

MALENKOV

LT.-W. Thurs. Dec. 31 - 57.

The United States has New Years greetings --

<sup>who</sup> guess from <sup>whom?</sup> Malenkov, the Soviet Premier, who sends

us a message ~~for~~ full of sweetness and light. He was queried

by the International News Service and the response is --

the first declaration that Premier Malenkov has addressed

to the western world. The gist of it is in the following

quotation:

"I consider that there is no serious obstacle  
to the improvement of relationships between the U S S R  
and the U.S.A. and for strengtning traditional bonds of  
friendship." <sup>So</sup> says ~~Malenkov~~.

The rest of it is in the same tone, a Soviet--

Malenkov Happy New Year to the U.S.A.

## NOTE

The Western Big Three have handed the Kremlin a diplomatic note saying - okay. ~~They~~ Accepting the Soviet suggestion - that the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Big Four be put off until January twenty-fifth. Great Britain, France and the United States had proposed - January fourth. Moscow wanted a delay of three weeks, and that's all right with us.

The communications are described as brief, not much more than a diplomatic form of that familiar Americanism - okay!

## PRISONER

A late dispatch from Tokyo states that one of the Americans who refused ~~the~~ repatriation -- has changed his mind. Corporal Claud Batchelor of Kermit, Texas went to an Indian guard today, and said - he wanted to go home.

Corporal Batchelor was in the news previously, when a Japanese girl friend in Tokyo wrote him, asking him to return. He refused. But now, he has abandoned his devotion to the Reds.

This occurs as the Indian guards are screening prisoners of war, Americans, as well as the Chinese and North Korean anti-Communists.



South Korea makes a violent protest because Indian custodians are screening anti-Communist Chinese and North Koreans. Some of whom have already faced Red explainers. Others -- never interviewed. The Indians announce that one-hundred-and-thirty-five have asked for repatriation -- going back ~~back~~ to the Reds.

The suppositiOn is that Indian commander, General Thimayya, wants to "clear the record" ~~has~~ before all the remaining prisoners are turned loose on January twenty-third. Moreover the new screening is a sort of answer to Communist insistence -- that the "explanations" be extended.

The South Korean protest over this reopening of the prisoner business is vehement. But, will probably not go beyond words.



## CONFERENCE

Diplomatic sources in Washington say - that efforts are on, back of the scenes, to get a Korean peace conference going; Arrangements <sup>have been in</sup> ~~arrangements~~ a deadlock - preliminary talks having been suspended. So now there are efforts to arrange a compromise. Through the good offices of Indian officials in Korea.

The stalemate in the arrangements was caused by charge and counter-charge - each side calling names. But the Reds are said to be willing to take back the names they called if we'll withdraw ~~that~~ the epithets that we hurled. Basis -- for a compromise.

## H-BOMB

We're going to hurl a hydrogen bomb from an airplane. In the Far Pacific, the Eniwetok-Bikini proving grounds - a B-36 will take off with an H-bomb, and drop it. The stupendous explosion - to take place, as the missile falls near the ocean. A daring experiment - for the plane and the crew.

Little more than a year ago, a hydrogen explosion was staged in that Eniwetok area - and observers, then, said they didn't believe an airplane could have dropped the device and got away in time.

When atom bombs were hurled on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in Nineteen Forty five, the atomic bombers made a safe escape - although buffeted around by shock waves from the explosions. Those A-bomb explosions were, each, equal to the blasts of twenty thousand tons of T N T. The hydrogen explosion, last year, was equal to more than five million tons of T N T.

So you ~~see~~ see the point - the question of the plane

and the crew. Would they ever get away from the havoc they launch? A ~~\*\*\*~~ vital question - for hydrogen bomb warfare.

In the forthcoming test, the H-bomb will be somewhat smaller than the one exploded in Nineteen Fifty Two. Still, it will be vastly more powerful than any atomic bomb. On the other hand, the B-36 will be flying much higher than the B-29s in the atomic bombing of Japan. The H-bomb to be dropped from an altitude of ~~approximately~~ <sup>around</sup> forty ~~five~~ thousand feet - nine miles up in the sky. And the B-36 will be flying faster than the B-29 -- for a quicker getaway. All adding up to ~~the~~ the belief - that the plane and crew will escape safely from the hydrogen blast.

Nevertheless, it's dangerous - and the men <sup>who are in for</sup> ~~this~~ <sup>this</sup> adventure know it. A special crew is being trained, and they are going ~~in~~ into the test with what is called "full awareness of the hazards involved."

The experiment will be staged in the spring, in May.



All important - because to strike an enemy with an H-bomb,  
you<sup>would</sup> have to drop it from a plane.

## SENATE

Republican Senate leader, Knowland of California says the G O P policy Committee will consider proposals - to consolidate the three congressional committees investigating Reds. If this were done, it would put the quietus on Senator McCarthy.

Congressional Democrats have declared open war on the Wisconsin Senator, and will try to curb his investigating authority. The question will come up when additional funds are proposed for the McCarthy sub-committee.

Today, Senator Knowland said - it's "entirely premature" to guess whether or not the Senate will limit McCarthy's powers. Republican leaders, he went on, have made no move in that direction.

However, there are suggestions for a consolidation of investigating committees. Which are - the House Un-American activities group, the Senate Internal Security Committee, and McCarthy's permanent investigating sub-committee. The consolidation would abolish the McCarthy group.

The question will be discussed by the Senate  
Republican Policy committee, when Congress reconvenes.



