

# SEAC

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## Good Morning...

When Singapore capitulated to Jap invaders over three years ago, the Nips told our men who fell into their hands that they were protected by no international conventions; they were subject only to the rules of the Japanese Army. And the Japanese Army said that prisoners of war were entitled to two things only—rice and barbed wire.

Well, the Japanese gave our men rice, a few ounces a day, and barbed wire, miles of it. But man cannot live on rice and barbed wire alone and remain a sane being.

Here is the courageous story of a handful of men who risked their lives every day that the thousands of men incarcerated in and around Changi Jail, Singapore, might look beyond their wire barriers and know what was going on in the world outside.

In three years more than 80,000 men passed through Changi. And every one of them every day was given a news service.

Main reliable news source was the BBC. Every day men listened on home-made radio sets to the news broadcasts from London and the head lines were passed round the "grape vine" or "the pipe." Men who listened in knew their lives would be forfeit if they were caught by the Nips. Prisoners transferred from Java and Sumatra spoke of beheadings for listening in to Allied broadcasts. Still they went on.

They hid their receivers—rarely more than two, to keep down the numbers in the plot—in broom heads, in wooden beds, in false bottomed drawers, in wash-hand stands, in basha roofs and they buried them in the ground. One man did his listening cramped in the firing hole of an oil furnace in the boiler room.

And the Japs, though they knew that news was getting into the camp, never caught them.

The nearest the camp news gatherers came to being caught was when an operator decided to move his set and battery—batteries were stolen from Jap cars—to a new location. He decided to make the move in two stages and left the radio in a basha until night fell when he would move it to its new hide-out.

In the early evening he "got a hunch" that the temporary "station" was not really a good idea and immediately moved it out. Ten minutes later a lorry load of Japs drove up. They found nothing.

In August these happy radio warriors had their reward. They heard over the air the news of the Jap surrender—before the Singapore Nips themselves knew that the game was up.

# TUC URGE 40hr WEEK, HOLIDAY PAY

Blackpool, Fri.—Proposals for a forty hour working week and holidays with pay were presented to a session of the Trades Union Congress by Sir Mark Hodgson, member of the General Council, today. "Sky high industrial output," said Hodgson, "cannot be based on poor conditions for workers."

The Congress considered that the matter was one for negotiation within the different industries, but Sir Mark added that they would ask that impetus would be given to these agreements by legislation.

In addition to the statutory force, he said, separate industries should be required to submit their own schemes for a forty hour week to the Ministry of Labour within a certain period.

H. H. Eastwood, demanding abolition of overtime, said: "There is only one section of industry which should be allowed to work overtime—the cigarette maker. "We do not want overtime. The average man during the war worked too much overtime."

## Russian Protest

The text of a letter to the General Council by the Russian fraternal delegate, Tarasov, was issued today.

Tarasov protested against the criticisms of Russian trade unions by the American Federation of Labour fraternal delegate, George Meany.

Repudiating Meany's statement that Russian Trade Unions were "state instruments," Tarasov said, "I protest against these hostile and inciting calumnies against the millions of workers organised in the Soviet Union."

Tarasov added that Meany's remarks would provoke deepest resentment amongst Soviet workers.—Reuter.

## PREPARE TO MOVE

The first batch of 24,000 Japanese naval prisoners are to be removed from Seletar Camp today.

## Mayoress Stranded In The Navy

The Mayoress of Hastings went out to sea to have lunch yesterday—and she was still at sea at midnight.

She is Mrs. Lancelot Blackman, daughter-in-law of Mayor Blackman and the lunch was an official affair on the sloop Hastings which is anchored a mile out.

The sea was so rough that she was unable to go ashore in the ship's launch and had to spend the night in the ship.

# EVOE'S SON SLAVED ON SIAM RAILWAY

BY FRANK ROSTRON, Daily Express Reporter.

Changi Prison Camp, Singapore: Captain Rawle Knox of Baker-street, London, son of Punch's famous editor E. V. Knox has just seen his first copy of Punch for three and a half years. This copy dated March fell at his feet a few days ago in a Red Cross parcel dropped by British planes.

Hastily he turned to chuckle over the weekly contribution of "Evoe." He showed a wry humour himself, which says much for British guts because far from having anything to laugh about he and his companions quietly told me stories that rival Belsen.

They know about Belsen and Kramer because they listened on clandestine radio sets, but they say grimly "This wasn't bestial German sadism. It was a lingering massacre."

## The Chain Gang

Knox was one of the terrible chain gang of more than 7,000 British and American prisoners selected to trek to Thailand to build the Japs' new Burma-Thailand railway.

