

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

RESTRICTED

INTERROGATION NO: 326

PLACE: Onoda
DATE : 9 Nov 45

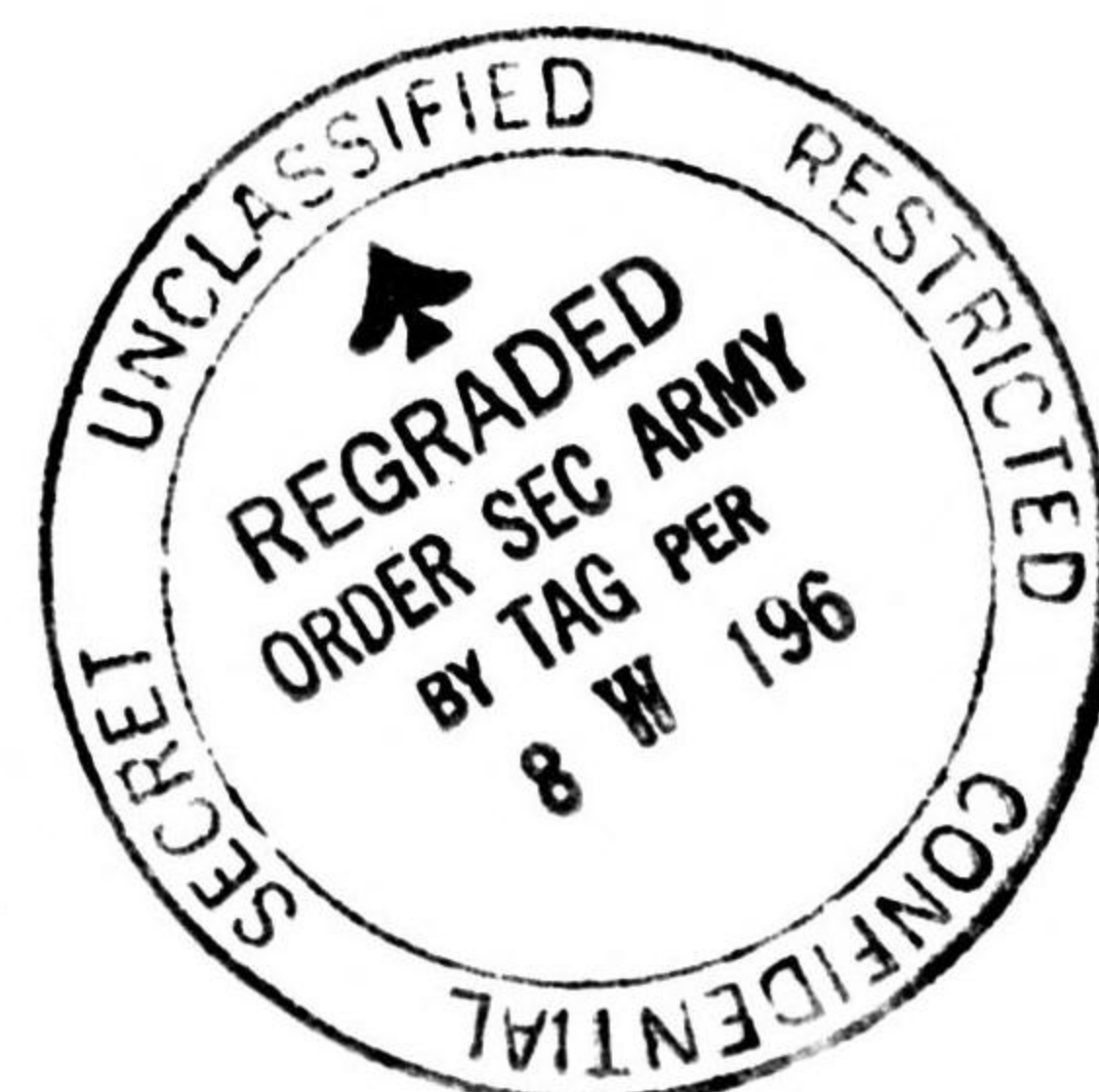
Division of Origin: Basic Materials
Subject: Aluminous Clinker Production
Personnel interrogated: KANO, Sozo, President of Onoda Cement
Co.
KUNIYOSHI, Kiichi, Managing Director
KAWAMURA, Tadaichi, Chief of Onoda Plant
MIZUTA, Kinichi, Chief of Sales Dept
Where interviewed: Onoda Cement Co. Office
Interrogator: Lt. R. C. BEYER
Interpreter: Lt. P. BOHANNAN
Allied Officers Present: Lt. A. M. FREEDMAN
Mr. Donald Colwell

SUMMARY

The most important cement plant to have been converted from cement production to the production of aluminous clinker from aluminous shale (as a link in the effort to maintain aluminum production after the loss of bauxite sources) never produced any very substantial amount because of the shipping shortage. There wasn't enough soda for the process because there wasn't enough salt. If there had been enough soda, there wasn't enough shale. If there had been enough shale, there wasn't enough coal. The only thing there was enough of was limestone from the nearby quarry. Production never reached more than 50% capacity.

DISTRIBUTION: All Sections

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INTERROGATION

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1. The Onoda Cement Co. was ordered by the Munitions Ministry in December 1943 to produce aluminous clinker instead of Portland Cement. The plant was to import aluminous shale from North China, mix it with lime and soda, roast it in the kilns to produce clinker. The clinker was shipped to Toyo Soda Co. to be processed into alumina.

2. Planned aluminous shale capacity of the plant was estimated at 70% of cement capacity or about 160,000 tons as against 230,000 tons. Production of clinker began in February 1944, since which time no cement has been produced in this plant. Maximum production at the rate of 73,000 tons per year was reached in August 1944, was at 60,000 in June 1945, and 24,000 in July.

Reasons for this fall off were: (1) technical difficulties. The shale stuck to the lining of the kilns, absorbed moisture quickly, was hard to handle. (2) Shortage of coal. Some inferior local coal had to be used in the place of Kyushu coal. (3) Shortage of soda. (4) Shortage of shale.

The 70%-of-cement-capacity rule of thumb for assigning shale capacity to cement plants had to be reduced an additional 10% to make allowance for the technical problems of handling shale.

Total aluminous clinker production in Japan from the beginning to the end (1944-1945) was only about 110,000 tons.

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