

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

INTERROGATION NO: 237

PLACE: Rm 535, Meiji
Building,
DATE: 1 Nov 45

Division of Origin: Medical Division.

Subject: Malnutrition of Japanese Soldiers stationed in the
Home Islands.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

E. KOYAMA, Chemical Engineer, Japanese Army Provisions
Dept. Mr KOYAMA is a former Professor of Agricultural
Chemistry at the Imperial University. His present position
in the army is civilian employee in the Provision Dept.
He stated that his job would carry the army rank of Colonel.

Where interviewed: Room 535, Meiji Building.

Interrogator: Major ROBERT S. GOODHART; Major HENRY J. RUGO.

Interpreter: Mr Iwamoto.

Allied Officers Present: Majs GOODHART & RUGO; Lt EDWARDS.

Summary:

Mr KOYAMA stated that the chief defect of the ration was too much Carbohydrate and too little protein. Because of the unbalanced diet, and in spite of the fact that calory intake was good, there was still malnutrition. He said that in normal times the main source of protein is fish or meat. During the war this was replaced by soy beans, sweet potatoes, and rice. Mr. KOYAMA had no figures on the percentages of protein supplied from different foods. He stated that at first the Welfare Ministry set up 80 grams of protein per person per day as the standard, but that 30 grams a day is all they are getting. Mr. KOYAMA can supply figures on the 80 gram standard, as to how much of the protein was to come from what food, but has no figures on the 30 grams that each soldier was actually getting.

During the war, studies were made on the digestibility of basic foods, but none of the results of these studies have been put to practical purposes, according to Mr. KOYAMA. He has figures on the results of studies where B₂ was used with certain

foods to reduce the amount of food consumed. He said that Vitamin B₆ was used by the Japanese army for treatment of skin allergies, especially in the southern islands. It was requested that records of these experimental studies showing effectiveness of B₆ on allergies be furnished. (Where Vitamin B₂ was mentioned, Mr KOYAMA referred consistently to the B₂ Complex).

Mr. KOYAMA did not possess accurate figures on the transportation or storage of food stuffs or the effects of bombing on transportation or storage. He believed he could furnish approximate dates for changes in the amount of rations furnished army personnel.

He has, he said, accurate information on food processing--canning, drying, dehydration, fermentation, etc. When asked for figures on the amount of alcoholic beverages consumed by the army, he explained that these were very difficult to obtain because the soldiers got their liquor from the same sources as did the civilians. It was requested that he obtain figures from the Army Medical Division on the amount of alcoholic beverages consumed by the average soldier; also that he procure figures on the average per capita civilian consumption.

An appointment was made with Mr. KOYAMA on the afternoon of Nov 9, when he stated that he would try to furnish the data requested.

DISTRIBUTION: All Divisions.