

VI - 73 C - 18. Smedley, Agnes "A Tokyo Rose" a letter to the editor
PM Sunday, September 16, 1945.

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PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

and one American (A. T. Steele, now of the *Herald Tribune*) up to the front in a Red Cross truck that had space for three people. These correspondents first gathered extensive material from Dr. Robert Lim, head of the Medical Corps, and his associate, Dr. Liu Chih-teh, of the Army Medical Administration.

Just as the correspondents were leaving, Dr. Lily Abegg turned up and said she had authority from Dr. Hollington Tong, in charge of Government press information, to go with the group to the front.

There was no room for an extra person and, unlike the others, Dr. Abegg had no military pass to visit the front. Dr. Lim and Dr. Liu hesitated, but in a conference with them over the matter I lodged serious protests on political grounds. I told them that Dr. Abegg had just come from Japan and Shanghai. She had confided with a German woman in Hankow who, unknown to her, was an anti-Nazi friend of mine. In her confidences Dr. Abegg had told of the position of her family in Japan, and had boasted that on her frequent trips from Hankow to Shanghai and Tokyo, she had immediate access to leading Japanese generals. She was very proud of these high connections.

Since German Nazi correspondents were all connected with the Nazi Gestapo; since the Japanese and Germans in the Far East exchanged information; and since the German Eurasia airplanes operating between Hankow and Hong Kong were never searched by the Chinese authorities, it was known that there were intimate link-ups between the Germans inside China and the Japanese in Hong Kong and Shanghai, not to mention Tokyo. Dr. Abegg's connections were much closer than most, and I was convinced that anything she learned at the Chinese front would be transmitted to the Japanese. I argued that if Dr. Hollington Tong wanted her to go up to the front, he should send her in a government truck, and be fully responsible for his action; but that she should not be permitted to worm her way into a mercy mission of correspondents concerned with gathering information to aid the Chinese wounded.

Dr. Abegg was accordingly refused permission to go on the Red Cross truck. She lodged an angry protest with Dr. Hollington Tong, then with the German Ambassador in Hankow who in turn hot-footed it in fury and lodged a diplomatic protest with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. The Generalissimo, thereupon, ordered a detailed investigation and simultaneously issued an order that no foreign correspondents of any nationality would be allowed to visit the Chinese "until they ceased quarreling among themselves"—or so it was reported to us.

The three correspondents, however, already had left for the front and Dr. Tong arranged a special trip for Dr. Abegg on his own au-

thority. But the Red Cross was not a Government agency at the time and he had no authority to send her through it. However, many Chinese commanders at the front—the Kwangsi generals in particular—were afraid of Nazi espionage, and already had turned back other German correspondents who had reached their headquarters. They permitted British and Americans to go through.

Dr. Abegg is now suspected of being a "Tokyo Rose." She is a much more important person than that. She was on the inside of both the Japanese and Nazi machines. She is an able journalist, in her 30s, not at all bad looking, and, though without the much-admired American "sex appeal," she can manage when it comes to "fraternization." She can run rings around American military men in Japan. They are muddled and politically primitive; she is sharp-minded and incisive. And a woman always can cry on an American man's shoulder, who will almost invariably reply: "There, there, honey, now what was it you wanted me to do?"

AGNES SMEDLEY

Saratoga Springs

A 'Tokyo Rose'

Dear Editor:

The New York Times carried a front-page story about the arrest of war criminals in Japan. The names include that of Lily Abegg as one of the possible "Tokyo Roses."

I suspect that Dr. Lily Abegg (she is a Ph.D.) is much more than a "Tokyo Rose." She is a woman of ability, coldly calculating. My information about her was gained in the following way:

Before Hankow fell to the Japanese in 1938, Dr. Abegg came from Japan as correspondent for the *Frankfurter Zeitung*. She had been born in Japan, where her family had industrial connections and her brother held some position in the Japanese Government. She spoke Japanese, excellent English, and, of course, German.

Before Hitler overthrew the German Republic, I had represented the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, the great German liberal daily, in China. After my discharge, Dr. Gustaf Amann, later one of Hitler's propagandists, took over, and after Amann, Dr. Lily Abegg appeared on the scene.

At the time Dr. Abegg turned up in Hankow I was publicity worker for the Chinese Red Cross Medical Corps, and was trying to arouse America and Britain to send medical aid for the Chinese wounded. Accordingly, I arranged, in July, 1938, to send three foreign correspondents—one British, one Swiss,