

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

INTERROGATION NO. 60

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE: 14 Oct. TIME:1600

Division of Origin: Capital Equipment & Construction.

SUBJECT: Head Office of Karatau Iron Works, Producers of
Machine Tools.

Personnel interrogated and background of each: Bookkeepers of the
firm were the only personnel left in the office as Mr.
Toshisuki Takeo, President of the firm, is staying at
the factory.

Where Interviewed: 212 Marunouchi-Koojimachi Ku (wara) Tokyo

Interrogator: 2nd Lt. Alen B. Smith.

Interpreter: Lt.(jg) R. Pineau

Allied Officers present: None

Summary:

Karatau Iron works produced machine tools for the Army
throughout the war. It was never damaged and is still producing.
Its chief difficulties during the war were in obtaining raw
materials and skilled labor.

INTERROGATION

Karatau Iron Works is a corporation founded in 1907 with a single plant located in Karatau, Sa a-Ken. The capital stock is ¥5,000,000, the President Toshisuki Takeo, holds the controlling number of shares. There are 95 shareholders in all.

Equipment on hand at the end of September 1945 was:

Land: 13.2 acres.
Machine tools: 283.
Shops: 148,000 Sq. feet.
Warehouses: 48,000 Sq. feet.
Other buildings: 17,000 Sq. feet.

Inventory of machine tools has been approximately the same figure, 283 machine tools, since 1935.

	<u>PRODUCTION IN YEN</u>	<u>NUMBER OF WORKERS</u>
1935	3,108,160	689
1936	3,273,790	756
1937	3,629,304	972
1938	4,509,709	1,047
1939	4,154,201	1,174
1940	8,358,318	1,122
1941	5,781,843	1,347
1942	6,300,311	1,396
1943	7,579,950	1,453
1944	8,048,579	1,220
1945		500

It was stated that the apparent doubling of production in 1940 was due to the rise in prices caused by lower purchase value of the yen. There was no great increase in production in units. The statistics as to units produced is available only at the plant.

Up until 1939 the working day was 9 hours. After 1939 the working day was 11 hours. Productive workers numbered between 500 and 600 from 1935 to the present time. The increase in numbers of employees from 1937 to 1944 was largely a hiring of unskilled laborers and apprentices used to shift stocks, rearrange plant layouts etc. The reason they were needed is that there was a demand for "mixed" production which required frequent rearrangement of machines.

The firm was producing almost 100% for the Army but obtained no assistance from the Army in obtaining raw materials and workers. The principle machines furnished to the Army were Gear Hobbers, Milling Machines, and Bevel Gear Generators.

Ball Bearings and Electric motors for machines were furnished by subcontractors. The yearly cost of raw materials and the subcontracted items mentioned above amounted to approximately 10% of the figures for yearly production in yen.

The Karatau plant never encountered any difficulties with transportation. Their most serious problems were the ever increasing shortages of all types of raw materials, particularly steel, and of skilled labor. There was plenty of unskilled labor available but it could not take the place of skilled laborers.

The plant was never bombed and is at present undamaged and in production. It is producing machine tools and storing them in hope of a future demand.