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# LIFE

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THESE FIVE JAPS ARE AMONG 155 TROUBLE MAKERS IMPRISONED IN THE STOCKADE WITHIN THE TULE LAKE SEGREGATION CENTER. HERE THEY ARE ANSWERING ROLL CALL

## TULE LAKE

### AT THIS SEGREGATION CENTER ARE 18,000 JAPANESE CONSIDERED DISLOYAL TO U. S.

Photographs for LIFE by Carl Mydans



LIEUT. COL. VERNE AUSTIN

The Japanese above, photographed behind a stockade within the Tule Lake Segregation Center at Newell, Calif., are trouble makers. Calling themselves "pressure boys," they are fanatically loyal to Japan. Along with some 150 other men in the stockade, they were ringleaders in the November riots which the U. S. Army, under the command of Lieut. Colonel Verne Austin (left), finally had to quell. By their strong-arm methods they are responsible for Tule Lake's reputation as worst of all civilian detention camps in U.S.

Most of the other 18,000 men, women and children of Japanese ancestry, now segregated at Tule Lake, are quiet, undemonstrative people. About 70% of them are American citizens by birth. All of the adults among them, however, are considered disloyal to the U. S. Either they have asked to be repatriated to Japan, or they have refused to take an oath of allegiance to the U. S., or they are suspected of being dangerous to the national security.

In March 1942, some 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry were moved out of their homes in strategic areas of the West Coast. Eventually they were settled in 10 relocation centers. There the loyal Japanese were separated from the disloyal. The loyal ones have the choice either of remaining in a relocation camp or of finding employment in some nonstrategic area. The disloyal ones have been sent to the segregation center at Tule Lake.

The November riots, in which some Americans were hurt, precipitated much heated discussion about the Tule Lake camp, and the center remains a political issue. LIFE last month sent Staff Photographer Carl Mydans to report on conditions there. He had himself just been repatriated from 16 months spent in Jap internment camps. At joint consent of War Relocation Authority, which has charge of the camp, and the Army, who guards it, he lived at Tule Lake for a week. His pictorial report, the first of its kind, follows.



Disloyal Japanese arrive from Manzanar Relocation Center. There is no station at Tule Lake Center, but the train stops 150 yards from entrance. Army then drives newcomers into camp.

## CAMP IS ON DRAINED LAKE BOTTOM NEAR SOME OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST FARMLAND

The area around Tule Lake in northern California, near the Oregon border, contains some of the world's richest farmland. Most of it is rockless bottom land, reclaimed by draining the lake. Originally it was homesteaded in 60-acre lots by World War I veterans. It is capable of grossing \$1,000 an acre a year, and last month sold for \$350 an acre.

