THROUGH JAPANESE EYES

by Otto D. Tolischus

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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.

Lest 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 demoniacal 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.

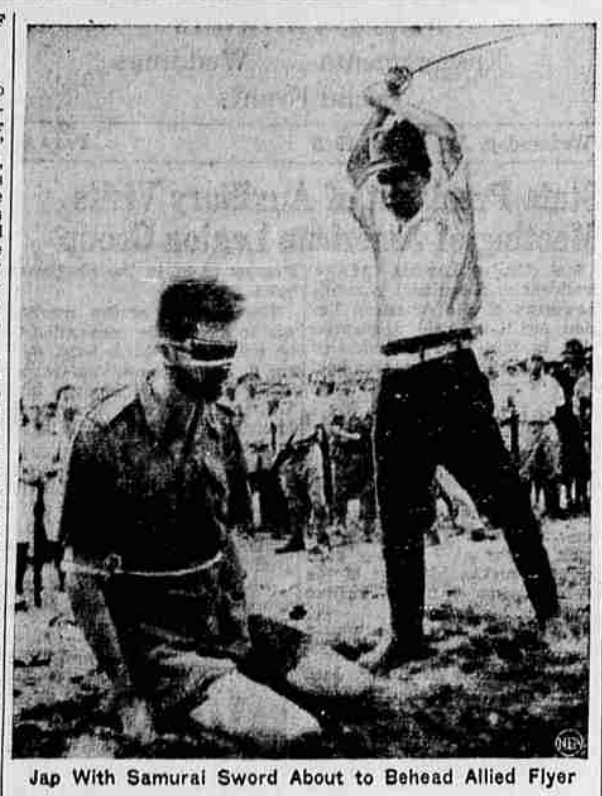
From the Diary of a Japanese soldier killed at Salamaua, New Guinea, entry for March 29, 1943:

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) Komai told us it had been decided to execute him and he was to be accorded 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 Komai 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.



Jap With Samurai Sword About to Behead Allied Flyer

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 Komai 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.

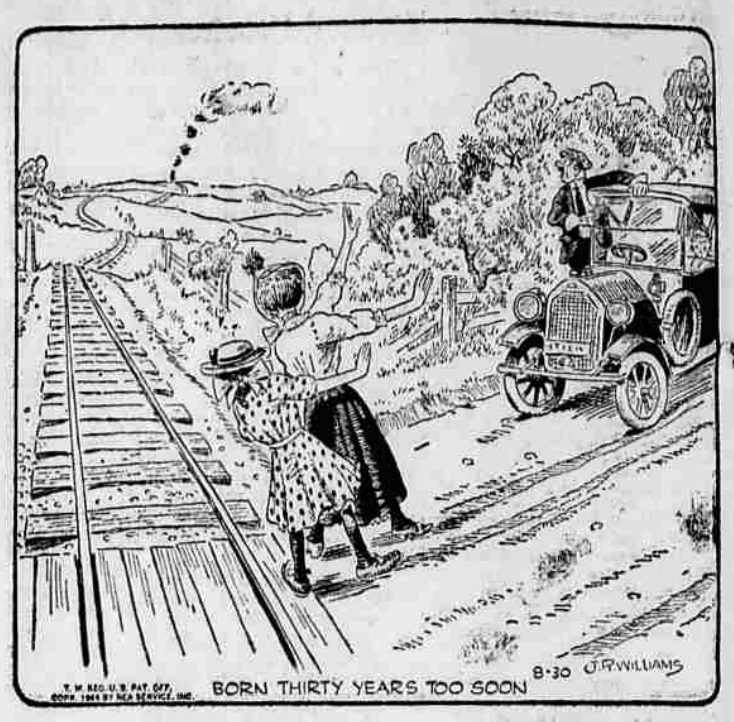
In front of headquarters we got off truck. If ever I get back alive this will make good story to tell. That's why I write it down.

