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Economic Warfare Section
War Division
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Interview Report
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Subject: Location of Important
Industrial and Military
Facilities in Japan and
Korea
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INTERVIEW REPORT ON LOCATION OF IMPORTANT
INDUSTRIAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES IN JAPAN

Informants made the following assertions on the above subject:

At Tokyo the water reservoir does not maintain enough water pressure to protect the city against fire hazards. The main airport at Tokyo is located in Chiba.

Outside of Kobe and southeast of Sannomiya there are four or five huge gas tanks located near the railroad. If these tanks were ignited the whole industrial section of Kobe could be destroyed.

At Uji, just south of Kyoto, many munition factories have recently been developed.

Outside Osaka near the electric railroad line to Mt. Ikoma (halfway between Fuse and Hyotanyama) there is a power plant. The Osaka castle is surrounded by munition storage dumps.

Two alternative railroad lines run across the Izu Peninsula from Kozu to Numazu. The lower railroad line has many tunnels. Destruction of these particular railroad lines would have a crippling effect on transportation.

On Lake Biwa one seaplane base is located at the southern end and another seaplane base is just five miles to the north, that is, north of Otsu on the western bank.

The top of Mt. Ikoma (between Osaka and Nara), about 1500 feet high has been levelled off and is used as a field for fighter airplanes. This may also be true of Mt. Rokko just north of Kobe.

Korea

The largest magnesite plant in Asia is located just outside Kanko. This hydro-electric plant is the chief source of light metal for aircraft for the Japanese Empire. It is one of many munition plants constructed during the last five years in this area. Also located near here are

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sardine works which are of some military importance because the oil supply is used in the manufacture of munitions.

The railroad center of Korea is Ryuzan just south of Seoul (Keijo) where all railroad lines converge. Destruction of the railroad yards south of Ryuzan together with destruction of the bridge across the river at that point would knock out all railroad communication between Japan and Manchuria. Near the railroad yards at Ryuzan are the main military supply depots and military warehouses.

To the north of Genzan at Humpio(?) are located the principal oil installations of the Shell Oil Company. East of Genzan and east of the small peninsula jutting out in Eiko Bay near Katsuma are above ground oil installations.

Also in this area of Eiko Bay is located a major naval air station constructed in 1938. Another naval training center and air field is located at Haijo, Korea. A large air base is also located at Rasin.

Leads

Mr. R. N. Merrill (brother of Captin Merrill), 11296 Pickford Street, Los Angeles, California, (one of last foreigners to leave the Nara area in April 1941) is informed about air fields at Ikoma, Rokko; now employed in the Planning Department of the North American Aviation Company.

Source

Captain Harold J. Noble, Third Marine Division, Marine Headquarters, San Diego, California (Camp Elliott) - (in Japan and Korea from 1926 to 1929, 1930, 1932, 1935 and from 1937 to 1940; employed as a student English teacher and Journalist.)

Captain John E. Merrill, Third Marine Division, Marine Headquarters, Camp Elliott, San Diego, California (in Japan from April 1935 to April 1938 as English teacher).