

KOREA L.T. - P.G. Tula, Dec. 18-51.

At Seoul, today, the airport was blinded by fog.

A dense pea-souper blanketed the capital of Korea in such fashion that all planes were grounded. Which included,

above all - ^a B-26 light bombers - tied to the ground, hour after hour. The period of waiting was tense, impatient - ~~was~~

because aboard that American plane was ^{the} a list of the names of prisoners-of-war held by the Reds. ~~It was~~ to be hurried

by air to the ~~headquarters~~ ^{the} headquarters of Supreme Commander, General

Ridgway, in Tokyo. But there was the B-26 light bomber - fog-bound.

All of which followed the dramatic events at

Panmunjom, site of the truce talks. The session was the most important of all ^(from) the human aspect of the negotiations.

Ever since the long drawn out parleys began, in all the

^{many} meetings, our negotiators demanded, repeatedly and

insistently - information about prisoners-of-war. How many?

Where were they being kept? And - the names. So now the

break - which came suddenly. Here's how a newsmen saw it,

United Press Correspondent Peter Gruening - who was there. —

"A dead-pan Chinese officer," he writes, "clumped into the olive drab tent where the Allies and Communists were talking prisoner exchange. In his hands was what looked like a bundle of laundry. Outside, U.N. correspondents and soldiers waited quietly, as the minutes ticked by. Red sentries, on guard, stood stiffly at attention, staring into space."

So they waited for the information, the most ^{important of all, ~~the~~ that is from the human aspect.} Then, American Rear Admiral R.E. Libby appeared, and the newsman writes: "Libby came out, bare-headed, holding a sheaf of papers in his right hand. The lines in his unsmiling face gave him a stern look. 'Well,' he paused for a moment, 'we got the list.'"

The stern look of the Admiral was an apt reflection of the news. (The number of American prisoners-of-war -- three thousand, one hundred and ninety-eight. That many out of more than twelve thousand missing in the Korean War. The

figure, ~~is~~ two thousand lower than ^{had been} ~~expected.~~

The list of names which Admiral Libby brought out of the conference tent was flown by helicopter to the American ^{(truce) -} team-base at Munsan, where typed copies were made. All was in readiness - in the expectation that the Reds would hand over the list. Twenty typists worked at high speed, transcribing; and twenty men checked the copies for accuracy.

The job was done at high speed, and then a jeep went speeding to Seoul, with the list, to have it flown to Tokyo. The B-26 was waiting, all in readiness. But then the weather played one of its ~~best~~ tricks. Just as the jeep was approaching the airport, the fog closed in - the peasouper so bad that the pilot was ordered to stand by, until flying conditions improved a bit. This was early morning in Seoul, tomorrow morning actually, the time ^{difference} ~~was~~ being what it is. And - it was expected that the heat of the sun would burn out the blinding mist.

~~Here is the latest~~ the B-26 ^{got} ~~has taken~~ off - flying

from Seoul to Tokyo. Because of the delay at the airport,
some of the names are being sent by wireless direct from
Korea to Washington, where ^{right now} they are being ^{checked} ~~received~~ at the
Pentagon. ~~Building~~

KOREA - TOKYO

The task in Tokyo will be to match the names on the list with the record of soldiers missing in action. Everything will be done to make the information as definite and certain as possible - when the list is made public, and families are notified.

(all day we ~~have~~ heard that)
For example, the name ~~and~~ of General Dean ~~is reported~~

~~was~~ on the list - the commander of the U.S. Twenty-fourth

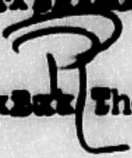
Division who disappeared early in the Korean War. This,

according to Communist newsmen; - and *this now is* ~~it is believed their~~
confirmed,
~~information is correct.~~ The same goes for Associate Press

Photographer Frank Noel. ~~also said to be a prisoner.~~

In addition to the three thousand one hundred and ninety-eight ~~xxx~~ American prisoners, the roster includes some twelve hundred soldiers of other U.N. countries - and a little more than seven thousand South Koreans. The South Koreans report their number of missing at eighty-nine thousand less than ten per cent now listed as prisoners. *PK* According to the Red statement, the captives are being held in eleven

prison camps, all the way from the Red Korean capital, Pyongyang, to the Yalu River.) The camps are named in the information handed over by the Communists.

(The U.N. truce team, ~~while receiving this information~~ handed over to the Communists a list of Red prisoners, a huge number. More than a-hundred-and-thirty-two thousand - of which nearly twenty-one thousand are Chinese. The question is now - whether we should hand over such large numbers for such small numbers.) ~~American officers said immediately in bitter terms that the number of our prisoners in their hands of the Red is disappointingly small.~~  The whole question of prisoners is involved in a series of dilemmas. Do we want to keep on holding tens of thousands of captives? The prisoners in our hands have been treated well, and reports are that many have turned hostile to Communism. How many will want to be sent back to the Red overlords? This is a mere hint of the problems of prisoner exchange. ~~xxxxxx figures~~

~~xxxxxx~~

The U.N. command in Korea is prompt to note that there will be no release of prisoners until an armistice is signed. This new break is a step toward a truce, but there are still many difficulties to solve - and there's only about a week left in the time assigned for the conclusion of an armistice. Of course, that period may be prolonged - but there would seem to be still some distance to go before there's a release of prisoners.

PRISONERS - WASHINGTON

In Korea today, American officers noted in bitter terms - that the number of our prisoners in the hands of the Reds is disappointingly small. The same angry sentiment was voiced in Washington - as soon as the figures ^{came in today,} ~~were released,~~ Memory goes back to the charges of atrocities, wholesale murder of prisoners by the Communists. Which accusations are now ^{re} enforced ^{- -} between the prisoner list and the number of soldiers missing in action. ~~This could be explained by the~~
~~and the figures given in the charges xx xix the number of~~

In Congress, there are demands for a thorough investigation of Red atrocities, with the punishment of war criminals.

