

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

INTERROGATION NO: 186

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE : 29 October 45

Division of Origin: Manpower, Food, and Civilian Supplies.

SUBJECT: Civilian Consumption of Fuel

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr SKAMATSU, Seitaro - Bureau Chief
Mr HAIJIMA, Hiide - Engineer of Bureau

Where interviewed: Fuel Bureau, Ministry of Commerce and
Industry.

Interrogator: Lt J. Forrest

Interpreter: Dr. A. R. Nelson

Allied Officers Present: None

SUMMARY: Ownership and control of fuel industry.

Time of receipt of tables on Fuel Industry.

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

All questions in this interview were directed with the intent of eliciting information on fuel affecting the Survey of this particular division, i.e., household and domestic uses and consumption.

1. The NIPPON SEKITAN K. K. (Nippon Fuel Co. Ltd.) is the main organization of the fuel industry, controlling all its phases, from mining and importing to final distribution. One half of its stock is government owned and the other half shared by all the various mining and fuel companies.

Orders of over 10,000 tons per annum are distributed by the N.S.K.K. directly to the consumer involved.

Orders of under 10,000 tons per annum are delivered to 8 distributing companies (HOKKAIDO, TOHOKU, KANTO, TOKAI, KINKI, CHUGOKU, SHIKOKU, KYUSHU) who in turn distribute to small factories, offices and homes. Shares in these 8 companies are owned by the N. S. K. K.

2. In the course of discussion it became apparent that very little benefit could be obtained from the viewpoint of the Civilian Supplies Division since most household consumption of fuel was in the nature of charcoal or wood. We were referred to the Forestry Bureau of the Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture.

3. Mr OKAMATSU, newly transferred to the Bureau depended almost entirely upon Mr HAIJIMA for information. Both agreed that practically all records have been destroyed by bombing and fire. However, they promised to try to get additional data by writing to those of the 8 distributing companies that remained. The procurement of this data will take until about 15 November.

4. Tables were furnished on:

(a) Coal consumed by all industries in Japan proper from 1941-1945.

(b) Non-military consumption of petroleum products in Japan proper in 1944.

(c) Petroleum distribution figures (Japan and Export) for 1940-45.

5. The Fuel Bureau agreed to bring all additional information to the Meiji Building as soon as it is obtained.

6. Interview time was approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.