

Rat, Boiled or Fried, Only \$1 In Jap Prisons

Camp Smugglers Saved Lives of Many Prisoners

By WILLIAM McDOUGALL
SINGAPORE, Sept. 28 (UP)—The standard Japanese prison camp price for one fried or boiled rat was two guilders—about a dollar.

Those of us who came out alive from the camps in Sumatra can thank the camp smugglers, native Indonesians or Eurasians. They knew the hidden jungle trails as well as I know the streets of my home town.

They helped us to escape into the jungle at night where we bartered with them—even for rats—to eke out our meager food rations. They guided us back to camp, before daybreak, with our "black market" purchases.

Couldn't Walk

After coming ashore in the lifeboat, we spent three heart-breaking weeks beating along the coral beaches of South Sumatra in search of a native "perahoe" (boat) and crew we hoped would take us to India. I was barefoot, having kicked off my shoes while swimming. The coral beach was like a board full of nails pointing upward. I crawled when I couldn't walk.

For a time we slept in two abandoned jungle huts built on stilts. The natives said we could find a "perahoe" at the west coast port of Kroe. It was three days journey from our hiding place, they said. Sleeping in native huts by night and "crawling" by day we approached Kroe two weeks later.

Lighter Phases

But we might have saved ourselves the trouble. The Japanese were their ahead of us.

We interned thought we suffered the tortures of hell. But since then I have heard tales of war prisoners and internees in other places and I am thinking perhaps we in south Sumatra experienced only some of the lighter phases of purgatory.

I understand some other camps were wiped out. In our camp deaths from starvation, malaria, dysentery and beri-beri accounted for 55 percent of the British and Australian men, 30 percent of the Dutch men, 30 percent of the British women and 20 percent of the Dutch women. A comparative handful was executed.

Atrocity

Of the survivors not more than half were walking skeletons. About a quarter of them cast respectable shadows. Some were even fat, thanks to food filching, racketeering or black-marketing.

I have no atrocities to relate inside the camp unless Japanese utter neglect and indifference and allowing us to starve in a land of comparative plenty can be called an atrocity. When I see hunger-stunted children from those camps, I believe it could.

When the Japanese occupied Sumatra in February and March of 1942, Dutch, British, Australians, Eurasians from all walks of life—government servants, oil executives, engineers, miners, businessmen, planters as well as derelicts and beachcombers—were jam-packed into jail cells in bamboo barracks. Each man was allotted two feet by six feet of living space.

Not Improved

Gradually deaths from starvation and disease enlarged these spaces. Otherwise our quarters were not improved.

By the end of the war, it was estimated there were nearly 16,000 prisoners of the Japanese in Sumatra. According to native officials connected with the Japanese military police, known as "kempei" we were released just in time to prevent our certain deaths.

They said that in event the allies invaded Sumatra and Java, which then seemed imminent, the Japanese planned to execute all Dutch government officials as well as others who might become fifth columnists. The remainder of the prisoners and internees were to suffer severe ration cuts which would kill them off in a short time.

We felt our luck stayed with us, in that war ended when it did.

Brokers Pay Help To Climb Stairs

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 (UP)—A brokerage office in the financial district revealed today it was paying its employees time and a half to encourage them to walk up 16 flights of stairs to work during the elevator operators' strike.

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Cecil G. Stiles, machinist's mate, first class, 1102 Penn. Ave., La Grande, has been serving with the 85th naval construction battalion of Pearl Harbor, climaxing with the war's end, a long period of duty that began in the Aleutians. In cold and heat, this battalion of seabees performed the strenuous, difficult work necessary to victory. It spent 17 months in the Aleutians, from there came to the south Pacific. When peace came, its men were preparing military equipment in the New Hebrides for shipment to areas nearer the fighting fronts.

John A. Heflin, seaman, first class, USNR, whose wife lives in La Grande, is serving on the USS Wasp aircraft carrier off Tokyo in the third fleet's victory cruise. However the Wasp's record week, March 14-20, still is the main topic of conversation. The ship took a 500-pound bomb through the flight deck, suffering 102 casualties. Within 50 minutes she was ready to launch her planes. In that week the Wasp and her planes shot down 14 aircraft and destroyed six on the ground, scored two 500-pound bomb hits on each of two enemy carriers, dropped two 1,000-pound bombs on a battleship, a 1,000-pounder on another battleship, three 500-pounders on a heavy cruiser, a 1,000-pounder on a big cargo ship and heavily strafed a large submarine.

Capt. Robert Karther, pilot recently returned from the Pacific area, is in La Grande visiting his wife Mildred and their two children, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Karther.