He is one of the "lucky" 48 per cent. who did not die.

His friends died like this on the way to the start of their slavery and during their seven days a week down to long past sunset railroad labours.

Listen to his understated tale: we were assembled at Singapore and told we were being transferred to Burma to a camp offering better conditions, better food and no work so that it was unnecessary for more than two-thirds of the party to be physically fit.

"We were herded into rice trucks, which are worse than cattle trucks because they were almost hermetically sealed steel boxes into which 23 were crammed.

## Glad To Die

"At the railhead we were told we must march 180 miles, during which many perished on the roadside.

"Then we were forced to march through a cholera camp," continued Knox.

"The senior British medical officer protested warning the Japs that marchers would be infected, but they insisted.

"As a result hundreds of marchers soon died from cholera without receiving treatment. We estimate nearly 2,000 died this way—and we're glad to.

"On the actual railroad building we continually collapsed through lack of food."

## SUPREMO WANTS TERAUCHI'S SWORD

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, S.E. Asia, means to have the sword of Field Marshal Count Terauchi, commander of the Jap forces in the southern regions.

Mountbatten said recently that when he was satisfied that Terauchi's illness was not diplomatic he did not think it would have been dignified to have dragged him to the surrender ceremony.

"But I have told him that as soon as he is fit he will come and surrender his sword to me privately. I am determined to have that sword. It is the only trophy I want out of this war," he added.

## MALAYA JAPS SURRENDER

The whole of the Malay Peninsula has been surrendered to Lieut. Gen. O. L. Roberts, commander of 34 Indian Corps by Lieut. Gen. Torzo Issiguro, commander of the Japanese 29th army.

The official announcement from Singapore last night said the formal ceremony of surrender took place at Kuala Lumpur, capital of Federated Malay States.

## RUSSIA SEEKS BIG RUMANIAN OIL DEAL

Vienna, Fri.—The Soviet Government is about to conclude a gigantic oil deal with Dr. Karl Renner's provisional Austrian Government, which at present is not recognised by the other Allies.

Reports of the deal, which concerns Austria's eastern oil-fields, normally capable of producing 1,000,000 tons annually, are causing concern among representatives of the other three Allied powers in Austria.—Reuter.

## POW CAMP BOSS FLUNG IN JAIL

Now lodged in the Central jail in Singapore are 52 Japanese and collaborators, all accused of having committed atrocities against Allied prisoners of war or civilians.

They include Maj. Gen. Saito, who was in charge of Allied prisoner of war camps in the city.

## AIRBORNE AGAIN

Japanese airways are to re-open for passengers on business connected with the Allied occupation by permission of Gen. MacArthur.

## CROWDS RUSH TO SECRET HOUSE SALE

Birmingham Fri.—Ernest Willson, architect of the First National Housing Trust, mentioned to three or four people on Saturday that an unadvertised sale of more than 400 leasehold houses at a great barn near Birmingham would be taking place.

By 9 a.m. yesterday more than 500 people had queued up at the farmhouse where the sale was to be held. The first arrived at the farm at 5.30 in the morning.

All had heard of the sale by word of mouth. Four people in Sheffield hurried 60 miles and arrived in time for the sale.

A woman from Newport, Monmouthshire visiting Birmingham to look for a house, had heard of it and turned up. The houses were sold on a 99 years lease for prices ranging from £500 to £575.

## Preference For Troops

The sale was on a first come first served basis, but preference was given to service and ex-servicemen.

No money changed hands. Names and addresses of those wishing to buy were taken as houses were allocated.

Until recently the houses had been occupied by the American forces.

Last night Willson said the Trust decided not to advertise the sale because "We should have been completely snowed under with applications."

The trust hope to include a clause in the agreement aimed at preventing the houses coming on the market again for ten years.

"Our idea is to prevent profiteering. We could have sold all the houses in a block, but we preferred to give everybody in need of a house an equal opportunity of acquiring one for themselves."—Reuter.

## WEST YORKS ARE LOOKING FOR LOOTERS

Restoration of order on Singapore Island continued yesterday as troops of the West Yorks Regiment began a house-to-house search to recover loot taken from the area of Perseverance Estate.

Punjabi troops occupied the village of Banda Penggam, where civil disturbances had occurred, without incident.

Total number of Japanese troops still in the concentration areas on Johore and Singapore is estimated at 82,700.

## MAISIE GAY IS DEAD AT 67

Maisie Gay, musical comedy star and creator of the Cockney character "Mrs. Arris" died at her home at Kingsdown, Box Wiltshire.