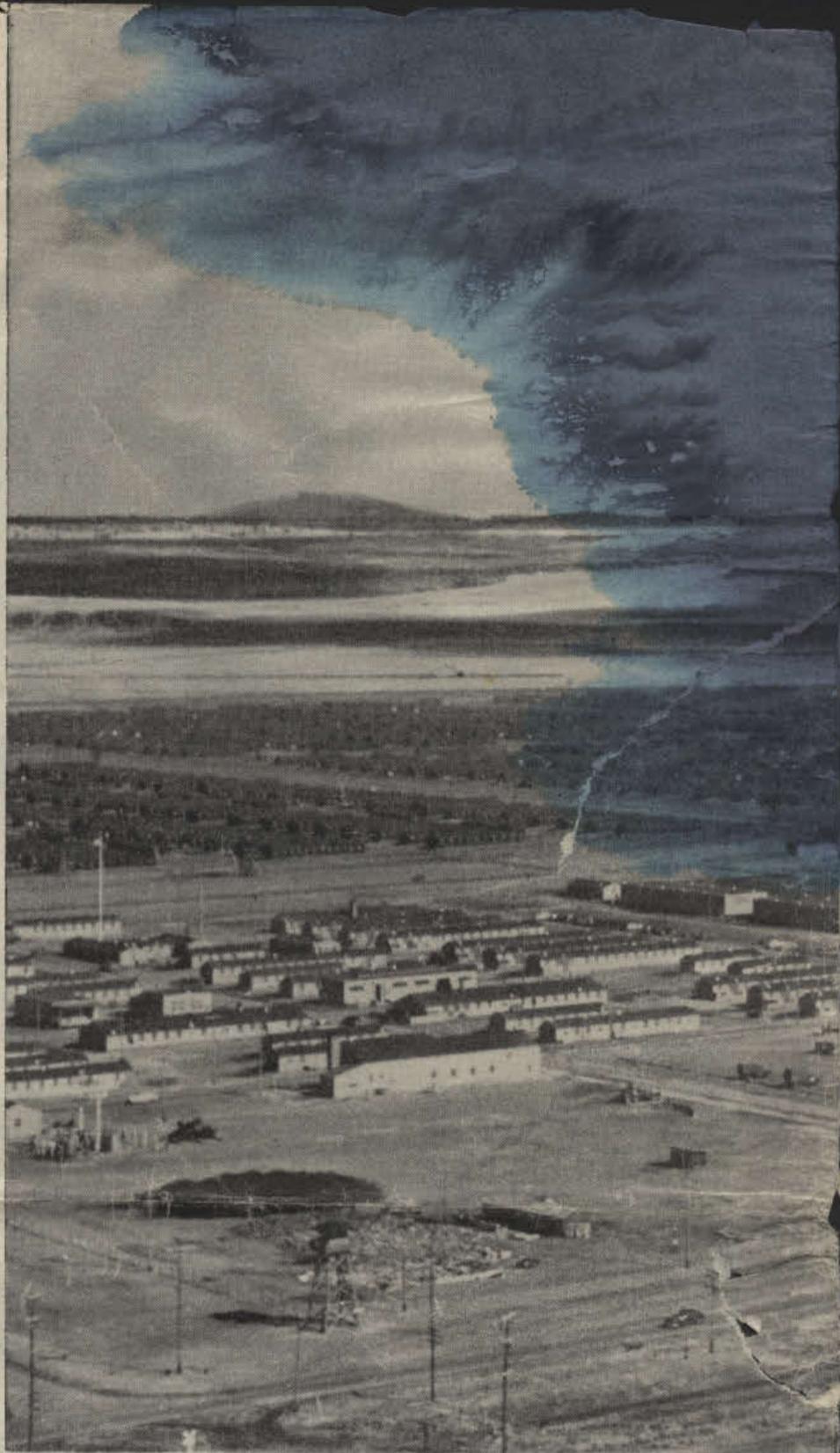
The Tule Lake Segregation Center is located on the edge of this rich California farmland. Its 1,000 acres are not good for cultivation, but last year the War Relocation Authority leased 2,600 fertile adjoining acres for the Japanese to farm. What happened was nearly tragic. The land was put to crops of potatoes, onions, carrots, beets, lettuce and peas. The Japanese diked the land, dug irrigation ditches and produced a rich crop on virgin soil.

Then at harvesttime trouble broke out in the center. A Japanese workman was killed when his truck was wrecked on the way to the farm area. Demonstrations were held. To get more control of camp government, the Japs proclaimed a policy of *status quo*. They would do no work. They would not farm the fields. As a result, to get the crop in before frost came loyal Japanese from relocation centers had to be brought in to do the harvesting. Thousands of dollars worth of vegetables were almost lost.

Only in the last month has *status quo* at last been eliminated. This year, however, to take no chances, only 400 acres will be planted by the Japanese at Tule Lake.



Old-timers line a street in center, waiting for look at new arrivals from Manzanar. Unlike detention camps in Japan, there is little crowding at Tule Lake. Usually the streets look empty.



