

GHQ/SCAP Records (RG 331, National Archives and Records Service)

Description of contents

- (1) Box no. 2987
- (2) Folder title/number: (10)
Production of Precious Metals

(3) Date: July 1949 - Aug. 1950

(4) Subject:

Classification	Type of record
616, 9616	c, e

- (5) Item description and comment:
i) Yamaguchi
ii) Includes Contents Lists

(6) Reproduction: Yes No

(7) Film no.

Sheet no.

(Compiled by *National Diet Library*)

Res. Division
File No. 11-6-6

August 3 1950

- . Mine Rehabilitation.
- . Following measures have been taken to reduce the cost of production.
 - (a) Increased efficiency in operation.

Principal measures to improve the efficiency at present in each coal mine are as follows.

- 1. Enforcement of movement to improve the digging efficiency.

This movement is being enforced at each coal mine under the sponsor of the Technical Ass'n and the Ube Coal Bureau, and soon the investigation party of improvement of digging efficiency from the central government office will be scheduled to conduct an investigation and give an instruction on the coal mines as follows :

Higashimizome, Tokiwa, Sanyomuen.

- 2. Enforcement of various measures to improve the quality.

To improve the quality, each coal mine has been exerted their effort with profound consideration. Their effort is put on to the enforcement of digging the better quality coal, strengthen up the coal dressing and especially mechanization of the coal dressing.

- (b) Improvement of accounting system.

Accommodation of counterpart fund for smaller enterprise. As the GHQ had given an authorization that the smaller coal mines could have an accommodation mentioned above, an instruction on this from the Finance Ministry to the Bank of Japan will be scheduled to make soon.

- 3) Better utilization and maintenance of equipments.

- 1. Leakage test of air compressor and pipe

*20 million
Ohama
Ube Kosan
1 billion
300 thousand*

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c) Better utilization and maintenance of equipments.

1. Leakage test of air compressor and pipe.

As a part of rationalization of coal mining enterprise, we enforced the leakage test of already installed air compressor and pipe with cooperation of the Technical Ass'n and the Ube Coal Bureau.

Coal mine tested : Tokiwa, Higashiouji, Dainishinoki, Asa, Kamihara.

2. Utilization of coal dressing equipment.

a. The Wilfrey Table was installed at Habu coal mine and a study of anthracite coal dressing is being done, and Katsura coal mine's coal was used for this coal dressing test, because the said coal mine's coal washer was not good condition at present.

b. In order to install the coal washer, Enokiyama coal mine sent their anthracite coal to Nagata Factory (Maker of coal washer) for testing.

*20 million
Ohama
Ube Kasei
1 billion
300 thousand*

(d) Proper planning for development work.

There is no particular item to mention.

(e) Proper administration of labourer.

Based on the decision, concerning transaction of coal mine hospital and sanatorium built at national coal mine district, and which was made by central government concerned, we are planning to promote the loan and transfer of coal mine hospital and sanatorium within the jurisdiction of this Bureau to public enterprise which was a main body for these hospital and sanatorium.

Middle Class Hospital:	Onoda Hospital (Onoda City)
A Class Sanatorium :	Ohama Sanatorium (Ohama Machi)
B Class " :	Asa " (Asa ")

(f) Improvement of working conditions and practices in the mines.

1. At Ohama Coal Mine, work hour for underground direct worker was revised to four shift, six hours work system, since July 1st and it's enforcement is being done.

M.D. Susumu. Ishinishi, director of the Mitsui Industrial Research Institution, with medical staffs and nurses, altogether 23 persons, came to this coal mine to conduct a scientific investigation on weariness, compared with the eight hours work system and it's effect upon the accident, work efficiency and others.

They selected six coal diggers to investigate their work condition and each medical staff was with the coal diggers always during investigation, and also they are studying scientifically their daily consumption and calories of the food and living conditions and testing their blood and urine.

2. Investigation on coal digger's working hour.

According to the Resource Agency's instruction, the investigation on production amount compared with labour needed for coal mining, that is, investigation on productive ability has been enforcing since April this Year, and " Investigation of Actual Working Hour" of this investigation items has been enforced on following seven representative coal mines.

Higashimizome. Motoyama. Sanyomuen. Okiube. Matsuhama. Dainishinoki. Keda.

2.. The utilization of additional American and Japanese made machinery was installed..

During this month following Japanese made machinery was installed.

1. Coal Dressing Machine.

Yamaguchi Pref.	Ryuou	Coal Mine Barm Type Coal Dressing Machine	15	1
		(Testing at present)		

2. Hoist.

	Suzumeda	Jigger		1
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1. Coal Dressing Machine.

