

OFFICE OF U. S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
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INTERROGATION DIVISION

Interrogation of: HERMANN GOERING

By: Colonel J. H. Amen 30 August 1945, A.M.

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATION IMPLICATED:
AND SUBJECTS

1. HERMANN GOERING
 - a. Pre-war development of the Luftwaffe (p.6)
 - (1) Responsibility for armament of (p.4)
 - b. Opinions regarding foreign reaction to German aggression (p. 7,8,9)
2. HITLER
 - a. Green Plan estimate of foreign reaction to German aggression (p.7,8,9)
 - b. Position in re-armament program (p.2-5)
3. KEITEL
 - a. Responsibility from 1938 as head of OKW for annual program of armament requirements (p.2)
4. SPEER, SAUER
 - a. Responsibility from 1942 for annual program of armament requirements (p.2, 3,).
5. RAEDER, DOENITZ
 - a. Prior to Speer in 1942, responsibility for annual naval armament requirements (p.4)

PREPARATION FOR AGGRESSION.

The OKW was founded in 1938 when Minister of War Blomberg resigned. Hitler, together with the Supreme Commander and the representatives of OKW, Keitel (formerly by the Minister of War), prepared and fixed the annual program of armament requirements for all three branches. After 1942, Speer took over the task from Keitel (with closer cooperation), responsible for (1) Army, (2) Navy, (3) Air Corps, 1944; then in the over all picture for the production of war material, while the tactical and technical details remained with the three commanders of the three service branches (p.2,3)

Hitler finally approved the plans checking all items and saw Speer or Sauer, who was the assistant of Speer, at least every third day. It is possible that Hitler handled these matters through Jodl during the period of the resignation of Blomberg and the installation of Speer. Todt was in charge for army armament before Speer, possibly in 1941 (p.3)

Before Speer, Goering was responsible for the air for executing Hitler's orders for armament; Raeder (and later his successor Doenitz) for the Navy and Keitel for the Army (p.4).

Hermann Goering, 30 August 1945 A.M.

The word "blitzkrieg" was used first in England, which called German air attacks "blitz" (p.4).

Hitler was especially interested in ships, guns, tanks, especially heavy tanks even in face of opposition. The importance of the tanks were recognized by Hitler since he based the campaign in Poland and France on heavy tanks (p.5).

DEVELOPMENT OF LUFTWAFFE

The major development of the Luftwaffe took place already before 1939, and continued to increase from year to year. The maximum strength of the Luftwaffe was reached in 1942, and as far as fighters were concerned, at the end of 1944 and the beginning of 1945 (p.6).

GREEN PLAN

Referring to the Green Plan "the basic assumption that during the Czecho-Slovakian campaign France would declare war on Germany", was a possibility always discussed. But "It was assumed that France would take such a step only if England rendered military help" (p.7).

"The Soviet Union will in all probability range itself at once on the side of the Western Powers" - it was the thought of Hitler, but not Goering's opinion because he believed that Russian armament was not completed at that time. Hitler believed America would not enter under any conditions whereas Goering believed that if England did the U.S. would.

Goering concedes the prevalence of the opinion expressed in the document, that the Dutch-Belgian area would assume greater importance in the prosecution of the war. It was Hitler's thought that America would render ideological and economic support, and that it was his opinion that finally Italy, Spain, Hungary and Japan would figure as sympathetic neutrals (p.8).

Also possible is that the opinion of the general staff in regard to the French-Czechoslovakian treaty was that France and England would consider for two days in case of an unprovoked attack against Czechoslovakia and for three days in case of a 48 hour ultimatum, to establish the first day of war on a European scale (p.9).