Center's 1,032 buildings lie on this flat plain, with Horse Mountain in the background. In the foreground are lookout towers, manned 24 hours a day by MP's, and the wire fence which



Names of Japanese at camp are painted here. Characters at right read "Aug. 8, 1945." Since camp was changed to segregation center, Japanese no longer walk to this rock, outside limits.



surrounds the camp. The buildings at the left foreground are where Army troops live and those at right foreground are the offices and barracks for the WRA. The new parade ground

is in between. Behind it are buildings housing 18,000 Japanese. Even if the guards were removed the Japanese probably would not try to escape. They are afraid of Tule Lake farmers.



Barracks for Japanese are placed in rows like marching soldiers. Every one, tar-papered from rooftop to baseboard, is just like all the rest. Each chimney marks an apartment. Inside the

apartments living conditions are crowded but bearable. Average space per person: 106-118 sq. ft. Outside there are no trees and no grass. The winter is cold; the summer dusty and hot.

**Tule Lake** (continued)



**The Manji family**, in their Tule Lake apartment, are all classed as disloyal. The father, 62 (at far right), came to the U. S. from Yamaguchi, Japan, in 1904. He became a rice farmer in Nelson, Calif., where he and his family were living when war came. His wife (to the left) arrived

here in 1918. The children are all U. S. citizens by birth. From left to right around the table they are Masako, 22, June, 16, Lillian, 20, Grace, 18. On the floor are Terry, 14, Makoto, 11, and Minoru, 9. On the bookshelf stand photographs of two more sons, both in the U. S. Army.



**School classes**, like those in any U. S. town, are held daily in school barracks for the young Japanese. Taught by 46 American teachers and eight Japanese teachers, the lessons are in English. Regular subjects are American history, arithmetic and English grammar. Enrollment is

2,269. Also held regularly are the Japanese-language schools, conducted by Japanese teachers. In these enrollment is 4,008, double that of the center's English-language schools. Because the camp has freedom of belief and religion, the Japanese can teach the children what they want,



A new Japanese baby with silky black hair is held by a Japanese nurse in the obstetrical ward of the Tule Lake Hospital. There are about 25 births a month in the camp—a birth rate above that of the U.S. but below that of Japan. The death rate (about 10 per month) is lower than

in either country. The hospital is a rambling, wooden barracks building with 250 beds in eight wards. It has all the drugs, supplies and equipment found in any U. S. Army hospital and can handle virtually any kind of operation. Attached to the hospital are two convalescent barracks.

Tule Lake (continued)



Representatives of the Japanese meet with WRA officials on camp problems. Center: Ray Best, WRA project manager. After November riots "negotiating-committee" members, who

had made demands on WRA, were put in stockade. A new "coordinating committee" was picked to represent Japanese. This group, shown here, supported a return-to-work program.



Byron Akitsuki is executive secretary of coordinating committee (see upper left). He comes from Los Angeles, before war was an engineer. He is typical of young Japanese in camp.



Roll call for "pressure boys" is taken by the Army. Below, a young married couple, William and Roslyn Mayeda, have hearing before a WRA committee. They have been commit-

ted to repatriation by their parents. However, they now want to leave the camp. When they take oath of allegiance to U. S. and the FBI checks them, they will probably be relocated.



May Iwihara is a graduate of Compton Junior College. Before the war she managed a flower shop. She is holding two packages of green tea sent from Japan to Tule Lake Center.



Yoshitaka Nakai, 26, has bought \$8,000 in war bonds. When Nakai was picked up for relocation, his farm crop went bad. Angry, he refused to take allegiance oath. Now he wants to



What it feels like to be a prisoner is shown in expression of this young Japanese "pressure boy" in stockade. He was singing *Home on the Range* when Mydans entered stockade barracks. Reports Mydans: "He sang it like an American. There was no Japanese accent. He looked

at me the same way I guess I looked at a Japanese official when he came to check on me at Camp Santo Tomás in Manila. At the back of my mind was the thought, 'Come on, get it over and get out. Leave me alone.' This boy felt the same way. He was just waiting, killing time."

