

Newsweek

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Japs on Day of Infamy Eat Dish of Humble Pie

This was how a NEWSWEEK correspondent found Tokyo on Dec. 7, 1945.

Ragged Japs bent over pitiful assortments of cheap gimcracks, household utensils, and wooden clogs. They haggled with vendors squatting on the sidewalks of the Ginza in the midst of acres of rubble devastation formerly occupied by the Orient's smartest shops and most modern buildings.

Other thousands huddled against the sunny sides of buildings around Ueno Station or subway entrances. They soaked up what warmth was available after a night of being packed like sardines in what have become frigid, dirty public flophouses for the homeless. Long queues as always waited patiently before Japanese movie houses, seeking a few hours of forgetfulness. The nights are stinging cold. Sheet iron huts and wooden shanties have sprung up in burned-out city blocks.

The newspaper Asahi said: "We once more refresh our horror at the colossal crime committed and are filled with a solemn sense of reflection and self-reproach. We sought by our own hands a world war which was reckless and outrageous and became a challenger with the result that we allowed our country to suffer serious bankruptcy from which it is difficult to recover. What was sown by us must be reaped by us."

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Tuesday, August 28, 1945

Tokyo Tells Japs To Be Good Boys

Premier Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni announced in a broadcast

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Japs Eat Humble Pie

recorded by UP that an extraordinary session of the Japanese Diet would be held Sept. 4 and 5 to explain to the nation why Japan surrendered to the Allies.

Tokyo radio, meanwhile, continued to exhort the Japanese to follow humbly the ways of peace. Some of these broadcasts carried subtle hints of hope of future revenge against the victors, declaring that a new Japan must arise with the power to correct those mistakes and weaknesses that led to defeat.

United Press in San Francisco heard a broadcast by Shuzo Toyama, son of the late chief of the jingoistic Black Dragon society, which said that Japan was defeated because the nation was "incomplete, superficial and crude."

Another broadcast quoted the newspaper *Asahi Shimbun* as demanding repentance for the Japanese. The *Mainichi Shimbun* admitted that "one of the outstanding national shortcomings of the Japanese people has been bullying the weaker and submitting to the stronger."