

PALESTINE

L.T. - Deleo. Fri. Apr. 6 - '56.

The news from Palestine, tonight - all quiet on the Gaza front. After a new outbreak of battle, today - following a thunder of hostilities yesterday. *the*

~~That~~ artillery duel ^{*that*} ~~of yesterday~~ ended - in compliance with the cease-fire order from Major General Burns, Chief of the U.N. Armistice Commission out there. He said - stop it. And they did.

But the cease-fire didn't last long - and, soon, the guns were thundering again along the Gaza Strip. Beginning - this morning. The artillery duel continuing for more than an hour. Then - another cease-fire. With the U.N. truce observers hurrying to the front lines - hoping to make it stick, this time.

Each side blames the other, with U.N. headquarters - taking a middle view. Saying it felt - both sides responsible.

The loss of life - heavy - in that Gaza Strip, which is crowded with Arab refugees. Sixty-seven civilians killed - on the Moslem side. One hundred and eight civilians and

soldiers - injured. The U.N. says - an Israeli shell made a direct hit on a hospital. Nine Arab women - killed. Egypt claims - two hospitals were destroyed - by Israeli gunfire.

The losses on the Israeli side were light - three dead, six wounded. A spokesman explaining - that the Jewish settlers along the border took refuge in shelters, When the alarm - sounded. So they were immune, mostly - from the shell-fire.

Tonight - all quiet on the Gaza & front. But the tension is - extreme. The Egyptian government - refusing to let newsmen in that area. Because of the fury - among the refugees.

Egypt claims - that Israel is trying to provoke a war. Israelis told U.N. officials - their guns would shoot back, whenever the Egyptians fired first.

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary Dag Hammarskjold is on his way to the perilous region - hoping to mediate. ~~In Washington,~~

When he left New York this afternoon, there was a "bomb search" of the British Airliner. Four detectives looked high and low for possible hidden explosives. Police officials say the "bomb search" was only routine "for a flight of this nature." Just a normal precaution - when a person of such importance goes on such a mission.

PALESTINE - 4

In Washington today, President Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles - had an urgent conference. Deliberating on measures to avert - the increasing peril of an all-out Israel-Arab war.

Algeria.

But the battle, in a way, is of secondary importance, compared with the story - of Henri Francois Maillet. An officer-candidate - scheduled for promotion to Second Lieutenant.

Maillet was in command of a truck loaded with weapons and munitions - part of a convoy of armaments, bound for the French Army in the desert. The convoy - rolling out of the city of Algiers. Everything okay. Until - they made a stop for lunch.

The other trucks halted, and Officer-Candidate

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Maillet told his driver - to keep going. Saying - they'd have
more further on.

ALGERIA

French troops in Algeria - were fighting a running battle against insurgents in mountain country. The action, starting yesterday, continuing through the night - and then more shooting today. The French - pursuing ^{a part} ~~the powerful force~~ of the "army of Allah", in the rugged hills of ~~the~~ eastern Algeria.

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So they continued their way - until they reached a patch of woods. Whereupon, the French officer-candidate drew his pistol, and held up the driver. Chloroforming him, leaving him by the roadside, and making off with the truck-load of weapons and ammunition.

Today, the Algerian rebels put out a leaflet, bragging about this incident. Saying that, in the truck, they had procured - one hundred and twenty submachine guns, four thousand rounds of ammunition, not counting stacks of rifles, pistols, and so on. All - handed over to them by *Henri Francois* Officer-Candidate, *Mailott*.

So, who is *Henri Francois?* ~~Mailott?~~ That's what raises the uproar.

A French Communist - known to have been a writer of a Communist-line journal, supporting the Algerian rebels. The officers of his outfit - aware of his Red inclinations. Nevertheless, the Communist-line writer was recommended for promotion to Lieutenant, and placed in charge of a truck-load of armament.

RUSSIA

In London, the word - that Serov will not accompany Bulganin and Khrushchev, when they visit Britain. Which follows the uproarious reception the British gave the head of the Russian Secret Police - when he was in Britain last month. Making security preparations - for the Bulganin-Khrushchev arrival. Serov - denounced as a thug and a murderer.

The schedule had been - for him to act as chief bodyguard for Bulganin and Khrushchev, during their visit. Which was quite a logical assignment - from the Soviet view.

Today, the Foreign Office in London made public the names of people, who will accompany the Soviet Premier and the head of the Russian Communist Party. A large delegation - but no Serov. His name - conspicuously missing. The chief bodyguard for the two Soviet leaders will be - General Zakharov. Who acted in that capacity, last year - at the "summit" conference in Geneva.

No doubt, the Russian Communists are puzzled - by the

reactions of the British, who gave a cordial welcome - to Malenkov. The former Kremlin Premier - now Minister of Electrical Power. If so friendly to Malenkov - why so hostile to Serov? Probably, the Kremlin people don't understand the way the West regards the Red Secret Police - that odious instrument of tyranny and murder. First, the Cheka. Then the OGPU - followed by the N.K.V.D. Now - ~~Internal~~ Internal Security Forces. ^{A succession} ~~With a repeated alteration~~ of infamous names.

(To the British, a Minister of Electrical Power is one thing. Head of the Secret Police - quite another. Which, apparently, Messrs. Bulganin and Khrushchev - did not understand. However, the hostile reception that Serov got enlightened them - and they scratched his name from the list.)

