

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

RESTRICTED

INTERROGATION NO. 332

PLACE: Tonda
DATE: November 10, 1945

Division of Origin: Basic Materials.
Subject: Alumina Production.
Personnel Interrogated:
C. HASHIMOTO Managing Director, Toyo Soda Company.
T. KUNO Director of plant.
Where Interviewed: Toyo Soda Company.
Interrogator: Lt. BEYER, Lt. FREEDMAN, Mr. COLWELL
Interpreter: Lt. Paul BOHANNAN
Allied Officers Present: No Others.

SUMMARY

This plant, although scheduled to be an important producer of alumina from aluminous shale, produced nothing but aluminum hydroxide which was in turn used for the production of synthetic cryolite.

I N T E R R O G A T I O N

1. This plant was ordered in April 1944 to equip itself to produce alumina from aluminous clinker which was to be shipped to it from the Onoda Cement Company.

Actually the only product shipped was aluminum hydroxide (The Toyo plant had no drying kilns). The hydroxide was shipped to the Imperial Chemical Industries Company in Okayama, and used in the production of aluminum fluoride for synthetic cryolite. Only a small amount was shipped to Sumitomo alumina and aluminum plants in Niihama for the production of aluminum.

By the time that the difficulties in handling shale had been ironed out, and before the rotary kilns which had been ordered arrived, raw material shortages restricted the production of the plant to relatively small amounts, which were insignificant in the overall total.

Mr Hashimoto believed that the government acted too slowly in anticipation of the loss of bauxite.

DISTRIBUTION: All Divisions.

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