

A-BOMB L.T.-K. SEPTEMBER 23, 1953

Many New Yorkers may not have known it, but the metropolis was atom-bombed, today - and sustained one million, six hundred thousand casualties. All - in theory, of course. The defense authorities are holding atomic exercises for three days. Which began with bombers, representing an enemy, trying to get through the defenses of New York City. Two were able to reach the heart of the city, and two atomic bombs were dropped. One - on lower Manhattan! The other - in the Borough of Queens. More than a million lives lost, more than half a million people injured - theoretically.

Civil Defense officials, calculating these results, are studying problems - suggested by the success of the mythical atomic attack.

KOREA - BASES

General Mark Clark is reported ready to demand an investigation of the build-up of Red air power in North Korea - violating the armistice. This follows a statement by the North Korean pilot who flew a Mig over to our side. He told how Russian pilots have been flying bombers and fighters to North Korean bases - during the truce. ^{Gen-} Clark thinks the matter so serious - he'll call for an investigation by neutral countries.

PRISONERS

At Panmunjom, U.N. officials have protested the way Indians, in charge of camps, have permitted Communist "observers" to look over prisoners-of-war who refuse to go back to the Reds. The ninety day period for trying to persuade reluctant captives begins on Saturday. But, as twenty-three thousand anti-Communists are brought in, Red emissaries and news reporters have been scrutinizing them. Today's rebuke states that this is "contrary to the terms of the armistice agreement."

PRISONERS - SHIP

The last shipload of repatriated prisoners put into San Francisco harbor today - and got a spectacular reception. **XX** Approaching the Golden Gate, the transport navigated under "an umbrella" of jet planes. Sabre jets from Hamilton Field flew low - in formation. **XX** Making - the letter "M". In honor of Colonel Walker Mahurin, the highest ranking airforce flyer to be taken prisoner by the Communists.

Meanwhile, General Dean, the highest ranking officer among all the prisoners was enjoying home life at Berkeley, California.

TIBET

At New Delhi, Indian Prime Minister Nehru states - that his government has invited Red China to a conference on Tibet. Difficulties having arisen between India - and the Communist overlords in that Himalayan ~~region~~ realm.

Nehru told the Parliament at New Delhi, today, that India makes no claim on Tibet, and does not question the sovereignty of Red China there. But said - there have been incidents, which he called "rather irritating." He didn't explain what these incidents had been - but it is understood that Indian trade missions, in Tibet, have run into trouble.

So Nehru wants a settlement of questions concerning trade, postal service, telegraph arrangements, and "cultural matters."

(Note for Mr. Thomas: I don't know what these "cultural matters" might be. Perhaps you could add a line explaining.)

RUSSIA

A party of Americans took off by plane for Moscow today - on a magnificent journey. The Soviet government has opened the provinces of Central Asia - for visits by officials of Western embassies. Areas - previously forbidden. Our Embassy in Moscow takes prompt advantage of that. The party today - headed by U.S. Military Attache', Colonel Earl Michelson. They're off on a three thousand mile swing through central Asia, which will take them to such places of legend as Bokhara, Tashkent, Samarkand.

Another sign of easing up in ~~the~~ Soviet Russia - following the death of Stalin.

BERIA

Spain gives us a new and wonderful addition - to the Beria story. Today, a Madrid newspaper ^{(stated,} ~~reported~~), without any confirmation - that the former Number Two man of the Kremlin triumvirate ^{is} ~~was in hiding~~ in Spain. ~~And~~ That agents of the American F.B.I. have arrived on an assignment - to make sure it really is Beria. And, if so, to arrange for his removal to the United States.

This Madrid report is embellished with melodramatic details. Stating - that the former head of the Soviet Secret Police was flown to Spain by a Russian pilot, who knew the country. Having - served in the Spanish Civil War. Arriving over Central Spain, Beria went out by parachute. So did the pilot. Leaving the plane with nobody aboard - ~~with the pilot~~ controls arranged in such fashion that it would fly on to the Atlantic, and fall in the ocean. ~~The plane~~

The place where Beria is said to have landed by parachute is the Spanish province called La Mancha. Interesting name - and it seems appropriate. La Mancha was the home

territory of Don Quixote, whose full title was - Don Quixote da la Mancha. He mistook windmills for giants - which seems no more fantastic than this latest Beria story.

