

July 2004

8th U.S. Army's

ROK Steady

Korea



A culture worth exploring

The Korea Bank Fountain decorates the Namsaemun area of northern Seoul. *Photo by Spc. Daniel Love.*



Contents

Cover

A traditional Korean guest house is a stark contrast from the modern buildings that dominate the Seoul skyline. *Photo by Spc. Daniel Love.*

Features

Like father, like son 6
Aviation commander follows in father's footsteps

Serving at the JSA 7
Part two of a three part series on the Soldiers of the DMZ.

A Lasting Friendship 8
Gapyeong students visit National Guard unit in L.A.

Child & Youth Services 14
What your options are in Korea

Departments

Command Focus, Page 5
Travel, Page 16

See **ROK Steady** online at <http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/PAO/Default.htm>

ROK Steady

The only peninsula-wide magazine for the 8th U.S. Army Community



A small ceramic statue is just one of the many interesting examples of Korean decorative art that are available in the Itaewon shopping district, located right outside Yongson Garrison. *Photo by Pvt. Michael Noggle.*

July 2004
Volume 02, No. 06

8th U.S. Army Commander
Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell

8th U.S. Army Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Col. Steven Boylan

Information Strategies Chief
Maj. Kathleen B. Johnson

ROK Steady Staff

Editor
Sgt. Lisa Jendry

Staff writers
Spc. Daniel Love
Pvt. Michael Noggle

Send submissions, letters and suggestions to: 8th Army PAO, ATTN: ROK Steady, PSC 303 Box 42, APO AP 96205-0010, or call 723-4827. Fax us at 723-3537 or e-mail information to: ROKSTEADY@usfk.korea.army.mil
Deadline: 45 days prior to date of publication

ROK Steady is an authorized command information publication, published monthly for the members of 8th U.S. Army and their dependents. Distribution is 15,000 copies peninsula-wide. Contents of ROK Steady are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, USFK or 8th U.S. Army.

ROK Steady is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 360-1. Editorial content is prepared, edited, and provided by the Command Information Division of the 8th U.S. Army Public Affairs Office.

New Horizon's Day sets conditions for mission success

by Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell
Commander, 8th U.S. Army

This month, we will stand down for our fifth "New Horizons Day." This training program is important to me - as it should be to you - since it directly effects how we live, work and "fight tonight."

Our mission on the Korean peninsula remains unchanged - deter North Korean aggression against our valued ally, the Republic of Korea. And if deterrence fails, fight and win - - just as we did over 50 years ago. The ROK - U.S. alliance is trained and ready to fight tonight, together, to defeat any aggression, any time.

As Soldiers on freedom's frontier,

24x7 "immersion experience," and the opportunities for acquiring and honing warfighting skills and competencies are unsurpassed. We are prepared for the Army's transformation into the future with an emphasis on cultivating an expeditionary mindset and adhering to a "warrior ethos."

The Republic of Korea army shares our "warrior ethos." The Korean army is preparing to send a contingent of 3,600 soldiers to Iraq that will be the third largest military force in the coalition. Few other nations have stood beside us like the Republic of Korea. They were with us in Vietnam, the Gulf War, Afghanistan and now will be in Iraq. This is an alliance forged in blood. I

language barriers and different cultural traditions is a challenging aspect of service in Korea. Nonetheless it is worth the effort.

Cultural understanding will pay great dividends in terms of mission readiness.

The 5,000 KATUSA soldiers in our ranks who serve with us on a daily basis are the future teachers, businessmen and community leaders of Korean society. How you treat them as fellow soldiers will shape the future of the ROK-US alliance. I expect you to treat them with dignity and respect as fellow soldiers.



Campbell



we are confident in our equipment. We are confident in our Soldiers' warfighting skills; we are confident in the competence of our leaders and our battle staffs; and most of all, we are confident in the strength of this enduring, battle-tested alliance.

The training you will receive during New Horizons Day will help us all "set the conditions" for mission success. Serving in Korea is a great opportunity to master the craft of warfighting in your particular occupational specialty. 8th Army is the training base for the rest of the U.S. Army. 8th Army is a "learning organization." We face a real enemy. We live on the ground on which we will fight; we live in a

enjoin you to commit yourself to honoring this unique alliance by sharing your passion for the profession of arms with your ROK army counterparts.

