

Writer Loses 'Lots of Face' In Ride on Tokyo Express

By GERALD R. THORP
Times Foreign Correspondent
TOKYO, Sept. 10.—The Tokyo Express is an electric train that travels more from side to side than forward.

But it's one way to get from Yokohama to the Japanese capital if you're not particular about your pride or your shins.

Three of us made the trip together at night. What we learned makes "The Perils of Pauline" read like sissy stuff.

In the first place, that old saw about the politeness of the Japanese can be scratched off the books.

We started to board the train, smug with confidence.

In two seconds I lost lots of face but not by falling on it. I landed on the other side of a victim with an ingenious elbow technique which the little people here employ with surprising dexterity.

Three Clutch One Strap
But at least we got on the train, the three of us clutching the one available strap. The motorman must have just finished the life story of our late lamented engineer, Casey Jones. The things he did to that train I wouldn't try with my son's electric Lionel.

We all soon felt at home for next to us was the usual subway drunk, in this case a Japanese soldier with a bottle of Saki.

He talked loud and long, in a tone that made us quite uncomfortable.

His buddies glanced nervously in our direction from time to time, probably thankful that we couldn't understand Japanese. So were we.

Eventually Got Seats
The crowd thinned out and we eventually got seats. A woman across the way, with a huge bundle on her back, suddenly slipped off her seat and knelt on the floor.

like a quarterback ready to take a pass from center. She stayed that way for five minutes. Then a Jap next to her sighed wearily and lifted her pack so that she could move back into the seat. We didn't know until then that it had been too heavy for her to reach from the floor.

We reached the Tokyo station at midnight and remained acutely aware that we were Americans still none too popular there. Two Jap officers turned their backs and faced the wall as we passed. Another clutched his nose with his thumb and forefinger, not too delicately. We felt very lonely.

Find Railroad Guide
And then we met Casper, the railroad guide, something out of a pre-war tourist book on Japan. He bowed, he scraped, he smiled, he talked earnestly and feelingly of the beautiful new American-Japanese relationship. But more than that, he offered to lead us to the Imperial hotel, our destination.

We stepped off the dimly lit station into the heart of Tokyo, the blackest I've ever seen. Great office buildings rose menacingly like formidable walls of a great canyon along the streets. Not a light was burning. Not a soul was stirring.

Our little guide assured us he would get us there and that "the Imperial hotel was 10 minutes." Thirty minutes later, after the most lonely walk of my life through the world's fifth largest city, we found the Imperial, Japan's most modern quake-proof hotel.

It has one very excellent feature, which our office will appreciate. They won't take money for anything. You just sign little chits giving your name and place of birth, next of kin, and amount of insurance.

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LOCAL CHURCHMEN ON FOREIGN DUTY

Dr. George Walker Buckner, the Rev. Virgil A. Sly and the Rev. E. K. Higdon, all Disciples of Christ officials of Indianapolis, are now fulfilling missions abroad.

Dr. Buckner is in Geneva, Switzerland, to aid the world council of churches in the field of publicity and to assist in the rehabilitation and strengthening of the European churches. En route to Switzerland, he stopped in England as a fraternal delegate from the international convention of the Disciples of Christ to the churches of Britain.

The Rev. Mr. Sly is in the Philippines making a survey of the missionary casualties of war—both in the numbers of pastors killed and the church properties destroyed or impaired.

The Rev. Mr. Sly is following the tributaries of the Congo river in the Belgian Congo, Africa, to ascertain the needs of mission stations in that part of the world. He first visited the posts supported by Disciples along the Congo.

Lt. Voyles Gets Army Discharge

FIRST LT. CHARLES T. VOYLES, employee of The Times advertising department, on leave, was discharged from the army air corps recently and will return to his job Sept. 17.

Lt. Voyles lives at 536 N. Eastern ave. with his wife, Jane, and their 2-year-old daughter, Judy. In the army since April, 1941, he served overseas in the air force, and returned to the states last September to act as a bombardier instructor at Davis-Monthan field, Tucson, Ariz.

