

L.T. - P & G - JULY, 1950

(19)

L.T. off the air during July, except for July 7th, due to summer hiatus. He made a trip to Alaska, returning to the CBS network on Monday, August 28, 1950.

---o---

L.T. - P&G. FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1950.

(Note: Lowell Thomas was off the air for most of July - August, 1950)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

This is a day that will go down in history. General Douglas MacArthur today became the United Nations commander-in-chief, military chief for the world organization in the battle against Red aggression in Korea. This afternoon, the Security Council of the U.N. authorized our government to name MacArthur to that post. From now on MacArthur and his army to fly the blue-and-white flag of the United Nations. Whereupon American chief delegate Warren Austin gave an okay to this for the United States. The change over from the Stars and Stripes to the United Nations flag.

This, of course, is another move in line with the legal position - that the United States is acting in behalf of the U.N. -- carrying out an order issued by the Security

Council. Of course, the forces under MacArthur's command are nearly all American. But British Naval planes are in action with them, and today's news brought a communique from an Australian air unit that is fighting with the Americans.

So it is an international army - the army of the United Nations, with Douglas MacArthur as military commander for Korea -- under the flag of the U.N. So some important history was made today indeed.

DRAFT

The draft is on - the Defense Department issuing orders today for inductions under the Selective Service Law. The reason - "to meet the situation in Korea". So says the official order - which adds that men from nineteen to twenty-five will be taken into service to provide reinforcements for the Americans in Korea. Most veterans of the Second World War are exempt - and voluntary enlistments will still be accepted. All of which would seem to indicate that the government anticipates a long military effort in Korea. Hence - the draft.



**ADD DRAFT**

There is no indication when inductions will actually begin. That will depend on events in Korea - the need for reinforcements.

## KOREA

Late news from Korea tells of - the greatest air strike to date. A powerful Red force of tanks and infantry was advancing for an attack against the U. S. line north of the Town of Chonan, when the planes swooped down - jets, mustang fighters, bombers. The air assault was made in close cooperation with American ground troops, who signalled the targets - giving fire-control orders by radio. There were forty Red tanks, with a mass of foot soldiers - and the result was devastating. The bombers left a number of tanks on fire. <sup>Late reports indicate that of the forty Red tanks twenty were knocked out.</sup> The result was that the armored assault of the American line never happened - the great air strike knocking out the attack before it ever got started. The American loss - two <sup>low level</sup> B-26 bombers wrecked, three propeller-driven fighters missing.

All along the fighting front there was little change today - the Reds massing for new attacks, after the retirement of the advanced American forces.

At the same time, a fleet of superfortresses together with Navy planes, both American and British -

B 295-

^

**KOREA.....2**

opened a thundering offensive against the oil supply on which the Red tanks depend. The air fleets hit refineries in northern Korea, blasted storage tanks - and knocked out bridges across which the Communist gasoline supplies must move.

On the enemy side, the north Koreans claim that Red guerrillas are assailing American communications - blowing up bridges, and blocking supply lines.

Tonight's communique from General MacArthur's headquarters confirms the activity of Red guerrillas, <sup>previous word about</sup> who operate <sup>ing</sup> from haunts in the mountains of south Korea.

**JET** (While you've been listening these past nights, I hope, to Griffing Bancroft.) ~~these past few~~  
I've been doing some investigating ~~inquiring~~

~~days~~ into one of the most interesting problems of the Korean war. The question of - jet. For the first time, jet planes are being used in actual war. The Germans <sup>did have</sup> ~~had~~ a few ~~some~~ in World War Two. But Korea begins the big-time use of jet aviation in battle.

The news has not been giving too favorable a picture. There ~~are~~ <sup>have been indications</sup> ~~implications~~ that the jet planes were not giving the troops on the ground as good a brand of air support as the old style propeller planes would provide. Some say <sup>why</sup> the jets are too fast. They go at such speed they ~~haven't~~ <sup>hardly have</sup> the time to ~~shoot up~~ <sup>spot - let</sup>

<sup>alone shoot up</sup> targets on the ground. ~~My guess would be that the~~ <sup>naturally have been</sup> ~~news~~ men in Korea ~~are~~ forming opinions from the grouching of G.I.'s. The jet planes ~~have~~ not ~~been~~ knocking the Red tanks the way the soldiers would like. ~~and~~ The G.I.'s complaining about that!

So I ~~have~~ <sup>we</sup> been in touch with ~~made inquiries at~~ Air Force headquarters ~~and elsewhere~~ in Washington, and here's the report I get: - When the campaign started, General Stratemyer, MacArthur's



the Far East,  
 air commander in ~~Japan~~ had six fighter groups - but  
 these had to be ready for a lot of possibilities ~~in~~ <sup>throughout</sup> the  
 whole Pacific area. <sup>all of</sup> Which spread <sup>our</sup> the air power mighty  
 thin. So General Stratemeyer has not had enough planes  
 to throw into Korea - and the real basis for the  
 complaint is the small number of planes, not their  
 performance.