During this New Horizons Day, we will highlight our Korean augmentation to the U.S. Army (KATUSA) soldiers, our Korean Service Corps (or KSCs) and Korean National (KN) employees. They are critical members of the Eighth Army team. Our KATUSA soldiers and KSCs help us to "bridge the cultural gap" to the Korean people and culture.

We make our alliance stronger by fostering good relations and cultural appreciation. Communicating across

There are many ways you can contribute to strengthening the ROK-US alliance, both on and off duty. I am continually heartened to learn about the many purposeful community outreach activities and ROK army partnership programs that are happening throughout Eighth Army. Seek out opportunities to participate - you will be better for it - as will your unit, your community, and the alliance.

This is a challenging and fulfilling assignment. Make the most of your tour by training hard and mastering your craft. But also take time to explore Korea and learn to appreciate its rich culture and the hospitality of Korean allies.



Courtesy Photo

Retired Col. Michael Bissell (center), commander of the 17th Avn. Group, with the Combined Aviation Force.

Aviation command: a father-son legacy

By Pvt. Michael Noggle
Staff writer

Twenty-one years ago, retired Col. Michael Bissell, commanded the 17th Aviation Group, currently known as the 17th Avn. Brigade.

Bissell recently returned to Korea to pay a visit to his old unit and to see his son, Capt. Brandon A. Bissell, a few days before he assumed command of HHC, 17th Avn. Bde.

“The memories were great and (this trip) reminded me of one of my best tours in the service,” said Bissell.

Bissell felt the scenery hadn’t changed much since his departure over two decades ago. Although there were some facilities added to south post, he was most impressed with the Dragon Hill Lodge as a popular place for servicemembers on post.

While the environment and appearance of Korea have changed over the years, so, too, have the brigade and its structure.

“He was here 20 years ago,” said the younger Bissell. “His job title is different. The main difference is he was the brigade commander whereas I’ll just be the company commander. The forces have been built up. The ROK-US relationship has gotten stronger.”

Bissell credited his father for establishing the Combined Aviation Force, which is currently running strong today.

“The 17th Avn. Group was and always will be a special organization because of its mission and location,” said the elderly Bissell. “This coupled with its association and relationship with the Korean army aviation through the Combined Aviation Command.”

“During one of the evenings of my visit, a dinner was set up with four of the prior chiefs of ROK army aviation,” said Bissell. “All of

which worked with or for me in the Combined Aviation Forces. They will always remain mentors for me.”

“He had a great time coming back here and seeing the unit,” said Bissell. “He enjoyed meeting all the Soldiers and seeing the changes.”

“I don’t think that I have visited a unit so professional,” praised Bissell. “It was remarkable and very rewarding to see this.

My compliments to Col. David Abramowitz, commander of 17th Avn. Bde., for what he has done for the organization.”

Before his departure, Bissell gave some fatherly guidance to his son on what it takes to be a strong leader.

“My advice to my son was very simple and clear,” said Bissell.

“Take care of your troops, and you will have one of the best headquarters in the Army.”



Pvt. Michael Noggle

Capt. Brandon A. Bissell

The changing front line of freedom

JSA Soldiers prepare to react, adapt to changes in unit structure

By Spc. Daniel Love
Staff writer

A change of command ceremony is an Army tradition, signifying the passing of responsibility from one commander to another, a change in the unit's structure.

The United Nations Command Security Battalion-Joint Security Area change of command ceremony held June 3 was not only a replacement in the unit's leadership, but a significant event in JSA history. The new commander took charge of a unit that will experience its' largest internal restructuring later this fall.

Lt. Col. Matthew T. Margotta relinquished command to Lt. Col. Paul E. Snyder in a ceremony held at Camp Bonifas, 400-meters from the southern boundary of the demilitarized zone.

Beginning Oct. 31, 83 percent of the U.S. Soldiers currently stationed at the JSA will relinquish the responsibilities of guarding the JSA to their ROK counterparts.

"Right now, the Soldiers are more focused on continuing on with the mission, maintaining the security and peace in the DMZ and Korea," said Margotta. "Now, primarily, the leaders are the ones focused on taking a look ahead to the transition phase and how that is going to work. At the individual



Sgt. Lisa Jendry

The UNCSB-JSA color guard presents the colors during the change of command.

