

31 YEARS AGO JAPS BEGAN CHINA WAR

And Today Is Seventh Anniversary of Marco Polo Bridge Incident Which Brought On Present Phase of Conflict.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
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WASHINGTON, July 7.—Today, the anniversary of a little skirmish at Marco Polo bridge near Peking, marks the beginning of the seventh year of the Sino-Japanese war.

So say the announcements. But as an understatement it sets something of a record. The war between Japan and China has really been in progress 31 years. Japan has employed guns, planes, tanks, famine, pestilence, bribery and treachery. But, thanks to a truly great people, she has met with failure in every department. History records nothing like it.

The real war against China began, not on July 7, 1937, but back in 1912, toward the end of the first phase of Sun Yat-Sen's revolution. It was then that the Japs began to send over swarms of Black Dragon members, secret society troublemakers and bandits from within.

Backed by unlimited funds, these Black Dragon members sought out local Chinese war lords. Mr. Simms—some with grievances, some with ambitions and others who were just plain greedy—and egged them on to make war against their neighbors. The Japs provided the money and weapons to both sides alike. Their job was to keep China in turmoil, prevent unity, delay modernization, divide and rule.

China Kept Poor
In the 20 years between 1912 and 1932, China was seldom without some kind of internal strife as a direct result of this meddling. It kept her poor, weak, half starved. Such was the first phase of Japan's 31-year war against China. The second phase was to ruin China economically and financially. She forced Japanese goods past Chinese customs, using troops to guard freight trains and ships while unloading. As Chinese customs duties formed a large part of the national



What You Buy With WAR BONDS

When will this war end? Nobody knows, so the army is continuing its training of para-ski troopers. They're parachute troops who know their way about on skis or any other place in snow covered mountainous country.



revenue, this helped to impoverish the government:

A third phase of Japanese aggression saw the use of secret diplomacy backed by threats of war. At the outset of the first world war, Japan tried to strangle her notorious '21 demands' down China's throat. She presented these demands to President Yuan Shih Kai almost literally at the point of a pistol. Dire things would happen to him and to China, she said, unless he signed right then and there. America and China's other friends must not find out. The demands would have made a complete puppet of China but Yuan played for time, the secret leaked and Japan beat a hasty retreat.

Seized Shantung
But Japan was not licked. She returned to the attack by another flank. Despite the fact that China was then an ally, Japan seized Shantung and, at the end of the war, would have remained in eastern Siberia as well but for allied opposition—especially on the part of President Wilson.

Throughout the '20s, Japan continued to back various Chinese war lords. She tried to work her wiles on Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek then a young leader in Canton, but failed to make headway. Then she attempted to head off his march on Peking in 1928. She threw troops into Shantung, an important railway junction, Yellow river crossing and key to Peking. But young Chiang by-passed the Japs and beat them again.

It was then that Japan began to concentrate on Manchuria. Japs murdered the old Marshal Chang Tso-lin, the Manchu war lord, because he became fed up with their demands and refused to do as told. Then they tried to debase his son and heir, the "young marshal." When this failed, they blew up the track of the South Manchuria railway, blamed it on "Chinese bandits" and, on that pretext, began the occupation of all territory north of the great wall.

This was the famous September, 1931, "incident." As neither the league of nations nor the great powers acted decisively, Japan kept on advancing. The war continued spasmodically through 1936. Japan cleaned up north of the wall, then crossed and started to do the same to the south.

And so came the clash of July 7, 1937—the skirmish at the bridge of Marco Polo. It was the beginning of yet another phase of the war. Its chief importance lies in the fact that it provided history with a milestone to mark the beginning of that phase of the Sino-Japanese struggle which eventually was to merge with the second world war.

HEBREW PICNIC SET FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The United Hebrew congregation's annual anniversary picnic will be Sunday afternoon and evening at Columbia park with Louis Frank, general chairman of arrangements.

Joseph D. Mitchell is chairman of recreation and refreshments. Assisting Mr. Frank and Mr. Mitchell are Morris Stein, Max Yach, Max Berkowitz, Frank Bernard, Henry Silverman, I. Goldstein and B. Popp.

Refreshments will be served and the community is invited.

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To aid pick-up crews, please flatten out boxes and stack loose paper in easy-to-handle bundles.

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RIGHT: Round neck style that buttons at the shoulder, ties on the side. Ric-rac trimming on yoke and pockets. Small floral print on blue, pink or aqua. Sizes 16 to 20.

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