

HEADQUARTERS
 U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
 (PACIFIC)
 APO 234
 C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

Place: Tokyo
 Date : 24 December 1945

INTERROGATION NO: 416

DIVISION OF ORIGIN: Military Analysis Division, Ground Logistics

SUBJECT: Line of Communications Supply Plan and Munitions Ministry

PERSONNEL INTERROGATED AND BACKGROUND OF EACH:

Colonel SATO, General Affairs, War Ministry
 Lt. Colonel IWAKOSHI, Shinroku Inspector General, Line of Communications

WHERE INTERVIEWED: Meiji Building, Room 805.

INTERROGATOR: Lt. Commander W. J. McCluskey.

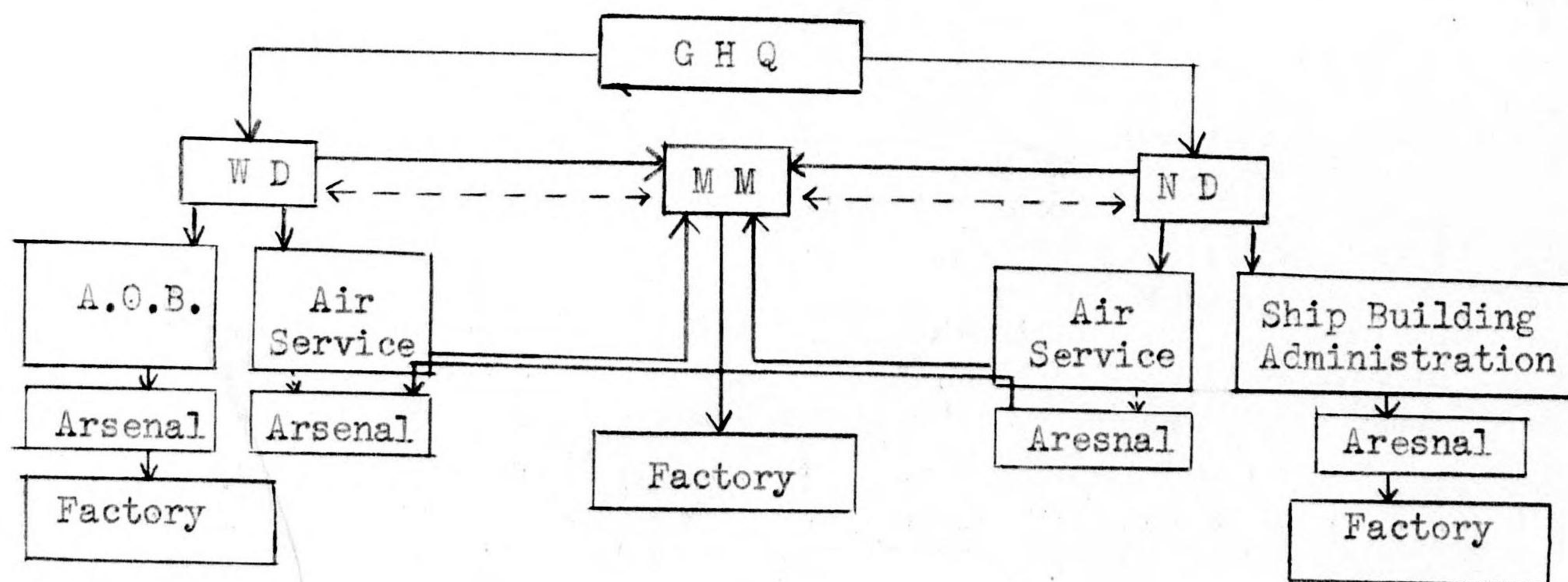
INTERPRETER: Mr. Hamada, G-2
 Capt SUYEMOSA, Takeo Asst to Colonel Sato.

