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

INTERROGATION NO. 264

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE : 6 Nov. 1945
TIME : 1430

Division of Origin: Capital Equipment & Construction.

Subject : Repair of Bomb Damage.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr. MATSUHARA, Civil Engineer with HAZAMA-GUMI Construction Co.
Mr. IZUKA, Editor of the Construction Industry Paper.

Where interviewed: Meiji Building, Room 361.

Interrogator : Lt. (jg) HOLMES.

Interpreter : Lt. (jg) HOLMES.

Allied Officers Present: None.

SUMMARY:-

1. No government inspired plan to deal with repair of bomb damage.
2. No materials specifically allocated for this purpose.
3. Dispersal, not repair, was the general policy.

Transcript of Interrogation, "REPAIR OF BOMB DAMAGE".

Q. What steps were taken to mobilize the construction industry for the repair of bomb damage? Did the government establish a procedure, appointing the KENSETSUJIDAN (Contractors Control Association) or other group to handle this work?

A. There was no government dictated or directed policy in dealing with bomb damage repair work. A damaged factory, for example, would request the KENSETSUJIDAN to assign contractors for the necessary repair work. The Railway Department of the gov't. handled the repair of damaged track and rolling stock itself. Certain areas had fairly well organized groups to handle the work. In the NAGOYA area, the TOKAI GUNJU KENSETSUJIDAN did most of the repairing. In each prefecture, the DAI NIPPON ROMU HOKOKU KAI (the DAI NIPPON PATRIOTIC SERVICES LEAGUE) furnished unskilled labor to aid in clearing up debris etc. The Army and Navy occasionally repaired their own plants (or plants working for them), but in general even they did but little repair work.

Q. Did the government allot building materials (cement, lumber, etc.) to the contractors for the special purpose of repairing bomb damage?

A. No. Each factory, for example, had to furnish its own materials. There was never, so far as we know, any allotment of building materials specifically for the purpose of such repair work. Each factory would have to use materials previously allotted for expansion, dispersal, or some other purpose; or the contractor would have to use some of the materials allotted him for other purposes.

The government did not plan ahead to deal with the repair of bomb damage, and hence made no allotments for it; when the raids came, they were so heavy that it was considered better to use the scarce building materials for dispersal rather than for repair.

Q. Then there was really not much repair work done?

A. Only of a very minor nature. OKURA GUMI (one of the largest contractors) was called upon to repair the MUSASHINO NAKAJIMA plant, but because of the shortage of cement etc., could do nothing.

Q. Couldn't plants like NAKAJIMA, which were working directly for the military, get materials for repair?

A. Generally not; if they didn't have enough on hand, they were out of luck. Dispersal, not repair, was the policy.

Q. Who handled dispersal in the government?

A. The Ministry of Munitions (included present Ministry of Commerce & Industry) allotted materials etc., for the dispersal and underground construction. The underground program was planned by the SENSO SHISETSU KEIKAKU HOMFU (War Building Planning H.Q.).

Q. About the contractors' role in repair projects; who furnished the labor?

A. The contractors themselves, although they were occasionally helped by unskilled labor from such organizations as the Patriotic Services League. (See Above)

Q. Labor was never drained from the damaged factories to help in repair work?

A. Very little, since all that was generally done was to clean up debris.