

KOREA

L.T.-P.G. Fri. Jan. 12 - 1951.

(In the Korean battle of Wonju, the U.N. forces lashed back at the Reds today.) The American Second Division, with French and Dutch allies, holds a salient thrusting into the Red occupied area. The sector controls important highways, and the defenders went smashing forward in a counterattack today. (They stormed hills and ridges - overlooking the town.

This infantry action followed a stupendous air bombardment,) in which streams of planes blasted the enemy confronting our ^{ground} troops. ~~on the ground~~

The Reds have been pouring into Wonju, as a ~~point~~ point from which to launch an all-out attack - and that town was pulverized. As a rallying point of the Communists, it was turned into a death trap. At the same time, enemy positions to the south of Wonju were covered by a rain of steel and ~~in~~ fire. Fleets of B-29 superfortresses led the way, unloading masses of bombs, and swarms of lighter planes followed - with rockets and machine gun fire.

The power of the bombing in those Korean

mountains is described in terms of fantasy. G I's called the battle area - the "shimmy ground." The very earth shook and shimmied, from the ^{(incessant} ~~incessant~~ blasts. One G.I., sergeant Arlyn D. Luellen of Troy, Kansas, said: "I expected the mountain tops themselves to break off any minute."

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The masses of Reds were smashed up so completely, they gave way, when our much smaller ground units attacked their positions on hills and ridges. The earth-shaking explosions were timed and placed just ahead of the advancing troops. So these were able to drive forward, and capture strategic heights overlooking Wonju.

FOLLOW KOREA

(Late news tonight states that the Reds came back with a counter-attack and recaptured one of the hills. But maybe it was a case less of the enemy, than of the weather. Tonight's news dispatch states: "The allied troops were forced at nightfall to abandon the hill as the temperature dropped to twenty-one below zero!")

FRENCH PLATOON

On the Wonju front, some American G I's had the surprise of their lives. Their outfit was joined recently by a force of French infantry, and it takes the French to puzzle the Americans, ~~parle vous~~

An attack was ordered, and a French Lieutenant led a platoon to the assault. The Lieutenant wore a red ~~XXXX~~ scarf around his head, which was picturesque - and then the G I's noticed the way their gallant allies were charging in this Korean war.

3
"Great Schorophat,"
~~XXXX~~ growled a sergeant, "they're going in with bayonets." And so they were - charging with fixed bayonets, in the style of World War One.

These are days of automatic weapons, rockets and napalm bombs. The Chinese Reds, it is true, go in for horse cavalry, bugles, even camels. Their usual weapon, however, is a sub-machine gun, a burp gun. But now, the ways of old were returning to our side, the legended command - "fix bayonets, charge." In the First World War, the French poilus preferred to go in with cold steel. So now, on the Korean battlefront

FRENCH PLATOON - 2

they were making a bayonet charge as in the days of
the battle of the Marne, the Somme, Verdun. ^{TP} But it)
worked.

As the G I's watched astonished, the French
platoon charged up a hill, through a hail of enemy
gunfire, and captured the ridge. The Reds - fleeing
from the bayonet attack, the cold steel.

(Korean President Syngman Rhee,) made a statement today, which has a bearing on the possible rearmament of Japan. It's one of the ironies of these times that, having destroyed the war machines of both Germany and Japan, we now want to revive the military power of those recent enemies. But - the Germans and Japanese don't seem to be too enthusiastic about it, and now the President of the Korean Republic adds to the difficulties.

He (says that if Japanese military forces were sent to Korea - the Free Koreans would fight against them, as well as against the Reds.)

Syngman Rhee put it in these words: "I have heard a rumor about Japanese rearmament, and that a contingent might be sent here to help fight the Chinese." To which he added: "I declare to the world, that we would fight the Japanese before we expel the Chinese."

Which does put a new twister on the question

SYNGMAN RHEE

of rebuilding the Japanese army for use against the
Communist power in Asia.

HOOVER

Former President Hoover states that his foreign policy proposals have the bulk of newspaper support in what he calls the "hinterland" of America. This is stated in a letter to Senator Logan of California, in which the former President declares that most editorial opinion backs his proposal that we retire to the defense of the western hemisphere.

TRUMAN

(There's immediate Republican opposition to the Truman budget message today - an outcry against the recommendations for higher taxes. The President asks for a tax increase of more than eight billion dollars) - "very much more" says the budget message.

The loudest voice in the Republican opposition is that of Congressman Daniel Reed of New York, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, which writes the tax bills. "I think the President has gone hysterical," says he. Other G O P leaders, like Congressman (Joe) Martin of Massachusetts and (Clarence) Brown of Ohio, insist that any tax increase must be accompanied by drastic economies - cuts in ^{government} spending that is not for national defense. Such cuts, by the way are promised in the budget message.

Even on the Democratic side, the expressions are cautious. Congressman Doughton of North Carolina, the chairman of the Tax Writing Committee, says - "We will do the best we can." He refused any forecast of how big a tax increase Congress will vote.

(The President wants the huge hike so that our immense armament program can be put on a "pay-as you go" basis.) In other words, pay for all that military power out of taxation - and not by increasing the national debt.

