

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

INTERROGATION NO: 49

PLACE: TOKYO
DATE: 13 Oct 45

Division of Origin: Shipping and Rail Transportation.

SUBJECT: General Information on Shipping Industry.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr. ARIYOSHI, Japanese Shipping Control Association.
Mr. WATANABE, Director of the Japanese Shipping Control Ass'n.

Where interviewed: Meiji Building.

Interrogator: Mr. Albert C. Ingersoll Jr.

Interpreter: None.

Allied Officers Present: Lt KREBS, Lt FEW.

Summary:

Mr ARIYOSHI summarized the history of control and organization of Japanese shipping. In 1936 seven of the largest shipping companies controlling the industry organized a voluntary rate association, concerned originally with freight and charter rates and operating rights for member companies, later (in closer cooperation with the government) assuming close control of operating routes and individual ship movements. August 1939: More active participation between organization in operation; rate regular; "investigation of traffic". October 1940: Increased government control, membership compulsory for all ship owners; organization acted as contract agent for all traffic but assessments and subsidies equalized profits on high grade and low grade freight. August 1941: More stringent control planned. April 1942: Government requisitioned all merchant ships assigned to association to operate. Association paid charter to owners, operated all ships as one fleet. This organization controlled all "C" ships during the war.

ARIYOSHI discussed some special problems of wartime shipping leading to the joint committee control of cargo allocation in August 1944 and the formation in April 1945 of joint Army-Navy committee controlling all shipping operations. ARIYOSHI submitted some figures on ships and shipping capacity.