

SUB CHINA

C.J. - P. & G. Friday, Dec. 17, 1948.

The latest from China -- the Communists are closing in on Peiping. They have infiltrated the out-lying sections, and tonight are within rifle shot of the old wall of the inner city. Earlier today the news was that the Reds had captured the southern flying field at Peiping. Later news is that a sharp counter attack ~~xx~~ has driven the Communists away from that Air Base.

HIROSHIMA

In Tokyo, a grim, but vastly important, medical procedure is being held - an autopsy. A twenty-eight year old Japanese, named Nakayama, died the day before yesterday. He was in Hiroshima when the atom bomb exploded, and now the question is to be decided - was he, after nearly three-and-a-half years, a victim of atomic radiation?

Nakayama was half a mile from the center of the blast, and immediately afterward his hair fell out, and he suffered from fevers. Later, he seemed to get well, and went back to his job - working for a statistics commission of the Japanese government.

Thereafter he seemed in good health, until a month ago, when he fell ill with strange swellings, a malady that physicians were ^uenable to diagnose - _^ and treatment of no avail.

So now world attention is fixed on the autopsy in Tokyo - which seeks to determine whether or not the unexpected illness was a long delayed effect of radiation from the atomic bomb.

PALESTINE

In Paris, the Jewish State is refused admission to the United Nations. Today the application of Israel for membership failed to go through. Both the United States and Soviet Russia voted - Yes. But that was not enough. On the Security Council, seven votes in favor were necessary, but the seven votes could not be had, because five countries abstained, refused to cast ballots. These five abstaining, included Great Britain and France.

The application of Israel will be presented again, when the General Assembly of the U N meets again; - New York in April.

Meanwhile, Egypt charges that Jewish forces have launched new attacks in the southern desert, the Negeb. This is denied at Tel Aviv.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD ESPIONAGE

The spy documents made public tonight reveal a sharp diplomatic exchange between the United States and Nazi Germany in Nineteen Thirty-Seven -- this country objecting to the ruthless commercial methods of the Hitler dictatorship. Others have to do with sundry affairs around the world - uninteresting at this late date, but significant enough, no doubt, in the days when the second World War was shaping up.

All of the state papers produced by Whittaker Chambers have ~~xxxx~~ now been published -- all except four. These are being withheld because of objection by the State Department, but Washington has reports about them.)

The remaining four ~~documents~~ are said to be dated Nineteen Thirty-eight, ~~etc. etc.~~ →

ESPIONAGE

Reports from Washington about the remaining four spy documents that are still unpublished. All the others are being released, but these four are being withheld because of objection by the State Department.

They are said to be dated nineteen-thirty-eight, which was the year of Munich - and are reported to feature two prominent personalities in the events of those days of the appeasement of Nazi Germany. The two: Chamberlain and Litvinov.

Chamberlain was, of course, the British Prime Minister who made the appeasement at Munich. Litvinov was then the Soviet foreign minister, who was negotiating with the Western Powers against the Nazis. Litvinov disappeared soon thereafter as a preliminary to the Hitler-Stalin Pact - and has been out of sight pretty much ever since.

There is no indication of how Chamberlain and Litvinov appear in the secret state papers handed over for transmission to Red espionage. We are merely told that the documents involve confidential sources of

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information - people, not Americans, who told things to our diplomats. These persons are still alive, and might be jeopardized, if the documents were published. Such is said to be the attitude of the State Department in forbidding the publication of the four remaining documents of the collection featured by the pumpkin papers.

~~Meanwhile, we hear of two new witnesses questioned in New York by the Committee on Un-American Activities. These two new witnesses may appear before the new grand jury which is taking up the investigation in New York.~~

CROPS

News from the American farm - the biggest all around harvest in the history of this country. The Department of Agriculture in Washington announces:

"The composite yield of all crops is greater than any previously known."

~~There is a~~ record breaking harvest of corn, and, the second largest wheat crop in our history. Cotton far above last year - with new records established in such various products as rye, soya beans, peanuts, pecans.

— • —

The cornfields of the nation produce a real phenomenon forty-two-and-seven-tenths bushels per acre. The yield last year was a little over twenty-eight bushels. ^PThe Middlewest, Nineteen Forty-eight, certainly was the land of tall corn.

