

# 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  
Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor

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 trouble makers and borers-from-within.



Mr. Simms

Backed by unlimited funds, these Black Dragon members sought out local Chinese war lords—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

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 cram 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 debauch 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 Berkovitz, Frank Bernard, Henry Silverman, I. Goldstein and B. Popp.

Refreshments will be served and the community is invited.

## What You Buy With WAR BONDS

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



A great measure of the success of Russia's victories last winter is attributed to these troops who move with the silence of a snow-flake. Our work on the home front is not so hazardous as that of the para-ski troops but it is important that we perform our daily tasks and make every effort to increase our regular purchase of war bonds.

## HANNAH'S MISSING WITNESS IS FOUND

CHICAGO, July 7 (U. P.).—The Chicago Times, in a copyrighted story, said yesterday that it had located Yvette Muriel Colbert, French singer, who was named by Hannah Williams Dempsey as the "other woman" in her divorce suit against former heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey.

The Times said Miss Colbert was found in a rooming house on Chicago's near North side. She had been sought as a witness in Mrs. Dempsey's portion of the Dempseys' double-barreled divorce action last month at White Plains, N. Y. Mrs. Dempsey dropped her suit because of her inability to produce Yvette in court. Dempsey's case is being considered by a supreme court referee.

According to the Times, the singer said she would not return to New York to reopen the case. The Times quoted Yvette as saying she was looking for a job in a Chicago night club.

## WOMEN SOUGHT FOR WAVE TECHNICIANS

Enlistments are now open in the WAVES hospital corps for women who have training as technicians. Lt. W. A. Chapman Jr., in charge of navy recruiting in Indiana, announced today.

Women technicians who meet the qualifications for general service may qualify for these fields: Bacteriology, biology, chemistry, clinical laboratory, clinical laboratory technician, dental technician, home economics, medical or dental secretary, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacist, physiotherapy and X-ray technician.

Any young woman between the ages of 20 and 36 may make application for these branches of service by securing the enlistment blanks at the WAVES recruiting station, 116 Monument Circle, or the navy recruiting station, fourth floor, federal building.

## VESSEL'S CAPTAIN IS SOUGHT BY SUB

BOSTON, July 7 (U. P.).—The 40-man crew of a small Norwegian merchantman is awaiting new ship berths today after their vessel was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine in May in the Atlantic off the West African coast.

The crew escaped in one motorboat. The submarine surfaced and officers questioned the first mate as to the whereabouts of the captain.

The mate replied evasively his skipper had been killed in the explosion.

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## FASHIONS IN WOMEN'S SIZES

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Tomorrow:  
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5:15 P. M.

They are fashions with a gracious dignity, a pretty practicality . . . carefully, knowingly chosen to do the most for the women who wear them! They are mature but not old, young but not juvenile . . . charming, easy to wear . . . delightfully new . . . and excitingly smart!

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Tomorrow:  
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Ageless Straw Hats  
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Large flattering brims . . . anyone can wear them they're so becoming . . . in hats fashioned of fine quality straw . . . prettily shading your face from the summer sun! Choice of black, turf tan, toast, beige, natural and white.

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The slim, smooth as honey lines, the fine tailoring of these dresses, make a woman look trim and lovely on the hottest summer day . . . serve her beautifully on any occasion. Rayon romaine crepe jackets top prim little rayon taffeta skirts for a look of crispness and elegance! Black, wine and green. Sizes 18½ to 24½.

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SIZES 18½ to 24½!

—Fashion Dress Department, Downstairs at AYRES.

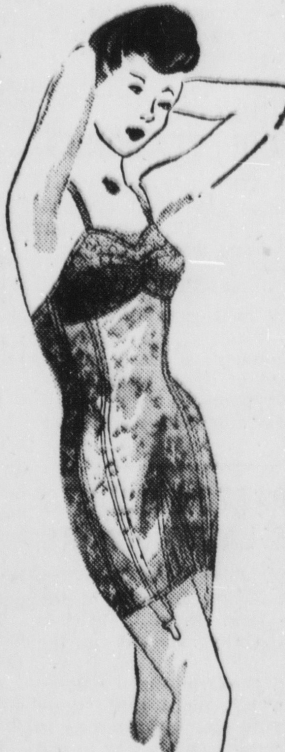
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. . . And, just as important, it's easy to get into and out of without a struggle! The side hook fastenings are responsible for that! There's just enough boning in front and back for perfect support, splendid control! And—a lace brassiere top for coolness. In lovely gleaming rayon brocade. Sizes 34 to 44.

—Corset Department, Downstairs at AYRES.



## FRUIT OF THE LOOM DESIGNS: WRAPAROUNDS

In Pretty PRINTS! \$2.00

Wear one of these pert cotton wraparounds in the mornings! Just slip into it like a coat . . . save your precious hairdo, your equally precious time! Fashioned by Fruit of the Loom of charming printed cottons, they're designed to look pretty and be practical!

LEFT: Collarless style, trimly tailored in fine percale with front tie belt. Fruit print in blue or red. Sizes 12 to 20.

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.

—Daytime Dress Department, Downstairs at AYRES.

## "BEAUTY PLUS" Ray de Chine Rayon Stockings



Superbly serviceable, exquisitely beautiful 45-gauge full-fashioned Ray de Chine stockings. They have a high twist which makes them drier, better fitting, more elastic, more snag-resistant, and gives them a lovely crepe-like look. In new summer colors, Sizes 8½ to 10½.

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Bomb bands, blasting powder kegs, airplanes parts, overseas containers—these and other fighting weapons are now being made from salvaged wastepaper! Brown-colored paper is substituting for wood pulp used by mills in this area in producing essential war materials. Save and sell your accumulations of all brown-colored papers.

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