Cubs Can't do Worse Than Tie With Cardinals

CINCINNATI, Sept. 28 (UP)—The Chicago Cubs, who have maintained a first place margin of at least a game and a half ever since acquiring the lead at mid-season on July 8, need just one more victory to make their 1945 conquest of the national league official.

They celebrated unofficially last night when a Cardinal defeat at Pittsburgh, after their own double daytime victory over the Reds, assured them of a tie.

But the big "blow-off" for Charley Grimm's happy-go-lucky club won't come until they win the game against the Pirates they need to clinch the pennant for good. That the victory will come, probably in the first game of a doubleheader at Pittsburgh Saturday, is a foregone conclusion with every man on the club.

12th Victory

In an effort to settle things in a hurry with the Pirates, Grimm will send Hank Brown after his 12th national league victory in the first game. Should Borowy falter, Claude Passeau, a 17-game winner, will go into the second one, leaving Hank Wess, the team ace, as the probable starter in the first game of the world series, or in case of a Saturday calamity, for the finale on Sunday.

The Cubs finished their season series with the Reds with 21 victories in 22 games, 14 of which were achieved in doubleheaders. No other team ever won so many doubleheaders from another in a single season. The 19 twin wins also added to their new national league record, established Sept. 16, when they won their 18th doubleheader. The 21 victories in 22 games tied a major league mark previously held by three clubs. The 1937 Pirates last turned the trick, also against the Reds.

Injury Costly

There was plenty of concern over the injury to second baseman Don Johnson. Johnson was taken to a hospital with a pulled muscle in his neck after a leaping attempt to catch a line drive in the seventh inning of the first game. It is doubtful whether he will recover sufficiently to play.

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SPORTS

Complete Local Reports

Friday, September 28, 1945

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SHORTSTOP TAKES TO AIR—Roy Hughes, Cubs' shortstop, makes leaping catch of Catcher Paul Gillespie's bad throw to second in attempt to stop Card's Johnny Hopp from stealing in during first inning, at Chicago. Umpire Butch Henline calls the plays.

Today's Sport Parade

By OSCAR FRALEY

United Press Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 (UP)—Leslie MacMittell and I passed out of the navy today—only his was official and I just passed out.

I had a lot of company though. Just suppose you were one of those busy examiners in the navy personnel separation office, with your eyes accustomed to uniforms and campaign ribbons, and then you look up and see a guy sitting there in slacks and a sport shirt.

Brother, the reaction is terrific. After the shocked disbelief leaves the examiner's eyes he looks at you as if you were a male Mata Hari. It's an understatement to say you feel like an umpire at Ebbets field. We made it, however, though for a time I thought Les was going to be too old to run by the time they cleared him.

Got Ribbons

Battered in with a batch of photographers, we steamed up to America's four-minute mile hope just after he had been logged in by the officer of the deck and docketed with the records officer. That's where they checked the fact that Les is 25; about five ft. 11; had all his teeth; black hair; a pleasant smile; was on the cruiser Philadelphia in the North Africa, Sicily and Salerno landings, and received the commendation ribbon for work on the cruiser Houston when it was torpedoed twice off Formosa.

"Mental conditioning is important in running the mile for it teaches you to keep punishing yourself," Mac mental-conditioned.

That hurts because he is one of the best defensive players in either league and a dependable hitter. He had connected for two doubles to drive in one of the three runs in the first game before the injury occurred.

Wess, who scored victory 22 in the opener, shared honors with veteran Paul Derringer, who gained his 16th triumph in the nightcap. For each it was the fifth victory over the Reds.

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Ben Hogan Takes Big Lead Over Rest of Field

By JOHN W. DUNLAP
PORTLAND, Sept. 28 (UP)—It was Ben Hogan against the field today as the par-shattering little golf professional took a commanding four-stroke lead into the second round of the \$14,333 Portland open golf tournament.

Hogan is just rounding back into form after three years in the army. He combined 31 and 34 for a seven-under-par 65 to crack the competitive tournament record at the Portland club. He had seven birdies and missed three others by inches.

A dozen of the nation's best golfers cracked par 72 behind the Hershey, Pa., pacesetter. They include national champion Byron Nelson, Toledo, O., and defending Portland open champion Sammy Snead, Hot Springs, Va., who tied with six others at 71.

Three men tied for second with 69s, Harry Bassler and Ray Mangrum of Los Angeles and Harold (Jug) McSpaden, Sanford, Me., who is second only to Nelson for winnings. Newton Bassler, Carmel, Calif., discharged army veteran and brother of Harry, was third with 70.

Slammin' Sammy had to keep on his toes to stay one under par after flubbing one ball into a lake, getting stung by a bee and hitting assorted traps. Nelson, on the other hand, consistently played regulation golf with mechanical accuracy.

