

RESTRICTED

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

INTERROGATION NO. 370  
~~(Classification)~~

PLACE Tokyo  
DATE 17 Nov 45 Time 1500

Division of Origin CEC

Subject: Construction Work in Japan

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr. Y. NOYASHI, President Nishimatsu Gumi Co. Ltd.

Mr. M. NASHIMATSU, Vice President " " " "

Mr. K. FUJIKURA, Managing Director

Mr. S. NAGAHARA, " " " "

Mr. J. ISHII, Engineering (Interpreter)

Where interviewed Office of Nishimatsu Gumi Co.

Interrogator Lt. Call

Interpreter Lt. (jg) Holmes

Allied Officers Present None

Summary:

The NISHIMATSU GUMI Co. is the largest civil engineering contracting firm in Japan specializing in Hydroelectric and Railway work. From Nov 1944 to Aug. 1945, 85 % of the companies work was dispersal, chiefly underground construction. Most of these projects were unfinished by the end of the war.

DISTRIBUTION

ALL DIVISIONS

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION BRANCH  
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY

16 November 1945

CONSTRUCTION WORK IN JAPAN

Personnel Interviewed:

Mr. Y. HAYASHI, President, Nishimatsu Gumi Co., Ltd.  
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~~INTERROGATION~~  
NISHIMATSU

1. NISHIMATSU is the biggest civil engineering outfit in Japan, specializing in dams, railway construction, hydroelectric projects, etc.
2. There were generally 2 kinds of contracts: (1) Appointed (2) Public bidding. In the later years of the war, the cost of a project was surveyed after completion, and the payment readjusted, if necessary. Civilian Clients paid 10 % of the estimated cost at the beginning of the job, thereafter monthly. The military paid 20 or 30 % at first, thereafter monthly.
3. Bidding cost in 1945 were estimated at ¥ 20 per cubic meter of earth moved, and ¥ 100 per cubic meter for tunnelling.
4. Labor costs rose steadily from 1937 to 1943, rising from ¥ 2 per day (per unskilled man) to ¥ 8 per day; 1944 saw an abrupt rise to ¥ 12, and 1945 was still higher with ¥ 19.
5. Labor became a problem in 1945, when the bombing drew men away from the job to repair their damaged homes, etc.  
About 720 out of 2,600 total employees were drafted for military service in the war.
6. From November 1944 to August 1945, 80 % to 90 % the company's work was in dispersal, chiefly in the construction of underground plants & storage vaults. Most of these projects were unfinished by the end of the war. Drills, boring machines, and powder were scarce.
7. Neither contractors nor owners of proposed structures could not accumulate reserve supplies of materials, since the allotments from the Munitions Ministry were carefully checked, and it was virtually impossible to put in for more than was to be actually used on the job. (NOTE: this statement should be regarded as suspect).
8. NISHIMATSU's Clients estimated the amount of needed materials, and did the designing of the project. Clients were mostly semi-governmental or government al groups, such as Nippon Hassoden.

Construction work in Japan (Cont'd)

9. Lumber was bought on the open market before the war. During the war, the lumber supply was handled by the Japan Lumber Company on the National level, and the prefectural companies on the prefectural level. Japan Lumber Company functioned as a clearing house for orders and allotments; the local company's delivered the lumber.

In general, the client got steel and cement, while the contractor got the lumber, and supplied the labor. After 1943, the Romu Kokoku Kai was the clearing house for labor. Korean labor was obtained through the Korean government.

The military always supplied materials, but the contractors supplied their own labor.

10. As far as NISHIMATSU knew, no big dams or hydroelectric projects were hit or damaged by bombs.

Table of volume of Construction Attached.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION BRANCH  
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VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION OF NISHIMATSU-GUMI CO.  
IN JAPAN PROPER

CALENDER YEAR	TOTAL VOLUME IN YEN	CLASSIFICATION BY USE			BY TYPE OF CONTRACT	
		MILITARY	INDUSTRIAL	NON INDUSTRIAL	BY ORDER	BY PUBLIC BID
		AMOUNT Y	AMOUNT Y	AMOUNT Y	AMOUNT Y	AMOUNT Y
1937	5,110,180		3,337,190	2,322,990	1,810,990	3,849,190
1938	6,371,780		1,391,230	4,980,550	3,371,320	3,000,460
1939	12,350,330		2,519,410	9,830,920	5,597,620	6,752,710
1940	12,479,420		2,262,110	10,217,310	5,719,340	6,760,080
1941	15,834,480	3,279,000	1,868,620	10,686,860	8,390,190	7,444,290
1942	13,376,480	4,880,530	3,048,170	5,447,780	10,170,370	3,206,110
1943	32,635,990	5,839,880	3,690,970	23,105,140	28,604,690	4,071,300
1944	7,416,000	1,506,000	3,510,000	2,400,000	7,416,000	-----
1945 to Aug 15	19,526,000	2,079,000	1,807,000	15,640,000	19,526,000	-----

TRANSLATION OF CHART PRESENTED, 16 Nov 1945

NOTE: Non-Industrial includes Hydro-electric, Railways and Underground construction for dispersal.

