

JAP MAJOR AND MEN ATE FLESH OF AUSTRALIAN AIRMEN

Australian Associated Press

TOKIO, Sun.—Major Morimoto and troops of his battalion at Jap 18th Army headquarters ate the flesh of two Australian fliers on Dec. 12, 1944.

THIS is disclosed by captured Jap Army records, Allied authorities have announced.

The records said the airmen were killed in action, but did not specify where.

A special American investigation unit found Jap army orders approving cannibalism if the troops ate the flesh of Allied dead, but the Japs were executed if they feasted on their fallen comrades.

Supporting evidence was found among thousands of documents about Jap military operations, personnel, and atrocities.

An order issued on Nov. 18, 1944, to the Jap 41st Division read in part: "Those who have consumed human flesh (excluding that of the enemy) knowing very well it is human flesh, will be sentenced to death for committing the worst possible crime against humanity.

sailing ship days when becalmed Jap crews ate the flesh of dead companions.

despite the fact that no reference to same is made in Jap criminal laws."

A Jap 18th Army headquarters order of Dec. 10, 1944, specified that troops could eat enemy dead but not their own dead.

Several days before joining his men in eating the flesh of the Australian fliers, Morimoto directed the execution of five Jap soldiers for cannibalism

against their own dead comrades.

Jap newspapermen, when informed of the cannibalism evidence, commented that the Jap people probably would not be as horrified as Americans.

They explained that the nation was aware of the practice in the sailing ship days when becalmed Jap crews ate the flesh of dead