

L.T. P. & G. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1949

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight's news presents a summary of underground resistance behind the Iron Curtain. The United Press in Europe has made an investigation and a survey. The data would seem to show that between two hundred thousand and four hundred thousand armed men are operating against the Reds behind the Iron Curtain.

At the top of the list - Ukrainians. We are told that a well-trained partisan army, perhaps as many as two hundred thousand, is carrying on guerrilla war in the Soviet Ukraine and in Poland -- guerrillas whose haunts are in the vast gloomy forests.

In addition to the Ukrainians, there are anti-Red Poles - one hundred thousand of them stalking the forests that cover so much of their country. They snipe and sabotage -- believing the time will come for an open revolt of the Poles against the Reds.

Czechoslovakia! -- several partisan forces sworn to carry out sabotage - one guerrilla group known as -- the Black Lion.

In Romania, there are twenty separate underground groups -- ~~as~~ so we are told. The Romanians go in for romantic names. There are partisan bands called The White Eagle, The Black Cloak, the Waves of the Danube.

It is difficult to ~~assess~~^{assess} the real strength of this underground behind the Iron Curtain, but the survey does recall how the anti-Nazi underground with sabotage and terror helped in the overthrow of Hitler's Germany.

ATOMIC

New word today on that all-important question -- have the Soviets an atomic bomb? Hitherto, the answer has been based on deductions from the scientific and industrial capacity of Russia - the belief that the Soviets have not the technological means, not yet. But today's declaration is founded on something else -- intelligence. Information, that is, gathered by the Intelligence Services of our armed forces.

So what's the answer? Major General K. R. Robinson of the Army engineers writes: The best intelligence indicates that our major potential enemy does not now have an atomic bomb. ~~This, he states in a technical publication, The Military Engineer. General Robinson likewise informs us that military intelligence indicates that the Soviets, not only have no atomic bomb, but lack the means of delivering one, the kind of aircraft to reach this country.~~

However, he repeats the usual warning that this situation is only temporary - the Soviets

One of our American atomic secrets has been fathomed and is now disclosed to the world -- one secret of the bomb that hit Hiroshima. Just what was the position of that missile when it exploded -- at what point over the city, and how high? That, hitherto, has been a military secret. But now the answer has been worked out - by the Japanese.

Because, plenty of them were there when the first atomic bomb exploded. But, to the people of Hiroshima, it was just one tremendous flash of incredible devastation. Nobody could say just where the center of the explosion might be.

But now, four years later, they give the answer. The atomic bomb dropped from the B-29 was at a point near the very center of the city, and it burst at an altitude of about nineteen hundred feet.

How do the Japanese know? Well, they've been doing some clever figuring. In that vast flash of radio-activity, buildings threw shadows -- and these shadows were registered at various places --

shadows made permanent by the affect of atomic radiation, something like weird photography. So Japanese scientists have proceeded to make careful measurements of distances and angles, giving them data for calculations of trigonometry, triangulation.

Any student of "trig" will understand. The results of the computation of the shadows left by radiation, give that answer. The atomic bomb burst at the dead center of Hiroshima and at an altitude of between eighteen-hundred-and-seventy-five and nineteen-hundred-and-eighty feet.

HUNGARY

American Minister Selden Chapin has left Hungary, on his way to Washington. The purpose -- "consultations". That's the official verdict. But today, being asked if he would return to Hungary the American Minister said: "You might take a look at my baggage."

He and his wife had twenty pieces of luggage, making it look like a permanent move - no mere fast voyage to Washington and back again.

Minister Chapin stated that the Red charge accusing him of conspiring with Cardinal Mindszenty are in the words of the diplomat: "Nonsense and pure fantasy".

He ~~aid~~ said he did not know just how the Reds were able to ^{win} ring a partial confession from the Cardinal. But he added "all kinds of pressures were used."

TRIAL

In Munich a veil of secrecy was lifted long enough today to show a man named Kleska -- convicted by an American tribunal of espionage for Red Czechoslovakia, and sentenced to twenty years in prison.

