


L.T. - P&G - Friday, December 21, 1951.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(The Republic of Italy today - scrapped the peace treaty. Or, at least - the most important parts of it. The government at Rome repudiates the clauses of armament limitation.) Also - the preamble of the treaty.

Well, when a nation defeated in war tosses out the settlement imposed by the victors - that sounds unusual. But (today's action by the Italian government is done with the full consent of the United States, Great Britain, France and other western allies.)

Two weeks ago, Rome sent a diplomatic message to the victors, asking for a revision of the treaty, and the reply of the western powers was - go ahead. Soviet Russia has not



replied, and is expected to object. But Rome takes the advice of the west, and today proclaimed large sections of the treaty to be - null and void.

The armament clauses, thus cancelled, ~~ordered~~ ^{not} ~~forbade~~ Italy to maintain an Army of more than a quarter of a million. Navy - restricted to two old battleships and a few other vessels. Air Force - no more than two hundred fighter planes, with no bombers at all. These and a whole series of other ^{(restrictions} ~~xxxxxx~~ - all out of the window now. Much of this, however, is academic, Italy being in no position to maintain huge armed forces.

As for the preamble of the treaty, the western powers told Italy to go ahead and strike out all war guilt clauses which perpetuated the late President Roosevelt's "stab in the back" charge, when he denounced Italian entrance in the Second World War; ^{remember?}

~~on the side of Nazi Germany.~~ That's repudiated. The
western powers ^{now} call Italy - "an absolute and
unconditional equal."

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that they will be tried for flying over Hungarian
territory on a mission connected with dropping spies
and saboteurs by parachute. ~~However, the Reds do not~~
~~say just what the legal charge will be.~~ Our government
replies, that the plane, a transport, lost its way,
and strayed across the Communist border.

The four airmen are Captain John D. Swift
of Glens Falls, New York, Captain Dave Henderson
of Cherokee, Oklahoma, Sergeant Jesse Egan of Kingsland,

FLYERS

A dispatch from Red Hungary states - that the four American airmen will be put on trial, I don't know how serious this may turn out to be, but it sounds ugly; ~~People of many kinds have been brought~~ before ^{me} those ~~in~~ sinister Communist courts. ~~And now~~ ~~four American Air Force flyers.~~

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Arkansas, and Sergeant Jess Duff of Spokane, Washington.

The U N government is making the strongest kind of protest - and the hope is that the Hungarian Reds may see the danger of arousing American opinion to the boiling point. Imagin^g public opinion, if the four airmen before the Red Court, should make those unusual confessions! The kind that American telephone executive ~~rm~~ Robert Voegler made - which, he said later, was extracted by torture and terror.

KOREA TRUCE

The U N truce team in Korea made another concession today - agreeing to turn over to the Reds all islands our forces hold on the East and West coasts of the peninsula. The Communists claim to have recaptured six of these, during the past few weeks, - ~~though this is not confirmed.~~

In the question of prisoners, American officers today called on the Reds to explain a discrepancy of - one thousand. ~~That is, one thousand~~ names missing from the list the Communists handed over.

The situation is this: ~~At various times~~ during the Korean war, the Red radio gave out the names of Americans captured. They also handed some names to the Red Cross. A number of these prisoners are on the Communist list; but many of the names are missing - about a thousand. Why the omission?

PRISONERS - CALIFORNIA

The puzzle surrounding the Communist list becomes more baffling than ever - with a dispatch ~~from~~ from an Army post in California, Camp MacArthur. There Private Antonio Apodoca finds his own name on the list of prisoners. ~~In a way, he's not surprised~~ ^{But} he has an explanation.)

He says that last year, ~~in Korea~~ he was wounded - and, in the confusion, ~~he~~ lost his wallet. Later, ~~and~~ while ~~he was~~ recovering in a Tokyo hospital he heard the Red radio announce his name - killed-in-action.

"I sure got a laugh out of that" the soldier said today. "They were always doing that - reporting many of my own buddies killed who had lost dogtags or personal letters on the front line."

So the Reds, having announced him dead -

now have him on their prisoner list - his first
reaction was : "There's that wallet again."

of Heartbreak Ridge, there's a four thousand foot peak,
on the top of which the Reds had a battery of guns -
and were able to shell American lines with accurate
fire. But how to capture a four thousand foot summit?

