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## A Veteran of **Many Journeys**

EDITORS' NOTE

On Dec. 26, 1941, a cable came from Carl and Shelley Mydans in Manila. "Christmas morning was very quiet," it read. "We opened our presents under a tiny tree in our room while a Filipino serenader sang God Bless America. We can laugh because we are still free.'

Manila fell to the Japanese a few days later and we published a sad story telling our readers that the Mydanses were presumably interned in a Japanese concentration camp. Carl and his wife Shelley, the story said, had by then traveled 45,000 miles and covered four wars for LIFE; under one old picture of Carl a caption began, "The photoreporter is a new journalistic phenomenon." Photo-journalism, in those days, was a brand-new word. Nowadays you can find it in Webster's Third, and Carl Mydans is one of the men

who put it there.

Carl and Shelley had indeed been captured, and they spent almost two years in Japanese prisons. They were repatriated in 1943-in time for Carl to cover the war in Europe and in the Pacific and the Japanese surrender on the battleship Missouri. Since then Carl has covered wars in China, Indochina, Korea and more recently Vietnam. He has covered so many stories, in fact, that he is always reporting new chapters that reach back to the past. This week's lead story, written and photographed by Mydans, which tells of the pitiful return of a few natives to the islands of Bikini, is a good example. Back in 1946, when



CARL MYDANS

the Bikini atoll became a nuclear testing site, the natives were evacuated—and Carl was there with his cameras. "I spent about 10 days with the Bikinians," he says, "and got to know them and to like them very much. It was moving to go back, 22 years later, and especially to find that I recognized some of them and some of them remembered me.'

It so happens that Carl has photographed many stories about islands for LIFE—he is one of very few people to have been to both Tristan de Cunha, 1,700 miles out in the South Atlantic, and Easter Island, 2,300 miles off the coast of Chile. "I like the feeling of faraway places," he says. "I grew up in Medford, Mass. in the days when you could still see masts in the sky. I worked in a boatyard all my school years and wanted to be a sailor. But I got into journalism working for the Medford Mercury and then, in the Depression, I came to New York as a reporter for the American Banker-my chore was to compile a weekly list of banks that failed. About that time I took up photography, sold some pictures to TIME—and in 1936 was hired by Time Inc. to work on a new weekly picture magazine then known as 'Project X.' "

Carl likes to travel light and work alone, and when he goes out on stories we sometimes don't hear from him for weeks at a time. "When he packs for a trip, it's a couple of drip-dry shirts and his cameras," says Shelley. "And every time he comes back I know just what I'm going to hear. He says, 'I've just met the nicest, warmest bunch of peo-ple I've ever run across.' " Says Carl, "She's right. I always fall for my subjects. The wonderful thing about my job is that I'm always working with people. And when you're taking pictures, you really have to live their lives. You can write a story secondhand if you have to, but there's no way to fill in for a picture that you've missed."

George P. HUNT, George P. HUNT, Managing Editor

Managing Editor

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> Gene McCarthy Casts an Irreverent Eye on Baseball and the World Series

Senator