

SUBSTITUTE KOREA

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The latest bulletin from Tokyo tonight reads as follows: "The South Korean Army has rallied, and is holding the Han River south of Seoul -- with the aid of swarming fleets of United States war planes." That line of the Han River is the all-important war front right now -- defending the American air base at Suwon -- which is twenty miles south of Seoul, the capital city now captured by the Reds. Suwon is the number one goal of the Communists as they surge on. The Han River, which they must cross, is four hundred yards wide -- a good defensive barrier.

It is afternoon in Tokyo now, ^{and} the despatches of morning tell of ^{an} incessant stream of fighter planes, bombers and transports -- in spite of clouds and rain. ~~sun~~ Weather not withstanding, General ~~Douglas~~ MacArthur is staging an all-out air effort to keep the Reds from getting across the Han River and from capturing the Suwon base.

Tonight's more favorable news follows an earlier critical picture. The defending Korean forces -- described as worn out after four days of ceaseless fighting against the tanks and artillery -- to which they could oppose light weapons only, virtually helpless. They were

~~pictured as being~~ in disorderly flight -- though
this was contradicted by ~~word from~~ MacArthur's headquarters, ^{word there} ~~declaring~~ that the
morale of the defenders was good. Tonight it all boils
down to the fact that the forces of our Korean allies
along the Han River are almost worn out, and there is the
danger of collapse. Hence MacArthur's determined all-out
effort to help with all possible air power -- the weather
notwithstanding. The next few hours, it appears, will
tell the story -- of whether or not the line on the Han
River can be held and the Suwon air base retained.

The news gives a graphic picture of the massive
effort through the air, fighters and bombers flying from
rainy, slippery runways -- followed by lumbering fleets
of big transports. These are described in the following
words -- "Jammed with combat-equipped signal corpsmen, who
carried loaded rifles, as well as walkie-talkie radio out-
fits, and shortwave communication sets". Obviously -- to
establish ^{the} most efficient kind of liaison between the
Free Korean Army and the American ^{(Air Force.} ~~air force~~ The despatch
adds: "The ground troops were tight-lipped about the part

they were playing in the war. Apparently, they were under strictest orders to say nothing."

At Headquarters the military censors passed the following paragraph in a United Press despatch: "From the looks of the equipment going into the planes, Supreme Headquarters seems to be taking a broad interpretation of President Truman's instructions to furnish 'air and sea support'".

In Washington, the military comment is that the planes and ships, plus masses of armament for the Koreans, are expected to do the job. However, officials declare ~~that~~ that if this is not enough -- there is the possibility that the Army might be ordered in.

One serious aspect is -- Red Guerrillas. These are reported as rising in insurrection at various places -- some in the far south of Korea.

Today, Kim Sung, the Red leader of the puppet state, called for Communist uprisings all over Southern Korea. In a radio broadcast, he summoned the Reds - "to

participate in guerrilla warfare on a large scale."

The Communists are known to have a powerful Fifth Column in Free Korea, and this might possibly cause disintegration all over the place. Which might threaten a collapse behind the fighting front, even though the American air force may be knocking the daylights out of the armored columns of the Reds. This is to be considered -- while making any estimate of the military prospect.

Still later news -- General Douglas MacArthur
has flown to Korea. He took off today in his ^{famous} airplane --

"BATAAN". And what memories that evokes! -- *The famous*
MacArthur defense of Bataan in the Second World War.

π The Supreme Commander goes to the theatre of war in Korea,
— to make a personal inspection of the
fighting front along the Han River.

KOREA - GEOGRAPHY

Now let's go to that old, familiar and always important subject - geography. Any military campaign is governed by the terrain - and that's as true as ever in Korea. It's a country little known to Americans, ~~only a few having ever been there. I myself have, at one time or another, seen most of the lands of this earth, but not Korea.~~ ^{Altho' I sent my} ~~However,~~ ^{sister there some years ago, on an assignment} ~~there~~ ^{is corner} that fountain of mundane wisdom, the National Geographic Society in Washington - which today gives us the lay of the land.

