

26 Oct -
2 Nov

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

INTERROGATION NO. 116
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE: Tokyo.
DATE: Oct. 24, 1945.

Division of Origin: Manpower, Food & Civilian Supplies.

Subject: Black market prices.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr. YAMAMOTO, Research Director Bank of Japan, Japanese representative 1938 in Bank for International Settlements Basic Switzerland.

Where interviewed: Bank of Japan.
Interrogator: Lt. Harold Fassberg.
Interpreter: None.

Summary:

List of black market prices prevailing in Tokyo, Kobe, Shizuoka, and Maebashi during September, 1945 was obtained.

INTERROGATION

A second interview held with Mr. YAMAMOTO, Research Director of the Bank of Japan, at 1000 October 25, 1945 in his office was for the purpose of securing complete statistical series of the retail and whole price indices as well as the cost of living index. In addition Black Market prices for the principal food items and some house hold furnishings during September, prevailing in the Tokyo, Kobe, Shizuoka, and Maebashi areas were obtained. A complete list of black market prices of the principal items of household furnishings will be compiled during November and will be available at the end of the month.

The indices requests are now being prepared and will be available Saturday, October 27, 1945, at which time Mr. YAMAMOTO will again be interrogated.

The black market prices below are deemed of sufficient importance to be listed in their entirety.

Items	Units	Average Prices in:				No. of Reports in Tokyo	Official Prices	No. of times higher than official prices in Tokio
		Tokyo	Kobe	Shizuoka	Maebashi			
Rice	1 sho	50.20	87.95	55.00	37.20	77	0.50	100.4
Wheat	1 sho	29.00	40.81	15.00	11.26	38	0.46	63.0
Flour	1 kamme	90.15	127.24	120.50	35.00	55	1.60	56.3
Potatoes	1 kamme	12.34	29.00	15.00	7.50	79	1.20	10.3
Sweet "	1 kamme	16.81	38.17	12.00	9.00	88	1.36	12.4
Squash	1 kamme	12.16	21.46		4.78	79	0.70	17.3
Radish	1 kamme	8.64			3.50	28	0.80	10.8
Beef	100 momme	23.34	38.07	20.00	20.00	88	2.00	11.7
Chicken	100 momme	35.18	59.00	25.00	14.50	22	1.80	19.5
Fork	100 momme	28.19	20.60		13.50	32	1.50	18.8
Butter	1 pound	67.51	90.00			37	5.66	11.9
Slope (Seaweed)	1 jo	5.65	5.70			20	1.00	5.7
Sugar	1 kamme	1,397.46	1,167.78	310.00		39	3.50	399.3
Bean Paste	1 kamme	35.50	31.67			26	1.50	23.7
Soya Sauce	1 sho	59.27	43.33	27.50		49	0.95	62.4
Salt	1 kamme	40.62				24	0.94	43.0
Edible Oil	1 sho	187.00	150.00			119	2.20	85.0
Tea	100 momme	18.85	22.33			62	1.80	10.5
Sake	1 sho	154.73	156.67	55.00	150.00	55	15.00	10.3
Beer	1 bottle	12.69	10.13	4.00	17.50	26	2.00	6.4
Tobacco	20 cigarettes	18.96	16.88	10.00	18.50	53	0.60	31.6
Silk	10 momme	56.00	27.50		15.00	21	2.50	22.4
Stockings	1 pair	15.21	25.00		22.50	14	1.08	14.1
Towels	1 apiece	12.50	4.00		10.00	14	0.26	48.1
Leather	1 pair	477.98	583.03	225.00	275.00	31	44.00	10.7
Getas	1 pair	20.59	24.00	8.50	15.00	32	0.93	22.1
Soap	1 cake	19.88	11.47	9.00	13.50	48	0.10	198.8
Charcoal	1 bale	46.94	71.88	37.50	32.50	36	6.15	7.6
Firewood	1 bundle	3.99	15.75	3.75	5.25	7	0.47	8.5
Matches	1 box	3.51	2.00		2.00	19	0.67	5.2
Elec. Bulbs	1 apiece	17.28	15.00		14.00	47	0.98	17.6
Radio Tubes	1 apiece	111.07	250.00		350.00	28	4.00	27.8
Eggs	1 apiece	2.81	2.79			48	0.28	10.0
Average of all Commodities								42.5

BLACK MARKET PRICES
COMPILED BY BANK OF JAPAN DURING SEPTEMBER 1945