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**KUKUCK I PLANT
NIEDERSACHSWERFEN**

Ellis + Hest

RESTRICTED

**COMBINED INTELLIGENCE OBJECTIVES
SUB-COMMITTEE**

RESTRICTED

REPORT ON VISIT TO KUKUCK I PLANT
AT NIEDERSACHSWERFEN

Reported By:

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CIOS Target Number 30/70

Fuels and Lubricants

1945

COMBINED INTELLIGENCE OBJECTIVES SUB-COMMITTEE
G-2 Division, SHAEP (Rear) APO. 413

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KUKUCK PLANT AT NIEDERSACHSWERFEN

REASON FOR VISIT.

As a result of the disclosure of information at Leuna that an underground hydrogenation plant was to be built at Niedersachswerfen the site of the plant was visited on May 2nd, 1945, by Major J. E. Hill and Dr. L.L.Hirst.

STAFF INTERVIEWED.

The following staff were interviewed:-

Alfred Eichhorn	-	Technische Abteilung
Paul Grimmel	-	Works Manager
Hellmuth Leinweber		Berg Ingenieur

LOCATION OF SITE.

The site of the plant was not noticeable from the air or the ground because there were workings already in existence prior to 1944. The plant was being installed at the Anhydrite workings of the I.G. at Niedersachswerfen and thus it was possible to remove all excavation and other materials from the site and use them for fertiliser manufacture at Leuna, Wolfen and Oppau or tip them on the Dump at Leuna leaving little trace of the existence of any abnormal activities.

HISTORICAL - TO 1938.

Up to 1936 the whole of the Anhydrite for the I.G. had been obtained by the quarrying of the rock from the face of the hill, the average output of the men being of the order of 8.7 tonnes/man shift. In 1936 they received instructions from the Reich that they must make tunnels and chambers in the rock and so change from face working to tunneling to get the stones for the manufacture of fertiliser. This work consisted of a large tunnel being driven from the face of the rock a considerable distance in and then driving tunnels at right angles to the main tunnel, to make what was, and is still known as the Nittelwerk. (see Figure I). This work was completed in 1938, with no approach from the southern side of the hill, and therefore no visual sign of the operation would be there.

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HISTORICAL -- FROM 1944

In April 1944 they received instructions from the S.S. to start making further excavations but this time nearer the north face of the hill. This work was given the code numbers of B.11 and B.12. B.11 was later divided into two sections and given the names of KUKUCK and EBER. (B.11 and B.12, Nordwerke, entailed the excavation of 1,000,000 M³ of rock) The KUKUCK I plant was to be an Underground Hydrogenation plant and the EBER plant to be an Underground Liquid Oxygen plant. It was stated that the latter was 80% complete and was to be run by the JUNKERS firm.

The initial work on B.11 and B.12 was commenced with existing staff of the I.G. at Niedersachswerfen, i.e. about 400 men. In order to speed up the work and to provide men skilled in the art of excavation in tunnels and caverns, men were imported from the Saar, Ruhr and Aachen and foreign workers were used too to act as unskilled labour. To provide the skilled staff necessary for the work the Grossdeutscher Schachtbau G.m.b.H. were brought in to share the work with the I.G.

