

STORM Post news, Van. 16 - '51.

A wild winter gale is tonight sweeping the Pacific northwest - from British Columbia to Southern Oregon. At last word the big blow was centered off Vancouver Island -- moving southeast.

In blinding snow a ~~xx~~ Seattle-bound Northwest Airlines plane crashed this afternoon near Spokane, killing all ten persons aboard -- the first casualty of the storm. Tonight's tempest is described as the worst in fifteen years, with rooftops torn off buildings in Victoria, Greenhouses smashed, power pylons uprooted.

CEASE FIRE

It may be that the Chinese Reds are accepting the "cease fire" proposal for ending the war in Korea. This supposition is based entirely on unconfirmed reports from London. Again there may be nothing to it at all. But, it might be a real intimation slipping out.

A late dispatch from London states that Indian Prime Minister Nehru had a sudden, unexpected conference with British Foreign Secretary Bevin this afternoon. Nehru is in London - there to attend the talks held by the members of the British Commonwealth.

The Nehru-Bevin conference this afternoon is a definite fact, though what it was all about is not officially disclosed. But the report is that Nehru gave to Bevin a reply that the government of India has received from Red China -- a reply to the "cease fire" proposals that were put forward last Friday by the U N Committee trying to arrange a truce in Korea.

So what answer does Red China make?

Well, ²
~~Well,~~ we have still other reports - which were
circulated in London earlier today. "Informed sources"
are reported as saying that they understood the
Chinese Reds were ready to agree to a truce. This,
in spite of the ~~fact~~ fact that Soviet Russia last
week, expressed ~~opposition~~ opposition to the "cease fire"
suggestion.

The view was given that Chinese Communists
were willing to make an end of their invasion of Korea
-- in consideration of the offers made in the U N
proposal. These were - the withdrawal of all foreign
troops from Korea, and a consideration of the question
of Formosa. Also - a four-power conference on the
Far East, which would include Red China - together
with United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia.
And - the possibility of Red China being admitted
to the United Nations.

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But all this, as I say, is in the realm
of reports - and at the U N tonight, at Lake Success,

nobody seems to know anything about the Chinese Red
reply, supposed to have been received in London.

~~Moreover,~~ In a ~~late~~ late dispatch from
Washington, Assistant Secretary of State Dean Rusk
~~and John Hickerson~~ ^{is} said to have told a Senate
sub-committee that the United States is convinced that
the Chinese Communists will reject the "cease fire"
offer.

Secretary of State Dean Acheson is reported
to have assured members of Congress privately that
our government is not committed to support any attempt
to give Red China a place in the United Nations.
We hear that Acheson pointed out that we have ~~merely~~
agreed to discuss U N membership, also Formosa.
So we are not pledged - even if a truce is arranged
in Korea, a "cease fire" as intimated in London.

KOREA

(For the second day in Korea, the limited U N offensive - that "reconnaissance in force," rolled forward unopposed, below Seoul. Leading columns this afternoon entered the ancient fortress town of Suwon.

Allied patrol and reconnaissance planes brought back word that the Chinese were falling back all across the west; withdrawing towards Seoul and digging in ten miles south and southeast of the South Korean capital.)

In the Wonju area, U N forces were pulled back a few miles today. This "to prevent flank infiltration ^{and to} ~~from the Soback mountains.~~" Also to straighten out the U N line across the widest part of South Korea.

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There's much confusion in the news from Korea tonight. As a U P correspondent puts it; "Which way are the three hundred thousand Chinese marching?" At Eighth Army Headquarters, the staff is trying to puzzle this out too, piecing together ~~xxx~~ aerial and ground reports from patrols. The answer just ~~xx~~ doesn't seem to add up with the Chinese ^{seemingly} ~~are~~ heading in all directions. Last night there ^{appeared} ~~seemed~~ to be two explanations, but tonight military observers have many more. The most likely of them seems to be that the Chinese will concentrate all their forces in the Central mountain corridor -- that they will pulling back in the West - then hit ^{the} U N forces with a full scale offensive.