In Washington, U.S. diplomatic and Intelligence officials have been investigating. They're still skeptical, and say it's about a million to one that Beria did not escape from Soviet Russ-ia.

There is still another rumor - that Beria is in Iran.

Follow BERIA

Another Communist fantasy of evil comes from Mexico City. Where, today, the widow of Leon Trotsky stated - the ashes of her husband have disappeared. The final remains of Trotsky, bitterest enemy of Stalin, were kept in a funeral parlor - but now have vanished. Nobody knows why.

Natalia Sedova Trotsky, who is now seventy-two, gave some new information connected with the murder of her husband. She told how a first attempt failed - with the assassins assailing the fortified place where Trotsky lived in Mexico. Blazing away with machine guns - but failing to get Stalin's enemy.

Trotsky's widow says she believes that the leading part in this was played by an American Communist, Robert Sheldon Harte. Harte pretended to be a devoted follower of Trotsky. But, in reality, was working for Stalin. So we are told.

After the first murder attempt failed, Harte was

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killed in Mexico City - put out of the way by Stalin's agents, because "he knew too much." That's what Trotsky's widow thinks. Shortly afterward, Stalin's assassins were successful - one of them making an end to Leon Trotsky, the companion of Lenin.

GERMANY - CLOTHES

Today, German~~s~~ were explaining - there's a catch in that plan to send American clothes to people in East Germany. Yesterday the news told ~~us~~^{how} ~~that~~ President Eisenhower had sponsored a clothing program. To follow - American food for East Germans. So what's the catch in that?

Today, West German officials hailed this new American generosity, but pointed out that - American styles in the Soviet Zone would stand out like the proverbial sore thumb. In East Germany, as everywhere else behind the Iron Curtain, the people dress in a drab, shabby way. The prevailing color is a sort of burlap grey. The cut of women's clothes - the potato sack variety. ~~So, a snappy~~ ^{Then an Amer.} business suit on a man would be a focus of attention. Not to mention - an ^{an American - or Paris} East German woman wearing a ~~smartly~~ styled skirt of green silk with a crimson jacket, straight out of an American department store. The Communists, on spotting an East German wearing American clothes, might make things uncomfortable.

However, West German officials feel that there might

be some way to get around the difficulty. American clothes could be dyed - some drab, gloomy shade. They might even have to be recut, ^{change the} ~~so as not to look~~ stylish. Anything - to produce that potato sack effect.

ITALY-Strike

Italy is having a huge strike - to paralyze the country twenty-four hours. The labor ~~a~~ demonstration - ~~demanding~~ demanding higher wages and protesting lay-offs in factories. The strike was called by the Christian Democratic Federation of Trade Unions, and was joined - by Left Wing unions. For - a twenty-four hour tie-up.

ITALY

At the city of Milan, in Italy, four swallows rose into the sunny sky, and flew south - heading for the Meditteranean. Bringing to a successful conclusion the effort of a bird lover, far to the north - in Germany.

This German, at the ancient monastery city of Fulda, found the four swallows - starving in a meadow. Bad weather had kept the birds from joining the annual migration of the swallows to the south. So he took the four, and fed them - but the weather continued to be bad.

So the German bird lover put the swallows in a box, and mailed it to Italy - with a note asking the Italian postal authorities to turn them loose, down there in the sunny land south of the Alps.

It seems like a simple request, but it ran into no end of postal regulations. You know, ~~the~~ red tape - the Italian post office never having been intended to help the migration of birds.

But the postal employees at Milan violated regulations, and cut the red tape. So, today, the four swallows rose into the sky - and flew south.

At the United Nations, Canadian Foreign Minister Lester Pearson complains - about the news coverage of U.N. proceedings. News coverage not good enough? No - too good. He says - diplomatic discussions are published "almost before they take place." Intended to be secret, they're in the news - immediately.

Lester Pearson isn't raising cain with the news hounds. After all, they don't dream up the information. Somebody gives it to them.

