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Interrogation of Hans-Jurgen Stumpff
By Mr. Sackett
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Witness related his education and career as a military man. Prior to 1933 he held various ranks in the Army, and in 1933 while he was a Colonel in the Army he was transferred to the newly formed Air Force. Witness states that prior thereto, the Air Force had been a part of either the Army or the Navy but that commencing in 1933 it was set up as a separate branch or organization. The Air Force, at its inception in 1933, was strictly a civilian organization. The members did not wear uniforms and did not have military rank. The organization, however, was set up along military lines with a chain of command and positions comparable to military ranks. The civilian membership drilled and engaged in activities similar to a military organization. The Air Force at its inception was recruited from the Army and Navy. In order to become a member of the newly formed Air Force, a man had to be discharged from the Army or Navy and become a civilian so that he could participate as a civilian.

Witness definitely states that the Air Force was created as a civilian organization in order to circumvent or get around the terms and provisions of the Versailles Treaty prohibiting the rearming of Germany. Witness states that this was generally known and understood among the personnel of the newly formed Air Force and that it was contemplated that at some future date it would develop into a military organization. In 1935, when the general conscription laws were passed, the civilian-type Air Force became a military

organization and recruited its members directly.

Witness, between the years 1933 and 1937, was in charge of personnel in the newly formed Air Force in 1936 became a Major General, and in 1937 a Lieutenant General and Chief of the General Staff of the Air Force.

Witness admits that the Air Force proceeded to make definite plans for the defense of the Reich in the event of war. Witness states that the top of the command was Hitler under which was Goering and under Goering he appeared in the chain of command as Chief of Staff.

Witness was interrogated with reference to the Anchluss in Austria and advised that the first information he had with reference to the same was about three days prior thereto when he was told by Goering to load a number of planes with propaganda leaflets to be dropped in Austria. Witness states that no orders were given for the bombing of Austria inasmuch as no one doubted in the least but that a peaceful taking over of Austria would be accomplished. Witness admitted that at the time of the Anschluss the Air Force was sufficiently developed and armed to be prepared to fight in Austria had the orders been given.