ADD KOREA

(The latest. During the night a U N patrol pushed forward south of Seoul but no enemy forces were encountered.) All night long bombing rocket and strafing attacks hammered the Chinese in their new positions north of Suwon.

INDO-CHINA

(In Indo-China today, the Viet Minh rebels threw thousands of fresh troops into the battle for the Red River rice bowl. For the first time in the five year Indo-China war the ^{now} Reds have launched their troops in frontal assault; Up to now it has always been guerrilla warfare, attacks on isolated French outposts.)

A dispatch from Saigon describes enemy casualties as "tremendous" with more than thirty Red battalions in the attack. French ground troops are outnumbered in this -- "the biggest battle of the war". But ^{the French} have superiority in artillery, ⁱⁿ equipment, and in the air. At last word the defenders are holding fast all along the thirty-mile line.

^{TP} ~~from~~ Washington today ^{asked} our Minister to Indo-China ^{to return and} ~~was called home to~~ talk over the military situation -- and ^{whether to send more} ~~further arms~~ aid for the French ⁱⁿ the Far East.

EISENHOWER

In London this morning General Eisenhower had a message of cheer for the countries of the Atlantic Pact. The General told correspondents that he believes he can make his Atlantic Pact army "a power so strong that it will prevent a third World War." He spoke of being greatly cheered by the readiness of European governments, and their citizens, "to meet the onerous requirements of rearmament."

He also was emphatic about isolation being impossible for any free country -- that all of us must stick together in a common alliance against Soviet imperialism," was the way he put it.

After the meeting, General Ike chatted with correspondents he had known during the last war. "This is where I came in" he said, and then added:- "Only its kind of odd to be drafted at my age, when the law talks about eighteen year olds. But I'm glad people still think of me as of draft age!"

He is in Lisbon tonight and tomorrow will meet Portugal's President and military leaders before flying on to Italy.

SPAIN

From Madrid, there's news tonight of Spain's army. The army which Spain could put at General Eisenhower's disposal - if she were included in the Atlantic Pact. General Franco already has twenty-two divisions available. ^{should} If war ^{comes}, that number can be swelled with forty more divisions - giving a total of two-and-a-half ^{million} men under arms.

Word from Madrid is that Spain badly needs arms and equipment, if she is to take part in the defense of Europe. ^{and} Would gladly join in the Atlantic Pact, if asked. So far there ^{has} been no ^{direct} asking ^{for this} except by her neighbor, Portugal. Ever since the Atlantic treaty was signed, Portugal has been urging ^{that Spain be included, it may happen - soon.} ~~this. And now it seems it may soon come.~~ Following ^{recently recorded Spain by} the full diplomatic recognition ~~both from~~ Washington and ~~Great Britain~~ London.

Britain had its first glimpse today of our B-36 atom-bombers when six of the ten-engined planes touched down at Lakenheath airfield in England. They'd flown the five thousand miles from Forth Worth with normal crews of fifteen men - also "make believe atom bombs, a full complement of armament- but no ammunition."

At Fort Worth, Texas, today, a B-36 bomber touched down after a non-stop flight of fifty-one hours and twenty minutes. This without ~~refueling~~ refueling. There's no word of the mileage covered. But the plane may well have established a new distance record for this sort of flight. It's easy to work out that if the plane had been flying at three hundred ~~xxx~~ miles an hour, it would have covered ~~more~~ than fifteen thousand miles - topping the existing world record by more than four thousand miles.

FOREIGN POLICY

Word just in from Washington;-Senate Democratic leaders will seek a formal vote of confidence on the President's plan for sending U.S. Troops to Europe. The Democrats will try and avoid a direct test on Senator Wherry's resolution ^{which would} ~~that~~ forbids transfer of U.S. forces without Congressional approval.

