

Extract from
Interrogation of Hideki Tojo
14 March 1946

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- Q. There is one thing that I am not quite clear about. The Supreme Command, generally speaking, is represented by the Army Chief of Staff and the Navy Chief of Staff. That is not the same as Imperial Headquarters, is it?
- A. Imperial Headquarters [Daihoni] drew its membership from the Army and Navy General Staffs and the Army and Navy Ministries. From the Army General Staff the Chief of Staff the Assistant Chief of Staff, all the bureau heads [bucho] and nearly all the section heads [kachō] and some other members of the Staff, as necessary, attended. From the War Department, the War Minister, the Vice Minister, a majority of the Bureau heads [kyoku cho], and a few other members, as necessary, attended. I suppose that the membership from the Navy side was similar, although I am not sure. As War Minister, I attended in the capacity of a participant [sanka-kusha], although I was not properly a member. In my capacity as participant, I was assisted by the Vice Minister of War and the head of the Personnel Section. The Imperial Headquarters was created to meet the needs of the war and, since one of those needs was for personnel. I attended for that reason, having administrative charge of personnel.

Three things were wrong with Imperial Headquarters. The first was that, although it was intended to be a joint Army-Navy set-up, in practice, it was divided into an Army section and a Navy section, Army General Staff and War Department personnel going into the Army section and Navy Staff and Navy Department personnel going into the Navy section.

The second thing was that there were no government people in the set-up. It was all Army-Navy.

The third thing was that there was no one in a position to hold it together. It was set up on 20 November 1937 in connection with the China Incident. Having been set up during the first year of the China Incident, it had a great deal of influence on the Government at the time preceding

the outbreak of the Greater East Asia War. Since its utterances were not voiced as coming from the Army General Staff or the Navy General Staff but from Imperial Headquarters, the government had to give them a great deal of importance.

- Q. Did the Emperor have anything to do with Imperial Headquarters?
- A. The Emperor was at the head of it. This chart shows the set-up. See reproduction attached. As to the place where Imperial Headquarters met, the Army part of it met in the Army General Staff offices, and the Navy part of it met in the Navy General Staff offices.
- Q. Then, how was the Army part of Imperial Headquarters different from the Army General Staff?
- A. The people in the General Staff were there in the capacity of bureau chief, section chief, or what not, but they also had a capacity as a member of the Army section of Imperial Headquarters. Actually, the two bodies were very much the same in fact, except that the members of the War Department also came under the Chief of Staff when acting in the capacity of members of Imperial Headquarters.
- Q. You mean, then, that after Imperial Headquarters was set up in 1937, the Chief of Staff held more power than he had held previous to that time?
- A. Yes, because he came to have control over members of the War Department as well as control over the members of the General Staff which he had had before.
- Q. How often did Imperial Headquarters meet?
- A. I am not too sure, since it was pretty much run by the Army and Navy Chiefs of Staff. However, I think that it met once or twice a week.
- Q. Was the Emperor present at every meeting?
- A. No. Usually he was not there, only on special occasions.
- Q. When a full meeting of Imperial Headquarters of both Army and Navy sections was held, where was it held?

A. In the Palace.

Q. How often were those joint ones held?

A. As I said before, once or twice a week.

Q. You mean the joint meetings?

A. Yes. Of course when there was more business, there were more meetings.

Q. What was the difference in function between Imperial Headquarters and the Supreme War Council?

A. They were completely different. Imperial Headquarters was concerned with operations and tactics [sakusen yohei] in which secrecy was necessary and, therefore they did not consult the Supreme War Council on these matters. The Supreme War Council was concerned with many matters, such as research, inspections, military education, military training, and, in general, with advice on military matters.

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