

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
OIL & CHEMICAL DIVISIONS
APO 234, c/o Postmaster
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

INTERROGATION NO. 57

PLACE TOKYO

DATE 18 Oct. 1945 TIME 1400

DIVISION OF ORIGIN OIL & CHEMICAL

SUBJECT: Allocation of Petroleum and Petroleum Products.

Personnel interrogation and background of each:

IRIE, HIROSHI - Graduated Tokyo Imperial University 1930. Major was Law. Immediately after entered the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. Entered the Ministry of Munitions in 1943 where he remained until it was dissolved this year. He then returned to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. His present position, Head of Section of Adjustment in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
(CHOSE KATCHO)

KIMURA, HIDEO - Graduated Kyoto Imperial University 1928. Major was Literature. Continued in post-graduate work at the University until 1931. He then became an instructor in a middle industrial school. He held this position until 1940. In 1940 he was appointed to the Cabinet Planning Board where he remained until the Board was dissolved in 1943. He then entered the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Kimura heads the Oil Section in the Ministry.

OMURA, YOSHICHIKA - Graduated from Meiji Technical College in 1922. Upon graduation, entered the Fuel Experimental Bureau in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. From 1935 he was in the Fuel Section of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Where interviewed (office): #749, Meiji Building.

Interrogators: Commander George G. LAMB.
Lieut. Commander G.M. WILLIAMS.

Interpreter: Lieut. George OUJEVOLK.

Allied Officers Present: None.

SUMMARY:

1. Organization and Operation of:
 1. Cabinet Planning Board.
 2. General Mobilization Bureau.
2. Mobilization of Materials Plan - 1938.
3. Fuel Allocation System.

INTERROGATION

PLANNING BOARD AND CABINET

Question: What factors or ideas lay behind the development of the Planning Board in the Cabinet?

Answer: Do not know. Mr. Kimura's department dealt only with the supply and demand of oil.

Question: When did the Cabinet Planning Board begin?

Answer: It began in 1938.

Question: For what purpose was the board formed?

Answer: The Board was formed immediately after the China incident in order to meet the demands for material by the Army and Navy. Inasmuch as the internal resources and imports into Japan were not sufficient to meet the consumption, the Board was formed for the purpose of decreasing the allocation of materials to civilian use and increasing the allocation to the Armed Forces. This plan was called the "Mobilization of Materials Plan". The plan was formulated in 1937 but was not into effect until 1938. The plan was initiated principally by the head members of the Cabinet Planning Board. At the time of its origin the plan was under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance was the head of the Board.

Question: Was the Planning Board formed by a law or decree?

Answer: The Board was formed by an Imperial Rescript.

Question: What was the name and date of the Rescript?

Answer: The Rescript was called KIKAKU IN KANSEI.

Question: Who were the members of the Board?

Answer: The Head of the Board was the Ministry of Finance. At the time for the Board's origin the Vice-Head was INO HIROYA who later became the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture. Altogether there were approximately 50 men on the Board.

Question: Did the Board have its own Secretariat and permanent employees?

Answer: The Board had its own permanent employees, about two or three hundred people.

Question: Where were the offices?

Answer: The building was called OTEMACHI KU KOJIMACHI, Tokyo. However the building was destroyed by fire.

Question: Who had charge of the Board's records?

Answer: The various departments had charge of their own records and there was no central place where all records were filled.

Question: Can you give us an Organizational Chart of the Bureau?

Answer: The Organization changed form time to time. If I return to my office and ask around I may be able

to obtain information as to the break-down and the changes of the organization.

Question: Did the "Mobilization of Materials Plan" apply to all materials and did it involve ideas for increased production or did it merely deal with allocation?

Answer: At the time the plan was formed the demand for materials was very great and the supply was small. The plan was to increase the out-put and production of materials and also to reduce civilian consumption.

Question: How long a period did the Plan cover?

Answer: At first it was a yearly plan but later it was reduced to a quarterly plan. No long range plan for general materials mobilization was formed. However, for internal production a long range plan was made. This plan was called SEI SAN RYOKU KAKU JU KERKAKY. It was a 4 year plan originated in 1938 to increase the production power of Japan.

Question: Who was the principal man in that plan?

Answer: The Second Bureau of the Cabinet, the Policy Bureau originated this plan. However at the time the plan initiated the Second Bureau was called the Industrial Section and at the time Mr. HIGASHI was the head of it.

Question: What form did this plan take?

Answer: The general purpose was to obtain the maximum production possible in Japan each year. However, this plan was never able to be materialized.

Question: Was this plan in written form?

Answer: Yes, it was a written plan. There may be a copy of the plan in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Question: Was the plan instigated by legislation?