FARM

A Joint Congressional Committee has okayed - the Farm Bill, which they've shaped up. A catch-all measure - with a whole series of provisos for boosting farm prices.

On top of the list - rigid price supports, with ninety per cent of parity to be continued - for one year. The Eisenhower administration - advocating flexible supports. So what would President Eisenhower do - about his temporary rigid support, for one year?

The bill incorporates his own "soil bank" program. But that, we hear, would come too late in the agricultural year - to benefit the farmers, immediately.

(The bill okayed by the Joint Committee - will now go to the Senate and the House. Where, likely enough - it will be passed. Then - to the President - to veto or not to veto. Previous, he had criticized the bill in scathing terms - if it included rigid supports. Day before yesterday, though - his tone was milder.)

At Albany, today, Democratic Governor Harriman signed a Republican bill for a cut - in state income taxes. Doing so - reluctantly. Saying - that, under the circumstances, it was either the Republican bill or nothing. Which ends a long, angry deadlock on the tax question.

Earlier in the year, Governor Harriman presented a Democratic plan for a tax reduction. Which, however, the Republican legislature blocked - and passed a tax bill of their own. Governor Harriman countered - with a veto. Then the political pot was boiling - with charge and counter-charge.

Following the veto, the legislature got ready with another G.O.P. tax-cut. Sending it along to the Governor, and many thought - he'd veto this one too. But - no. Today, he signed it.

The Republicans are hailing this as a victory. The Governor explaining - if he didn't sign, the taxpayers would get no relief at all this year.

(~~Under the new bill, they can deduct fifteen per cent~~)

STEVENSON

Down in Florida, Adlai Stevenson is - getting "tough". Campaigning against Kefauver, he's taking verbal swings at his rival for the Democratic presidential nomination. Although Stevenson had previously hoped - there wouldn't be any noisy exchange of personal attacks. However, the result of the Minnesota primary dispelled - that fair ideal. So now it's -- biff-biff, and slam-bang.

At Jacksonville, today, Stevenson accused the Senator of campaigning so hard for the presidential nomination - that he ^{neglects} ~~neglects~~ his duties in the Senate. He named a whole series of important votes - Kefauver absent, ~~A~~ away from the Senate, at critical moments - because he was out campaigning.

And Adlai gave an explanation of why the top leaders of the Democratic Party fail to support Kefauver, frowning on him. Stevenson said - it's because the Senator wants the presidency "too badly." Much too eager. The logic of which would seem to be - if the little boy is too greedy for the stick of candy, don't give it to him.

Getting down to real ~~press~~ personalities, Stevenson charged - that Kefauver is running a sort of personal vendetta against him. Putting it in these words: "He shares the Republican enthusiasm for my political extinction."

(In addition to getting "tough", Adlai took up a topic - which may count for a lot more, in Florida. The issue of - segregation.

Kefauver, campaigning in Florida, has come out flatly - against racial segregation. Which might seem - not the best way to catch votes in the South.

Stevenson, today, took a middle course. Against racial segregation, but with due concern for sentiment in the South. If that burning question should cause a breach between the North and South, it would be what Stevenson called - "a national disaster in the present state of the world."

All of which makes the Stevenson-Kefauver brawl, in Florida, highly interesting.)

HEALTH

Tomorrow is - World Health Day. Sponsored by a branch of the U.N. - the World Health Organization. Which wages a battle against the many strange diseases - in wild, remote parts of this earth. ~~So~~ I ~~do~~ hope they'll be able to whip that evil fellow called - Bill Harris.

I first heard about that villain while making a trip around the globe - in connection with our Cinerama quest for the Seven Wonders of the World. Flying to Egypt, I met a ^{bearded gentleman} ~~biologist~~ who told me he was bound for Africa, ^{to hunt} ~~to study~~ snails.

His accent was extremely British - and professorial. So I made a tape recording of a conversation with him. Used later - on this program. About snails - and Bill Harris.

A kind of tropical snail, which spreads - an insidious malady of the tropics. Bilharziasis! Which the British soldiers, out there, call, more simply -

-Bill Harris.

It sounded rather funny to me, and the recorded interview made - some light material for this broadcast.

When I got back, I received a letter from Professor Ernest Carroll Faust of Tulane University, Louisiana. Who told me what a dangerous villain Bill Harris is. "Next to malaria," wrote the Professor, "this infection is the most serious and most widespread of all present day diseases in warm climates."

So now, on World Health Day, let's hope they get after the snails - and give Bill Harris a beating.

HORSE

~~Here's a story with a choice assortment of names -~~
Yale, Harvard, and Elijah, out in Colorado, ~~twice~~
~~week, an airplane flies out - between Yale and Harvard~~
~~And drops food for Elijah. In the Bible, the Prophet~~
~~was fed by ravens in the wilderness. But, in Colorado~~
~~it's hay for Elijah.~~

Recently, Wallace Powell was flying in mountain country, the section between two lofty peaks, Mt. Yale and Mt. Harvard. When he spotted - a horse. Trapped, obviously - by the great snows.

Back at his base in Gunnison, he told his boss - Gordon Warren, operator of the Western State Aviation Service. Who, in turn, mentioned the matter to Mayor Ben Jorgenson of Gunnison.

The trapped horse, of course, would perish - unless provided with hay. So Mayor Jorgenson, a seventy-three year old retired business man, ordered