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

DOCUMENT ROOM INTERROGATION ANALYSIS

WITNESS: Erwin Lahousen  
BY : Colonel Amen

DATE: 15 September 1945  
1105 - 1120  
PLACE: Nurnberg

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NAME HEADINGS : Keitel, Jodl, Reinecke, Himmler

INDEX HEADINGS: Atrocities against Military Personnel

Witness was a professional officer in the Austrian Army from 1915 to 1938. In that year he was taken over by the German Army and worked in Intelligence. He became a full colonel in 1940 and a Major General, equivalent to Brig. General in the American Army, 1 January 1945 (1-5). In his work, witness was immediately under Canaris, consequently he had contact also with Keitel, Jodl, and others (5). In the fall of 1941, witness attended a conference, as a representative of Canaris, at which General Reinecke was chairman. Mueller represented RSHA. There was a representative for the Office for PW's. (6). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss certain orders which had been issued and were to be issued, concerning the treatment of Russian PW's. (7). The effect of these orders was that a soldier of the Red Army was to be treated not as a P.W., but as a political prisoner and "that the war between Germany and Russia was not to be looked on as a war between two states, but as a war between two political conceptions, and thus, it was that Russians were considered as beasts, sub-human, or whatever they called them" (8). The only outcome of the meeting was that executions would not take place where troops could see them (9). Witness believes the orders were in effect issued before the war ever started (10). Witness's mission was, on behalf of Canaris, to say that the orders in question had undesirable effects on the work of his office and on morale and on prospective future P.W's. (11). Selection of those to be killed as communists was entirely arbitrary. In one instance, some Mohammedans were captured and were executed under the mistaken notion that they were Jews (12). The term "special treatment" in German Sonderbehandlung in official papers always meant "condemned to die". (13).