He holds the distinguished flying cross, the air medal with three oak leaf clusters, and three battle stars. The stars were awarded for air offensives in Normandy, northern France and Germany.



Lt. Voyles

PLANTS MAY TEST ATOM DEATH TALES

By Science Service
WASHINGTON.—Plants, reported growing already on the sites of the Japanese cities blasted by atomic bombs, should be examined by trained geneticists for possible clues to the truth or falsity of the "death-ray" stories diligently propagated by Japanese as a bid for sympathy.

If the soil, in which they are growing, really was so impregnated with radio-active substances that it is still giving off secondary radiations dangerous to human and other life, effects should show up in the plants, as a higher-than-average occurrence of mutations or "sports"—sudden evolutionary changes—appearing in seedlings from seeds of the plants now growing.

Changes of this sort have been induced experimentally in the past, by bombarding the seed-forming organs of plants with X-rays, radium radiations, etc. If such changes do not appear, or are not unusually numerous, a doubtful doubt will be cast on the Japanese "horror-ray" stories.

YOUR G.I. RIGHTS... By Douglas Larsen Education Needs—They Can Be Solved in Speedy Manner

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Here are some questions from G. I.'s who have just returned from overseas:

Q—I will be out of the army in about two weeks and want to get started back to college for this fall semester if possible. They tell me that getting the government to send us to school involves a lot of red tape and that I might not be able to make it in time. What do you suggest as the fastest possible method of making application, and do you think I will be able to make it for the coming semester?

A—If you meet all the qualifications for the educational benefits there is no reason why you can't get your application approved in time. Go to your nearest veterans administration office and fill out and file veterans' administration rehabilitation form 1950, with the regional office. The application must be accompanied by a certified photostatic copy of

your certificate of discharge or release.

Q—I've been looking around for a job for the last couple of weeks and although there are plenty of openings there isn't anything that just suits me. What unemployment compensation is due me as a veteran in case I want to keep looking for a while?

A—You can get a maximum weekly allowance of \$20 a week while you are unemployed. Depending upon your time in the service, you can get this for a maximum of 52 weeks.

Q—The government has refused to give me my readjustment allowance because they claim I turned down a good job that was offered to me. Can they do this legally?

A—Yes, if they prove you actually did turn down a good job.

USE INDIAN POISON TO COMBAT POLIO

By Science Service
CHICAGO, Sept. 10.—The use of curare, the old Indian arrow poison, in the treatment of infantile paralysis is reported by Dr. Nicholas S. Ranshoff, of Long Beach, N. J., in the forthcoming issue of the Journal of the American Medical association.

The arrow poison was tried in four consecutive cases at Monmouth Memorial hospital. "Striking improvement of the symptoms" was obtained, Dr. Ranshoff states.

Physicians do not ordinarily report on the value of a treatment that has been tried in only four cases, but Dr. Ranshoff states that he is making this "preliminary" report because "there is a great deal of infantile paralysis in the country at the present time and it is hoped that other observers will use this drug."

Savage Treatment Is Given Yanks in Kobe Prison Camp

By WILLIAM McGAFFIN
Times Foreign Correspondent
KOBÉ, Japan, Sept. 10.—Americans received more savage treatment than their Australian and British comrades towards the end of their imprisonment in the main Kobe camp, near the center of this burned-out industrial city.

Verbally and through diaries, I have been given stark details of life in this unit, one of 14 camps in the Kobe-Osaka area which held an estimated 17,000 inmates.

Col. Murata, commander of this chain, is now in American hands. I have talked with two Americans who said that a Jap guard asked them, "Are you American or English?" Replying "Americans," they were beaten into unconsciousness with bamboo sticks, belts, fists and rope and bucket.

Beat Others, Too
They said that this treatment was given to numerous other Americans as well. Why, they did not know, unless the Japanese realized that America, more than any other nation, was responsible for their defeat in the Pacific.

Other allied prisoners, however, suffered equally with the Americans through most of the imprisonment and kept records of their plight which they kept hidden until now.

According to these records, the Americans and their brother allies agreed that their first winter in camp—that of 1942—was their worst.

