

KOREA

L. J. - P. G. Friday, May 18, 1951.

(Jackson, N. H.)

As the day ended in Korea, an American division fought its way out of a trap - after having been nearly surrounded by an enemy break-through on the eastern front. Last night we heard how huge masses of Chinese Reds had crashed through a line held by South Koreans - thereby endangering the flank of an American division. The word last night was that the break-through had been sealed up -- but today the Reds resumed their "human sea" assault.

The American division held its ground, with massed artillery fire. One battalion, firing fast, is said to have set what is called "an all-time record, for any battalion in any war." But masses of Communists were working their way around the ~~at~~ division. The order came - retreat, and a fighting retreat it had to be. The Reds had set up a road-block in the rear. The drive out was helped by a spectacular artillery stunt. Lines of big guns draped a curtain of fire all around the division, as it fought its way southward. Sharpshooting American

gunners ringed it, with exploding shells, blasting the Reds as they tried to attack. Meanwhile, a rescue column of tanks was hitting the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ road-block from the other side - helping to clear the way out of the trap.

There, in the East, allied positions have been rolled back - with a withdrawal of more than twentyfive miles by south Koreans on the east coast. The Communists are fighting fanatically to exploit the break-through and pour the "human sea" down into Southern Korea.

Adjectives are being exhausted to describe the Red losses,) and United Press Correspondent Robert Gibson passes along the supposition that the infantrymen of the "human sea" must be drugged. He quotes an American officer ~~as~~ as saying "I think most of those Chinese are doped. They wade right through machine gun fire or artillery fire, and the bodies pile up. They walk right over the bodies, and the pile of bodies gets higher."

To illustrate this, the American officer tells of a weird episode. "One American machine gunner" says he "kept on shooting, and the Chinese kept on coming. Finally, they were walking right past him on both sides, close to him - with him still shooting and the bodies piling up in front of his gun. The Chinese" this account continues, "acted as though they were in a dream - paid no attention to the gunner, never did shoot him. One finally kicked over his machine gun - and not until then did he stop firing."

The same sort of thing goes for the front north of Seoul - where the defenders today ~~had~~ hurled back three Communists assaults. Twice the Reds penetrated the American line, but were thrown back in hand-to-hand combat. The powerful defenses of Seoul are ~~now~~ holding firm, but new mass attacks are expected.

AWARDS

Tokyo announces the award of two Congressional medals of Honor -- one to a Lieutenant, the other to a Sergeant. Back in January, Lieutenant Carl Dodd of Anderson, Indiana, led a platoon up a strategic Hill. A hail of machine gun fire, and the platoon faltered. The citation says: "With utter disregard for his safety, Lieutenant Dodd moved among his men, reorganizing and encouraging them. Then, he ran straight toward the first hostile machine gun nest and wounded or killed its occupants. Inspired by his incredible courage," the citation goes on, "the men responded magnific^santly. Fixing bayonets and throwing grenades, they rushed on."

The Sergeant is John Pittman of Tallula, Mississippi - and his story is that incredible thing, which does happen. A hand grenade thrown in the middle of a squad - and he in the words of the citation - "selflessly and unhesitatingly hurled himself on the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion with his body." You'd certainly

think this would be a posthumous decoration. But
Sergeant Pittman survived his deed of self sacrifice,
he was gravely injured, but he is alive - and back
home.

FORMOSA

We've been hearing about immense floods in Red China - and the deluge on the mainland is reflected by news today from the Island of Formosa. Huge inundations - after two weeks of torrential rains. Fourteen days ago, a tornado ripped through southern Formosa, and that was followed by a downpour that has gone on, ~~xxxx~~ day after day - those tremendous rains of the tropics.

Tens of thousands of acres under water. In Central Formosa, the Tsosui River, burst through the dams of a reservoir and the deluge poured down the valley. Hundreds of villages engulfed. At least three hundred lives lost. A thousand persons missing. Railroad lines cut, highways washed out. Communications paralyzed - on Formosa.

