

KOREA -- PRISONERS L.T.-P.G. Thursday, May 22, 1952.

(News from the tough, turbulent prisoner camp on Koje Island pictures -- Communist prisoners on guard. Inside the barbed-wire of ^{the} notorious Compound 76 Seventy-six, ^(today - sentries appeared) ~~North Koreans are~~ standing on ~~a sentry~~ duty. Wearing uniforms -- with red bands on their arms. ^H Outside the barbed-wire barricade, American GI's also stand on ~~sentry~~ duty.) The difference being -- that the American soldiers have rifles, while the Communist guards, ~~inside~~, are unarmed. Also -- there are more prisoner ^(sentries) ~~sentries~~ inside than there are soldiers on guard outside. But then -- the American's are not so vigilant against possible escapes. In fact, they would rather like it, if prisoners would escape. Which adds a new element of the paradoxical -- to that fantastic situation on Koje Island.

The explanation we have is that the Communist bosses among the prisoners are afraid that some of the captives may sneak out -- going over to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ anti-Communism. ~~The~~ Compound Seventy-six is reserved for fanatical Reds -- but some of the Six Thousand

prisoners there may not really be so fanatical.

Prisoners in two ways. Captives of the Americans --

Captives, also, of their own Red bosses. Hence the

Americans would rather welcome the escape of

prisoners from Compound Seventy-six. Which would

only mean -- flight from Communism.

KOREA -- AIR

In Korean skies today, ~~IX~~ it was -- Forty thousand for the Hobos. The Eighth Fighter Bomber Wing flew its ~~Forty thousandth~~ combat mission topping every other aerial outfit in Korea. The Eighth is known as the "Hobo" Wing, because of the way it has been shifted around, up and down the Korean penninsula, all through the War. Mission number Forty thousand was flown by ^{Hobo} Lt. W. R. Spradling, of Tulsa, Oklahoma -- in his F-Eighty Jet Fighter.

All of which coincides with another stupendous assault on a Red supply center. This one in the neighborhood of Pyongyang, Communist capitol. There the Reds, for weeks, built up masses of munitions and equipment. Today the time was right for the strike, and American and Australian Fighter Bombers did the job from dawn to dusk -- with bombs, rockets, ^{and} flaming napalm. At least one hundred and seventeen buildings were destroyed -- as the big supply center erupted like a volcano.

FOLLOW KOREA AIR

In battles of the sky, one of those ironies, or it seemed like that. Marine Corp flier Captain William Barbanen of New York was flying on his one hundredth mission in Korea -- scheduled to be his last one. So -- he was shot down as he was out on that final flight. Downed by ground fire. But, within an hour he was rescued by an Air Force helicopter, which picked him up at a place behind enemy lines -- thereby bringing that old irony to a happy ending.

RIDGEWAY

General Ridgeway gave warning today that the ~~grossest~~ grotesque accusations made by the Reds -- could be a preparation for germ ^{and} gas warfare. They have been charging these tactics to the Americans -- and it is a ~~deliberate~~ Communist practice to protest against the very thing they ~~Reds~~ intend to do. ~~Propaganda -- and preparation~~ ^{FF} (last week, Secretary of Defense Robert Lovett stated that the Red accusations might be a ~~tip~~ tip-off -- for Red intentions. He said that, if so, they could get a retaliation to make them "wish they had never been born.")

Today General Ridgeway, retiring from the Far East Command, said the Eighth Army in Korea is ready for anything that may happen -- prepared, if the Reds should attempt gas or germ warfare. ^{FF} (He made the statements before a joint session of Congress, reporting on the Far East -- as he goes to succeed General Eisenhower as Commander of International Forces in Europe.)

IMMIGRATION

(The Senate, this afternoon, passed the McCarran immigration bill -- after beating down attempts to modify the measure. One amendment aimed to eliminate a provision restricting Asiatic immigration. Which opponents denounced as -- racial discrimination.) But all that availed nothing, and the McCarran Bill was passed as presented.

TRUMAN

President Truman, today, uttered words of powerful defiance -- though the logic might seem to be a little weak in spots. HST proclaimed, roundly and repeatedly that neither the Courts nor Congress can take away from him the power to seize essential industries in an emergency. But, at the same time, he said - that, if the Supreme Court rules the seizure of Steel to be unconstitutional, he will abide by the decision of the high tribunal.

But how did this fit the doctrine of unlimited Presidential powers? The Truman view was -- that the question of Presidential authority was not involved in the problem of the seizure of steel. Which may seem like puzzling logic -- to the innocent, non-Presidential by-stander.

RAILROADS

(The Railroads will be returned immediately to their owners. So stated by President Truman today -- following the settlement of the wage dispute last night. The Federal Government took over the Railroads back in Nineteen hundred and Fifty, to avert a strike -- ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and has been operating them, nominally, ever since.) But now it's all over -- with the President stating, today, that the Railroads will be handed back -- as soon as he can get the papers drawn up and signed.

TELEGRAPH STRIKE

We hear that the telegraph strike is likely to be settled around midnight tonight. A contract agreed upon between employees and Western Union - ending the walkout.

COMMUNISTS

The Congressional hearings on Communism today, got around to -- the press. (The Committee on Unamerican activities -- checking information about newspaper men who are, or have been, Reds. Some of them were ^{named} ~~names~~ -- alleged Communists who worked on prominent papers across this country.)

