

53.097

Interrogation of, . . . . . Walter WARLIMONT  
By . . . . . Lt Col T. S. HINKEL  
Time . . . . . 12 November 1945 - A. M.

An affidavit concerning the issuance of the directive contained in Document 884-PS, which deals with the treatment to be accorded political functionaries and commissars of the Soviet Army, was presented to WARLIMONT for his signature. Substantial changes therein were made by WARLIMONT, to the extent that it is necessary to re-type the affidavit. This is in process.

WARLIMONT was questioned regarding the issuance of the directive contained in Document C-132, which deals with the sending of German troops to TRIPOLIS and to ALBANIA. He identified his signature thereon and stated that no conferences had preceded the issuance of the directive nor had there been any pre-planning in connection therewith. He further stated that he was somewhat hazy regarding the sequence of events in this period but that he believed that it was the intention to send one mountain division into ALBANIA to support ITALIAN operations then in progress against GREECE. He further stated that the naval movement contemplated was only the transport of troops and that the operational department of the navy participated in the directive. WARLIMONT stated that he had no conference at any time with RIBBENTROP regarding this directive.

WARLIMONT was questioned regarding the issuance of the directive contained in Document C-59, which deals with the movement of troops into BULGARIA (the operation "Merita"). WARLIMONT stated that he had conferred with JODL with regard to this matter and that he does not recall any other conferences in connection therewith. He stated that the purpose of the order was to support from the northeast the ITALIAN campaign in GREECE. WARLIMONT stated that he had held no conferences with RIBBENTROP regarding the matter but that a copy of the directive was sent to the Foreign Office representative of the OKW. WARLIMONT further stated that action against YUGOSLAVIA did not arise until the end of March 1941 and therefore, since this document was dated in February 1941, it did not concern the YUGOSLAVIAN matter but was issued only with reference to supporting the ITALIAN attack on GREECE.

WARLIMONT was questioned regarding the events of the summer of 1940 with reference to the proposed attack against RUSSIA. He stated that HITLER had informed KEITEL of his decision to attack RUSSIA and of his desire to launch the attack in the fall of 1940; that KEITEL had argued

against a fall attack, later placing his oral arguments in memorandum form; and that on 29 July 1940, JODL announced to a meeting of his officers that a spring attack against RUSSIA was contemplated. WARLIMONT stated that he was never assigned to any study of the problem of attacking RUSSIA in the fall of 1940 but that on 8 August 1940 an order was issued setting in motion the first preparations for an attack against RUSSIA. WARLIMONT believed that KEITEL before the end of July 1940 had dissuaded HITLER from his thought of a fall attack against RUSSIA. WARLIMONT then stated that as the result of a meeting on 5 December 1940 the directive of 18 December 1940 was issued and that this directive was the first definitive announcement of the proposed attack. The plan was given the code name of "Babarossa" and preparations therefor were to be completed by 15 May 1941. WARLIMONT believes that all the planning operations had been completed before 15 May 1941 but that the YUGOSLAVIAN operation threw off the time table, requiring a postponement of the attack until 21 or 22 June 1941.

HINKEL