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HEADQUARTERS  
STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY  
(PACIFIC)  
APO 234  
POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO: 335

PLACE: TOKYO  
DATE: 14 Nov 45

Division of Origin: Military Supplies.

Subject: Production of Air Force Ground Equipment for Army.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Colonel TAKAMORI, Army Air Service Board.  
Major HOTA, formerly Army Air Service Board, now USSBS  
liaison.

Where interviewed: Room 365, Meiji Building.

Interrogator: Captain FRED W. PEEL.

Interpreter: S/Sgt Kawano.

Summary:

The Army Air Service Board placed orders for air force ground equipment with the Munitions Ministry who made contracts with private factories for its production. In the case of trucks, the orders were placed with the Army Ordnance Board instead of the Munitions Ministry. The experience of the Air Service Board was that chassis for vehicular equipment were the most difficult items to obtain during the war. This difficulty increased as the war progressed and was ascribed by Col. TAKAMORI to lack of materials. In 1945 bombing of factories and, secondarily, bombing of transportation increased the difficulties. It should be emphasized that the Air Service Board was not directly responsible for the production of air force ground equipment and therefore is not in a position to know exactly the reasons for failure of its orders to be filled completely.

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