

General ^{37.03} Jodl

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
BIOGRAPHICAL REPORT

NAME: JODL, Alfred

NATIONALITY: German

REGION: Berlin

MAJOR POSITIONS: Generaloberst (Colonel General)
and Chef des Wehrmachtführungsstabes
(Chief of Armed Forces Operations Staff)

Birth date
and place: 16 August 1885, Aachen

FAMILY HISTORY: Although Jodl was born in western Germany
he comes from a Bavarian family. He is reported
to have the attitude and bearing of the typical
Prussian officer. 3/

His younger brother, Ferdinand, was a
general (3 stars) of the Mountain Troops. (The
two brothers are often confused.)

Work and
Political History: Jodl is a professional officer who, up to
the beginning of World War II followed the usual
career of a German officer. According to source 1/
the main steps in his military career up to 1939
were the following:

1911	First Commission in German Artillery;
1914-1918	First service with artillery, then with German General Staff;
1918	Taken over by the Reichswehr, serving for some time under General Ritter von Epp;
1929	Appointed Major and Chief of Staff of the 7th Division (Munich);
1932	Appointed Lieutenant Colonel;
1935	Appointed Colonel;
1939	Appointed Major General in the General Staff.

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During World War II, Jodl rose very rapidly since he was working in the Wehrmachtführungsstab (Operations Staff of the Armed Forces, not to be confused with the General Staff), the staff attached to Hitler personally. Jodl served in this body under Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel as early as 1936, and was chief of its operational bureau at the beginning of this war. 3/ He subsequently became Chief of the Wehrmachtführungsstab, and thus the most influential officer on the military staff of Hitler's headquarters. 4/ In 1940 he was promoted two ranks, to the rank of General der Artillerie (General of Artillery, three stars) and on this occasion was highly praised by Hitler in the Reichstag on 19 July 1940. Jodl, on his part, frequently issued statements of loyalty to Hitler. 1/ On 30 January 1944, Jodl was promoted to the rank of General-oberst. (Colonel General) 2/

Jodl is reported to be responsible for the planning of the German campaign in the USSR, and for many of the inhuman actions committed by the German Army during the occupation of Soviet territory. 3/ On the other hand, he has also been mentioned as disagreeing with Hitler on basic principles of military strategy in the East. 8/

Jodl signed the second armistice with Greece in 1941; according to source 3/, he must be held responsible for the order to shackle British prisoners of war after the Dieppe Commando raid of 19 August 1942.

According to a report disseminated by the Moscow radio on 10 September 1943, he was also head of a committee formed by Himmler to investigate the causes of German defeats in the southern and central sectors of the German-Russian front. 5/

As Hitler's personal Chief of Staff, Jodl was also accustomed to performing missions of a more diplomatic character. Thus, in October 1943, he was sent to Finland in order to investigate the attitude of the country and especially that of Marshal Mannerheim. 6/, 7/

He signed the German surrender in Rheims on behalf of Dönitz in May 1945.

On 23 May 1945, Jodl was arrested by the British as prisoner of war in Flensburg. 9/

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NOTE: The information contained in this report has been obtained from the following list of sources:

- 1/ OSS, Source S
- 2/ Berliner Börsen Zeitung, 2 February 1944
- 3/ OSS, Source S, B 1497
- 4/ Die Weltwoche, Zurich, 1 August 1942
- 5/ FCC Daily Report, 11 September 1943
- 6/ OSS, # 23856 - 27 October 1943
- 7/ OSS, # 24230 - 30 October 1943
- 8/ OSS, Source S - 20 November 1943
- 9/ OWI European News Digest, 25 May 1945

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