their Kommissar. Krupp made sure to list regularly the names of his co-defendants, Loeser, Ihn, Housermon, Janssen, etc., emphasizing that they had been the ones who must have known about everything he had not been aware of. He knows that there were also "West-Arbeiter" (workers from the West) involved, because he had heard about them from a distant relative of his, the Dutch Voss van Steenwyk, whom he visited at one point during the war. He also knows about one attempted abuse of an Ost-Arbeiter. He does not elaborate. Krupp claimed that the placement of the foreign work force was most difficult at the time of the air raids. (In German, typewritten with handwritten corrections a total of 15 pages: [0]-14)

Folder 2

Deposition recorded, sworn and signed in Nuremberg before Maximilian Koessler on 8th of July, 1947

Contains corrections of previous depositions (e.g. the correct name of a firm is Weserflug, and not Westerflug), reiterates that he finds it impossible that the coal mining enterprises of the Krupp concern used camp inmates as a work force; he estimates that he met van Steenwyk, his distant Dutch relative, in the autumn of 1944; he first learned that Jews and Poles were working in Markstädt when he was already in American custody in the Staumühle internment camp in March or April 1946; he thought that Czechs and Ukrainians were working for his firm voluntarily; and it was only in Nuremberg, during the investigations that he learned that Lager Dechenschule in Essen was a "work education camp" (Arbeiterziehungslager) or penitentiary camp.

(In German, typewritten with handwritten corrections, 3 paginated pages)

Folder 3

Deposition recorded, sworn and signed in Nuremberg before Maximilian Koessler on 23rd of July, 1947

Alfried Krupp gives details about the 31 March 1943 Control Committee Meeting which he attended upon the invitation of his father, Gustav Krupp. The participants were those individuals who are now his co-defendants, e.g. Loeser, Pfirsch, Janssen, Houdremont, Korschan and Erich Müller. The agenda was to decide about financial matters: the appropriation of Reichsmark

(RM) 2 million for machinery to produce automatic weapons in Auschwitz; RM 10 million to build the Bertha-Plant; RM 3.5 million to build barracks for POWs; RM 2 million to build barracks for foreign workers. They planned to spend RM 1,000 per individuals, in other words they made plans to build barracks for 5,500 POWs and foreign workers, respectively.

(In German, typewritten with handwritten corrections, 3 pages paginated as [1]-3)

**RG-10.435.03**

*A translation fateful to Dr. Servatius' Nuremberg client [Fritz Sauckel]*, written by Maximilian Koessler, 1961 (1 folder)

(In English, typewritten with handwritten corrections, a total of 5 pages, paginated as [1]-5)