Well, tanks did it - but not by themselves.

An engineering unit built a road up the mountain which
permitted the armored monsters to reach a point 75 feet
which they could fire at the Red positions point blank.
They destroyed sixteen bunkers, and ammunition dump
blew up. The enemy artillery position on the mountain
--blasted out of existence.

KOREA WAR

On the otherwise quiet warfront, ~~we have~~
~~the story of an engineering exploit~~ in the sector
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STEEL

The hot potato called -- "steel" was handed to President Truman today, and he promptly passed it along. Federal mediator Cyrus Ching reported no progress whatever in trying to avert a huge steel strike on January First. That put it up to the White House, and the President promptly handed the problem to the wage stabilization board - passing the hot potato. The board is expected to call on the union to postpone a walkout, until it can make a study and recommend a settlement.

FOLLOW STEEL

The Latest-- the U.S. Steel Corporations offer to "abandon" any attempt to get higher prices if the union will give up it's demand for wage increases. The agrument is that the company is entitled to increases and so are the steel workers--one to be renounced if the other is .

INTERNAL REVENUE

In Washington, the mystery witness took the stand again today, and this time he talked; - but, he didn't say anything. (~~Yesterday, a record for silence was established by Henry Gruenwald, nicknamed the "Dutchman". He didn't open his mouth. Today he did, enough to say "that, he refused to answer."~~

The proceedings were stormy - before the congressional committee investigating income tax corruption. They wanted to question Gruenwald. But, instead, the Dutchman's lawyer insisted on speaking for him, - ~~reading a statement. The committee told him to pipe down, and they had a shouting match, The Dutchman - silent.~~

Finally, ~~the lawyer had to stop reading the prepared statement. Whereupon~~ the committee counsel turned to the mystery witness, and was able to ask:

"What is your business address, Mr. Gruenwald."

Then, for the first time, the Dutchman spoke. He said: "I most respectfully decline to answer any questions at this time." ~~After which he picked up the statement his lawyer had tried to read, and began reading it himself declaring that his constitutional rights were being infringed.~~

The most interesting thing was, ~~not the meaning of the words~~ but the tone of voice, and the accent. Chicago Lawyer Teitelbaum, in telling of an attempt to shake him down for a half million dollars, mentioned an unknown individual he talked to on the telephone, who had - a guttural voice with a heavy German ~~at~~ accent. ~~Chicago lawyer Teitelbaum, in telling of an attempt to shake him down for a half million dollars, mentioned an unknown individual he talked to on the telephone. Who ha~~

Ousted Assistant Attorney General Lamar Caudle said he surmised the "guttural voice and German accent belonged - to Gruenwald, the Dutchman."

So what did Gruenwald sound like today?

Well, he talked in a husky voice, but without any guttural German accent.

now The mystery witness is more mysterious than ever - and he's threatened with a charge of contempt of Congress.

EMPIRE STATE

Today they concluded the biggest deal for a single building in the history of real estate. The Empire State Building, the tallest on earth, was sold. The giant structure, fourteen hundred and seventy-two feet high, went for - Fifty-one million five hundred thousand dollars. (It cost fifty-two million dollars to begin with - back toward the end of the boom in the 'Twenties. For years, during the depression, the Empire State Building was a sort of white elephant but in recent years they've rented ^{all of} the two million square feet in the one hundred and two stories.)

The Empire State Building was sold by the estate of the late John Rascob, financier and former Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Rascob was the number one backer of the ^{unsuccessful} presidential campaign of Al Smith in Nineteen Twenty-Eight - after which the man in the Brown Derby was administrative head of the

Empire State Building.

The transaction, concluded this afternoon, was just about the most complicated in real estate history. The purchasers are a syndicate headed by two Detroit real estate men, with a whole series of other interests involved, including the Prudential Life Insurance Company, which holds a multi-million dollar mortgage. The deal was closed by sixty financiers in the board room of the Bankers Trust Company, Sixteen Wall Street. Scores of papers were signed and executed - in that championship real estate deal, the sale of the tallest building in the world.

