

KOREA

P.I.-P.H. Fri. Nov. 24 - '50. P.I.-P.H.

The news from Korea is -- thunder at dawn. As a new day Saturday, breaks over the far eastern peninsula, there is a roar of artillery all along the northwestern sector of the battlefield, ^{- for a distance of} eighty-five miles, where ^{the} opposing armies face each other: -- One hundred thousand Chinese and Korean Communists -- and an equal force ^{under the flag} of the United Nations. The roar of cannon at daybreak seems to be a prelude to an all-out assault by the Americans and Free Koreans -- massive and devastating artillery preparation.

Today, Friday, the U. N. forces went surging forward, for an advance of as much as fifteen miles at one point. There was little resistance, almost no casualties. But the push was across a belt of no man's land, which the Reds did not try to protect -- and the forward move brought our troops into contact with the main Communist defenses. ^{There} Positions were taken up for an assault - and at the crack of dawn, Saturday, which has already begun in Korea. the cannon all along the line began the roar of artillery preparation.

~~The~~ offensive, designed to end the Korean War, was launched by General MacArthur personally ^{to day} flying from Tokyo to the battle sector to supervise final plans and orders. Today he returned to Tokyo, and we are told of a front line conversation between MacArthur and Major General John Coulter, commander of the U. S. Ninth Corps.

Coulter said his G.I.'s were eager to drive to the Yalu River, the Manchurian frontier. To which the Supreme Commander responded: "You tell them that when they get to the Yalu River, Jack, they can all

come home. I want to make good my statement that they can all eat Christmas dinner ^{at} home," said MacArthur.

In Washington today a Navy spokesman remarked that, even if it were over in a hurry, only a small percent of the G.I.'s could be brought home by Christmas - not enough ships. But the main point is that ~~General Douglas~~ MacArthur believes he can end the Korean war now -- with one last battle.

The delegation from Communist China arrived in New York today - and were they breathing fire like the Chinese dragon? Not at all. The tone may not have been quite as gentle and affectionate as the cooing of the dove of peace, but it certainly was moderate.

The nine members are headed by General Wu Shiu-Chuan -- a veteran of the Chinese Civil War. When they landed at the airport, after a flight across the Atlantic, General Wu issued a statement. He said that, if the complaint made by his government on the subject were given just consideration, it would be, in his words -- "Helpful to peace and security in the Pacific and in Asia."

That sounded mild enough, and was followed by some real old-fashioned courtesy - which you don't expect from rambunctious Reds nowadays.

"A profound friendship," said General Wu, "has always existed between the Chinese people and the American people. I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to convey greetings to the peace-loving

people of the United States," said he. Yes the Chinese always were polite - according to the rules of Confucius.

From the airport the delegation proceeded to their hotel, the Waldorf -- after which General Wu and three of his colleagues drove to the United Nations and Lake Success, to pay a courtesy call on Secretary General Trygve Lie.

The word at the U.N. is that Monday will be the Day for the debate on Formosa, in which the Chinese have come to take part. But the urgent question is - Korea. Today in the political committee, Soviet delegate Malik demanded that the Chinese delegation be invited to attend a debate on Red charges that the United States had committed aggression against Manchuria - which, of course, involves Korea. A vote has just been taken on this, and the answer is - yes.

However, the real discussions will not be in those formal debates - the word at the U.N. tonight being that the issues are more likely to be settled in

negotiations behind the scenes. Great Britain is expected to take the lead in confidential talks, for an agreement with Red China or Korea.

JAPANESE TREATY

The United States has proposed a Japanese treaty - and received a reply from Moscow on the subject.

The American suggestion is that a treaty be made - without settling disputed questions concerning the island empire lost by Japan.

Such a matter as Formosa, for example, would be put off for future discussion by the big powers and the United Nations.

The Moscow retort is that a lot of these matters were settled in the Yalta and Potsdam agreements - and that therefore the American treaty proposal constitutes a violation of settlements made at those conferences.

This Japanese treaty business is accompanied by a significant blast on the Moscow radio today - Red propaganda giving what it calls the main reason why the Chinese Reds have intervened in Korea. That, says Moscow, was because the United States intends to re-arm Japan, under a peace treaty, and China is alarmed by the prospect of a new Japanese war machine.

SUBSTITUTE EUROPEAN ARMY

In France, the European Assembly has voted to create a European army - including German military units. The German Socialist delegates refused at first, but agreed after they were promised that there would be no discrimination against German forces.

This has been a number one question for the free countries of Western Europe, and now an agreement -- to form immediately a west European defense force, including Germans. Commander? Undoubtedly General Eisenhower.

EISENHOWER

This ^{next} had to come. It was only to be expected -- after the news that General Eisenhower had bought a farm in Pennsylvania. He purchased acres of historic ground - for a future home -- fields on the site of the Battle of Gettysburg. All of which might well provoke philosophic reflections on how, in the past, commanders of war have had a way of retiring to the farm.

The classic example is that of the Roman consul Cincinnatus -- who, having saved his country by victory in battle, went back to plowing his fields. But, you can't keep out -- politics! So here's a Washington ~~d~~espatch giving the political angle.