She was 67. Her last performance in London was in 1932 with Sir Cedric Hardwicke in "Caravan."

## WINTER CLOTHES SCARCE IN U.K.

The urgent problem of feeding and clothing Britain during the winter months was examined in "after-lease" talks in Washington.

British officials in Washington described this aspect of their talk as a "race against time."

## NUMBER 9 COMMITS SUICIDE

Tokyo Fri.—Koizumi Chikahko Izumi, a member of Tojo's cabinet, committed suicide today.

He was number nine in the published list of Jap war criminals. The news came only a few hours after the Japanese Government had decided to hand over all listed criminals.

A second suicide was reported a few hours later when Gen. Teichi Hashimoto, a former army commander, shot himself through the heart in the commanders' room at the Japanese military HQ building.

The hunt for war criminals in far flung areas of the Far East is on. While Allied soldiers

acting under the orders of Supreme Commander Gen. Douglas MacArthur were on the track of members of the suppressed Japanese Black Dragon society and other wanted Japs, Japan's foremost warlord Gen. Tojo, premier at the time of Pearl Harbour, who tried to cheat allied justice by shooting himself, was reported today to be recovering at an American field hospital in Yokohama.

In Hong Kong the worst of the criminals have been rounded up and are now in jail.

Gen. Albert Wedemeyer, U.S. commander in China, said today that Allied forces would help the Chinese hunt down criminals.—Reuter.



# JAPS DETAILED DIVINE WIND SUICIDE MEN

## ENSA PLAY TO POWs AND TROOPS

(By Richard Collier)

ENSA is playing its part in helping to provide Singapore's POWs and internees with some of the joys they have missed in the last three-and-a-half years. I have just come back from a visit to their bivouac HQ in the Victoria Memorial Hall, Empress Place, where the officer in charge, Lt. Greenfield, was coping with the twin problems of rehearsing a Malayan orchestra and arranging details for a concert party performance at 12 noon.

## AUSSIES WIN TWO MORE VCs

Two VCs awarded to the Australian fighting services, have been announced, bringing the total number of VCs to 16 out of 162 awarded in all theatres.

For an exploit on 15 May, 1945, says Reuter, Private Edward Kenna, received his decoration. With Japanese machinegun bullets passing between his arms and body he emptied a Bren-gun magazine at a Japanese bunker defending Wewak.

The second VC to be won, is a posthumous award to Lieutenant Albert Chowne, who led his men against a prepared Japanese position on a ridge near Dagua, New Guinea, on 25 March, 1945.

Although twice wounded in the chest, Chowne continued to fire his sub-machine-gun and wiped out two more Japanese before he was killed above their foxholes.

## H.M. HOTEL SUSSEX

H. M. Sussex has become the Hotel Sussex for the moment. Nine hundred ex-POWs were invited on board to Mess Deck tea and over 300 to the Ward Room. Another 400 had supper on board and saw a cinema show and a concert by the ship's band.

Ship's officers gave up their cabins for those who stayed the night.

There is one ENSA concert party in active operation—Pat Gaye's "Keep Moving," a non-stop variety show from Rangoon with Sybil Sherwood, Ronald George, Frank Trewhitt, Rita Massaria and Pat Gaye.

They began work within 24 hours of dis-embarkation and have been working two shows a day at POW camps ever since.

The dancer now has a poisoned foot and the singer a sore throat, but they are carrying on.

In addition, the De Souza Orchestra, a local group of Chinese, Eurasian and Malay musicians, are playing at the camps and the concert party "Sundays" is expected any time now.

## In Running Order

The arrival of top-line stars such as Gracie Fields, John Gielgud and Beatrice Lillie in Singapore is still undecided.

Facilities are fairly good. The Victoria Memorial Building was a peace-time theatre, and during the occupation was used as a Community Hall by the Japanese.

Lights, fans and fittings have been preserved and everything is in smooth running order.

Pre-war scenery has been unearthed and it is intended to begin shows on the stage next week.

At the moment, priority seating and facilities are accorded to internees and POWs, with troops willingly taking second place, but there is usually plenty of room for all.

## Spain Quits Tangier

All troops under Spanish control are now withdrawn from Tangier, including two native battalions, which were last to be left, says Reuter from Madrid.

Order is being maintained by the Calif's police until the national gendarmerie takes over.

The International control commission is reported to be ready to junction on 26 Sept. Spaniards are removing military telephone installations and other material which they set up since occupying the international zone in 1940.

## CHIANG TALKS TO COMMUNISTS

Stocky 52-year-old Mao Tse tung, Chinese Communist leader, was "at home" to a dozen British, American and Russian correspondents after six personal talks with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in Chungking, says Reuter.

