

L.T. - P&G. THURSDAY, FEB. 8, 1951

(Mt. Tremblant, Canada.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The situation in Korea has turned into a - "battle of annihilation." The U.N. forces are driving to wipe out the remnants of the Communist army that numbered, originally, around one hundred thousand. Now reported to be - less than fifty thousand.

In the twelve day offensive of the Eighth Army, the enemy was pushed back mile after mile, and then retired to positions to the south of the Han River. That's where they are now threatened with annihilation -- caught between the advancing U.N. forces and the Han River.

The trap is from ten to fifteen miles deep, and stretches for forty-eight miles along the Han. That's the pocket, the trap; and it is the more dangerous for the Reds, because of the condition of the river. During the winter we

heard a lot about frozen streams being more of a help than a hindrance to the Communists -- who simply marched across the ice, and transported supplies that way. But now there has been a thaw, with a melting of river ice -- and the Han can be mighty treacherous to cross. Ice not solid, and the Red bridges both insufficient -- under air attack. Today's dispatch tells how the Communists are in full flight at various places within the pocket, trying to get back across the river. In one case after another, captured positions show signs of hasty evacuation -- and enemy panic may have set in, in the Battle of Annihilation.

(Today, Seoul was under shellfire.) Last night we heard that the Korean capital was within easy range of American cannon -- after armored columns had driven onto ridges overlooking the city. That was followed promptly by a thundering bombardment -- artillery shelling Red positions within Seoul.

KOREA - WAR CRY

At the warfront, the G.I.'s have adopted a war cry - Sah Nee. In battles of artillery, armor and mechanized weapons, the noise is so great - that a war cry would not be of much use, couldn't be heard. But recently, action has reverted to the bayonet - the cold and silent steel. So now we hear how Captain Lewis Millett, of South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, has trained his bayonet fighters to shout as they charge - Sah Nee.

That's Chinese - meaning, "We'll kill you." They use it as a sort of psychological weapon, giving them something to shout and likewise a cry to intimidate the Chinese enemy -- Sah Nee!

KOREA - SHOES

Over in Korea, Corporal Allen Tyler is unwrapping the burlap from his feet, and putting on a pair of shoes. For weeks he has been wearing burlap for brogans - walking with the infantry.

The Corporal's dogs are large - requiring a thirteen-B shoe. But he was well provided, until the Reds raided his outfit south of Seoul. At that moment, the Corporal had his shoes off - and, by the time things got straightened out, the enemy had made off with his footwear. He tried to get another pair, but there was no size thirteen-B in Korea, or - in Japan. So all the Corporal could do was wrap his feet in burlap.

In desperation, he wrote to his father in Chicago, and there Tyler senior made the rounds of shoe stores and shoe manufacturers, but he couldn't find anything big enough, even in Chicago. The story spread around - and that did it. In came letters, telegrams, phone calls - from shoe dealers, veterans, offering size thirteen-B. One hundred and seven offers altogether, and six accepted - six pairs of oversized

brogans on their way to Corporal Tyler in Korea. So now he can take off that burlap, and put on shoes, for walking with the infantry.

KOREA - WHALE

Off the coast of Korea, a U.S. aircraft carrier had a whale of a trip. The light carrier Bataan was steaming along with other warships, in an operation against the Reds, when the speedy vessel hit a whale. The bow rammed a humpback whale thirty-five feet long - and the monster stuck there, the vessel shoving the whale. Nothing could be done about it for the time being, as the Bataan had to keep her place in the formation of the warships. So, for five hours, the speeding carrier simply pushed the giant humpback whale along; until - a lull in operations gave them a chance to pry the whale loose.

RED SHIPS

A dispatch from Hongkong states that Soviet Russia has handed over to Red China a number of warships - formerly Japanese. These are described as two destroyers, two frigates, and one submarine -- vessels the Russians took from surrendering Japan. We know, of course, that the Soviets, although their part in the war against Japan was merely nominal, got an enormous lot of Japanese war material in Manchuria -- and handed a lot of this to the Chinese and Korean Communists. So now -- former warships of Japan are turned over to Red China.

ATOMIC

(The Chairman of the Atomic Energy Committee gives confirmation of reports that the test explosions in Nevada were connected with atomic artillery shells and guided missiles.) Today Senator Brian McMahon, of Connecticut, hailed the trials as what he called, a - "landmark." The statement he made was carefully worded, but the inference would seem to be clear in the following cautious declaration.

"The tests," says the Chairman, "have widespread implications, from the field of civil defense against atomic attack, to the field of military strategy and tactics."

The key word is - "tactics." Which pertains to immediate action on the battlefield. The atom bomb is strategic - long range, meant for devastation of enemy cities and industries. Atomic artillery shells would be tactical - and they would come within the meaning of the statement by Senator McMahon.

Meanwhile, a radio active snowfall is reported in Washington. Yesterday, three inches fell in the national

capital - and, at the Bureau of Standards, they thought they'd test for radioactivity. The result was positive - although the amount of radiation is so slight, that it would take maybe a million times as much to injure a human being. The supposition is that radioactive material drifted across the continent from the Nevada tests.

