

53,005

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of General von BLOMBERG  
By: Lt. Colonel Hinkel, 12 October 1945, p.m.

---

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects

1. BLOMBERG

- a. Minister of the Interior from 30 January 1933 to 28 January 1938 (1)
- b. Discussions about the financing of the re-armament - Schacht and Hitler (2)
- c. Foreign Exchange (Devisen) and Mefo bills (2, 3)
- d. Exhibit "A" 12 October 1945, E. D. Low (6)
- e. Department of Munition (8)
- f. Exhibit "B" 12 October 1945, E. D. Low, and Exhibit "C" 12 October 1945, E. D. Low (8)
- g. Exhibit "E" 12 October 1945, E. D. Low (11)
- h. Re-armament as cause of war (13)

2. SCHACHT

- a. Financing of re-armament (2-4, 6)  
(1) Manpower needs (12)
- b. Support of re-armament (9)
- c. Knowledge that re-armament would cause war (10)
- d. Controversy with Darre (11)

3. GENERAL THOMAS AND LIESE

- a. Department of Munition (8)
- b. Liaison between War Ministry and Schacht (8)

Werner von Blomberg, 12. Oct., 1945 A.M.

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)

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's 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)