

STATEMENT OF 7 NOVEMBER 1945

In April 1939 I was instructed by Hitler to start military preparations for a possible campaign against Poland. Work was immediately begun to prepare an operational and deployment plan. This was then presented to Hitler and approved by him as amended by a change which he desired.

After the operational and deployment orders had been given to the two Commanders of the army groups and the five Commanders of the armies, conferences took place with them about details in order to hear their desires and recommendations.

After the outbreak of the war I continued this policy of keeping in close and constant touch with the Commanders-in-Chief of army groups and of armies by personal visits to their headquarters as well as by telephone, teletype or wireless. In this way I was able to obtain their advice and their recommendations during the conduct of military operations. In fact it was the accepted policy and common practice for the Commander-in-Chief of the Army to consult his subordinate Commanders-in-Chief and to maintain a constant exchange of ideas with them. The Commander-in-Chief of the Army and his Chief of Staff communicated with army groups and, thru them as well as directly, with armies; thru army groups on strategical and tactical matters; directly on questions affecting supply and the administration of conquered territory occupied by these armies. An army group had no territorial jurisdiction. It had a relatively small staff which was concerned only with military operations. In all territorial matters it was the Commander-in-Chief of the army and not of the army group who exercised jurisdiction.

(Signed) von BRAUCHITSCH

SUPPLEMENT TO MY STATEMENT OF 7 NOVEMBER 1945

When Hitler had made a decision to support the realization of his political objectives through military pressure or through the application of military force, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, if he was at all involved, ordinarily first received an appropriate oral briefing or an appropriate oral command.

Operational and deployment plans were next worked out in the OKH. After these plans had been presented to Hitler, generally by word of mouth, and had been approved by him, there followed a written order from the OKW to the three branches of the Armed Forces. In the meanwhile the OKW began to transmit the operational and deployment plans to the army groups and armies involved. Details of the operational and deployment plans were discussed by the OKH with the Commanders of the army groups and armies and with the Chiefs of Staff of these Commanders.

During the operations the OKH maintained a constant exchange of ideas with the army groups by means of telephone, radio and courier. The Commander-in-Chief of the Army used every opportunity to maintain a personal exchange of ideas with the Commanders of army groups, armies and lower echelons by means of personal visits to them. In the war against Russia the Commanders of army groups and of armies were individually and repeatedly called in by Hitler for consultation.

Orders for all operational matters went from the OKH to army groups and for all matters concerning supply and territorial jurisdiction from the OKH directly to the armies.

(Signed) von BRAUCHITSCH

CITY OF NURNBERG: SS

Before me, WALTER H. RAPP, Captain, Cavalry, ASN O-454231, an officer duly qualified to take oaths, appeared Field Marshal WALTER von BRAUCHITSCH, to me known who in my presence signed the foregoing "Erklärung vom 7. November 1945" (statement of 7 November 1945) consisting of two pages in the German language, and who in my presence also signed the attached "Ergänzung zu meiner Erklärung vom 7. November 1945" (supplement to my statement of 7 November 1945) consisting of one sheet written on both sides in German script, and swore that the same was true on the 7th day of November 1945.

(Signed) Walter H. Rapp  
WALTER H. RAPP  
Captain CIV  
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, OMC, 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. 4.

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