

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

INTERROGATION NO. 109
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE Home Ministry
Room 501
DATE 22 October 1945

DIVISION OF ORIGIN: Morale Division

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN MORALE UNDER BOMBING

PERSONNEL INTERROGATED AND BACKGROUND OF EACH:

Mr. AKABANE, Yutaka, Vice-Chief of the Cabinet Information Board, an official of the Home Ministry, lately Executive Officer, Air Raids Protection Headquarters.

WHERE INTERVIEWED: His office, in the Home Office Building, Tokyo.

INTERROGATOR: Lt. Commander Leighton and Major Arensberg.

INTERPRETER: Lt. McCoy

ALLIED OFFICERS PRESENT: See Interrogators.

SUMMARY:

Mr. Akabane discussed changes in Japanese civilian morale, factors effecting such changes, and the relative importance of the factors springing from the latter were the United States propaganda pamphlets, the long and short radio waves broadcasts of the US, the news of Japan's successive defeats, and the cutting off by submarine of Japan's overseas connections with China and the southern regions.

Japanese morale moved from a level of high confidence into a feeling of doubt of either victory or draw by the time of the loss of Saipan. But morale did not break until the great B-29 raids, particularly not until after the fire-raid of March 10th. With the continuance of the raids, and with their powerful effects upon civilian livelihood, morale sank into complete demoralization, fear, and insistence upon bringing the war to an end. Sufferings over lack of fuel, food, water; disruptions of transport and work; and fear of the raids spread by evacuees and by news of damage were the chief secondary factors of demoralization brought about by the bombings.

DISTRIBUTION: All Divisions.