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WW-6

INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL der ARTILLERIE, WALTER WARLIMONT, DEPUTY CHIEF of
WEHRMACHTSFUHRUNGSTAB
(Second in Command to General Jodl of Armed Forces Operations Staff up to
6 September 1944)

Date of Interview : 3 August 1945
Interviewer : Major Kenneth W. Hechler
Place of Interview : Bad Mondorf, Luxembourg

GERMAN-JAPANESE COLLABORATION

Q: To what extent did the German High Command coordinate offenses with the Japanese?

A: There was no common strategy with Japan nor the idea of a coalition war. Military collaboration was carried on in various ways, short of a formal coalition. At various times the German army had advocated a stronger coalition on military activities nominating a German general at Japanese headquarters for this specific purpose. However, the German foreign office was always strongly opposed to such a move, fearing that the authority would exceed its limits and infringe upon the sphere of the foreign office. Therefore, the main source for an exchange of views was the ambassador. In both cases - General Ott in Tokyo and Admiral Oshima in Berlin - the ambassadors were very cognizant of operational matters. In addition, there was some exchange of military information through the three power commission at Berlin on which Admiral Nomura represented Japan and Admiral Gross representing Germany. Admiral Oshima frequently called at the Fuhrer's headquarters. In addition members of the Japanese Embassy Staff regularly called to see Field Marshal Keitel and General Jodl, accompanied by Admiral Buerkner.

Very few definite arrangements were made. An east-west line of demarcation was established for operation of German and Japanese submarines. Intelligence reports were exchanged, but it is difficult to appraise the concrete results of such exchanges. Experiences were exchanged on such matters as your amphibious landings. We had no knowledge, however, of the use of artificial ports which you may have employed in the Far East. This caused us to make the mistake of concentrating our main forces and defense installations not on the beaches but around the principal harbors.

New technical data on new technical developments were exchanged as soon as these developments had been completed and they were in use.

Q: Did Japan get data on V-1 and V-2?

A: We gave them complete data on V-1, but not on V-2, because they said they could not use V-2 in their theater effectively.

Q: It still is puzzling to me why there was not a greater degree of operational collaboration between Germany and Japan.

A: Hitler always felt that Japan the best and most war-like ally which he had. He further maintained that it was incorrect to try and influence the military moves by suggestions. This theory he always based upon the fact that if his suggestions resulted in failure, the failure would be blamed on Germany. There was no long range blueprint for world conquest between Germany and Japan.

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