Yamaguchi Pref.	Ryuou	Coal Mine	Barm Type Coal Dressing Machine	15 F	1
	Suzumeda	(Testing at present)	Jigger		1
2. Hoist.					
Yamaguchi Pref.	Nishioki	(installing at present)	Hoist..	75 hp	1
				10 "	2
3. Pump.				20 "	1
Yamaguchi Pref.	Nishioki		Turbine	75kw	1
			Plunger	3 hp	2
4. Fan(Local Fan)					
Yamaguchi Pref.	Nishioki		Propeller	6½ hp	1
			Local Fan	2½ "	1

3. The improvement of the methods and practices of mining as recommended by SCAP specialists during the month.

There is no particular item to mention.

for *Takashi Sato*
 Director,
 Hiroshima International Trade
 and Industry Bureau.

COPY

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH ARMY
United States Army
Office of the Commanding General
APO 343

OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE)

25 June 1946

NUMBER

60)

UNAUTHORIZED TRANSACTIONS IN PRECIOUS METALS

1. References:

SCAF Memorandum to the Imperial Japanese Government, File AG 130 (22 Sept 45) ESS, 22 September 1945, subject: "Control of Financial Transactions".

2. Numerous instances have come to the attention of General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers wherein Japanese concerns and individuals are reported to be conducting transactions in precious metals in violation of SCAF Memorandum for the Imperial Japanese Government, file AG 130 (22 Sep 45) ESS, subject: "Control of Financial Transactions", and ordinances of the Imperial Japanese Government issued in compliance with that directive.

3. The procedure of advising the Imperial Japanese Government to initiate action involves a considerable lapse of the time before an investigation is made, thus allowing the suspected dealer to dispose of the metal.

4. The Commanding Generals of all corps and bases and the General Officer Commanding, British Commonwealth Occupation Forces will:

a. Take immediate action upon receipt of information from any source concerning such illegal transactions and seize any precious metals that may be found.

b. In accordance with established procedure, cause such metal to be delivered to the U.S. Army Custodian of the Imperial Japanese Mint, Osaka or the Bank of Japan, Tokyo, for impoundage.

c. Report to this headquarters any precious metal found with the following additional information:

- (1) Name and address of violator.
- (2) Date and location of violation.
- (3) Approximate quantities of precious metals seized.
- (4) Disposition of seized metals.
- (5) Source of information which led to seizure.

Operational Directive No. 60, Hq 8th Army, 25 June 1946, (Continued)

5. A follow-up report will be submitted indicating the action taken against the violator.

6. Approved users are furnished official authorization by the Ministry of Finance, Imperial Japanese Government. A copy of the authorization and the English language translation thereof are attached hereto. The Imperial Japanese Government will be advised to furnish English language copies of authorizations to users as soon as practicable.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MICHELETTI

CLOVIS E. BYERS
Major General GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

BOWEN
G-3

2 Incl:

1. Authorization to use Precious Metals (Japanese)
2. Authorization to use Precious Metals (English Translation)

DISTRIBUTION: "A" plus "Z"
2 copies to each HQ Hq & Hq Co.
and each Hq & Hq MG Sp

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

Name of Applicant
(or applicant Firm)

The application for (or transaction) specified in the attached sheet is hereby approved.

Date

Minister of Finance
(Signature) (Seal)-----
Remarks:

1. This permit (license) is issued, Attached to the application submitted by the applicant.

2. If any modification is made in the terms of the application (by the approving authority), such modification will be entered on the permit: for example, "But the quantity used shall be _____ grams", or "But the period of use is for _____ months after the approval takes effect".

Note: The above is a free translation of Inclosure 1
Literal translations may vary in wording but
should be consistent in meaning.

Incl: 2 to OD No. 60, Hq 8th Army, 25 June 1946.

*Nat. Resour**Mining*Nat. Res. Divisi *file*File No. 7-5

HEADQUARTERS
 YAMAGUCHI CIVIL AFFAIRS TEAM
 YAMAGUCHI, HONSHU, JAPAN
 APO 248

29 July 1949

YCAT 091.33

SUBJECT: Uranium Ore Survey

TO: Commanding Officer
 Chugoku Civil Affairs Region
 APO 248

1. Letters reporting the existence of uranium ore in Kuga-Gun were received by this Team on a number of occasions in the recent past. In order to check the veracity of these claims and ascertain the geological nature of the areas involved, the professional service of Mr. Nobu Kato of the Geological Survey Office in Ube was obtained. A translation of his report is herewith attached.

