

THROUGH JAPANESE EYES

by Otto D. Tolischus

CEREMONIAL EXECUTION OF AN ALLIED AIRMAN

XII

THERE is another aspect to Shinto which explains Japanese treachery and cruelty. For Shinto, the "Way of the Gods," has only one moral imperative, and that is proclaimed by its name; it is the duty to follow the "way of the gods." But the gods whose "ways" are to be followed were conceived in a primitive jungle age, and therefore display all the characteristics of the jungle age. They are murderous, cruel, tricky, treacherous, dirty, and incidentally obscene.



Jap With Samurai Sword About to Behead Allied Flyer

Let other influences like Buddhism or Western civilization should have softened the Japanese fiber, the Shinto statesmen, like Hitler in Germany, have carried through a process which one Japanese professor so aptly describes as "re-barbarization." It, too, was accomplished by a training which deliberately educates the nation's youth in cruelty, brutality, and murder, and encourages the practice of them to make it hard—much as primitive savages educate their youth at the torture stake. This training finds its climax on the battle fields, where Japanese soldiers are rewarded for victory by permission and encouragement to indulge in demagogical outbursts of rapine, torture, and murder as a means of stimulating primitive blood lust and the desire to kill.

The course of the Pacific war has demonstrated that neither his savagery nor his training have been able to make the Japanese soldier a match for the Allied fighting men, whose faith passes his understanding. But it is well to remember that the tortures and atrocities inflicted by the Japanese on their victims are no excesses of individuals, but the planned results of a system deliberately created to promote the aggressive designs of a savage theocratic state of which the Japanese Emperor is God, ruler and high priest, who gives his "Imperial Sanction" to it all.

From the Diary of a Japanese soldier killed at Salamaua, New Guinea, entry for March 29, 1943:

WE all assembled at headquarters where one of the crew of a Douglas shot down by anti-aircraft March 18 was brought under guard.

Tai Commander (Sub-Lieutenant First Class) Komal told us it had been decided to execute him and he was to be executed a Samurai's death.

We were assembled to witness the execution. The prisoner was given a drink of water outside the guard house. The chief surgeon, Lieutenant Komal and a platoon commander bearing a sword came from the officers' mess.

The time has come. The prisoner of war totters forward with his arms tied. His hair is cut close.

I feel he suspects what is afoot, but he is more composed than I thought he would be. Without more ado he is put on a truck and taken to the place of execution.

The prisoner sits beside the chief surgeon and about ten guards accompany him. The noise of the engine echoes along the road in the hush of twilight. The sun has set and columns of clouds rise before us.

I glance at the prisoner and he seems prepared. He gazes at the grass, now at the mountains and sea.

At the execution ground Lieutenant Komal faces the prisoner and said: "You are to die. I am going to kill you with this Japanese sword according to the Samurai code."

The commander's face is stern. Now the time has come. The prisoner is made to sit on the edge of a water-filled bomb crater. The precaution is taken to surround him with guards.

When I put myself in his place the hate engendered by this daily bombing yields to ordinary human feelings.

The Tai commander draws his favorite sword, the famous "Osamune." The sight of the glittering blade sends cold shivers down the spine. First he touches prisoner's neck lightly with sword.

Then he raises it overhead. His arm muscles bulge. Prisoner closes

his eyes for a second and at once the sword sweeps down.

Swish—it sounds at first like noise of cutting, but is actually made by blood spurting from arteries as the body falls forward. Everybody steps forward as head rolls on the ground.

The dark blood gushes from trunk. All is over. There lies the head like a white doll.

I realize that the emotions I felt just now was not personal pity but manifestation of magnanimity that becomes a chivalrous Samurai.

A superior seaman from the medical unit received the sword from the surgeon. He rolls the body on back.

"Here's something for the other day—take that," he says, and with one sweep lays open the abdomen. "These thick-headed white— are thick-bellied too," he remarks. There's not a drop of blood left in man's body. The seaman gives him a kick, then buries it.

The wind blows mournfully and the scene prints itself on my mind. Darkness descends.

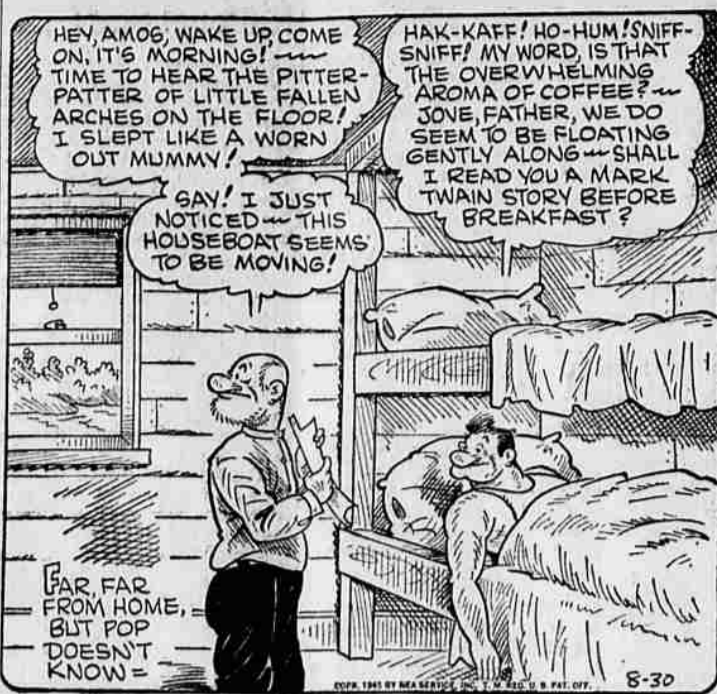
In front of headquarters we got off truck. If ever I get back alive this will make good story to tell. That's why I write it down.

