

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

INTERROGATION NO. 286

PLACE: Tokyo  
DATE : 7 November 1945

Division of Origin:

Basic Materiels.

Subject:

Air General Ordnance Bureau of Munitions Ministry,  
(KOKU HEIKI SOKYOKU) Functions of Iron and Steel  
Section (TEKKO KA)

Personnel Interrogated:

ABIRU, Kosuko

Paymaster Commander IJN.

Where Interviewed:

USSBS, Tokyo

INTERROGATOR:

Lt. (jg) R. I. GALLAND, USNR

INTERPRETER:

Lt. B. A. MANNING, AUS

SUMMARY

The sub-allocation of steel for production of airforces equipment and specifications for such steel were controlled by the Air General Ordnance Bureau of the Munitions Ministry, iron and steel section. The Section maintained no stock piles, operated no producing facilities, and exercised little control over production of steel except through Army and Navy inspectors. Allocation of ordinary and special steel tabulated by end products was requested.

Cdr. ABIRU, Kosuke was second in charge of the Iron and Steel Section (TENKO KA) of the Air General Ordnance Bureau (KOKU HEIKI SOKYOKU) of the Munitions Ministry (GUNJU SHO) General plans for sub-allocating steel for air ordnance production were made in the General Affairs section (SOJUKA) of the Air General Ordnance Bureau. ABIRU as vice chief of the Iron and Steel Section sat in on the allocation councils of the General Affairs Section to advise with regard to iron and steel. He then administered the suballocation of steel to the various other sections of the A.G.O. Bureau for the production of aircraft, and ground equipment necessary for the handling, storage and repair of aircraft.

The sections in charge of the production of various aircraft components and facilities were subsections of the Ordnance Production Plants Section (HEIKI SANGYO KIKAIKUN) (1) Aircraft Section (HIKOKI KA), (2) Motive Power Section (GENDO KA), (3) Torpedo Section (KIRAI KA), (4) Ground Equipment Section (KICHI HEIKI KA), (5) Machinery Section (KIKAI KA), (6) Arms and Explosives Section (SHAPPU KA), (7) Optical Instruments and Gauges Section (TEIKI KA) (8) Electrical Equipment Section (DENKI KA).

The Air General Ordnance Bureau was set up in November 1943, to reconcile and coordinate the demands of the air arms of the Army and Navy upon the national economy. The first national allocation which allotted materials to the "D" (air arms) category was for the period beginning 1 April 1944. After "D" was set up as a special category, the Army and Navy did not allot parts of their allocation to air forces. ABIRU's section allocated steel by making up orders for steel which were sent to producers and which specified the aircraft manufacturer to whom the steel was to be delivered. A copy of the order was sent to the manufacturer. Allocation and control of production of air forces equipment were the only functions of the Air General Ordnance Bureau.

The Bureau and its sections purchased and sold no steel and maintained no stockpiles. It operated no steel producing facilities itself although the Navy's special steel plant at Yukosuka was devoted almost entirely to experiments, tests, and production for the Bureau's Iron and Steel Section. The Bureau set specifications for steel to be used in airforces equipment production out relied upon Army and Navy inspectors to see that such specifications were met.

When asked to supply data concerning the suballocation of steel to various subsections of the Ordnance Production Plans Section listed above and to various end products produced by such subsections, ABIRU demurred on the grounds that all of his records had been burned and the AGO Bureau had dismissed its staff. He finally agreed to attempt to reconstruct the records and to collect such personnel as are personally familiar with the allocations to specific end products.

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