

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: Wilhelm KEITEL:

By: Col. J.H. Men, 1 October 1945, a.m. Nuremberg

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PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. KEITEL
  - a. Discussion of Document R-94, concerning branding of Russian war prisoners (p.1)
  - b. Written statements concerning affairs Giraud and Weygand (pp.1-2)
  - c. Position in OKH and OKW (pp.11-12)
  - d. Discussion of Document L-19, concerning naval warfare (pp.4-6)
  - e. Keitel identifies discussion of Document L-39, concerning removal of all restrictions around the coast of England. (pp.6-7)
  - f. Discussion of Document 795-PS, regarding Italy's entry into the war (pp.7-11)
  - g. Discussion of Document L-211, "Warfare as a Problem of Organization" (pp.11-15)
  - h. Discussion of Document R-99, concerning transfer of political power in occupied Russia to SS Fuehrer (pp.15-17)
  - i. Discussion of Document 502-PS, concerning duties of Commandos in Russian PW Cages (pp.17-20)
  - j. Discussion of Document L-158, concerning measures against escaped officers. (pp.20-23)
2. JODL
  - a. Relation to Giraud and Weygand affairs. (pp.1-2)
  - b. Certification on Document L-19 (pp.4-6)
  - c. Signature on Document L-39 (pp.6-7)
  - d. Author of Document L-211 (pp.11-15)
3. REINECKE
  - a. Relation to order in Document R-94 (pp.1-2)
4. JUNGE
  - a. Signature on Document L-39 (pp.6-7)
5. WESTHOFF
  - a. Responsibility for Document L-158 (pp.20-23)
6. BRAUCHITSCH
  - a. Position in OKH (pp.11-12)
7. SS
  - a. Political power in occupied Russia (pp.15-17)
  - b. Police Commandos in PW Camps (pp.17-20)

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#### BRANDING OF RUSSIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

Keitel refers to Document R-94 concerning branding of Russian war prisoners and stated his belief that no order was issued against his will, and that he still thinks that no such order at all was issued. He asked for interrogation of Gen. Reincke regarding this order, who was his deputy in Berlin. (p.1)

#### GIRAUD AND WEYGAND

In the Giraud and Weygand affair Keitel prepared a written statement with four questions, which he thinks Gen. Jodl can answer. (pp.1-2)

#### NAVAL WARFARE

Keitel identifies document L-19 and acknowledges his signature and note on the document. The Fuehrer countersigned it before it was issued and Jodl certified the document. Keitel explains the intent of paragraph 1 as an order not to attack American warships or merchant ships within a certain area. This order applied to U-boats and the air force (pp.2-4). Paragraph 2 of the document deals with naval warfare in the coastal zone of any country, especially neutral countries. The order regarded all neutral vessels as enemy vessels when encountered in this area, which was protected by international law. The last sentence of paragraph 2 contains regulations regarding confiscation of articles which could serve a nation in the prosecution of war (pp.4-6).

Keitel identifies document L-39, but does not remember its contents. He identifies the signature of naval officer Junge, the Admiralty Branch and of Jodl. They all belonged to the leadership staff of the armed forces. The document provides for the removal of all restrictions around the English coast (pp.6-7).

#### ITALY AND THE ATTACK ON POLAND

Keitel was then interrogated on document 795-PS, representing an unsigned memorandum of a conversation between Keitel and another person. Keitel believes that the author of the memorandum was Admiral Canaris, from the handwriting and subject matter of the document. The conversation was mainly about Mussolini's refusal to join before the attack on Poland. Keitel agreed that this memorandum, as a whole, reflects his views but that it is a subjective account of the writer (pp.7-11).

#### WARFARE AS A PROBLEM OF ORGANIZATION

Keitel was questioned about the General Staff. Jodl was Chief of the General Staff of the Wehrmacht. The Wehrmacht leadership was a department of the OKW. Keitel was in charge of the staff department work of the OKW since 4 February 1938 and until the end of the war. In this position Keitel

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was responsible for the military staff of the Fuehrer. Brauchitsch was supreme commander of the army until about 15 December 1941. Keitel identifies document L-211 as an authentic copy of an official document prepared by Jodl under Keitel's direction. The document is entitled "Warfare as a Problem of Organization", and dated April, 1938. It refers to a controversy between OKH and OKW (pp.11-15).

#### SS-FUEHRER IN OCCUPIED RUSSIA

Keitel identifies document R-99 and acknowledges his signature on it. Referring to paragraph 2 (b) of the document, Keitel states that this was the end of a controversy between OKH and OKW against the Reichsfuehrer SS. Hitler had decided that the Reichsfuehrer SS should have the power to handle matters in occupied Russia. The SS Fuehrer was independent in all political questions. This situation remained until The Reichs Commandos were placed in office (pp.15-17).

#### COMMANDOS IN RUSSIAN PW CAGES

Keitel claims that he did not sign the order in document 502-PS and does not know its contents. The order concerned the duties of commandos in Russian PW cages. He thinks that the order came from Himmler, since he does not remember ever having admitted police commandos into PW cages. The agreement of 16 July 1941, on which this order was based, was between the Prisoner of War Department of the OKW and RSHA. Keitel concedes that he probably gave his consent to the agreement, but he relied in this matter on his generals to do the right thing. The agreement of 16 July 1941 was based on the order of 13 March 1941 (R-99), which was discussed today. Keitel agreed that the accord had unfortunate results (pp.17-20).

#### MEASURES AGAINST ESCAPED OFFICERS

Keitel failed to identify document L-158, with reference to measures against escaped officers and non-commissioned officers, with the exception of American and British. He thinks the document should be examined by the people of the Prisoner of War Department in the OKW, who are responsible for this order. At that time the head of this department was Westhoff (successor of Gravenitz). He concedes that he might have called Westhoff about it, or his (Keitel's) adjutant might have given Westhoff the go-ahead. (pp.20-23)