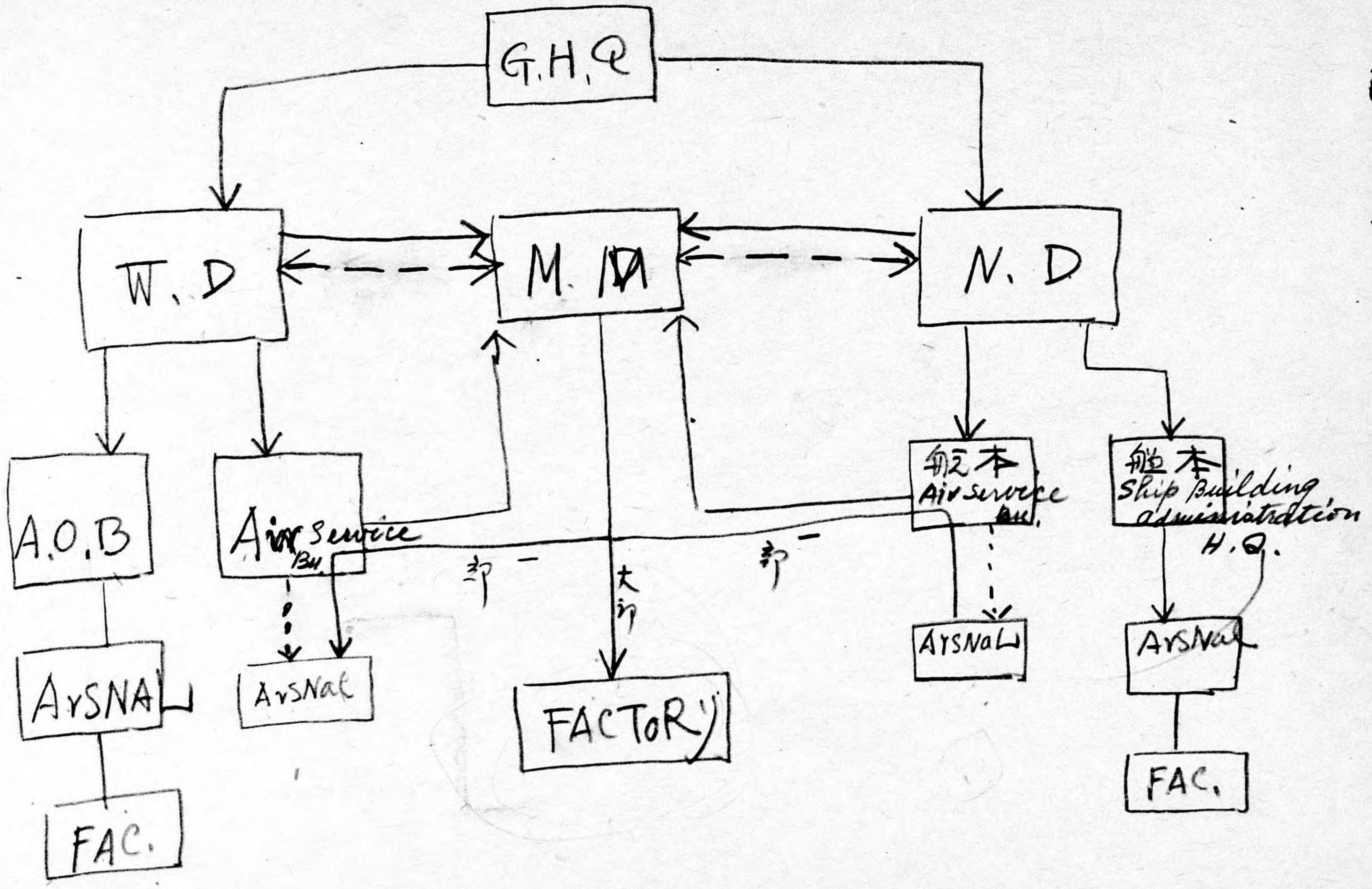
ALLIED OFFICERS PRESENT: Capt. Ambrose

SUMMARY

Col Sato explained that the Munitions Ministry was established in October 1943, principally to provide for production of aircraft and related supplies. He then attached a chart to show its relation to GHQ and War and Navy Ministries. He stated that there ~~was~~ no formal plans for ~~the~~ Ordnance Bureau; that in 1941, all arsenals and factories of the Ordnance Bureau were functioning at full capacity to produce ordnance for anticipated war with Russia; that no need for special equipment had been anticipated for the Southern Expansion; that it wasn't until Guadalcanal that need for landing craft was felt along with equipment for making air fields, graders, bulldozers, rollers, etc.

