

L.T.-P. & G. Fri. Jan. 25th - '52

(Today brought the most deadly, violent battle, thus far, in the trouble along the Suez Canal. It began as a result of an order from London -- an order confirmed by British Prime Minister Churchill. This was -- disarm the Egyptian police at Ismailia.)

No resistance was anticipated, when British troops, backed by powerful centurion tanks, went on the mission. But, (when the police were told to surrender their weapons, they refused.) The British troops had been ordered - not to fire, unless fired upon. So they waited, and parleyed.

Then, (several shots were fired from the police barracks. A centurion tank replied with a blank shell - merely a shot of warning. But that was the signal for all-out battle. Immediately, the Egyptian police opened with everything they had - a furious blast of gunfire. The British reply was in the same kind -- ~~with~~ everything they had.)

Artillery shells ripped three buildings

held by the police, and ^{then} the centurion tanks lunged forward. At the barracks, the ~~monster~~ tanks rammed the walls of masonry, and crashed through, while twenty-five pound shells at close range completed the destruction.

(The Egyptian police, a thousand of them, fought like fanatics, and sixty were killed in the battle, which lasted for five hours - the British losing four.) ^{Egyptian} A small party in the Governor's mansion yielded only when the whole place was shot into wreckage. (Troops with bayonets fought their way from room to room.)

Tonight, all British warships at the Malta Naval station, except smaller craft were ordered to steam to the Suez Canal, as today's battle brings a new crisis.

FOLLOW EGYPT

The latest - a dispatch stating that Egypt will break off diplomatic relations with Great Britain this weekend, unless there are what Cairo calls "Major Political Developments." It is hard to imagine what these might be, unless Cairo thinks London might make a lot of concessions.

Tonight's decision came from a meeting of the Egyptian Cabinet, which was called immediately after news of the battle of Isamalia.

At the U N meeting in Paris, Soviet Russia scored a victory today. The political committee passed a resolution introduced by the Moscow delegation, and opposed by the United States and other western powers.

The resolution would admit new members into the United Nations, fourteen of them, ^{including} five Red satellites, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and, outer Mongolia. Two members of the Atlantic Treaty organization - Italy and Portugal. ^{also} Seven called neutrals not in the Atlantic Treaty - Ireland, Finland, Austria, Jordan, Nepal, Ceylon and Libya.

Our delegation opposes the admission of the Red satellites, on grounds that include the violation of peace treaties made with them. The Soviets called for a "package deal" and were able to score a success. They rallied what is ^{termed} ~~called~~ an "Arab-Asian bloc" -- lesser countries, inclined sometimes to oppose American leadership. So it was today, when the Red resolution was carried - twenty-one to twelve, with twenty-five nations abstaining.

But the Communist victory in the committee is believed to be merely technical -- the resolution likely to be defeated when it comes before the General Assembly. Tonight U S delegate Ernest Gross declared that many of the countries that voted for the measure did not know what they were doing.

KOREA TRUCE

Today, in the Panmunjom truce tents, American General Turner outlined a plan whereby they would go ahead with other problems, on which general agreement has already been reached - and work out the details. Such problems as armistice inspection and troop rotation.

In the Korean sky today, the greenhorns were the pilots of the fifty-first fighter interceptor wing. That's an outfit of Sabre jets, the latest to arrive in Korea. Raw novices ^{compared with} ~~beside~~ the veteran pilots of the fourth wing, for example. So what happened?

Well, the M I G s were out in force today - one-hundred-and-sixty-seven enemy jets tangling with sixty-eight of ours in a series of air battles. ~~So,~~ Right off the bat, the veterans of the Fourth Wing scored three victories - sending three M I G s in a spinning whirl ~~to~~ to the ground. Which was good going - considering how few planes are destroyed in the battles of jet, where the speed is ~~xxx~~ too great for any wholesale shooting down of planes.

~~so~~ The veterans of the Fourth did okay, and the greenhorns might have been green with envy - until, later in the day, they got into a big air battle. Through the sky they streaked, in ~~all~~ ^{all those} dizzy swift of maneuvers they had practiced, in training back in the U.S.A. One greenhorn shot down a M I G, then another, then another - seven in all.

Our losses, if any, are not stated - not the policy to give out such information, for the Reds to pick up. So we only know how the greenhorns out-did the veterans.

GENERAL

The Eighth Army nearly lost its commander, and tonight the headline might be - General Van Fleet captured by the Reds. He had a narrow ~~re~~ escape, though he wasn't in any battle. ^{All because of} ~~It was in~~ a blizzard.

Today General Van Fleet took off in a light plane, bound for a post along the warfront. The weather was threatening, but they never guessed what they'd run into. A blizzard, blinding snowfall - visibility zero, if not less. The General's pilot, Captain Bruce Ihlenfeldt of Lawton, Oklahoma, tried to turn back - but the blizzard had closed in all around, and he couldn't find anything. He couldn't guess where he was, ^{! he} ~~and~~ might have gone astray, across the Communist lines.

All he could do was "feel" for a landing. He came down to fifty feet, where he could see the snowbanks on the ground - nothing but snow. Then, luckily, he spotted a small abandoned air strip, and landed. They were in ~~deserted~~ deserted territory, a blank expanse of snow. Nothing to do but go slogging

through the drifts on foot - hoping to find something,
some place. So they did - the Eighth Army Commander
getting a good idea what the going is ^{right now} like for the
G I's in Korea.

Finally, they came to a road, and waited
there, hoping that something would come along. Something
did, a ~~km~~ jeep - and it didn't belong to the Reds.
They flagged it down, and a Lieutenant poked his
head out.

