

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

INTERROGATION NO: 119

PLACE: Kobe
DATE: 22 Oct 45

Division of Origin: Capital Equipment and Construction.

SUBJECT: Plant Visit to MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CO. Ltd., Kobe.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr KATO - President of MITSUBISHI Electric Co. Kobe
Mr. OGAWA, S. - Assistant General Manager and Engineering
Manager.
Mr. MAEHARA, T.- Director of General Affairs Dept.

Where Interviewed: Plant Office, Kobe.

Interrogator: Major Hales; Lt Love; Sgt Balash.

Interpreter: Lt Love.

Allied Officers Present: None

SUMMARY:

1. Types of electrical equipment produced by the Company.
 - a. Motors, AC & DC.
 - b. Switchgear
 - c. Meters & Electric Tachometers.
 - d. Other items.
2. List of branch plants operated by company and products produced in these plants:
 - a. FUKUYAMA plant: Electrical bomb releases, bomb interval timers.
 - b. WAKAYAMA plant: Inertia starters.
 - c. HIMEJI Factory: Magnetos for engines of all types
 - d. Dispersion plants.
3. General information on operations of company during war, inadequacy of equipment, lack of materials and labor etc.
4. Air raid damage: 40% of plant and 10% of machine tools damaged or destroyed. Only 2% of machine tools actually destroyed beyond repair.
5. Completed questionnaires for all four plants will be ready on November 1 in Tokyo.

INTERROGATION

This plant is situated adjacent to the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Co. Ltd., in fact at one time it was a part of this works. Due to expansion of the electrical business, it was set up under different management. They have a total, at this location, of 694,872 sq feet of manufacturing space.

Their principal products, during the war, were motors, AC & DC, of which a great number were for submarines and surface vessels; and for railway and industry; particularly heavy industry. The largest motor at this works was 7000 HP for steel mill use.

Switchgear was the other largest production item. They built so much electrical equipment for submarine use that they maintained two small buildings in the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries grounds (shipbuilding works) for the installation of this equipment.

They also built meters and electric tachometers at this works, and at one time built electrical war specialties here, but expanded their production of these items in separate plants, but under the control of this plant, as listed below:

(1) FUKUYAMA Factory: A privately financed expansion, built electrical bomb releases, and bomb interval timers for the aircraft program, but their orders were received directly from the Army and Navy. This plant was 60% destroyed. It is now planned to convert this plant to watt hour meters, sockets, plugs, mechanical clocks and similar items. Complete information on this plant will be compiled by the management for the survey.

(2) WAKAYAMA Factory: Privately financed, was used to manufacture inertia starters for airplanes, receiving the orders direct from the interested branch of the Armed Forces. This plant was not damaged, and is now being converted to the manufacture of sewing machines, a product they formerly made in another plant prior to the war. Complete information is being compiled on this plant for the survey.

(3) HIMEJI Factory: Privately financed, built magnetos for engines of all types. This plant was not damaged and is now being converted to a wire drawing plant, mostly for copper electric wire. Complete information on this plant will be compiled by the management for the survey. In addition to these three separate plants, several small dispersion plants were set up in a radius of 5 Kilometers but these did not contribute much to their efficiency or production. One underground plant was under construction but was started so late that there was no time to even start equipping it.

The plant and the processing was typical of what one would expect in Japan. Slow general purpose hand operated machines, very little mechanical handling equipment, no streamlined production procedures, although they point out that they start manufacturing at one end of the building and process toward the shipping department at the rear. Maintenance, as well as installation of equipment and machinery was very poor. They suffered from a lack of all things, materials, labor, and transportation. They have as many men on military leave as they had total employment at the end of the war. They suffered from poor quality grinding wheels, although they apparently had plenty of them. Machine tool damage was slight, although 40% of the plant was damaged or destroyed, only 10% of the machine tools were damaged and all these were repaired except 40, out of a total number of 2000 -- or 2% were destroyed.

They purchase their power, with no standby equipment, and distribute 3000 volts to various substations.

For Air Raid precautions the Electric Company constructed several air raid shelters in the vicinity of the plant, however many employees stayed at the plant rather than go to the shelters. Fire fighting equipment was inadequate--water system was not too good. Complete details will be found

in their answers 1 Nov 1945.

Completed questionnaires will be ready for all four plants on
1 November in Tokyo.