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File: A9-16  
Ser.: 197

U.S. NAVAL TECHNICAL MISSION IN EUROPE  
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8 March, 1945.

From: Chief, U.S. Naval Technical Mission in Europe.  
To : Chief of Naval Operations (OP-16-PT).

Subj: <sup>incl.</sup> NavTecMiseu Report No. 65 - Forwarding of.

Encl: (1) NavTecMiseu Report No. 65 - Inspection of Partially Completed Robot Bomb Factory, Located at Thill, near Esch, Luxembourg - by Lieut. Geo. R. Wernisch, CEC, USNR.

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded herewith for information and distribution.

2. Copies of this letter are being forwarded without enclosure as indicated below.

*H. A. Schade*  
H. A. SCHADE

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(10)



NAVTECOMISEU  
REPORT NO. 65

U.S. NAVAL TECHNICAL MISSION IN EUROPE  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
New York, N.Y.

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1 March 1945.

Subj: Inspection of Partially Completed Robot Bomb Factory, Located at Thill, near Esch, Luxembourg.

Summary: An iron ore mine, 600 feet below the surface was in the advance process of being converted into an underground factory. At least 5000 lin. ft. of enlarged galleries, 24 ft. to 28 ft. wide, and 18 ft. to 20 ft. high already had been prepared by blasting; floor slabs had been poured, some ventilation and water pumping equipment had been installed, and much of the ventilation and drainage systems were in place. The completed factory was to occupy about 12 acres of floor space.

Date of  
Inspection: 25 February 1945.

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Purpose: Inspection of structural features and facilities.

Inspection Party: Lieut. Geo. R. Wernisch, CEC, USNR.

Guide: T/Sgt. F.N. Mozek, who had been stationed at the mine for only 3 months. Not very well qualified to answer questions concerning mine.

Note: Information supplied by T/Sgt. Mozek will be identified thus: (Mozek)

General

Description: 1. Construction was located 600 ft. below surface in the Mine de la Concession de Tercelet. Abandoned galleries were enlarged 200% to 300% in cross-sectional area by blasting.  
2. Width: 24 ft. to 28 ft. (walls were very nearly vertical).  
Height: 18 ft. to 20 ft. (roof was almost horizontal).  
Length: Most galleries were in excess of 500 ft. long, cross connected by short galleries of about same cross-section. At least 5,000 lin. ft. were inspected with floor slabs poured.

Total Floor Area: 12 acres (Mozek)

Aggregate: Fine and coarse slag aggregate was used.

Floor Slabs: 1. Approximately 5 in. thick.  
2. Steel reinforcement - undetermined.  
3. Expansion joints were not found in any construction.  
4. Fill for slabs - undetermined.

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1 March 1945.

Subj: Inspection of Partially Completed Robot Bomb Factory, Located at Thill, near Esch, Luxembourg, (Cont'd).

Walls: Solid Rock - Only one short distance of about 20 ft. was reinforced by concrete wall of undetermined thickness and reinforcement.

Roof: Solid rock - No evidences of weakness and spalling were found.

Partitions: Used only for rooms, of which only a few were found. Concrete blocks, about 9" X 9" X 16", were used.

Other Struct.

Features: 1. Concrete was mixed in mine; two mixers, some buggies, and some mine cars were used.  
2. A large space, 20 ft. X 20 ft. square, about 40 ft. to 50 ft. high was observed - no scaffolding was found.

Camouflage: There was no evidence of camouflage at the one entrance inspected.

Access: 1. Only one was observed.  
2. No others were said to exist (Mozek).  
3. However, there was said to be one connection with another mine about 3 miles away, (Mozek).

Services

Electric: 1. Apparently electric power was to be brought in from outside - no evidence of generating equipment was found.  
2. Evidence of emergency power was not found.  
3. Single electric lights, placed about 11 feet from floor about 20 ft. centers were supported by taut wires anchored into walls.

Ventilation: 1. Intake ducts were rectangular, 8 ft. wide X 4 ft. high, hung from roof; made of material similar to asbestos - cement board, fastened together with wood slats.  
2. Vent ducts were of three sizes: approximately 16", 18", and 22" in diameter, hung from roof; made of material similar to asbestos - cement board, bell and spigot ends. In many cases rectangular holes, about 4" X 12" were cut into the vents at regular intervals.  
3. Two large blowers, of unknown capacity, were already installed.  
4. Evidently a supply and exhaust system was contemplated.

Heating: Evidence of heating equipment was not found.

Drainage: Drainage facilities were provided for carrying off ground water. Open gullies, set off by concrete block curb, or poured concrete enclosed flumes, were found. One pump, access to which could not be obtained, was working, and water was pumped to surface.



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near Esch, Luxembourg, (Cont'd).

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Sanitary: 1. No evidence of water supply was found.  
2. No evidence of sewage disposal was found.  
3. One wash basin was found lying loose in mine.

Security: No evidence of fire or gas protection was found.

Quarters: Quarters for personnel could not be found.

Capacity: Factory was to commence making 250 robots per day, and increase this  
to 850 per day (Mozek).

Conclusion: Conversion of abandoned mines into underground factories is prac-  
ticable.

*GEO. R. WERNISCH*  
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