## SOVIET PRISONERS

In Berlin today Leland Towers told his own story -- one of two Americans released after imprisonment in Soviet Russia. Towers - a U S communist who wanted to see the Red utopia first hand.

He says he joined the Communist party in San Francisco where he was a shipyard worker. That was in Nineteen Forty Seven, and he was a card-carrying Red. The lure of the proletarian paradise drew him, and in Nineteen Fifty One he went to ~~Russia~~ Finland, intending to enter Russia from that country.

The Soviet authorities refused permission but that did not deter so ardent a Communist, and Towers got across the frontier by cutting his way through barbed wire, sneaking -- into utopia. Today he said "ten minutes after I cut my way into Russia I was arrested. What I ~~learned~~ learned about Russia I ~~am~~ still can't believe."

He was put in a slave labor camp, ~~where~~ chopping down trees and building roads. The experience turned him into

an ardent non-communist. Today he told the news men he still does not love capitalism. But when asked if he would rejoin the Communist party he snapped <sup>I should say not!</sup> -- ~~Good God no.~~

The other American released is Private Homer Cox who says he was shanghaied after ~~shaking~~ being doped in a West Berlin tavern. He woke up in an East Berlin prison cell.

He tells of horrors in a Russian slave labor camp and says he knows of several other Americans who are still there. He gives their names, and their families in this <sup>will now</sup> country, hear about them for the first time.



## SOLDIERS

Two families are having a mighty happy New Year. One - in Alabama. The other - in Pennsylvania.

At the little town of Starks, down in the Bayou country today, Mrs. Fanny Verdine said: "This is the first we've heard about William in six years. All I can say is that - my prayers have been answered."

She's the mother of Private Willlliam Verdine, one of the G I's ~~name~~ reported to be in Soviet Russia. He disappeared in Germany while doing sentry duty at night - six years ago.

At Norristown, Pennsylvania, today, Mrs. Nellie Clemson said: "My poor father and mother are so excited, I'm fearful for their health." Mrs. Clemson is a sister of Private Bill Marchuk, another of the Americans now said to be in Russia.. He, too,disappeared in Germany. His sister saying: "This is the first word we have received, of any kind from anyone, to show that Bill is still alive."




What remains now, is to get the soldiers back.

Which our government is trying to do.

## WATERFRONT

Governor Dewey says that New York State will intercede before the National Labor Relations Board -- in the controversy over the ~~nk~~ waterfront election last week. Governor Dewey declares that the old national longshoremen's association which won the disputed election is "gangster ridden" And adds: "The evidence of coercion and intimidation in the election will be formally placed before the N L R B."



Here's the latest { President Eisenhower rejects  
the request from the I L A -- asking for White House  
intervention in the New York waterfront dispute. The  
union so often charged with racketeering <sup>and</sup> is bitterly  
hostile to governor Dewey's intervention. ~~that is, the~~  
~~background for the appeal to the President.~~ ~~Who~~ replies  
"no, he won't interfere."



## CHAMPAGNE

In France, the champagne growers are contemplating the New Year with mixed feelings. On the bad side - the fact that sales of champagne are decreasing. Last year, thirty-million-five-hundred-thousand bottles - marketed. Compared with thirty-six-million, two-hundred-thousand the year before.

Even in France, there's a decline. The wine producers ~~says~~ complaining - that Frenchmen are switching to whiskey and soda. They call it - the American influence.

On the other hand, the champagne growers have had, what is called - a remarkable vintage year. Conditions - just right for the best growth of ~~the~~ grapes. They say the Nineteen Fifty three vintage promises to be the best in twenty-five years.

But what good is a great vintage - if ~~many~~ people don't drink the champagne?

## WEDDING

A singular wedding celebrated alongside the Rock of Gibraltar today. Patricia Arno, daughter of the celebrated cartoonist, Peter Arno - marrying radio producer Warren Bush. The ceremony - aboard a prosy, uninspiring boat, a tender.

Patricia Arno had crossed the Atlantic on the Italian liner, Andrea Doria, and the couple had intended to get married, in style, aboard that vessel. But, it was found, that Italian law forbids weddings aboard ship, except in case of emergency - and this wasn't considered such an emergency.

So they had to settle for the next best thing - when the Andrea Doria made a stop at Gibraltar, anchoring in the shadow of the rock. A British tender drew alongside the liner, and the couple were married aboard that humble craft - while the passengers aboard the Andrea Doria lined the rails, and cheered.

That's the story of a singular wedding - the illustrations for which ought to be drawn by not Paul Webb, or Al Darn, or Otto Soglow. They of course should be drawn by Peter Arno.

## SUICIDE

Fort Worth, Texas, reports a suicide. The victim of self destruction - a man of strong beliefs. So convinced, there was no compromise.

Luther Lindsey once wrote a song, a song that said: "I would rather die than see my ~~fan~~ daughter smoke."

He shot himself, and left a suicide note. With a postscript reading: "Damn women that smoke!"

He ~~never~~<sup>rather</sup> felt strongly about that, didn't he?



Queen Elizabeth saw one of the strange sights of the world today. She and the Duke of Edinburgh visiting the - "glowworm grotto." That's in New Zealand, where the great Waitoma Cave reaches far underground - a weird subterranean world. Weirdest of all - a grotto that has an underground river, and is inhabited by millions of glittering glowworms.

The Queen and her husband boarded a small boat, which proceeded up the subterranean stream into glowworm grotto. Where the black spaces were illuminated by myriads of "stars." Swarms of gleaming insects over head, <sup>Harry -</sup> like a sky full of flitting stars.