

OFFICE OF U. S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of KEITEL, Wilhelm
By: Mr. T. J. Dodd, 30 August 1945, p.m., Nuremberg

PERSONS IMPLICATED AND SUBJECTS

- 1.. KEITEL, Wilhelm
 - a. Aggressive war against Poland
 - (1) Military preparations for attack against Poland (p.6,11)
 - (2) Keitel's bid for Mussolini's support (p.7)
 - b. Aggressive war against France (p. 12-20)
 - c. Approval of OKW and OKH for attack on Denmark (p.12-20)
 - d. OKW plan of operations against Norway (p.21)
 - e. Attack on Greece
 - (1) Meeting of Mussolini, Hitler and Keitel (p.23)
 - f. Attack on Russia
 - (1) Plans for the attack (p.31,33,39)
 - (a) First order by OKW (p. 33)
- 2.. BRAUCHITSCH
 - a. Military action against Poland (p.6)
 - b. Plans of military action against France (p.12-20)
- 3.. HITLER
 - a. Order for military action against Poland (p.6)
 - b. Plans of attack against France (p.12-20)
- 4.. JODL
 - a. Part in the war against Poland (p.7)
 - b. Plans of attack against Russia (p.31)
- 5.. HALDER
 - a. Plans for military actions against France (p.12-20)
- 6.. GUDERIAN
 - a. Plans for military action against France (p.12-20)
- 7.. FALKENHORST
 - a. In charge operations against Norway (p.21)
 - b. In charge of attack against Russia (p.40)

Keitel, Wilhelm, 30 August 1945, p.m.
Nuremberg

AGGRESSION AGAINST POLAND

Préparations for military action against Poland were definitely suspended in the hope that the issues could be settled by negotiation, but after the Polish-English Treaty on 24 August Hitler said either to Keitel or to Brauchitsch that they were to go on with the time table (p.6). At this time Hitler was disappointed by a letter from Mussolini stating that Italy would not join Germany in the event of war on Poland. Keitel worked closely with the Italians at this period in an effort to get them to join in with Germany. He was so involved with the Italians he was not available for other matters. During this period he also brought Jodl in from Vienna to help him (p.7). The German Army did not mobilize fully until 1 September under orders from Hitler who continued to conceal German movements as had been done previously in connection with the Austrian and Czech affairs. Keitel said that Hitler was correct in his camouflage tactics on political grounds although as a soldier did not think it was the way to do things (p.11).

AGGRESSION AGAINST FRANCE

Definite plans for attack against France began at the end of September 1939 and were completed in six weeks. By the middle of October the plans had advanced to a point so that the transfer of troops from East to West was made pursuant to them. Brauchitsch, Halder, and Keitel argued against Hitler's desire to attack in November and weather conditions made such an attack impossible. Plans for attack in the West were completed in October or November of 1939 and were presented to Hitler. After several days he modified these plans. OKH wanted to march through Belgium and keep Holland neutral. Hitler intended to attack through Luxembourg towards Sedan and Abbeville and maintain the neutrality of both Holland and Belgium. Hitler discussed his plans with Keitel, Jodl, Brauchitsch, and Guderian. General Halder was not in favor of Hitler's modifications.

AGGRESSION AGAINST DENMARK

There was no dispute between OKW and OKH on the occupation of Denmark since this was a necessary step for the occupation of Norway (p.12-20).

Keitel, Wilhelm, 30 August 1945, p.m.
Nuremberg

AGGRESSION AGAINST NORWAY

The operation against Norway was prepared entirely by the OKW; the first truly coordinated operation of the three Service Branches. A special staff of the OKW worked out the plans and turned them over to Von Falkenhorst for execution (p.21)

AGGRESSION AGAINST GREECE

Action in the Balkans was based entirely upon the necessity of helping out the Italians. When Mussolini met Hitler and Keitel at Florence, Mussolini stated that the attack on Greece was already underway. This came as a surprise (p.23)

AGGRESSION AGAINST RUSSIA

With reference to Russia, Keitel stated that the plan against Russia was prepared as early as the spring of 1940 and continued throughout the summer. In August or September 1940 Keitel and Jodl convinced Hitler that such a plan would have been impossible (p.31). The first definite order against Russia was issued in January or February 1941 by OKW. Action against Russia was delayed because of intervention of the Balkans (p.33). Keitel estimated that 120 divisions were committed against Russia (p.39). Participation of Finland in the Russian campaign was worked out in the spring of 1941 at Salzburg. Falkenhorst was in charge of the troops involved and of the discussions. Neither the Hungarians nor the Italians were advised of the plans against Russia (p.40).