All had come from the tropics—the Americans from Corregidor and Bataan, the Aussies and British

from Singapore and Hong Kong. They were unfitted for the extremes of the Japanese winter which they had to endure with scanty clothing and scantier rations.

25 Per Cent Died
Some ex-prisoners estimate that as high as 25 per cent of their comrades died that first winter from starvation and exposure. They accuse the Japanese of "wilful neglect."

Japanese bestiality was typified by the conduct of Col. Murata, a "Prussian type" of Jap with mean visage, shaved bullet head, crafty eyes, Hitler mustache and steel-rimmed spectacles. A very humbled man, he was summoned before two of the young American captains whom he once hazed.

Murata used to swagger in and tell the inmates that he did not like their attitude. He warned those who did not do their best for Japan and maintain complete humbleness toward their captors that they would probably "never get a chance to join your loved ones."

Takes Orders Now
He would say: "Our people will not forget that you shot at our brothers and sons... for this you must pay your toll very heavily."

This same Col. Murata is now taking orders, not giving them. As he was interrogated he behaved in obsequious fashion, bowing humbly and obviously trying to curry favor.

If those responsible for these conditions are not executed, our boys, who have suffered under him, are going to wonder why. Many former prisoners are disturbed by the idea that Murata and his gang may be able to fly the coop.

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First of 822,000 Refugee Poles to Start Home Soon

By EDWARD P. MORGAN
Times Foreign Correspondent
WIESBADEN, Sept. 10.—A limited number of the 822,000 refugee Poles in western Germany are scheduled to start on their long, fateful journey home within 10 days. They will travel in box cars, carrying their children and worldly belongings in their arms.

An army announcement said today that a new plan had been arranged to repatriate a maximum of 6000 a day by rail from the American zone through Czechoslovakia.

But, according to the best estimates, it will be an extraordinary piece of luck if more than a small percentage of the Poles who want to go can be evacuated from the western zones of Germany before winter comes.

Have Urged Action
Necessarily crude transport facilities, and scarcity of food and warm clothes would make mass migration in bitter winter weather dangerous, if not impossible.

American and British authorities have been straining to get the operation going long before this but difficulties in communicating with the Warsaw provisional government and lack of facilities for transport through the Russian zone have caused repeated delays.

The new arrangements apparently stem from conferences between Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov on the urgency of the situation during the general's recent visit to Moscow.

Once the Czech route opens, the Americans hope to be able to evacuate a similar number through Dresden and Gorlitz but several details remain to be worked out with the Russians.

280,000 in U. S. Zone
There are an estimated 280,000 Poles in the American zone of occupation, 80,000 in the French and 462,000 in the British areas. In addition the Americans have about 25,000 Polish soldiers whom the Germans captured in Poland. Some of

these may be included in the impending repatriation.

With more than half of the total in their hands, the British are anxious to get repatriation started from their zone because life in the crowded displaced persons camps this winter, with only the barest minimum of heat, food and blankets, could easily produce serious problems not only of health but of unrest.

A British source has reported that 60 per cent of the Poles indicated, in August, that they wanted to go home.

But that number is dropping steadily, he says, as delays increase and the uncertainty of how they will be able to survive the winter deepens their confusion as to what they will find, both politically and physically, when they get home.

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MINISTERS TO HOLD OUTING TOMORROW

Entire families will attend the picnic of the Indianapolis Ministerial association from 4 to 8 p.m. tomorrow on the grounds of the North Methodist church.

Mrs. Albert Parker Jr., wife of Dr. Parker, president of Hanover college, will speak on "The Family Life of the Minister." Mrs. Parker is the daughter of the late Dr. Cleland McAfee who was for many years secretary of the board of foreign missions of the Presbyterian church in the U. S. A.

The Rev. Ralph O'Dell will lead games and recreation for the picnicers and the North church will serve a non-profit dinner. Dr. Dallas L. Browning, host pastor, and the Rev. E. F. Roesti, minister of the Broadway Evangelical church, are in charge of arrangements.

The Rev. J. Albert Moore, pastor of the Jones tabernacle, African Methodist Episcopal Zion church, is president of the ministerial association.

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