Tule Lake (continued)



In the cooperative barbershop, haircuts cost 15¢, shaves 10¢. Together the beauty parlor (opposite page) and the barber-shop take in \$2,750 a month. The Tule Lake Japanese live a

communal life. They eat together, have their haircuts together, shop together, have their shoes repaired together. There is very little privacy either for the adults or for the children.

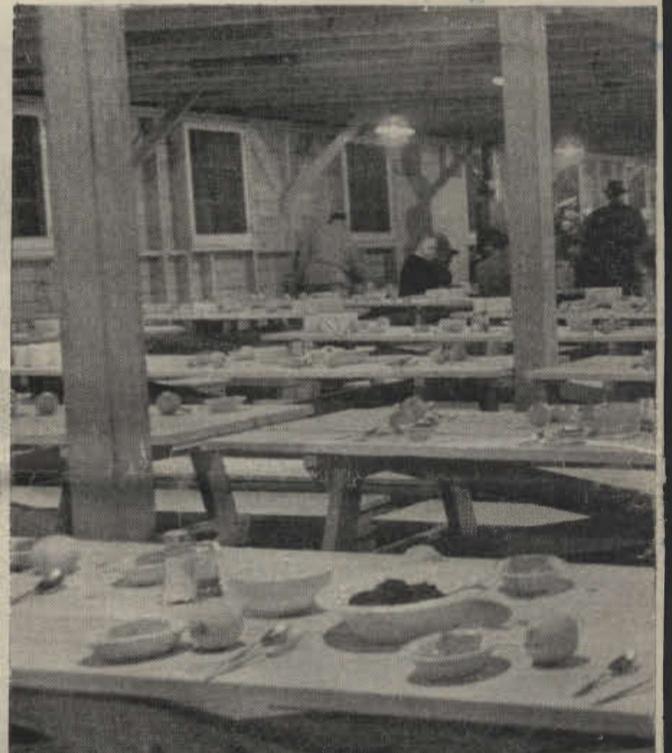


Catholic Mass is said by Father Hugh Lavery, visiting priest. Camp chaplain is Father Joseph J. Hunt who has spent 18 years as a missionary in Korea and Manchuria. More than



The cooperative shoe shop repairs more than 750 pairs of shoes a week. The customers can get both rubber and leather resoling. No new shoes are made there. The proprietor, stand-

ing in background at right, has two sons in the U. S. Army at Camp Shelby, Miss. All Japanese inmates who are willing to work are paid from \$12 to \$19 a month, depending on job.

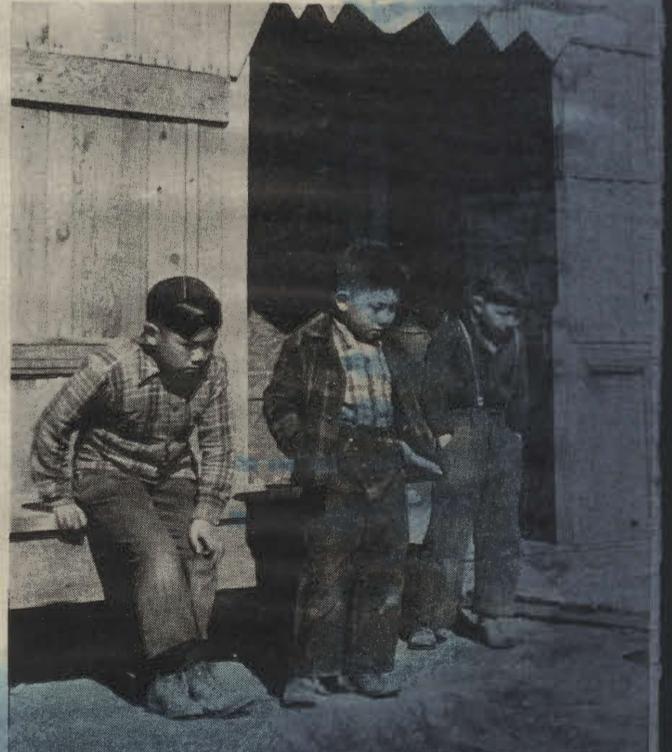


Each mess hall serves between 250 and 300 persons a meal. The food, which is procured through the Army Quartermaster and meets Army specifications, is free. There is a contin-



