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Brief of
Interrogation of Herbert BUECHS

by
1st Colonel Thomas S Hinkel
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BUECHS was the Air Corps Aide to JODL from 1 November 1943 until the end. His duty primarily was to brief Hitler on the air situation on the Eastern and Western fronts. According to BUECHS, Jodl was only interested in the general overall air picture, while Hitler was especially interested in a detailed account of the situation on the Western Front. These briefings occurred during the course of general briefing meetings where reports were given on the Army, Navy, and Air situations. There was a ranking Air Corps officer present at these meetings to receive whatever orders Hitler had to give, and Buechs' duty was only to furnish the briefing information which was received from the Luftwaffe through Jodl's Air Section of the OKW.

BUECHS stated that Jodl was the only one he knew of who could oppose Hitler on decisions. He cited two instances thereof, one concerning officers who had been arrested by the SD and who were released after Jodl expostulated with Hitler concerning them; and the other the "terror flyers" orders where Hitler wanted all parachuting airmen to be shot. The latter situation was opposed by both Keitel and Jodl, according to Buechs. Jodl opposed Hitler, however, only on military matters and not on matters of a political nature.

According to Buechs, Hitler generally addressed Jodl and Keitel by their last names but addressed Doenitz and Rundstedt by their titles.