The Democrats plan to side-track the Republican resolution, send it to the Foreign Relations Committee for hearings; Then, draft a new one, which would give full endorsement to the President's announced plans for sending ten divisions to General Eisenhower's army.

WEAPON

From Washington we learn today of a revolutionary anti-aircraft gun, - ^{They call it -} "the most unconventional in nearly a century!" The new gun, so it seems, is still in the experimental stage - under development at the Naval Ordnance laboratory in Maryland. The idea, was taken from the Germans, who were experimenting with a smooth barrel gun. This firing a shell like an arrow - at ~~twenty~~ twice the velocity of present day shells. The Germans never had time to complete their experiments, so ~~in~~ today we have their idea. The new shells fitted with finns like a dart, can be fired with high accuracy -- for at least sixty miles.

"Undoubtedly there are many snags ahead," say the scientists. If these can be ironed out and the new type of gun proves a success, "it may well be the answer to the problem of hitting planes and guided missiles which fly faster than sound."

INFLUENZA

News of the British influenza epidemic becomes alarming -- with medical authorities over there referring back to the deadly sweep of the flu back in Nineteen Eighteen. At that time, the world-wide epidemic took millions of lives.

From the middle of England, around Liverpool, the flu has swept south to London and north into Scotland. And the ~~the~~ epidemic has crossed into Ireland -- spreading through County Cork. From one place after another comes the same sort of news -- thousands of workers ill, slowing down industry, schools closed,, ~~the~~ hospitals overcrowded. *To make matters worse have been* Doctors and nurses *taken* sick, -- ~~to make matters worse.~~

The ~~the~~ flu is accompanied by pneumonia - of which Glasgow reports five hundred cases. In Liverpool last week there were ~~more~~ than two hundred deaths. That's the only area where things are serious enough to recall the scourge of influenza in the First World War. But its bad to have to recall it all.

REPRESENTATIVE

In Britain today, Lord Rothermere's national newspaper, The Daily Mail, cast its eye in the general direction of Japan. It hinted that, before long, President Truman would be sending a diplomatic envoy to the Japanese government in Tokyo. Quipped the Daily Mail: "Mr. Truman is anxious to have a Yankee at the Court of King MacArthur."

ARMY

News from the Army - they've abolished rookies. Which does not mean, however, that they've done away with the "awkward squad" the sorry-looking greenhorns who don't know one end of the gun from the other. They've ^{simply} abolished the rank of "recruit." And the G I., The moment he is inducted, becomes a "private," right away.

What's the reason? I inquired of the army today, and found the whole thing a little complex. Until now, under a set-up decreed by Congress - if a G I re-enlisted he was given the rank of "recruit". A rookie all over again - although he might be a well trained soldier, ^{even battle} with ^{experience} ~~in battle even~~. So, according to that, a squad of rookies might consist of combat hardened veterans, experts in the ways of the army and in the methods of war.

^{Just} That's what they're changing. No more rookies, not officially, though the U.S. Army will still have its share of the clumsy footed, weary and bedraggled -- until they are turned into snappy soldiers. -- the eternal rookie.

AIR FORCE UNIFORM

The Air Force is going to have a fit,¹-
sartorially, that is. Today the announcement was made
that, hereafter, Air Force uniforms will be tailored --
for a perfect fit. Hitherto, the enlisted men, getting
their uniforms, have had to take what comes off the
top of the pile. Their general size was considered,
and they were handed an outfit without any
consideration for the niceties of tailoring. But that's
all being changed - and hereafter, they'll be fitted
with uniforms, just as a civilian tries on a suit
in a clothing store.

At Air Force supply centers, individual
booths will be available, with full length mirrors -
as in any tailoring establishment. Uniforms will be
altered, according to the best traditions of
sartorial art. All for a greater smartness and a
better appearance. TH The Air Force is going to have a
fit! What are you going to have, N. ?

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