

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

INTERROGATION NO: 207

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE : 30 October 1945
TIME : 0900 - 1800

Division of Origin: CEC Division

SUBJECT: Inspection of NISHITAMA Plant of ASANO Cement Company.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

1. Mr ASANO - President of ASANO Cement Co.
2. Mr YAMANONCHI - Head of Labor Section
3. Mr. Y. TOKIME - Production and Plant Engineer
- Mr. K. TSUBORI " " " "
- Mr. Y. KOSUGI " " " "

Where interviewed: NISHITAMA Plant of ASANO Cement Co.

Interrogator: Capt Rosenblatt

Interpreter: Lt (jg) Holmes

Allied Officers Present: None

SUMMARY:

Interview with President and Engineers of NISHITAMA Plant of ASANO Cement Co:

Full statistics on production, capacity, etc., submitted.

Interrogation on discrepancies between planned and actual production, difficulty of obtaining raw materials, etc.

DISTRIBUTION: All Divisions

I N T E R R O G A T I O N

Complete records showing (1) planned and actual production, with explanation of discrepancies, (2) complete listings of demand and supply of raw materials, (3) tables showing quality of raw materials (4) list showing cost of cement, (5) a table of capacity (6) answers to previously submitted questionnaire were submitted.

- Q. 1939 was your peak production year; why did production fall off thereafter?
- A. Primarily because our machinery was imported (Swiss and Danish) and since we could get no spare parts, our machinery depreciated. Also, the quality of coal declined steadily, particularly after 1943.
- Q. Where did your coal come from?
- A. FUKUSHIMA and HOKKAIDO. FUKUSHIMA is about 300 Km., distant.
- Q. When did lack of coal become acute?
- A. In 1943, and until April of 1944 the situation worsened. It improved slightly in 1944, when the government took over the railways.
- Q. How long did you go without coal?
- A. Sometimes one half month.
- Q. How about other raw materials?
- A. We have our own limestone quarry, but pyrite cinder and gypsum had to be transported about 180 miles by rail, and deliveries were hence irregular.
- Q. Then your worst transportation bottleneck was in getting raw materials to the plant?
- A. No, shipping cement out to consumers was an even worse one; in the second quarter of 1943, for example, the transportation bottleneck prevented our shipping cement out, and as result our storage capacity was filled, and production had to be cut down.
- Q. What is your storage capacity?
- A. 13,950 tons of cement.
- Q. Was manpower a problem?
- A. From the beginning of 1944, the manpower shortage was acute, as military conscription took skilled workers.
- Q. Was your plant damaged by bombing?
- A. We were bombed and strafed only once - in the summer of 1945 - and production was halted for five (5) hours as a result of the strafing which cut our power lines.