

Now - let's hear from the ace. (Today the U.S. Air Force won its greatest victory in Korea. Thirteen M.I.G's destroyed, shot down. ~~Probably destroyed - 13 M.I.G's~~) We lost one, but that was due to engine failure - and the pilot was picked up.) Of the thirteen enemy jets destroyed ~~today~~ today, four were shot down by Major George Davis of Lubbock, Texas. Which gives ^{him} ~~him~~ a total of nine - that many jets. Not counting four Soviet-built bombers. So let's hear from the ace.

Major Davis tells how he and his jet squadron caught the Reds by surprise - so much so, that Communist planes were shot down before the pilots were even able to ditch their extra fuel tanks. Which is necessity number one in jet air battle - drop those extra fuel tanks before going into combat.

"We first spotted the M.I.G's off to our right," relates the Major. "I called my squadron and told them to hold their fire until we got in close." Well, they did get in close. "At a range of about eight hundred feet," says Major Davis,

"We all ~~opened~~ opened up, and a couple of seconds later - there were five parachutes in the air." The astonished Reds bailed out, their planes plunging in flames ^{-- with} ~~and~~ streaking trails of black smoke. "We got them before they even dropped their extra fuel tanks," says the Major - emphasizing the element of surprise.

That happened in one of two separate air battles today - the Americans out-numbered, as usual. In the second, twenty-eight sabre jets went streaking against forty-five M.I.G.'s, and they almost captured ^{(one.} ~~one.~~ ~~one.~~ They wanted to shoot it down in U.N. territory, so the wreckage could be examined. Hitherto, our airmen have not been able to get hold of ^{/a single M.I.G. - all} ~~any~~ ~~all~~ ^{have been} ~~one~~ shot down behind enemy lines.

Today, two American jet pilots had one cornered - escape cut off! They tried to herd the M.I.G. South to the Allied lines - to ~~shoot~~ ^{it} down it

there. But they couldn't quite make it. That enemy jet cut to the north; and, they might have lost it. So, they shot it down just behind the Red warfront.

(On the ground, the fires of battle erupted at a hill position to the south of Panmunjon, site of the truce talks. An enemy force on the hill was almost cut off, surrounded. But the Communists hurled in heavy reinforcements - and, at last reports, they were still holding the hill.)

KOREA - TRUCE

(In the truce talks, the U.N. delegates are pressing their demand for information about Allied prisoners-of-war. They tell the Reds they will not consider any Communist proposal concerning prisoners - until they get the figures.) The Reds make it a deadlock - by insisting that they will not give the information until an agreement on prisoners is reached.) Their proposal is an exchange for all that we have for all that they have.

What makes the Red refusal the more exasperating is the fact that our negotiators are sure the Communist representatives have the documents with figures on prisoners right there in the conference tent - among the papers they have with them. All they'd have to do, ~~would be to~~ reach in, and pull out a few pages. (~~American officers believe they have a pretty good estimate of the numbers. They want to compare these with figures the Reds have. They think that, if there is a reasonable agreement between the two sets - the whole issue of prisoners could be settled quickly.~~)

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They want to know where the captives are kept, where the prison camps are located - so that, when there is an exchange, they will know how the prisoners have to travel, the distances they will march back to liberation. "We don't want a death march in reverse," they said today. Referring to the horror of ^aBatan in Nineteen Forty-two - when captured Americans were marched to Japanese prison camps in various parts of the Philippines.

RED TRIAL

Tonight we have a story of one of those Chinese Red trials. Far Eastern version of the sinister court proceedings familiar behind the Iron Curtain - to which the Chinese Reds add howling mob scenes. Tonight's account comes, not merely from an eyewitness - but from a man who was tried.

He's an American Catholic priest, Father Thomas Langley of Framingham, Massachusetts - who owes his life to the fact that he was a "foreigner." After being condemned by the Red court, he was finally released, because of international angles - and has arrived in British Hong Kong.

Today he told newsmen how he was a missionary in a Chinese village - when two weeks ago, November Thirtieth, Red soldiers took him off to face a Red Court.

"My arms were bound tightly behind my back," said Father Langley today, "and I had a rope, a noose, around my neck. I was prodded along the way - with rifle butts."

At the local high school grounds, a stage had been erected, and there sat three "judges." A crowd of a thousand was gathered for the "trial." The priest was thrust on the platform, and witnesses were brought forward - some of whom he had never seen before. He was accused of being an American spy, of aiding anti-Communist guerrillas, and of promoting the Christian faith.

Each separate accusation was greeted by the howls of the mob. The judges would yell to the crowd: "Should he not be killed?" The answer, a shrieking chorus - "Kill him, kill him!"

"At first," relates the priest, "I stood and gazed out over the crowd. They then made me bend over, so that I couldn't look at the people. Next they made me kneel - I was on my knees for about two hours." All with hands tied behind his back, and a noose around his neck.

One accuser testified that the priest tried

to force him to become a Christian. Another, a woman, raged for an hour - against an American Baptist mission. The Baptists had been established near the Catholic mission, and their activities in behalf of Christianity were also charged against the priest.

All - punctuated by the murderous chorus.

The judges, like interlocutors, yelling - "Should he not be killed?" The mob howling - "Kill him, kill him."

Today Father Langley said that, after four and a half hours of the nightmare - he felt it didn't matter what happened to him.

(The newsmen asked him - whether he thought he would be killed.

He responded: "I didn't care - well, yes, I thought I would be.")

