

GRIM STORY OF JAPANESE SAVAGERY IN ISLANDS

Murder, Cannibalism

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CANBERRA, Mon. — Murder, rape, cannibalism, indescribable bestiality and brutality—these were only some of the shocking crimes perpetrated by the Japanese against Australian and US soldiers, missionaries and natives in the islands north of Australia early in 1942.

The grim story is told in detail for the first time in the report, released today, of Sir William Webb, Chief Justice of Queensland who, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, visited the islands recently and obtained first-hand evidence of the enemy's revolting war crimes.

THE report, which was released simultaneously in London and Canberra, represents Sir William Webb's findings after a most elaborate investigation.

Sir William Webb emphasises that at the time of the atrocities, Japanese forces were still advancing in their southern thrust towards Australia.

"Japan," he says, "was winning victories which preceded the fall of Singapore, including the capture of Rabaul on Jan. 22, 1942, when the terrible massacre of Australians and civilians took place at the Tol and Waitavalo plantations at Wide Bay in New Britain on Feb. 4, 1942, when two badly wounded Australians were deliberately burned alive in a hut.

"Her armies were still winning

victories when

- "At Guadalcanal a native boy had his tongue severed with a Japanese bayonet;
- "When Roman Catholic priests and nuns were bayoneted and the nuns raped;
- "When American soldiers while still alive had their livers removed by a Japanese surgeon for the entertainment of Japanese soldiers;





SIR WILLIAM WEBB
Described the Japs as fiends.

● "When at Tarawa 21 Australian, New Zealand, and British civil servants, were tied to trees and then 'after a day or two had Japanese troops let loose on them'; and

● "When at Salamaua a native against whom no offence was proved was handed over to a Japanese surgeon for 'medical experiments.'

"The Japanese armies were still advancing across the Owen Stanley Range and at Milne Bay when Australian soldiers and natives were tied up, tortured, used for bayonet practice, and finally murdered;

"When bayonets were driven into the posteriors of men and left there;

"When bayonets were driven into white female Anglican missionaries at Popindetta;

"When a party of nine persons, including two white female Anglican missionaries, two white male Anglican priests and a young woman and a child of six were decapitated or bayoneted or shot at Buna beach;

"When native women were staked to the ground for raping and, after being raped, probably by scores of Japanese soldiers, had their breasts cut off and their private parts ripped open with swords or bayonets.

"It may be that these native

swords or bayonets.

"It may be that these native women were first ravished to death and then mutilated by fiends whose carnal desires death had frustrated.

"The Japanese atrocities were at the flood until their armies met defeat. Since then they appear to have receded."