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INTERROGATION DIVISION

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Brief of
Interrogation of General BLASKOWITZ

by
Major J. J. Monigan.

25 October, 1945.

We discussed initially the activity of General Blaskowitz at Prague during the period between the German occupation of Czechoslovakia and the assumption of office of von Neurath. General Blaskowitz stated that his relations with President Hocha were extremely cordial, that in his view the occupation should proceed with the minimum of interference with normal civilian life. During the period of his command which was approximately six weeks, no significant incidents took place nor was there any uprising of the population.

Subsequently, Blaskowitz discussed his activities as commander of the Eighth German Army in the Polish Campaign and his duties thereafter as military commander of the occupation troops in Poland. In such position he occupied on the military side a place similar to that of Frank in the civilian government. Actually there was not much relation between the two since the witness wished to concern himself solely with military matters and did not in any way interfere with the civilian government or with the action of the police. Blaskowitz was not ordered by his superior, von Brauchitsch, to avoid interference with the civilian government, but both he and Frank scrupulously maintained the separation. The witness was aware of the activities of the civilian government in deporting Jews into ghettos and the activities of the secret police. His soldiers, however, did not receive, and indeed they were forbidden to exercise any police power. The task of the witness was to maintain the security of Poland with a minimum of troops since soldiers were urgently needed on the western front.

The police measures which were undertaken seemed to the witness to make the execution of his mission more difficult and accordingly he prepared a report based on personal knowledge and the information transmitted to him by subordinate commanders concerning the activities of the police and the undesirability of the policy in effect regarding Jews and Poles. He never received a reply to this report except in the winter of the following year when Brauchitsch called a conference of high-ranking Army officials to discuss general matters and during the course of the meeting Himmler spoke a few words in an attempt to justify the actions which were undertaken as a matter of necessity. The affair in Poland was not specifically mentioned at this meeting, but the witness has no doubt but that Himmler's remarks

were based upon his report and that as a consequence his subsequent career in the Army was thereby prejudiced.

Blaskowitz was unable to say whether the police were subject to the control of Frank or whether Kroeger took his orders from Himmler and that Frank was unable to control their conduct. Blaskowitz had no specific recollection of pointing out to Frank the undesirability of the construction of ghettos and the use of vigorous police measures, but he believes that his attitude in such affairs was well known and that it is quite possible that in discussions which he had with Frank he pointed out this fact. The witness is extremely cooperative and gives the impression of being a soldier who did not concern himself with political activities or civilian administration.