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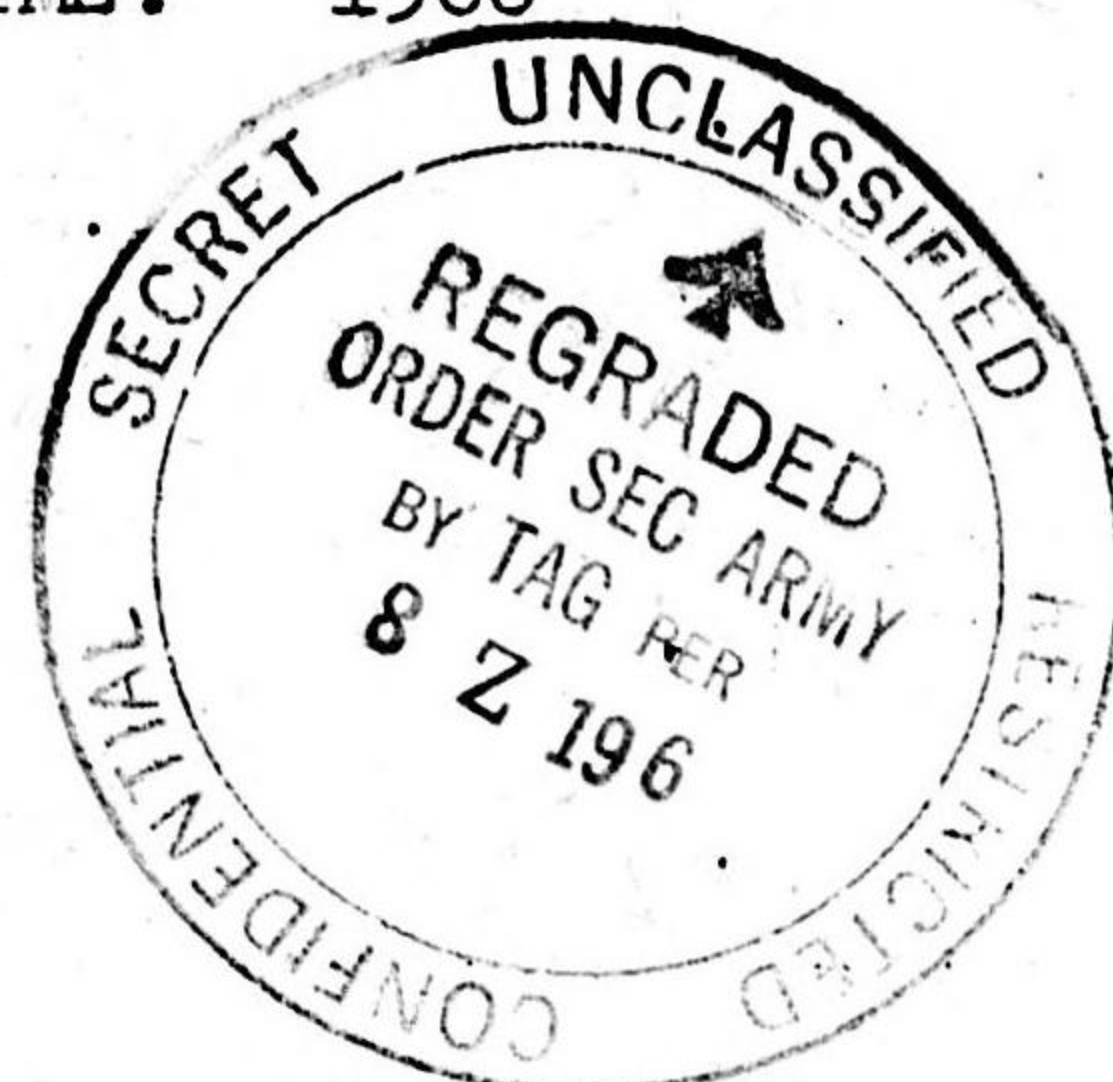
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