CALIFORNIA STORM

A California Seaside Resort was the victim of a strange bombardment today - a bombardment of water and stone. Redondo Beach has rows of apartment houses fronting the Pacific and protected by a sea wall. ~~But~~ Today the waves ~~came in so high and violent that they~~ ^{crashed over the sea wall and} lashed ~~the~~ buildings up to the second stories, ^{also} hurled ^{ing} a barrage of rocks ^{— even} and massive boulders.

The California coast ^{getting} ~~was having~~ its first heavy rainstorm of the season, a downpour blown by a violent gale from the ocean. At the same time, there was an abnormally high tide [—] ~~six-and-a-half~~ feet of tide. The combination of storm and tide resulted in tremendous waves, breaking over the sea wall, flooding the streets, inundating houses. ~~Waves that lashed up to the~~ ^{Waves so} ~~second stories~~ ^{By} violent- ~~that~~ they swept up masses of stony debris from the bottom, ^{and hurled it} in a battering barrage. The ^{stones} bombardment of heavy ~~boulders~~ alone, caused ^{ing} considerable damage.

The climax was at high tide; ~~and~~ then the waves decreased as the tide ran out. But, if the storm

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continues - ~~well~~ there'll be another high tide at
midnight. And the bombardment of water and stone may
be repeated all over again.

SUB RESCUE

On the Greenland ice-cap a thriller of rescue -- and the way news broke today, the drama of life and death was made only the more intense.

The word came through that the attempt had begun -- the saving of nine airmen marooned on a glacier, ~~seventy~~^{thousand-}seven hundred feet high. A glider, towed by a big transport plane, had cut loose and gone sailing down ~~xxx~~ onto the snow and ice. A good landing, after which the transport plane would come in, ~~xxxx~~ swooping low, and snatch up the glider.

A radio message flashed -- that the transport was circling, about to dive in for the pick-up.

Then, at that moment, right in the nick of suspense, radio communication with Greenland was broken off by atmospheric disturbance. The silence continued for several hours -- a blank about what had happened.

But now radio signals have come through

again, ^{and} the word is -- the attempt has failed. The transport plane, winging low, caught the snatch mechanism all right -- the contrivance whereby a plane, with a ~~grappling~~ grappling line, picks up a glider, but the trouble was -- the snow.

The wheels of the glider broke through an icy crust -- and, instead of running off into the air, the glider sank in the snow, nosing up. That happened ~~times~~ twice, in two attempts. The light was failing in the dimness of Artic night, and nothing more can be done until tomorrow.

In the morning, the attempt will be renewed, but something will have to be done about the glider sinking in the snow. The castaways on the ground will try to lay a short runway of ~~pl~~ plywood. If that doesn't work, they will take the wheels off the glider, so that it can drag like a sled. One thing is to be noted

The night before last we had a story of a similar rescue by glider in the snow and ice of the Alaskan Arctic. But, in that exploit, the glider was on skis and took off from the snow without any trouble.

The Greenland rescue is ~~xxx~~ turning into -- an increasing epic. At first there were seven on the ice -- seven airmen of air force weather operations, whose plane was forced down on December Ninth. They have been there ever since - eight days. Then, Tuesday, an air force transport plane tried to rescue them, landing to take them out. But the plane ~~tried to rescue them, landing to take them out. But the plane~~ thereupon could not take off -- because of snow conditions. There were two flyers aboard the transport and they were added to the number of castaways --- making nine.

Today there were two airmen aboard the glider, which landed and then could not be snatched off.

Making
~~So~~ that ~~now~~ ^{now} makes eleven [^] marooned there in the
Arctic desolation.

They are all in good shape - so they say
by radio. Food, clothing, shelter and heat have been
dropped - and there is even a doctor among them to
look after health. So they are as comfortable as you
can be -- on the Greenland ice-cap.

*An appropriate for this
the anniversary of man's first flight
in an airplane.*

RAILROADS

In Washington, a recommendation for a forty-hour week on the railroads. A Presidential Board has been considering ways of heading off a strike, and one measure proposed is a shortening of the work-week for non-operating employees. That is, telegraphers, clerks, signal men - who at present have a forty-eight hour week. The Presidential Board declares that the forty hour week is now the normal pattern of American industry, and should be applied to the railroads.

A wage increase of seven cents an hour is likewise recommended.

