

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

INTERROGATION NO. 19

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE: 11 Oct. 45.

Division of Origin: Capital Equipment & Construction.

Subject : Interrogation of the Control Association
for Precision Tools.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr. SAITO - President of Association.
Mr. HARA - Former President of Association Directors
of Association.

Where interviewed: Office of Control Association for Precision
Tools.

Interrogator : Captain Henry P. BALIVET.

Interpreter : Lt. (jg) William GORHAM.

Allied Officers Present:

Lt. Alan B. SMITH.

Summary:-

The major departments of this control association are machine tools, small tools, ball bearings, precision instruments, guages, testing machines, and wood working.

Machines:

Member firms reported their total production to the association. Non member firms reported those portions of their production which fell within the jurisdiction of the association and which were not produced for the military. Statistics pertaining to raw material allocation, production, and labor are being obtained from the association.

The major departments of this organization are Machine Tools, Small Tools, Ball Bearings, Precision Instruments, Gages, Testing Machines, and Wood Working Machines. These groups of the Association grew out of older employers associations which no longer exist. The Control Association was created in 1942. Prior to that time there had been two major Manufacturers Associations. One was comprised of all large manufacturing firms in Japan. The second was a super structure group over a number of local associations to which the less important firms belonged. These groups disappeared when the present control Association took over. A small amount of sub-contracting remained under the supervision of another manufacturers Association until 1943. This association was of the manufacturers of component parts and "complete part units" such as jigs and fixtures, chucks, rotary tables, couplings, gears, oil pumps, grinding wheel heads, etc. Woodworking machines were formerly controlled by a separate manufacturers Association. It was not until May 1944 that they came under the present Association.

There are firms outside of this Control Association which are working for the Army and Navy on special purpose equipment. These outside firms represent between 10% and 20% of the total industry. In addition to those producing for the military this 10 to 20 % also includes some makers of very small equipment such as foot-driven lathes and grinding wheels, who did not report either to the military or to the Association. It is estimated that the portion of the industry which was controlled by the military was producing about 20 million Yen value of products per year while the production controlled by the Association amounted to about 600 million Yen per year.

Member firms reported their total production to the Association. Non members reported only production for the military. They produced other machine tools which they reported to no one. This is not important, however, as they were mainly very small producers to begin with and their major production went to the military. A few shops were practically conscripted and produced only for the military.

In 1944 the average worker in the machine tool industry worked 2600 hours.

The old manufacturers Association kept a record of raw material allocation prior to 1942. Part of these records and the records of raw material allocation since 1942 are available. USSBS is to be furnished with these raw material statistics. Also we are to be furnished with Production statistics for 1942, 1943, 1944 which list total production by major type of product; number of machines retained in inventory of machine tool producers; number of workers employed in such production; number of factories producing; and productivity of subsections of the factories in terms of yen value.

We are also to be furnished with a list of the 22 most important machine tool producing firms with a record of their planned and actual production. It will be shown what percent of actual total Japanese production of machine tools was produced by each plant, and what percent of total productive capacity was represented by each plant. A list of addresses of these plants will also be furnished. Automatics and tooling were spread evenly throughout the industry and are included in all production statistics.

A volume of charts was given to USSBS for photostatting. Among these charts machine tool production from 1937 to 1944

was stated both in terms of yen value and number of units produced.

Planning of production was done first in Ministry of Commerce and Industry, later in Ministry of Munitions, on the basis of demand and information as to productive capacity furnished by the various industrial control associations. Distribution of orders and carrying out of planned production was left up to control associations concerned. For the most part it was attempted to distribute orders for production evenly throughout the industry.