*Air Force top men*  
~~at headquarters they~~ pointed out that the  
 present campaign is a special kind of <sup>war</sup> ~~thing~~ because  
 Air power, up to now <sup>in Korea,</sup> has been called upon to fight  
 enemies on the ground, almost exclusively. There has  
 been little Communist opposition in the sky; - and, in  
 fact, the older propeller planes, like F-51s, would do  
 all right fighting the enemy on the ground. But suppose  
 Communist air power should develop with opposition in  
 the sky - what would happen to the F-51s? It would  
 take jet planes to fight jet planes - if Russian jets  
 were to come on the scene.)

*IP Then there is*  
~~i was reminded of~~ the matter of distance. The  
 jets based on Japan have to fly a minimum of three

hundred and seventy-five miles, to get to the  
battlefront, ~~when~~ fighter planes ~~are~~ normally <sup>are</sup> supposed  
to be based much closer than that. ~~There is~~ Bad weather,  
too - the rainy season in Korea. Which means that the  
fighters have to fly low, staying in sight of the  
ground - instead of winging at high altitude. (If they  
flew up high they'd be in danger of hitting Korean  
mountains, when they came down through the overcast, to  
find their targets. The result of the low flying is  
to increase the distance to the fighting front. <sup>So,</sup> instead  
of going in a beeline, they have to take more of a  
zigzag course) - ~~which~~ <sup>And that</sup> increases the distance to about  
five hundred miles. ~~which~~ <sup>all of which</sup> is the heaviest kind of  
handicap to a fighter plane, - ~~though they~~ will be  
lessened, as air bases are established in southern  
Korea.

~~I was told that,~~ Actually, the jet fighters  
are showing themselves to be better than the  
conventional propeller plane <sup>- even</sup> for hitting the enemy  
on the ground. They are better for accurate shooting,

JET.....4

because they don't have the "torc" that is caused by the regular gas engine - a tendency to swing over. Moreover, they have better visibility. <sup>TP</sup> Even in spite of the handicap of bad weather, clouds and rain, they've been striking a series of destructive blows.

Today, for example, the Air Force in Washington had its first detailed and confirmed account of the effect of jet plane attacks. In one strike, a group of F80s assailed a R<sub>o</sub>d concentration of tanks and trucks, to the south of Suwon. The F-80s flashed in with rocket fire, destroyed eight tanks, and left a string of trucks on fire.

This is vivid illustration of a thing told me by Colonel Philip Cochran - famed for Burma jungle invasion in the Second World War. ~~Philip~~ <sup>now</sup> Cochran is at Kelly Field, ~~right now~~ San Antonio, Texas - where he has been studying the gunnery of the jet planes. He <sup>says</sup> ~~told me~~ that the jet pilots <sup>have</sup> outscored the shooting <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>airmen in the</sup> records of F-51s, the propeller type. <sup>TP</sup> So, are the jets

JET.....5

too fast? Well, they check speed down <sup>their</sup> to a hundred and  
fifty mile<sup>s</sup> an hour <sup>in</sup> shooting up targets. ~~The~~ Jets

too fast? "Pure and utter nonsense," says <sup>our top</sup> Air Force  
~~experts,~~  
~~headquarters in Washington.~~

## PERSONALITIES FOLLOW JET

All of which leads on to <sup>more word about jet</sup> ~~a tune of jet plane~~ reconnaissance, - in ~~the news from~~ Korea. The commander of American Naval Air out there is Rear Admiral John Hoskins, and the panther jets, making their first attack, were led by Commander Harvey Lanham of Temple City, California. Which takes me back to <sup>a recent</sup> ~~my own first~~ look <sup>I had</sup> at jet aviation.

It happened at the San Diego Naval Base, on ~~our trip to~~ the West Coast, <sup>this</sup> ~~in the~~ spring. One night <sup>I</sup> gave this program in collaboration with a hundred-<sup>of our</sup> and-thirty admirals - the largest number <sup>of admirals</sup> ever assembled <sup>in all history,</sup> at one place, I am told. Most of them were retired, living at Coronado Beach; but a number were in active service - most active. One - that same Admiral <sup>Johnny</sup> Hoskins, now in command of the Naval jets against the Korean Reds. <sup>One of</sup> Perhaps the most picturesque figures <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ Navy, Admiral <sup>Johnny</sup> Hoskins follows old-time nautical tradition by having - only one leg. Page Long John Silver of Treasure Island.