Cooperative periodical store sells magazines. Unlike Japan's detention camps, where Mydans could get only one newspaper, there is no censorship of reading matter. There is no cen-

sorship of mail either. A man can write directly to Spanish Government (Japan's representative in the U. S.) and request repatriation without the WRA even knowing about it.



The kids play marbles in the chilly winter sun. The dress in camp is strictly American, not Japanese, and the language, especially among the young, almost always English. Mydans



75% of Tule Lake Japanese are Buddhists. Another 12% are Christian and the rest have no church affiliation. No attempt is made by WRA authorities to interfere with religion.



The cooperative beauty shop has 21 chairs, five permanent-wave machines and six or seven driers. Women like to have their hair fixed for the parties, shows, discussion groups and

other social events which are continually taking place at Tule Lake. Before the riots movies were always shown nightly in the mess halls. Admission: 5¢. Soon they will be held again.

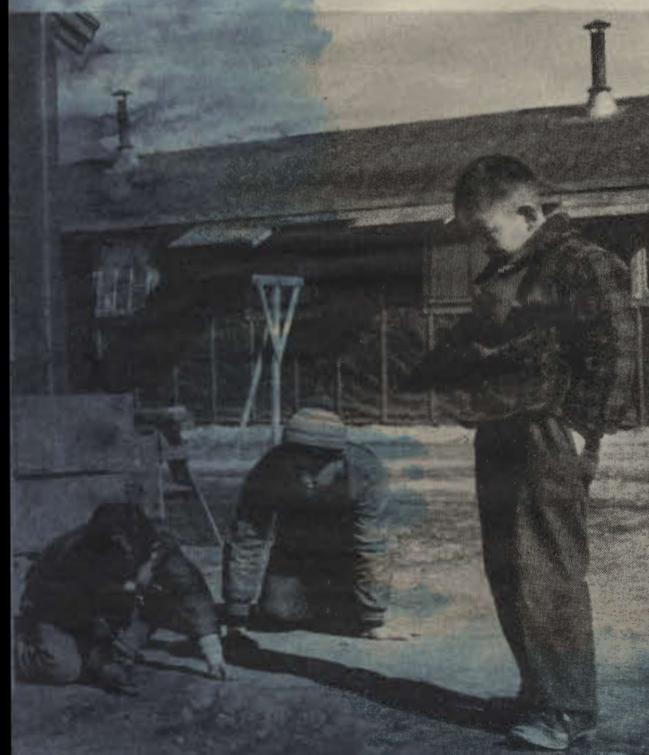


ual argument as to how good it is. Some wealthy Japanese never eat in the mess halls at all. Instead they buy their food from cooperative stores and cook it in their own apartments.



At cooperative dress and coat shop, women design and make their own clothes, which sell only within the camp area. Buying new clothes is one of the few ways these folk have to ex-

press their own individuality. Other ways: carving weird animals, draping bright curtains in the barracks windows, growing flowers in little gardens and building new front porches.



met no one who could not make himself understood in English. They reverted to Japanese only when discussing among themselves whether to allow him to take their pictures or not.



Cooperative general store sells hardware, groceries and men's clothes. The center is just about as well supplied with merchandise as any U. S. community of 18,000 people. To make

money, some families dig up shells from the drained lake bottom, bleach them with orange or lemon peels and paint them with fingernail polish. Then they sell them outside the camp.

