

# ALLIED NATIONS SHOCKED BY JAPANESE ATROCITIES

LONDON, Sunday—Mr. Eden's revelations in the House of Commons of the inhuman treatment of prisoners and internees by the Japanese has aroused feelings of horror and indignation throughout Britain. "The Times" says the only final remedy lies in the eradication for ever of a regime capable of such infamies, and the "Daily Mail" urges that Japan should be outlawed and isolated after the war.

Members of the U.S. Congress are demanding prompt reprisals. The factual story of atrocities in the Philippines has shocked the American people more than anything else in this war.

In outspoken leading articles, London papers condemn the Japanese as barbarians.

"The Times" says: "The Commons heard a profoundly shocking story. Intelligence collected and sifted by the Allied Governments has established beyond question the accuracy of the picture Mr. Eden has drawn. These outrages have been committed with wanton neglect and tolerated by a Government that ostentatiously asserted its claim to conform to standards of humanity acknowledged by the Western civilised nations.

"Owing to the strategic plan which, with full calculation of all factors, the Allied leaders have adopted, the war in the Pacific can seldom be in the forefront of the news as yet, but the urgent task of freeing regions in which such sufferings can be inflicted is ever present in the public mind. It adds force to the national resolution to overthrow Nazism at the earliest possible date. This is the direct and only way to the destruction of the domination that is responsible for such abominations in the Far East."

## "We Shall Avenge"

The "Daily Mail" says: "Now indeed we know what Bushido, that vaunted Japanese war code of chivalry, means. It means murder, torture, the rule of the beast, a soulless code of ruthless extermination.

"The Japanese have proved themselves a sub-human race. It is in that regard that they must in future be treated.

**"There can be no place for them after the war in the concourse of civilised nations."**

The "Daily Express" comments: "If there lingered in any man's mind a shred of doubt that Britain would throw the whole terrible weight of her military power against the Japanese the day Hitler is dead and done for, it must snap now on reading what Mr. Eden said. The bestiality of our other enemy commands the full hatred of all Englishmen. We shall avenge these deeds."

The "Daily Telegraph" says: "We will not be diverted, even by these horrors, from our established programme of inflicting complete and unforgettable defeat on the Germans before turning our full weight against the Japanese.

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But, here, indeed, is a reason for holding back nothing when the turn of these unredeemed and apparently irredeemable barbarians comes."

In the House of Commons, Sir Geoffrey Shakespeare (Lab.) gave notice to ask: "In view of the record of gross atrocities which puts Japan outside the community of civilised nations, will Mr. Eden consult the United States Government with a view to issuing a warning that the procedure agreed on at the Moscow conference for the trial of German war criminals after the war will apply to Japan?"

## American Sentiment

NEW YORK, Sunday.—The grim story of Japanese atrocities has aroused Americans to such an extent that bond sales for the current Fourth War Loan are soaring throughout the country. The "New York Times" correspondent in Washington says that if the feeling there could immediately be translated into military action, the war against Japan would quickly be over.

Major-General Vandegrift, Marine Corps Commandant, expressed the general sentiment when he said the Jap-

anese would be made to pay for their brutality, and would live to regret the "match of death at Bataan."

Commander Melvyn M' Coy, who supplied some of the details of the official account of the brutalities, said at Seattle that at least 90 per cent. of the remaining prisoners in the Philippines faced certain death unless the quality and quantity of their food improved.

He pointed out that the Japanese did not recognise that any of their own forces could be taken prisoner, so they felt free to treat Americans as they pleased without fear of retaliation.

Mr. J. B. Powell, former editor of the "China Weekly Review," said the Japanese not only executed American flyers after the Tokio raid, but tortured at least six. Mr. Powell, who returned to the United States in the first batch of Gripsholm exchanges in 1942, is still in hospital, having lost

WEST DUTCH OF GRIPSHOLM exchanges in 1942, is still in hospital, having lost both his feet as the result of his treatment by the Japanese.

"I was imprisoned at Shanghai with 40 others, mostly Chinese, in a 12 by 13 ft. cell, where we were forced to sit day in and day out, with our knees hugged close to our chests," he said. "In the next cell six American aviators were tortured daily. The Japanese seemed to delight in torturing them. Two or three of the aviators were later taken to Tokio and executed.

**I am glad the Army and Navy have released the atrocity material, because the torturing of Americans, British and Chinese has been going on since the war started.**

"We received regular daily beatings with a thick pine club, even if there was no disobedience. We could not touch or help any of those who were beaten. This was the worst part, because so many prisoners died as the result of beatings. I was forced to write a letter saying I was well treated and well fed, despite the fact that my daily ration of one bowl of rice was cut in halves. I was really more dead than alive. Gangrene set in in my feet because of malnutrition, cold weather and the way I was forced to sit. I finally became unconscious with pain, and was taken to hospital, where my feet were amputated."

