File

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

INTERROGATION NO. 241
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE Tokyo
DATE 2 November 1945

Division of Origin Oil and Chemical.

Subject: Army Explosives Manufacture.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Major R. Akaiwa - War Materials sub-section, Production Section of Tokyo # 2 Arsenal. Graduated 1924 Kiri-fu Higher Technical College - 15 years Army Itabajhi Arsenal on smokeless powder - 3 years private business Kyoto - last 3 years Tokyo # 2 Arsenal.

Engineer S. Ishida - Laboratory Sub-Section Tokyo # 2 Arsenal - Explosives. Graduated 1922 Tokyo Imperial University. 10 years Army-ist science laboratory then present assignment.

Where interviewed: Room 810, Meiji Building

Interrogator: Comdr. G. G. LAMB

Interpreter: Mr. Adachi

Allied Officers present: None

Summary:

Tokyo # 2 Arsenal controls all Army production of propellant powders and explosives at 11 Army Arsenal Plants and at 21 civilian plants working at least part time on Army contracts. Data requested in parts VII and VIII of Chemical Ministerial Questionnaire on finished propellants and explosives, and chemical raw materials under control of Tokyo # 2 Arsenal will be submitted in four days. This will include chemical composition of powders and explosives, and outline of production facilities in Army Arsenals for chemical raw materials, and finished end products.

Tokyo # 2 Arsenal controls all Army production of propellant powders and explosives at 11 Army Arsenal Plants and at 21 Civilian plants working at least part time on Army contracts. This includes Army production for Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku, Hokkaido, and Korea. It does not include Manchuria, Chima, or Southeast Asis. Explosives manufacture in Formosa was insignificant. The Army Explosives Manufacturing Arsenals are listed below:

Name	Chief Duty	Location
Tokyo # 2 Arsenal Headquarters	Adminstrative	Itabashi-machi, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo-to.
Iwahana Plant	C-smokeless and black powder	Iwahans-mura, Gumma-gun, Gumma prefecture.
Itabashi Plant	C-smokeless, yellow and brown powders.	Itabashi-machi, Itabashi-ku Tokyo-to.
Uji Plant	C-smokeless powder and explosives	Uji-mura, Uji-gun, Kyoto pref.
Tadano Plant	Small explosives and poison gas	Chyukai-machi, Toyado-gun, Hiroshima.
Tana Plant	Explosives	Inashiro-mura, Minamitama-gun, Tokyo-to
Sone Plant	Small explosives and poison gas	Sone-machi, Kikyu-gun, Fukuoka pref.
Kori Plant	Explosives	Hirakata-machi, Kitakochi-gun, Osaka Pref.
Sakanoichi Plant	Smokeless powder and Explosives	Sakanoichi-machi, Kita-Kaibe-gun, Oita Pref.
Arao Plant	Explosives	Arao, Arao-shi, Kumamoto Pref.
Fukaya Plant	C-smokeless Powder	Fukaya, Osato-gun, Saitama Pref.
Kushibiki Plant	C & G Smokeless E Gun Powder	Fujisawa-mure, Osata-gun, Saitama Pref.

The Chemical Ministerial Questionnaire was reviewed. The individuals interrogated were familiar with production and technical details of Army explosives and propellants but not with high level Army organization nor with the broad subjects covered in the first part of the questionnaire. Tokyo # 2 Arsenal will prepare Army production, consumption, stock data requested in Parts VII and VIII on the following list of chemicals:

Ammonia
Nitric Acid
Sulfuric Acid
Hexanitrodiphenylamina
Caustic Soda
Chlorine
Toluene
Methanol
Trinitrotoluene

Synthetic Rubber and Tetra Ethyl Lead are not handled by the Tokyo # 2 Arsenal since they are under the cognizance of the Air Forces - Army and/or Navy - and referred to Col. Sasao of Army Ordnance Department or to the Chemical Branch of the Material

MobilMzation Section under the War Ministry as possible sources of further information on these items.

To clarify the situation as to the importance of other chemicals to the Army summary data on the following items manufactured or consumed at Army Arsenals or at plants under Army control will be submitted:

Calcium Carbide
Calcium Cyanamide
Soda Ash
Sodium Chloride
Benzene
Naphthalene
Glycerine
Acetone
Explosives and propellant powders (Major Army types)
Ethanol
Phosphorous (red and yellow)
Sodium Cyanide
Cellulose (Cotton and wood pulp)
Chemical warfare materials

Ishida stated that the Army records were destroyed every three years, but he will supply the best data available indicating whether it is from actual records of best estimates from memory.

Simple flow sheets for the production facilities at each Army Arsenal indluding production facilities for nitric acid and sulfuric acid, as well as for propellant powders and explosives will be submitted. A summary of shortages of chemical raw materials and of explosives, and of the compositions of Army explosives and powders will be submitted. The first progress report on the above is to be made available by 5 November 1945. USSBS, Military Supplies, is obtaining records of bomb damage at Army and Navy Arsenals and controlled plants.