

LEAD

L.T. - P & G Tuesday, May 29, 1951.

Word just in from Fairbanks - Alaska.

Captain Charles Blair of Pan American World Airways has landed in Alaska - after flying over the top of the world. Completing<sup>a</sup> solo three-thousand-four-hundred mile flight over the Pole. In his fighter plane, in ten hours and a half, Blair flew across the Polar Sea without any of the usual navigational ~~aids~~ aids. The sun doesn't set in the Arctic at this time of year, so Blair used only a sextant - taking bearings on the sun - and of course his watch. Flying by dead reckoning.

## POLAR FLIGHT

( This is the first across-the-North-Pole mail flight. The Pan-American pilot, Charles Blair, took off from Tromso, Norway.) Blair is the veteran pilot of Pan-American, who, last January, set a non-stop record, New York to London, in seven hours and forty-eight minutes. He did it in a single-engine Mustang Fighter; and he took off in that same plane today -- carrying a cargo of three thousand letters.

Tromso is in northern Norway, near the Arctic circle -- and a glance at a globe ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ will show that the route to Alaska had to be right across the pole. Flights to and across the pinnacle of this earth are an old story now -- but this is the first <sup>mail</sup> flight.

( The plan<sup>a</sup> is for the cargo of letters to be auctioned off in New York -- for the benefit of the Damon Runyon Cancer Fund.)

## HONGKONG -- PLANES

The State Department holds that the U.N. embargo would apply to the transfer of forty American-built planes to Red China. Aircraft - now at Hongkong, the subject of a long dispute. They were owned by a Chinese Nationalist airline run by General Claire Chennault, of Flying Tiger fame. The Chinese Reds laid claim to them, saying they were the legal owners -- and they were upheld recently by a British Court at Hongkong. This Chennault is still protesting, saying he will appeal the case to higher courts, even to the Privy Council of London.

All this was taken up by Senator Cane of Washington, who wrote to Secretary of State Dean Acheson demanding that steps be taken to prevent the forty planes from being sent to the Reds. The announcement was made this afternoon by State Department Michael McDermott, who declared the belief that the U.N. embargo against sending war materials to Red China would apply to the planes, these being of military value.



PLANE LOSSES

( General Vandenberg, in his testimony today, acknowledged that the United Nations have lost more planes in Korea than the Reds. ) Republican Senator ~~William~~ Knowland of California asked the Air Force Chief of Staff if he could verify Allied losses given by Lieutenant General Weyland, the U.S. Far Eastern Air Force Commander who succeeded General Stratemeyer. These figures were given last week in Tokyo as two hundred and twelve Allied planes down, compared with a hundred and forty-nine Communist. General Vandenberg put his reply in these words: "If General Weyland gave it, he would be in a position to know." <sup>R</sup> The General then went on to explain that it was "very easy" to give the reason for these losses. ("Our air power is assisting ground line troops," going into the face of very heavy ground flak, small arms fire - operating from tree-top level, where almost a hand-grenade can bring them down. On the other hand, the enemy is <sup>only</sup> operating between five and ten miles south of the Yalu, and has no connection with <sup>the</sup> ~~our~~ ground forces. )



HOYT VANDENBERG

Before the Senate Investigating Committee today, General Hoyt Vandenberg, Chief of the Air, ~~Staff~~, testified that Russia is building a long range air force, and warned that the United States <sup>as he put it, is</sup> ~~is~~ "not going all-out by a long shot" to match this Soviet threat. The General said that weaknesses in the present defense program raise a serious question of whether "time is on our side." The Air Force Chief said that the current mobilization program is thirty per cent guns - seventy per cent butter.

KOREA

In Korea today, bitter hand-to-hand fighting broke out at two points on the east central front. Front line reports all point to increasing enemy resistance by both Chinese and North Koreans, and our flyers sent back word today of long lines of enemy trucks streaming south with supplies of men and ammunition.

