

I SAW JAPAN

There was an air of triumph about the cruiser Swiftsure as she steamed up Sasebo Bay, entering the 2nd largest

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Naval base of Japan. *On board,* ~~Aboard Swiftsure~~, reporting the event for newsreels throughout the world, was Paramount War correspondent, Douglas Hardy, who won fame three years ago by his unforgettable report of the Malta convoy. Next after the historic entrance into Tokio Bay the arrival at Sasebo maybe said to have set the seal on the Far Eastern triumphs of the Royal Navy. Here, too, afloat and ashore lay the sorry evidence of the greatest Naval defeat in history. Hardy, what were your impressions in Sasebo.

Mainly, I think, of the hurried and quite ineffectual preparations against invasion. I suppose the Japs knew pretty well that we were going to invade in a big way, ~~in November, as soon as the Typhoon season ended.~~

But not this sort of invasion?

No. The sudden surrender made the hard way unnecessary, the main concern of the lads was to buy Christmas presents. Not that there was very much worth buying. Visions of Japanese silks soon vanished. Japan in defeat makes austerity seem like the height of luxury.

Was the fishing industry getting back to anything like normal?

No. MacArthur banned anything except inshore fishing. The Allies are preventing any attempt at mass escape from Japan. In any case the complete lack of fuel prevents any power craft putting to sea. Hence the waterways are congest^{ed} with idle barges.

This of course is Nagasaki.

Yes. I was the first British Film correspondent to enter the town.

Was the devastation on the scale you expected?

Yes. It was far beyond anything I'd seen before, ~~in my ~~whole~~ ~~entire~~ ~~lifetime~~ ~~experience~~~~. The Atom bomb ~~dropped by parachute and~~ was/detonated several hundred feet above the ground.

Perhaps that is why Nagasaki looks as though it had been pushed downwards by some gigantic hand.

I take there isn't a great deal left of Yokohama?

No, it's almost a dead city. Every day I saw people waiting at the railway stations, in the hope of getting out into the country to make a new home. The ordinary people take the Japanese defeat quite philosophically. It's an oriental attitude we find ~~it~~ difficult to understand. The few trains that were running were crowded to an extent that ~~makes~~ ^{made} our wartime travelling seem ~~more~~ like having a carriage to yourself. People left behind just sit and wait for better luck next day.

