

31 American Servicemen in Japanese Prisons

Yokosuka, Japan—Thirty-one American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who came to Japan to serve their country are staying on here in a Japanese prison.

A mixed group of robbers, rapists and convicted murderers, they share a shadowy double status as members of the American armed forces and convicts in the Japanese prison system.

They got into the prison, a great-walled fortress that served 80 years ago as a Japanese navy base, because of an American agreement which permits Japan to prosecute U.S. servicemen for crimes against Japanese nationals.

Private Prison

Because of their special status, the convicts here have their own private prison, and enjoy comforts unknown in the rest of the Japanese penal system. Their special luxuries include coffee, radios, steam heat and sometimes even a car. The cost of supporting them is three times as high as for Japanese inmates.

Warden Noriyuki Hanakawa said his prisoners are the most privileged in Japan. Some of their benefits, such as holiday food and twice monthly American movies, are partly shared by some 60 Japanese "trustees," whom Hanakawa claims look on their jobs in the American prison as the best their country can offer.

The Yokosuka prison rates high marks even by American standards, especially since the few convicts in this

five-acre fortress have elbow room undreamed of in U.S. jails. Their one-man cells would be occupied by two or three men in an American prison. Their exercise yard has room for a baseball field, basketball court, even a flower garden and goldfish pond.

Air Force Lt. Col. Joe S. Webb of Van Alstyne, Tex., who visits the prison regularly to represent the armed forces, says Yokosuka ranks with some of the better military stockades he has seen in 10 years as a military policeman.

Despite their comparative comforts, the inmates suffer more than most convicts from the loneliness that hangs over every jail. The 6,000 miles that separate them from home cuts them off from friends and families as much as does the big gray wall.

Hanakawa said he is always ready to admit visitors, even outside normal working hours. But except for a rare buddy or shipmate, nobody ever visits the chilly little interview room with its heavy wire-grill partition.

As for the inmates' staff, he recalled, nobody has ever come from the United States to visit a son, husband or brother at Yokosuka prison in the six years it has held American convicts.

Despite the loneliness and the language barrier which separates them from their guards—only a half-dozen guards can speak English—Hanakawa said:

"He is friendly and co-

operative, he is helpful to the new prisoners and last year he won an award for his work record," the warden added.

Boone has no hope of freedom until Oct. 7, 1968, when he becomes eligible for parole.

Boone's fellow prisoners range from 18 to 32 years old. They represent a dozen states, all races, and most religions.

Six of the prisoners were jailed for homicide. Most of the rest are robbers. Almost all of them were sentenced for crime of violence.

Their reasonable conduct in prison has given Hanakawa hopes that their violence is a thing of the past.

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Hotels Battling Declining Room Occupancy Rates

New York—Hotels are engaging in an all-out fight against declining room occupancy rates. Their weapon is diversification.

For a number of years, motels have been cutting into the hotel market. The 1942 hotel occupancy rate was a prosperous 80 per cent. In 1961, it has dropped to a worrisome 58 or 59 per cent.

When the move to motels began, hotels resorted to raising their room rates to meet the losses of declining occupancy. Now they have found that they must take other measures as well or face the danger of pricing themselves out of the tourist market.

That is where diversification comes in. The Manager hotels, a chain of 14 hotels and 10 downtown motor hotels, has taken several pioneering steps in that direction.

Programs Diversified

First, according to Victor E. Barrett, vice president of the chain, they have diversified their actual hotel programs to try to attract more guests and different kinds of guests.

Second, they have gone into other fields. They are retailing a canned Colombian coffee in their hotels and in supermarkets and plan to go into the tea and salad dressing businesses. The Manager family owns Florida citrus groves and real estate scattered around the country.

Within the hotels, the diversification includes a family plan, under which children less than 14 are accommodated for nothing.

There also are programs to encourage wives to accompany their husbands to conventions. Exotic menus are featured at lunches, and teas are given at which the wives are honored guests.

"The famion shows once popular among 40 million guests are old hat now," Barrett said in an interview. "We have to give them more than that."

Barrett believes that hotels have a vast untapped market to attract by luring foreign visitors to America. They should be campaigning actively abroad to encourage foreigners to see America, he said.

Brochures Circulated

The Manager hotels have circulated brochures offering special rates and packages to foreign travelers. These brochures have gone to 4,500 travel agents outside the United States.

"We are organizing our staffs so that they include people who speak foreign languages," Barrett said. "But more important, we want to organize programs for the foreign visitors."

There is nothing for many of them to do at night, for instance. Last year a total of about 800 Italian engineers, doctors and other professional people stayed at our hotels. Nothing was planned for them in the evenings. They just sat around the lobbies and talked among themselves."

"It would be a great service to the tourists and to the country to organize a program for getting foreign visitors into American homes in the evening, so they can see the American kitchen we brag about and see all the gadgets we advertise so widely."

"Most important, a program like that would help foreign visitors meet Americans and get out of hotel lobbies."

It also, Barrett said, would be very good for the hotel business.

Salem Chosen All-America City

New York—Ten U.S. cities including Salem, Ore., were named "All-America Cities" Wednesday in annual competition sponsored by the National Municipal League and Look Magazine.

The awards are designed to honor communities "having made outstanding progress as a result of citizen effort."

Others included Bloomington, Ill.; Decatur, Ill.; East Providence, R.I.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Town of Las Vegas, N.M.; Radford, Va.; Richland, Wash.; San Jose, Calif.; and Worcester, Mass.

Salem city officials plan a three-day celebration April 6-8 in connection with the award. Gov. Mark Hatfield said "this is a distinction in which the entire state extends congratulations to the Capital City."

This is the first time an Oregon city has received the honor. Three other cities in Washington, Vancouver, Tacoma and Bremerton, have been All-America Cities.

COAL PRODUCTION

Washington—Blatant coal production in one year was about 392 million tons, or about 2.1 tons for every man, woman and child in the U.S.