KOREA TRUCE Wed. Oct. 31 - 51. LT. R&G

Better news tonight!

~~Tonight brings the best news thus far --~~

~~about~~ the possibility of an armistice in Korea. (Today, the Red negotiators came forward with a counter-proposal, yielding so much - that hope for a truce rose to high optimism.

On the face of it, they gave in to the U N demand on the principal issue - the armistice line. We've been insisting on - the present battlefront.) So now they say - yes. But there's a twister still, -

~~where is the present battlefront.~~

~~Actually, of course, there are strips of No Man's land between the two land forces - and the enemy definition of the battlefront is different from ours, two or three miles different.~~ (They accept an armistice line along their own version of the battle front. They agree, likewise, to our proposal for a neutralized buffer zone two and a half miles wide, ~~between the hostile forces~~.

So, as of tonight, the difference in the dispute is a matter of only two or three miles. But

that does involve important points - like strategic hills and ridges, small sections important in a military way. (~~The U N command wants the armistice~~ line that would give them a reasonable, sound ~~X~~ military front. They want to be in a good position if the armistice should end; - and, in some sectors, ~~the~~ two or three miles could be the difference between good and bad.)

In Particular, there's Kaesong, that former scene of armistice talks. In today's Red proposal, Kaesong would be left to the Communists. To this, the U N officers do not agree, because Kaesong is a vital military point for the defense of Seoul, the capital city. And - the Reds occupied Kaesong, only as a result of the armistice negotiations. Before these began, the city had been -- No Man's Land.

~~Usually a Red concession is likely to be followed by a counter suggestion from our side, demanding terms closer to our own definition of the battlefront.~~ Liaison officers express the belief that

the Communists will make still ~~fruth~~ further concessions. The Reds disclosed that today's offer was their "last and best." But they said that before; and American opinion is that they really want an armistice, want it badly, and will make further concessions - because they've had enough.

The large significance of today's news is emphasized by a quick survey of the events in the dispute. At first, the Reds wanted an armistice line along the Thirty-Eighth Parallel - which would have meant long withdrawals by the U N forces, giving up great areas of territory won by hard fighting. The Communists insisted stubbornly for a long time, and then yielded to the extent of proposing a line which would have meant U N withdrawals from five to fifteen miles. Giving up - such hard won positions as Heartbreak Ridge. Now they accept our first condition - merely giving their own version of the location of the battlefront.

KOREA TRUCE

Tonight's bulletin states that the negotiators have met again - going into session just a couple of hours ago. So presumably, at this moment, they are still debating - the U N liaison team having presented their answer to the new concession made by the Communists.

FOLLOW KOREA TRUCE

The news from the armistice front is reflected on the warfront. Today there was next to no fighting. ~~A communique says: 'The United Nations adjusted positions and patrolled.' The war halted,~~ as if both sides were getting set along what they expect to be - an armistice line. All quiet on the Korean front.

KOREAN BOY

Tonight we have the ending of our story of last night - about the Korean boy, who took the candy trail, and vanished. We heard how American liaison officers demanded of the Communists - what happened to eleven year old Kim Won Kyu, who chased after candy tossed by American G I's and news reporters, and strayed across the line into Red territory at Pan Mun Jom. It turns out to be true, as we heard last night - that candy-loving Kim was grabbed by the Chinese Reds, and carried off.

But this next you would never expect. They charged the Korean youngster with espionage! He was put on trial, and confessed. Same old Red trial and confession.

But the story ends happily. Because, in the truce talks, the Reds yielded to the demand - that they hand over the lad, so he could be returned to his family of weeping Korean peasants. The ceremony was enacted today, the prisoner brought forward, the ~~xxxx~~ spy -- and it was a fantastic comedy. In front

of the American liaison officers, eleven year old Mr Kim recited his piece - the confession he had made at his trial. It was well rehearsed. In a piping boyish voice, he repeated like a poll-parrot.

"I was told by several South Korean soldiers" he said, "to go over the bridge (the one leading to the Communist lines) and find out the news of the Chinese and North Korean forces. I was afraid at first, and refused. But", he added, "the soldiers insisted and threatened to kill me. Finally they gave me two thousand won (about thirty-three cents) to do the job. I went across the bridge," the eleven year old concluded, "and was caught."

That was the confession - and, after he made it, Kim was turned over to the U N liaison team. Once he was safely away from the Reds he changed his confession completely. He said:

"I really went across the bridge to get more candy the American soldiers were throwing from their trucks."

Well, those truckloads of G I's and reporters still roll by. But, hereafter, Kim Won Kyu will not venture too far - on the candy trail.

ATOMIC

Tonight we have another description of the atomic explosion yesterday. This one - from a Congressman who was at the scene. Legislators attending the tests in Nevada have been kept xx far enough away, of course, not to get hurt. Which would mean - several miles.

From that distance, Congressman Gore of Tennessee saw the blast on the desert and he uses up all his vocabulary, describing the spectacle. He says: "the flash of light was so intense that it outshone the sun. Through the xx goggles we wore the sun appeared as a red marble, — small. In comparison, the explosion appeared as a white hot sphere on the order of a baseball."

"From the instant of the explosion," he goes on, "a cloud of dust, smoke and gas covered a large area of the Yucca Valley, as if to provide a firm base for the gigantic column of swirling, boiling, multi-colored fire, gas and radioactivity."

He says the big red ball soared into the

Heavens, until it was seven miles high. Then, still boiling it erupted.

The Congressman explains that security regulations keep him from saying much, but he does give this opinion of the atomic blast:- "To me, it looked big enough to destroy an enemy division reasonably concentrated for attack," says he.

