

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

( In the Korea truce talks, anger marks the negotiations on the question of prisoners. Our officers are embittered by the small number of U N captives reported by the Reds.) While the Communists make wrathful charges that they were "duped" in the exchange of lists. They say the U N representatives tricked them by handing over Chinese and Korean names in English writing, without serial numbers, or the units to which the Red prisoners were attached.

Late word from Tokyo. General Ridgway's Headquarters has just finished studying the list, and a special statement will be issued early tomorrow. First comment from G.H.Q. is of "glaring discrepancies."

This refers in particular to names given in the past by Peking radio and not now listed by the Communists. However, it is believed in Tokyo that prisoner exchange negotiations may soon be resumed at Panmunjom.

This, already, has produced an Enoch Arden case in the person of Mrs. Agnes Sasser of Atlanta, Georgia. Her first husband, Sergeant Walter Dixon, was reported "killed in action" and she remarried. Now the name of Walter Dixon appears on the list of prisoners of war.

At the Pentagon, the word is - that they've sent this Enoch Arden case to Supreme Headquarters in Tokyo for investigation.

In Washington, the Army discloses that the list shows twenty American prisoners of war, who had been reported previously as "killed in action."

KOREA - DEAN

The case of General Dean is a puzzler.

The belief is that his name on the list of prisoners  
if probably correct. But there are odd angles.

The General, as we've heard, is on the Red  
list without a serial number - though all the other  
names have numbers, except five.

(Word is that General Dean is being held at  
prison camp number six, near the Red capital of  
Pyongyang. That camp is believed to be reserved for  
more important prisoners, who get special treatment.  
But this is uncertain.)

American officers can't understand why the  
Reds didn't use the capture of so ~~impr~~ important a  
person for propaganda purposes - an American General,  
prisoner-of-war.

All through the truce talks, Communist  
newsmen ~~denied~~ <sup>denied</sup> they knew anything about General Dean.

They seemed to think he was dead. ~~It was only today,~~  
*was correspondent,*  
British Communist, Allen Winnington, of the London Daily  
*today*  
Worker, said that General Dean was captured by the  
Reds toward the end of August, Nineteen Fifty. He  
disappeared - late in July. All of which

~~This~~ ties in with a story told by a Red  
*who is*  
Korean, regarded as "unreliable". ~~He says,~~ *that story was* that

General Dean escaped from the battlefield, and took  
to the hills. Where he wandered around for a month -  
until hunger forced him to go to a village for food.  
There the Communists ~~pick~~ picked him up.

(All part of a puzzle - that still surrounds  
the General who disappeared in such heroic action that  
he has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

## KOREA- CHRISTMAS

The Army announces that the soldiers in Korea will have the biggest Christmas dinner that troops at a warfront have ever had. Today, General Van Fleet issued a special order to his Field Commanders - telling them to be sure that every G.I. gets a full menu. (Which menu reads as follows - shrimp cocktail, tomato juice, celery, olives, a huge portion of turkey, cranberry sauce, corn, rolls and butter, mince pie, pumpkin pie, fruit, nuts *and* a large cup of coffee - *not* a demi tasse. Sounds ~~xxxxxxx~~ like the Ritz-Waldorf - but there's more, still more Christmas Cheer.)

The Communists are sending Yuletide presents to the Americans - holiday gifts across the fighting line. Christmas stockings made of cheesecloth, and filled with imitation ivory cigarette holders, muslin handkerchiefs, Christmas cards, and pamphlets. Everything including the cigarette holders and handkerchiefs, is blazoned with Red propaganda. Including appeals urging American soldiers to surrender. Which gives the G. I.'s a laugh.

These "Christmas presents" are brought in by

Korean peasants, shanghaied and frightened. At one point, the G. I.'s had their loudest laugh when a Korean farmer told his story.

He said he was grabbed by Red soldiers, who took him before a couple of Chinese officers. They told him that he had been "honorably selected." The "honor" was that he would carry a load of gifts across the fighting line to the Americans.

The Korean replied politely that the "honor" was too great for a simple humble farmer. But the Reds insisted that he deserved it. He objected - that, going to the American battle position, he stood a good chance of being shot. They told him - No, Americans wouldn't shoot him, not on Christmas.

So, the next thing you know, G. I.'s on duty saw the unhappy Korean farmer toiling up a hill, with a huge sack of Christmas presents on his back and waving an enormous white flag of truce.

They let him in, <sup>were much</sup> ~~were~~ amused by his story, and then turned him loose-and off he went, scurrying as fast <sup>he could.</sup>

## LIBYA

( A new nation will be born this Christmas Eve - the Kingdom of Libya. London announces that the former Italian Colony will be granted full sovereignty on December Twenty-Fourth. )

Under the peace treaty with Italy, and by decision of the United Nations, that North African land, right next door to Egypt, has been prepared gradually for independence. In the past half dozen years, authority has been transferred, bit by bit, to Emir Sayed Mohammed El Senussi. So now he becomes a full-fledged sovereign. Later on, the new monarchy will stage a royal ceremony, the coronation of the Emir as - King of Libya.

## STEEL

A late report from Washington - no progress in negotiations to avert a steel strike called for New Years Day. Federal mediator Cyrus Ching says the Union stands pat in its wage demand, and the steel industry does the same in its contention - that it cannot grant the pay hike unless permitted to boost the price of steel. Which the government says it will not allow - price regulation to remain as is.

