

DRAMATIC ROUND-UP OF DANGEROUS SPIES IN AUSTRALIA REVEALED

DUTCH AIRMEN EXECUTED; PLOT TO AID JAPS.

SYDNEY, Monday, - For the first time in Australia death sentences were ordered for treason, after the court martial in 1943, of three Dutch airmen who were stated to be implicated in a sensational plan to fly to Japanese territory and surrender to the enemy.

This was one of many dramatic incidents in a sensational round-up of suspected spies in Australia which can now be revealed.

The men were arrested while stationed at Canberra late in 1942, and were subsequently taken to Melbourne, where they spent a long time under police guard.

The arrest of the men, while causing a ~~razzian~~ sensation in Canberra, was kept secret elsewhere for security reasons. The story can now only be told for the first time along with other instances of the wide variety of secret service work carried out in Australia during the war years.

The three men concerned in the surrender plot had been considered loyal nationals until their plans were disclosed by another member of their unit.

It was alleged that they were using a wireless set in their plane to transmit messages to the enemy. *aperte onjuistheid*

Their plans included a flight to an island north of Australia to surrender. They were almost on the point of taking off, it was disclosed today, when they were seized. *idem*

In Melbourne a court martial found them guilty and sentenced them to death and ~~the~~ the executions were carried out in territory outside Australia.

The presence of the men in Melbourne, after being taken from Canberra was known in some circles, and it was generally believed that they were eventually taken away from the Victorian capital without having ever faced trial. Security officers at one stage of the war rounded up 16 Orientals - not Japanese - who formed a spy ring, which was working from one of the many islands inside the Barrier Reef.

During one of the almost constant patrols of this, and other islands, security and navy officers found the ashes of a camp fire, but no trace of the campers. They decided to dig nearby, and then found an empty beer bottle bearing a Japanese label. The party, assuming that the campers were inland and would return, waited, and later arrested them. The Orientals were all interned.

Dit is wel de bedoeling geweest, hetgeen ik konodig kan bewyzen. Door een onvoorzake samenloop van omstandigheden is dit niet gebeurd. (Desgewenst zal ik gaarne de Commissie hierover inlichten)

fact

*Confon
niginkel
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