

MEMO

TO: Mindy Kotler, Director, Asia Policy Point
FROM: Kevin Lin, Research Assistant, Asia Policy Point
SUBJECT: *Kempeitai HQs*
DATE: November 2, 2015

The Kempeitai HQ where the American POWs were held and interrogated in 1944/5 was located at the current Chiyoda Ward Office stands. Address: 1 Chome-2-1 Kudanminami, Tōkyō-to, Chiyoda-ku, , 東京都千代田区九段南 1-2-1.

See:

https://www.google.com/maps/@35.6935433,139.7534806,3a,90y,25.56h,86.29t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1snUk3y6EwgYeu_Q_TtLJDUQ!2e0!7i13312!8i6656

As Mr. Fiske Hanley suggests in his book, *Accused American War Criminal*, he was transported to the Kempeitai HQ in Tokyo after being captured. Our research finds that the “Kempeitai HQ” was in two different locations.

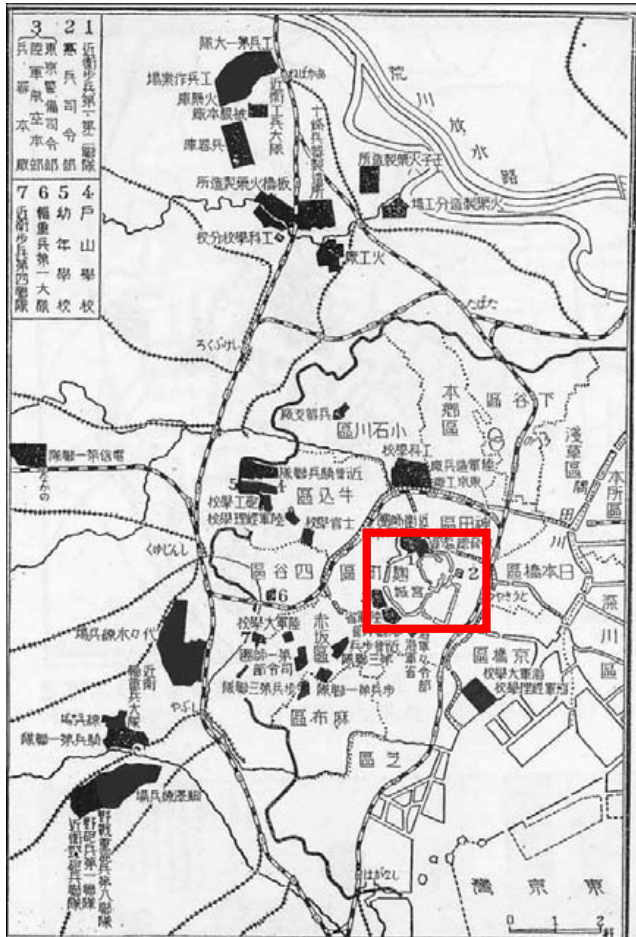
Location One: southeast of the Imperial Palace, now the Palace Hotel Tokyo

~ 1930s: **Kempeitai HQ for the Empire**
1937 – 1947 : Forestry Office of Imperial Household Agency
1947 – 1961 : Hotel Teito
1961 – 2009 : Palace Hotel
2012 – now : Palace Hotel Tokyo

See: <http://en.palacehoteltokyo.com/hotel-overview/history/>.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palace_Hotel,_Tokyo#cite_note-4.
<http://blog.goo.ne.jp/abe-blog/e/1fea0ffd53067afe53237df2846d8f3c>.



Picture 1: The Kempeitai HQ, shown in the red box, in the 1910s. The Imperial Palace is on its left.
Source: 『東京市 15 区番地界入区分図』〔東京逓信局編纂、15 枚組、明治 44(1911)年初版発行
See: https://www.research.tokyo-23city.or.jp/home53files/b15_01/banchi_tokyo15_01_kmview-zoom.htm.
https://www.research.tokyo-23city.or.jp/2_tokyo_15_top.html.