The prisoner killed today was airforce "tail" (captain or flight lieutenant) from Moresby. He young man aged 23, an instructor in Army transport command at Moresby.

THE END

Our Boarding House

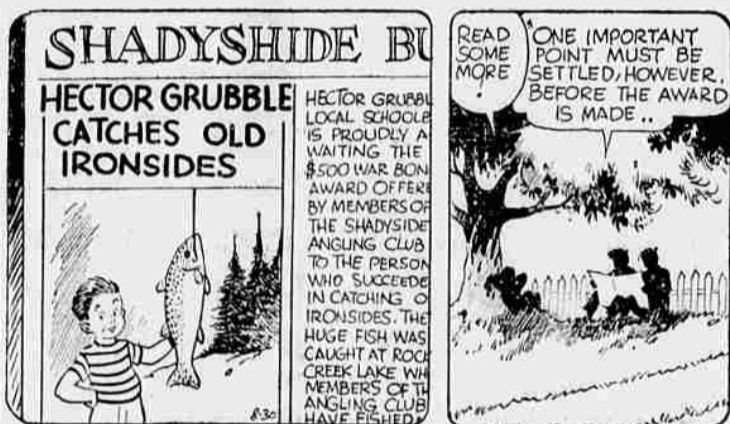
With Major Hoople



Boots and Her Buddies

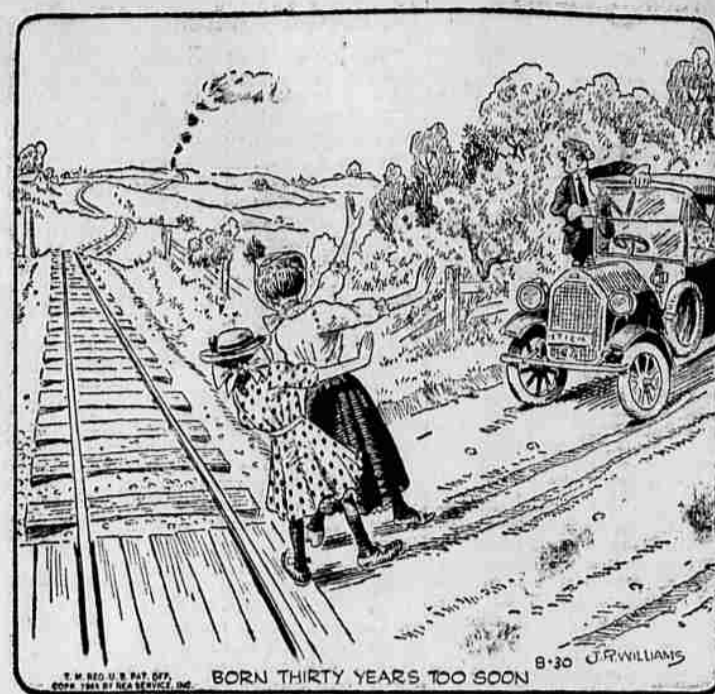


Freckles and His Friends

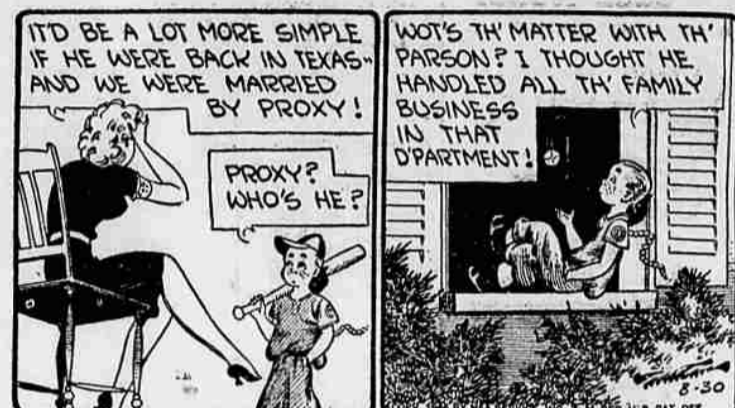


Out Our Way

J. R. Williams



By Edgar Martin



Merrill Blosser



Fred Harman



By Leslie Turner

Wash Tubbs



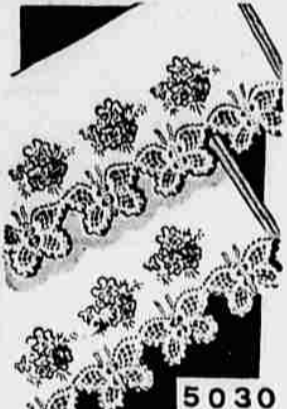
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12-20

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Leads in Borneo

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| 1 Pictured commander of Australian forces invading Borneo, Lt.-Gen. Sir | 2 Before | 3 Bondsman | 4 Acid fruit | 5 Symbol for erbium | 6 Witticism | 7 Hops' kiln | 8 Music note | 9 Refuge | 10 Expunges | 11 Blackbird of cuckoo family | 12 Dolce (ab.) | 13 Street (ab.) | 14 Symbol for silver | 15 Diner | 16 Anoint | 17 Coins | 18 He is the hero of | 19 Dismal birds of prey | 20 (comb. form) by heat | 21 Ireland | 22 European | 23 Conducs | 24 Decidite | 25 (ab.) | 26 Postscript | 27 Doctor Sacrae | 28 Scripturae | 29 Deep hole | 30 Make a mistake | 31 His forces are fighting in | 32 Compass point | 33 Footlike part |
|---|----------|------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|---------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|

Answers to Previous Puzzle

ROSE

HOBART

Tobruk

26 The sea

27 Ireland

28 European

29 Conducs

30 Assault

31 His forces are fighting in

32 Compass point

33 Footlike part

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