## MYSTERY WITNESS

Today, in Washington, the "mystery witness" appeared before the Congressional Committee - and what a witness he turned out to be.

He is Henry Gruenwald, called the "Dutchman" who figures in that famous Teitelbaum story of an attempted half a million dollar shakedown.

A whole series of names were mentioned, including those of top government officials connected with income tax. Gruenwald, the Dutchman, appeared mysteriously in the testimony.

Today Gruenwald was questioned - but the Dutchman did not answer. Not that he refused on Constitutional grounds. He didn't say anything, not a word. They asked him this and that, but he remained silent as if stricken dumb. A committee member says - he didn't even let out a grunt.

It was exactly the same at a news conference when Gruenwald emerged, the reporters besieged him with questions. But the Dutchman didn't utter a sound. One of the reporters asked him ~~to~~ at least to say - "hello". But, not a peep.

Which certainly deepened the mystery ( but we can make one surmise. In the testimony about Gruenwald, repeated mention was made of his deep guttural voice, with a heavy German accent - the Dutchman. So maybe that was why he refused to say one word today, because even a syllable might have given him away, his German accent. Instead of saying "yes" he'd have growled "ja". )

# WEATHER

Albany, New York reports - nineteen below an all-time record for December Twenty-~~Sixth~~<sup>F</sup>. The cold wave and blizzard has hit the East, with bitter temperatures and heavy snow. (Upper New York State reports below-zero figures all over the place, with Albany taking the icy cake.

Its previous record - seventeen below. Now exceeded - the mercury today being Nineteen notches below the ~~goose-egg~~ zero.)

And more is coming. The middlewest reporting new blizzards, heading East. In Montana, twenty-seven ~~in degrees~~ below zero at Lewiston. Ten inches of snow covering a whole series of states.

One town isolated by <sup>12 foot drifts;</sup> ~~drifts of twelve to sixty~~ mountains of snow -- food flown in by plane.

## PLANE FOLLOW WEATHER

An airliner, flying from Chicago to Newark, New Jersey, with fifty persons aboard - got lost in the snowstorm today. Radio trouble, and the pilot couldn't tell north from South, East from West, and his fuel was running low.

It had all the makings of an airline tragedy - but, suddenly, through a break in the clouds the pilot saw -- shoreline. He had strayed over Lake Ontario. Did he look for a flying field? He did not. The snow along that lake shore was deep and soft. So he left his wheels up, and made a belly landing - like descending into a soft blanket. Everybody safe - ~~but~~ <sup>un</sup> ~~they~~ ~~found~~ ~~themselves~~ ~~in~~ ~~Canada~~.  
and they found themselves in Canada.

## GLIDER

In California today, an air search was on for a Swedish glider pilot, who has been missing since Tuesday. Erik Oevgaard came to this country hoping to set an altitude record for gliders - by riding the "Sierra wave." Those far famed mountains are noted for tremendous up-drafts of air, which can take a glider to great heights. The wind comes blowing in from the Pacific, sweeps to the foot of the mountains, and up it goes, rushing over the top of the high Sierra. (Riding this, the Swedish glider pilot hoped to climb to thirty-four thousand feet - breaking all ~~xxx~~ records.)

So he took off on the "Sierra wave", and vanished in the lofty distance. The fear is that he was caught in a thunderhead - one of the storm clouds

that <sup>at times can be</sup> ~~are~~ dangerous in the California mountains. For that matter a thunderhead, with its raging violence of wind could easily destroy a glider - or a light plane.

## LINCOLN

At a Presbyterian Church in Washington, they're placing a document on display, an original draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, in Lincoln's own handwriting. He attended the New York Avenue Church, and the Pastor, Dr. Phineas Curley, advised him in preparing the document that announced the freedom of the slaves.

So now they <sup>are</sup> recall <sup>ing</sup> Abraham Lincoln as a church-goer-and there's one anecdote with an angle of Southern sympathizers in Washington. Sounds familiar, with all these Confederate flags around nowadays.

The story is that Lincoln's two boys, Willie and Tad, preferred to go to another church, the Fourth Presbyterian. The President asked them why, and Willie replied:

"Dad", we have more fun at the Fourth. We like to see the 'Secessionists' get up and march out, when the Minister prays for the President of the United States."

Yes, it does sound familiar.

## JOKE

A lawsuit was filed at Tulsa, Oklahoma, today, with a domino player claiming damages - because of a joke. Well, many of us like dominos<sup>e</sup> - and who doesn't enjoy a good laugh? But you can form your own opinion about the right~~s~~ and wrong in the case.

Ennis Williams likes a hot game of dominos<sup>e</sup>. So when he was invited to play, he accepted willingly, and sat down! - on the floor! Same old practical joke, and you'd think it would be extinct by now. But the domino player says that, as he sat down - George Wilson yanked the chair out from under him.

Everybody had a laugh - except the victim. The joke was the funnier, because Ennis Williams weighs two hundred and sixty-five pounds - which made the damage the greater. He landed with an earth-shaking - bump.

So now he has entered suit for eighty-seven thousand dollars, that much for pain, medical fees, and loss of earnings. Not counting - the damage to the floor, Nelson!