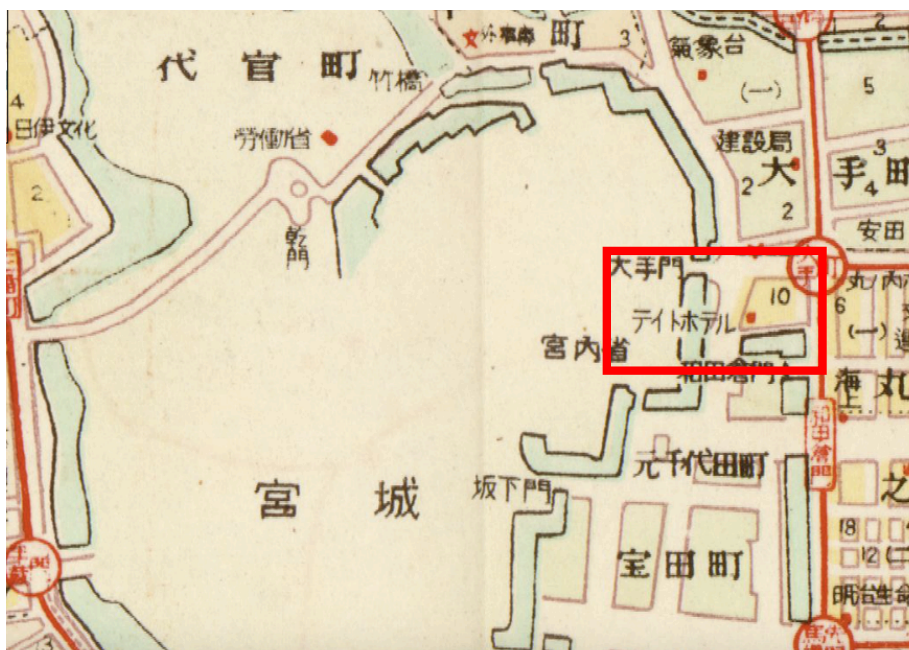


Picture 2: The Kempeitai HQ, shown as Number 2 on the map, in the late 1920s. The Imperial Palace is on its left.

Source: 山本三生編, 1929, 『日本地理大系 第三卷 大東京篇』 改造社

See:

http://www.bousai.go.jp/kyoiku/kyokun/kyoukunnokeishou/rep/1923-kantoDAISHINSAI_2/pdf/10_chap2-2.pdf



Picture 3: Once the Kempeitai HQ, it was the Hotel Teito as shown in the 1949 map.

Source: 1949(昭和 24) : 東京区分地図

See: <http://tois.nichibun.ac.jp/chizu/images/2468957-o-a2.html>

From the maps shown above, we can conclude that from the 1910s to 1920s the Kempeitai HQ is on the southeast side of the Imperial Palace, just across the 大手門, Otemon Gate. The location was served as the administrative building for the Forestry Office of the Imperial Household Agency, 帝室林野局, from 1937 to 1945, as we can see from various documents though there is no substantial map evidence. After the war, the building was for a brief time part of the Tokyo Central Post Office. The latest map shows that the whole site was demolished and converted into the Hotel Teito in 1947. See:

http://www.weblio.jp/wkpja/content/%E6%9D%B1%E4%BA%AC%E4%B8%AD%E5%A4%AE%E9%83%B5%E4%BE%BF%E5%B1%80_%E6%B2%BF%E9%9D%A9

Location Two: north of the Imperial Palace, now Chiyoda City Hall

As indicated on p.171 of Mr. Hanley’s book, we can see a spot called Kempeitai Headquarters north of the Imperial Palace. I assume that the Kempeitai Headquarters should be referred to 東部憲兵隊司令部, Tōbu kempeitai shirei-bu, the Eastern District Kempei Headquarters, which supervised Tokyo, Yokohama, Yokosuka, Chiba, Kōfu, Utsunomiya, Urawa, Mito, Maebashi, Nīgata, Nagano, but not the Kempeitai Headquarters of the Japanese empire. As I can match the current address of the Chiyoda Ward Office (City Hall) to the former Kempeitai Headquarters of Tokyo, both of which are located at Kudanminami, 1 Chome, it is very likely that the current Chiyoda Ward Office is standing on the grounds of the former Eastern District Kempei Headquarters



Picture 4: The Kempeitai HQ mentioned above should be the Eastern District Kempeitai Headquarters.

Source: Hanley II, Fiske, Accused American War Criminal. p. 171

See:

[https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%86%B2%E5%85%B5_\(%E6%97%A5%E6%9C%AC%E8%BB%8D\)#.E7.B5.82.E6.88.A6.E6.99.82.E3.81.AE.E6.86.B2.E5.85.B5.E9.9A.8A.E9.85.8D.E7.BD.AE](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%86%B2%E5%85%B5_(%E6%97%A5%E6%9C%AC%E8%BB%8D)#.E7.B5.82.E6.88.A6.E6.99.82.E3.81.AE.E6.86.B2.E5.85.B5.E9.9A.8A.E9.85.8D.E7.BD.AE)

The source is from the *GHQ Case 110* about the Japanese Kempeitai abusing and poisoning captured pilots. The *GHQ Case 110* is called « 東部憲兵隊事件 » , *Tōbu kenpei-tai jiken*, the Eastern Kempeitai Incident.

See: <http://www.powresearch.jp/jp/archive/pilot/yokohama.html#09>

Conclusion

The location on the southeast side of the Imperial Palace is the **Japanese Empire Kempeitai HQ** while the location north of the Imperial Palace is the **Eastern District Kempei Headquarters**, which supervised Tokyo and neighboring prefectures. **It is the later is where the POWs were sent and where the horse stables were.**