

# MORE TALES OF JAPANESE SAVAGERY TO WAR PRISONERS

**L**ONDON, Jan. 30 (Special and A.A.P.).— Following the lifting of official reticence about the Japanese atrocities new stories of barbarism continue to pour in.

The Japanese not only executed American airmen captured after the Tokio raid, but they also unmercifully tortured at least six of them, says J. B. Powell, former editor of the China Weekly Review.

It has just been disclosed at Johannesburg that a nun, who is at present an inmate of a sanatorium at Johannesburg, was branded with the "V" sign on the back and arms in a Tokio prison.

Although she had been living in Japan for 48 years she was arrested after the Japs. attacked Pearl Harbour. She was offered her freedom on condition that she renounced Christianity for Shintoism, but she refused the offer.

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

The Johannesburg message also says that Japanese soldiers one day ordered the prisoners to leave their prison and then fired volleys into the crowd, killing 300 of them. The slaughter was stopped only when officers arrived on the scene.

The American Associated Press Los Angeles correspondent says the Captain Samuel Grashio, of Spokane, told an Army-sponsored Press conference that he had escaped after he had been for a year in successive Philippines prison camps.

"The Japs. never gave the prisoners the slightest medical attention," he went on, "but bayoneted those who collapsed."

Hundreds of bodies of Americans and Filipinos shot or bayoneted strewn the route he followed, and one day he counted 500 Filipino bodies carried out from a camp for burial.



These are the men whose sworn statements the report on Japanese atrocities is based. They are Lieut.-Col. W. Dyess (top left), and Commander M. McCoy, Lieut.-Col. S. M.

der M. McCoy, Lieut.-Col. S. M. Mellnik (at left). Dyess has since been killed in an air crash.

# MAN LOST BOTH FEET

**"The torturing of Americans, British, and Chinese has been going on since the war started," Powell told the American Associated Press' New York correspondent.**

Powell returned to the United States with the first batch of the Gripsholm exchangees in 1942, but he is still in hospital, having lost both feet as the result of his ill-treatment by the Japanese.

"I was imprisoned in Shanghai with 40 others, mostly Chinese, in a 12 by 13ft. cell, where we were forced to sit day in and day out, with our knees huzzed close to our

**"In the next cell six American aviators were tortured daily. The Japanese seemed to delight in torturing them. Two or three of the aviators later were taken to Tokio and executed.**

"We received regular daily beatings with a thick pine club, even if there was no disobedience.

"I was forced to write letters saying that I was being well treated and well fed, despite the fact that my daily ration of one bowl of rice was cut in half, and I was really more dead than alive.

"Gangrene set in in my feet because of malnutrition, and the cold weather, and the way I was forced to sit. I finally became unconscious with the pain, and was taken to hospital where my feet were amputated."

## **In Malaya**

Reuter's Chungking correspondent, Thomas Chao, who is at present visiting London, declares that hundreds of British prisoners of war in Malaya were forced to work under a tropical sun, semi-starved, and practically naked, building railways and highways in Burma.

"After the fall of Hong Kong and Singapore," Chao says, "the Japanese paraded British and American prisoners through the streets, slapped their faces, and kicked and beat them with rifle-butts.

"British nurses in the Hong Kong hospital heroically sacrificed themselves trying to save young Chinese nurses from being taken to army brothels."

The disclosures will certainly increase the existing pressure for more action in the Far East, even at the moment when Allied forces are poised for an invasion of Europe, says Hanson Baldwin, the New York Times' military correspondent.

The Pacific war is becoming more and more a "no quarter" war.

A Navy Department observer said: "It is a knock-down, drag-out, no quarter, war. You can't fight the Japanese any other way.

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"For some time now neither side has exhibited any great eagerness to take prisoners," adds Baldwin. "Our men feel that not even a dead Jap is a good Jap, but he is better that way than

<sup>alive."</sup>  
The Army and Navy Journal suggests that the Japanese may be using the hospital ship insignia to ward off Allied aerial blows on their steadily shrinking merchant fleet. The Journal's suggestion was in reply to enemy threats of retaliation for the alleged sinking of hospital ships by U.S. airmen.

New York Herald Tribune says: "There must be no thought of reprisal, but no Government of this country must be permitted to concede the Japanese more space in civilisation than they need to live a life as primitive as their morals."