

# WAR PRISONERS WORKED TO DEATH IN JAP CAMP

## More Revelations Of Atrocities

NEW YORK, Sunday. Even chaplains were forced by Japanese to engage in hard labor at the penal camp for war prisoners in the Philippines.

This is revealed in the latest details released of the appalling acts of Japanese atrocities against war prisoners, related by three American officers—Commander Melvyn Coy, U.S. Navy; Lt. Col. Mellin now serving in the South-West Pacific with U.S. Air Corps; and Colonel William Dyess (since killed)—who escaped from the Philippines after a year of imprisonment.

Addressing the prisoners shortly after their arrival at Davao penal camp, the Japanese commandant declared: "You have been used to an easy life since your capture. That will be different here. You will learn about hard labour. Every prisoner will continue to work unless actually put in hospital. Punishment for malingering will be severe.

These orders were rigidly enforced and only 1100 out of 2000 prisoners were able to work when the three officers escaped from Davao in April 1943.

During an Army-sponsored press conference, Captain Samuel Grass of Spokane, who escaped last year after being in successive Philippine camps, said the Japanese never gave the prisoners the slightest medical attention, but bayoneted those who collapsed. Hundreds of bodies of American and Filipinos who had been shot or bayoneted, strewed the route, and one day he counted 150 Filipino bodies being carried from the camp for burial.

The Japanese not only executed American flyers after the Tokyo raid, but unmercifully tortured at least six of them.

This is stated by J. B. Powell, former editor of the "China Weekly Review," says American Association Press, which adds that Powell, who returned to the United States in the first batch of Gripsholm exchange in 1942, is still in hospital.

Powell added: "I was imprisoned at Shanghai with 40 others mostly Chinese, in a cell 12 feet by 13, where I was forced to sit day in and day out with my knees hugged close to my chest. 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 Tokyo and executed.

Powell said he was glad that the Army and Navy had released the atrocity material, because the torturing of Americans, British and Chinese had been going on since the war started.

"We received regular daily beatings with a thick pine club, even if there was no disobedience," he said. "We could not touch or help any of those who were beaten. This was the worst part, because so many prisoners died as a result of the beatings.

## Tokyo Scoffs at Complaints

Tokyo official radio, scoffing at the revelations by the British Foreign Secretary (Mr. Anthony Eden) of Japanese atrocities said: "If the British and American leaders are so ready to raise a hue and cry over the maltreatment of war prisoners, why don't they teach their men to stand up and fight to a finish. The way the Americans threw up their hands at Corregidor and the way the British gave up at Singapore on the heels of loud-mouthed assertions that they would fight to the finish, surely shows that these men must carry on their backs a pretty wide streak of yellow."

## Nun Branded by Japs

JOHANNESBURG, Sunday.

It is disclosed that a nun at present an inmate of a sanatorium in Johannesburg, was branded with a V sign on the back and arms in a Tokyo prison. She was arrested after Pearl Harbour, after living for 48 years in Japan.

The authorities offered her freedom on condition that she renounced Christianity for Shintoism, but she refused.

## British Reactions

LONDON, Sunday.

The British Press has seldom

He lost both feet as a result of treatment at the hands of the Japanese.

Powell added: "I was imprisoned at Shanghai with 40 others most-

The British Press has seldom spoken its mind with such force and unanimity as is seen in yesterday's comment on the Japanese brutality to war prisoners, details of which were given by the Foreign Secretary (Mr. Anthony Eden).

"Revenge" and "Outlawry" are words often repeated in soberly constructed articles.

## U.S. May Demand No Quarter for Japan

NEW YORK, Sunday.

The military commentator of "The New York Times," Hanson Baldwin, states that stories of Japanese atrocities may affect the strategy of the Pacific war. They bring home to the United States the nature of the enemy in the Pacific and may create a demand for concentrating more forces in the Pacific and may create a despooning up of operations so that Japan can be bombed.

Public opinion, he states, may demand another carrier raid on the Japanese coast. Moreover, there will be less moral repugnance against the use of certain methods of warfare such as gas.

Baldwin concludes that the Pacific war is becoming a "no quarter" war in which no holds are barred.

## General MacArthur's Comment

(From Our War Correspondent, Frank Dexter)

NEW GUINEA, Sunday.

General MacArthur's only comment yesterday on the Washington report about Japanese atrocities was, "The stories speak for themselves."

He had long been aware of what was going on in the Philippines and he knew it when he said on the first anniversary of Bataan's fall, "Wrecks of what were once our men and women groan and sweat in prison toil. Our faithful Filipino wards, 16 million souls, are in the slavery of

atrocious revelations.

Mr. Forde added that independent Powers had tried unsuccessfully to get supplies to Australian prisoners in Japanese hands. On our part, added the Minister, the Australian Government was honouring the international agreement in handling enemy prisoners.

conquering soldiery, devoid of those ideals of chivalry which have dignified many armies."

## JAP ATTITUDE TO WAR PRISONERS

SYDNEY, Sunday.

Japan was not prepared to observe the international agreement followed by all decent civilized nations, said the Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) last night, referring to Jap atrocity revelations.

Mr. Forde added that independent