This was the first trial of a series-to-come -- twenty persons accused. All of which cases have been veiled in the deepest military concealment for days. But today, the Army decided to lift the curtain -- but only in part.

The trial was held behind closed doors and we don't know any of the facts about what the defendant did by way of spying. We are not even informed what his nationality is -- either Czech or German. The newsmen were admitted only to hear the sentence -- twenty years in prison, for espionage -- in behalf of red Czechoslovakia.

ROYALL

The battle between Army Secretary Royall and the American correspondents in Tokyo is developing -- with news men making a vigorous defense. Today Secretary Royall continues his denial that he ever intimated that the United States Army might pull out of Japan. The correspondents on their side, are cabling from Tokyo their own versions of what happened.

One of the twelve at the secret interview was Peter Kalischer of the United Press, and he gives the story as follows: He says ~~that~~ the news conference at our Embassy was called by Secretary Royall at the request of the correspondents who wanted to get a picture of the world situation. "The first half of the hour-long session," he relates, "was devoted to questions from newsmen." He says that the much debated statements were touched off by a question from Keyes Beach of the Chicago Daily News. "What is the ~~xxx~~ military value of Japan?" asked the correspondent from Chicago.

Kalischer of the United Press states that all of the twelve newsmen took copious notes of what thereupon transpired, and he presents his notes which quote Secretary Royall as follows: "My department is reconsidering the military value of Japan. I have grave doubts," the Army Secretary is quoted as saying, "that Japan has any value in the event of war with Russia. I think it might be better to pull out before the war started."

President Truman refuses to get mixed up in the argument between Secretary Royall and the Tokyo newsmen. A late dispatch from Washington pictures him as refusing to discuss the matter at all, saying that it was -- Royall's argument.

PALESTINE

The first President of Israel was inaugurated today -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, taking the oath of office. Hitherto, he has been provisional President -- now the regular head of the permanent state. The ceremony today, like the first session of the Jewish Parliament, was staged in Jerusalem -- another affirmation of the Zionist intention to have the Holy City as the capital of Israel.

The new President is seventy-four, long time leader of the Zionist cause ever since the days of the First World War. He it was, in fact, who began the new era of Zionism - the movement first launched by Theodore Herzl half a century ago.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, distinguished chemist, produced chemical innovations used by the British in that first global conflict -- and with that background, he was able to negotiate a Jewish homeland in Palestine, beginning that phase of Zionism which has led to the establishment of the state of Israel.

ISRAEL

Today in Jerusalem the ceremonies were of ancient symbolism. The new President was escorted by twelve members of the Jewish Assembly - that number signifying the twelve tribes of Israel of Bible times. He was greeted, not by a brazen fanfare, of shining trumpets, but by the wailing sound of ram's horns, the traditional note of ancient Hebrew custom.

The blue and white flag of Israel was flying -- and the first President of the Jewish State took the oath of office, while a huge crowd burst into cheers, and also into tears -- weeping with joy.

WALLGREN

There was a flare of rip-roaring personalities at a meeting of the Senate Armed Services committee today - on the subject of President Truman's appointment of former Secretary Mon Wallgren of Washington as chairman of the National Security Resources Board. Republican Senator Cain, likewise of Washington, hurled insults, describing Wallgren as a: "pool-playing politician." To which the echo would seem to respond -- how good a game of pool does the former Senator really play?

Wallgren hurled back -- insult for insult, saying that he has in his own words: "had the same wife for thirty-five years." Senator Cain's wife is suing for divorce.

I don't know what all this has to do with the National Security Resources Board. But you know how it is when ~~political~~ political argument gets hot.

WHITE HOUSE

President Truman told Congress today that it would probably be cheaper to tear down the White House than repair it. The historic home of the Presidents is in such bad shape that it would cost less to put up a new building. He illustrated by telling how the leg of a piano sank through a rotting White House floor.

But, the Truman view is that the present White House is of so much historic significance it is best to retain and repair it -- although that will cost more. So today the President asked Congress for five million four hundred thousand dollars to rip out the entire interior of the Mansion and replace it with a fireproof construction of concrete and steel. Outwardly the White House will remain the same, look the same -- the familiar shell but entirely new inside.