In only one sector, the east coast, were there any <sup>important</sup> ~~special~~ Allied gains today. There ~~was~~ South Koreans drove a spearhead twenty-six miles above the Thirty-eighth Parallel, capturing the road junction ~~of [unclear]~~. Indications are that this may be the last easy gain of the recent whirlwind U.N. offensive, which has regained all ground lost to the enemy in their two Spring offensives. ~~One story of the increasing enemy resistance came from an officer on the central front. He said the Reds were waiting for U.N. troops to close with them and "dig them out hand-to-hand. And they have plenty of good mortar support.~~

~~In another jet battle near the Yalu today, four Sabre~~

## KOREA - PRISONERS

The way prisoners are being taken at the battlefield is illustrated by the story of - the Voice. That's the appropriate name of a talking airplane - which, today, captured eighteen hundred Reds.

The Voice is a propaganda job, equipped with a loud speaker, and a crew of broadcasters, Korean and Chinese. ~~and~~ <sup>it</sup> today was flying over a sector where a lot of enemy soldiers had been trapped. ~~So~~ The pilot, Captain Robert Davis, of San Antonio, Texas, put his broadcasters to work, and the message boomed through the loud speaker, and echoed among the hills.

"We don't want to kill you," shouted the Voice from the Sky. "So lay down your arms and come out in the open roads and valleys. The United Nations will not harm you. They will give you rice."

Probably the magic word was - rice. Anyway, streams of Reds poured out of the hills and thickets, and surrendered wholesale. The count - more than eighteen hundred.



KOREA - SHAKE-UP

There's a shake-up in the U.S. Air Command over there.

Today the two top commanders were replaced - and it was revealed that a general, commanding a bomber wing, has been replaced and sent back to the United States, because of inefficiency.

Until now, our air commander in the Korean War has been Lieutenant General George Stratemyer, who held that post all through the MacArthur regime. But nine days ago, General Stratemyer suffered a heart attack, and is ill in an air force hospital at Tokyo. So his place is taken by Lieutenant General Otto Weyland, who arrived in Japan today, and assumed the charge of air operations under Supreme Commander General Matthew Ridgway. <sup>Also Gen.</sup> Stratemyer's tactical commander in Korea, Lieutenant General Earle Partridge, succeeded by Major General Frank Everest.

~~One of the last official acts of General Partridge was to remove the commander of the Four Hundred and Fifty-second Bomb Wing, General Luther Sweetser. General Sweetser, in the words of the statement - "was unable to~~

## ITALIAN ELECTIONS

The latest count in the Italian Elections develops a picture of a heavy Red defeat. The battle of ballots was in the big industrial cities of North Italy, industrial areas where the Reds are the strongest. One-third of the vote was in when tonight's dispatch from Rome was filed, and the figures show the following.

In twenty-eight cities holding elections, the Anti-Communists, headed by the Christian Democratic Party, are leading in -- twenty. Three are in doubt. The Communists ahead in -- only five. Before the election they controlled seventeen of the twenty-eight cities.

Genoa throws out a Communist mayor. Milan overturns a strong Red majority in the City Council. The same story in Venice, Verona, Ravenna, Padua -- famous historical names. In only one big center are the Communists ahead -- Bologna, *with its ancient univ.,* ~~city of sausages,~~ long a Red stronghold.

The heavy Red defeat appears to be explained by the -- turn-out. The Communists had depended upon the apathy of the non-Communist voters -- but the figures

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show that more than ninety-one percent of those eligible to cast ballots went to the polls.



## BRITAIN

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In London today, the House of Commons held its first meeting since the Whitsun recess. The first speaker was Britain's Foreign Secretary Herbert Morrison, who admitted that the nationalization of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company is inevitable. "While His Majesty's government cannot accept the right of the Iranian Government to repudiate contracts, they are prepared to consider a settlement which would involve some form of nationalization," was how he put it.

( The Foreign Secretary then went on to praise the United States for the attitude ~~that~~ it had taken in the dispute. "His Majesty's Government notes with particular satisfaction that the United States has spoken publicly against the 'unilateral cancellation of contractual relationships and actions of a confiscatory nature.'")

