

SUBSTITUTE KOREA *L.J. - P. & G. Thure. Aug. 31, '50.*

The new Red offensive in Korea began at night.

In the darkness before dawn, the Reds surged forward on the southern front, [^] masses of infantry, twenty thousand, supported by tanks. They timed it like that to avoid American air attack, and a desperate battle was on.

In fierce fighting, the Communist^s forced American troops back in places, and were able to penetrate our lines. But, when daylight came, the planes went into action, with bombs, rockets, machine guns - and that sort of liquid fire, gelatinized gasoline, which spreads sheets of flame. So the latest is -- the Red offensive has been slowed down, *after an advance of as much as a mile.*

The news dispatches indicate the belief that *this* may be the climatic Red attempt -- ~~sixxxx~~ an all-out effort in the direction of the vital seaport of Pusan, on which the allied forces must depend. At the same time, another Communist assault was launched further north along the Naktong River. And there the Reds have succeeded in thrusting forward -- making it a two-fold offensive.

KOREA - TORCHES

The Communist attack on the Naktong front brought about what today's dispatch calls - "The weirdest battle of the war." It seems like a fantasy to describe it as - the battle of torchlight processions. But here's the story with word-for-word quotations.

It was warfare at night, along the Naktong River, where a huge Red offensive was defeated last week. An American Infantry Patrol was keeping a night watch, when the soldiers noticed ✕ glittering lights on the other side of the stream, the Red side. The lights were approaching, and then they were seen to be - blazing torches. The commander of the American patrol was Lieutenant Terry Hume Davis of Salt Lake City, and he says: "It was the most fantastic thing I've ever seen."

He goes on as follows: "We spotted two to three hundred people marching toward the river, carrying torches. They were marching over low hills toward us. Further up the stream," Lieutenant Davis relates, "Another crowd of two hundred and fifty torches started toward the river."

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You can imagine the surprise of the G.I.'s at these torchlight processions. What were the Reds up to? But it was no time for idle wonder - so American artillery batteries opened fire, and the lines of flickering torches disappeared.

All of which was only the beginning of the weird goings-on by the Reds. "An hour later," relates Lieutenant Davis, "the torches appeared again. But this time they were massed in the shape of the letter V, still marching toward the river. We threw artillery shells in again, and the torches went out. But, half an hour later, they appeared again. This time," says the Lieutenant, "they were in the shape of the letter O."

Weird mystery in the black of night. Then they heard the sounds of engines of tanks, and the guns of tanks opened fire - which developed into a regular bombardment from tanks, artillery and mortars on the Red side. American guns replied, and the battle developed when enemy troops began an advance, fording the shallow river.

The best guess would seem to be that the lines of torches were a way to provide some light, while Red tanks and guns got into position. Anyway, the battle of ^{the} torchlight processions was on, ~~and was still being fought, at last reports.~~ The latest is a statement by an American Army spokesman in Korea -- that ^{North Korea} the Communists have driven a wedge five miles deep into the American line, a menacing thrust.

The two-fold Red offensive, along the Naktong and in the south, follows what looks like a final defeat for the Red attempt to capture Pohang, at the north-eastern corner of the war front. Today free Korean and American troops went surging forward with gains up to two miles - and the enemy soldiers were in full flight.

General MacArthur's headquarters confirms the stories told by prisoners that the Communist commander was ordered to capture Pohang by Wednesday. He is identified as Major-General Kim Chang Dok, veteran Communist who commanded Koreans in the China Civil War. But nothing is known at MacArthur's headquarters to confirm reports from the front line that Major General Kim Chang Dok was informed that he would be executed, if he failed to capture Pohang on time.

UNITED NATIONS

The United States admits that an American fighter plane may have made an attack inside Chinese territory. This was stated tonight by American Delegate Warren Austin, speaking to the Security Council of the U.N.

Four days ago an American jet fighter, may have machine-gunned an airstrip in China, Manchuria, five miles north of the Korean frontier. ~~It was an~~ *Also, it was an* ~~accident~~ by accident, so Chief Delegate Austin invited the Security Council to investigate - and later tonight, the Council voted to take up and discuss the incident, and the complaints put in by Red China.

Tonight was the end of the term of Soviet delegate Malik as Council President, he goes out in a blaze of talk.

TRUMAN

President Truman stated this afternoon that the American Seventh Fleet can be withdrawn from around Formosa, when the Korean War is over. The President told a news conference that he had ordered the warships into Formosan waters to protect United Nations forces fighting in Korea. So there will be no reason to keep the fleet there after the Korean War has been settled.

All of which is in line with the Truman view that our interest in Formosa is all because of Korea, where we are acting for the U. N. -- and tends to answer the charge made by the Chinese Reds that our Formosan policy is aggression.

SOVIET INCIDENT

Here's a curious turn in an international incident, which broke in the news today. The oddity is - the way we have the story.

Sweden rejects a Moscow protest, charging that four Soviet citizens were kidnapped by the Swedish police. They were aboard a steamship, which made a stop at S_tockholm, where they went ashore and ~~vanished~~.

Aboard the steamship was United Press correspondent Victor Kalman. He had the cabin just across from the one shared by those four Soviet citizens, ^{and} got to know them. "For four days and nights," relates the newspaperman, "we played chess and talked."

