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Article Summary: The author states his opinion of why the Japanese hated the Nazis: primarily, that each country felt they should dominate the entire world; yet Hitler continued to oppress the Japanese.

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## Why the Japs Hate the Nazis

ROBERT BELLAIRE \*

One drizzling morning last spring in Kyoto, Japan, a stoutish little German in the uniform of a Nazi general bowed solemnly as he approached a Shinto shrine to worship Japan's war dead.

The stoutish little man, followed by other uniformed Nazis and a dozen Japanese plainclothes policemen, was the German ambassador to Japan, General Eugen Ott. Except for the raindrops, his well-cut uniform was immaculate. His dozen military medals glittered and jangled as he walked.

As Ott knelt to "worship" at the damp, moss-covered shrine, he probably recalled Hitler's description of the Japanese in *Mein Kampf*: ". . . those despicable little yellow monkeys." Ott was now humiliating himself before this heathen shrine as part of a nationwide "goodwill tour" ordered by Berlin in an effort to stem growing anti-Nazism in Japan.

For some months Ott had been losing ground in his fight to get the Japs to follow his Fuehrer's orders. At no time had Tokyo ever placed its world-conquering program on Berlin war time. But now that Hitler was demanding that Japan open a second front against Soviet Russia, the Japs had become more insolent and independent than ever.

Tokyo had given no publicity to her independence from the Axis, or to her growing hatred of the Nazis. Open acknowledgment that the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis actually was made of glass would merely have comforted Japan's enemies as well as Germany's. But the harder Ott and his Nazi agents tried to rivet the yoke on Japan, as it had been riveted on Italy, the more the Japs hated the Nazis for trying to dictate to *them*. The Nazis might be super-men, but the Japanese were *gods*—the Sons of Heaven.

Ott's appearance in Kyoto was his twentieth such performance in two weeks. He had also made more than fifty speeches—urging the Japanese to trust Hitler and accept his leadership.

But few Japanese had come to hear him. The government-controlled press had virtually ignored him. Not one of his speeches appeared in print. Several newspapers, however, entertained their readers by printing photographs of the super-man Nazi kneeling in worship of the "despicable."

When Ott finally struggled to his feet in front of the Kyoto shrine, he decided to give up his goodwill tour and return to the capital. Word had reached him earlier that morning that a dozen Nazi agents and more than a hundred of their Japanese stooges had been arrested in Tokyo the previous night. The charge against them was "attempting to interfere with the administration of Japan."

\* United Press Correspondent in Tokyo at the time of Pearl Harbor.

As Ott returned to his chancellory in Tokyo that evening, still trailed by a dozen Jap detectives who said they wanted to "protect" him, he probably wondered whether those arrests of the previous night had not been timed as a personal warning to him to terminate his Chautauqua activities. At least, he could tell himself, this obviously was not the season for a Nazi goodwill tour of Japan anyway.

The Japs have many reasons for hating the Nazis. Some of these reasons are Hitler's own fault. Others are the natural outgrowth of Japan's middle-age nationalism and religion—her fanatical belief that it is the mission of the Jap race to dominate the entire world, including Germany.

Competent Japanese spokesmen have described that mission thus:

"The ultimate end of politics is the conquest of the world by one imperial power, and Japan is prepared to fill this glorious role—her destiny dictated by the gods. Those who resist must be subjugated."

No exception is made for Nazis, and the Nazis know it.

"If Japan goes to war with America and Britain," a ranking member of the German embassy staff in Tokyo told me a few weeks before Pearl Harbor, "our days will be numbered here too. Japan will wage a race war in which we Germans will be regarded as enemies along with the rest of the white race. It is only a matter of time. They intend to conquer all of us, but they are smart enough not to tackle all of us at once."

He then quoted a remark made by a member of the Japanese cabinet several days earlier.

"Because you Germans are our allies," the Japanese leader had told him, "we give you the honor of being the last white men we will drive out of the orient."

