

C O N F I D E N T I A L

GERMAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY
HAMBURG DISTRICT

REPORT No. 5

RHENANIA-OSSAG MINERALOLWERKE, HAMBURG
WILHELMSBURG REFINERY

Reported By

MR. C.A. HARRISON - Brit. Min. of Fuel & Power

on behalf of the

BRITISH MINISTRY OF FUEL & POWER

AND THE

U.S. TECHNICAL INDUSTRIAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

JUNE, 1945

G.I.O.S. Target No. 30

FUELS AND LUBRICANTS

COMBINED INTELLIGENCE OBJECTIVES SUB-COMMITTEE

G-2 Division, S.H.A.E.F. (Rear) APO. 413

WILHELMSBURG REFINERY.

The refinery was built before the war and is designed particularly for the manufacture of Special Boiling Point products for use as solvents and blending diluents in industry.

The plant had a capacity of about 50,000 tons/year and comprised the following equipment:-

- (a) 6 atmospheric shell stills fitted with fractionating columns.
- (b) 1 vacuum shell still fitted with fractionating column.
- (c) 1 batch agitator type washery with a capacity of 35,000 tons/year.

Water and steam requirements were supplied from the refinery's own boiler house and water pumping station, but power was taken from the mains through the refinery transformer station.

Adequate laboratory facilities, office accommodation, workshops together with wharfage and rail sidings capable of handling some 100,000 tons/year products were available.

The production was handled throughout in bulk and ample tankage had been installed.

The crude feedstocks were formerly obtained from imported crude processed at Harburg and other local refineries and also additional supplies of raw distillate were imported direct for working up into finished products.

During the war distillation spirit has been obtained from Heide, Durag and Roumania and production has been controlled by Government allocation, 1943 and 1944 this amounted to 25,000 tons/year.

The usual grades of S.B.Ps were made, the most important ones being:-

Pharmaceutical.....	Boiling range	20°C - 80°C
Extraction gasoline.....	" "	60°C - 95°C
Mineral turpentine.....	" "	100°C - 140°C

During the war the only new plant installed has been a centrifugal type washery of local design arranged for continuous operation. This unit has some interesting features and is stated to be trouble-free in service with a capacity of 40,000 tons/year.

In operation the spirit and acid are pump mixed and then separated in the centrifuges, after which the finished spirit is given a water wash and alkali treatment before passing to storage for subsequent redistillation.

The centrifuges are of the de Laval type manufactured by Messrs. Bergedorfer Eisenwerke, Hamburg.

The refinery has been heavily bombed and serious damage has been sustained by all plant except the following:-

- (a) 2 atmospheric shell stills.
- (b) 1 vacuum shell still.
- (c) Centrifugal acid washery.

Considerable tankage has been damaged and the refinery water pumphouse and boiler house have been practically destroyed and will need almost complete replacement before full scale operation can commence.

The wharf facilities and rail sidings have also been very badly damaged and considerable restoration work will be necessary here before these facilities can be recommissioned.

Site clearing is in hand and the work was proceeding slowly at the time the refinery was visited.

There is nowever, sufficient plant available for limited operation, provided that improvised supplies of steam and water can be arranged together with some tankage and on this basis the Management estimated that production could commence after about 3 - 4 months intensive repair work.

Personnel Interrogated.

Mr. Solbisky - Refinery Manager, Wilhelmsburg.
Mr. Scharfer - Assistant Refinery Manager "
Dr. Lutkemeyer - Technical Director, Shell House.
Mr. Maercklin - Chief Engineer - Shell House.

Date of Visit and Party

18th May, 1945.

Mr. P. de H. Hall (Brit.)
Mr. Donald S. Fraser (U.S.)
Mr. C.A. Harrison. (Brit.)

(Signed) C.A. HARRISON.