For the next two years, the cost of armament, recommended by the White House, will come to more than one-hundred-and-forty billion dollars. The armed forces to be increased by another million men in the next few months - for a total of nearly three and a half million ~~in~~ in our defense forces. Civilian manpower - to be added to the armament industries; at least four million workers to be transferred to defense production.

Longer working hours will be required, and a greater employment of women - as in wartime. Wage-price controls - the President declaring that ceilings will be imposed to check inflation. Business cannot expect to make peacetime profits, and must accept restrictions. Farmers must make sacrifices,

rationing is not mentioned in the budget message,
but it might come.

The tone of it all is one of a semi-war-time
economy -- recommended by the President to Congress.

EXPLOSIONS

An Air Force demonstration was given today - to quiet the ~~km~~ jitters in Los Angeles. Three times this week, the people were startled by blasts of thundering sounds, followed by a long rumbling roar. Explosions - they thought. Maybe atomic bombs.

The Air Force gave an explanation - that the blasts of sound were caused by jet planes, in power dives at supersonic speed. But mere words are ~~xxx~~ sometimes not enough. So at Edwards Air Base, a hundred miles south of Los Angeles, two jet pilots climbed on high - Major Pete Everest and Lieutenant Colonel F. J. Ascani. They made six dives, and each time the same thing happened. In a combination of jet power and gravity, the plane ~~xxxxx~~ would plunge at supersonic speed, down to a level of thirty thousand feet - ~~xx~~ then pull out of the dive. After which it would take twenty-five seconds for the sound to reach the earth -- the air base shaking with a mighty boom, like some enormous ~~xxxx~~ explosion. That happening several times during the week, was what gave Los Angeles the jitters.

FIRE

The Chicago Loop had a spectacular fire this afternoon - when a four-story building went up in flame and smoke. In the building a warehouse full of rubber - which meant dense acrid fumes; suffocating smoke pouring into the nearby Merchandise Mart, a vast building that is an enormous hive of business.

The blaze is attributed to a big tank of naphtha, which blew up. Within minutes after the explosion, flames were racing through the building - which collapsed. Firemen were caught by falling walls, and the latest report indicates that several were killed.

The fantasy of flame and smoke, occurring in the heart of Chicago, made a field day for television. Cameras were brought quickly to the scene, and millions of televiewers all along the networks were able to see the spectacular fire in the Chicago Loop.

BANK

At Houston, Texas, Robert Baker, a ^{(painter,} ~~painter,~~
is back to normal - after having been rich for several weeks. He had fifteen dollars and seventy-three cents in the bank, and received a statement showing more than Nineteen thousand dollars to his credit.

It happened on Christmas eve - day of days.

Baker, was feeling glum. He was out of a job, and couldn't afford a real Christmas for his kids. "I looked at my two small children and felt real bad," he said today.

Then on the morning of that gloomy Christmas Eve, came the bank statement - showing him comparatively rich. In amazement he called the bank, and asked them to check his account. Which they did, and came back with that same figure - more than nineteen thousand dollars.

Today Baker said: "I knew it was a mistake, sure. I knew they might catch me. But I stood right there and made up my mind. When I looked at my kids - man. I knew there was going to be a real Christmas

in the Baker household." He spent two thousand dollars, bringing Santa Claus in high style.

After that - well, I suppose he thought it might as well go on being Christmas. He paid two thousand dollars on a new automobile, and transferred fifteen thousand dollars to a bank in Sedalia, Missouri, where he had relatives.

But finally Christmas came to an end - ~~xx~~ when the Houston financiers discovered the mistake. Baker was grabbed - and responded with ready good sense. He handed over the automobile, and arranged to ^{return} ~~xxxxx~~ the fifteen thousand. In consideration of this, the announcement is made - that no charges will be ~~px~~ pressed against him. The bank will forget the whole thing - having made the mistake.

ROBBER

Here's one to add to nefarious oddities of crooks. Chicago has a "rhyming robber" who says it in verse. Yesterday the bandit went into a family loan corporation, and walked up to the girl cashier - Joan Giblin. Pointing a gun at her, he said:

"Come on honey,

Give me some money."

She did, charmed by the poetry - no doubt. She handed over eight hundred bucks, and the rhyming robber made a clean getaway.

"Come on honey,

Give me some money."

Let's hope he rhymes his way into jail, with the judge saying:

"Ten years for you sonny,

And that's not so funny."

ARMY

Here's a dispatch from Washington, saying its hard for a man to look dumb - unless he really is. Which applies to a certain kind of slacker, who tries to beat the draft by deliverately failing in the Army mental test.

The question was brought up in the Senate Committee on preparedness, and Majoy General Clovis Byers gave the answer: "Psychiatrists who designed the test, say it would take a man of unusual high intelligence to analyze it sufficiently well to fail deliberately," said the General. In other words, you' got to be smart to act dumb.

And from your exper^{ience} - Nelson, your wide experience would you say that included the socalled dumb blonde, who usually turns out to be plenty smart? As a manwho knows women, what would you say?