# THEY HAVE EVERYTHING EXCEPT LIBERTY

The Japanese at Tule Lake have everything they need for happiness except the one thing they want most—liberty. That they cannot have. They are prisoners, even though the War Relocation Authority tries to soften this fact by using the euphemistic name “Segregees.” Because the problems which have arisen to plague the camp stem fundamentally from their loss of liberty, those problems can never really be solved. Their life cannot be made pleasant. It can only be made endurable.

The responsibility of WRA is to make life at Tule Lake endurable. This it has succeeded in doing, in the face of bitter criticism by part of the press, the public and the government. On the one side it has been accused of “Jap coddling.” On the other side it has been accused of depriving American citizens of their native rights.

In its accomplishment it has had the tactful help of the Army. Naturally both of them have made mistakes. At the time of the November riots they clamped an unwise censorship on the center, thus giving the wildest rumors the chance to spread across the country. But most important of all, they have avoided bloodshed.

These interned Japanese are not criminals. In peacetime they would be living normal civilian lives. But this is war and they are loyal to Japan, i.e., disloyal to the U. S. They must, of necessity, be put in a place where they cannot hurt the U. S.

But it is too easy to say that they are all disloyal and treat them all accordingly. Some 70% of them are American citizens. In almost every individual case there are conflicting loyalties. Young men and young women especially have disturbing sociological problems. They have perhaps been committed to repatriation by their parents. Yet they have been born and brought up here. What they know about Japan they have learned only from books and stories. They are accustomed to the American standard of living. They have gone to American schools and colleges.

Now suddenly they have been put in what seems to them a prison. Some of them are bitter. They feel as if they have no country at all. Carl Mydans talked to one such boy. The conversation:

*Mydans:* Why do you want to leave this country? You have never been in Japan.

*Boy:* Oh, I don't know. Japanese families always stick together. My mother and father want to go back.

*Mydans:* If you go to Japan, will you want to return here when the war is over?

*Boy:* No, I don't think I ever want to come back. The feeling will be too much against us.

*Mydans:* But you have never been to Japan. How do you know you'll want to stay there?

*Boy:* But I don't want to stay in Japan. None of us do.

*Mydans:* But then where will you go?

*Boy:* I don't know, really. Maybe Australia. We want to go where there are new frontiers. I think we'll find them in Australia. (Australia admits no Oriental immigrants.—ED.)

Other young Japanese are not so bitter. They have resolved their conflicting loyalties between family and the U. S. in favor of the U. S. To them WRA offers a chance for release from Tule Lake. If they are willing to take an oath of allegiance to the U. S. and are favorably checked by the FBI, they can be sent to one of the nine relocation centers. There they will have the opportunity to seek regular jobs in nonstrategic sections of the country.

But this method of release sometimes does not work. Recently a young Japanese workman and his wife were cleared for release into a “safe” area. At the last minute they were sent to leave camp because of a false rumor that a Japanese family relocated on an Arkansas farm had been killed by an irate anti-Japanese mob.

In his report on Tule Lake Photographer Mydans made an inevitable comparison between it and the prison camps he had seen at Manila and Shanghai. Said he: “Americans interned under the Japanese have

a certain ease of mind in knowing that as Americans they are considered enemies and nothing will be done for them. The Japs lay down a few all-inclusive regulations and the internees know that if they are broken, the entire camp will be severely punished. If a man escapes he will be shot.

“Over here we have the problem of American citizens being interned as aliens. There are political and sociological conflicts. The internees do not hate us, or the WRA, the way we hated the Japs and our guards.

“On the other hand internees over here are made physically comfortable out of all comparison to the comforts given us. The Japanese standard of living is lower than ours. In our camps we received as much food as the average Japanese civilian, yet it wasn't enough. The usual camp over there is an abandoned or bombed university building or warehouse. The place is dirty and empty. When internees are put into such a camp, they must bring their own bedding and beds, forage for most of their own food, build their own kitchens, carry their own garbage, build their own clinic, plan their own administration.”

