

# Three Swell Guys' Disappear as Sentence Of Death is Pronounced on Doolittle Flyers; Rest Just About Give Up All Hope of Life

Editor's Note: The mock justice of a Japanese court-martial as experienced by the captured Doolittle flyers, including Sgt. Jacob De Shazer of Salem, is described in the following, eighth chapter of their story of 40 months in Jap hands.

By Capt. Robert L. Hite and M. Sgt. Jacob De Shazer  
Chapter 8  
(Written exclusively for International News Special Service)  
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Torture isn't limited to physical punishment. Solitary confinement in a filthy little cell can be more horrible than even the most fiendish physical torments.

We found that out after our first court-martial, Aug. 29, 1942. We were placed in solitary in the civic center prison in Shanghai, and we had no idea of what the Japs had in store for us. We had nothing to read, no one to talk to, nothing to write with. Our cells were narrow cubicles with an open hole for a toilet in one corner.

Once a day we were allowed to exercise for a half hour, but we weren't in physical condition to do much. We had been systematically starved for 70 days while we were in Shanghai's bridge house prison, before our transfer to the civic center.

## Extension Heads Hold Meeting

Officers from 19 Marion county home extension units met Friday in the auditorium of the Portland Gas and Coke company. The purpose of this meeting was to install unit officers and new county committee members, give training in conducting business meetings and make plans for the coming year. Approximately 60 were present. The Marion county home extension committee members were hostesses and installed officers.

Mrs. Floyd Fox, president of the committee, presided. Mrs. Azalea Sager, state home demonstration leader from Corvallis, was a guest. During the morning session she led a group discussion for chairmen and vice-chairmen and during the afternoon gave instructions in conducting a business meeting and in parliamentary procedure. Miss Marjorie Tye, Marion county home demonstration agent, installed new members of the county committee and led a group discussion for secretaries. Singing for the day was led by Mrs. Glenn Briedwell. Miss Eleanor Trindle, new emergency assistant for Marion county, was presented to the group.

## Beta Sigma Phi To Meet Monday

Eta chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, international educational sorority, will meet Monday for the first semi-monthly business session of the fall at 8 o'clock in the Cherrian room of the chamber of commerce.

Miss Hazel Shutt, the new president, will take over her duties from the retiring president, Miss Hattie Bratzel.

Cabinet officers are Miss Ethel Redden, vice president; Mrs. Paul Nelson, treasurer; Mrs. Leander Nesseth, recording secretary, and Miss Tina Duerksen, corresponding secretary. Social affairs will be under the direction of Mrs. F. Alan Wright, and publicity, Miss Nyla Phillips.

Mrs. J. A. Wiltsey will continue as director.

Plans for expanding the chapter's postwar charitable and social activities will be the main topic for discussion Monday and committees will be announced.

## Parochial School Opens Week Late

SILVERTON — Opening of St. Paul's parochial school, which was postponed from September 17, will be Monday for the regular class assignments. Father John Walsh has announced. Postponement was due to the seasonal work with which the pupils were assisting.

throughout all prison camps for the missing flyers.)

## Plenty of Tension

When we realized that our pals weren't with us our determination to make a fight of it if they sentenced us to death was strengthened. You could tell the guards sensed what was in our minds. Plenty of tension was in the air. The trial didn't last more than three minutes.

There were several high-ranking Japanese officers in the tiny courtroom. They constituted the court and there were 15 or 20 guards. We lined up before the bench and looked our judges straight in the eye.

There were a few words in Japanese, and then an interpreter began to read from a paper he held in his hands. The sweat was pouring down his face and his hands trembled. He was plenty nervous.

"For bombing and strafing school areas you have been sentenced to death," he read and then he paused.

Every one of us crouched a little and the guards moved nervously, their hands on their swords. But in an instant the interpreter continued reading:

## 'Special Treatment'

"But through the gracious majesty of the emperor you have been spared to life imprisonment with special treatment."

This business about bombing and strafing school areas was an outright lie, of course. We hit our targets—steel mills in Tokyo and airplane plants in Nagoya—right on the nose, and we never even

fired our machine guns. Then we were marched back to our cells and put in solitary once more. It took a long time to realize what life imprisonment could mean.

Our lives had been spared, but we believed that nobody in the states knew our whereabouts—we were wrong because word of us had trickled out—and we knew that the Japs could stick us away in some remote area and we might not be found even when the Japs were licked.

## Never Lost Hope

But we never lost hope. We had a chance to talk to each other a little during our exercise period each morning, though we had to be careful because the guards would strike us if we talked too much. But even these short talks buoyed us up. We couldn't let ourselves get down. A man will lose his mind quickly in solitary confinement if he loses hope.

They kept us at the civic center jail until April 17, 1943. We were hungry all of the time, though the food was a little better than at bridge house—a small amount of rice and a small bowl of soup with a few vegetables in it three times

a day. On April 17, 1943 we were blindfolded and flown to a specially con-

structed prison in Nanking, where we were again placed in solitary. This was our home for two years

and three months. (Copyright 1945 by King Features Syndicate)

Tuesday: How Lieut. Barr gave the Jap guards a boxing lesson and got the straightjacket penalty.)

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