







**Reporter Describes Conditions In Japan As Seen By Visitor**

William C. Bernard, 33, Texas-born staff member of The Associated Press Dallas Bureau, went to Japan to cover the recent record-breaking flight of B-29s to Washington. Here he describes conditions in the country as they appear to a newcomer.

By WILLIAM C. BERNARD  
AP Newsfeatures

TOKYO—The Japanese were overjoyed when General Douglas MacArthur was "re-elected."

It is one of the first MacArthur stories a new visitor to Tokyo hears. Ballots in the Japanese free election were inscribed "by order of General Douglas MacArthur," and it seems that many Jap voters checked his name eagerly.

His popularity, Americans in Tokyo say, is due to the fact that "the Japanese never had it so good." The people look adequately fed and very busy.

Col. William C. Horns of the occupation force says: "The Japs by their industriousness are making a marvelous comeback. They are using every means at hand to rehabilitate themselves. They haven't the building materials to replace the gutted buildings but they are stripping their forests to provide secondary construction. They are defeated but they are a long way from down."

"You can't help liking these Japs," a private from Massachusetts told me. "They seem to like us. Their old military crowd was mighty mean to civilians. Jap civilians seem just as glad the militarists are out as we are."

"You fellows from the states forget that almost 50 percent of Tokyo was destroyed by bombs and fire," the colonel says.

Around broken foundations and chimney stumps, the gardens grow. An impressive concrete archway opens into a courtyard. Street potato vines crawl along a rich entranceway that now leads nowhere.

The Nipponese driver of the U. S. Army staff car was in the B-29 raids.

"What were those raids like, driver?"

"Eeyoo," he sighed. "Eeyoo!"

It was accurate bombing. The Ginza, Broadway of Tokyo, seems untouched. Only one building in the palace area is gutted.

Tokyo is crowded—population 4,000,000—and you wonder where the pre-war 7,000,000 found room. There are no beggars. The Japanese child does not ask the tourist for money.

The yen has various values. At the official finance office, one dollar buys 36 yen, a thoroughly unrealistic rate. A traveler can easily get 100 yen for a dollar. If he has a friend he can get 150 and if he settles down to stay he will soon be getting 160 or better.

What about prices? Coolsips, that used to sell for a dime now bring \$25 in American money. Cotton is more precious than silk in this land. Silk is 150 yen per yard and up—can you had better know your silk.

American civilian residents buy imported U. S. oil cheaply at commissaries, get gasoline for 10 cents per gallon, purchases clothing at reduced rates at the Army post exchange, hire servants at ridiculously low wages. And have no income tax.

Black market exchange for yen goes unchecked. The Army is really making an effort to halt the resale of post-exchange articles.

Night baseball games between American troops and Japanese are in a bleacher unit to themselves. They love baseball.

"Just a minute there," the military policeman at the door says. "Gotta frik you fer knives before you go in. Don't want any trouble here."

Western clothing predominates but many women, some men, cling to traditional garb. No matter how hogwash or dangerous the motorist, the Japanese pedestrian never changes expression.

Many Japanese pull carts, easing the burden with a headband harness. Purchase by an American of any foodstuffs is forbidden.

Nipponese cops direct traffic but the boys to fear are the white-bearded, jeep-riding MPs who hate speeders. Note to veterans: Yokota airfield mess hall is one place where a soldier does not have to wash his tray—there is a surplus of Jap labor to help to the job.

**Car License Plates Are Colorful Ads**

AP Newsfeatures  
AMERICA'S automobile license plates add a lot of color to the highways and in some cases do a promotion job for the states which issue them.

Silver backgrounds are a favorite. Other tags are bright with green, red, brown, blue, red, orange or yellow. Many states issue plates with slogans or emblems or both accompanying the tag letters and numbers.

Idaho features a jupline skier and the words "Vacation Wonderland." Wisconsin advises the nation it's "America's Dairyland" and Arizona's red and silver plates advertise the "Grand Canyon States." An Indian design encloses the year of issue of New Mexico's tags which also bear the slogan "The Land of Enchantment."

A cowboy astride a bucking broncho embellishes Wyoming while Utah's black and yellow plates declare "This is the Place." Louisiana's plates carry a weebell and Georgia's tags proclaim "Peach State." Tennessee and Pennsylvania enclose tag numerals and letters in outlines of the shapes of the states as they appear on the map.

Most other states, Canal Zone and the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii confine their tags to letters, numerals, the dates of issue and the names of the issuing localities. Some add the expiration date of the tag.

Several states, still finding it difficult to obtain metal for new tags, retain plates which are several years old and either provide a small tab validating them for the present year or a windshield sticker.

YESTERDAY'S STARS  
Billy Jurges, Cubs, hit a two-run homer in the top of the 10th to give the Cubs a 9-7 victory over the Giants.

Sam Zoldak, Browns, spaced four hits to outpitch Rube Scarborough in a pitcher's duel as the Browns nipped the Senators 1-0.

FUNERAL NOTICE  
The funeral of Rev. R. P. Smith, pastor of St. John Baptist Church at Tenth Street and Cypress Avenue, will be held Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 1:00 P. M. The body will lie in state at the church from 10:00 A. M. until 1:00 P. M.

Bob Kennedy, formerly of Washington State and now of the New York football Yanks, once scored three touchdowns in four minutes against Idaho.

**Report Reveals Jap Democratic Progress**

TOKYO, Aug. 26. (AP)—Allied headquarters said today that two years of occupation had brought forth convincing proof that the Japanese were doing their utmost to "rebuild their national life and destiny along more constructive lines."

In one of a series of two-year reports, headquarters declared that the Japanese "have gone through a greater transformation than any other people in the history of the world."

It listed these developments as the greatest changes in Japan:

1. Adoption and promulgation of the new constitution, drastically reforming Japanese life along democratic lines.
2. Democratization of government by popular election of local and prefectural officials.
3. Reform of the civil code to revise the traditional family system, conferring social and economic equality upon women and democratizing basic human relationships.
4. Initiation of the rural land reform program to abolish absentee ownership, break up large landholdings and establish a new class of small landowners free of feudalistic shackles.
5. Opening of Japan to limited private trade with foreign countries as a step toward restoration of normal economic life.

**High Water Condition Of Glades Studied**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Aug. 26. (AP)—Representatives of the U. S. Corps of Engineers will observe high water conditions in the Free-glades this week. Col. Willis E. Teale, district engineer, announced today.

Government hydraulic engineers and other experts in flood control work from the office of the Chief of Engineers in Washington and the district office in Atlanta are now attending a conference here. They will accompany local engineers on Col. Teale's staff and visit the areas subjected to high water, gaining first-hand field information. The material collected will be incorporated in a report on food control to be issued later.

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**NOTICE**  
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