At Tule Lake all these things have been provided. Yet newspaper charges that the Japanese there are living in luxury are obviously exaggerated. By Japanese standards it is pretty luxurious but by American standards it is an ugly dreary way of life.

The task of the WRA is not easy. Nor will it get easier. The Japanese within the camp will keep up their agitation for better conditions. Current conditions must be maintained so that the Japanese Government itself will have no excuse for the bad situation in its own camps where American prisoners are imprisoned. The 18,000 Japs at Tule Lake are, in a sense, a form of insurance for the safety of some 10,000 American civilians still in the hands of the Japanese and as U. S. casualty lists grow longer and the war hatred grows more bitter, our treatment of these people will directly affect the treatment of our fellow Americans across the Pacific.



Japanese drum majorettes practice high-stepping marches on the main “fire break,” between rows of dormitories. Some of these girls have been drum majorettes at schools and colleges.

In each of them there is a conflict between Americanism and Nipponism. In fact, they are the same Japanese girls who march as majorettes above and do the Japanese dance at the right.



WITH KIMONOS AND BROAD-BRIMMED HAT TWO LITTLE GIRLS  
DO AN OLD JAPANESE FOLK DANCE, TELLING A LOVE STORY

# BEARD'S REPUBLIC

ITS PRINCIPLES ARE IN THE CONSTITUTION OF 1787; ITS FACTS IN THE HEADLINES OF 1944

A Marine sergeant who recently returned from action has written a letter to LIFE. "With reference to Mr. Beard's *Republic*," he asks, "why are you publishing what the essence of a republic should be? Are you unable to become factual in the matter?"

That is a fair question, and this is a good time to answer it, for the series of 10 "Conversations on Fundamentals" from Charles A. Beard's book *The Republic* comes to an end in LIFE this week (see p. 57). These articles have created general interest and many LIFE readers have written in to say that they liked them. Others have said that they were hard to read, or "too academic." They were not intended to be easy reading. They were intended to help people think, and keep on thinking.

Also, they are academic. Beard himself admits that. He has been talking about the principles of the American form of government. To a voter who wants to dislodge a specific blatherskite from Congress or city hall, this kind of approach may appear remote and unrealistic.

So let's try to be factual and answer Sgt. John Dimmel's question. The great American facts of 1944 are the war, the coming election and the things that have been going on in Washington. If the Beard articles have done any kind of a job we should be able to think more effectively about all these things.

And right away we run up against a fact that is especially important to Sgt. Dimmel. That is the confusion about the armed forces' ballots for this year. What does Beard have to offer on this situation?

## "Men of Vision and Action"

Well, he can explain how it happened, first of all. It happened because the U. S. Constitution gives the states the exclusive power to determine the voting methods and qualifications for all offices. It was necessary, as Beard pointed out, for the men who framed the Constitution to reserve certain rights to the states. Otherwise too many states would have refused to ratify the Constitution and there would have been no United States of America.

But there is another side to the argument about the soldiers' ballots, which Beard has stated forcefully in his fifth article (Feb. 14). The men who wrote our Constitution, he said, "were men of vision and action. They set up a government endowed with large powers for action. They intended it to act in all matters of national or general interest, as such matters multiplied with the development of the country."

No one can deny that it is a matter of national interest for Americans in uniform to be given an opportunity to vote this year. And no one can deny that their voting would

be greatly facilitated by setting up a national agency to distribute, collect and return their ballots to the respective states. There is nothing in the Constitution which forbids this.

And what about the biggest fact in Washington today—the fight between President Roosevelt and Congress which came to a climax over the tax-bill veto? What about Senator Barkley's speech, in which he accused the President of making "a deliberate and calculated assault upon the honesty and integrity of every member of the legislature of the United States"?