Lt. Col Iwakoshi stated that the original Line of Communications Supply Plan did not include the occupation of Guadalcanal or New Guinea. He said that the plan worked satisfactorily up to that time; that the first change that occurred resulted from the fall of Singapore one month earlier than anticipated and this caused all shipment dates to be advanced one month. There was no difficulty at that time as ships could be easily procured.



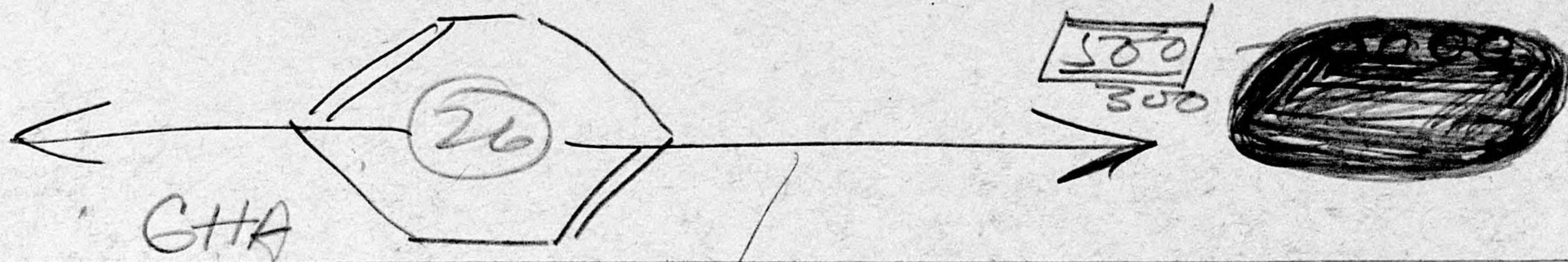


m. Hamada, H~~13~~2) Munitions Ministry Function
to Col Iwakoshi Tanks
Col Sato, Hiro War Plans
m. Otani = yashiki Gen Affairs see War Ministry
Capt. Suye~~masa~~ Takeo Inters for ord Bur
Asst Col Sato materials section

{ Reason for change wa
many sent from Manchuria
to Japan 1945
First interview Iwakoshi not
very accurate for Burma China
& Manchuria

Tanks (Major Ohtsu-) ord Bur

Thinks production by factory
more accurate - prepared
later than our figures



Munitions Ministry handles only air supply
Munitions Ministry founded in 1943 (act)
War, Navy, Commerce & Industry
under Cabinet =

upto 1943 Planning Board of Cabinet
handles ^{allocation} materials - Production
handled by Commerce =
Need of priorities to aircraft caused
establishment of Munitions Ministry =
Chief of Command Contract -
no plan as to depots
they were decided by
CO of Army in field &

Was there any plan as to how
much shipping would be needed
there was such a plan

No plan as such prior
to 1941 - assemblies etc
working at full blast for
USSR -

1942 sketches for new
weapons for use in
South Prior all
efforts devoted to USSR
with accumulation
manchuria -

Any prepared for cold
region not built

~~not~~ special type of
Equip anticipated for
Southern Op until 1942.
~~Equipment~~

What Equip did you find
necessary as a result of exp that
you had anticipated =
Landing Craft =
Since Guadalcanal great need -

Equip for making air fields
Graders, bulldozers, rollers
etc. -

General Equip - Radio locator

After Burma + Pacific Operations
met tanks defense -

needed AT tanks and changed
to 47

and anti tank - special bombs

Air raids necessitating going
under ground necessitating
drilling machines -



Had only 30 Amphibious
Starters to build about Mar 43
15 of 30 sent to Palau

Steel instead of copper for
cartridge cases.

Had to send month ahead
at time month later supply
Jawa because Singapore fell month
earlier than expected -

No difficulties occurred -
able to get ships = no shortages

Supply plan worked satisfactorily
up to Guadalcanal

GHQ demanded so many
ships & boats lost so
many by sinking and bombing =

Guadalcanal not included
in original supply plan -

Original up to and
including Celebes - not
New Guinea or Guadalcanal