

SUMMARY OF INTERROGATION OF

Hermann Goering

6 November 1945 AM

By: Colonel Amem

PERSONS CONCERNED: von Blomberg and von Fritsch

SUBJECT: Blomberg's and Fritsch's Resignations
from the Army

DOCUMENTS: None

GENERAL

1. At Goering's insistence these interrogations were made without any reporter being present but in the presence of an interpreter (Pfc Sonnenfeldt) and of Gen. Donovan.

2. Goering gave his complete version of the circumstances surrounding the marriage of Blomberg to a prostitute in the presence of Hitler and of Goering and the ensuing developments resulting in Blomberg's forced resignation from the army. At first Goering insisted that Blomberg had requested Hitler's permission to marry a girl of simple background but of fine character; that Hitler had consented and that Hitler and Goering served as witnesses at the wedding; that subsequently it had been reported to Goering by the local police that the girl was a notorious prostitute; that Goering had reported this to Hitler who had requested Goering to discuss the matter with Blomberg; that Goering had done so and suggested to Blomberg that he obtain a separation or a divorce, which Blomberg refused to do; that Goering had reported this to Hitler and Hitler had directed Blomberg to take a trip around the world and then retire, which he had done. Goering expressly denied that either Hitler or himself had in any way engineered the marriage or retirement and insisted that at the time of the marriage all three had been on particularly good terms. Subsequently Goering conceded it as a likely possibility that without the knowledge of Hitler or himself, Himmler, having learned of Blomberg's association with the girl, had permitted the marriage to take place in the presence of Hitler and of Goering without notifying them in advance in order to promote his own importance, to get rid of Blomberg, and to put Hitler and Goering in an embarrassing position, which he (Himmler) would be able to use to his own advantage.

3. Goering testified that the Fritsch affair was of an entirely different nature; that Hitler entertained a personal dislike for Fritsch and did not desire his continuance in any position of authority; that Himmler and Heydrich produced a well-known blackmailer who insisted that he had witnessed homosexual activities between Fritsch and a third party; that Himmler and/or Heydrich had reported this to Hitler, who was personally present at a confrontation of Fritsch by the blackmailer who identified him as the person whom he had witnessed in homosexual activity with the third party; that Hitler had directed an investigation as the result of which he had requested the resignation of Fritsch, who had demanded a trial by court martial; that Goering had been appointed as the senior officer in charge of the court martial; that Goering had read the records of the preliminary investigation and become convinced that Fritsch was innocent; that it developed in the course of the court martial proceedings that the blackmailer was a liar, but more important, that the incident complained of had occurred not between Fritsch and the third party but between the third party and a retired lieutenant colonel in the army with an almost identical name; that Goering himself cross-examined the blackmailer and finally broke his story down and brought about an acquittal of Fritsch. Goering further testified, however, that Hitler never became convinced of the innocence of Fritsch but thought that the army had interposed the lieutenant colonel with a similar name in an attempt to clear Fritsch; that Himmler, Heydrich, and representatives of the Gestapo were very bitter about the whole proceeding and insisted on trying to convict Fritsch even after it became apparent that the evidence was worthless. Accordingly, Goering believed that the whole affair had been invented by Himmler and/or Heydrich but without instigation from Hitler. Goering further testified that after many talks with Hitler, the latter finally consented to bestow one of the highest German decorations on Fritsch but not to restore him to the army; that subsequently Fritsch went to the front with a battalion which bore his name and was killed -- probably in accord with his own desire.

4. Goering requested that the foregoing testimony be kept a secret.