LADIES

Here are some reminiscences of long ago, curious and charming -- recollections of childhood given by the youngest daughter of Brigham Young. Of all the dozens of children the great Mormon leader had by his many wives, Mrs. Clayton survives. She recalls her father vividly, and tells of one phase of his personality, an item for history.

I have this from my wife, who had luncheon with Mrs. Mable Y. Sanborn Clayton. Inevitably the conversation got around to the Founder of Salt Lake City and the Mormon community in Utah -- a daughter telling some things about him.

She said that she and her mother did not live in the Lion House, which Brigham Young built as the home of a number of his wives. She and her mother had a separate living place though they sometimes visited that multiple household, where the Mormon revelator maintained so much of his

fabulous family.

Mrs. Clayton knew her ~~xxx~~ father only when she was a child, during the last years of his long life. And her greatest recollection of Brigham Young is -- as a builder. His interest in carpentry and construction; his expert knowledge of how to handle timber and stone. That was his pre-occupation -- which his small daughter noticed especially.

All of which fits in with the historical fact that Brigham Young was a carpenter-and-joiner-by-trade, back in upper-New York State - before he enlisted in the religious movement of the Prophet Joseph Smith, eventually becoming the historic chieftain of the Mormons.

Mrs. Clayton tells of ~~sa~~ seeing the ox teams drawing the great blocks of stone in the building of the Mormon temple -- the tall massive ~~fixix~~ edifice right across from the window of my hotel room. Also -- the construction of the Tabernacle, with its vaulting spacious dome. ~~17~~ She says her father

directed every detail of construction, and devised that feature most remarkable in the Tabernacle -- the use of timber and thongs of ox-hide. Brigham Young, the one-time ~~carpenter~~ carpenter and joiner of a pioneer community in upper New York State understood the ox-hide method of building. He showed them how to do it. Hence the fact that the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City is built of timber without a nail. Everything joined with thongs of ox-hide which is still in good condition after nearly one hundred years.

My wife describes Brigham Young's surviving daughter as ~~an old~~ ^a lady of high education and refinement -- with aristocratic manners reminiscent of England.

They went over to the Tabernacle - that world masterpiece of ox-hide architecture. And they listened to music on the great organ -- classics of Bach and Wagner.

An interesting interlude for the feminine side of the family, during this western trip of ours.

SKATING

There was a furor in Paris tonight, the cause of the uproar -- ~~Max~~ Dick Button. The nineteen year old Olympic skating champion defended and retained his figure skating title. In two days of competition, at Paris, the American wizard of the ice ran up a score of more than two-hundred-and-sixteen points. Tonight he climaxed with a performance that clinched his championship, whirling on the ice with amazing grace and speed, and polishing off a great ~~parfume~~ performance with a jump and a triple turn in the air.

The Parisian crowd, at the Palais de Sports burst into a frenzied ovation. Pandemonium continued, for five minutes, before Dick Button was permitted to retire from the ice.

WEATHER

The weather-word tonight has a fine Indian sound - Chinook. That's the warm ~~weather~~^{wet} wind blowing from the Pacific, ~~and~~^{ing} sweeping across the mountains with mild temperatures and often rain. The-blizzard-be-deviled-ranches^{re} are hailing the Chinook. The ~~the~~ mild weather is enabling them to open endless miles of snow-blocked roads, and save their cattle. But the Chinook ~~the~~ also brings a threat of -- floods. The snows have been so heavy that if the quick thaw is prolonged, the warmth and the melting will bring the deluge.

Northern parts of the Pacific Coast, Oregon, Washington, Canada, were lashed by wind and rain today, gales up to sixty miles an hour, the skies opening, the water coming down.

In the Mississippi/ Valley, there was -- bombing. In Kansas four Air Force fighter planes did a dive bombing job to break up ice jams in the Arkansas River.

The frozen barriers were backing up the

stream, threatening wide inundations. So the Air Force fighters went diving in, aiming bombs, blasting the ice with thundering explosions.

And now, quietly we turn to you, Ken Niles.