

HEADQUARTERS  
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY  
(PACIFIC)

INTERROGATION NO. 85  
(obtain from G-2)

PLACE Tokyo  
DATE 19 Oct. 45.

DIVISION OF ORIGIN: Manpower, Food and Civilian Supplies.

SUBJECT: Procurement of food for the Army in Japan.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Major KOUDA, Assistant to Col. SHIMIKAWA, Head, Food and Clothing Board - Military.

Where interviewed: Peers School.

Interrogator: Lieut. W.E. EDWARDS.

Interpreter Lieut. McCoy.

Allied officers present: Lieut. W.E. EDWARDS.

SUMMARY:

Method of procuring food for the Army.  
Per capita Basic Ration  
Changes in Basic Ration.  
Military Efforts at Increasing Food Supply.  
Exportation of Food to Forward Areas.  
Milling Percentage of Rice.  
Evaluation.

1. Major KOUDA was interviewed for approximately 1½ hours regarding the procurement of food for military (army) purposes.

2. Method of Procuring Food for the Army: Major KOUDA used charts to show the flow of foods from the producer to the smallest Army units. It is impossible to explain in detail the set-up without recourse to the charts, copies which are to be furnished next week. Roughly, however, it developed that the Army requisitioned food from various levels of the civilian supply system and did not have a separate organization for collecting or storing foods.

3. Per Capita Basic Ration: Attached as Annex I is a table showing the basic food ration for troops garrisoned in Japan. The consumption of supplementary foods such as fish, meat, eggs, vegetables, sake hartack, etc., varied according to supply and transportation conditions and no standardized ration prevailed.

4. Changes in Basic Ration: The official ration remained the same throughout the war. However, there were occasions when a unit might not receive its total ration because of production or transportation difficulties in its particular area.

5. Military efforts at increasing food supply: There was no overall, unified production or distribution of foodstuffs by the Army. However, local units would plant gardens for supplementing their normal supply or would send a truck to pick up its ration issue from its particular source, if transportation difficulties arose.

6. Exportation of food to forward areas outside Japan: Overseas forces were expected to be as self-sustaining as possible from the local supply and only enough food was exported to supplement these sources. Queried on the quantity annually exported, Major KOUDA said only estimates were possible, however, these statistics were promised and are to be made available next week.

7. Milling Percentage of Rice: Polishing of brown rice results in a loss of 10% in weight. Prior to March 1943, Army rice was usually 70% polished, i.e., a loss of 7% in total brown rice weight accrued. From March 1943 to September 1944, brown rice (wholly unpolished) was fed to the Army personnel, however, this practice was discontinued in September 1944 because of the digestive disturbances incurred. Since October 1944, 20% polished rice (2% loss in weight) has been consumed by the Army.

8. Evaluation: Major KOUDA apparently had complete information regarding the organization of food procurement for the Army. This report is admittedly incomplete without the charts mentioned in paragraph 2, but these will be obtained.

ANNEX I

RATION FOR ARMY FORCES GARRISONED IN JAPAN

Officers and men living in barracks:

	Rice, Wheat, Flour & Potatoes (grams)	Miso (grams)	Shoyu (liters)
Ordinary Soldier	705	75*	.06**
Light workers and temporary conscripts	570	75*	.06**
Guard and Reserve Units	630	75*	.06**

Officers and Men Commuting (Living at Home)

M.P.'s (Officers and Men)	330***	Same as Civilians	Same as Civilians
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NOTE:

\* - After 1 August 1945, 50 grams.

\*\* - After 1 August 1945 45,.06 liters.

\*\*\* - After July 1945 300 grams.