(The U N today took formal action on the Arms Embargo against Communist China and North Korea. The vote adopting the embargo was unanimous, forty-seven to zero. The Soviet bloc abstained from voting, refusing to take any part in it, claiming the embargo is illegal.)

ISRAEL

The Chief of Staff of the United Nations arrived at Tel Aviv today, General William Riley, trying to settle the border dispute between Israel and Syria. The word is that he brings a U N cease-fire plan, which would place the zone of border dispute under U N jurisdiction. But this, it seems, would require Israel to halt reclamation work in the district of Lake Huleh - an irrigation project. This the Jewish State is unwilling to do.

There's talk of a partial mobilization of the armed forces of Israel -- to guard against possible intervention by other Arab states in the dispute. Egypt, we hear, will send warplanes and airborne troops to help Syria, if there's a renewal of fighting on the border. Iraq announces that it has already dispatched fighter planes and anti-aircraft guns. This has drawn a warning from the British - London cautioning against action that might bring about a renewal of war in Palestine.

FOLLOW ISRAEL

The latest -- (the security Council of the
U N tonight called on Israel to suspend the swamp-
draining project, which is the real key to the border
dispute, ^{with Syria}) The vote followed a scorching objection
by the Tel Aviv Delegate Abba S. Eban, who made a
vehement address - then collapsed. He was found to be
suffering from exhaustion.

DRAFT

A conference committee of the Senate and the House agreed on a draft bill today. Actually, a combination of draft and universal military training. It would lower the selective service age from nineteen to eighteen and ~~xx~~ a half years. Also cut physical and mental standards, so as to induct a hundred and fifty thousand, now called as four F.

WAGES

The Wage Stabilization board grants a pay hike in the meat packing industry -- two hundred and twenty thousand workers getting a raise of nine cents an hour. This was approved by the board, even though it does contradict the ceiling on wage increases.

AUTOMOBILES

The automobile industry is informed that the amount of steel for new passenger cars will be cut thirty-five percent below the levels that prevail when the Korean war began. The reduction goes into effect July First. Other industries will also have to take a cut in their supplies of steel, but not as much as in the realm of ~~the~~ automobiles. The steel is needed, of course, for armament.

STEAMSHIP

Today, the U S Court of Appeals threatened Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer, with a jail sentence. The same, likewise for Solicitor General Philip Perlman - Number Two man ~~xxx~~ in the Department of Justice, second only to the attorney General. Eight other government officials were included. the Court said they'd be tossed into the ^{cooler} ~~house~~ next Thursday for contempt - unless they returned a maritime line to its former owner. This, as a climax in a long dispute - the government evading court orders to return the steamship company to its owner, Stanley Dollar of San Francisco. So what's the answer? Well, it comes from the Secretary of Commerce himself. He surrenders, and says he will do as the court orders. He doesn't want the distinction of being the first U.S. cabinet member to go to jail.

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WRECK

In the wreck at Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, the news gives a terrifying picture of a railroad collision. The night express from Pittsburgh was halted by a signal a quarter of a ~~mile~~ mile from the Bryn Mahr station, when on came the Red Arrow, travelling from Detroit to Philadelphia. The locomotive of the Red Arrow plowed into the rear sleeping car of the night express. Today's dispatch, quoting eyewitnesses says: "the engine and the sleeper rose in the air ~~together~~ together in a flash of flame, which died down quickly. Then the sleeping car crumpled like a piece of paper, and the big locomotive settled down on it. Sheets of steel fifty feet long curled around the engine. Other pieces pointed jagged fingers into the sky" says the dispatch.

At least ~~eleven~~^{eight} lives were lost, and the figure may be higher. Fifty-six injured, most of them not seriously. The cause of the wreck is not known. Pennsylvania Railroad officials declare that the engineer of the Red Arrow got a warning, well

in time, that the night express had stopped in front of him. The engineer was injured, has undergone an operation, and the doctors have not allowed him to be questioned - not yet.

Eight sailors on a ship, who leaped into the Delaware River to save their lives.

The blaze broke out on a pier crissed with cargo, including cases of oil. The fire swept like a storm, and engulfed the British Merchant ship Finland which was at the dock. That started a stampede of sailors jumping overboard.

