

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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of JODL, Alfred

By: Lt. Colonel Hinkel, 11 October 1945, p.m.

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects

1. JODL

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2. HIMMLER

- a. Concentration camps
 - (1) Forced labor (p. 7, 8)
 - (2) Atrocities (p. 8)
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Alfred Jodl, 11. Oct., 1945 P.M.

EINSAETZSTAB ROSENBERG

Jodl recalls encountering a section of Einsatzstab Rosenberg for the East, while in Paris. He heard of that the Einsatzstab was busy with the transfer of art objects. (p.3), and that during the war, it had taken certain art objects near Leningrad at Zarskoye Selo (2). Jodl disclaims all connections with the Einsatzstab Rosenberg. "It is even quite new to me that it is something different from the Minister for the East." (p.3)

KOECHLING

Koechling was a member of the Wehrmacht staff, attached to Henlein by the Fuehrer. Koechling phoned Jodl several times for military advice in connection with the organization of a Free Sudeten Corps. (p.4) He did not belong to Jodl's staff (p.5)

JODL'S BACKGROUND

In May 1939 Jodl was Commander of the 44th Artillery Division in Brunn (Brno); left Austria in August '39 for Berlin. Disclaims all knowledge concerning conference between Fuehrer, Goering, Brauchitsch, Keitel, Werlimont and Raeder the last week of May 1939. Claims he was entirely out of the picture during that period. (p.5)

CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

Jodl recalls occasionally to have been present when Himmler made reports to the Fuehrer about the concentration camps. On these occasions Himmler only depicted the useful and efficient activities of these camps, (cultivation of medical plants, in Dachau, installation of subterranean factories by camp inmates, etc.) One factory built within a few weeks by camp inmates with only a small number of guards; inmates working on these projects were given better food and treatment. Himmler said the general idea was to employ prisoners of concentration camps for war production (p.7,3)

"After the war, when I knew of what had been going on in these camps I had the impression that Himmler actually wanted to mislead us military people" . (p.7)

As a rule Himmler's official reports on the concentration camps were not made in the presence of the military leaders. Before the war Himmler used to invite officers to visit the camps. A member of Jodl's staff told him about the impeccable state of Oranienburg after such a visit. (p.3)

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KNEW NOTHING ABOUT CONDITIONS IN CAMPS.

Jodl did not learn about the atrocities committed in concentration camps until after he evacuated Berlin. During his retreat he heard about the concentration camps situated along their route. "I have lived during the whole war with the idea that these camps were exemplary". He had made inquiries about political inmates (Schuschnigg and Hesse) and was told they were living in private houses with their wives(9). He emphasizes that he and the officers at Mondorf were shocked and surprised when they learned about the camps. He heard for the first time about reported excesses in the camps through friends of Hesse (p.10).