

# AN AUSTRALIAN WHO DISLIKES AUSTRALIA

A "Listener" Interview  
by Sydney Brookes

INTO Auckland one Sunday recently came a ship. Off the ship came a man whose life's work has concerned the destiny of four hundred and fifty million people. In figures: 450,000,000 people.

When a man takes a liking to a job as large as that it may be imagined that his dislikes are liable to forceful expression. This man, W. H. Donald, has taken a dislike to the Government of his own country and feels so strongly about it that he flatly refuses to go home again unless he has to— to catch a ship away.

How he managed to get off the ship at Auckland, hide himself in a private hotel, and reach Wellington still unheralded, can only be explained by assuming that such an event happened on a Sunday in a country which reserves its seventh day to other pursuits than welcoming great men.

But manage it he did, and, in Wellington, maintained his incognito with equal efficiency until *The Listener* finally caught him. Once discovered, he gave in sportingly, and even made the meeting the interview of the year by saying, in plain words, and without reserve, that he would NOT go to Australia.

When an Australian says that, he must have a pretty good reason for it. W. H. Donald's reason consists of 90,000,000 people homeless and unarmed, of Australian coal and iron sent to arm the nation that sacked their cities and towns and villages, looted their possessions, drugged them with opium and cocaine,

plundered their art and their treasure, grabbed their country, and called the grab an "incident," and ravaged their women.

Those are a few of W. H. Donald's reasons for taking a very evident satisfaction in an extreme and pointed and publicly-advertised disapproval of his country.

## The Change In China

For 38 years he has been in China. Now the confidant and adviser of Chiang Kai-Shek, Generalissimo of the Chinese Armies, leader of free China, Donald has watched China grow from a land of polite and prehistoric confusion to the status of a huge nation, slowly welding itself by painful processes into a modern state.

He was with Chiang Kai-Shek when the Generalissimo decided that feudal control of land by feudal lords with feudal armies must be replaced by national control.



MAO TSE-TUNG, the Lenin of the Communist 8th Route Army

With an army trained on bases laid down by an expert German military mission, Chiang Kai-Shek forcibly created a semblance of unity in China, and drove the errant Communist armies into the north and west after making such a show of strength and organisation as effectually subdued the private armies in the other provinces.

He was on the way to getting down to the real work of social organisation when Japan created the Manchukuo "incident."

Armed by supplies from America and Britain, and that Australia which Mr. Donald dislikes so much, Japan swept over China.

When they stopped, the Japanese destroyed. What they did not destroy they stole. The Chinese that remained within their control, they put to forced labour, and paid them in drugs. They reintroduced opium as a plague to dull the oppressed senses of their victims.

Wherever they touched China, they despoiled China, and the great and magnificent result of their policies of grab, rape, and corruption, was that China suddenly became a nation.

"The Japanese were fools," says Mr. Donald. If they had been content to settle and govern the areas they won by war, he believes that the acquiescent Chinese might have left them free to adventure further south.

"But when they burned and stole, and finally made the big mistake of going after the Chinese women," the Chinese discovered that a spear or a sword or a bullet would penetrate even a Japanese body.

Unarmed, and without the means of buying arms or munitions from the creditor nations, China yet contrived to make of herself a bulwark which kept Japanese imperial ambitions confined above the latitude of 20 degrees north, just 30 degrees safely distant from the wide open spaces of Australia, which Mr. Donald says, "industriously supplied materials to the nation which was threatening her."

"If China had not been holding Japan so long she would have travelled south," he said.

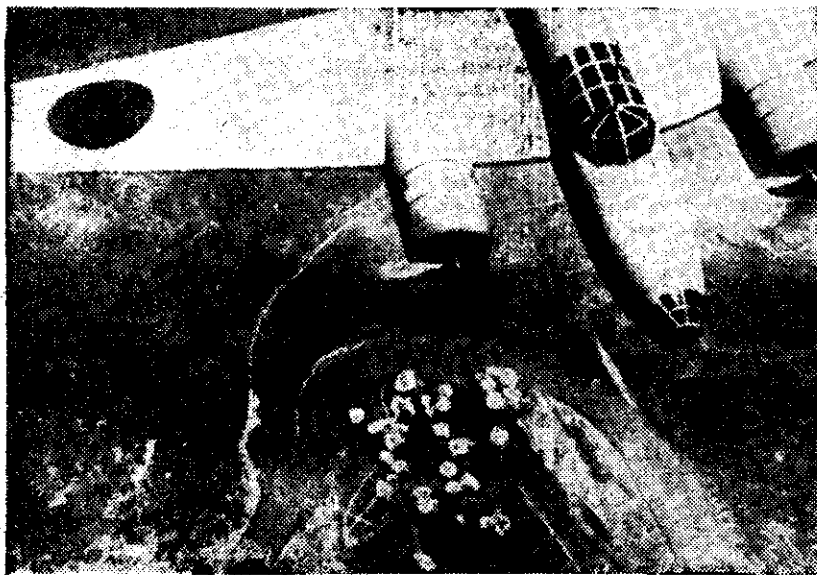
"Are you absolutely certain of that, Mr. Donald?"

Mr. Donald became almost more emphatic than when he said he refused



Spencer Digby photograph

W. H. DONALD (above) is described by John Gunther in "Inside Asia" as "a most extraordinary human being." Born in N.S.W. in 1873, the son of one engineer and grandson of two others, Donald took to journalism, serving on three Australian papers. In 1902 he was sub-editor of the "China Mail," and later became its managing-director. From 1905 he was South China correspondent to the "New York Herald," and from 1911 till 1919 he edited "Far Eastern Review." He advocated and established Hong Kong University, and at the request of the Chinese Ministry of Finance opened and maintained the Bureau of Economic Investigation, which was handed over to the National Government in 1928. His association with Chinese officialdom developed over many years, and, in 1928 General Chiang Kai-shek asked his assistance in the Manchurian situation. He is a personal friend of both the General and his wife, and acts now as their confidential adviser although without any official status. He is remembered for his association with the Sian affair, when he assisted Madame Chiang to rescue her husband from Marshal Chang Hsueh Liang who had kidnapped him. Mr. Donald has been awarded the order of the Brilliant Jade by the Nanking Government, but despite all his connections with the country, he has never attempted to learn the Chinese language.



OVER CHUNGKING: A Japanese bomber unloads its cargo on the Chinese wartime capital. In the centre foreground bombs can be seen exploding on the banks of the Yangtse River

to return to Australia: "I am absolutely certain," he replied.

China did receive small credits from Britain and the U.S.A. These were granted on condition that they should not be used for the purchase of war materials, or for war purposes. Not until late last year did China receive substantial credits to help her maintain the war against Japan and thus save the democracies from using the materials themselves for their own defence.

Now, Mr. Donald reported, more goods were becoming available, although China was still greatly outweighed by Japanese mechanised land forces, and air force. Russia, who had continuously helped her, was now forced to keep everything for her own needs, and the traffic on the Burma Road was still in process of reorganisation by American experts.

However, what China had done with so little assistance before, she could con-

(Continued on next page)