Mao was accompanied by Gen. Chou On Lai, one of the Communist military leaders. Twenty-four hours earlier they were getting down to talks with Central Government officials after a luncheon party.

Mao told correspondents: "It is Communist policy at this moment to establish peace, democracy and unity in China."

"People throughout China want peace and that is why I have come to Chungking—to make every effort to achieve that end."

"Negotiations are still going on. Both sides are determined to avoid civil strife."

"We hope that good results will come of talks so that China can pass through the stage of emergence from the Japanese war into a peaceful and constructive period."

## DUKE'S PLANE TO FLY S.E.A.C. POWs

The Governor-General of Australia, the Duke of Gloucester, has offered his York aircraft to Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten to provide a shuttle service between Australia and Singapore, carrying sick prisoners to Australia and medical supplies to Singapore.

The plane will carry 14 men.

## ALLIES GIVEN NOTICE

The Persian Government has sent a note to the Soviet, British and American embassies declaring that by 2 March next year all Allied air, naval and land forces should be withdrawn from Persian territory.

Under the Big Three declaration made at Teheran the six months within which the Allies must evacuate Persia began on 2 Sept, when the Japanese signed the surrender.

## Emperor's Sake Before The Last Flight

(By Major A. G. Morley).

No lack of love for life prompted the enthusiasm with which the Japanese forces—particularly air and naval personnel—accepted the necessity for self-destruction in their country's cause. "My life for the Emperor"—that was the basic idea, representing patriotism carried to an extreme; envisaging in the Person of the Emperor the whole raison d'être of the Japanese people, the Spirit of Kamikaze.

To the Japanese, their Kamikaze "suicide" or "special attack" units were visible proof of Japan's "invincible spiritual strength."

At first, these units were formed entirely on a voluntary basis. Many volunteers started their training at the age of 15. When, at Okinawa, it became apparent that Kamikaze was a not inconsiderable threat to our naval forces, the Japanese began to expand their suicide groups. Any unit became liable for Kamikaze duty: any Japanese might have been posted to a Kamikaze unit.

The name means "Divine Wind" and originated in the first attempted large scale invasion of Japan, 700 years ago, when, from bases in Korea, Ghengis Khan, the Tartar, set out with a fleet of troop transports. His ships were scattered by a typhoon—the "Divine Wind"—and the invasion was cancelled.

## Locked In Plane

Contrary to general belief, when a Japanese joined a Kamikaze unit he was not automatically and irrevocably committed to self-destruction. Not until he had been briefed for a definite operation was his life held forfeit.

Before taking off in his crash dive-bomber, or in his midget submarine or his high explosive filled motor boat, he was given a glass of sake (rice wine). This wine was sent, officially, direct from the Emperor to his unworthy self. Next, he was locked in his craft by his Commanding Officer. Then he was ready to meet his fate.

In Burma, suicide activity by the Japanese Army was limited to a few men who sat in holes with bombs held firmly between their knees. The intention was to explode the bomb when a tank or vehicle passed over the hole. However, these Japanese were killed before they could carry out their plan.

## All For 'Suicide'

What might have been met by sea, land and air forces of South East Asia Command is another matter. It is known that, when the "cease fire" came, the Japanese were preparing nearly all their available aircraft for suicide operations. It is suspected that some kind of suicide vessels were being constructed at Penang and Singapore.

"Shinyo Force" was the name applied to all Japanese naval units operating small suicide craft.

Among the naval suicide craft which might have been employed against the British East Indies Fleet were one-man torpedoes, speed boats and midget submarines.

## No Escape

The one-man torpedo was piloted towards its objective by a suicidal helmsman, who was accommodated in a tiny compartment mounted in the war head. Access to the compartment was from above by a circular hatch. There was no way of quick escape for the pilot when he had completed his mission, even had he survived.

It is thought that the weapon was carried on the back of a parent submarine or other vessel. The pilot was fed with air from the parent ship when submerged. At a point near the target the torpedo was launched and steered by the helmsman, who was probably equipped with a small periscope.

The torpedo was of 24-inch calibre, with an estimated range of 21,000 yards at 26 knots. By reducing the speed, the torpedo could have been launched from the parent craft at distances up to 15 miles from the target. The final run was made under water. Thirty-two of these torpedoes were found on the shore at Manggar, in Balikpapan Bay, East Borneo.

## 22-Knot Midgets

The midget submarines, of various types and sizes, ranged from the 41-foot "Pearl Harbour" type to the 82-foot "Ko Hyoteki." They usually equipped with two 18-inch torpedoes. The standard crew numbered three. Their range was limited by the life of their batteries, 120 miles being considered the maximum "non-returning" reach.