(Korea is a sort of oblong peninsula, with the Sea of Japan on one side, and the Yellow Sea on the other. The Sea of Japan side has a shoreline straight and steep - mountains coming down to the water, with narrow sandy beaches. The more important harbors are on the other side - the Yellow Sea, where the coast is flatter, and where there are huge tides. In the Yellow Sea the tides come in twenty-five feet high, and there are great expanses of mud flats - all of which dictates navigation, and provides a problem for our own naval vessels.)

(~~But, more important is the view for the tactics of the~~

1) The Korean peninsula is seamed by ranges of heavily wooded mountains that rise to over six thousand feet.

Communications are by way of winding valleys, ~~where~~ highways are poor, ~~and there are~~ many rivers - many bridges. These are the routes the Reds have to take, pushing their invasion with tanks and artillery - and these are the factors dictating the targets for MacArthur's rocket shooting fighters and speedy bombers. Which will shoot up Red tanks, ~~and~~ blast artillery positions, - and slam away at enemy communications, those roads through valleys with many bridges.

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(A bridge knocked out would of course, stop the advance of tanks and cannon - not to mention supplies of munitions and gasoline. We all know what it takes to keep motorized warfare going - especially the gas. So, if the supply lines were disrupted, the Red armor would find itself in a fix - tanks without motor fuel.

The air campaign is too new, as yet, for us to have

much analysis from military experts. But we ~~can~~ all ~~sit back~~
~~and~~ remember what air power did to German communications in
France - choking off supplies in such fashion that Nazi
mechanized equipment was often left helpless. ~~That was one of~~
~~the great exploits of American air power in the Second World~~
~~War - and it was against one of the top technological nations~~
~~of this earth. Should be a lot easier in primitive Korea,~~
~~where the native Communists are running tank and artillery~~
~~forces equipped and trained by the Soviets.~~

(So I'll hazard a guess - that MacArthur's air power
will knock out enemy transportation so fast that the Red
armored forces are likely to find themselves marooned.) If we
could do it against the Germans, it should be quicker in
Korea. That is, unless the Soviets put in their own masses
of new and up-to-date air power, Stalin's air force flying
to battle. In that case, the whole thing might easily turn
into a third world war.

So, right there, you may have the key to the

immediate future - if MacArthur's planes paralyze and knock out the war machinery of the Korean Reds, what will Soviet Russia do?

MOSCOW

There is no hint of Soviet intentions.

Today the official Communist newspaper, PRAVDA, charged - "direct aggression." PRAVDA says the United States is interfering with what PRAVDA calls - "the peaceful unification of Northern and Southern Korea." Well, it sure was peaceful - with Red armor and a blitzkrieg invasion.

The Red propaganda blast makes a point of charging American aggression against - Communist China. This - because of the Truman order bidding the Seventh Fleet to stop any attack on Formosa. I suppose the PRAVDA accent on China means that the Chinese Reds are irked and chagrined by the fact that their invasion plans against Formosa, must be called off - as things now stand.

BRITAIN

British naval forces joined the Americans in war against the Korean Communists. Today, in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Attlee made the announcement: "We have decided to support the U.S. action in Korea by immediately placing our naval forces in Japanese waters at the disposal of U.S. authorities. ~~to support the U.S. action in Korea by immediately placing our naval forces in Japanese waters at the disposal of U.S. authorities.~~

Whereupon Winston Churchill arose and said: "I need scarcely say that the Prime Minister speaks for all parties in the House, when he makes this announcement."

Great Britain has in Japanese waters three cruisers, one aircraft carrier, a flotilla of fast destroyers, and sundry other craft - which tonight are under the command of General MacArthur.

WASHINGTON

In Washington, the Senate with fast action passed the bill to extend the Draft Law - which also gives President Truman the authority to call up the National Guard and the Reserves at a moment's notice. The Senate vote was unanimous.