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

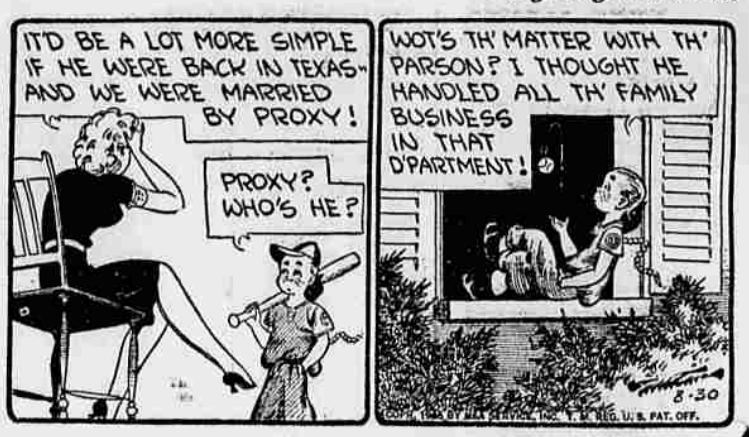
THE END

Our Boarding House — With Major Hoople

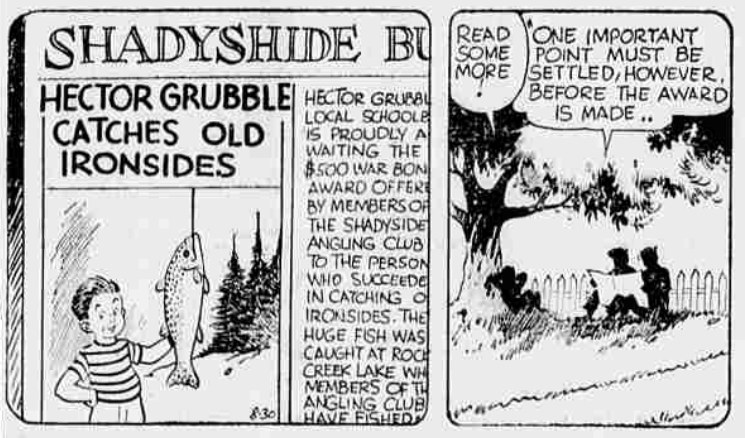
Out Our Way — J. R. Williams



Boots and Her Buddies — By Edgar Martin



Freckles and His Friends — Merrill Blosser



Red Ryder — Fred Harman

Wash Tubbs — By Leslie Turner

Alley Oop — By V. T. Hamlin

Butterflies-Flowers!

By MRS. ANNE CABOT

Almost too pretty to use—these stunning guest pillowcases! Crochet four of the gossamer-like 5½ inch butterflies in white thread; embroider the delicately shaded pansies in soft blues, yellows, a touch of brown. Just a suggestion of pale pinks in the bouquet adds the final touch of the exquisite! A pair of cases and two matching towels will make a de-luxe wedding gift.

To obtain complete crocheting instructions, transfer pattern, color chart for working the Butterfly and Pansy Designs (Pattern No. 5030) actual size sketch of butterfly on instruction chart, send 15 cents in COIN, plus 1 cent postage, YOUR NAME, ADDRESS and the PATTERN NUMBER to Anne Cabot, The La Grande Observer, 709 Mission street, San Francisco, Calif.

Side-Button ABC

By SUE BURNETT

So simple, yet so flattering, this side-button princess does things for the youthful figure. Can't miss.

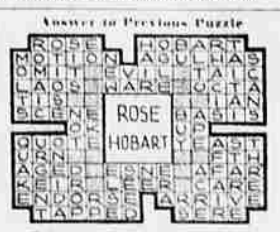
Pattern No. 8907 is designed for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Size 14 requires 3½ yards of 35 or 39-inch fabric; 1 yard machine ruffling.

For this pattern, send 20 cents, in coins, your name, address, size desired, and the pattern number to Sue Burnett, La Grande Evening Observer, 709 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif.

PIMPLES Disappeared Overnight
Blackheads, Too, Went Fast
See, it is true, there is a safe, scientifically-tested liquid called KLEEREX that dries up pimples overnight as it acts to loosen and remove ugly blackheads. Those who followed simple directions and enjoyed Kleerex soon nothing were amazingly surprised when they found their pimples and blackheads had disappeared! Those users enthusiastically praise Kleerex and claim they are no longer embarrassed but are positive with their complexions. Use Kleerex. If one application does not satisfy, you get double your money back. Ask for Kleerex today. now.
Payless Drug Store

Leads in Borneo

Answer to Previous Puzzle

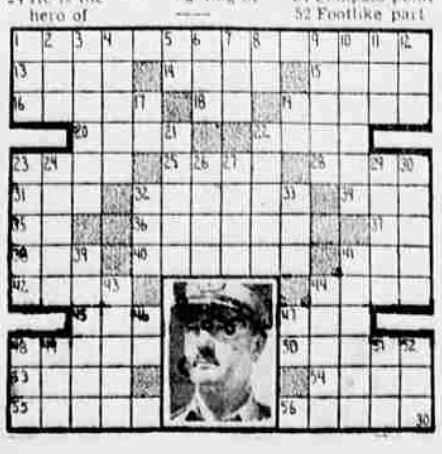


HORIZONTAL

1 Pictured commander of Australian forces invading Borneo, Lt.-Gen. Sir ——
13 Shield bearing
14 Flower
15 Italian river
16 Squads
18 Size of shot
19 Profit
20 Cast a ballot
22 Eras
23 French city
25 So be it!
28 Roman emperor
31 Abstract being
32 Gazed fixedly
34 Male child
35 New Zealand (ab.)
36 Risks
37 Bone
38 Slight flap
40 Triads
41 Piece out
42 Native of Scotland
44 Endure
45 Scepter
47 Plug
48 Punitive
50 Fattening meal
53 Angers
54 Low sand hill
55 Brisk movements
56 Onagers

VERTICAL

1 Destiny
2 Before
3 Bondsmen
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.)
17 Street (ab.)
19 Symbol for silver
21 Diner
22 Anoint
23 Coins
24 He is the —— hero of Tobruk
26 The sea (comb. form)
27 Ireland
29 European corvine birds
30 Assault
32 Seaport (ab.)
33 Doctor Sacrae Scripturae (ab.)
39 His forces are fighting in ——
41 Diurnal birds of prey
43 Brown bread by heat
44 Conducts
46 Deciliter (ab.)
47 Postscript (ab.)
48 Deep hole
49 Make a mistake
51 Compass point
52 Footlike part



"Occupational disease!"