Soldier level, they're more focused on maintaining their readiness and training proficiency, and executing the mission we've always executed up here."

One of the biggest challenges JSA Soldiers faced during Margotta's command was the 50th anniversary armistice signing commemoration, held July 2003. Tour guides escorted exponentially larger than usual numbers of journalists, civilians and veterans

see JSA, Page 18



Sgt. Lisa Jendry

JSA Soldiers carry Lt. Col. Matthew T. Margotta after the change of command ceremony at Camp Bonifas.

Small Beginning, Lasting Friendship

Gapyong students visit National Guard unit in L.A.

**Story & photos by
Spc. Daniel Love**
Staff writer

Just over 50 years ago, the Soldiers of the Calif. National Guard, 40th Infantry Division constructed Gapyong High School in the Kyonggi province to provide children in the area with a place to learn after the Korean War.

Students of the school never had seen where those Soldiers came

from until June 2, when seven students, two teachers and the school's principal flew to Los Angeles to meet the leaders of the division at Los Alamitos National Guard Armory.

"This symbolizes a new stage in our relationship, and hopefully a new and stronger relationship between the 40th Infantry division and Gapyong High School," said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey L. Gidley, 40th ID commanding general. "We at the 40th Infantry Division look with

great pride, and very humbly as well, at the small beginning that we were a part of, and how well they have taken that small beginning and how far they have come in 50 years."

The students, who had never traveled to America, toured many of southern California's famous landmarks, but often paid as much attention to the people walking around as they did their surroundings. They even spent a night with 40th ID Soldiers' families in their homes to gain a more complete



Gapyong HS students and staff pose for a photo with Capt. Steven Jung, an 8th U.S. Army G-5 community relations officer. The students were shown old pictures of the 1954 construction of their school.

American experience.

“All that I knew about U.S. Soldiers was what I heard on the news about the U.S. in Iraq and the media is always negative, giving people a bad opinion of them,” said Park, In-cheol, a Gapyong High School student council member. “I thought they were kind of scary, and maybe not very personable and possibly mean. But even though their uniform says U.S. Army, when I meet them and talk to them, they seem like they could be a neighbor next door or the guy down the street. They’re friendly and know how to have fun and make jokes, and are generally nice people.”

The original school was finished in 1954, with 10,800 students graduating since its beginning. Under Maj. Gen. Joseph P. Cleland, the Soldiers donated time and money to build a school, which became the symbol of a long-lasting bond between the community and the division.

“After the Korean War, the area we lived in was wrought with destruction and we didn’t have much, so for 40th ID to come in and set up facilities not just for the people but especially for education is something that we are all extremely grateful for,” said Kang, Woo-seok, principal of the school. “In other places in Korea there are demonstrations, but because of the relationship with the 40th ID we are happy to know the American Soldiers.”

Members of the 40th ID most recently visited the high school in October of last year, and plan to continue visiting Gapyong regularly.

“We hope that this exchange has provided the students with an insight to how we live,” said Gidley. “As we have had the opportunity to come to Korea, they will continue to have the opportunity to come here and continue our relationship.”



Students learn 40th Infantry division history from Col. John S. Harrel, 40th Infantry Division chief of staff. The 40th ID fought in Korea from 1952-1954, and some Soldiers remained behind to assist in the rebuilding efforts.



The students and staff were also acquainted with Southern California as a supplement to their visit to 40th Infantry Division headquarters. They were set loose in Hollywood, Disneyland, and Universal Studios.

A man in traditional Korean attire (blue and white Hanbok) is playing a large wooden drum (Janggu) in front of a building. Three flags are flying on poles behind him: a white flag with a blue and red emblem, the South Korean national flag (Taegeukgi), and a white flag with a blue circular logo and the Korean text '은평구' (Eunpyeong-gu).

Korea

So much to see ...

So much to do

*Hi*seoul

2004년 서
도심 속 매

Premium Shopping...

Every major city in Korea has a shopping district. Many cities have several areas dedicated to shopping. Just about anything can be bought at fairly low prices, but one must be careful of counterfeit items, which are illegal to sell, buy, or possess. Shopping streets are lined with vendors, who will often sell food or clothing at rock-bottom prices. Shopping areas are especially crowded on weekends and holidays, but that often adds to the cultural experience.