Some types could attain a speed of 22 knots for a very short time, say ten minutes. The more usual speed was six or seven knots. Among their major disadvantages was the fact that they had to be hoisted from the water and given a complete overhaul at least once per month.

Suicide motor boats were also in service. One power-driven boat capable of 35 knots, was of light wood construction with a hard wood bow. Measuring fourteen feet by seven, it carried a crew of two. Some had their snouts filled with high explosive, which had to be rammed into the target. Others carried two depth charges, with a safety time factor of seven to eleven seconds, affording the crew a possibility of escape.

Other sea and river activity was provided by men who swam, pushing rafts along in the water. The rafts carried mines.

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# PEOPLE...

Landed up-country. Shrewd, auburn-haired, cigar-smoking Lieut.-Gen. Ouvry Lindfield Roberts, C.B.E., D.S.O., commander of 34 ("Panther") Corps, now liberating Malaya from Port Swettenham and Port Dickson.

Roberts' off-duty camaraderie and prowess at "Bar billiards fives" are a legend amongst his officers, no less than his parade-ground efficiency at the office-desk the morning after. Roberts has attained his present rank in just on four years, rising from a Lt.-Col. of R.E.s—a speedy promotion for a sapper. His work in quashing the pro-Axis Rashid Ali outbreak in Iraq in 1941 won him a D.S.O., this in addition to the Mention in Despatches gained for his work in the Third Afghan War of 1919 on India's North West Frontier.

His Div. Commander, now Gen. William Slim, impressed with his work in Iraq, made him a Brigadier. Since that time he has acquired two more "mentions," one for his work in Burma, where he helped to organise the first Wingate expedition.

He played an important role in the defence of Imphal and took over 34 Corps in March this year to crack the toughest nut of the lot—the assault on Malaya and the recapture of Singapore.

Roberts, Ceylon-born, might have been a tea-planter like his father; instead he left school and took a commission in the Engineers in 1917.

Tall, well-knit Maj-Gen "Duggie" Hawthorn D.S.O., commanding 23 Indian Division, is a camera fan and

an expert in amphibious warfare. A 47-year-old Londoner, Hawthorn and his eight mm cine camera were a familiar sight on the beach-heads of the Arakan, where he was Brigadier of Christison's General Staff.

At the time Rangoon fell Hawthorn missed some historic pictures—he was back in India, grooming 23 Div. for the southern spearhead of the Malaya assault. Hawthorn won his experience of combined ops the hard way—on the beachheads of Bombay as long ago as 1935, where his only practice craft were country fishing boats and barges.

## NIP NAVY COULDN'T SAIL RIN'S ML

Lying at anchor in Singapore Naval Base is a "B" type Fairmile motor launch, often described in naval communications as a "light craft of coastal force," which was captured from the Allies by the Nips. It was never used against us. The RN and RIN operated the craft with success but the Nips could not use it in action because they could not run her efficiently.

I visited the Japanese launch yesterday (writes a RIN observer). Disarmed and with a skeleton crew, she lay among an armada of surrendered ships, near the crippled cruiser "Takao," which was damaged in the Leyte battle. Climbing aboard the ML I was greeted by the commanding officer, 34 year old Midshipman

Yushida who conducted me, rather apologetically, round the upper deck.

She was dirtier than any British or Indian ML I have ever seen, even those just back from a difficult spell of duty in Burma. Paint was peeling off the upper works and all equipment showed signs of neglect.

Given the code-name "HOTEL" by the Japanese, captured ML's were reserved for harbour duties and never went into action. Unable to manage the engines, the Japanese seldom took them out of sight of land.

I examined an unfamiliar type of depth-charge rack set on either side of the craft amidships. It was designed, Yushida told me, for a new type of super depth-charge twice as big as the normal size. A spring-operated

arm, set in the rack, could throw the charge fifteen feet from the ship.

Armament was the same as that fitted to the earliest British ML's but long since superseded. It consisted of one Hotchkiss 3-Pdr forward and a ROLLS 2-pdr quick firing gun aft.

Remember the quick successes of our light craft in Burma, when enemy ships and barges were sunk or crippled after engagements seldom lasting ten minutes? The reason is that our ML's finally managed to pack the amazing armament of one 6-pdr gun forward, two Oerlikon A.A. cannon mounted together amidships and BOFORS in a naval mounting on the stern. Some Indian craft were equipped with 3" army mortars, fixed on a circular base-plate.