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 OCM 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.

SUPREME COMMANDER OF
THE ARMED FORCES
Hitler

CHIEF OF THE HIGH COMMAND
OF THE ARMED FORCES
Keitel

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
OF THE ARMY
von Brauchitsch
(later Hitler)

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
OF THE NAVY
Raeder
(later Dönitz)

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
OF NAVAL WAR STAFF
Schniewindt
(later Fricke, Meier)

CHIEF OF THE GENERAL
STAFF OF THE ARMY
Bock, Halder, Keitel, Luders, Krebs

COMMANDERS IN CHIEF
OF ARMY GROUPS

COMMANDERS IN CHIEF
OF ARMIES

COMMANDERS IN CHIEF
IN THE NAVY

ARMED FORCES OPERATIONS
STAFF
Chief: Keitel
Deputy Chief: Warlimont

COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF
THE AIR FORCE AND REICH
MINISTER OF AIR
Göring
(later von Greim)

CHIEF OF THE GENERAL
STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE
Jeschneck
(later Karten, Kreipe, Keller)

COMMANDERS IN CHIEF
OF AIR FORCES
CITY OF NURNBERG: SS

Before me, WALTER H. RAPP, Captain, Cavalry, ASN 0-454231, 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

Captain CAV
0-454231

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 0-385720, 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

Major QMC
0-385720