

PANAMA

L.I.

R.S.

Wednesday, December 24, 1947

(The busiest Christmas in the world is being spent by American Troops in Panama. They ^{are} ~~is~~ evacuating those bases on Panamanian soil -- which the Republic of Panama ^{- at the moment - doesn't want us to retain.} ~~refuses to let us retain~~ They ^{are} moving out by highway and ^{by} air. Yesterday the government in Washington accepted the unfavorable decision, voted by the Panamanian legislature and said ^{we would} ~~not~~ abandon the bases immediately. ^{we are} ~~we are~~ doing just that - at Christmas time.

(Meanwhile the government of Panama seems to be not so happy about the way things are developing. The President of Panama stated today that he hoped negotiations would be resumed - and a deal worked out. ^{That} Maybe an arrangement could be made to give us leases for a shorter period. For example, the treaty ^{that} ~~was~~ was turned down called for a ten-year lease on the Rio Hato Base -- maybe that could be cut down to a five-year lease. This is intimated by the news from Panama. ^{TP} ~~and~~ In Washington acting-Secretary-of-State Lovett declared today that we are ready to ~~reopen~~ reopen negotiations at any time.

(However, in Congress, ^{tional circles} there's more and more talk of building another canal -- which would leave the Panama Canal in second place.) Today Senator Chavez of New Mexico mentioned Tehuantepec. That's in Mexico, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, the comparatively narrow neck before Mexico broadens out into Yucatan and Central America. Senator Chavez ~~now~~ advocates an inter-ocean waterway across Mexico, pointing out that a Tehuantepec Canal would be a lot closer to the United States than Panama.

And, The talk about a Nicaraguan Canal is increasing with the United Press putting a query direct to Nicaragua - to minister of war Samoza, the strong man of that Central American Republic. Would Nicaragua welcome an American Canal? The answer was decisive, enthusiastic - Si, Si, Senor. Nicaragua has long wanted a canal, *with* the rush of business and money that would go along with it.

(Today General Samoza, the Nicaraguan strong man *said!* *declared:* "We offer the United States any requisite territory in Nicaragua for the construction of the long - *And -* discussed canal.) We offer," he added, "any ~~■~~ requisite

territory anywhere else in our country for military bases to protect the canal."

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relect -- they not wanting to lose the profit that accrues
t from that greatest of waterways, connecting the Atlantic
and the Pacific.)

Our State Department rejects the criticism in the case of two Communist newsmen who were assigned to cover the United Nations. They were taken into custody for deportation, whereupon the Secretary General of the U.N. Trygvie Lie, protested that this violated rights of the U.N. in the matter of news.

The State Department replies that the U.N. was supposed to notify the United States Government in the case of newsmen assigned to the international organization and this was not done in the case of the Communist Journalist from Greece and the Red correspondent from India. The former was accredited by a U.N. clerk, acting ~~x~~ on his own. The latter was over here on a student's visa.

Moreover, the State Department announces that ~~we~~ we are going to propose a drastic revision of the system of admitting foreign correspondents to ~~report~~ report the doings of the United Nation.s

POPE

Today's papal address rang with striking phrases. Broadcasting from Rome, Pope Pius the Twelfth presented a christian view of the international ills in this post ~~xxx~~ war world. He spoke of what he called - "A titanic struggle between opposing spirits who dispute the world." And he stigmatized international dishonesty insincerity and lies.

Speaking of falsehood, he declared: "Today it amounts practically to a system. It has been raised to the distinction of a strategy - in which the lie, the garbled word and trickery, have come to be ~~xxxx~~ accepted weapons of offense, ~~which some people with the skill of professionals, broadcasting even of their competence~~" That is, the strategy of the lie as a technique in the battle of ~~xxxx~~ propoganda, ideology and power politics.

The Papal address never once mentioned Soviet Russia or Communism, but the implication was clear in such phrases as - ~~xxx~~ "Fomenter of hatred," and - "Dēnyer and destroyer of all sense of brotherhood." ^R Calling to the ~~four hundred~~ ^{scores of} million ⁵⁹ Roman Catholics on this earth,

the Pontiff exhorted them in these words: "Pray and work that, after the rout of the spirit of darkness, the angel of the bottomless pit, ^{that} the sun of justice may rise over the world."

The news wires had scarcely completed their account of the Papal address, when along came a beautiful illustration - from Moscow. (~~A vivid example is always eloquent, and here's one to illuminate that theme of lies and international falsehood.~~) The official newspaper of the Communist Party, Pravda, prints a dispatch stating that there's a plot between the United States and the Vatican, ~~there's~~ a Vatican American conspiracy to stage right-wing revolutions in France and Italy and set up dictatorships in those two countries. DeGaulle in France, for ~~xxx~~ example.

