

RESTRICTED

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

INTERROGATION NO: 333

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE : 12 Nov 45

Division of Origin: Capital Equipment and Construction.

Subject: Control of Lumber in Japan.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr MATSUO, Toyo - Secretary in Ministry of Agriculture
and Forestry.

Mr SHIBATA, Sake - Forest Engineer in Forestry Bureau

Where Interviewed: Meiji Bldg, Rm 361.

Interrogator : Capt Rosenblatt

Interpreter : Lt (jg) Holmes

Allied Officers Present: Lt Call

SUMMARY:

The distribution of Lumber in Japan was controlled since 1941 through the Japan Lumber Co. Ltd., for special lumber and for urban areas and through a single Lumber Company or a federation of Lumber Companies for each prefecture. The Army and Navy received their lumber allotment directly from the Munitions Ministry. The Army and Navy customarily took 80% of the planned production.

DISTRIBUTION: All Divisions

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333-1

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

By continual questioning on the actual methods used by contractors, Army and Navy to procure lumber the following answer was obtained.

If contractor is to build a private building, residence, etc., he applies to the Prefectural Lumber office. The Prefectural Office make the allotment and the contractor get the lumber from the local lumber company.

If contractor is to build a factory, the procedures varies, depending on whether the factory is under military supervision or not. If the factory is under the military, the contractor applies directly to the Munitions Ministry, which directly allocates the Lumber. If the factory is not under the military, the procedure is the same as for other civilian building.

If contractor is to work on direct Army or Navy installations, the Army or Navy brings the lumber to the site.

The flow of distribution differs slightly depending on whether the construction is to take place in a large urban area or in the provinces.

In the first case, the lumber is distributed through the Japan Lumber Company, because there is not easy supply close at hand; in the second case, the local lumber companies, after receiving O.K. from Prefectural Offices, distribute from local supply sources.

There are six district Forest Offices, which allocate and distribute lumber from the State Forests; the Imperial Forest Bureau does same for Imperial Forest. Both are for military (direct and indirect) use only.

The lumber law was first enacted in 1942, when special kinds (mine timbers, pulp, etc) were pooled and controlled. In 1943 all lumber pooled and controlled by the ministry.

The Army and Navy customarily took 80% of planned production as their regular at the beginning of each year then took more at the end of each year, until more than 100% of planned production was going to military use alone. From this supply, the military allotted some for the building of factories directly under their supervision.