Since a Japanese is expected to be pro-Japanese, and pro-nothing-else, the Japanese government has tried to suppress everything which might make popular sentiment friendly toward Germany.

Not only has the government been suppressing Nazi-subsidized secret societies, but any popular celebration of Japan's membership in the Axis has been outlawed in effect.

Each anniversary of Japan's nominal adherence to the Axis, Nazi propaganda agents in Japan have attempted to organize mass meetings throughout the country. They have distributed thousands of huge Nazi flags which were to be hung along all city streets. They have tried to arrange shortwave propaganda broadcasts from Berlin for rebroadcast over Japanese long wave stations. But everywhere the Tokyo government has thwarted them.

Since all mass meetings in Japan require police licenses, the government has found little trouble in suppressing Nazi plans for such demonstrations. Police officials issue just one permit for the entire country, and that is issued to the government itself. Speakers are carefully selected. Their speeches must not create sympathy or friendship for Germany or Italy. The meeting is held indoors so that attendance will

be limited to a few hundred. Newspapers are instructed to give the celebration little publicity.

Two years ago the Germans managed to have the streets of Tokyo decked with Nazi flags the morning of the anniversary, but by noon most of them had disappeared. I called the editor of one of Japan's largest newspapers to ask him why the German flags had been removed from his building.

"Police orders," he said. "We were told we could not fly the flag even of our friendly enemies."

The Nazis were even less successful in their attempts to bring Berlin propaganda broadcasts to the Japanese people. The Japanese government took the position that Berlin shortwave stations were so powerful that longwave rebroadcasts in Japan would be unnecessary. Technically this was true. But possession of a shortwave radio receiver in Japan is punishable by imprisonment or death. Very few Japanese ever heard Berlin's Axis anniversary programs.

I once asked the Japanese Foreign Office for an explanation of the government's obvious attempts to suppress pro-Nazi propaganda in Japan. The reply said: "The government does not find it necessary to suppress pro-German propaganda, because there is very little popular pro-German sympathy in Japan."

The popular Japanese nickname for the Germans is "The Vultures." For several years Japanese cartoonists have been using the vulture to impersonate Germany.

"Every time our embassy protests against these cartoons to the Japanese Foreign Office," an exasperated German news agency correspondent told me, "the Japanese claim these vultures are really eagles."

The Nazis won the nickname of "vulture" by making the Japanese feel that Hitler was attempting to reconstruct Germany's empire in the Orient (on the model formulated before World War I) at the cost of Japanese blood.

The Nazis invited this feeling by the demands they made upon Japan on the grounds of "Axis partnership." The Germans have demanded:

1. The use of former German islands in the south Pacific as "bases from which to attack the United States."
2. A major share of the booty in fabulously rich Netherlands East Indies, to which the Nazis claim to be rightful heirs because of the Nazi occupation of Holland.
3. Major economic concessions in Japanese-occupied areas of China.

Japan's reply to all these demands has been a polite but firm, "Very sorry . . . NO!"

"We are partners," the Japanese concede for convenience. "You keep Holland and we will keep the Indies. You fight the United States in the Atlantic. We will do the fighting in the Pacific.

"As for China, that must be a special Japanese area. We won that for ourselves before we became partners with you."

Ken Tsurumi, scheming Japanese army agent who operated in the Japanese diplomatic service, was quite frank in his off-the-record discussions of the Nazi problem when the Nazis were making their biggest bid for concessions in occupied China early in 1940. . . .

"Japan really has no allies," he told me two years ago in Shanghai. "She can have none. In World War I we ousted Germany from the Pacific. It would not only be folly for us to permit her to rebuild her empire out here, but it would be to forget our holy mission in the world. Under our pressure, America and Britain have been backing out of the Orient without a real struggle. It is Germany that will worry us most. We feel they are not only more determined to hold what they have, but they plan to over-run the world."

