

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

INTERROGATION NO. 152

PLACE: Tokyo  
DATE: 27 OCTOBER 1945

Division of Origin: Basic Materials  
Subject: Manchurian Light and NonFerrous Metals

Personnel interrogated:

Mr. R. SHIMADA	Former president of the Manchuria Mining Co. Returned from Manchuria in 1942.
Mr. M. NAKAJIMA	Tokyo Branch Manager of Manchuria Magnesium Co. Returned from Manchuria in May 1944.
Mr. K. KISHIMOTO	Secretary to Mr. Y. Aikawa
Mr. MAKINO	Tokyo Branch Manager of Manchuria Mining Co. Ltd.
Mr. K. SAWA	Tokyo Branch Manager of Manchuria Light Metals Co.
Mr. H. KANAMURA	Tokyo Branch Manager of Japan-Manchuria Trading Co. Ltd.

Where interviewed: Shirokiya Department Store  
Interrogator: Lt. R. C. BEYER  
Interpreter: Lt. BOHANNON, Mr. KISHIMOTO  
Allied Officers Present: Mr. Donald COLWELL

SUMMARY

A written request for information on the capacity, production, of all non-ferrous installations, exports and imports, and detailed plant information was submitted to the men interrogated. Their reply will evidently be based on scraps of records they possess and on memory. The Manchurian Government made it illegal for any details of plant equipment, production etc., to be transmitted to Japan. All the men interrogated claimed that the detailed information requested of them was not available anywhere in Japan.

Distribution:  
All Divisions



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Production quotas for each Manchurian Company were set by the Manchurian Government which in turn had received requests either directly from the Japanese Government or from the Army, (generally through the Kwantung Army).

The shipping for the non-ferrous metals (with the exception of aluminum and magnesium) was handled by the Japan-Manchurian Trading Co. However, the Navy took over the handling and shipment of much lead, and the Army of molybdenum, so that the Trading Co.'s import and export figures are incomplete.

Light and non-ferrous metals production in Manchuria was almost entirely in the hands of the Manchuria Industrial Development Corporation (Mangyo). Ten percent, it was estimated, was handled privately. The subsidiaries of Mangyo in the production of the light metals were the Manchuria Magnesium Co. for magnesium, the Manchuria Light Metals Co. for aluminum and alumina, and the Manchuria Mining Co. for the other non-ferrous metals. The Manchuria Lead Co. had merged with the Manchuria Mining Co. in 1944. Completely outside the jurisdiction of Mangyo was the Manchuria Mining Development Co., all the shares of which were held by the Manchurian Government. This latter company owned a smelter and refinery at Mukden.

The only magnesium plant in operation was at Yingkow. Production was begun with magnesite and changed over to sea water. Mitsubishi was building a plant thirty miles north of Dairen but it was never finished. This plant had a European market before the outbreak of war, but with the outbreak demand fell off for a time and the company was trying to promote all kinds of uses for magnesium. As the war advanced, however, Japan eagerly bought the entire supply.

Aluminum and alumina produced at Fushun from shale was of high quality and they were very proud of it. At one time 1,000 tons of aluminous shale were imported from North China, but transportation difficulties prevented the continuation of this practice, and local shales were used thenceforth. Approximately 30 percent of the ingot was shipped to Japan, the rest consumed locally. Its chief use was as a substitute for copper wire in the power industry. Mr. Nakajima claimed the aluminum produced had an electrical conductivity of 61% of copper. There was no aluminum rolling equipment in Manchuria. The Antung plant, owned half by Sumitomo and half by Mangyo never was finished.

Zinc was exported to Japan as concentrates. The New Jersey vertical retort plant at Koroto never went into operation.

Manchuria needed around five to six thousand tons of refined copper. Her mining resources limited her to 4000 tons and refining capacity to 2600 tons. The difference was imported from Japan.

Lead was shipped to Japan as ore.