Interrogation of . . . . ◦ ◦ Heinz von GYLDENFELDT

By   ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ Lt Col T. S. HINKEL

Time   ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦ 7 November 1945 - A. M.

     GYLDENFELDT was the Chief of Staff of OKH under von BRAUCHITSCH during the period June 1941 until Christmas 1941. (He stated that never at any time during his military career was he a member of the OKW, although for a period of time some of the functions of the OKH were directed by KEITEL.) GYLDENFELDT stated that he was informed of the order of May 1941 regarding the execution of political commissars on their capture, that this order was discussed among members of the staff of OKH, and that von BRAUCHITSCH was opposed to it. GYLDENFELDT did not know whether von BRAUCHITSCH attached to the OKW order an order of his own setting forth his opposition to it.

     GYLDENFELDT stated that he had no knowledge regarding any orders concerned with the treatment of Russian prisoners of war and civilian population nor did he know anything about the statement that since Russia was not a party to the Geneva Convention, it was not necessary to treat Russian prisoners of war in accordance therewith. GYLDENFELDT stated that he recalled that orders had been issued regarding anti-partisan activity but he could not recall their terms. He stated that there was no partisan activity in the area which his outfit (Army Group A) held and that his only knowledge concerning anti-partisan activities was that he had heard that several villages had been burned down. GYLDENFELDT stated that he heard for the first time in 1944 of HITLER's commando order of 18 October 1942. He stated that when he was Chief of Staff for BLASKOWITZ, Army Group G, he found the order among other papers. He further stated that the order had already been distributed and that there was no need to send it out then.

     GYLDENFELDT stated that he over-heard KEITEL sometime during the period January to April 1942 give a telephonic order to an undisclosed person regarding the shooting of hostages but other than that one incident he had no knowledge whatever concerning any such activities.

                      HINKEL