

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

Interrogation No. 271
(Obtain from G-2)

Place: Tokyo, Japan
Date: 7 November 1945.

Division of Origin: Manpower and Food, Civilian Supplies.

Subject: Cinema and Theatres.

Personnel Interrogated and background of each:

Mr. TARO SUGAHARA	Cultural Division
Mr. IEHIRO OGAWA	Bureau of Information Department of Interior

Where Interviewed: Meiji Building, Room 351.

Interrogator: Lieutenant J. Forrest

Interpreter: None

Allied Officers Present: None.

SUMMARY

Organization, size and attendance figures of cinemas
and theatres of Japan.

Distribution: All Divisions.

Interview with Mr. Taro SUGAHARA and Mr. Ichiro OGAWA
of the Cultural Division, Bureau of Information - Section
of the Interior.

1. CINEMA: In 1943 there were approximately 2,410 cinema houses in Japan. Although no exact figures are available as to proportion located in cities and rural area, it was estimated that the ratio in cities - 2/3, rural - 1/3.

Because of air raids, shortage of film and labor and conversion of movie houses into public halls, the number dropped to 845 by 1 September 1945. At the present time there are 1066 cinema houses operating in Japan proper.

The following is a table of total attendance at cinema houses for periods indicated.

1941 - 463,272,000	1945 - January - 30,687,000
1942 - 532,767,000	February - 16,560,000
1943 - Unknown	March - 15,438,000
1944 - Unknown	April - 18,646,000
	May - 18,325,000
	June - 16,333,000
	July - 18,231,000

Average price of admission in urban districts was from 70 to 80 Sen before the war and 80 to 100 Sen during the war. In rural areas 30 to 50 Sen before the war and 40 to 55 Sen during the war was the average price admission.

2. THEATRES: Theatre presentations included plays, concerts, symphonies, public addresses, etc. In 1938 there were about 2,000 theatres in Japan, 270 of which were destroyed during the war. There are no exact figures on attendance available but it is estimated to be about 28 to 32% of cinema attendance.

3. ORGANIZATION: Chart on general organization of entertainment field was submitted.