Spc. Daniel Love



Spc. Daniel Love

Some districts, like Myeong-dong, (above) are geared primarily toward young people, while Namdaemun Market's variety (Left) attracts shoppers of all ages.

Just about every city has its own shopping area. Seoul favorites include Myeong-dong, Namdaemun Market, and Itaewon, while Nampo-dong and Seomyeon are popular in Busan. Osan also has a large, developed shopping district.

A Rich History...

The country that is now Korea has been around much longer than the country that is now the United States. Korea as we geographically know it was first shaped in the 15th Century, then still a unified land.

In the 1400s Korean nobles invented the written Korean language, which still baffles many Americans to this day. The letters, however, bears similarities to English not in appearance, but in the fact that each of the 26 characters has a phonetic sound.



Spc. Daniel Love

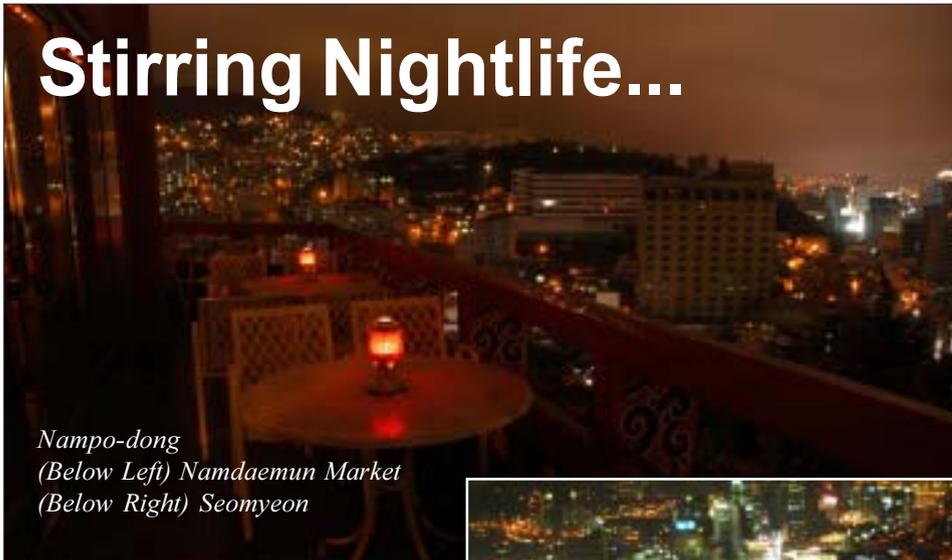
Before the Korean peninsula was split, it was occupied by Japan from the early 19th century. Remnants of Japanese occupation still remain today, but are gradually being replaced by modern structures.



Spc. Daniel Love

Many kings, nobles, and other assorted royals sprinkled palaces and other royal structures across the Korean peninsula. The largest palace, Gyeongbokgung, (above and left) features structures from various periods in Korean history, spanning the last 500 years. One of five palaces in Seoul, it suffered extensive damage during Japanese attacks and occupation, and is currently being rebuilt.

Stirring Nightlife...



*Nampo-dong
(Below Left) Namdaemun Market
(Below Right) Seomyeon*

Sp. Daniel Love

Big cities are often a magnet for exciting nightlife, and Korea's metropolises are no exception. Apgujeong, Itaewon and Gangnam are the most popular in Seoul, while Seomyeon, Nampo-dong, and Haeundae are prominent hotspots in Busan. Downtown Daegu is also a hub for evening adventure. Often, big shopping areas coincide with nightlife, so after the sun goes down, a shopping district comes alive.

Entertainment districts are packed with things to do. While bars and clubs are popular, Koreans also enjoy visiting the Noraebang, Korean for singing room with Karaoke equipment and seating. Have fun, but don't forget about curfew.



Sp. Daniel Love



Sp. Daniel Love

Exotic Travel...



Sp. Daniel Love

(Above) Oedo Island, a 15 minute boat ride from Goejedo. (Left) A beach in Gangleung. (Below) Largest Buddha in Korea, at Dohgwhasa.



Courtesy Photo

Korea is full of places to travel. The coasts are rimmed by accessible beaches and surrounded by islands, while the interior is covered with picturesque mountains.

