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

INTERROGATION NO. 2/3  
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE KAWASAKI  
DATE 1 Nov 1945 Time: 1030 - 1230

Division of Origin CEC

Subject: Structural Steel.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:  
Dr. SASABE, Manager of KAWASAKI Plant.

Where interviewed NIPPON KOKAN KK. (Japan Steel Tube Co. Ltd.) KAWASAKI Plant

Interrogator Capt. Rosenblatt & Lt. Call

Interpreter Lt. (jg) Holmes

Allied Officers Present None

Summary:

Interview with manager of KAWASAKI Plant of Japan Steel Tube Company.

Statistics on production of the 20 Plants belonging to the Co. are arranged for.

Interrogation on production, capacity, raw materials, value of Control Ass'n.

Distribution: all Divisions

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION  
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY

1 November 1945

STRUCTURAL STEEL

Personnel Interviewed: Dr. SASABE, Manager of KAWASAKI Plant.

Interrogator: Capt. Rosenblatt & Lt. Call

Interpreter: Lt. (jg) Holmes

Arrangements were made for early compilation of complete statistics on NIPPON KOKAN (total for all plants) production of structural steel, including capacity, planned & actual production, govt. demand, and allocation to various users, such as Army, Navy, civilian, etc.

The KAWASAKI Plant itself represents 70 % of the company's productive capacity. The company as a whole represents 30 % of the steel industry in Japan, Japan Iron accounting for 60 %, and miscellaneous companies taking up the remaining 10 %.

Significant portions of the interview follow:

- Q. Why did the govt. demand for your products steadily decline, although the need for steel became more & more acute?
- A. We had to get our raw materials (Coal, ore, etc) through the govt., not on the open market. The govt. had increasing difficulty in getting coal (particularly North China coking coal), and as the quantity and quality of the coal declined, the govt., realized that it could not expect as much steel as was needed, and scaled down its requirements accordingly.
- Q. Couldn't you mix N. China coal & Japanese coal?
- A. We tried it, but it was not successful for coking.
- Q. The govt., demand and your production of structural steel rose sharply between 1940 and 1944. The production in 1940 was 5,000 M. tons, and that in 1944 was 12,000 M. tons. What is the reason?
- A. This was a result of the expanding aircraft program: structural steel was used in airplane fuselages.
- Q. Why did your production of steel ingots drop from 478,000 M. tons in 1940 to 190,000 M. tons in 1944?
- A. Lack of pig iron forced us to shut down some of our furnaces.

Structural Steel (Cont'd)

Q. At what percent (%) of capacity did you operate?

A. At from 1/3 to 1/2 of capacity. Capacity remained constant, since we had no difficulty in maintaining and replacing equipment.

Q. Was the Steel Control Ass'n any help in getting raw materials etc.?

A. None at all. The Control Ass'n was some help in getting food & clothing for our laborers, who were short of both, but beyond this, they could do nothing.

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U. S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY  
(PACIFIC)  
APO 234  
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INTERROGATION NO: 213

PLACE: Kawasaki  
DATE : 1 November 1945  
TIME : 1030 - 1230

Division of Origin: C E C

SUBJECT: Structural Steel

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Dr SASABE, Manager of KAWASAKI Plant

Where interviewed: NIPPON KOKAN KK. (Japan Steel Tube Co., Ltd.)  
KAWASAKI Plant

Interrogator: Capt Rosenblatt and Lt Call

Interpreter: Lt (jg) Holmes

Allied Officers Present: None

SUMMARY:

Interview with manager of KAWASAKI Plant of Japan Steel Tube Company.

Statistics on production of the 20 Plants belonging to the Company are arranged for.

Interrogation on production, capacity, raw materials, value of Control Association.

DISTRIBUTION: All Divisions.

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

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Significant portions of the interview follow:

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