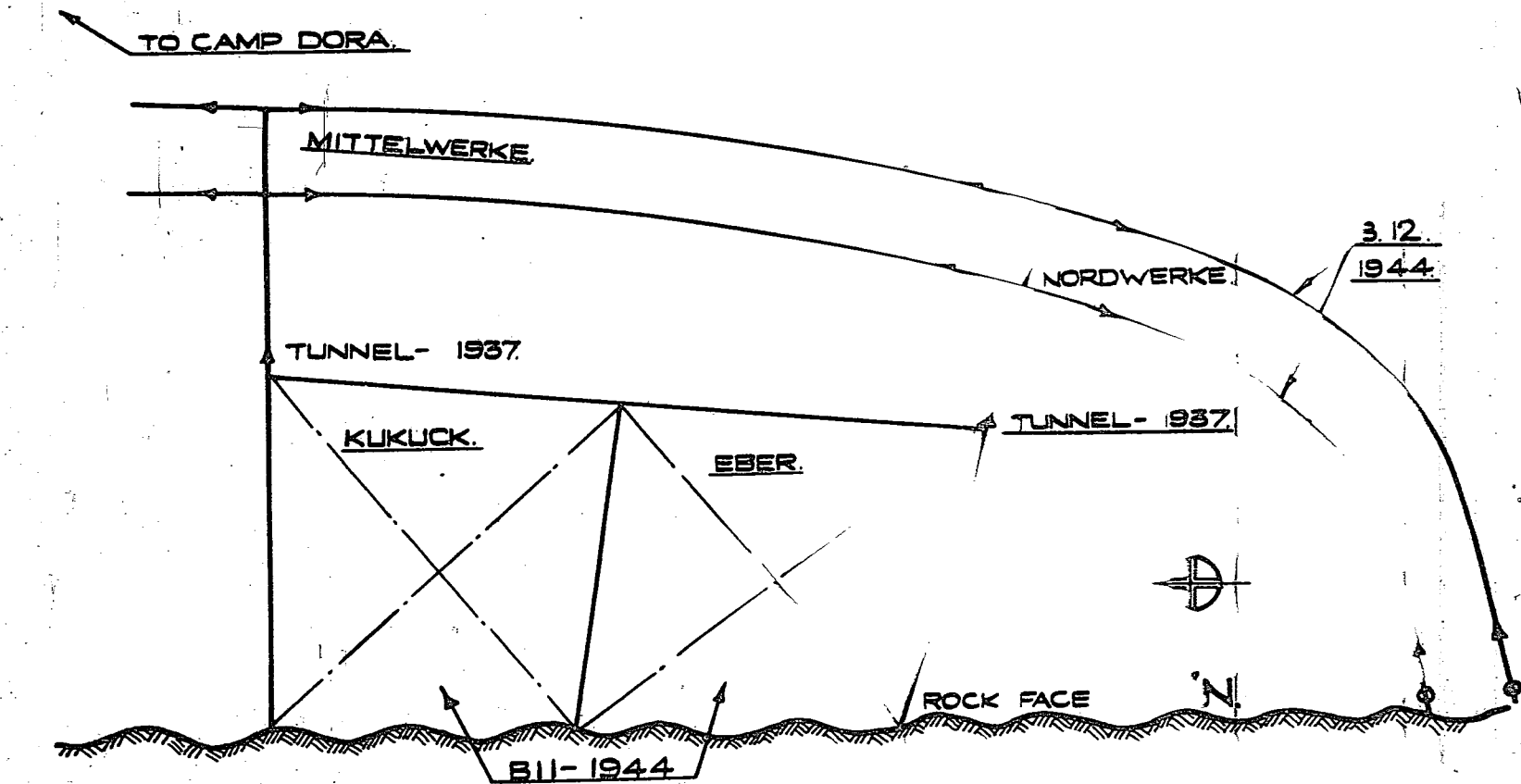
By March 1945 the working strength had reached 1,600 and about 75% of the excavation of KUKUCK I appeared to be complete.

The average output of the men was about 0.65 tonnes/man day.

The largest cavern was to be 47 feet wide and 37 feet high. Other caverns were to be deeper but not so wide. The main communication tunnels which ran along the east boundary of the plant and between the oil and gas sections were to be 38 feet wide and 26 feet high.

Very little mechanical erection had taken place the only signs being a half erected air compressor in the machine section for the D.H.D. plant.

The information was also given that the KUKUCK II plant was at ELLRICH to the west of Niedersachswerfen and was the oil storage and loading and offloading station for the KUKUCK I plant.



EXCAVATIONS MADE AT NIEDERSACHSWERFEN 1937-1945

FIGURE 1