Locals like to hike on the mountains for exercise, and are often very friendly. For those in Seoul, Kwanaksan and Bukhansan are easily accessible, while serious climbers can go to Soraksan on the east coast.

Wherever there is a natural attraction such as a body of water, island or mountain, there is a small town. These towns welcome tourists, and usually have hotels with english speaking staff. For information about travel, visit www.english.tour2korea.com.

On-post opportunities...



*Dragon Hill Lodge
Yongsan*

Spc Daniel Love

Mmilitary posts in Korea are a piece of home away from home. They feature the things a servicemember is likely to miss, and even some things they might not. Soldiers can buy the type of things they would buy at home at the Post Exchange; American books, magazines, music, electronics, appliances and clothes.

Also, Soldiers can buy American food at establishments on every post. Some posts have bowling alleys, golf courses, baseball fields, swimming pools, Schools, child care centers and even on-post shopping centers.



*Golf Course
Camp Walker*

Spc Daniel Love

Worthwhile mission...

American Soldiers have an important mission in Korea: working together with Republic of Korea forces to ensure peninsula security. Working with allied soldiers can be a more rewarding experience for those who take the time to get to know their new comrades and their unique culture.

American units are stationed across the peninsula. There are American Soldiers at the Joint Security Area who see North Koreans every day, and there are Americans in the far south ports of Busan, dealing with shipping and receiving of supplies.



Spc Daniel Love



Spc Daniel Love

Child and Youth Se

Giving you options for childcare during your tour in Korea

Story & photos by
Sgt. Lisa Jendry
Editor

If you're bringing family with you to Korea, the transition itself can be challenging enough without having to worry about care for your children. Knowing your options for childcare ahead of time can preclude a lot of the frustrations that families will inevitably face during an overseas move.

Child and Youth Services has programs to fit just about every childcare need you might have, from infant care to after school programs for your teens.

"Our primary purpose is to support the mission of servicemembers and civilians," said

Claudette Smith-Mohn, director/coordinator, Child Development Services, Yongsan Child Development Center. "I think that servicemembers and civilians, as they arrive onto the peninsula, should know about the family programs that are offered to support them, what programs we have, the hours of operation and what options they have as far as childcare."

According to Smith-Mohn, most servicemembers with families are already familiar with military childcare programs but are unsure about exactly what is offered. Even servicemembers who aren't new to the peninsula might not be aware of all that is available.

For example, the Yongsan Child Development Center offers center-

based programs, part-day preschool programs and hourly care programs.

"When we talk about Army programs, they're all the same," said Smith-Mohn. "We all provide the same type of care. We train our staff the same and we have the same requirements as stateside child development programs have. Our aim is to have seamless delivery, therefore, all programs are the same."

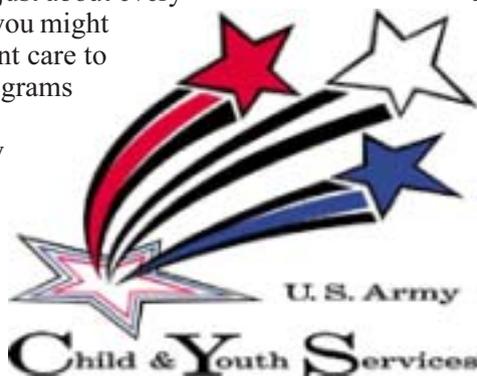
An important part of Child Development Services is the Parent Advisory Council, which meets once a month to share concerns and ideas and gain constructive feedback to better the program.. The PAC's sole purpose is to support the child development center, however, the council is open to community members

because the community members can give feedback to the program as far as some of the things they would like to see provided from the CDC.

"The PAC is very strong here," said Smith-Mohn. "I think our counsel is strong because we are overseas, so we have to lean more on each other. We don't have those other options off post to go to so the parents meet to come up with ideas, activities and events and fundraisers to support the children on the installation."

Smith-Mohn said it's important parents are aware that off-post childcare establishments have different standards than on post centers.

"We are nationally accredited



and there are standards and policies and guidelines that we have to follow and meet, said Smith-Mohn. "The Department of Defense requires that we maintain those standards. Off post, a parent may or may not get those standards and they can't hold those people accountable. We have mechanisms in place which will hold our programs accountable."