The principle witness was Tom O'Conner, Managing Editor of the "Daily Compass" in New York. Which is a newspaper ^{not} famous either for violent anti-Communism or shining success. The "Compass" ^{is the} successor to a defunk paper called the "Star". Which, in turn, succeeded the ^{tabloid} ~~tabloid~~ "PM" ^{all inclined} ~~could all~~ ^{incline} to the left.

Tom O'Conner worked on all three, ^{and} today denied -- that he is a Communist. Or, that he has been a party member for the last ten years. But he refused to answer ~~if~~ whether or not he was a Communist ~~party~~ member back in the Thirties, when he was a newspaper man on the West Coast. ^{He fell} ~~But he wouldn't say by falling~~ back on constitutional grounds of self-incrimination.

WRECK

Here is news -- nobody hurt ~~in~~ at Lowell, Indiana. ~~It certainly sounds~~ ^{Mighty} lucky -- after the train wreck in the middle of the town today.

A long freight train ran off the track -- box cars hurtled far and wide, piling up. Three ran smack into the local ~~RAILROAD~~ Railroad Station, ~~at~~ the depot -- "smashed into kindling." ~~I~~ ^{at} ~~in~~ the main street ^{of} ~~through~~ Lowell, the freight cars were piled four deep. ^P All of which, however, is only a beginner.

There were six huge tanks of alcohol, ^{and} these exploded, blazing alcohol pouring through the streets, ~~of Lowell~~, right down into the business section. ~~It~~ ~~looked as if the whole town would go up in flames -- the~~ ~~area as as~~ The heat of burning alcohol was of such ~~SSI~~ boiling intensity ~~the~~ the local firemen couldn't get within a hundred feet of the flames. But a fine job of blaze-battling was done, the town was saved -- and, in all the nightmare of train wreck and fire, not a single person was injured.

COLUMBIA BASIN

In the Columbia River Basin of the Pacific Northwest, they began a celebration today -- to mark the opening of what the news dispatch calls "The Largest Irrigation Project ever devised by the mind of man." The Columbia River now to irrigate more than a million acres, in an area twice the size of the State of Delaware. In an economic sense, it's equivalent to the addition of a new State of the Union.

Opening celebration today; and, next week the water will be turned on. "The marriage of the Water and the Desert." Sure sounds like fertility.

Two days later, names will be drawn out of a hat -- selecting the lucky ones who will acquire the first farms.

CRIME

Here is a feature of a sort ~~as~~ always beguiling. A story of neat, clever, detective work. The F.B.I. has solved that brazen robbery at a Naval Air Station, Quonset, Rhode Island, ^{on} March Seventh. Two men under arrest, and a night club singer held as a witness. A beautiful red-head, giving the affair a touch of -- the gaudy romantic.

The first clue was elementary. The Credit Union at the Naval base was held up by two men wearing masks. All timed so skillfully, with such bold, arrogant knowledge -- the detectives immediately suspected "inside job".

So they checked the payroll at the Naval station and came to a civilian employee, named Robert La Plante, who, the day of the robbery was absent from his job. They checked on him and found that he had been doing part-time work at a gun shop. The owner of the gun shop -- Howard Hildebrandt.

They found that Hildebrandt, at one time, was a private detective - having taken a correspondent

school course in sleuthing. Not a likely candidate for a holdup, you'd think. But the F B I can be cynical.

They found the one-time private detective was having a gay old time - beginning shortly after the one-hundred thousand dollar robbery. A nightclubber in New York, with ^a fancy for champagne and cabaret singers -- entertaining the dolls at expensive places, and never mind the ^{cost} ~~price~~ of the bubbly fix. It's an old story - how a crook is likely to go on a spending spree, squandering the loot.

~~So now the news~~ ~~arrest of the former private~~
detective, picked up in a New York night spot, where he was wining and dining the red-head, a singer in a Greenwich Village cabaret. In his possession - money identified as loot. He and the former Naval Station Employee -- accused of that insolent hold-up at an air base of the Navy.

SUB FOR LAST PARA CRIME

So now the news -- the arrest of the former private detective, picked up at a swanky New York restaurant, where he was with the red-head singer -- having a breakfast of lamb chops and champagne. In his possession -- money identified as loot. They say he has confessed that he and his former Naval station employee -- perpetrated that insolent hold-up at an air base of the Navy.

SPELLING BEE

At the National Spelling Bee today, there were groans of disappointment -- when the favorite was eliminated. Ten year old Raymond Sokolov of Detroit, the youngest ever to reach the finals in Washington. About four feet high, scarcely tall enough to reach the microphone.

The crowd was all for the little fellow, as he went through round after round, spelling everything correctly. Others dropped out, falling over such words as innocuous, asthmatic, pianissimo. Out of fifty kids, twenty-nine were eliminated. The ten year old -- still going strong.

It was the last round before lunch, ^{and} they were all ~~roasting~~ rooting for Ray to go into the afternoon session. All he had to do was to spell one more word, and up it came -- assonance. To which the ten year old replied bravely A-S-O-N-A-N-C-E. That ~~was what~~ brought the groan from the crowd, ^{well,} as many as knew how to spell it themselves. Ray had spelled it with a single S instead of a double S -- and that eliminated the

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youngest competitor ever, in a National Spelling Bee.

H Here is the last word!- The winner! -- Doris Ann

Hall, thirteen years old and in the eighth grade

at Hudson, North Carolina. Doris spelled the last word

correctly -- vignette. Which won the \$ Five hundred

dollar prize and a trip to New York -- for Doris Ann.

Doris Ann while in N. Y. should meet
my handsome colleague, Nelson Case.