

STATEMENT

From 1919, and particularly from 1924, three critical territorial questions occupied attention in Germany. These were the questions of the Polish Corridor, the Ruhr and Memel.

I myself, as well as the whole group of German staff officers, believed that these three questions, outstanding among which was the question of the Polish Corridor, would have to be settled some day, if necessary by force of arms. About ninety per cent of the German people were of the same mind as the officers on the Polish question. A war to wipe out the desecration involved in the creation of the Polish Corridor and to lessen the threat to separated East Prussia surrounded by Poland and Lithuania was regarded as a sacred duty though a sad necessity. This was one of the chief reasons behind the partially secret rearmament which began about ten years before Hitler came to power and was accentuated under Nazi rule.

Before 1936 - 1939 the German generals were not opposed to Hitler. There was no reason to oppose Hitler since he produced the results which they desired. After this time some generals began to condemn his methods and lost confidence in the power of his judgment. However they failed as a group to take any definite stand against him, although a few of them tried to do so and as a result had to pay for this with their lives or their positions.

Shortly before my removal from the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces in January 1938, Hitler asked me to recommend a successor. I suggested Goering, who was the ranking officer, but Hitler objected because of his lack of patience and diligence. I was replaced as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces by no officer, but Hitler personally took over my function as Commander. Keitel was recommended by me as a Chef de bureau. As far as I know he was never named Commander of the Armed Forces but was always merely a "Chief

TRANSLATION OF AFFIDAVIT No. 2 (ctd)
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of Staff" under Hitler and in effect conducted the administrative functions of the Ministry of War. At my time Keitel was not opposed to Hitler and therefore was qualified to bring about a good understanding between Hitler and the Armed Forces, a thing which I myself desired and had furthered as Reichswehrminister and Reichskriegminister. To do the opposite would have led to a civil war, for at that time the mass of the German people supported Hitler. Many are no longer willing to admit this. But it is the truth.

As I heard, Keitel did not oppose any of Hitler's measures. He became a willing tool in Hitler's hands for every one of his decisions.

He did not measure up to what might have been expected of him.

(Signed) v. BLOMBERG

CITY OF NURNBERG: SS

Before me, PAUL A. NEULAND, Major, QMC, ASN O-385720
an officer duly qualified to take oaths, appeared Field Marshal
WERNER von BIEBER, to me known, who in my presence signed the
foregoing "Erklärung" (statement) consisting of two pages in the
German language, and swore that the same was true on the 7th day
of November 1945.

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

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

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION
OF DOCUMENT

I, WALTER H. RAPP, Captain, Cavalry, ASN O-454231, 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.3.

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