Answer: No regulations or laws were passed on it. Since the original plan could not be realized because of shortages of materials necessary to conform with the policies of the plan, the plan itself had to be amended every year to be workable.

Question: Was this a yearly plan?

Answer: The General Mobilization of Materials Plan was a quarterly plan, the SEI SAN RYOKU KAKU JU KERKAKU was a yearly plan. The results obtained yearly were different than those expected of the original four year plan.

Question: Was the 4 year plan and the annual plan approved by the Cabinet?

Answer: The annual plans were approved by the Cabinet. I am not sure whether the 4 year plan was approved.

Question: Where were the records of these plans kept?

Answer: The original plan probably no longer exists but I have the yearly plans from 1940 on in my office. I am not sure if I have the plans for the years before 1940. I can bring the plans I have to you tomorrow.

Question: Mr. ERIE, when you were on the Planning Board for 6 months at its beginning in 1938, how many men worked with you in your department of Non-ferus metals?

Answer: Three men.

Question: Were any of them representatives of the Army or Navy?

Answer: No, there were not.

Question: Were there any Army or Navy representatives on the Board?

Answer: Yes, an Army man headed the Iron and Steel Department and a Navy man headed the Oil Department.

Question: Who was the Navy man who headed the Oil Department? He was Lieut. Commander UEMATSU.

Question: Mr. Kimura, were there any Navy men in the Oil Department recently that you know?

Answer: There were no Navy men in the Department recently.

Question: Do you know the names of Navy men who were at any time in your Department?

Answer: The last Navy man in the Oil Department was Commander NIJIKITA 1940-42.

Question: Were there any Army or Navy men in the Chemicals Department?

Answer: No, there were not.

Question: Where were most of the Army and Navy men who were on the Planning Board?

Answer: There were some Army officers in each section.

Question: Did they have positions of importance?

Answer: These men were directly attached to the Planning Board. The importance of their positions depended upon which section they were in. Most of the Army men were in the Second Section.

Question: Was there a Policy Committee or Steering Committee in the Second Section?

Answer: No, there was not.

Question: Do you know Major TAKAHASHI?

Answer: Yes, I do.

Question: Mr. Kimura, just what dealings did you have with him?

Answer: I had very little to do with him since he allocated oil and fuel to war factories and the Army and I allocated oil and fuel to civilians.

Question: What is the overall function of the oil group in the Second Section?

Answer: There were two functions, one was the production of oil and the other was the balance of the supply and demand. The estimates of the oil production came from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Cabinet Planning Board divided the oil to the various facilities that needed it.

Question: When did these estimates come from the Ministry?

Answer: Quarterly.

Question: What did these estimates consist of, each category of oil?

Answer: It was a detailed estimate for crude oil, machine oil, gasoline oil, etc. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry would send estimates of all types of materials that could be produced to the Cabinet Planning Board. The Board would allocate the materials to civilian and military use. However, as far as oil is concerned, the Oil Department was a semi-independent organization and the production figures were received not only from Japan but from Korea, Thailand etc. The Oil Department then gave the total completed figures to the Cabinet Board.

Question: Did the department get figures for Java and Borneo?

Answer: No, in the South Pacific the Army and Navy were in charge and they did not report production or consumption. The total amount of the production and consumption was never reported. However, if the Army and Navy found that they had some left over, it would be shipped to Japan for civilian consumption.

Question: Was a report made as to how much the homeland could expect to receive or what was expected to be produced in the South Pacific?

Answer: No report was made on surplus South Pacific oil until it reached Japan. When surplus oil arrived at Japan, it was reported that so much oil had arrived and would be allocated to civilian use. This report came to the Fuel Bureau and they allocated it. The Fuel Bureau handled the supply, the Cabinet Board made the allocations. No figures are available on the total amount of imports of fuel by the Armed Forces from Borneo, Java and Sumatra oil fields.

Question: Did Mr. IRIE, while a member of the Munitions Section of the Materials Mobilization Board know the total imports of fuel from the Army & Navy?

Answer: The Mobilization Board is the same thing as the Cabinet Planning Board. When the Planning Board was dissolved the General Mobilization Board was formed to take its place. I did not have information on oil imports from the Army and Navy.

Question: Did the General Mobilization Board make allocations of material to the Army & Navy as well as to civilians?

Answer: Yes, it did.

Question: In the case of oil, what allocation did they make to the Army and the Navy?

Answer: The Army and Navy had control of imports from South Seas so most of the work of the Board was to take care of civilian consumption. The Board only allocated oil to the services when they purchased it from individual factories in Japan. Oil was allocated only to those factories which were making materials for the Army and Navy.

