

INTERROGATION NO. 156

The meeting was principally concerned with the presentation of a basic materials questionnaire with tables to be filled in by the Navy Ministry. In the discussions of this questionnaire the following information of general interest was acquired:

National Allocations

Although the allocation of steel and other materials to categories "A" (Army), "B" (Navy), and "C" (civilian) shows a substantial portion of steel going to "C", part of that allotment was for Navy purposes, for the Navy was a large consumer of the finished products produced by "C" industries. The "A" "B" "C" categories were broken down as the war progressed to include "Bx", civilian shipbuilding, which was controlled by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications until 1942 and by the Navy thereafter; "Cx", railroads; "(Fuels)" which became a separate national category in September 1944; "D", the Air Forces, which became a separate national category when the Munitions Ministry was formed, November 1943.

Navy Suballocations

Captain YOSHIDA, Hidemi and his assistant Commander ORITA, S. of the Third Division of the Bureau of Military Affairs handled the allocation of the Navy's share of steel and other basic materials. Most of his records have been destroyed. To answer the questions and complete the tables requested by USSBS his section will have to build up total figures from records which exist in the various allottee bureaus, ie. Bureau of Stores, Bureau of Accounts and Supplies, Naval Technical Department, Department of Naval Aeronautics, Naval Civil Engineering Department.

Navy Self Help

YOSHIDA pointed out that the allocation to the Navy was not the limiting factor. After the production of steel began to fall, the Navy found it necessary to "elbow in" on others to get delivery of its allotment. Allocation of steel was controlled, but car loadings were not. Thus, the Navy with men and transportation would move in on YAWATA and simply load up from supplies of rolled steel available there. The steel so acquired was checked off against the Navy's national allocation and adjustments were made the following allocation period. This "elbowing-in" became particularly common after July 1944.

The Navy also supplemented its supplies of steel with its own stockpiles and the production of its own plants.