Smith-Mohn recommends that incoming personnel seek out their local CYS for more information on the many childcare programs available during their tour in Korea.

"Everything is out there, she said. "It just depends on the parent and what they want."

Services

Gabriel Stephens enjoys “water play” with his teachers and other students in his class at the Yongsan Child Development Center.



Su Kim, a lead education technician at the Yongsan Child Development Center, cools off with children in her class during “water play.” The center offers many programs to meet the needs of incoming servicemembers and civilians.



Bullet to Busan

**Story & photos by
Sp. Daniel Love**
Staff writer

The new KTX express train zooms riders from Seoul to Busan in about two hours, 45 minutes, reaching 200 miles per hour. That means everything in Busan: the beaches, the shopping, the balmy weather, are only a few hours away.

Since the new KTX express train began operating in April, passengers have been finding out that getting around in Korea is a little bit easier. Not that it was hard before, but by cutting out almost half of the travel time between the two biggest cities, riders can now make seeing the other big city into a day-trip.

Catching a train is simple enough: one leaves almost every hour. At Seoul Station, most of the people who sell tickets speak English. It's a good idea to buy a ticket a day in advance. The trains board 15 minutes before departure time. Seoul Station isn't far from Yongsan, just 3 subway stops or about 8 minutes in a taxi.

Riding from Seoul Station to Busan Station takes about two hours and 40 minutes. The train makes stops at several stations inbetween, but Seoul station and Busan Station are the first and last stops in the rail line.

Busan Station is next to the Subway, and outside the station taxis are lined up waiting for passengers. For nightlife, go to Seomyeon. For the beach, go to Haeundae. For shopping, try Nampo-dong. Taxis in Busan are about 30 percent cheaper than those in Seoul.

Nampo-dong is a shoppers heaven, as well as Busan's culture center. Adjacent to Jagalchi Fish Market, the streets are teeming with vendors and young people.





Going to the beach is a favorite activity in any country with beach access, and Korea is no exception. While there are also prime beaches on the northeast coast, most Koreans seem to think the best beach on the peninsula is Haeundae.

On a sunny day, Koreans flock to Haeundae because of its warm soft sand, clean shallow water, ideally sized waves, and general family friendly atmosphere, sometimes making the beach fairly crowded.

Next to the beach, accommodations range from 5-star hotels to Yeogwan (cheap hotels). Nightclubs and other types of entertainment are also abundant.

The Busan Aquarium almost touches Haeundae beach. Completely underground, it features a variety of underwater life. The highlight is the shark tank, where those with enough guts and money (75,000 won) can swim with the sharks after a scuba-diving lesson. "We don't get a lot of locals, it's mostly teachers and expats, foreigners, who want to go in there," said Paul Schous, a shark tank tour guide. Those interested can call the aquarium at 031-399-4541.



from around the world through the JSA, exposing them to the constant North-South face-off.

“This battalion represents our alliance daily to visitors that range from Korean citizens to heads of state,” said Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell. “Over the past two years, JSA Soldiers have educated the world on what they do here every day with countless tours and unprecedented numbers of media visits. With every visit they reinforce the reality that we are not at peace, and that a dangerous threat still exists

who’s intentions remain unchanged.”

At a typical change of command ceremony, all of the unit’s Soldiers are required to be in attendance, standing at attention. However, due to the constant mission of the JSA Soldiers, only a fraction of representatives were in attendance.

“There is more change in store for this unit in the months ahead as the ROK Army assumes more of the Joint Security Mission,” said Campbell. “Make no mistake; the mission of this unit and the countries of the United Nations that stand in

support of this unit remain absolutely committed to the security of Korea.”

Currently, the battalion is made up of about 60 percent Republic of Korea forces and 40 percent U.S. forces. After the change in responsibility, the battalion will be made up of 93 percent ROK forces.

“No matter what the future holds for this unit, we know that the JSA Soldiers never lose the unique characteristics that make this place so special,” said Margotta. “They are the best Soldiers and the best men in Korea.”



Courtesy Photo

A Korean boy gives a peace sign during World Cup soccer games in Seoul.

A pagoda stands on a small island at Topgul Park in Seoul. The place marks the spot where Korea declared its independence from Japan during 1919. *Courtesy photo.*



Final Frame

