

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

INTERROGATION NO: 301

PLACE: Nagoya
DATE: 3 Nov 45

Division of Origin: Oil and Chemical Team #4

Subject: Plant Operation - Second Naval Fuel Depot, SHIOHAMA, YOKKAICHI.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr HIRATA, Tadao

Where interviewed: Second Naval Fuel Depot, SHIOHAMA, YOKKAICHI.

Interrogator: W. E. Lawson, C. E. Pehl, P. R. Konz, J. H. Brooks.

Interpreter: D. V. McKinnon, K. Yamada, D. Kim.

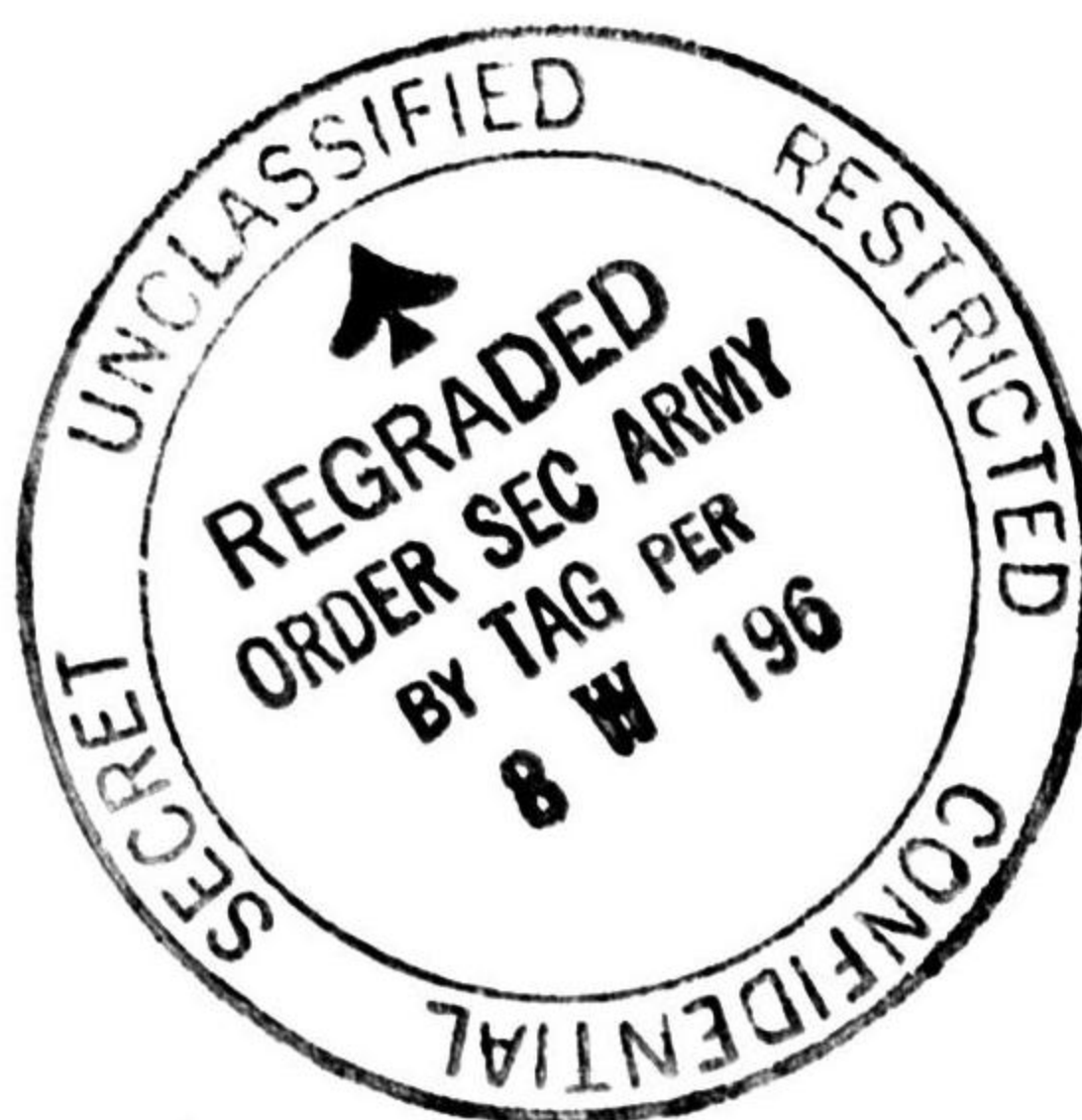
Allied Officers Present: Maj R. H. Banks, AUS

Lt Barclay USNR

Capt J. C. Webb, AUS

Lt H. E. Wyman, AUS

Summary: See page 2.



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S U M M A R Y

Inspected tetraethyl lead plant in A.M. Operation had ceased in November 1944 and most of the equipment had been moved out of the buildings. The equipment appeared in good shape although the buildings in general were damaged severely, both by direct hits and by blast. The striking difference between their operation and American practice was the small size of their tetraethyl lead autoclaves.

Ethyl chloride was made from ethyl alcohol and hydrogen chloride, generated in turn from salt and sulphuric acid. Ethylene dibromide was made from ethylene made in another portion of the plant and bromine supplied by some other company. The annual capacity was about 500 tons at maximum operation.

The electrolytic hydrogen plant and synthetic lubricating oil plant were inspected in the afternoon by Messrs. Pehl and Schimansky. Damage to the electrolytic plant was small as only one bomb hit any of the buildings in this area.

It was estimated that the plant could operate at one third capacity immediately and at two thirds capacity in about a month. The remaining third of the equipment had been removed prior to the raid. The electrolytic plant had a hydrogen capacity of approximately 500 cubic meters per hour.

The synthetic lubricating oil plant included equipment for converting paraffin wax to lubricating oil, as well as chemical plants for manufacturing chlorine, synthetic hydrochloric acid, and aluminum chloride. Damage to this area was essentially 100%, and it was estimated that repairs to the plant would require as much time as construction of a new plant.

The repair shop area was inspected and found to consist of a machine shop, foundry, carpenter shop, forge shop, test room and warehouse. Equipment appeared to be undamaged. The structure suffered some blast, and the one used for testing purposes was set afire.

The Ordnance members of Oil team No 4, Lt Barclay, USNR, Capt Webb, and Lt Wyman AUS visited the second Naval Fuel Depot. Buildings and area inspected for bomb hits and damage assessment were the following:
Lubricating Oil Refining Plant - Distillation Plant - Repair Plant -
Accounts Department Warehouses - Synthetic Lubricating Oil Plant
Lubricating Oil Packing Plant.