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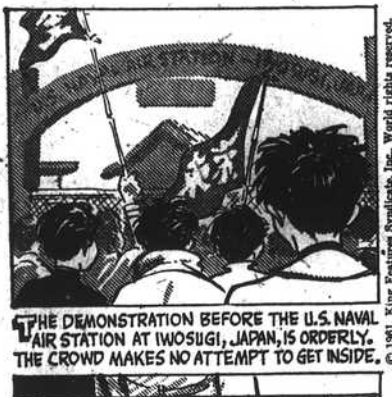
Buz Sawyer

By Roy Crane



EIGHT THOUSAND PEOPLE LOCKING ARMS, JOG-TROTGING, CHANTING IN UNISON.

BEHIND THE LOCKED GATES OF THE U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION AT IWOSUGI, 600 JAPANESE POLICE WAIT NERVOUSLY.



THE DEMONSTRATION BEFORE THE U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION AT IWOSUGI, JAPAN, IS ORDERLY. THE CROWD MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO GET INSIDE.

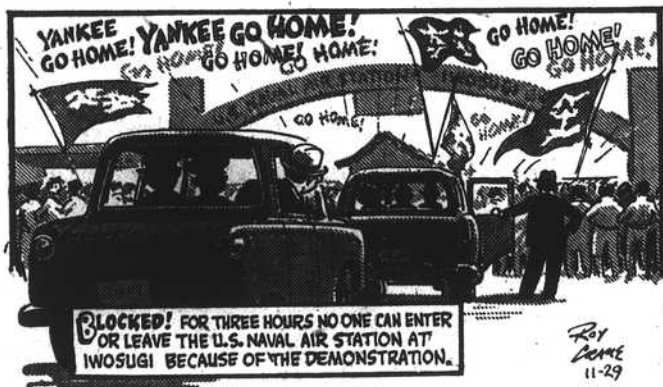


BUT THE GATE IS EFFECTIVELY BLOCKED. MR. YAMASAKI AND THE JAPANESE DIGNITARIES, WHO ARE TO BE HONORED AT A LUNCHEON, ARE UNABLE TO ENTER THE STATION.

IS NOT THAT YOUR SON RIGO LEADING THE DEMONSTRATORS, MR. YAMASAKI?



YES, MY OWN SON! I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE YOUTH OF TODAY.



LOCKED! FOR THREE HOURS NO ONE CAN ENTER OR LEAVE THE U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION AT IWOSUGI BECAUSE OF THE DEMONSTRATION.



WELL, SAWYER, OUR LUNCHEON TO HONOR MR. YAMASAKI AND THE JAPANESE DIGNITARIES IS A COMPLETE FIASCO. THE MOB SAW TO IT THAT THEY COULDN'T GET HERE.



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF THE COMMUNISTS. A HARD-CORE GROUP OF ONLY A DOZEN ORGANIZED THIS DEMONSTRATION.

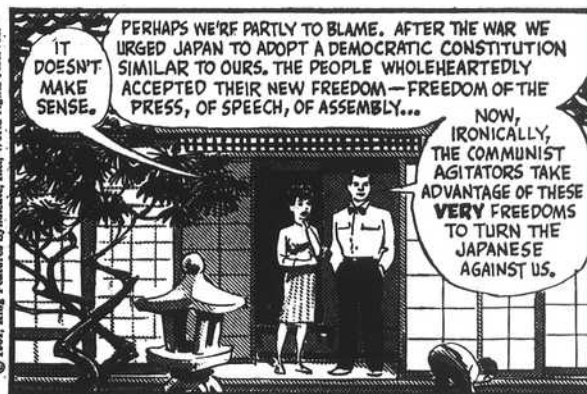
THEY'VE SABOTAGED ONE OF OUR BEST EFFORTS TO CREATE BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE.



I'VE BEEN TERRIBLY WORRIED, BUZ. A WHOLE ARMY OF DEMONSTRATORS MARCHED RIGHT BY HERE, ALL SHOUTING AND CHANTING. WERE YOU HURT, DADDY?

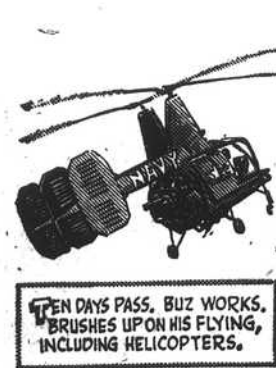


BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUZ. THE JAPANESE SEEM SO FRIENDLY TO US. THEY ARE... BUT SOME OF THEM ARE ALSO FRIENDLY TO THE COMMUNISTS.

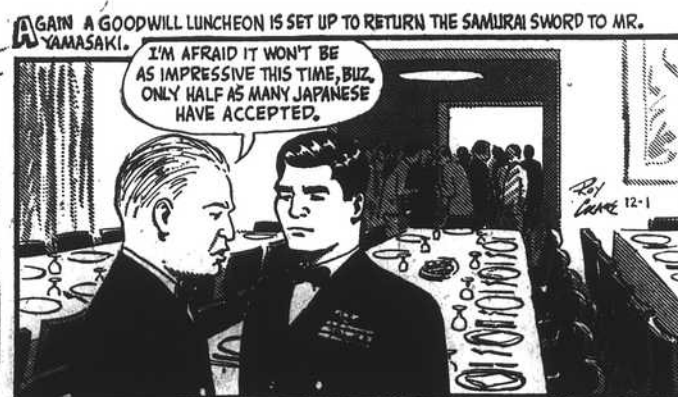


PERHAPS WE'RE PARTLY TO BLAME. AFTER THE WAR WE URGED JAPAN TO ADOPT A DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION SIMILAR TO OURS. THE PEOPLE WHO HEARTILY ACCEPTED THEIR NEW FREEDOM—FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, OF SPEECH, OF ASSEMBLY...

NOW, IRONICALLY, THE COMMUNIST AGITATORS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE VERY FREEDOMS TO TURN THE JAPANESE AGAINST US.



TEN DAYS PASS. BUZ WORKS, BRUSHES UP ON HIS FLYING, INCLUDING HELICOPTERS.



AGAIN A GOODWILL LUNCHEON IS SET UP TO RETURN THE SAMURAI SWORD TO MR. YAMASAKI.

I'M AFRAID IT WON'T BE AS IMPRESSIVE THIS TIME, BUZ. ONLY HALF AS MANY JAPANESE HAVE ACCEPTED.



MR. YAMASAKI, MAY I PRESENT CDR. JOHN S. SAWYER, WHO IS TO RETURN YOUR SAMURAI SWORD.

AH, SO NICE WE MEET AGAIN, THIS TIME IN FRIENDSHIP.



TO MEET AGAIN IN PEACE, MR. SAWYER! AH, WHAT MEMORIES IT BRINGS BACK OF OUR LAST ENCOUNTER.

I HAVE MEMORIES, TOO, MR. YAMASAKI.



YOU SEE, YANO, DURING WAR, ON HALMAHERA IN SOUTH PACIFIC, MR. SAWYER WAS SPY. WHILE I GO LOOK FOR HIM, HE STEAL MY SECRET PAPERS, MY SWORD... MY GIRL, THE LOVELY MAHARANI OF BATU.



TO LOSE THOSE PAPERS AND SWORD, VERY BAD! TO LOSE SUCH LOVELY LADY, DISASTER!

I'M AFRAID, SIR, THAT SHE, TOO, WAS AFTER YOUR PAPERS.