

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

RESTRICTED

INTERROGATION NO: 327

PLACE: Ube
DATE: 9 November 1945

Division of Origin: Basic Materials
Subject: Magnesium Production of Riken Metals Co.
Personnel interrogated: NAGAI, R., Electrochemical Engr.
YAMANIOTO, K., Chief Managing Director
OGAWA, H., Director & Chief of General
Business
DENRA, M., Electrochemical Engr.
WAKURI, T., Electrical & Chemical Engr
MAKINO, J., Chief in Business & General
Affairs (Labor)
MONOBE, H., Business Manager
Where interviewed: Riken Metals Co., Plant Office
Interrogator: Lt. R. C. BEYER
Interpreter: Lt. PAUL BOHANNAN
Allied Officers Present: Lt. ARTHUR M. FREEDMAN
Mr. Donald Colwell

SUMMARY

In this largest magnesium plant of Japan, production had fallen to 40% of capacity by July 1, 1945 as a result of shortage of salt and inferior coal.

The largest magnesium plant in Japan (capacity 130 tons per month) reached its highest production in April 1944 with almost all capacity used. At the time of the first attack on July 1, production was about 40% of capacity. This decline was due to shortage of salt imported from China and reliance on low grade coal from the local Ube mines. Full stoppage of the plant was caused by the raid of August 8 in which the main water pipe was broken. Repair would have required about one month.

The process in use here was the "bitter brine" process, although efforts were being made to convert the plant to the use of sea water.

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