2. Though far from thorough, the report is significant in that it confirms the existence of uranium ore in Kuga-Gun and subscribes to the opinion that all three silica mines at Sadamitsu, Ishii and Tajiri (see map) are promising and worthy of a more comprehensive and intensive survey.

EUGENE J. McNAMARA
 Lt. Col., Infantry
 Commanding

Incl:
 As indicated

File Index

No. 1

Registered

Radioactive Mineral Investigation Report

Submitted by Nobu Kato,
Geological Survey Office,
Ube City, Yamaguchi Prefecture
Date submitted: 11 July 1949

General Observation

Sadamitsu, the principal target of this investigation, embraces a belt of gradually metamorphosed granite and gneiss containing numerous dikes of pegmatite, thus constituting a region with potential deposits of radioactive minerals and rare earth elements.

I have found authentic the report crediting the geologist, Shuichi Iwao, of the Geological Survey Bureau of having substantiated in writing the presence of antunite and uraninite among the silica deposits mined between 1939 and 1940 at Sadamitsu. The investigation on which Mr. Iwao drew his conclusion was conducted on a small sampling basis and was undertaken from a purely academic interest standpoint.

The discovery of uraninite and antunite at Tajiri in Kusage-gun and at Ishii in the township of Yanai was claimed later by others who believe their discovery may prove substantially important.

Of the three potential areas already mentioned, I was able to personally investigate Sadamitsu and Ishii, spending a full day at the former and half a day at the latter. Needless to say, the time spent at these two places were far from sufficient and consequently, this report which I hasten to submit is limited in scope and deals almost exclusively with Sadamitsu.

Sadamitsu

The belt stretching from Yui to the vicinity of Sadamitsu (site of silica mine) is composed of injected gneiss with clearly visible stratification of biotite concretion with a strike running in a general east to west direction. Pegmatite masses range from microscopic to granular in size with a porphyritic texture. They are lens shaped. Silica and feldspar commonly exist intermixed in crystalline masses ranging in weight from 10 to 20 mg. Large lumps of silica existing alone are few.

The host rock is biotitic granite, resembling migmatite in some instances. In the vicinity of sedimentary rocks are found masses of garnet-biotitic pegmatite containing light-red garnet. It is assumable, as indicated by Mr. Iwao, that below the pegmatite deposits

at relatively shallow depths are strata of second period injected granite. The strata near the surface are generally well advanced in weathering and reduced to granular masses.

Pegmatite was mined as a source of silica material for firebrick and glass manufacture but was abandoned in 1945 because of its poor quality.

Quartz masses found here are white and compact in structure, but there are some bearing a light black color, constituting a rare earth element type. There are indications that quartz masses were crushed and fissured by pressure after their formation.

Feldspar deposits consist mostly of orthoclase, commonly light green in color but sometimes white. These deposits are to a great extent kaolinized near the surface.

While quartz and feldspar are on the whole porphyritic in texture, they are found occasionally fused to form graphic pegmatite.

Mica deposits are brownish black with a light tinge of green, frequently existing as biotite, and in some cases, they seem to resemble phlogopite. These deposits are conglomerate masses in which quartz and feldspar are easily separated. They also appear to contain magnetite. Faintly perceptible to the naked eye are what appear to be crystals of antunite adhering to the cleavage plane of light-green biotite.

Ishii

Like Sadamitsu, Ishii is situated in a belt of gradually metamorphosed granite and gneiss. Here, too, pegmatite was mined for its silica content and later abandoned because pegmatite was found unsatisfactory from the standpoint of quality.

Clearly visible to the naked eye were found antunite crystals lodged in pegmatite masses containing biotite. Chemical analyses by the geological survey laboratory in Tokyo on samples I sent from Ishii verified my identification of antunite. Out of 20 kan of rock samples sent to the laboratory for assay, 2.4 grams of antunite was extracted. This would be equivalent to 30 grams of antunite per metric ton of ore. It was not possible to determine or even approximate the amount of ore reserve at Ishii for reasons already stated.

The presence of antunite in pegmatite masses in the Ishii area was further substantiated by spectrum analysis conducted by the Shimazu Seisakusho in Kyoto with samples picked up by Mr. Shigetsu Kawano of Hiroshima City.

Tajiri

Although I was not able to inspect the Tajiri area, I would venture to state that because of the striking similarity of the geological make-up of Tajiri to both Sadamitsu and Ishii, according to available data, the presence of uranium bearing ore at Tajiri is very possible. In fact, I believe that all three areas deserve a more comprehensive and intensive geological survey to ascertain their value as a source of uranium ore.