Bunched with them at 71 were several who could figure in the final top money brackets, including Ky Laffoon, Chicago; Jimmie Thomson, New York; Jimmy Hines, Chicago; Art Doering, Denver; and Ted Longworth, Portland, the big pro who finished third last year behind Snead and Willie Turnesa.

Biggest Boxing Gate Coming up

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 (UP)—The year's biggest boxing gate—more than \$102,000—may be achieved at Madison Square Garden tonight when Rocky Graziano and Harold Green, young metropolitan middleweight feuds, clash for the third time in a 10-round bout.

This would better the previous high of \$101,918, paid by 18,291 fans at the Tami Mauriello-Lee heavyweight fight on March 23.

Paratrooper Film Playing Two Days

Today and Saturday the Liberty theater plays host to "Objective, Burma," with an all-male cast that stars Errol Flynn and features William Prince, Henry Hull, George Tobias, James Brown and Dick Erdman. Here is the brave, courageous, simply told story of the men of the skyships; those few who have taken it upon themselves to be the shock troops — the men of the United States parachute battalions.

Specifically, it is the tale of one parachute company and of the assignment they drew from the cockpit hat of fate. "Objective, Burma" is a tale of valor and devotion to duty that could have been inspired only by the exploits of the men who battled across Burma's dank wilderness with Merrill's company of Marauders.

Tigers Need One Win To Clinch Pennant

By ALLEN V. DOWLING

DETROIT, Sept. 28 (UP)—The Detroit Tigers, who have been in first place in the American league for 109 days, are begging destiny today to let them stay there alone just two more days, giving them their seventh American league pennant.

Maligned as a club that tottered in the stretch, the Tigers have to the record book to put the lie to such talk. Maintaining a lead they gained on June 12, they have fought off first one then other contenders until now they need only one more game to settle the issue.

The Washington Senators are waiting to see what happens in those last two games between Detroit and the Browns at St. Louis, tomorrow and Sunday. If the Browns should win them both, the Tigers and Senators will finish in an exact tie.

The Tigers embarked for St. Louis weary from a nerve-wracking stretch campaign. Injuries are keeping such stars as Hank Greenberg and Eddie Mayo from operating at top efficiency. Manager Steve O'Neill took time out for a hospital checkup earlier in the week. The pitchers are tired — dead tired.

Indicating how thin the mound strength is spread, O'Neill said he probably will start Virgil (Fire) Trucks, his returning speed-baller who was the star of the Great Lakes naval training station team in 1944, against the Browns. Trucks wired only yesterday he is out of the navy and will be in St. Louis "ready to pitch."

"If he is in shape, he'll start the first game," O'Neill said. Trucks won 30 games in 1942 and 1943 for the Tigers.

Should Trucks win that game the Tigers probably would be willing to concede the Sunday game to St. Louis, pitching second string talent to give aces Hal Newhouse and Paul (Dizzy) Trout extra rest for the world series opener next Wednesday.

The inconsistency of the Tiger batters still is a major worry. After their hard-hitting, 11 to 0 victory over the Indians in the game that clinched a pennant tie last Wednesday, the Tigers lost the second, 3 to 2, for lack of a well-timed base hit or so.

Detroit, with 14 victories in 20 starts with the Browns, has reason to be confident, even though few clubs in the league are tougher to beat at home than the retiring champions. Moreover, their aces, Nelson Potter, who shut the Tigers out with the two hits last Sunday, and Bob Munier are cure to start in the series.

Notice!

Effective October 6th

All Barber Shops Will Close at 6 p.m. on

Saturdays!

La Grande Barbers

Tough Army Line Will Meet Fast Navy Backfield

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 (UP)—Army unlimbers its steam-roller line and Navy its dream backfield for a breathless football public this Saturday while out in the corn country Notre Dame and Ohio State join the postwar run for gridiron glory.

From the way all eyes and ears are attuned to the two series, eleven you wouldn't know there was a war off. But probably an adequate line can be drawn on either team.

Army meets the sterner test taking on the Army air force personnel distribution command outfit which hails from Louisville, Ky., but trains at Greenvale, N. C. The flimsy boast in imposing array of erstwhile collegiate and professional talent but in blowing their first game they showed a lack of cohesion.

Navy, with enough backfield talent for three good college teams, plays Villanova and despite the Philadelphia eleven's good start last week against Bucknell the Middies will be favored to win.

Brisker competition looms for the pigskin powers elsewhere in the country. Notre Dame, weakened by loss of key players, goes against Illinois, a definite underdog.

Ohio State, with the loss of Les Horvath balanced by the return from the wars of Paul Sainghaus, star of the 1942 Buckeyes, rates a heavy favorite over Missouri.

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