The death sentence was pronounced, amid the blood-curdling howls of the mob. But, later, the priest was told his life would be spared - because he was a "foreigner."

EGYPT

(Egypt has called its Ambassador from London - bringing the quarrel over Suez and the Sudan to a new crisis.) The Cairo government delayed action for two days, as a result of intervention by American Ambassador Jefferson Caffery - who urged the Egyptian officials to take it easy in the quarrel. But now they've gone ahead ^{-- withdrawing} ~~withdrawing~~ their Ambassador ^{from} ~~from~~ London. Which is less than a full ~~break~~ break of diplomatic relations - the Egyptian Embassy in London still in operation, run by lesser diplomats. But it does emphasize that the crisis is growing worse.

~~There is no indication, as yet, whether the British will withdraw their own Ambassador from Cairo.~~ At the same time, the Cairo government announces a move that sounds more serious - in an uglier way. They say they'll harm Egyptian civilians, for ~~use~~ terrorist warfare against the British at Suez - will distribute weapons among the guerrillas of the Egyptian underground.

(~~They say, moreover, that they will order ~~the~~ official~~

ISRAEL

(From Jerusalem, a report of an address by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion to the Parliament of Israel.

Subject - the position of American Jews with reference to Zionism, Israel, and ^{What Ben-Gurion calls} the "in-gathering of the exiles."

That is, the return of the Jewish people to their

ancient land. There has been talk of dissensions

between the chiefs of Israel and the leaders of American

Jewry on the subject of - going back to Palestine.

(Ben-Gurion is reported by the New York Times

as declaring that the problem is - how to induce

American Jews to immigrate to Israel.) When, in the

words of the Times account - "there was no whip

cracking over their heads." Meaning, not under pressure.

The Prime Minister of Israel did not criticize the

American Jews, but attacked American Zionist leaders.

"They went bankrupt since the establishment of the

Jewish state," said Ben-Gurion. ("There were not," he

added, "five leaders who got up to go to Israel after

the state was established.")

He said Israel needs engineers and other technicians from America. "I'm sure they will come," he declared. "There are economic facts to induce them. The Jewish engineer in America, "he explained, "will not easily obtain employment in a non-Jewish firm." Well, a number of American firms will be astonished by that.

Ben-Gurion made reference to the recent World Zionist Congress, when American-Jewish delegates were irritated by the prodding and urging - immigrate to Palestine. He said, in the words of the Times article - that "needling and moralizing would not move the American Jews."

All a profoundly interesting commentary on problems arising out of the establishment of the state of Israel. And - "the in-gathering of the exiles."

SERVICE

(The State Department announces that John Stewart Service has been dismissed -- one of the diplomats prominently mentioned in charges of communism. Service was high on the list of Senator MacCarthy of Wisconsin -- the Senator hurling charges at him.) He was cleared repeatedly by the President's Loyalty Board -- but now the Board states there is "a reasonable doubt of his loyalty." Previously the findings had to be based on proved facts. But now an official can be dismissed on a verdict of "reasonable doubt".

The Loyalty Board acted on evidence in that old Amerasia Case -- the Leftwing Magazine raided by agents of the FBI -- who found secret government papers in its possession. Service gave a number of documents to Philip Jaffe, editor of Amerasia. The Board saying that Service knew Jaffe to be a leftwing character, sympathetic to Communism. There is no evidence that Service ever belonged to the Communist Party or to any other subversive organization. The dismissal was based entirely on disclosing confidential documents in that Amerasia affair.

SHOOTING

A dispatch just in from Hollywood.

An actor's agent was shot tonight - wounded in hip and thigh, and the police have arrested Walter Wanger - one of the top American film producers, and husband of actress Joan Bennett. Walter Wanger is being held for questioning.

EXPLOSION

There are weird guesses - about a strange explosion at Tucumcari, New Mexico, today. But how could the guessing be anything but weird - when a water tank blew up? Gas tank, yes. But how does water explode, in a huge tank, the town supply? (There are immediate suspicions of sabotage of some kind. But others think - fire balls. Maybe a meteor hit the town water tank.)

Anyway, a giant steel container, with three million gallons - burst suddenly. Large fragments of the tank were hurled - as the deluge poured into the streets of Tucumcari. Street^s knee deep, houses washed away, three lives lost.

(One home was wrecked by a ~~chunk~~ chunk of steel, ripped from the tank - others overwhelmed by water.)

Tonight, City Water Engineer Bert Reddling, says:

"An explosion making this kind of debris could only have been caused by T.N.T., dynamite, or nitroglycerine." Several railroad workers declare they say a "blue flash" just before the tank gave way.

But one resident says that, just before the burst of water, he saw what looked like - "flying fire balls." The Southwest has been having an epidemic of meteors lately. So it's not surprising that one rumor should be - a missile from outer space hit the water tank.

President Truman promises prompt action - in cleaning out government corruption. At a news conference today, he indicated that he'll ask Congress for legislation to curb that epidemic of devious doings - illustrated by the income tax scandal. Also, he will take direct presidential action to keep government employees from engaging in outside business.

But he told the newsmen the house-cleaning would not extend to the Cabinet. That is, the President will ignore Republican demands for the dismissal of Attorney General Howard McGrath and Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder - both of whose departments have been involved in the scandals of income tax. *P* The President added that he thought this present issue of corruption will not play a part in the coming political campaign. He argued - it'll all be cleaned up by that time, and the uproar will be forgotten.

Speaking of cleaning things up -- of course that doesn't suggest anything to you, Nelson - you of all people!