It has been snowing for two days here in the Laurentians, but none of us have an instrument with which to tell whether it is radioactive snow.

STRIKE

(The army, today, ordered striking railroad workers to return to their jobs by four P.M. Saturday - or be fired.)
This action was taken by order from President Truman, in a determined effort to bring an end to the walkout which still ties up things in the Middle West. The switchmen still out at key places like Chicago and St.Louis.

At the same time, a wage increase is granted - one-half of the boost which the Union accepted last December, and later rejected. The Government notes that rail workers have not had a pay increase since the Fall of Nineteen Forty-eight. So now the yardmen and road service employees get one - with an ultimatum that those on strike will lose their jobs, and all the privileges implied, unless they are back at work by four P.M. Saturday.

The results are immediate -- with reports of switchmen hurrying back to their jobs. In Chicago, the moment the army ultimatum became known, a back-to-work movement began. Same story from Cleveland and Knoxville, Tennessee, and other places too; railroad workers returning in a hurry.

CONTROLS

The Government is cutting down the supply of metals available for civilian use. This -- to the tune of as much as forty per cent in the case of steel, copper and aluminum.

Which will mean, among other things, a reduction of automobile production by one-third. The decision was announced in Washington this evening, in spite of strong protests from the automobile industry, which stated that the cut in motor car production would result in much unemployment.

President Truman hurls a bitter denunciation against a Senate report which makes charges of favoritism and influence in the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The Committee, headed by Senator Fulbright of Arkansas, criticized the granting of loans by the R.F.C., and declared that one of the chief wire-pullers behind the scenes is Presidential Assistant Donald Dawson. Today the President called the report - "assinine!" He was vehement in rejecting the charge made against his assistant, and intimated that the accusation was really aimed at him - a personal reflection.

REMINGTON

(In New York, a federal judge today sentenced William Remington - to five years in prison and a two thousand dollar fine. Last night, a federal jury convicted the former official of the Commerce Department, finding him guilty of perjury, when he declared under oath that he was not and never had been a Communist.) The sentence imposed today was - the maximum.

HOOVER

The memoirs of Herbert Hoover are beginning in Collier's; the first installment just out. In this, the former President looks back on his time in the White House, and his defeat for reelection - beaten by F.D.R. He says the defeat was almost worth while - like liberation.

"I found," he relates, "abundant compensations from being kicked out of a job after nearly forty years of administrative responsibility, and twenty years of strenuous public service. There came a great sense of release. It was," he adds, "emancipation from a sort of peonage, a revolution back to personal freedom."

He tells how he and Mrs. Hoover enjoyed that freedom brought by the election day defeat. "We could choose our visitors without fear of injury to public or party interest," he explains. "There were no piles of documents to be signed before noon. There was no compulsion to make disagreeable decisions. We were not chained to the telephone, nor slaves of a host of secretaries. I was able," he notes with pleasant

memory, "to walk out of the front door, and get into an automobile without a chauffeur, and just drive anywhere."

That's how pleasant it was - not to be President any more. Which adds a new paragraph to the old story of the ~~ni~~ ordeal of the White House. Yet, people will do almost anything to be President.

Herbert Hoover rejoices in being an ex-president - and tomorrow evening, by the way, he will make another of his radio addresses on public policy. Elder statesman advising the American people. One of the great men of our era - as selfless and generous a man as ever went to the White House.

LONDON

In London the Labor Government won another victory tonight -- on the issue of the meat shortage and the meat ration in Britain. This time the vote was three hundred and six to two hundred and ninety-eight, a majority of six. Which is less than the Laborites had last night, when their margin was ten -- on the question of the nationalization of steel. But they won.

ABDUCTION

The Island of Sicily, famous for flaming romance, reports a case of sentimental abduction, which would go fine in a grand opera - except for the way it turned out. A young man of Palermo set out to kidnap his beloved - but got her father instead. Which is no way for a drama of passion to end.

The story relates that this enamored Romeo, named Terranova, fell in love with Anna Chee-Po-Lah-Ro. Anna is eighteen and pretty. But he got no further than casting ardent glances at Anna in church, and in the public square. So he conspired with two friends - they'd abduct the girl.

In the dead of night, they stole to Anna's house, and found her doing some embroidery work by the light of a kerosene lamp. They tried to seize her, but Anna put up a fight and the kerosene lamp was knocked over, plunging the place into darkness. She got away, and darted upstairs, where she hid under a bed. It so happened, that her father was asleep in the bed - the old boy snoozing so ~~soundly~~ soundly he didn't hear a thing.

Meanwhile, the three abductors, groping in the darkness, were looking for Anna. They made their way to the room where she was hiding under the bed. There was just enough light for them to see that somebody was in the bed, and they thought it was Anna. So, in haste they rolled up the bedclothes around the supposed Anna, and carried their treasure away.

They got outside where the lovelorn Terranova thought it proper to beseech his Anna. But, out of the bedclothes emerged her father. The old boy - as boiling mad as the abductors were astounded, and the lover disappointed.

Today, Anna's papa said simply:- "They didn't want me. They wanted my Anna!"

Which was no way for a love story to end in Sicily, island of flaming romance, or anywhere for that matter, wouldn't you say, Nelson?