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Japanese Taken By Chinese Reds Expected Death

Five Amazed They Are Not
Slain, Sure Defeat Means
Enslavement or Slaughter

By Harrison Forman

By Wireless to the Herald Tribune
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WITH THE 8TH ROUTE ARMY
BEHIND JAPANESE LINES IN
CHINA.—I have talked with five
Japanese prisoners captured when
Chinese Communist forces at-
tacked their blockhouse—one of
the scores surrounding this anti-
Japanese base in Shansi Province.

They were at breakfast when
the Chinese, following a water
carrier across the lowered draw-
bridge spanning a protective moat,
surprised them. As they rushed in
upon the Japanese with fixed
bayonets, one of the 8th Route
Army soldiers shouted in Japa-
nese: "Don't be afraid, we do not
kill prisoners."

Four of the prisoners were over
forty and had been in the army

only three months. The fifth was
twenty-six years old and had been
in the army four years.

Questioning of the oldsters, who
had left civilian jobs in Japan
barely three months ago, revealed
queer beliefs and apprehension
among the people of Japan today.

"Should the Allies win the war,
what will they do to the Japa-
nese?" I asked. A man named
Matsushita replied: "All the Japa-
nese men will be taken abroad for
slave labor, while the women will
be distributed among the con-
querors as concubines."

Matsubara, who has a wife and
young son in Nagoya, said: "All
men of Japan will be killed by the
Allies, leaving the women to starve
to death."

Tanimura, married and father
of four children, paused thought-
fully, then said: "All Japanese sol-
diers will be executed."

Harada agreed with Tanimura,
but Tanaka, youngest of the five,
believes that old and young men
in Japan will be slaughtered, while
the soldier class will be enslaved.

All, however, still say that it is
certain that Japan will win the
war in two or three years, al-
though they don't appear very
convinced of it. All were puzzled
that they were not killed by their
captors, as they had been told by
their own officers they would be.