He was a hard bitten Louie, and growled
profanely: "What in all Harry do you guys want?"

Then he saw four silver stars, and changed
his tune. Why, he'd be glad to give General Van
Fleet a lift. So that's how the Army in Korea nearly
lost its commander.

BRIDE

It's an old custom, asking the visiting foreigner - what he thinks of America. Today the question was put to a Japanese war bride. Arriving at her husband's home, Northbridge, Massachusetts, she was asked that same old question.

So here's her impression of America:

It's just about like Japan" says Harumi Farley, "except there aren't so many American soldiers here."

PHILIPPINES -

(The President of the Philippines calls for immediate alliance among the nations of the Pacific - thereby coming out in support of the proposal urged by Governor Dewey yesterday.) Dewey, titular head of the Republican party, advocated a full scale defense pact, guaranteeing the nations bordering the Pacific against Red aggression. Today, at Manila, President Quirino ~~declared~~ ^{stated that he is} ~~he was~~ all for the Dewey suggestion.

CANADA

Canada will be without a Governor General for a month. So announced at Ottawa today, following the appointment of Vincent Massey. The retiring Governor General, Viscount Alexander, will step out on Monday - but Massey will not assume office until February Twenty Eighth. In the interim, the functions of the office will be performed by Canadian Chief Justice Thibaudeau.

Vincent Massey will be the first Canadian born Governor-General that Canada has ever had, the ~~first~~ first ~~Commoner~~, too -- the post having been held hitherto by titled noblemen from Britain. He's a brother of Raymond Massey, the actor who rose to fame in the United States years ago, enacting Abraham Lincoln in a highly successful play.

McCLOY

In Germany, U. S. High Commissioner John McCloy is in a hospital tonight - injured. How come? Well, the fifty-six year old statesman is known to brave danger. He went skiing. Result - he broke his leg. In the Navarian Alps, he was on a fast downhill run, when - bang and crack. Just a fracture of the leg, nothing for any ardent skier to worry about.

Skiing, while not as deadly as war, produces more broken bones than any battle in Korea.

But here in the U.S.A., skiing accidents are uncommon largely because of the safety campaign conducted by The National Ski Patrol, Ed Taylor and his fine ski groups. If you are an American skier your chances of ever having a minor fracture - and most of them are minor - your chances are one in eight hundred. Your own bathtub is far more dangerous.

By the way, our U.S. Olympic ski team needs funds. It's a patriotic duty to support our Olympic athletes. In

most countries they are government subsidized. With us our Olympic teams are all backed by private subscription. Every skier should send at least one buck to The Olympic Team, National Ski Association, Barre, Massachusetts, or care of Skiing, Denver. That's a skiers publication - Skiing, Denver.

POLITICS

Senator McMahon of Connecticut has withdrawn from the Illinois primary. ~~Which is a surprise - and a puzzle.~~ The supposition was that he was in the primary to check Senator Kefauver - who is campaigning for the democratic nomination, no matter what President Truman may do. But today McMahon pulled out - which leaves Kefauver the only Democrat in the primary.

~~One effect is to make Illinois no test at all on the Democratic side. Kefauver will have no opposition. Anyway, the Illinois delegation is not bound by the result of the primary - which is advisory, more than anything else.~~

Today Chicago Democratic leader Arvey declared that, no matter what, the Illinois delegation will go to President Truman, if he wants the nomination.

LA SCALA

There's a tuneful headline today - stating that the most renowned of Italian Opera companies may come to this country for a summer season. Meaning, of course - La Scala. For centuries, the number one operatic center in Europe has been La Scala of Milan.

The New York producer, Michael Todd, has been negotiating to bring the ~~xxx~~ singers of La Scala, orchestra, chorus and all - for a season at Jones' Beach. That's the civic resort on Long Island, with

~~the~~ magnificent open air theatre - where ^{scores} ~~cars~~ of thousands could attend La Scala performances at popular prices.

Today's news emphasizes that the contract ^{is in the} ~~has not been~~ *process of being worked out, and that* closed, ~~but it is likely to be. If so,~~ we'll see the

spectacular Broadway producer, Mike Todd, presiding over distinguished Grand Opera *just as he has at times presided over Shakespeare.*

In the lore of music, there are only two names to rival each other in opera - La Scala and New York's own Metropolitan. Traditionally, through the years, the Metropolitan was likely to have the world's greatest singers.

If it all works out, it will be a thriller for
music lovers - the metropolitan in winter, and La
Scala for a season in summer.!

(A new name was added today to the geography of the world. The name of Eva Peron. The first lady of the Argentine, the far-famed Evita, ^{now} has a province named after her.)

Last year, the legislature of Buenos Aires passed a bill to transform a large area of national territory into a province - something like our way of admitting a state into the union. (The new province is out on the vast expanse of the pampas,) and today its first assembly met - equivalent of a state legislature in this country.

~~So~~ the first thing they did was to give their new province a name. The vote was unanimous - ^{Nelson,} Eva Peron Province. ~~Which, in a way, puts the beautiful Evita in a class with England's great Queen Elizabeth. Our own state of Virginia was named after her - the Virgin Queen. But the Argentinos name their province - after Evita.~~

HUSBAND

In Dallas, Texas, there's a man who knows - where to go. He was brought before the Judge, charged with beating his wife. He admitted that he did - because she insisted on going to church. Strange reason, but he explained as follows.

"I want to go to Hell," he told the Judge, "and I want my wife to go along. I figure she will, if I keep her out of church."

Sounds logical, and that fellow sure knows - where to go. ^{Nelson,} I'll bet he gets there.
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