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Defendant ERICK RAEDER

(Naumann rough draft, unedited)

RAEDER has played a leading role in the Nazi plan for aggression as Commander-in-Chief of the German Navy from 21 May 1935 to 30 January 1943 and afterwards as Admiral Inspector of the Navy until the end of the war. Even before the seizure of power by the Nazis in 1933, the defendant was using his influence as Chief of the Naval Command (Chef der Marineleitung of the ONW) to have the Reichstag appropriate greater sums for the construction of pocket battleships and a **first.-class** fighting navy; he did this despite the rigid naval stipulations of the Treaty of Versailles and the assertions of the German government that it was not rearming.

After 1933, the defendant remained as Chief of Naval Command and was able to put into effect the plans already drawn up for the building of modern surface and undersea vessels. The success of the execution of these plans in violation of international treaty obligations was attested to by the defendant's appointment to the post of Commander-in-Chief of the German Navy on 21 May 1935, and the Fuehrer's awarding him the Golden Party Badge and Honorary membership in the Party on 30 January 1937.<sup>1/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> Amtliche Mitteilung über die Gedonksitzung des Reichkabinetts vom 30 January 1937, Dokumente der Deutschen Politik, Vol. 5, page 59.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, the defendant was responsible for all naval matters within the High Command of the Armed Forces (OKW). Immediately after he assumed Supreme Command, the U-boat arm was officially added as one of the Navy's tactical forces, and the bases at Wismar, Swinemünde, Pillau, Emden and Heligoland were heavily fortified. When German Forces occupied Poland, Norway, the Lowlands, France and the Balkans, the defendant supervised naval bombardments of key ports, naval occupation of administrative districts, and the erection of bases for surface and submarine vessels. Command of these bases outside Germany implicate the defendant in the occupation policy exercised in these areas and the use of naval forces in violation of the rules of land and sea warfare for suppressing and exploiting these civilian populations and defending the sea coasts from Allied landing attempts.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Navy the defendant supervised naval intelligence and was responsible for the ruthless enforcement of security measures within his command. He was also implicated in the Nazi indoctrination of the members of his command carried on by naval training commands and by officers and men aboard ships of the line.

In his capacity of Commander-in-Chief of the Navy he directed the illegal reconstruction, recruitment, training and tactics of the submarine fleet, and was therefore 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 by submarine crews of Allied seamen left swimming in the water after the sinking of their ships.

The defendant was appointed a member of the Secret Cabinet Council in 1939, and in this office took part in determining the overall strategy of the German war effort, not only for military operations, but also for the administration and security of Greater Germany and the exploitation of occupied territories.

As Admiral Inspector of the German Navy after 30 January 1943 the defendant was responsible for the supervision of naval education and training, research and development of naval equipment and naval weapons such as artillery, torpedoes and mines, harbor facilities at naval bases, and naval security. With these functions, his responsibility for indoctrination of naval personnel and the unlawful use of naval facilities continued.