He says that one was a young Lithuanian named Vitlis, who was picked up by the Nazis and sent to Germany, where he was rescued by the British. He went to England, and worked in Lancashire Cotton Mills. But he didn't like it. "I'm a farmer at heart," he said. "I don't like the mills. So, when a man from the Soviet consulate in Manchester offered me a chance to go home, I grabbed it. The Soviet Consul told me," he added,

"that my father has his farm back again. But he said I should not write to my father. I should surprise him - going home."

Two of the others were from Baltic Latvia, and one was from the Ukraine. Their stories were similar - they were in England and Soviet representatives promised them they'd have their farms back.

"They went ashore during a sixty hour stopover at Stockholm," writes the reporter. "But they never came back to the ship - not even for their meagre belongings. later," adds Victor Kalman, "I heard they had run across some Baltic refugees in Stockholm, and decided against going back to Russia." The indications are that they are bound for Canada - where there are farms.

So that's the inside story behind the Soviet charge that the four Soviet citizens were kidnapped - and we have it because an American newspaperman happened to be traveling on the same ship.

RED LEAFLETS

The Soviets are always shouting about sabotage, and maybe they have a lot of reason - as would seem to be illustrated by a story from Germany today. At the City of Limbach, in the Red zone, the Communist officials called the people together for a celebration which would feature - "A special surprise." When the people gathered, "the special surprise" turned out to be a big balloon, which dropped a shower of leaflets.

The local Reds were complacent. They smiled proudly, until it was noticed - the pamphlets were anti-Communist propaganda. Somebody had sabotaged the balloon business, and slipped in the wrong leaflets - for what really was "a special surprise."

PLANE DISASTER

The airplane disaster in Egypt is complete. All lives lost in the big passenger transport, with fifty-five persons aboard that crashed in flames on the desert. The plane, belonging to ~~the~~ Trans-World Airlines, was on its way from India to New York, and twenty-two of the passengers were Americans, including Dr. Everett Moore Baker, Dean of students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Some of the victims were personnel of the United Nations. Another, was an Egyptian motion picture star. Still another - reported to be an Indian Maharajah, but that is not certain.

The cause of the disaster is unknown. The Airliner took off from Cairo, and for a while the pilot reported regularly. Then - silence. The crash occurred on the desert edge of the delta of the Nile.

EARTHQUAKE

From the inferno of earthquake devastation, in the region of the Himalayas - comes a strange detail, possibly of much significance. United Press correspondent Ronald Rolfe cables a report of an airplane flight he made into the vast region of floods in Assam, ~~near~~ ^{along} the border of Tibet. (There, the violent earth shocks caused the rivers to run wild - especially the great Brahmaputra which comes tumbling down from the Roof-of-the-World to the sea level of the Bay of Bengal, The Brahmaputra diverted from its course.

~~There are~~ miles upon miles of deluge, a vast muddy sea - as noted from the air. The flyers could see a railroad line left hanging in the air, the deluge and earthquakes having swept away the embankment on top of ^{Not in Tibet of course. No trains there,} which it had been built. ^{But there was something else.)}

On the endless expanses of the deluge, the airmen spotted large, spreading patches of black. These appeared to be - oil slicks - huge quantities of oil seeping up through the flood. It looked as if the

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movement of the crust of the earth had broken open deposits of petroleum underground, had cracked open fissures through which the oil was pouring.

If that should turn out to be the case, it might be of large future consequence - an earthquake disclosure of oil deposits in the region of the Himalayas.

CRIME CASE

Britain was treated to a shock today in the solution of a murder mystery. No, it is not the identity of the prisoner under arrest that causes the shock - it's the detective in the case. ^{And} ~~Not~~ not Scotland Yard. That far famed institution gave up six months ago, mystery insoluble - and now a mere private detective comes up with the answer.

The case had stately surroundings - the murder of the young woman at Arundel Castle, the ancient seat of the Duke of Norfolk, England's premier duke. It happened two years ago, and Scotland Yard was called in - all according to the style of the best British detective stories. But the sleuths of Scotland Yard failed to find a clue, and last April abandoned the case, for lack of evidence.

Whereupon the family of the victim engaged a private detective, Thomas Jacks, retaining him at a fee of two guineas a day, five dollars and eighty-eight cents. So now private detectige Jacks had succeeded

where Scotland Yard failed. The criminal - a farm laborer. Because arrest was not brought about by the regular police, a special document had to be issued. What is called - a "private warrant." It was the first "private warrant" for murder issued since Eighteen Sixty-Five.

CAT

A story from Germany pictures - swift little drama of deadly peril in the family household - or was it deadly?

In the Town of Muehldorf in X Bavaria, papa, mama and the children, sat down to a dinner of - mushrooms. Quite a feast - they liked mushrooms. They were digging in, when they heard a pitiful sound from under the table. The meowing of the family cat, an agonized meow. And under the table they saw - kitty writhing in pain.

Whereupon papa let out a roar - remembering ~~xxxx~~ that, just a few minutes ago, he had fed the cat some of the mushrooms. So you see the deadly implication - Kitty poisoned by toadstools.

There was fast action - papa rushing himself and family to the hospital. There the doctors applied the stomach pump, and up came the mushrooms. Then the doctor said: "Okay, they could go home.

So home they went, and thought about poor kitty. She must be a goner by now. They looked under

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the table, and there was the family cat - with seven new kittens.

Well, I ^{so} hope they sat down and finished their dinner, eating the rest of the mushrooms - while the ~~cats~~ kittens had dinner in their ~~own~~ way. And now

Nelson - before you order your steak and mushrooms —