

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

*do not publish*  
*[Signature]*

INTERROGATION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE Yokohama, Japan  
DATE 20 November, 1945

Division of Origin Medical Division

Subject: Water Supply--Yokohama

Personnel interrogated and background of each: Mr T KUNITOMI and Mr  
K WATANABE, Chief Engineer and Asst Engineer, Water Supply Section

Where interviewed Temporary office of Water Supply Section, School Building,  
Yokohama

Interrogator Capt Paul J. Houser, SnC

Interpreter Unknown

Allied Officers Present None

Summary: Estimated population of Yokohama before bombing (May 1945) was 1,019,316; after bombing, 530,250. Approximately 10 to 20% of the city area is provided with city water. Population served before bombing was 738,199; after bombing, 222,995. Households supplied before bombing totalled 156,398; after bombing, 47,705. Maximum daily consumption in 1944 was 264,537 tons, with an average of 242,463 tons. At present, the average daily consumption is about 265,000 tons.

In preparation for bombing, approximately 200 concrete tanks having a capacity of 40 to 100 tons each, and fitted with a concrete cover, were provided in the densely populated area. These were to serve as an emergency fire-fighting and drinking water supply. They were filled from the city supply, but the water was not given additional chlorination. The tanks were not used extensively, and proved inadequate for fire quenching.



One of the water treatment plants was without power during and after several air raids because of a transformer station burning out, but an emergency power line and gravity flow water line were used, and water service was not interrupted. Distribution mains were damaged in a number of places, and a total of 108,693 house service lines were broken. Approximately 5% of the latter are repaired at the present time. Breaks in the mains were repaired within a short time after the raids and the repaired sections were flushed but not chlorinated.

There are 15,865 private wells scattered throughout the city. Most of them are on the outskirts of the main area. These are both the dug and driven type, varying in diameter from 2" to 3' and from 30 to 100 feet in depth. Water is lifted by hand pumps or rope and buckets.

Some time prior to the war, the city collected samples from these wells and classified 10,940 of them as "potable." The standard of potability, however, was questionable and it is believed that they were judged from a physical standpoint only. A copy of the standard used was promised to be delivered within three or four days.

It is estimated that a total of 280,000 persons were dependent upon these wells for drinking water before bombing, but it was explained that the Japanese drank very little water except that used in tea, which is boiled. Likewise, raw vegetables washed in polluted water are seldom eaten, as most of them are cooked. ~~The~~

The number of persons dependent upon these wells now is approximately the same as before bombing, with probably a slight increase, but no increase in intestinal diseases was anticipated because of the eating and drinking habits of the people. There may be an increase during summer months when more unboiled water is drunk.