



Miss Margaret Lanier, secretary in the press division of the office of facts and figures, displays seven new government posters released through

her bureau. The posters emphasize the friendship countries allied against the axis. They will be widely distributed

in connection with President Roosevelt's recent proclamation that Flag day, June 14, is to be a day of tribute to all of the united nations.

Is Japan Treating American Prisoners Badly

Are They Being Used As Laborers?

The office of facts and figures today made the following announcement:

It is the settled policy of the government to announce, as soon as possible, all authenticated evidence concerning the treatment and the condition of living of United States prisoners of war and interned civilians in enemy territory. As part of this policy, the office of facts and figures is making public excerpts from a radio broadcast by a Japanese admiral, who described treatment of some of our prisoners of war, contrary to all international agreement and all humanity.

The Japanese broadcast said that

United States prisoners of war were being forced to do manual labor and were beaten with ropes to make them work harder.

The office of facts and figures cautions that this evidence differs from reports of neutral observers who have been permitted to inspect prisoner conditions in a limited portion of Japanese territory. The office of facts and figures also cautions that the Japanese broadcast was designed for home listening and might have had a domestic propaganda purpose. Nevertheless, the information is disclosed, in accordance with the policy of announcing all authenticated evidence relating to prisoners of war and interned civilians.

The broadcast statement, which was recorded by a United Nations radio listening post, was from Rear Admiral Mitsuo Matsunaga, who was addressing a gathering of Japanese students. He described an inspection trip by plane from March 3 to March 30 in which he visited all the "south-

ern countries" under control of the Japanese. Special visits were made. It was said* to the Philippines and the islands of the Netherlands East Indies. Matsunaga is identified on the Japanese navy lists as a former aircraft carrier commander.

His statement follows:

"What kind of work are American prisoners from the Houston engaged in in this sector? They are engaged in the work of filling the holes of the airfields. They are engaged on comparatively easy jobs. There are many who are suffering from hunger because they are not used to Japanese type food and there are some who get very lazy because of the extreme heat.

"Those who do not do their part are beaten by the Japanese guards, who are placed on watch on a ratio of about one guard for 100 prisoners. Those who are hard to handle are severely beaten with rope which is similar to rope used by sailors. Because of the pain the lazy Americans

Danville's New Habitual Drunk Ordinance Invoked

Gibson Farley, Danville, Va., has earned the distinction of being the first beneficiary under the habitual drunkard rehabilitation program. He started a 60-day term on the city farm after pleading guilty in police court to intoxication. He had a long list of prior convictions. Farley pleaded with the magistrate not to apply the new ordinance "until the next time" but Magistrate Carter committed him.

The theory is that working in the fields for two months and spending most of his time out of doors with adequate and regular food, he will reorient himself and will be spiritually fortified against what the law holds is his principal failing.

Household Hint

Straw hats, both men's and women's, should be brushed occasionally. Use a soft brush for the fine, smooth weave straws. For ordinary rough-weave straws use an ordinary clean whisk brush. If caught in the rain while wearing a straw hat, un-snap the brim, and see that the hat is properly shaped while drying.

Rattlesnakes may use their rattles as a call during the mating season, according to some scientists.

A favorite drink of underweight Europeans is ginger ale and milk, mixed half and half.

continue the work with expressions of suffering on their faces."

The navy department has announced that no communication has been received from the U. S. S. Houston since the battle of the Java sea, February 27 and February 28.

The most recent report, by the state department, released on May 22, said that on the basis of statements from neutral observers in places where investigation had been permitted by the army, our enemies appeared to be abiding by the Geneva convention on treatment of prisoners of war. However, the state department report specifically explained that it had been impossible, because

of the refusal of Japan to admit neutral observers, to obtain first-hand information concerning the treatment of prisoners of war held in the Philippines, in parts of occupied China, in Hong Kong, Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies.

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By WALLY BISHOP

