

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

INTERROGATION NO. 143
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE: Tokyo

DATE: 26 Oct. 1945.

DIVISION OF ORIGIN: Capital Equipment & Construction.

SUBJECT: Nippon Musen Denki K.K.
(Producer of Wireless Equipment)

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

NAKAJIMA, S. -- President of Nippon Musen.

FUNABIKI, S. -- Engineer.
(Both speak English well)

Where interviewed: Room 361, Meiji Bldg.

Interrogator: Pfc. Jacobson.

Interpreter: None.

Allied Officers Present: None.

Summary:

Nippon Musen is one of the largest producers of wireless equipment in Japan.

Problems of the wireless industry, bottlenecks in the industry, and production problems were discussed.

Detailed production data on the Company will be available on November 5.

INTERROGATION

1. A detailed company questionnaire was given and explained to the officials, A partial return will be available on November 5.

2. Points of general interest:

a. The company started with 200 employees in 1914 and expanded to 22,000 by 1945, with a production total of 303,000,000 yen in 1944.

b. 50% of all Japanese magnetron tubes were produced by the company. Of these 90% went to the Navy.

c. Tokyo-Shibaura produced about 80% of all vacuum tubes.

d. By May 1945 production of vacuum tubes sank to below 20% of the 1944 capacity of the industry.

e. Vacuum tube production was the main bottleneck in wireless equipment, with completed sets lying around waiting for tubes.

f. Radio locators were the most critical shortage in wireless equipment. They were first made at the end of 1943.

g. Aircraft wireless was very short also. There were more aircraft than wireless, with the result that some aircraft flew without radio equipment.

h. Allocation of materials through official sources could not meet demands by the armed forces for rush orders. The company purchased additional materials on the black market.

i. Labor: The company was compelled to work two shifts for about 10-11 hours each in its machining sections in order to meet the demands for equipment. Efficiency declined. The rest of the divisions within plants worked on a one-shift basis. The quality of labor declined as the war progressed, with school pupils and recruited labor from other trades added in 1944.

j. Expansion of the company was greatest since 1943.

k. The productive capacity of the wireless industry was insufficient to meet demand, due mainly to a shortage of materials, such as copper wire, steatite, tungsten, molybdenum, oxygen, and hydrogen. Attempts to manufacture the gases that were needed met with little success due to a shortage of the equipment and materials needed for their production.

l. The priority given to production of aircraft wireless rose late in the war (end of 1943) when it was seen the supply could not meet the demand.

m. Heavy electrical equipment production was damaged more than the communications industry. HITACHI, MITSUBISHI, TOKYO-SHIBAURA, and FUJI were all hit by raids. In the communications field, TOKYO-SHIBAURA was struck, but SUMITOMO and NIPPON MUSEN were not seriously affected.

n. Production difficulties encountered in order of their importance were:

- (1) Materials.
- (2) Fuel.
- (3) Machinery - enough machinery was available, but it was of poor quality.

o. 70-80% of electric power needs were met.
Coal gas was not available in the quantity needed.