He lost a leg in the Second World War - in the

PERSONALITIES FOLLOW JET....2

sinking of the aircraft carrier Princeton. In the wild and fury of sea and air battle, he was hit and badly

injured. <sup>But</sup> Admiral Hoskins survived - to play a number-

one part in this latest outbreak of war - <sup>striding</sup> ~~about~~ on decks - on one leg. A rare chap he is!

At San Diego we went to see the jet planes

training for carrier landings - roaring <sup>from</sup> ~~into~~ the great

Naval base, and coming down with neat accuracy on the

<sup>limited</sup> space of a carrier deck. On that trip we were taken <sup>around</sup> by

Commander Harvey Lanham - who now has led the strike of

the panther jets. <sup>P</sup> I found it fascinating to study the

jet pilots, that new race of war flyers. Harvey Lanham

~~was~~ a fine example of ~~those~~ young airmen, dazzling ~~figure~~

figures of speed. <sup>P</sup> And now - <sup>are across the Pacific</sup> they ~~are~~ flashing that

speed in the war-skies of Korea.

## BRITAIN

There was a lot of secrecy in London today - secrecy that might have a meaning. Last night in Moscow Sir David Kelley conferred with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Gromyko. The conversation we are told was held - "on the basis of a previous British approach." Well, that "previous British approach" was a proposal <sup>that</sup> Soviet Russia cooperate in a solution of the Korean conflict.

Tonight's dispatch from London states: "The foreign office spokesman refused to say whether last night's interview in Moscow had proved helpful. He also declined to say whether it had produced new elements, or left the situation unchanged. And, " the disptach goes on, "he would not say whether a fresh approach to the Russians is envisaged."

There was a lot he wouldn't say, that unspeaking spokesman - and the secrecy can only encourage the guess that Great Britain may be working behind the scenes to bring about a Korean settlement. It wouldn't be surprising if various countries were

**BRITAIN.....2**

thinking of some sort of compromise - surmising that  
Moscow might be willing to make a bargain.



## ATOMIC

President Truman asked Congress today to put up two hundred and sixty million dollars - for hydrogen superbombs. The money - to go into plants for the manufacture of tritium, that form of heavy hydrogen which would be the main explosive in the H-bomb.

The belief in Washington is that the President's request indicates that atomic scientists, after a lot of experiment and research, are now reasonably sure that the hydrogen super-bomb will work.

## TIBET

Trouble in this world - trouble out of this world. That would seem the right comment on news today about - Tibet. We hear that the Reds have penetrated into the realm of Shangri-La, that land which certainly seems to be - out of this world.

The tidings are strange - as you'd expect in the realm of the Dalai Lama. (The Chinese Reds claim that they have established commissars in Tibetan monasteries, especially Sakya Lamasary, which is not far from Lhasa, capital of the roof-of-the-world. Now, Sakya is a number one center of - the Red hats. Which explains a great deal.

Tibet is dominated by monastries, and the monks are of two kinds - distinguished by the kind of headgear they wear, yellow hats and red hats. The red hats are the <sup>far</sup> older sect, the yellow hats dating back only to the Thirteenth Century - when they were established by a great religious reform. They've run the country ever since - the red hats <sup>a dwindling</sup> ~~an~~ element of

opposition down through the centuries.

So now the Chinese Reds declare that they have been negotiating with the abbots of Sakya, the great monastery of the red hats, and have sent Communist representatives - who have received a cordial welcome. They claim that Communism is being spread - with aid from the red hat abbots, who ~~are~~ <sup>right now are said to be</sup> indoctrinating the people with the theories of Marx, Lenin and Stalin. A strange combination, Buddhist abbots and the ideologies of Communism. But the Chinese Reds appear to believe that they can rally the red hats against the Dalai Lama and his government.

I've been getting some word from the Roof-of-the-World, by way of Tibetans who <sup>recently have</sup> ~~have come out~~ <sup>crossed the Himalayas to the India frontier;</sup> - and they say the Tibetans feel that, since they've been getting no aid whatever from the west, the only thing they can do is to negotiate with the Chinese Communists. As for their own defense, about the only thing they can think of is - shapd<sup>o</sup>n. They ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> devoting much effort and money <sup>to</sup> ~~an~~ - shapd<sup>o</sup>n. Which

TIBET.... 3

means & rituals of prayer, and ceremonies of Buddhism.

They're burning huge fires, with offerings to the

divine powers, <sup>also</sup> ~~and~~ the state oracle is being consulted

constantly - the official monk who goes into a trance,

and utters oracles. All this, as the Chinese

Communists announce that they are lining up the <sup>minority Red</sup> ~~hat~~

hats against the yellow hats.

1/4 And now Joe we do - before  
we put on our hats —