

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

INTERROGATION NO: 36
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE : 17 Oct 45
TIME : 2:00 PM

Division of Origin: Capital Equipment and Construction.

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Metal Industries Control Association, Reproduction of Wire and Cable.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

- a. S. NAKAGAWA -- President of the Association (also president of Furukawa Electric Co.)
- b. S. YAMAGUCHI -- General Director of the Association
- c. TANAKA -- Secretary of the Association.

Where interviewed: Konwa Karkan Building--Office of the Association.

Interrogator: Pfc Jacobson

Interpreter :

Allied Officers Present:

SUMMARY:

- a. General statistics on production, labor, damage and allocations of raw materials were obtained.
- b. Information on problems in the industry, status of cable manufacturers, and present condition of plants was obtained.

1. Statistics prepared by the association included annual production of electrical wire and cable in 1937 and 1943, monthly production for August 1945 in terms of yen and weight of the conductor (excluding the weight of the insulating material, sheathing, etc.). A list of leading companies, productive capacity lost due to air raid damage employment, allocations of finished products to military and civilian use, 1942-1944, materials allocated for civilian manufacture, and production of copper and copper alloy products was also included.

2. Complete production statistics from 1942-1945 will be furnished on 23 October 1945.

3. A plant questionnaire was given to Nakagawa for the Furukawa Company. It will also be completed by Monday for all plants under its jurisdiction.

4. General information about the wire and cable industry:

a. Leading corporations in electric wire and cable manufacture. "The Big Six"

1. Furukawa
2. Sumitomo
3. Fujikura
4. Showa
5. Dai Nichi
6. Hitachi

The Nikai Company specializes in submarine and other marine cable.

b. Sixty-seven percent of all wire and cable produced by Furukawa, Sumitomo and Fujikura, with a ratio of 5, 5, 3 among the three.

c. Production of the "Big Six" was about ninety percent of the entire electric wire and cable industry.

- d. By 1945, 59 of a total of 127 factories were destroyed by fire, representing a loss of 40 percent of the productive capacity of wire and cable manufacturing.
- e. Employment was 24,371 in March 1945. It fell to 16,805 in September. At the moment, with students leaving the employ of the industry, about 5-6,000 are working in it.
- f. The mining capacity of the copper industry is estimated at 35,000 tons at the moment. During the war it attained a peak of 80,000 tons.
- g. Problems which faced the industry during the war:
 - 1. A labor shortage - was filled by girls, students and Koreans.
 - 2. Rail transportation toward the end of the war was inadequate. Completed cable cluttered up the Furukawa Company's warehouses awaiting transportation.
 - 3. The Navy received 60-70 percent of all wire and cable products during the war, with about 30 percent going to the Army and Civilian industry.
 - 4. The Army's only outstanding demand was for field telephone cable, and was quite small compared with Navy demands.
 - 5. Since the Manchurian "incident" 1933, production of wire and cable slowly increased.
 - 6. Aluminum, iron and steel were used as substitutes for copper.

7. A definite civilian shortage of wire and cable existed. Army and Navy shortages are "unknown".
8. The Sumitomo Company, formerly 2d in importance has been hit hardest by fire destruction. The present order of productive capacity is Furukawa (undamaged), Dai Nichi, Showa, Fujikura, Simitomo, and Hitachi.
9. No conversion of manufacture either to production of cable or to production of other products by the cable industry is noted during the war.
10. Using 1940 = 100 as a price index, the price of copper was 600 in 1945, according to Nakagawa.
11. This industry has been a Monopoly in the past, with its main problem that of obtaining sufficient supplies of copper. During the war, some aluminum was used as a substitute for copper.