

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

INTERROGATION NO. 79
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE: Capital Equipment
Section

DATE: 20 Oct. 1945
TIME: 1030

Division of Origin: Capital Equipment and Construction

SUBJECT: HAZAMA-GUMI Construction Company.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr. MATSUHARA
Mr. HASHIZUME - Engineers with HAZAMA-GUMI

Where interviewed (office): Capital Equipment Room 361

Interrogator: Capt. Rosenblatt
Lt. Call

Interpreter: Lt. Holmes

Allied Officers Present: None

Summary:

1. General discussion of Company's labor.
2. Type of work done by company; little war work.
3. Type of equipment used.
4. Brief explanation of war-time letting of contracts for war work (fortifications, airfields, etc).

INTERROGATION

1. HAZAMA-GUMI records destroyed by fire; so only approximate and general information can be obtained from this source.

2. Mr. MATSUHARA submitted a brief document which listed (1) the branches and Managers of branches of the Company, (2) the biggest jobs done by the company, which specializes in bridge-building and hydro-electric projects. The cost of these jobs, the number of man required, and the name of the clients involved were also given.

3. Some aspects of labor were discussed:

- a. On HAZAMA-GUMI jobs (and presumably in general throughout the industry) one 10-hour shift per day was worked.
- b. Laborers were classified as (1) skilled (2) unskilled (3) free (floating). Koreans formed from 50-80 percent of the labor this company employed.
- c. About 50 percent of the employees (including office workers, etc.) were drafted during the war. Women were needed only as office clerks.

4. Type of work done by HAZAMA-GUMI.

- a. Chiefly civil improvements, which come under the Home Ministry, War Work, such as fortifications, factories and airfields, amounted to only 15-20 percent of the total work done by the company. Consequently, by late 1943, the company had little to do, since almost no materials were available for civil improvements by that time.

5. Type of Equipment used:

- a. No bulldozers, scrapers, or graders were available to anyone but Army or Navy construction groups. The company had winches, rollers, concrete mixers, air compressors. Mixers were stationary, with 14 Cubic feet capacity.
- b. Chief manufacturers of this equipment were MITSUBISHI, SUMITOMO, HITACHI, OKI Electric, SHIBAURA, MEIDENSHA.

6. War-Time Administrative set-up on War Jobs:

- a. If job was for Air Force, the Air Force H.Q. did the contracting, and the KENSETSUBAN (Construction Control Association) allocated and supplied the materials. The contractors supplied their own labor.
- b. If job was for Army, the Regional Armies did the Contracting. Materials and Labor supplied as above.