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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WAR DIVISION
ECONOMIC WARFARE SECTION

SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM RE:
JAPAN'S FACILITIES FOR PROCESSING RUBBER

December 8, 1942

Revised by: C. Thomas Morgan

Submitted by: John J. Curran
Economic Warfare Section
Department of Justice
Boston, Mass.

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Economic Warfare Section
War Division
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Supplemental Memorandum
December 8, 1942
Re: Japan's Facilities for
Processing Rubber
Submitted by: John J. Curran
Economic Warfare Section
Department of Justice
Boston, Massachusetts

*See report by Johnson, Bolinger and
Kramer, November 5, 1942, on Japan's
facilities for processing rubber.

Rewritten by: C. Thomas Morgan
Washington, D. C.

JAPAN'S FACILITIES FOR PROCESSING RUBBER

This supplemental memorandum adds to the information contained in the report on Japan's facilities for processing rubber heretofore submitted by Messrs. Johnson, Bolinger and Kramer of the Antitrust Division by giving more details of the Nichon Tabi and Bridgestone Tire Company, Kurume, Japan. There is also additional information on other Japanese rubber processing plants, synthetic rubber and research of the rubber industry in Japan.

Bridgestone Tire Company

One of the largest rubber manufacturing companies in Japan is the Nichon Tabi and Bridgestone Tire Company on the island of Kyuchu, Kurume, Japan. (See exhibit A.)

At the time of our informant's visit to the factory of the Bridgestone Tire Company, it was producing about 2000 tires per day, approximately 7000 pairs of Japanese rubber boots and 70,000 pairs of other rubber footwear.

Nichon Tabi and Bridgestone is known to have a subsidiary which is located in the city of Fukuoka near the main railroad depot. Our informant was not apprised of any of the details in regard to this plant, however.

Other Japanese Rubber Plants

The following plants have a fairly large capacity and employ approximately 1000 workmen each:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Products</u>
Mtatsuchi Rubber Manufacturing Company	Tokyo	Generally storage batteries for submarines
Tokyo Gomu Kogyo K. K.	Tokyo	Rubber coatings for chemical equipment
Yamato Rubber Company	Tokyo	Rubber fabrics
Hysen & Kamedo Gomu Company	Tokyo	Army rubber footwear
Bando Shokai Company	Kobe	Rubber conveyor belting
Shibata Shokai Company	Kobe	Army rubber footwear

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<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Products</u>
Ikuno Gum Works	Osaka	Army rubber footwear
Meiji Siaga Kogui	Tokyo (Kawasaki)	Dipped goods

The following plants have a very small capacity and employ 200 to 300 workmen each:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Products</u>
Futawa Rubber Company	Fukai (near Kobe)	Rubber threads
Tomisaka Goumu Kagui	Kobe	Small rubber articles
Ogato Gomu Kogui	Osaka	Small rubber articles

The Imperial University of Tokyo is the foundation of the rubber industry in Japan is so far as the entire industry is dependent on it for basic research. Although Japan was not producing synthetic rubber in 1935 when our informant visited Japan, it is his understanding that they are using a process known as 2-3 Butylene Glycol deriving Butadiene. It is also his understanding that the Japanese are the pioneers of this process, which is based on the fermentation of vegetable matter and starchy material — This is the same process that is now being used in the Government Regional Laboratory at Peoria, Illinois.

Source of Information

The entire substance of this report was obtained from Dr. E. A. Hauser. He is a member of the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and has occupied this position since 1928. Dr. Hauser is a chemist, is thoroughly familiar with synthetic rubber and is conducting experiments in the Technology laboratory on this production. He spent a considerable part of the year 1935 traveling in Japan.