

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

Interrogation of Wilhelm Keitel

By; Mr. T.J.Dodd, 8 October 1945, a.m. Nuremberg

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects

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By; Mr. Dodd, 3. October 1945, a.m. Nurnberg

AGGRESSIVE WAR AGAINST RUSSIA

Keitel states definite plans against Russia became active only in the fall of 1940. Then were only 7 divisions on the Eastern Front, and in June 1940 only 5. He said: "The visit of Molotov in November 1940 was the test as to whether or not one would come to an arrangement with Russia." (pp 1-2).

Persecution of the Jews

The Jewish problem were handled by the Party in an fashion one might call absolutely immoderate or unbridled". (p.2). Keitel claims to have defended Jewish soldiers, particularly those that won decorations in World War I, and to have obtained a decree protecting them. He said: "The SD would simply bring up some alleged crime or utterance of this man, and then his decorations, would be taken away from him, and the SD, as I said, would make certain statements, and the man would be lost any way". He added: "Hitler did not in any way stop those elements that were tackling these problems in a radical fashion". (p.3).

Persecution of the Churches

He said it was similar in respect to the church problem. "There were in the Party a considerable number of people that had an absolutely uncompromising attitude towards the church, that is, regardless whether they were Catholic or Protestant". Keitel stated that a dispute that went back to the period of Blomberg, "when the representatives of Hitler, Hess and Bormann, were trying to eliminate the religious protection in the Wehrmacht", continued through his own period of office. In 1939 - 1940, Keitel had a long talk with Hitler on the subject, and Hitler promised the Army Chaplain Service would continue undisturbed. (p.4).

Power of the SD and of the Nazi Party

The invisible power of the SD is shown by the fact that his (Keitel's) own telephone conversations were tapped (p.5) and that General Stuepnagel, on the third day after the war began, "disappeared" because of an alleged telephone conversation with the Crown Prince, although Brauchitsch had selected him to head up the Third Service Command.

The police power was independent of the executive or administrative power. The career of a man who was suspicious to the SD and Gestapo, sooner or later would end in the concentration camps (p.7). position of protecting or

defending this person". (p.7).

The substance of power formally belonging to the Prussian administrative pattern had passed to the Gauleiter or Kreisleiter. (p.7).

AGGRESSIVE WAR AGAINST AUSTRIA

Keitel identified "Operation Otto" dated 11-3-38, signed by Hitler. "The signature cannot be doubted; and here are the initials of Jodl, Warlimont and Keitel". (p.8). It was the first strategic order drawn after Keitel's appointment as Chief of the OKW. There was a meeting at the Reich Chancellery on 10 March 1938 (with Brauchitsch and Beck), at which Hitler directed plans for the march into Austria for Sunday since Schuschnigg had called for a general election. On leaving the conference Keitel told Jodl of the meeting and had him draw up the plans. (pp 8-9).

AGGRESSIVE WAR AGAINST POLAND

795 - PS. The author of the memorandum - Canaris. Keitel was referred to the Dirschau incident, but professed not to know what the Polish uniforms were to be used for, although he stated Hitler may have said "Well, let's see if we can't get some Polish uniforms for Heydrich" and perhaps people with Polish uniforms were put in a radio station in the Polish Corridor to report whether there were concentrations of Polish troops or people, but since this was not a military (pattern) Hitler should have called on Heydrich to perform it. (p. 9 and 10).