It so happened that at the peak of the Barkley-Roosevelt blow-off LIFE was running Beard's sixth article on "Congress as Power" (Feb. 21). The framers of the Constitution, Beard pointed out, expected Congress to be the dominant branch of the government. They sought to create a strong executive, "but, reasoning from . . . experience . . . they assumed the supremacy of the Legislature." But in fact Congress has not been either supreme or dominant for a long time. The Democrats, under the Presidential whip, have delegated so many powers to the executive that Congress can hardly keep track of how much it has given away. Some of this was inevitable in wartime, but much of the emasculation of Congress occurred before the war.

## The Clash of Facts

Here again Beard has constructive suggestions. The Constitution, he says, leaves Congress entirely free to regulate its own procedure and its relations with the President. There is nothing at this moment which prevents Congress from organizing itself more efficiently, informing itself more adequately and, in general, acting like the No. 1 branch of government.

This brings up another problem of almost incalculable importance to Sergeant Dimmel and every other American: our foreign policy, who is shaping it now, and who is going to shape it after the war. The facts have to fight against each other here. One fact is that our foreign policy is now being handled exclusively by Franklin Roosevelt, as President and as commander in chief. Another fact is that he has no exclusive power to make foreign policy, or even to commit the U. S. to any policy whatever.

Beard's seventh article on "The Power of the President" (Feb. 28) makes this very clear. The Constitution does not even mention the words "foreign affairs," and it sets definite limits on the President's sphere of action. He cannot declare war, or sign a peace treaty, or even send a consul to Peru, without the concurrence of Congress. In fact, "foreign affairs" are so closely intermingled with "domestic affairs" that any President who took absolute power over foreign affairs

would automatically become a complete dictator over domestic affairs.

The President therefore has two devices. He can either 1) work with Congress or 2) give it the run-around. If he is going to work with Congress, then the fact to remember is that Congress and the people must be told clearly what the President's proposals are in order that they may pass intelligent and honest judgment thereon. If the President tries to act without a full understanding of his purposes by Congress and the people, then he is bound to fail—unless the people really want a dictatorship.

## Parties and the People

Sgt. Dimmel will probably agree that there is nothing academic about the fights that are now going on inside the Republican and Democratic Parties in preparation for the campaign of 1944. In his ninth article (March 13) Beard wrote on the subject of "Political Parties as Agencies and Motors." That is textbook language with a vengeance and it may have scared off some readers. But what Beard said was very much to the point. He said political parties in the U. S. are never the creatures of a single man or interest, and that every American who is really serious about his government can make an impression in or on his own party if he really sets out to do it. That is what the Willkies and Deweys and Brickers are trying to do among the Republicans, and the pro- and anti-Roosevelt men, the New Dealers, Southern conservatives and labor politicians among the Democrats.

Maybe the thing that is troubling Sgt. Dimmel and a lot of other people is that everything else seems academic beside the facts of war. In a sense, this is bound to be true. It is hard to get excited about what George Washington did at the Constitutional Convention when you've just come back from the hell of Tarawa. But Professor Beard has never said that the Americans who made our Constitution were any better or smarter than those who are living today. In this week's closing article he implies that they were not, for he says "I believe that there will always be an America, an America with unique characteristics, however great the changes to come." And if that is true, which LIFE believes, the Americans of 1944 will have a lot more to do with it than the Americans of 1787.

Sgt. Dimmel has asked LIFE to be factual about what kind of republic this should be. LIFE believes this republic should be a nation whose people have the opportunity to live, work and enjoy the vicinities of social intercourse with their neighbors, to rule themselves by constitutional methods and to fear no despot, foreign or domestic. That is about as factual as we can make it.

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Lieut. Tommy Harmon of U. S. Army Air Forces, twice chosen All-American when he played football at Michigan and twice last year given up for

dead after plane crashes, came to Hollywood with the parachute he wore when shot down over China last October. Although the chute had bullet holes

in it from Zeros, Lieut. Harmon gave it to Elyse Knox, film starlet, to make into a wedding dress she will wear when she marries him this spring.