

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

Interrogation of Wilhelm Keitel

By: Mr. T.J. Dodd, 5 October 1945, p.m.

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects

1. KEITEL

- a. "White Book" on Belgium and Holland (1)
- b. Document L-79, minutes of Schmundt, regarding Hitler's speech "Plans of Attack" (3-23)
- c. Order in Document 1433-PS concerning use of poison gas in Russia (23-35)

2. GENERAL STAFF AND HIGH COMMAND

- a. Document L-79 regarding "Plans of Attack" (3-23)

3. GOERING, RAEDER, MILCH, SCHMUNDT, ENGEL, ALBRECHT, VON BUELON, BODENSCHATZ, ARLMONT, AND HALDER at Hitler's meeting on 23 May 1939 (3-23)

4. TIPPELSKIRCH

- a. Signature on order in Document 1433-PS (25)

5. VON BRAUCHITSCH

- a. His presence at Hitler's meeting on 23 May 1939 (3-23)
- b. Authorization of order in Document 1433-PS (28)

6. HITLER

- a. Speech in Document L-79 (3-23)
- b. Authorization of Document 1433-PS (28)

"White Book" on Belgium and Holland

Keitel referred to the interrogation of yesterday regarding "White Book" on Belgium and Holland. He was able now to remember details and promised to write about it (1).

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"PLANS OF ATTACK"

Document L-79 was shown to Keitel. It contains minutes of the Conference held on 23 May 1939 in Hitler's study in the new Reich Chancellory. The notes were taken by Schnundt and Keitel stated that he recognized the handwriting of Colonel Schnundt with whom he was quite familiar. This meeting was attended by the Supreme Commanders of the three components of the Wehrmacht, the three Chiefs of Staff of the Services of the OKW, the Supreme Chief of the OKW, and the Assistant Chief of the Leadership Staff and the aids of them. Accordingly, the following persons were present: Keitel, Goering, Raeder, Brauchitsch, Milch, Schnundt, Engel, Albrecht, von Buelow, Bodenschatz, Warlimont, and Halder.

Hitler in his speech pointed out that Danzig is not the subject of the Discussion but the expansion to be the East. He stated that Poland was to be attacked and he reserved for himself to give the final order for the attack. Hitler made it clear that there was to be a war and asked the generals to prepare for it. The attack on Poland was to be even if it would bring a conflict with the western powers. If Russia should join the western powers, Hitler indicated that Japan would attack Russia. He declared England the hardest enemy and predicted a life and death struggle with them. He said Holland and Belgium have to be occupied at once by ignoring their neutralities. The war with England and France might be a long war, unless a surprise attack on England would be successful. England has to be forced to her knees.

"The thought of right or wrong makes no difference".

For his "Plans of Attack" Hitler asked for a formation of a small Planning Staff of the OKW.

Keitel conceded that these notes of Schnundt to be almost an accurate record of what Hitler said and that it contained all that was necessary in case of war (3-23).

USE OF POISON GAS AGAINST RUSSIANS

Keitel claims never to have seen the order in Document 1433-PS marked "Top Secret", permitting the use of poison gas against Russia. Keitel explained that on Toppelskirch, as specialist in the OKW, worked this order out and signed it. Toppelskirch was a member of Keitel's Leadership Staff of the OKW. Keitel stated that the order was authorized by Himmler and from Brauchitsch as head of the OKH. Gas was only to be used against partisans who were in fortifications in the rear

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of the German front. This order was to have been kept secret from the troops and was only-- in accordance with Keitel-- a transmittel of information about something that has already taken place (23-35). .