

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

INTERROGATION NO: 136
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE: TOKYO
DATE: 27 Oct 45

Division of Origin: Oil and Chemical

Subject: Pine Root Oil.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

MORI, Sh - Dept Head
HIROYE, K. - Forestry Engr.

Where interviewed: On the premises of the Pine Wood Oil
Section, Forestry Bureau.

Interrogator: Lt PETER JACOBI

Interpreter: None

Allied Officers Present: Mr. Fred Meyer

Summary:

Since 1940, Pine Root Oil was produced in small quantities by private concerns, mainly for the paint and pharmaceutical industry. Since Nov. 1944, pine wood oil production was greatly increased to supply the demands by the Army and Navy, who acquired the oil for refining into Aviation Fuel (presumably also into other fuels, however informant cannot give definite data.) Refining was done by the Army and Navy. Responsibility of the Pine Root Section was merely the supervision of production and procurement of crude for the Army and Navy.

Since Nov. 1944, capacity of stills, producing the crude was greatly increased by government subsidies to farmer cooperatives who operated stills built with Gov't. money and sold the crude pine root oil at Gov't. fixed prices.

The production of pine root oil did not suffer thru enemy action in any way.

Each distilling unit produced approx. 45 litres per day or 900 litres per 20-working-day-month. Between Nov. 1944 and March 1945, production amounted to approx. 9000 tons of crude; from April to June 1945 approx. 45,000 tons of crude. For July, August and Sept. production had been planned at a total of 100,000 tons of crude.

Information on number of stills and workers, as well as exact production figures are to be procured by informant by 30 August, to be delivered to this office.

DISTRIBUTION:
All Divisions.