

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

ANNEX B

INTERROGATION NO. 88  
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE Tokyo  
DATE 7 October 45 Time 1430

Division of Origin Capital Equipment + Construction

Subject: Production of Machinery

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Count Masatoshi OKACHI, who was president of the Production Machinery Control Ass'n from 1943 thru 1944, and also a Director of the Riken Research Institute.

Where interviewed CEC Office

Interrogator Capt. H.P. Malivet

Interpreter Lt. (jg) E. Laffin

Allied Officers Present None

Summary:

The association under Mr. OKACHI, represents 30 % of all Machinery Production and keeps records of 70 % of the production of all types of machines under its direction & control .

The greatest problems of which the machine producing industry encountered were the shortages of raw materials and skilled labor.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION  
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY

ABS/jrb

17 October 1945

PRODUCTION OF MACHINERY

Personnel Interrogated:

Viscount Masatashi OKOCHI, who was President of the Production Machinery Control Association from 1943 through 1944 and also a Director of the Riken Research Institute.

Interrogator: Captain Henry P. Balivet.

Interpreter: Lt. (jg) Edward Laffin

The Production Machinery Control Association represents 30 % of the total production of what the Japanese mean by the all inclusive work "Machinery". The association actually has records for between 70 % and 100% of the production of the groupings of machines which fall under its jurisdiction. The rest was controlled by the military. The Army and Navy had a combined control association called HEIJI KI KOGYO under General HARUTSUGU KAN.

The Airforce is under a separate organization called KOKUKOGYO KAI - under General SABURO ENDO.

Shortages during the war fall into two major categories:

(1) Material Shortages

Practically all materials grew steadily more difficult to obtain. Special tool steel was the greatest shortage. There was an insufficient supply of Industrial coal and coke after 1940. By 1942 the shipping blockade had pretty effectively strangled material supply.

(2) Skilled Labor Shortages.

ONLY about 10% of labor was skilled. Skilled labor first became short in 1937 but the real pinch began in 1941. Both Government and Industry started a labor training program. In 1942 the Army & Navy put out an order that skilled labor should be left on the job.

Production was mainly for the Army and Navy. Raw materials either came out of pre-rationing stocks or the army and navy director through the TOSEIKAI

The production of special purpose machinery for making Nitric acid and other products, and also of rolling mill equipment was emphasized.

Production of Machinery (Cont'd)

Mr. OKOCHI furnished the following information concerning the plants of the Riken Industries.

RIKEN PLANTS AT MIAUCHI

Made machine tools, and Lathes and tool grinders before war; and during war made Torpedo Parts.

OJIYA - NO MIAUCHI

(small lathes)  
Made only machine tools/during war. Began Machine tools in 1944.

MAEBASHI - RIKEN - 6,7 or 10 factories 1943

Piston Rings for tanks & cars anti-aircraft guns. Grinders & Milling machines, forging shop makes parts of shells.

KASHIWASAKI - Began Machine tools - 1940

Piston rings (for Plane), Machine tools (bores, lathes) (stopped 1941) Machine gun parts instead.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION BRANCH  
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY

ABS/gls

29 October 1945

ACTIVITIES OF THE PRODUCTION MACHINERY CONTROL ASSOCIATION DURING  
THE WAR YEARS

Personnel Interrogated:

Viscount M. OKOCHI -- President of the Production Machinery Control Association from January 1941 to January 1943, and a Director of the Riken Institute of Physical and Chemical Research.

Interrogator: Lt. A. B. Smith

Interpreter: Lt. Wortham

The Production Machinery Control Association controlled all production of the class of machinery known as "Production Machinery". This classification amounts to about 30% of the broader classification "Machinery" which also includes the other classification of Electrical Machinery, Precision Machinery, Rolling Stock, and Automotive Equipment. Viscount OKOCHI was very emphatic that production planning, raw material allocation, and actual production had absolutely no relation to one another. Plans were long range wishful thinking on the part of planning offices in the government. There was a system of order examination to determine whether or not orders were really necessary, but this was only a form as very few orders were ever turned down. Tickets for the purchase of raw materials were issued far in excess of the actual amounts of raw materials available for purchase. Each quarter the tickets were cancelled and new ones were issued. There were many orders outstanding over a long period of time due to the fact that the Army and Navy took the materials originally allotted to civilian production. There was no real system of priorities for allocation of raw materials to certain urgent orders, but pressures were brought to bear for the allocation of finished machines to customers favored by the military. As a result the finished machine frequently went to a different purchaser than the one who had originally placed the order and obtained the necessary raw material ticket for its production.