

62,03

E      Defendant KARL DOENITZ

(Neumann rough draft, unedited)

DOENITZ bears responsibility for the illegal rebuilding of the German Navy and/or its lawless and terroristic acts against the Allied Forces and against the countries occupied or annexed by Germany. In 1935, he was appointed commanding officer of the Weddigen submarine flotilla, the first German U-boat unit to be openly formed in direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles. In the same year he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the submarine arm (Führer der Unterseeboote). He organized the U-boat fleet into six flotillas, which by January 1939 contained 68 modern vessels<sup>1/</sup>

As Commander-in-Chief of U-boats he directed the recruitment training and tactics of the U-boat fleet, and in this capacity was responsible for:

- 1) The erection of U-boat bases in occupied countries, and the consequent exploitation of property and civilians in these areas;
- 2) The torpedoing of neutral merchant shipping without warning or allowing time for evacuation of those aboard;
- 3) The sinking of hospital ships;
- 4) The shooting of submarine crews of Allied seamen left swimming in the water after the sinking of their ships.

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<sup>1/</sup> Doenitz, Karl, Die U-bootswaffe, Mittler & Sohn, Berlin, 2nd edition, 1939.

As Commander-in-Chief of the submarine arm, the defendant was authorized to take part in Reich Cabinet meetings dealing with the preparation and mobilization of Germany for aggressive war. Thus he participated directly in the administrative decisions leading to Germany's rearmament in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.

The defendant's jurisdiction over and responsibility for the training and operation of the German Navy were extended by his appointment, on 30 January 1943, to the rank of Grand Admiral (Grossadmiral) and Commander-in-Chief of the German Navy. Besides retaining his function as Commander-in-Chief of submarines, he assumed the responsibility for strategic planning for all naval matters within the High Command of the Armed Forces (OKW). Command of naval units occupying Norway, Denmark, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Greece, and the Black Sea and Baltic Sea areas implicates the defendant in the occupation policy exercised in these areas and the use of these forces, in violation of the rules of land and sea warfare, for suppressing civilian population and warding off Allied invasions.

Upon receiving the rank of Commander-in-Chief of the German Navy in 1943, the defendant became a member of the Secret Cabinet Council, and in this office played a prominent role in the conception and means of execution of all German policies for internal administration and security, exploitation of occupied territories, and achievement of military objectives.

Though forbidden by law to be a member of the Nazi party and the Armed Forces at the same time, the defendant was instrumental, as Commander-in-Chief of U-boats and Commander-in-Chief of the German Navy, in the indoctrination of his commands with Nazi principles and ideology, and for the issuance of orders to senior Naval officers authorizing ideological training for members of the German Navy.<sup>1/</sup> His own official speeches were directed toward inspiring all Germans with unquestioning obedience to the Führer.<sup>2/</sup>

When the defendant became Chancellor of Germany on 1 May 1945, he continued personally<sup>3/</sup> and allowed members of his succession government to continue spreading Nazi propaganda.

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<sup>1/</sup> SEE secret communication of the Naval High Command, OKM/AMA/WF.B Nr.15644 Chefs, Gekados.

<sup>2/</sup> Deutsches Nachrichten Büro, 12 March 1944

<sup>3/</sup> North German Home Service, 1 May 1945, monitored by BBC