(~~Pravda in Moscow claims that the pit plot is directed by the Vatican, with the United States providing armament for the alleged conservative revolutions.~~) The United States, says Pravda, is selling American war materials to the Vatican for low prices,

and is enabling the Vatican to finance the plot. You've heard the old story about arsenals of guns in the basements of churches? Well the Soviet version tells of secret deposits of American weapons in monasteries and schools. "There is information available," says Pravda, "that to the Vatican-secret-depots-in ~~many~~ monasteries-and-schools there are coming American war materials and equipment destined for the right wing Italian parties and ~~R~~ DeGaulle's agents."

So that's the Vatican - American plot.

TRUMAN

In Washington, President Truman's Christmas address emphasized the virtue of charity - appropriate at this Christmas time when this country strives mightily to aid the hungry ^{of} free nations abroad. The President quoted St. Paul in the great pronouncement: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity - these three. But the greatest of all these is charity."

As an apt illustration of that quotation from St. Paul, ~~xxxxx~~ here's a bit of news from England saying that British families are celebrating Christmas by having German prisoners of war as guests. Some five thousand captives of war still remain in England, working on farms. They ^{are} mostly in East ~~xxxx~~ Anglia, where local families have joined in inviting prisoners to their homes for Christmas dinner. The British have not much for themselves - this Yuletide of shortages, ^{want} and austerity; - but on Christmas they ^{are} ~~are~~ sharing what they have with their recent bitter enemies.

NEW LEAD PALESTINE

In Bethlehem, ^{in the Holy Land,} ~~Palestine~~ the birth of the prince of Peace was commemorated in an atmosphere of tension - armoured cars patrolling ^{all the way} ~~the road from~~ ^{from} Jerusalem, ~~down~~ to Bethlehem ^{to} the scene of the Nativity.

Heavily armored troops everywhere. Searchlights moving their ~~revealing~~ fingers of light across the hills where Nineteen hundred and Forty-Seven years ago the shepherds watched their flocks on that memorable night ~~that changed~~ ^{marked the beginning of a new era in} the history of the world, ~~that~~ gave mankind an undying faith. Tonight in the Holy Land peace only in the hearts of a few - for the others, Jews, Arabs and Britons ^{it was a} ~~and real~~ ~~wariness,~~ ~~after~~ day of shooting and ~~killing~~ and sporadic bombings ^{- a toll of nine lives,} ~~nine deaths recorded.~~

And above the Holy City all day, a leaden sky, and pouring rain, ~~cold dark and forbidding~~, as if nature itself was ^{weeping over} ~~sorrowing for~~ the follies of mankind. ~~And perhaps trying to drown the barking of the stern guns, and the dull rumbling of the ~~heavy~~ bombs.~~

Shortly before midnight, the rain ~~in~~ ceased, and a cold bright moon shone through the clouds, as the Christian worshippers began their pilgrimage to the Church of the ~~Nativity~~ ^{the} Nativity. ^{the} British High commissioner, Sir Alan Cunningham, and the Consular Corps attended the midnight mass in the Basilica, escorted by a body guard of Arab troops in Fezzes and ~~in~~ scarlet uniforms - escorted right to their places in the ~~church~~ church, ~~this Arab~~ ^{the} bodyguard taking no chances in this troubled area.

And so while outside the searchlight hovered and the troops watched, the age old service began, priests, nuns, Arabs, diplomats and women in ~~wine~~ mink coats, honoring the nativity of the Christ child on this most sacred day ^{of} the Christian calendar. ^{TR} After the mass there was a solemn procession to the Shrine of the Nativity, the narrow streets resounded with the singing of carols as catholics and protestants joined in ~~active~~ song - while nearby the soldiers watched

with their rifles and sten guns, to keep the peace on Christmas night ^{right where the Prince} ~~at the location of the First~~ Christmas of Peace was born.

The guarding of the Christmas ~~Procession~~ ^{Evil} procession from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, of course, ~~is~~ not only an indication of the bitter strife in Palestine, but also an official sign that the British have begun measures to transform the area of Jerusalem into an international zone - according to the partition plan voted by the United Nations. ^{TP} This plan ^{Partition was} denounced vehemently today by the Mayor of Jerusalem, Issa Banak, who dressed in ~~XXXX~~ morning coat and striped pants gave his Christmas message to the world, and then blamed the United ~~XXXX~~ States for all the blood shed in Palestine, saying that "The Arab world will fight even the United States ~~XXXX~~ to prevent partition of ~~XXXX~~ Palestine."

This, after Issa Banak Moslem Mayor of Jerusalem had wished all nations of the world prosperity and happiness, adding "I wish all leaders

of the world would follow the high principles of the
child Bethlehem so that peace and stability will
be restored." With which we all agree. Islam paying
tribute to ~~Jesus of Nazareth~~ *the Saviour* on this troubled
Christmas Day in the ~~His~~ Holy Land.

