

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

INTERROGATION NO: 197

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE : 31 Oct 45

Division of Origin: Manpower, Food, and Civilian Supplies.

SUBJECT: Military Woolens.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Col SHIMOKAWA - Head of Military Food and Clothing Board.
Maj KATO - Chief of Military Clothing Dept.

Where interviewed: Peer's School

Interrogator: Lt. J. Forrest

Interpreter: Dr A. Nelson

Allied Officers Present; Lt Heritch, GHQ.

SUMMARY: 1. Status of Statistics of Clothing.
2. Statistics of Military Woolens.

DISTRIBUTION:
All Divisions.

Interview with Col SHIMOKAWA, Head of the Military Food and Clothing Board (KRYOKACHO) and Major KATO, Chief of the Military Clothing Bureau (HIFUKU SHUNIN HANCHO).

This interview was held in an effort to obtain data on woolen goods manufactured and stored by the military. Questions had been previously submitted at meeting of 30 October.

1. We were informed that practically all statistics relative to production and distribution previous to 1944 had been destroyed either by fire or according to instructions received before the end of the war. However, the following tables were submitted from memory and whatever remaining data was available. Most figures for 1944 and 1945 were based on actual information. All approximate calculations are indicated as such:

- a. Production of military woolen piece goods from 1935- 1945.
- b. Effect of air raids on military production of woolens for fiscal year 1945.
- c. Present stock as of August 1945 (stock for previous years not available.)
- d. Present stock held by government in Tokyo as of August 1945, including source of import.
- e. Amount of woolen materials purchased from civilian factories.
- f. Quality depreciation from 1941 - 1945.
- g. Production of army depots 1935 - 1945.
- h. Production of civilian factories for military clothing depots.

2. In the course of conversation certain miscellaneous interesting items were noted, viz:

- a. Military supplies of clothing were never diverted to civilian use with the exception of 70,000 woolen blankets distributed to

civilians after the air raids of 10 March 45.

- b. 200,000 woolen blankets were delivered to the Navy about December 1944 at the Navy's request.
- c. Because of the great difference in quality, civilian finished clothing was never requisitioned but if there was any question as to distribution of raw materials, they were earmarked for the military.
- d. Civilian production of leather hide and felt was halted after 1941 and production became purely military.
- e. About 300,000 articles of clothing were received as gifts from the civilian population.
- f. There were no very acute shortages of a particular item of clothing although the distribution to soldiers **entering** the Army was cut from two suits of clothing in 1941 to one suit in 1945.

3. Major KITAMURA, in charge of the distribution department, is now on a journey for about two weeks. As soon as he returns an effort will be made to procure additional data on distribution of woolen during 1935 - 1945.

4. Interview lasted from 1400 to 1600.