

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of KEITEL, Wilhelm

By: Col. J. H. Amen, 4 October 1945; a.m., Nurnberg

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects

1. KEITEL
 - a. Relation to document 790-PS, "White Book" on Holland and Belgium (p. 1-7)
 - b. Hitler-Schuschnigg conference in Berchtesgaden (p. 10-16)
 - c. Aggression against Austria (p. 16-20)
2. GAUSS
 - a. Author of "White Book" on Holland and Belgium (p. 1-10)
3. HIGH COMMAND
 - a. Material for "White Book" on Holland and Belgium (p. 1-10)
4. PAPEN, SCHUSCHNIGG, REICHENAU, SPERLE and RIBBENTROP
 - a. Hitler-Schuschnigg conference in Berchtesgaden (p. 10-16)

White Book on Holland and Belgium

Keitel was interrogated on subject 790-PS relating to the publication by the Foreign Office of "White Book" with regard to Holland and Belgium (1-2). Admits that he refused to sign the document because it contained false information on military matters pertaining to Holland and Belgium but is persistent in his statement that he does not recall any of the details to which he objected. Says that Secretary of State, Gauss, in the Foreign Office, "cooked up" something in his thoughts for the "White Book" and wanted him to sign it so it could be used as evidence of a military nature for the German Government. It is possible that the Leadership Office of the Armed Forces of the OKH supplied details and reports to Gauss in winter of 1939. The document was to be published in May 1940 (6). Keitel is sure that even if he is given time to reflect on the subject he will not recall details. Suggests that Jodl be interrogated about this (10).

Keitel, Wilhelm 4 October 1945 a.m.

Schuschnigg Conference in Berchtesgaden

Keitel was ordered to come to Berchtesgaden on the 12th of February 1938. Present at that time were Papen, Schuschnigg, Reichenau, Sperrle, and Ribbentrop (12). Says he was not present at the conference (14). Hitler lunched with Keitel but did not discuss military questions with him. He was present for a few minutes in the afternoon conference but did not participate in the discussion. It is possible that Hitler wished to create an impression by having him present. Denies that Hitler discussed with him the readiness of the German Army to complete the Anschluss (15). Recalls that Hitler told Schuschnigg that he would use the German Labor Service to remove the barriers erected by the Austrians at the Austro-German border (16).

Aggression Against Austria

On 10 March 1938 Keitel was called to the Reich Chancellery where Hitler told him that Schuschnigg evidently wanted to annul the accord reached with him in Berchtesgaden and that "if necessary we will have to march in with some troops". Keitel then informed the Supreme Commander of the Army who was the only one who knew what forces would be available (17). Admits that as Chief of the Armed Forces he knew that the Fuehrer intended to use the Wehrmacht to make an aggression against Austria (18). He did not object to this because he was under order and because this was not an attack but an occupation brought about by Schuschnigg's breach of promise (19). Knows nothing about the use of the Austrian Legion to accomplish the Anschluss (20).