As usual, in a time of crisis, the Conservative opposition stood with the Government. Mr. Churchill, who spoke after Mr. Morrison, said: "May I assure the Foreign Secretary that in steps he has just indicated, he will receive the full support of His Majesty's opposition."

TRUMAN

The President is afloat tonight. Mr.

Truman sailed today for a five day rest cruise aboard his presidential Yacht the Williamsburg. There Mr. Truman will be spared the usual routine of conferences and official callers at the White House. He will be kept in constant touch with ~~his~~ his office by radio telephone. Also, by a Navy courier plane which will fly to the Williamsburg each morning with the latest newspapers and confidential dispatches from the White House, ~~and~~ Radio correspondents and

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photographers whose beat is normally the White House  
*(sort of a) That is*  
are getting a vacation. They have chartered a

private yacht, the Vagabondia Third, and ~~the~~ <sup>one</sup> following  
the Williamsburg. ~~on its cruise as with a morning~~ *which they expect to overtake*

*they can have a*  
press conference aboard the President's yacht each morning.

## PRICES

In New York today, word was, it looked like Christmas. The scene, shopping pandemonium, in Manhattan's two giant department stores Macy's and Gimbles. Time after time today, the two big stores vied with each other as they slashed prices on thousands of items. One salesman at Gimbel's besieged by hounding buyers said: "Whatever you saw it for in Macy's you can have it for here."

So it seems war is on in New York -- an old-fashioned price war, that is.



## MOUNTAIN

10  
Here's a headline for mountaineers - Mount Hess has been conquered. Which won't mean so much to those of us who stick to the flat lands - but the tall peak in Alaska had never been climbed before. With an altitude of thirteen ~~thousand~~ thousand, two hundred feet, Mount Hess is called - the Alaskan Matterhorn. Rivaling that famous Alpine summit - for steep and rugged perils.

Four previous expeditions made the attempt, but failed. Now the triumph has been achieved by five students of the University of Alaska. They reached the topmost pinnacle last week, but the news arrives only now - getting out in peculiar fashion.

Mount Hess is in wild, remote country, one hundred miles south of Fairbanks - and the President of the University of Alaska, Dr. Terris Moore, <sup>himself one of the top mountaineers,</sup> was flying that way - winging along over the foothills of the mountain, looking for some sign of the five students. <sup>President Terris Moore flies his own plane.</sup> Then he spotted a message written in the snow of a glacier, just two words. "Got Hess,"

the message said. The prexy's plane was equipped with <sup>skis,</sup> ~~skis,~~ and he swooped down for a landing on the glacier. There the five students told him their story. <sup>P</sup> They said they left their base camp last Thursday morning, in the black of night, one forty-five A.M., and climbed for eighteen hours - reaching the summit of Hess at eight~~y~~ fifteen in the evening. They had narrow escapes from crevasses and avalanches, but the way up was easy - compared with the way down. <sup>P</sup> At the seven thousand foot level a storm hit them, an Alaskan gale so violent, they had to stay right there for two and a half days<sup>s</sup> - camping and huddling for shelter. But they finally made their way safely to the foot of the mountain, where ~~at~~ the <sup>in Univ.</sup> ~~college~~ president found them. <sup>and</sup> Today he flew out - with the <sup>in</sup> story of the conquest of Mount Hess, the Alaskan Matterhorn.

## YARD

The Canadian House of Commons has changed the length of the Canadian yard. No, not the back yard - it's the measure of length amounting to three feet. The Canadian yard has been shortened, although you'd never notice it - buying cloth or measuring a hundred yard dash. One two-millionth ~~shorter~~ shorter - which makes it different from both the American and the British yard.

I don't know why they did it - but it has something to do with scientists and their hair-splitting measurements. Or maybe, it's to reaffirm Canada's relation to Britain on one side, the United States on the other. The British and American yards are different - the American about one one-millionth shorter. So now the Canadian yard is in the middle, halfway between the British and American. Which might seem to symbolize the character of Canada - member of the British Commonwealth, but so like the U.S.A. in many ways. That's getting it down to a fine point, Nelson! One ~~2~~ two-millionth shorter.