That was followed by a blistering attack from Senator Taft of Ohio - who called for the resignation of Secretary of State Acheson. (Taft argued that the whole crisis in the Far East follows from the policy sponsored by the Secretary of State. Back of it all, said he, was the Yalta Conference of the ~~Big Four~~ Big Three, which gave so much to the Soviets. Taft declared that President Truman has now overturned Acheson's policy - by putting Formosa under the protection of the U.S. Fleet, while Acheson's idea was to give no help at all to Chiang Kai-shek on Formosa.)

The Senator likewise declared that President Truman had no right to order military intervention in Korea - without first getting the consent of Congress. But he proclaimed, nevertheless, his full support of the Truman

decision to back up the Free Koreans with the U.S. Air Force and the Navy.

This is in accord with Republican opinion all over the nation - Governor Dewey of New York, titular head of the Party, having ~~yesterday~~ sent President Truman a telegram of all-out backing, to which he received a most cordial reply. Today former President Herbert Hoover called for national unity in support of the Truman intervention in Korea.

Of course, there ^{is} ~~is~~ one sour note - American Communism. Today the New York Daily Worker came out in open support of the Korean Reds. Following the party line of the Soviets and Stalin, the Communist newspaper denounced the Truman policy as - "the ruthless, aggressive imperialist operations of Wall Street for the domination of all Asia."

The American Communists - on the side of the enemy!
Which was to be expected.

EXPLOSIONS

Since the focus of the news is on air power, let's take a look at a mystery of jet aviation that was explained today. In the neighborhood of Air Force Headquarters at Dayton and also in California, strange explosions have been heard recently - something like a clap of thunder, or the blast of a bomb. People alarmed, all sorts of inquiries, that nobody could answer - until now.

The loud, reverberating sounds were always heard in an area where jet planes were flying, and at Dayton they had a hunch. Maybe the explosive noises were caused by super-sonic jet planes. That is, a jet in a dive going faster than its own roar. Then, when it pulls out of the dive, the sound waves keep on toward the earth, and bounce off the ground with a loud bang.

They made some experiments - tests by jet flyers Captain John Newman of Mason City, Nebraska, and Lieutenant Harold Collins of Port Arthur, Texas. From an altitude of forty thousand feet, they plunged straight

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down, took a dizzy dive to the twenty thousand foot level, and then pulled out. After each dive, at intervals of from twenty to twenty-five seconds, listeners down below heard one of those mysterious explosions - the sound waves taking that long to hit the ground and bounce off.

(But they won't make any more of those experiments - not at Dayton. The successful result of the tests alarmed any number of people - scared by the booming thunder. So, the experimentation will be continued at the Muroc base in California - where they'll frighten jackrabbits mostly.)

FLYING SAUCER - FOLLOW EXPLOSIONS

Now the mystery of the flying saucers - in which strange business, a lot of people have asked: If they see those things, why doesn't somebody take a picture of them? Well, that question is answered - according to a dispatch from Louisville, Kentucky. We are told, not merely of a photograph, but a motion picture of a soaring disc.

The Louisville Times states today that the movie was taken by one of its own photographers - who was out shooting film for television. He heard the roar of an airplane, looked up, and saw the plane - and a flying saucer. The mysterious object is described as looking like a large bright disc, with a ring of light around it - a sort of corona. It was flying to the left of the plane, and then stood still for about ten seconds - while the plane went on. By this time Al Hixenbaugh had his camera in action, shooting motion pictures of the mysterious object. They say he got fifty feet of film showing it - until the flying saucer moved on, and vanished, flying west.

(The Louisville Times today printed still pictures
taken from the film. - ^Qll of which certainly seems like
photographic proof, ^{Nelson.} ~~But there's mystery about it still, because~~
~~flying fields in the vicinity of Louisville state that no,~~
~~pilot of any plane reported seeing any such flying saucer.~~)