The Jap the Best Infantry Soldier in the World

So Says George Lynch, War Correspondent-He Tells Thrilling Stories to Prove the Statement

George Lynch, correspondent, en route to London from the seat of war in Manchuria, interested a little group of acquaintances mightly the other evenng with a string of war anecdotes. They a long way to explain why the Japanese have had the best of it most of the time in the present war, and they help explain why, in Mr. Lynch's opinion, the Jap is the most efficient infantry soldier in the world today. It may be said at the beginning, though, that Mr. Lynch considers the President and the American and the said of the president and the said of the said rs the Bassian soldier not one whit behind the Jap in bravery.

"It has been a war of clean-handed honor on both sides from the beginning," stances of almost unbelievable personal courage, self-sacrifice and self-restraint that I hardly know where to begin.

"I was told of a charge at Nan Shan a Russian regiment, one incident of which suggested the giorious old days most of the fighting was honest when most of the fighting was nonest hand-to-hand work. The Russians advanced with courage and determination, their commander well in advance. He was one of the bravest men ever sean, and he had unbounded confidence in his men, for he never looked back to see how closely they were following. When he had almost reached the Japaness line he cast one look over his shoulder. His forces, brave enough, but slow, were so far in the rear that he was practically forces, brave enough, but slow, were so far in the rear that he was practically alone in the very teeth of the enemy. Some officers might have turned back, but not this Russian; he just stopped coming and stood for a moment, motion-less but defiant, before the Japanese. They might have riddled him with bul-lets, but they didn't; they don't fight that

Duel Between Commanders.

They seemed fascinated by his valor and the Japanese commander, who, like the Russian, was in advance of his men, nanded unconditional surrender. The Russian's refusal was emphatic. He pre-ferred certain death to surrender, and he dared the Japanese officer to fight him singly with the sword. By the time the two were ready the Russian troops, who had continued to advance, were ranged behind their commanding officer in front of the Japs. A halt was called, and the two officers began their strange duel. "Both were good swordsmen, but there was little doubt from the first as to which would win. In less than three minutes the Russian was dead. Until the close of the fight the soldiers on both Russian's refusal was emphatic. He pre-

of the fight the soldiers on both sides atood motionless—almost like stat-ues. There were no cries of encourage-ment or defiance; save for the somewhat distant sounds of battle, to the right and the left, the duel was fought in silence. Immediately after the Russian officer had failen the opposing forces fell upon each other tooth and nall. The Russians were repulsed, after a show of desperate bravery, and when it was all had been frightfully depleted on both and when it was all over the ranks

Japanese officers are known to have no superiors as swordsmen. They are all descendants of the old Samural, or two-sworded men, and are trained in swords-manship from boyhood. Most of their swords were owned by their forefathers, centuries before, and have been handed down, glorious heirlooms of the past. They are siender, quivering blades, made by the old-time swordmakers, each with lis own curve. They are as full of in-dividuality as their owners, instead of being practically all alike, as are the swords carried by the officers in every Western army, and are of even finer temwestern army, and are of even inner temper than the famous blades of Damascus. They are carried in scabbards of modern make, and are sharpened to a razor edge; thus every officer in the Japanese army is admirably armed for hand-to-hand

e is no doubt in the mind of anybody that the splendid physical condi-tion of the Japanese soldiers, next to their personal valor, has been their largest asset in the present war.

How a Jap Trained.

The Japanese servant of an English officer of my acquaintance belonged to the Imperial Guard. At the beginning of officer asked him how he felt about going out to fight the Russians; if he had any regrets because he might soon be in personal danger. 'Not sorry, glad,' said the Jap in his odd English; 'this is

This Japanese servant had four days



through a series of severe physical culture exercises, just to harden themselves and to limber up, so that they would be in the pink of condition when the time came for them to fight. They lay at Hai Cheng ten days, and they trained themselves every day of the ten. There was no loaing about, no idleness; they were getting themselves into shape all the time, though, of course, there were brief periods of necessary rest. Every Jap soldier is exactly like a prisefighter, who would never think of resting on the last day before a fistic hattle; they would be the very ones which he would devote to his hardest training.

Physical Culture by Boys.

'The Japanese of every rank begins physical culture of the severest sort when a men, clad in an immaculate white, suit, sitting quietly at a table, reading a Japanese newspaper, which were established in the midst of a beautiful Chinese garden. Stepping to the open door I saw a man, clad in an immaculate white, suit, sitting quietly at a table, reading a Japanese newspaper, which were established in the midst of a beautiful Chinese garden. Stepping to the open door I saw a man, clad in an immaculate white, suit, sitting quietly at a table, reading a Japanese newspaper, which every high his face. When I

There is nothing compulsory about this sort of thing, but practically every Jap-aness boy does it, and it is likely that one who shirked it would not stand well with

his fellows.

