

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

16.14
Contd

DOCUMENT ROOM INTERROGATION ANALYSIS

WITNESS: Erwin Lahousen
BY : Colonel Amen

DATE: 18 September 1945
1445 - 1620
PLACE: Nurnberg

NAME HEADINGS:

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Witness discusses the order for killing commandos (1-7). He is fully familiar with its contents because it was discussed in his circle before it became official (3). Admiral Canaris told him on the occasion when this order of 18 October 1942 was issued that the Fuehrer was in a raging fury. An act of sabotage to a factory in Norway, of fundamental importance to the Army for armament on scientific research, had succeeded. The order for the execution of General Weygand came from Keitel. The order may have originated with Hitler, but was given orally by Keitel to Canaris and was for a secret murder (8). Canaris ordered witness to carry out this order in front of several other officers and witness refused to obey (9). Later Canaris told witness "quiet down, this thing is quite out of the question and the order will not be transmitted any further". About 8 weeks or so before the invasion of North Africa, an order was transmitted by Keitel to Canaris for the assassination of Giraud (11). Canaris delayed for a while, then talked with Keitel and as a result was ordered to transfer the whole matter to Heydrich's SD, his professional organization of murderers (12). Canaris actually did not execute this order (13). Some two or three weeks later, in the absence of Canaris, witness was ordered to report to Mueller at RSHA. Instead, witness flew to Paris and reported to Canaris (14). Canaris, after checking some dates, flew back to Berlin and told Keitel that he, Canaris, had given all information to Heydrich at a conference in Prague shortly before the latter was assassinated, and that Heydrich had replied he would have a special detail take care of the matter rather than use his ordinary SD men (15).