

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

INTERROGATION NO: 51

PLACE: TOKYO
DATE: 15 Oct 45

Division of Origin: Shipping and Rail Transportation.

SUBJECT: General Shipping and Ocean Traffic Questions.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr. HIRAYANA, Vice Minister of Transportation, a regular public servant with a railroad background.
Mr. IMAIDA, Chief of First Department, Planning Bureau.
Mr. TSUBOI, Chief of Shipping Department.
Mr. OKADA, Chief of Planning Department.
None of these men speak English, but all apparently read it.
All appear to be competent men.

Where interviewed: Mr. HIRAYANA's Office.

Interrogator: Mr Albert C. Ingersoll, Jr.

Interpreter: Mr. John Taji.

Allied Officers Present: Lt (jg) LYNE S. FEW.

Summary:

Submitted preliminary fact finding questionnaire on following topics: 1. Japanese merchant ships. 2. Confiscation of belligerent and neutral ships by Japan during the war. 3. Merchant ship repairs. 4. Ship allocation policies. 5. Critical imports. 6. Japanese port statistics. 7. Merchant shipping loading. 8. Turn-around time. 9. Inter-island shipping. 10. Request for summary by the Vice Minister of principal problems and obstacles of the shipping industry in wartime.

In this interrogation Mr. TSUBOI appeared to be the best informed on all subjects. In answer to question 1: A ship list was loaned to us. Question 2, 3, 4, and 5; report being written. 6: We were referred to other departments. 7. "C" ships went out in ballast. "A" and "B" ships hauled military supplies; incoming ships 100% loaded early in the war, later increased to 110%. 8: Report being written. 9: Referred to Ministry of Commerce and Industry. 10: Report being written.