

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

INTERROGATION NO. 54
(OBTAIN from G-2)

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE: 13 Oct. TIME: 1000

Division of Origin: MFC

SUBJECT: MANPOWER

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

ISHIKAWA, Kazuo Major - Army Intendence Branch.
Entered present position April 1945.

Where interviewed: Meiji Bldg.

Interrogator: Lt. Comdr. O.W. DeWolf

Interpreter: Lt.(jg) Lanser

Allied Officers Present:

Lt. B.A. Bagdon, USNR.
Lt. Schmidt, USAR.

Summary:

- (a) Background of Major Ishikawa.
- (b) General.
- (c) Gunzaku
- (d) Sources Utilized.
- (e) Tokusetsu.
- (f) Procedure for Procurement.
- (g) Priority.
- (h) Data non-existent.

1. Background of Major ISHIKAWA: Major ISHIKAWA, although unaware of the overall manpower problem that confronted the Army Construction Corps during World War II, was familiar with a small segment of it -- TOKUSETSU-SAGYOTAI -- Army Special Service Troops. He entered his present position in the Intendence Branch of the Army in April 1945 and there he had contact with the procedure of transmitting general orders and directives for Army Construction from headquarters to regional offices.

2. General: According to Major ISHIKAWA, the Army had no major labor problem in 1942 because their requirements were not excessive. With the drafting of labor from war and civilian industries for the military late in 1942, the manpower problem reached a point requiring consideration and action. For example, it required approximately 5,000 men 6 months to build an airfield; all work was done by hand. In fact, Chofu Field (West of Tokyo) required one full year to build.

3. Gunzoku: In 1943, the Army began the systematic use of:
- a. Students.
 - b. Koreans.
 - c. Ordinary Laborers.

The Gunzoku received the same treatment as soldiers but retained their civilian status. Civilian contractors furnished one half of the total personnel requirements of the Army Construction Corps.

4. Sources Utilized: Labor was mobilized through the following sources:

- a. Contractors (Civilians)
- b. Local Associations (Unions)
- c. Official channels.
 1. Prefectures and Police.
 2. Colleges and Schools.
 3. Volunteers.
- d. Army -- Military and SAGYOTAI.

However, early in 1944, limited food and clothing allowances brought about a definite decrease in efficiency and created new problems.

5. TOKUSETSU: At this time, there were 80 units of TOKUSETSU (about 200 men in each unit) in Japan for the purpose of building government and military installations, airfields, barracks, etc. Obviously, many more units were assigned to the forward areas. For example, a unit may consist of the following proportions:

200 to 400	SAGYOTAI
200	Contractor civilians
3000 to 400	Ordinary laborers
	Farmers
	Students
200	Army personnel

The Army and Navy had equal top priority in the procurement and allotment of manpower.

6. Procedure for Procurement: Approved plans for construction work would be forwarded to Regional Army headquarters for procurement of labor. Recruitment of labor was done by the regions after clearance with the Ministry of Welfare through direct deals with contractors and schools. Free labor and volunteers were also handled by the regions. If requirements could not be met, the Army would fill in with soldiers.

7. Priority: Airfield construction work was placed in top priority about the middle of 1943 and continued in that position until the end of the war. As a result of B-29 raids in 1944,

work of dispersion (bldgs, hdqtrs, etc.) was also placed in top priority.

8. Data Non-Existent: Labor statistics in this field are virtually non-existent. It was suggested that contact be made with Senji KENSEISUDAN -- Wartime Special Construction Bureau of the Ministry of Welfare

Head -- Kyohei KATO
Ass't-- Yonsuke SHIMIZU