"I don't blame the newsmen," says the Canadian Foreign Minister. "They're part of the development of the age. But, just as it is a newsman's job to get the facts, it is sometimes a diplomat's job to negotiate privately," says he.

(Years ago, President Woodrow Wilson called for -
"open covenants, openly arrived at." Lester Pearson says:
"I think there's a lot to be said for open covenants,
confidentially arrived at.")

EISENHOWER - A.F. of L.

President Eisenhower made a declaration of labor policy to the A.F. of L., today. The Federation is holding a national convention in St. Louis. Before which - the message from the President was read by Vice-President Nixon. Who followed - ^{with} ~~an~~ an address of his own.

The A.F. of L. was told that the Eisenhower administration will send recommendations to Congress in January - for changes in the Taft-Hartley Law. (These - to insure a speedy and impartial administration of the law. Permit - the healthy growth of labor unions. And - lessen government "interference" in labor-management affairs.)

The President added that he felt the Taft-Hartley Law had brought, what he called - a "substantial contribution to the quest for sounder labor-management relations."

This presidential communication, read by the Vice-President, gets a cool reception. A.F. of L. officials refuse to be quoted. But they're saying privately - that no major concessions are being offered.

VINSON

In Washington, the estate of the late Chief Justice Fred Vinson was filed, today, in a Probate Court. How much did he leave? Here are the figures: Assets, seventy-one hundred dollars. Debts, six thousand. Net value, a little more than a thousand. That's the estate left by the head of the Supreme Court of the United States who had given a lifetime to public office, and had held some of the highest posts in the land.

PLANE CRASH

At Miles City, Montana, Airline Pilot M.G. Miller was praising his passengers today. He had thirty-seven aboard, when an engine caught fire - and things looked really desperate. But the blazing plane was able to make a crash-landing on a farm - before it exploded. The passengers ~~happily got out,~~
~~in a matter of mere seconds, and they~~ filed to the door in a calm, orderly way. No hint of a panic, although the last one ~~was~~ hardly out - when the plane was engulfed in flames.

So that's why Pilot M.G. Miller was praising those passengers, today. Who were they? Why, a plane-load of veterans from Korea.

"Those men we had in the ship," says the pilot, "had just returned two days ago from Korea. They didn't frighten easily."

EXPLOSION

Buffalo had a disaster today - three earth-shaking explosions in a chemical plant. First, a tank, believed to have contained liquid hydrogen - blew up. Followed - by two other blasts. Nine lives lost - the chemical building demolished.

The explosions occurred near a housing project, which was bombarded by tons of debris. Chunks of metal were blown as far as half a mile. Homes hit by flying projectiles. Houses shaken off their foundations. Some people thought it - an atomic bomb.

INDIANS

The federal government has made a contract with the Department of Archeology at the University of Indiana - for the job of investigating claims made by tribes of Indians. Nearly four hundred lawsuits are pending - in which descendants of the Redskins of old are pressing claims involving two hundred million acres of land in the Middlewest.

The claims, which date back to Seventeen Ninety-five, show that vast areas were bought from the Indians for as little as three cents an acre. The lawsuits declare that ten dollars an acre would have been about right.

~~Well, The land, in dispute, includes the entire states of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Most of Illinois - and parts of Minnesota and Iowa. Give all that back to the Indians, Pay up - at the rate of ten bucks an acre, or~~

The Department of Justice has decided to have the question investigated by archeologists. Who will study the old Indian treaties, the distribution of the tribes, and try to find out - what land belonged to which Indians. A puzzle -

more complicated than any jigsaw.

Today, an archeologist explained: "There were widespread tribal wars, and a feverish moving about of tribes - in the years Sixteen Fifty to Seventeen Hundred. During this time, the Iroquois in New York State moved westward, seeking new sources of furs to trade with the White man. When the time came to make land treaties, the true ownership of the land was obscure," says the archeologist.

Well, the land, in dispute, includes the entire states of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Most of Illinois - and parts of Minnesota and Iowa. (Or, give all that back to the Indians. Pay up - at the rate of ten bucks an acre.)

That seems to be the idea, Mike.

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