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Names of prisoners will be given out - the first one hundred at 11:15 - over this network, immediately following this program - all the names that have been confirmed. Then the others will follow until they have all been given out.

CHURCHILL

(In Paris -- Prime Minister Churchill ~~plans~~ puts
Great Britain into the West Europe Federation -- which
is being planned. Hitherto, the London government has
been standing aloof)- hesitating to join in a
combination of countries that will pool their resources
in the face of communist aggression. But now Churchill
says "Yes" -- after two days of discussions with the
heads of the French government.

This would put British military forces into the
International army commanded by General Eisenhower -- a
thing that Britain has been refusing to do thus far.
Actually, Churchill does not go quite the whole way.
Tonight's news dispatch states that the military power
of Britain will not actually join the European army.
The plan is to "fuse" the armed forces of nations on the
Continent into ^a -- continental defense force. The British
will not be "fused." But they will be allied so closely

with General Ike's army that the affiliation can hardly be distinguished from full-scale participation.

All this is stated in a communique following the Churchill conversations with the French. The announcement states that British forces will be under the Supreme High Allied Command in Europe -- "SHAPE" headed by General Eisenhower. And will -- in the words of the statement "be aligned to the forces of the European defense community -- for training, provisioning and operations on land, sea and air." This is regarded as a first-class victory for General Eisenhower, and is expected to give a tremendous boost to his army -- which, right now, exists on paper, not in uniform. Also -- the Churchill decision will clear the way, it is believed, for the inclusion of German units in the military unification of the West.

PAN-AMERICAN

In the Pan American walkout, strikers are going back to work at midnight. This, in accord with presidential order - appointing a Fact Finding Board. The striking mechanics, stewards and commissary employees accepted the mandate from the White House. So, back to work at midnight, on the job, at least until the Fact Finding Board makes its report.

JET PLANE

Tonight we have another instance of that modern terror - a man sucked into the intake of a jet plane. But this time - he lives to tell the tale.

At Montreal, a flying field worker was testing an F-86 Sabre Jet. The engine was roaring, and he got too near the intake pipe at the front of the plane. In an instant, the violent suction picked him up from the ground, and whipped him into the pipe head first.

Sounds like sure death - but fellow employees acted fast. They were able to cut off the engine - in time for him to be removed alive. Even so, the power of the suction swept him into the intake with such violence, that he suffered a skull fracture and a broken leg. But the doctors declare that he's - "doing fairly well." Living to tell the
- of how he was
terrifying tale - sucked into the intake of the jet.

TRAIN

In Ohio, the engineer of a fast freight thought - train robbery! On the tracks down the line was a man with a shotgun, which he was waving with a menacing gesture - ordering the train to stop. It seemed so like the train robberies of old, that Engineer Harold Willsie was tempted to put on full speed. But then he thought - he'd better stop. So the train came to a halt, a few yards from the man with the shotgun. And who was he?

Well, it turned out that Railroad Section Worker J. C. Lackland was out hunting. I don't know if he bagged any game, but he spotted something more important - along the railroad track. A section of one rail had broken - and the fast freight was coming. If it had hit the broken rail, the train would have piled up - and it was carrying military supplies. Guns and tanks - for the Army.

So - flag down the train! But the only flag the hunter had was - his shotgun. Which made it look like an old time Western train robbery. But it saved the fast freight.

which stopped there, until a crew could be summoned to repair the track.

AUTOMOBILES

Here's a story of shipwreck - and one of the saddest. It happened on the Ohio River, where a huge barge, triple-decker, was navigating with one hundred and fifty new Plymouth automobiles. The barge, towed by a tugboat, was near the town of Golconda, Illinois. Magical name - Golconda, legendary kingdom of diamonds in India. They were approaching a romantic landmark known as - "Lover's Leap."

A violent winter wind was blowing, and the Ohio has treacherous currents. In a combination of the two, the tow-lines broke, and the triple-deck barge drifted and floundered in the swells of the river. On the upper deck fifty cars broke loose, and slid on the ice - the deck being like a skating rink. They lunged over to one side, and that capsized the barge - which immediately sank. So down went a hundred and fifty automobiles to the bottom of the Ohio.

They ^{are now} ~~are~~ in thirty-five feet of water; and attempts will

be made to raise them, and dry them out; - after the automobile shipwreck near Golconda and approaching Lover's Leap.

WEATHER

The weather man says - more bitter winter.

In the Middlewest, today, a new snowstorm swept from Nebraska, on its way to the Atlantic seaboard. That - and a new cold wave. The thermometer - dropping tonight. And, in the East, ~~■~~ blizzard conditions tomorrow and Thursday.

SANTA CLAUS - AUSTRALIA

At Melbourne, Australia, the government radio put on a broadcast that caused children in homes all over the place to burst into tears - at Christmas time. On a kindergarten hour, a woman teacher told the tiny tots - that there is no Santa Claus. She informed them - that the Jolly Saint is only a myth. That's the up-to-date way of modern teachers, I suppose - but it was a big mistake.

The next thing you know, the radio station at Melbourne was getting wrathful telephone calls from indignant parents, who said the kids were bawling - and why disturb happy homes at Christmas time? There was a storm of protests.

Maybe the right thing would be - for that official radio to send each of the children a Christmas present.

Which certainly would prove, ^{Nelson -} that there is a Santa Claus.