BOMBER CRASH

The British Canberra Jet Bomber that made a recent Transatlantic record - crashed in Maryland this afternoon. The speedy bomber was being tested - the plan being to put it into production in this country. Of the two pilots aboard, one was killed, the other parachuting to safety. He says that at about four hundred and fifty miles an hour, the tail snapped, the Canberra Bomber plunging into the Chester River.

GLIDER

In California, they've found the wreckage of the glider and the body of the Swedish pilot Eric Ovgard. He had been missing since Tuesday, after trying to break an altitude record by riding the "Sierra Waves" the wind that blows high up over the mountains. It is not clear what happened, but ~~the~~ the glider crashed forty-five miles to the south of the airport at Bishop, California, the point from which the pilot started out.

Safety message.

DEBATE:

Today's news tells of the downfall of Oxford, that ancient British University. An Oxford debating team in this country has been defeated - completely out-talked.

The team consists of Dick Taverne and William Rees-Mogg of Balliol College, which is the top lofty college at Oxford. They came to this country for debates at American Colleges - and won fifty in a row. Their logic and eloquence were invincible, never losing a verbal contest - until now.

So where did they meet their Waterloo? Well, it happened at the Massachusetts State Prison Colony, where they were out-debated by a couple of convicts. Which, in a way, was not so surprising, since that Prison Colony has a Debating Society that has established an impressive record. In debates with American College teams, the convicts have won thirty-five out of forty-nine.

Against the two Oxonians from Balliol College, the Prison Colony put forward a pair of Ciceros known by Convict numbers - Bill Thirty-Seven and Murdo Twenty-Nine. The Judges were a former Governor of Massachusetts,

a State Supreme Court Justice, and the Dean of a Law School. The topic was - "Resolved, that this House recognizes the need for a free national health service."

Well, the two Balliol boys rattled off their logic and eloquence, each an Oxonian Demosthenes. But Bill Thirty-Seven and Murdo Twenty-Nine matched them syllogism for syllogism - and, in addition, got off a few nifties.

Bill Thirty-Seven drew a comparison between the Socialist Utopia in Britain and the Utopia in Massachusetts. Same general idea - *- - like* prison, both of them.

Murdo Twenty-Nine scored a point by providing like Einstein, that all things are relative - depending upon where you find them. "Take air, for instance," he argued, "beyond the walls, it smells fine, - but, inside, it just smells."

So that was how the Massachusetts State Prison Colony defeated the University of Oxford - in the battle of words.

PUNCH

In Cleveland today, Steve Senich finally caught up with beer truck driver Bernard Zemla -- and it sure looked like a fight. Three years ago, Steve got into an argument with Zemla, and Zemla punched him in the nose. It was a hefty sock on the beeper, and Steve has been looking for the beer truck driver ever since. Today Steve spotted him, walked up to him, and handed him - ten dollars.

It seems that, for years, Steve had been having trouble with his nose - some kind of nasal disorder that hampered his breathing. He went to doctors, but they couldn't do anything about it. Nobody could, until the beer truck driver came along, - with that punch in the nose. Steve says it was like surgery performed by a specialist. It knocked out the nasal obstruction, and Steve hasn't had any trouble breathing ever since.

So he gave ^{to}
~~ten~~ bucks ^{for} beer truck driver - as a
medical fee.

INITIALS

Here's a story to go along with that middle letter "S" in President Truman's name - Harry S. Truman. It really doesn't stand for anything, the President explaining that he was christened Harry Truman, and thought his name would look better with an initial. So he inserted the "S".

At Birmingham, Alabama, a man appearing for Jury Duty gave his name as W. J. Weaver. The Judge asked: "What does the 'W. J.' stand for?"

"Well, Sir," Weaver drawled, "it's kind of funny about those initials of mine - W. J. My Mother and Father had eleven daughters in a row. So, when I came along they christened me - "Welcome John".

Not so surprising, after eleven daughters in a row. So he ~~was Welcome John Weaver~~ but prefers to sign himself - W. J., altho' his name is Welcome John Weaver.

Nelson Case is away at an important family wedding today. In his place is ^a well-known radio figure. So, Welcome George Putnam!