ENIWETOK

(The Navy announces that the population of Eniwetok has been evacuated. The total number of inhabitants -- one - hundred - and - forty - two. That many, or rather that few, Micronesian tribesmen taken off the atoll in the far Pacific -- which is to become a great atomic station.) Everything is ready for the construction of the great installations for making Eniwetok the number one center for experiment and development of the bomb and of peacetime atomic power.

(The population has been moved to another atoll, Ujelang,) which is much the same as Eniwetok. The tribal chieftains picked ~~U~~ Ujelang after the Navy gave them an inspection tour of a number of coral atolls. They selected Ujelang because it abounds in fish, coconuts, breadfruit and ~~R~~ panadanus. ~~The pandanus are particularly interesting. What are they? I tried to find out in the dictionary, but pandanu wasn't there. Some edible pleasing to the Micronesian palate, ~~no~~ no doubt.~~

The Navy announces that the inhabitants of

ENIWETOK

Eniwetok, having been moved Ujelang, are pleased with their new home, ~~reason~~ including the pandanus.

DAVIS

We hear that Glenn Davis, of West Point football fame, is ~~g~~ going to sign with the Los Angeles Rams -- if the Army will permit him to resign and go into professional football. Davis, himself, disclosed that he is asking the Army to let him go; but ^{he} refused to state that he intended becoming a Pro. However, the United Press, this afternoon states that the player, who made history on ~~a~~ that great Army team, will join the Rams -- if he succeeds in getting out of the Army. Davis is from Los Angeles, and the Rams mean - home town.

The other half of the famous pair, Blanchard and Davis, is going to stay in the Army. Blanchard declares he will remain in uniform.

WEATHER

Here's news for any of you who may have zero or sub-zero weather outside. Southern California is sweltering under a winter heat wave - a record breaker too -- eighty-three degrees in Los Angeles, and eighty-five in Long Beach. ~~xxxxxx~~ A shirt sleeve Christmas and according to the weather bureau ~~if~~ no relief in sight -- not even a nice white fog, which is the Californian version of a White Christmas

HOLY NIGHT

Nowhere in the world was Christmas Eve celebrated in more fitting style than at the tiny village of Oberndorf, in Austria. Elsewhere, choirs and organs intoned Christmas carols, but in Oberndorf the music of the nativity was performed by two men and a guitar-- two voices accompanied by chords on a guitar. The reason for this ~~curiosity of~~ ^{rather odd} church music is made amply ~~xxx~~ evident by a Christmas story of olden days.

A hundred and twenty nine years ago at ~~that same~~ Oberndorf, the country people flocked to the village church for the services on Christmas Eve. There the priest, Father Joseph Mohr, told them he had a surprise - a new Christmas Carol. He himself had written the lyric, while the village school teacher and church organist had composed the tune. ~~He~~ ^{He said that he} and the schoolmaster would sing it - to the accompaniment of a guitar. That was because the church organ had broken down, and they couldn't have any organ music.

So in the glimmering light of the candles on the altar, the priest and the schoolmaster sang their

yuletide song, while the Priest played the accompaniment on that most ^{uncommon} ~~unchurchlike~~ ^{for church music -} instrument - a guitar. It was a world premier, the first performance of what is now the world's favorite among Christmas carols - "Silent Night, Holy Night."

^{And that's} ~~so you see~~ why at the ^{Austrian} village of Oberndorf this Christmas Eve, the music was sung by two voices with a guitar accompaniment. The old church of a-hundred-and-twenty-nine years ago, has long since disappeared - its place taken by a memorial chapel. In the public square, in ~~the~~ front of the chapel, the Austrian countryfolk gathered from far and near, while "Silent Night, Holy Night" was sung, as it ^{was sung that} ~~had been performed~~ the first time - by two men and a guitar.

REG KAUFFMAN

No doubt an almost endless number of poems will go out over the ~~xxxxx~~ airwaves tonight, and tomorrow, poems full of Christmas spirit. Each year I receive dozens of them, perhaps hundreds of them, from the radio audience. I wish I had time to read them all. One of the best came from a newspaper man in Maine who thirty years ago was a famous war correspondent, for the New York Herald Tribune and other papers -- Reginald Wright Kauffman.

In recent years Reg has been editing a daily paper in a small city, up on the rock-bound coast of Maine, where all the folks are poets.

I have just time left to read the closing verse of Reg's poem, which seems particularly appropriate:

Tonight the air is calm and clear,
The unexpectant earth is sad
With hate and riot; blood and fear
Have driven half men's masters mad.
Yet farmfolk and all simple folk
Are wise-men: Ere the midnight cease
They hail aright, aglow, afar
The Herald Angels and the Star
That point an open path to Peace!

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Nelson have you a closing thought,
poetic, or otherwise?