

VI - 73 D - 39. "Woman From Asia Describes Ability of Japanese Soldier,"
Los Angeles Times, December 9, 1941.

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Woman From Asia Describes Ability of Japanese Soldier

What the Japanese is like as a fighting man was described by Agnes Smedley in an address yesterday before the Town Hall luncheon at the Biltmore. An American newspaper woman in China many years, she summarized Chinese military opinion of the enemy which may form some basis of comparison for the United States. The Japanese soldier, she said, has many advantages, many shortcomings.

"There will be rejoicing in China today and they will fight more bravely than ever before," she said. "The Nazis have adopted many ideas and methods from the Japanese. 'Mein Kampf' is similar to Japan's Tanaka Memorial, a blue print of Japanese world domination presented by Gen. Tanaka to the throne in 1927.

"The step-by-step principle was not invented by the Germans but by the Japanese. The Nazis take prisoners. The Japanese do not. They engage in slaughter, loot and rape, and they see nothing wrong in this."

Miss Smedley was long at the front in China, and she summarized the opinion of several Chinese generals of the Japanese as soldiers. They have:

"The ability to keep a secret of any military moves. The Chinese talk about everything, much as does the American press. All

a spy has to do is to sit around and listen. They can carry out plans they make. Their artillery marksmanship is good. The aerial bombing efficiency recently low may be due to the fact that their best aviators were held in the north, and untrained men were in service in the south. Their discipline is strong, although purely mechanical.

"Their weak points are: their troops are not politically educated and obey mechanically. Their morale is high when they are winning and getting loot; if not, it lags. They are good with artillery behind defenses, but in hand-to-hand combat they are inferior to the Chinese and are afraid of them."

Chamber Unit to Mobilize

Mobilization of the entire Junior Chamber of Commerce membership of 1000 was voted yesterday by its board of directors to assist the Civilian Defense Commission.

Special delivery letters were addressed to each of the members asking that they be present at the Biltmore ballroom tomorrow at noon to register for civilian defense training.