A year later, the Nazi menace suddenly loomed larger for Japan. France had collapsed. Japan was waiting for Germany to deliver the death blow to Britain, which would topple Britain's far eastern possessions into Japan's lap like ripe apples. But Hitler turned away from Britain to invade Soviet Russia.

As the Nazi legions swept westward toward Moscow, the Japanese realized that this ambitious partner they hated and feared might soon be their neighbor in Siberia—within bombing distance of Tokyo. . . .

. . . When the Nazis finally bogged down for their first terrible winter in Russia, Tokyo suddenly awakened as if from a terrible nightmare.

Japanese newspapers carried huge headlines announcing the great Nazi defeat. Japanese diplomats in Berlin were ordered to aid Japanese newspaper correspondents in evading Nazi censorship so that all possible details of the German disaster could be enjoyed by the Japanese public. They consequently printed more graphic descriptions of the sufferings of the Nazis than any other newspapers outside Germany at that time. . . . Here were the two most powerful nations of Europe obligingly blowing each other to pieces. The longer they fought, the easier would be Japan's path to world conquest. . . .

Japanese short-wave broadcasts are not mentioning the dozen Nazi prisoners who were taken in Tokyo while Ott was worshipping the Kyoto war dead. Perhaps their fate will remain unknown until after the war.

But other Germans with whom I was able to establish occasional fairly direct contact after Pearl Harbor were complaining bitterly against new curbs on their freedom in Japan.

Germans frequently were confined to their homes for hours during air raid or regular army maneuvers. Germans no longer were being permitted inside Jap factories where they formerly had acted as advisers. German homes frequently were raided by Jap police who no longer even apologized. Germans were not permitted to travel between Japanese cities without specific permits for each trip. Few such permits were being issued. Germans were finding that many Jap shop-keepers refused to sell food to them—or any one else of the white race.

In addition, Japan recently announced her official policy toward all

non-Japanese business interests, including German, in all newly occupied areas of the Pacific.

As one German commented, "This policy places us in exactly the same position as business interests of countries with whom Japan is openly at war."

The Jap announcement of policy said: "Business interests of non-Japanese ownership may operate freely in these areas provided they accept complete Japanese direction as to policy and operations. Any non-Japanese interests which refuse to accept Japanese direction will be regarded as enemy property and confiscated. Persons responsible for such lack of cooperation will be regarded as enemies and punished accordingly."

Much of Japan's hatred for Germany obviously has come from Hitler's efforts to control Japan as he controls Italy. But more basic is Japan's consuming hatred and contempt for all the white race, and all of what Japan considers the human race. For theirs is the wrath of the gods.

## Closeups at Kwajalein

ELMONT WAITE \*

The following dispatch shows how cameramen of the Signal Corps risked their lives to record complete films of the invasion of Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshalls. In this instance the "close-up" was 25 feet, the height of the fighting 550 feet. The story was told to Mr. Waite by Lieut. Marvin R. Pike, who headed "the tough and rugged force of army photographers who made a pictorial record of that invasion." Lieutenant Pike was speaking as the story continues:

"We were scared as anyone," the men told me, "but we would have gone in closer than that if we could have gotten all of our subject-matter on the film." Photographing the operation from the day the Seventh Division landed until the enemy was annihilated, we went into battle with the idea of making the best front-line pictures of the war. Unless something should happen to our film, we're sure we made them.

"We landed right after the assault waves and started pushing toward the front a few hundred yards inland. The men were right in there with the tanks and infantry for four days. They couldn't count the number of times they were fired at, but it's a lot. Better to hear bullets whizzing by than not being able to hear them. The nearest that any came to me was when a tire on a jeep a foot and a half from my leg was punctured by a Japanese sniper. It happened when I was helping lift a wounded man into the jeep, and it didn't help my nerves any."

\* Correspondent for Associated Press. Quoting dispatches of February 27, March 4, 1944.