### More Disclosures

Capt. Samuel Orashio said he escaped after a year in successive Philippines prison camps. The Japanese never gave prisoners the slightest medical attention, but bayoneted those who collapsed. Hundreds of Americans and Filipinos were shot or bayoneted, and their bodies strewn along the route. One day he counted 50 Filipino bodies carried out of a camp for burial.

It is disclosed that a nun, who is at present an inmate of a sanatorium at Johannesburg, was branded with the "N" sign on her back and arms in a Tokio prison. She was arrested after Pearl Harbor, after having lived 49 years in Japan. The authorities offered her freedom on condition that she renounced Christianity for Shintoism, but she refused.

A priest who was thrown into prison at the same time as the nun was frequently flogged and died of injuries.

Japanese soldiers one day ordered prisoners to leave the prison, and fired volleys into the crowd, killing 300. The slaughter stopped only when officers arrived.

### Reprisals Demanded

Members of Congress are demanding prompt reprisals.

**Senator Clark (Democrat) said: "The United Nations should bomb Japan out of existence, and hang the Mikado in retaliation."**

Mr. May (chairman of the House of Representatives Military Committee): "If this brutal torture of American prisoners does not stir the people to

"If this brutal torture of American prisoners does not stir the people to a war spirit and action nothing under heaven will. We ought to quit feeling around in the island outposts and steam straight to Tokio and blow it to Hades."

Several other speakers said that such treatment put the Japanese beyond the pale of civilization.

The Secretary of State (Mr. Cordell Hull), at his press conference, declared:

**"It would be necessary to assemble together all the demons available anywhere, and combine their fiendishness in order to describe the conduct of those who have inflicted these unthinkable tortures."**

The President's secretary (Mr. Stephen Earle) told reporters that publication had been decided upon because "we cannot expect to get further relief to our prisoners in the hands of the Japanese." He declined to commit himself in answer to a question whether the Government had abandoned hope of further exchanges of prisoners of war.

The Secretary for State (Mr. Hull) when asked whether the Government was compiling a list of Japanese officers responsible for the atrocities in the Philippines, told a press conference that the U.S. was gathering all possible information about the treatment of American prisoners held by the Jap-

anese so that war criminals might be punished when the war ended.

### Congenital Bestiality

The New York "Herald-Tribune" says: "The savagery and congenital bestiality of this sub-human breed provides irrefutable evidence in nauseating detail that these sadistic creatures, unhappily human in form, so delight in the abuse and humiliation of the helpless that no thought of the future or fear of penalties could restrain them. Decent people of the post-war world will be confronted by the problem of preserving civilization from this numerous, prolific people.

**"There must be no thought of reprisal, but no Government of this country must be permitted to concede the Japanese more space in civilization than they need to live a life as primitive as their morals on their own accursed soil."**

The Tokio Radio, scoffing at Mr. Eden's revelation, said: "If British and American leaders are so ready to raise a hue and cry over the maltreatment of war prisoners, why do not they teach their men to stand up and fight to a finish? The way Americans threw up their hands at Corregidor and the British gave up Singapore on the heels of loud-mouthed assertions that they would fight to a finish, surely shows that these men must carry on their backs a pretty wide streak of yellow."

### Internees Rehoused

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### **Internees Beheaded**

NEW DELHI, Sunday.—The Government of India has issued a communique condemning Japanese atrocities to war prisoners and civilian internees. It says: "Reports from Hong Kong, Malaya and Burma have established beyond doubt that the Japanese beheaded, mutilated, and bayoneted internees, raped women and committed other atrocities. The regularity of such reports shows that the atrocities are not isolated incidents, but part of a campaign of frightfulness."

OTTAWA, Sunday.—The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) told the Commons to-day that Canadian prisoners of war held by the Japanese as the result of Hong Kong's fall suffered from neglect rather than mistreatment.

Commenting on Mr. Eden's statement and the American report, Mr. King said: "We share to the full their feelings of shame and indignation."

"The Canadian Government and the International Red Cross sought alleviation of prisoners' conditions by sending supplies by the liner Gripsholm, but the supplies were delayed and pilfered. Consequently only a limited quantity reached the prisoners."

### **No Australians Lost**

CANBERRA, Sunday.—No Australian prisoners of war were involved in the atrocities perpetrated on Allied war prisoners by Japanese, as reported by American authorities in Washington, a Government spokesman said yesterday.

Investigations which the Australian Government had made into similar reports were not likely to be made public, it was stated.

The Government view is that such stories lead to a vicious circle of retaliation and reprisal, as well as causing unnecessary distress to relatives of prisoners of war.

MELBOURNE, Sunday.—Referring to a public report that British prisoners of war were lost when a Japanese transport was sunk on November 29 last, an Army spokesman stated that the Japanese list of the war prisoners who had lost their lives did not contain the names of any Australians.

ANKARA, Sunday.—The Japanese Domei representative has been expelled from Ankara "for activity outside the journalistic profession."