"The bodily hardness and indifference to discomfort which constant striving from youth up for physical perfection produces has a good deal to do with the making of the Jap the best soldier in the world.

World's Best Infantry Soldier.

"Perhaps I should say that I mean the best infantry soldier, since the Jap is not yet a good cavairyman. He will be, though, and the only reason he is not now is that he has never had the chance. The

though, and the only reason he is not now is that he has never had the chance. The few horses in Japan are inferior animals. The Japanese have begun to breed horses, however, and though it will take some time to build up a good breed, they will do it. They do everything they set out to do. "Colonel Hoad, the first Australian military attache, told me of having noticed a man on horseback one day, whom he let down instantly as the best horseman he had ever seen. Hoad inquired and found that the rider was the Japanese Prince Hanin, who had learned to ride in the French cavalry school. Other Japanese have been trained there, too, and it will not be very long after the close of this present war before the Japanese will add as efficient a cavalry branch to their army as any to be found in the Western world. There is no reason in the world to prevent the Japanese were learning their horsemanship in France. They learned how to handle artillery from the French, as they learned how to handle ships from the English, and as they learned tactics from the Germans. But they have practically destroyed all the

"The Japanese of every rank begins physical culture of the severest sort when a mere boy. In Tokio, at the public gymnasia in the parks, you may see just how the averagé Jap boy does it, and the sight is an interesting one. There are all sorts of apparait to answer to the parallel bars, the trapese, etc., but there are other apparatt, the like of which are never seen in an Occidental gymnasium.

"One of them is a sort of suspended swinging bar, as big as a tree trunk. Two boys climb upon this bar. Standing and facing each other, they engage in a wrestling match, the object of each being to force the other off the bar to the ground. They grapple and turn and twist and struggle flercely, sometimes for many minutes, before victory is won and loat. There is nothing compulsory about this too much now, he said, with a smile and a gesture which said as plainly as words could say: 'Drink your whisky and sods, smoke your cigar and be comfortable. We will attend the fighting. Your dispatches

will attend the fighting. Your dispatches can wait."
"And, even while the two Generals were joking and laughing with me, they were attending to the fighting. At intervals orderlies, sometimes covered with the grime of the battle, would come in, salute, and deliver verbal messages, brief and terms from some officer in the field. Ovaterse, from some officer in the field. Oyama would suspend his talk, listen, give his directions and then return with ani-mation to the perfectly commonplace topic under discussion, precisely as if nothing

under discussion, precisely as if nothing special were afoot.

"He received many telephone and telegraph messages, too, in the same matter-of-fact way, and dictated his replies to his secretary, never losing the fire in his cigar and contentedly sipping his whisky and soda all the while.

"The pretty peaceful Chinese garden in which Oyama's headquarters was hidden away was the center of a veritable spiderweb of wires through which the commander-in-chief could get instant communication with any part of his forces. The Japa lead the world in field telegraphy. Unlike Western warriors, they string the wires on the ground, and not on posts, thus saving time and money. on posts, thus saving time and motion on posts, thus saving time and motion. They have the art of securing insulation worked our to perfection, though they cannot always prevent the Chinese from meddling with the wires.

"I saw one Chinaman cut off a piece

of Japanese telephone wire to make a

world. There is no reason in the world to prevent the Jap from being as good a horseman as anybody else.

"I have said that the Japanese were learning their horsemanship in France. They learned how to handle artillery from the French, as they learned how to handle artillery from the French, as they learned how to handle ships from the English, and as they learned tactics from the Germans. But they have practically destroyed all the books of tactics. The Japanese have a poetical phrase about valor, which they say is like 'cherry blossoms shaken in the war textbooks, and scattered the leaves to the four winds.

"Bloch, who has been considered a standard authority, says in his book that after an advancing army has lost 15 or 20 per cent of its number it is no longer expected to go on. But, bless you, the Japanese have made some of their most brilliant advances when only 15 or 20 per cent of their forces have been left to go on with, over and over again. Poor Bloch died before he knew how frightfully his dicta were to be discredited by the Japanese have made some of their most triefly impregnable but the Japs took them. Had they been entrenched behind those defenses no army in existence could have taken them.

"I mentioned artillery a moment ago. I on't suppose it is known generally in the desire was the first." While in Japan on this trip he heard and world my the first some of their most them.

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"A Bachelor's Thanksgiving"

By Hugh Herdman

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