

W. WARLIMONT

10.06  
OCTOBER 17, 1945

TO:

GENERAL WILLIAM J. DONOVAN.

In consequence of the interrogation of yesterday, I want to inform you that I am prepared to give testimony in open court as you suggested. After serious considerations, I feel that for me it is no more a matter of conscience, since I have established my standpoint long before. It however will be an unique opportunity to give evidence in favor of the German Army and its officers-corps. There are no one feel obliged, general, to sincerely thank you for bringing forward this proposition.

For preliminary information along which lines it may be proceeded, I submit enclosed a study "The German General Staff and Nationsocialism" begging you to excuse shortcomings caused by my handwriting and by using the English language. The expose has been written by me on my own initiative, early in July of this year, and subsequently delivered to the local authorities at Neudorf, from which I have got back this draft in September, on my request. (The remarks in red have been made by the surveying officer, the pencil-remarks, later on, by myself for other reasons.)

The study only refers to the attitude of the general staff with regard to a restricted period. It would be necessary to broaden the subject by taking in the army -- not the WEHRMACHT! -- in the whole, including its historical foundations and other additions. Various data of this kind have already been assembled in another problem I am working on at the request of G2 -- Oberursel, entitled "The German General Staff." Further particulars are contained in my study "The Fuehrer's Headquarters," submitted in August 45.

Thus declaring my willingness to comply with your suggestions, I may however invite your attention once more to the fact that by my coming forward, the highest possible effect most probably will not be obtained. The defending advocates -- apart from the reasons I mentioned already yesterday -- would find it much too easy to contest my competence for acting this way, if only for the reason that I did not serve with troops throughout the war, but, on the contrary, I even belonged to the Fuehrer's H.Q., at least for outward observation.

For this reason I may be permitted to suggest that a small group of generals might be set up, perhaps under the guidance of General Halder, who already occupied himself intensely with similar subjects, -- disposing of the conformity of spirits, the knowledge of all periods concerned and viewing the issue from various quarters. The task of this group would be to draw up the testimony while one of us, whom you will choose, backed by the other ones, might read the evidence in the court.

I beg you kindly to consider these suggestions and give me another opportunity for verbal discussion.

/s/ WALTER WARLIMONT