

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY
INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of von BLOMBERG
By: Maj. John J. Monigan, 12 October 1945, a.m. Nuremberg

PERSONS AND SUBJECTS IMPLICATED

1. BLOMBERG, von
 - a. Document C-159 (p.1)
(1) Occupation of Rhineland (p.2,3)
 - b. Knowledge of Document C-032 (p.3-4)
2. RAEDER
 - a. Knowledge of Document C-032 (p.5)
(1) Marineleitung (p.5)

DOCUMENT C-159, OCCUPATION OF RHINELAND

Blomberg identifies document C-159, dated 2 March 1936, as an order issued by him pertaining to the reoccupation of the militarized zone of the Rhineland. (p.1) In order to avoid long distance troop transports, elements of the three Army corps stationed in Westphalia, in Kassel and in Wurttemberg, were employed for the occupation of the Rhineland (p.1). The orders were for five regiments to move with the bulk of their battalions to the Rhine river. The garrisons thus evacuated were not occupied by new troops until the excitement in Europe had died down. Only weak forces were sent to the western bank of the Rhine, since Hitler had decided to withdraw them in the event of any military reaction on the part of France (p.2,3) Approximately three divisions participated in this operation (p.3).

DOCUMENT C-032

Blomberg never saw document C-032, dated 1933, pertaining to naval matters which, at that time fell under the direct supervision of Admiral Raeder. Does not recall discussions concerning preparation of document but says it is probable that the entire thing was reported to him. (p.3,4) The general program discussed in the document would come within the sector of the Ministry of Defense. Believes that "Section A" referred to in the document, was the department in the Navy which worked out purely military matters. The Marineleitung was reorganized in 1933. At that time there was a new department and an old department. The word "Neu" on the document indicates that the matter was to be referred to the new department. (p.5)