PHILADELPHIA FIRE

Late word shows that three persons are missing in a spectacular fire at Philadelphia today. Thirty-nine persons ~~are~~ injured - including twenty-eight sailors on a ship, who leaped into the Delaware River to save their lives.

The blaze broke out on a pier crammed with cargo, including drums of oil. The fire swept like a storm, and engulfed the British Merchant ship Pineland which was at the dock. That started a stream of sailors jumping overboard.

SPACE SHIP

We hear that work has begun on the basic problems of space ships. That is, rockets intended to ~~XXXX~~ soar beyond the gravitational pull of the earth, and revolve around this planet as satellites.) This comes from Langley Field, Virginia, where government scientists declare that studies for the launching of space ships have begun. But the work is called "purely exploratory", and those artificial satellites are still a long way off.

BOY SCOUTS

A lawsuit in Chicago discloses the doings of a hundred and fifty boy scouts. We all know that scouts are supposed to do a good deed every day - and a hundred and fifty scouts should add up to a hundred and fifty good deeds per day. But listen to this.

They were having an outing near one of the famous mansions of this country - a seven million dollar "roman palace," built years ago by Harold McCormick, millionaire of the Harvester fortune, and his wife, Edith Rockefeller McCormick, daughter of the legended John D. Rockefeller, Senior, founder of Standard Oil. The "roman palace" on the shore of Lake Michigan, has been vacant for years, with all its treasures of art and decoration.

To these boys scouts, it looked to them like the ideal place for a sham battle - one side attacking, the other defending the seven million dollar showplace. So the hundred and fifty divided themselves into two armies, and the seige of the "roman palace

palace" began. Result - forty thousand dollars worth of damage.

Today's news dispatch from Chicago tells what they did in the following words - "overturning expensive urns, knocking costly statues from pedestals, breaking windows, chopping ornamental doors with scout axes, smashing a stone stairway, ^ltopping a heavy balustrade over a bluff and down onto the shore of Lake Michigan."

The affair comes into court, with a suit against five insurance companies, a demand for payment on policies covering loss by "riot, civil commotion, vandalism, or malicious mischief". Seems ^{(to have} ~~XXXXXX~~

been all of these combined, as the boy scouts forgot all about the injunction -- to do a good deed every

day, which by the way, most Boy Scouts do. How about your good deed for today, Nelson?

GAMBLING

In a New York court today charges were lodged against John Murtagh, who served as an investigation commissioner under New York's former Mayor, William O'Dwyer. Murtagh is charged with willfull neglect of duty, in failing to report on graft in the Police Department. The accusation is that he neglected to disclose police gambling conditions.

At almost the same moment, sentence was passed on Brooklyn racketeer Louis Weber, who gets the Maximum sentence - five years in jail, and a two thousand dollar fine. He was convicted of perjury, when he testified before the Senate Crime Committee about his relations with James J. Moran, long time political associate of O'Dwyer's. (Moran has also been convicted of perjury. Both he and Murtagh were appointed by O'Dwyer to plushy fifteen thousand dollar a year city jobs, just before the Mayor resigned to become U.S. Ambassador to Mexico.

METEOR

Today brings details about a brilliant meteor that flashed over Tennessee and Kentucky last night. Hundred^s of people saw the great gleaming visitor from outer space. The descriptions are various, and picturesque. One eyewitness describes the meteor as being "half as large as the moon". ~~Another "the size of a two gallon bucket."~~ V. M. White of Nashville ~~calls it "a large blue ball, which seemed to explode into seven or eight tails."~~

(At Paducah, the police received a report of a "large plane crash." The plane, according to the witness, looked like "a ball of fire" as it ~~it~~ struck the earth with a resounding crash. This, it is believed, was actually, the meteor. The fragments will probably be found somewhere near Paducah.) At Vanderbilt University, astronomer Dr. Carl Seyfert calls it - "an amazing astronomical coincidence." Because this was the third large meteor in eight months, to flash over Tennessee and Kentucky. Which is far beyond the probabilities in any one area.

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