In Washington tonight, the theme is - hands across the sea. Which, symbolically, expresses the spirit of the visit of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh - British-American friendship on display.

But there's also a more literal significance, "hands across the sea" meaning - handshakes without end. The heiress to the crown and her husband, in Washington for a three-day visit, are scheduled to meet thousands of people. It has been announced that curtsies are not necessary. American ladies will not have to perform the graceful bend of the knee. A handshake will do - which promises an ordeal for the royal palm and five fingers.

At the airport, this afternoon, President Truman received the royal guests with a fatherly note for the twenty-five year old Princess -- the President expressing his gratitude for the welcome his own daughter Margaret was given by the royal family in London. Then he introduced Elizabeth and

Philip to a throng of high officials, cabinet members, diplomats, members of Congress - and the mass handshaking was on.

The official ceremonies were elaborate, and the cheers were loud and long. Half a million people shouted an ovation as the procession of automobiles rolled through Washington streets to the Presidential residence, Blair House. There the royal visitors had tea and a brief rest - in preparation for their first big party. The Washington Press Club holding a reception, attended by nine hundred - that many shakes for the royal hands. Tonight, the President is giving them a gold-plate dinner, after which one hundred high officials will be presented to royalty.

This, today, was only a small beginning. The Princess and her husband arrived at about four o'clock in the afternoon, so there wasn't enough time for a real ~~industrious~~ long drawn out day of welcome. That will come tomorrow.

Elizabeth and Philip, from ten in the morning

~~until~~

until eleven at night, will be on the go. They will attend eight separate ceremonies, culminating with a dinner of State, which they will give to President and Mrs. Truman at the Canadian Club. But the biggest handshake of all will be at the British Embassy, where the Princess and her husband will meet two thousand from the highest official and social elite.

It will be much the same on Friday, equally hectic - until the visitors start back for Canada - taking a night plane.Then they'll have a rest, and be able to relax.

Well, it's nice and sentimental for a young married couple to hold hands - but I'll bet that if anybody suggests it to Elizabeth and Philip, they'll get a cold British stare.

PLANE

At Burbank, California - some mighty fine flying, when airline pilot Richard Phelps brought his plane to ground late this afternoon. Twenty-eight persons aboard and both engines went out right after the take off. One hundred feet in the air, with trees on each side and a row of houses in front. But the pilot with a clever maneuver brought the big air liner in for a belly landing between two rows of trees, and came to a stop within a few feet of the houses. Plane badly damaged - passengers merely shaken up a bit.

CIRCUS

Tonight, there's a wild animal hunt - in the hills and woods of Arkansas. State troopers, local officers and volunteers, with shotguns and high powered rifles, are looking for ~~two~~ a huge polar bears, two a black bear, ~~and a~~ (two) leopard and 6 monkeys. First reports indicated that the beasts included a lion, which yesterday killed an eight year old girl.

The animals are from the Campa Brothers Circus, a tent show from Mexico, which certainly is running into bad luck. The victim was a ~~xxxx~~ child elephant rider, granddaughter of one of the circus owners. Her father - a tight ~~xxx~~ rope walker. The lion, a young animal, was regarded as quite tame - but in the quarters of the animals, the girl elephant rider ventured too near. The lion attacked her - which, for a minute went unnoticed in the hubbub of a circus performance. The public never knew - the show went on, just the same.

Today the Mexican circus was on its way to perform at ~~Montida~~ Mount Ida, Arkansas, fifty miles away. They

~~They~~ travelled in a motor caravan, and the bad luck continued. They ran into a rain storm, and the truck containing the calliope and office equipment ran off a mountain road, and it took four elephants to pull it out of the ditch. Then a truck with a trailer had a mishap on the slippery highway - and that one included cages of wild animals. In the crash, the cages ~~xxxxxx~~ broke open, and the beasts escaped. They vanished in the wilderness, the foothills of the Ozarks.

At first it was thought that the killer ~~lion~~ lion was one of them - but that turns out to be not correct. The animals were the polar bears, the two black bear - and two savage, dangerous leopards.

Here's the latest from the wild animal hunt - they've shot and killed one of the leopards. Three bears, one leopard, and the troupe of monkeys are still at-large.

MARION DAVIES

The surprise wedding of Marion Davies was no surprise to the family of the bridegroom. Today, a son of Merchant Marine Captain Horace Brown said: "They have been friends for a long, long time - and have been planning this for a long time."

The timing has its point of interest. Two and a half months ago William Randolph Hearst died, the legendary publisher who for long years had been a close friend of Marion Davies, and had backed her career as a movie star. The word was that Hearst had left her in control of the newspaper empire he founded, but this was disputed by his family heirs. Then, yesterday afternoon, the news broke that Marinn Davies had given up all claim to the control of the Hearst newspapers, having made a friendly settlement with the family. Shortly afterward, early this morning, the wedding, ~~was held~~ at Las Vegas.

Marion Davies gave her age as forty-five, though the public record varies on that point. The World Almanac for example, indicates fifty-four.

But, undoubtedly, that is incorrect. A lady of course would know her own age, despite anything published in the papers.

Little is known of the sea-faring bridegroom, but court records at Los Angeles show that he was once married to the former wife of opera singer Lawrence Tibbett. She sued for divorce because he wouldn't stay home.- He insisted on going to sea. But, what else would a sailor do?

At the ceremony today, there was a slight mix-up. The Las Vegas Justice of the Peace, in his version of the wedding ritual, does not use the word "obey". The bride made a slip and said - "obey"! The Justice of the Peace corrected her, told her to say it his way. She smiled - and, obeyed. Seems like the lady was determined to be obedient, one way or another!