WRIGHT BROTHERS

In Washington today, great roaring flights of giant bombers and streaking jet planes paid honor of an old contraption of wood and canvas, which looks more like a box-kite than an airplane. (At the Smithsonian institution they placed formally on exhibition the Wright Brothers' original plane. This, on the forty-fifth anniversary of man's first flight.)

The ceremony was attended by an assemblage of dignitaries of aviation. Presiding: chief Justice Vinson, chancellor of the Smithsonian ~~Institution~~. The proceedings were featured by a message from president Truman, who took the occasion to present the Collier Trophy awarded this year to the three chief figures of supersonic flight. Engineer Stack, airplane constructor Bell, and Captain Charles Yeager - the pilot who, in a rocket plane, first flew faster than sound.

These three leaders of supersonic speed gazed at the old Wright Brothers' plane, hardly more than a box kite with a motor, which forty-five years ago

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began the history of aviation. On the sand dunes of ~~Kitty Hawk, its first flight was a slow hop~~ On the ~~sand dunes of~~ Kitty Hawk, its first flight was a slow hop, staying in the air for twelve seconds.

Today, in the sky above, the squadrons of the air force featured great six motor bombers, capable of flying non-stop for many thousands of miles and jet planes with new marvels of dazzling speed. The contrast was vivid and spectacular - presenting the almost incredible progress of aviation within the memory of a middle-aged human being today.

And at Dayton, Ohio, tonight, the home of The Wright Brothers, the jet propulsion, supersonic, rocket armmen were also celebrating and saluting Wilbur and Orville Wright — at Wright Field.

FOLLOW WRIGHT BROTHERS

While the formal commemoration anniversary is on in Washington, we can have a little commemoration of our own on this program - by digging into the letters that come from radio friends. Here is one with comment on the fact that man's first flight was virtually ignored - no publicity, almost a secret.

Harry ~~is~~ Van Atta of Palm Springs, California *tells me how difficult it was for* ~~say it was simply because~~ the Wright brothers *to* ~~could not interest~~ the newspapers *about* that first airplane of theirs. ~~They tried, but it was no go.~~ "As a friend and neighbor during that period," writes Harry Van Atta, "I can say--they just could not get ^{any} ~~the~~ publicity."

~~Whereupon he goes on with the following bit of fascinating history.~~ "Back in nineteen-three," he writes, "I owned and operated one of the first three motion picture shows in Dayton. Directly across the street," he continues, "was an old two-story frame building with a sign over the door: Wright Brothers, lawn mowers sharpened and bicycles repaired!" ~~272~~

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the room upstairs," he says, the two brothers were experimenting and developing a thing in which they hoped some day to be able to fly in the air. The people of Dayton, who got to know about their work, warned that it would be their death, and thought them really crazy."

Harry Van Atta tells of a third Wright Brothers, "Orin Wright," he relates, "operated a sprinkling wagon drawn by two big horses, which kept the dust settled on our street. Each storekeeper paid him twenty-five cents a week." Apparently Orin stuck to the Sprinkling wagon while Wilbur and Orville were dreaming their mighty dream.

"For instance," writes Harry Van Atta, "the boys would spend days in localities where turkey buzzards, chicken hawks or any large-winged birds were flying. With field glasses, they would study and make drawings of the size and shape of the wings and tails of the birds and their movement in rising, descending and turning to the right or left."

~~"Their only help" he declares, was derived from~~

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^{with} the small earnings which ~~came~~ from their bicycle and lawn-mower shop, and ^{some} help from their sister

Katherine - ~~who, by the way, was the only one who had any faith in~~ ^{them, they kept on. Folks thought} ~~what they were trying to do.~~ They were called crazy, and the newspapers would not ^{touch 'em.} ~~give them any publicity. The newspapers were afraid," says Harry Van Atta.~~

^{Folks were} Yes, afraid, afraid of ridicule, afraid of the world transformation that was being wrought in their own home town.

~~With this, I can't help repeating an old story that I heard in aviation circles. I have told it before, but it would seem to bear repetition tonight, and the commemoration of the Wright Brothers' first flight.~~

^{Yes, and I recall how} When the news came to Dayton that the Wright Brothers had succeeded in flying, there was an old-timer who shook his head in profound disbelief. He said: "Nobody ain't ever gonna fly like a bird!" "And,"

^{then he went on:} "if anybody ever does, it won't be nobody from Dayton!" ^{And now Nelson, you are an aviator. Let's you + I salute the Wright Bros.}