

II Inspection Procedure

The Moers-Meerbeck plant of Rheinpreussen was occupied by American troops on the evening of 4 March, 1945 and the CIOS party arrived on the morning of 6 March. (Captain Eyles (21 Army Group Hdqtrs.) Military leader of the party had called at the plant on the evening of 5 March.) The inspection was concluded on the morning of 9 March. The only persons found in the plant who appeared to be competent to give information about operations there were Betriebsfuhrers, Ziegler and Hacklander, and Betriebsleitern Breitenstein and Lohman. Ziegler was a power engineer but familiar with coking operations, and furnished only a small part of the total information. Hacklander was manager of the coking plant and Breitenstein and Lohman were assistant-manager and construction foreman respectively in the Synthetic fuel plant. These three shown in Fig. 2 furnished most of the information about Fischer-Tropsch operations. All information in this report, for which other sources are not specified or obvious, was obtained from the four men named.

All technical and top administrative personnel had been moved to unknown locations east of the Rhine. Apparently the most valuable records, including research reports and notebooks, had also been moved. The documents which remained, chiefly in basement store rooms, were examined as carefully as time permitted and those which looked most informative were confiscated. In some places this examination was difficult because the documents had been scattered by combat troops who were billeted in practically all of the few habitable rooms in the plant. Some documents were found in boxes partly packed with indications that the shipping of documents to safety had been hasty and was not completed.

An effort has been made to abstract, and in some cases to translate, what appear to be the most important documents, on the basis of subject matter and dates, for inclusion with the present report. A large part of the seized material has been recorded on microfilm to facilitate future examination.

A list of the seized documents is attached as Appendix A.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly a list or description of items or individuals.]

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 clear to successfully reproduce.

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Figure 2.

Informants, left to right, Wilhelm Breitestein,  
 Wilhelm Lohman, Fritz Hücklander.