It is noted that, by selecting a Pennsylvania farm, General Ike may have put himself in line to be Pennsylvania's "favorite son" for the Republican nomination. Lining up the delegation of that state @- which will be the third largest at the Republican National Convention.

In addition to which, they say the General can have the support of Kansas, the state where he grew

up - though he was born in Texas. He can also have New York. Governor Dewey having sounded the call of -- Eisenhower for President. New York, of course, will have the largest delegation of all. So, at the Republican Convention, General Ike would have three states to start with - including the first and third largest.

The General, to be sure, still disclaims any political ambition - but there are top-rank Republicans who will tell you that he is likely to be the candidate in Nineteen Fifty-Two. So, the soothsayers in Washington are pointing to General Ike's Pennsylvania farm - which might make him Pennsylvania's "favorite son."

Memories of the Battle of Gettysburg,[!] shades of the Roman Cincinnatus![!] - but in Washington they are looking at the political angle.

GOLD ATOM

This next may seem to be of small interest - anyway, it is mighty small. Three-tenths of a trillionth of an inch -- that's the size of the nucleus of an atom of gold.

So announced today by physicists at the University of Illinois, who did the measuring with a betatron, an instrument of atomic science with a power of twenty-two million volts. To the physicists, the measurement is ^{of} much theoretical importance - using twenty-two million volts to find that, in an inch, you could line up three trillion and three hundred billion of these minute particles, the nuclei of gold.

FIRE

Today in the Town of Bristol, which is in both Virginia and Tennessee, a building was burning, and two firemen were on the roof. The blaze was in an automobile company building, where tanks of gasoline exploded - and firemen Walter Steward and Fred Arnold were pouring streams of water down into the flames.

Then the roof, under their feet, began to sag. In the fury of the fire, the whole structure was collapsing, and it looked as if the two firemen would be plunged into the inferno.

They saw the front wall of the building toppling, and ran to the wall, and got onto it. Then they rode the collapsing wall, as it crashed into the street.

Tonight, firemen Walter Steward and Fred Arnold are in the hospital, but their injuries are not serious -- after the wildest of rides, and deliberately going along with a falling wall, in its downward crash.

SUB MICKEY COHEN

The government is taking proceedings upon grounds of income tax evasion against Mickey Cohen of Hollywood. That alleged boss of the Los Angeles gambling racket testified recently before a congressional committee that he was broke - and three hundred thousand dollars in debt. Which required a lot of borrowing, and he told of large loans.

The congressional committee seems to be a bit skeptical, because tonight Senator Kefauver of Tennessee announced that the Bureau of Internal Revenue has just about completed an income tax evasion case against Mickey Cohen of the Los Angeles underworld.

HEPBURN

Everybody knows that Katherine Hepburn is a dramatic actress - she's dramatic even to the extent of backing into a hot stove.

Today La Hepburn was arrested on a speeding charge in Oklahoma, as she was on her way to a performance of Shakespeare's "As You Like It." The actress didn't like it, when they dragged her into the court of a justice of the peace and charged her with going eighty miles an hour.

She paced back and forth in the court, denouncing the cop. "You don't have sense enough to be an officer" she cried, and at that moment, going back, instead of forth, she backed into a ~~hot~~ hot stove - the Oklahoma courtroom being heated in that old-fashioned way. Smoke arose as the fur coat that Katherine Hepburn wore was burned and seared.

The officer tried to be nice about it, and said, "well, it probably didn't hurt that thousand-dollar coat too much."

La Hepburn rose to full height, and cried:

"Thousand-dollar coat! This one cost five thousand and five hundred dollars."

The moral would seem to be - don't back into a hot stove, especially when you're wearing a fifty-five hundred dollar coat.

SEA STARS

The University of Southern California is boasting loudly tonight, announcing - sea stars. A laboratory ship sent out by the University, was able to dredge up twenty-six of them. Hitherto, only nine had ever been found -- off Madagascar, off Japan, off the Cape of Good Hope. Now, twenty-six at a clip, brought up from a depth of a quarter of a mile, off the coast of California, near the Island of Santa Catalina.

The sea stars are tiny denizens in the abyss of the ocean -- each only about one-third of an inch in diameter. But they are worth a lot more than their weight in gold. -- Sea Stars! -- do you ever, Nelson?

OTTER

Over in Sweden, a citizen of Stockholm turned himself over to the police, saying: "I'm having hallucinations. I took a few drinks, and I'm seeing -- otters."

He had been celebrating -- with "Svenska punch." Not to mention Sweden's favorite Christmas beverage called - "Glug." After which, driving home, he saw right in front of him, on the Stockholm street - an otter. It looked as real as life - that fur-bearing animal of ^{the} northern forests, like a Swedish version of a pink elephant. So, in alarm, that citizen of Stockholm drove to a police station -- certain he had D.T.'s, and should be locked up.

~~Then~~ The police told him -- it was an otter. It was the real thing, escaped from a Christmas parade. You can imagine the relief -- not a pink elephant otter inspired by Svenska punch and glug.

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Sköl - Nelson!