Question: Did the Army submit to the Board a statement of their fuel requirements?

Answer: The Army and Navy submitted no statements to the Board for their requirements. The requirements from the war factories came directly from the war factories.

Question: Did civilian requirements come to the Board directly from individual consumers or from the Fuel Bureau?

Answer: The wants for civilian use came through the Fuel Bureau. The requirements and estimates for factories making war materials came direct from the factories to the Board. There were also small requests from the Army and Navy to furnish oil to those units which were stationed in Japan. When these requests came in, the Army and Navy received fuel that was intended for civilian use. These requests were made verbally to the Fuel Bureau, no statements or documents were involved.

Question: Did the Board make a tri-part division among the Army and Navy and civilians or did it allocate to individual factories?

Answer: Only one estimate was made for the various groups of industries. Each industry received its allocation from section of the Board with which it was concerned.

Question: Do you have records of these allocations?

Answer: Only the general figure total. The Head of each individual section of the Board had detailed figures of each industry. (BUSHI DOIN KEIKOKA)

Question: Do the figures include the requirements of the Army and Navy & war factories?

Answer: The estimates from the factories are not recorded just the allocations. No documents available on allocations to Army and Navy. The requests for materials for Army units stationed in Japan were made verbally by Major TAKANAMI to Mr. KIMURA. These requests were made quarterly. The demands were always large but Mr. Kimura filled them the best he could. The demands were for all types of fuels.

Questions: Were these allocations included in the quarterly report?

Answer: Yes, how much went to the Army and How much to the Navy. The allocation only was made by the Board, delivery was made by the factory.

Question: Was the actual delivery by the Petroleum Distribution Company?

Answer: No, the oil Dispensation Company only distributed oil to the war industries. Oil going to Army, Navy and civilians did not have to go through that Board.

Question: When allocations of fuel were made were received stocks considered as well as current production?

Answer: Yes, reserve stocks were taken into consideration as well as current production.

Question: When Mr. Kimura made decision on allocations was it effective immediately or did someone also have to make a decision?

Answer: When oil was to be allocated a meeting was called to Mr. Kimura's office with the representatives of those entitled to receive oil attending. They would discuss the oil problem and if all agreed Mr. Kimura could make the decision. If, however, no agreement could be reached, the problem would go up to higher officials until it finally reached the Cabinet.

Question: Who was present at these meetings?

Answer: Representatives of the Army, Navy, and each Ministry. The meetings were held quarterly and the representatives often changed. These meetings not only decide allocations of oil but all other products.

Question: Who presided at these meetings?

Answer: The president was the head of the Board or the head of the first section. He would have the general plan and would read it to those present. They would then study and discuss the plan. Each representative would then go back to his particular Ministry with notes of the things brought up in the meeting which effected that Ministry's functions. After discussing the notes with the members of his section, the representative would return to the meeting.

Question: Who was the naval counterpart of TAKAMINE?

Answer: Captain HARA.

Question: Are allocations of materials made to territories outside of Japan?

Answer: Yes. allocations are made to Manchuria, Thailand and Formosa. None to South Seas since the war. Some allocations made to China. Allocations were only made to essential civilian demands.

MOBILIZATION OF MATERIALS
(DAI NI BU)

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION : IRON NON-FERUS COAL OIL CLOTHING :
(TANAKA) : & METALS : : : :
STEEL : : : :
(HORI) : (KIMURA) :
CHEMICALS : MACHINERY

ORGANIZATION FOR MOBILIZATION OF MATERIALS
PLAN - ABOUT 1939.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

BUREAU OF GENERAL AFFAIRS
(SOMU-KYOKU)
(S. Suganami)

SECTION OF GENERAL AFFAIRS (SOMU-KA) : SECTION OF ADJUSTMENT (CHOSEI-KA) (H. Irie) : SECTION OF (SEIBI-KA) (H. Okabe) : SECTION OF (KANRI-KA) (S. Tanaka) :
SECTION OF SURVEY (CHOSA-KA) (C. Yoshioka)

PRESENT ORGANIZATION CHART

PLANNING BOARD

INVESTIGATION (SINGI-SHITSU) : FIRST SECTION (POLICY) (DAIICHI-BU) : SECOND SECTION MOBILIZATION OF MATERIALS (DAI NI-BU) (H. KASHIWABARA) (T. TAWABE)
THIRD SECTION MOBILIZATION OF LABOR (DAI SAN BU) : FOURTH SECTION CIVILIANS PROBLEMS (DAI YON BU) : FIFTH SECTION TRANSPORTATION (DAI GO BU)

APPROXIMATE ORGANIZATION - 1938.
(See also Vice Admiral USHARA interview)