

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
(PACIFIC)
APO 234
c/o Postmaster, San Francisco

Place: Tokyo
Date: 4 December 1945

INTERROGATION: 500

Division of Origin: Military Analysis Division

Subject: General Information-Supplies, Stock Levels, and Requirements.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Lt. Colonel IWAKOSHI, Shinroku. Graduated from Military Staff College in 1938, was staff officer of the 9th Division in China from Feb. to Aug. 1939; was staff officer attached to the 6th Army in Manchuria from 1939 to July 1940, and took part in the border incident with Russia during this time. Since July 1940, he has been in GHQ as a staff officer on communications (supply).

Where interviewed: War Ministry Building.

Interrogator: Lt. T. Pinkstaff.

Interpreter: Mr. Kerr.

Allied Officers present: None.

Q. It was requested that you have a chart prepared showing names, locations and strength of units being supplied; also on the chart, he gave us Nov. 17, I would like to know the names or numbers of these units moving from one area to another.

A. I have prepared the chart and will try to supply the number of the divisions on these other charts by to-morrow. Also, one showing the channels supplies go through from the beginning until it arrives to the troops.

Q. Explain what basis was used for shipments of supplies to these Army bases in the Islands.

A. It was desired by GHQ to maintain stock levels as follows: ammunition enough for one campaign, fuel and provisions-four months supply and then build this up to a six month's supply. In the early days, usually 90% of this amount was on hand.

Q. Talking of smaller units, say a division, how many days supply did GHQ desire they carry with them.

A. Each soldier carries two days' provisions and ammunition, and three days provisions carried within the unit; then an additional two days provisions carried by the division, making it a total of seven days in all. However, for infantry troops fighting in the hills they, sometimes, carry as much as twenty days supply. This is carried by the soldier, himself, usually consisting of ammunition, rice, and bread. This was especially true on Guadalcanal.

Q. On Guadalcanal, did you have large supply depots?

A. No, because there were not many troops there.

Q. Prior to Aug. 1943, or before the United States started attacking Guadalcanal, were the troops short many supplies?

A. No, but as time went on and air attacks became worse, we could get very little through. When ships did arrive, the units were usually on hand at the beaches to receive it from the shipping officers.

Q. Then you did not establish large depots with reserves of supplies in these places?

A. No.

Q. Now getting back to Base Ordnance, do your base depots operate maintenance shops or work shops for say vehicles?

A. No, this is done in the division.

Q. How are small or minor parts replaced?

A. The base depot are supposed to maintain a three months supply of small parts; usually they had only half that much. Usually the division had most of the small parts and the base depots had none. Fuel also was scarce.

Q. On what basis were divisions issued fuel?

A. Based on strength, if a division had trucks, the usual number was about 100 per division, fuel was issued for seven days supply, 36 liters per day average.

Q. Are you familiar with any certain campaign, so that I could get some facts and figures about the operations of the divisions in combat?

A. No.