

# JAPANESE ADMITTED CANNIBALISM

## Terrible Story Of Flier's Beheading

**CANBERRA, Monday.**—Japanese prisoners admitted that they had eaten their own and Australian and American dead, the Chief Justice of Queensland (Sir William Webb) said in his report on Japanese atrocities.

The report told the full story of the decapitation of an Australian airman, and listed many other barbarities by Japanese sadists.

The Minister for External Affairs (Dr. Evatt) said in London that the crimes were part of a system of terrorism in which all Japanese troops and their commanders took part.

Sir William Webb said that in a great number of cases Australian and American dead were mutilated with swords, knives and other sharp instruments. In many cases flesh was removed and sometimes found in Japanese mess kits and ovens.

Any doubt about Japanese troops being guilty of cannibalism was removed by the admissions of at least three prisoners of war that Japanese soldiers ate flesh from their own and Australian and American dead.

Authentic enemy sources revealed that in October 1942 during the Japanese retreat, some of them ate Australian soldiers.

Not only were the Japanese seen cutting up their own dead and putting the flesh into dishes, but they actually admitted they were eating their compatriots.

"It was noteworthy that the majority of Japanese soldiers who were left without food preferred to starve rather than resort to cannibalism," Sir William commented.

### Diary Told of Decapitation

The report tells a terrible story of the ceremonial decapitation of the Australian airman.

The evidence of this crime was provided by one of the Japanese on-lookers, whose diary subsequently fell into Allied hands.

The Japanese diarist described how his commander decided that one of two R.A.A.F. fliers taken from an aircraft shot down by ack-ack fire "should be killed in accordance with the compassionate sentiments of Japanese Bushido."

The diarist wrote: "Now the time

Japanese Bushido."

The diarist wrote: "Now the time has come, and the prisoner is made to kneel on the bank of a bomb crater filled with water."

"He is surrounded with guards with fixed bayonets, but he remains calm. He even stretches neck and is very brave."

"The commander has drawn his favourite sword. It glitters in the light and sends a cold shiver down my spine."

"He taps the prisoner's neck lightly

with the back of the blade, then raises it above his head with both arms and brings it down with a sweep.

"I had been standing with muscles tensed, but at that moment I closed my eyes. It must be the sound of blood spurting from the arteries."

"With a sound as though something watery has been cut, the body falls forward. It is amazing; he is killed with one stroke."

"The onlookers crowd forward. The head, detached from the trunk, rolls in front of it. Dark blood rushes out."

### Savageness Is Gone

"All is over and the savageness I felt is gone. I feel nothing but the true compassion of the Japanese Bushido."

"The superior sergeant of the medical unit takes the chief medical officer's sword, and intent on paying off old scores, turns the headless body over on its back and cuts the abdomen open with one clean stroke."

"They are thick-skinned. These

"They are thick-skinned. These hairy foreigners. Even the skin of the bellies is thick. Not a drop of blood comes out of the body, which is pushed over into the crater at once and buried."

Sir William Webb said he was satisfied this was a genuine account and recorded the actual occurrence.

Evidence was given later that the decapitated body of an Australian airman was disinterred from a bomb crater at Kela Point (Salomona), which was the place mentioned in the diary as the place of execution.

### P.3' Rape and Mutilation in Islands.