

STATEMENT

Ultimate authority and responsibility for military affairs in Germany was vested in the Head of State who prior to 2 August 1934 was Field Marshal von Hindenburg and thereafter until 1945 was Adolf Hitler.

Specialized military matters were the responsibility of the three branches of the Armed Forces subordinate to the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces (at the same time Head of State), that is to say the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. In practice, supervision within this field was exercised by a relatively small group of high-ranking officers. These officers exercised such supervision in their official capacity and by virtue of their training, their positions and their mutual contacts. Plans for military operations of the German Armed Forces were prepared by members of this group according to the instructions of the O.C. in the name of their respective Commanding Officers and were presented by them to the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces (at the same time Head of State).

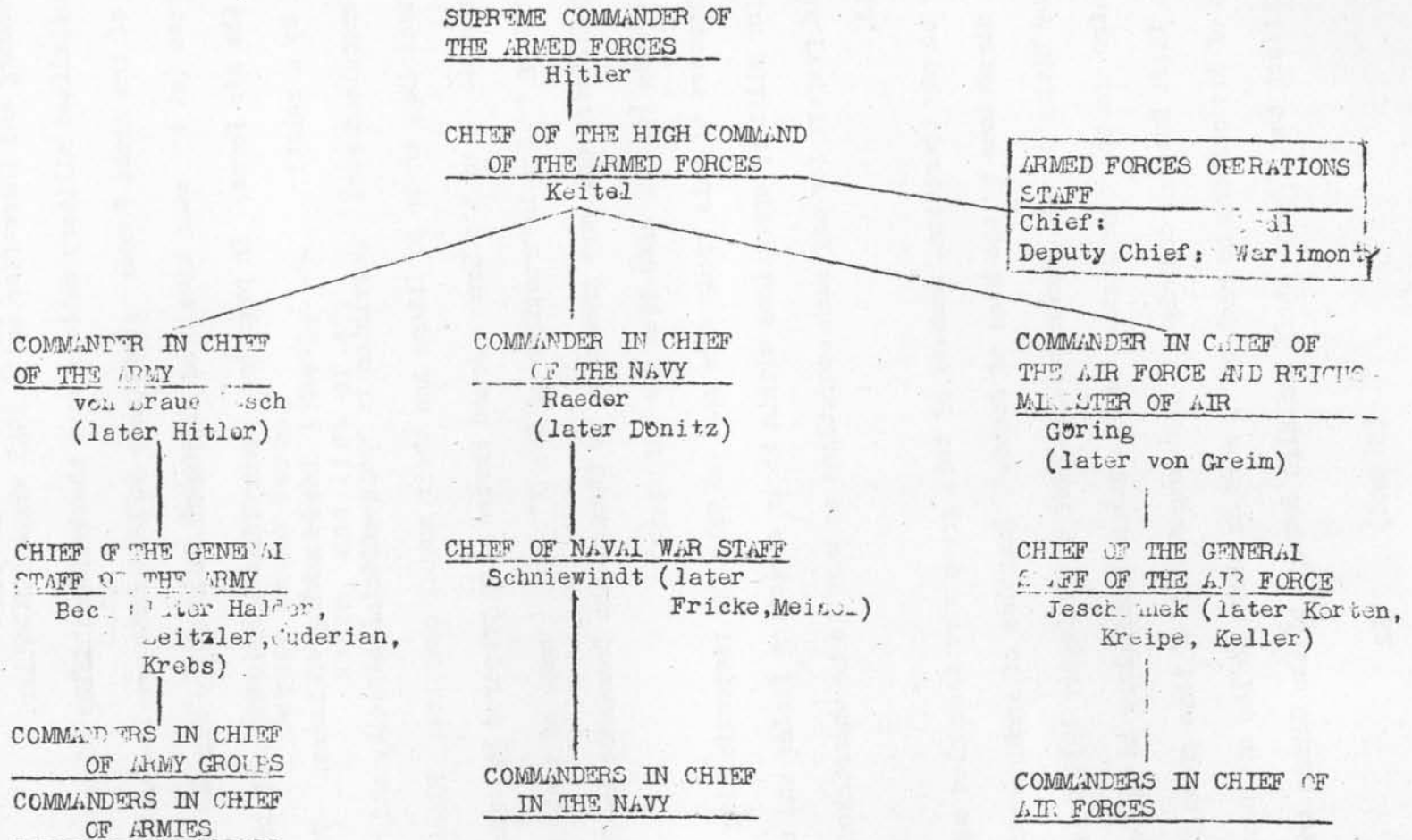
The members of this group were charged with the responsibility of preparing for military operations within their competent fields and they actually did prepare for any such operations as were to be undertaken by troops in the field.

Prior to any operation, members of this group were assembled and given appropriate directions by the Head of State. Examples of such meetings are the speech by Hitler to the Commanders-in-Chief on 22 August 1939 prior to the Polish campaign and the consultation at the Reich Chancellery on 14 June 1941 prior to the first Russian campaign. The composition of this group and the relationship of its members to each other were as shown in the attached chart. This was in effect the General Staff and High Command of the German Armed Forces.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_ DER

CHART

(Initialed) H.



CITY OF NURNBERG: SS

Before me, WALTER H. RAPP, Captain, Cavalry, ASN O-454231, an officer duly qualified to take oath appeared Colonel General FRANZ HALDER, to me known, who in my presence signed the foregoing "Erklärung" (statement) consisting of two pages in the German language with amendments initialed by him and an attached chart initialed by him, and swore that the same, including the attached chart, was true on the 7th day of November 1945.

(Signed) Walter H. Rapp  
WALTER H. RAPP  
Captain CAV  
O-454231

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: (The above acknowledgment of oath appeared in the original in English)

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION  
OF DOCUMENT

I, PAUL A. NEULAND, Major, QMC, ASN O-385720, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages; and that the above is a true and correct translation of Affidavit No. 1..

(Signed) Paul A. Neuland  
PAUL A. NEULAND  
Major QMC  
O-385720