

**KOREA**

*C.I. - P. & G. Thurs. Sept 21 '50*

The Korean news gives us a mystery - about ~~the~~ that formidable Red column reported yesterday, driving from the north toward Seoul. With two hundred vehicles, including forty tanks, the Communist force was described as rolling down from the home base of the Reds, as if to strike at the American invasion in the Seoul sector, - *This Communist force is* said to be from Chinese Manchuria - giving an implication that the Chinese Reds <sup>are</sup> were coming to the rescue of the Korean Communists.

This morning, in Washington, an army spokesman at the Pentagon Building stated; - "There is no evidence of <sup>any</sup> ~~the famous~~ column of two hundred trucks moving into Korea from the Manchurian border." He added that, if it were true, General MacArthur would surely have informed the <sup>war</sup> ~~headquarters~~ at the Pentagon.

That was followed by a Tokyo dispatch which stated: "There is no further word of a Red motorized column reported last night only thirty-five miles from Seoul."

Later, a Navy spokesman in Washington told of

a carrier plane attack, which destroyed twenty-three tanks and thirty-one trucks, somewhere between Seoul and the Red capital of North Korea. So maybe that was it. The spokesman said he had seen a news report that the Navy planes had been given the job of taking care of the much-talked of Red armored column. But added: "I am unable to confirm any contact with such a convoy."

He summed it all up in these words: "You can draw your own conclusions."

So that's what we're left to do - form our own conclusions about the mystery convoy.

Getting around to the clear facts - the Marines are still pushing ahead through <sup>the</sup> suburbs of Seoul. The leathernecks have thrust into the city proper, but these have been only patrols - feeling out enemy strength. (In the northwest, the Marines are pushing ahead rapidly, on a wide front, skirting the capital city. At the southwest, they've run into stubborn opposition, in an industrial suburb - where the Reds have been putting up a fierce battle.

The supposition is that the Marines <sup>in</sup> of the north will not make their drive until the leathernecks to the south have cleaned out the industrial suburb, and are set - for a two-way drive into Seoul.

The word filtering from inside the city pictures a flight of the Communist leaders. But Communist fanatics are expected to put up a battle. Probably defending a large hill inside the city, a summit seven hundred and fifty feet high - and rugged.

~~But on the other hand,~~ <sup>IP</sup> We hear that there's a Free Korean fifth column, ready to rise in insurrection against the Reds, as soon as the Americans enter from the old perimeter. <sup>T</sup> The latest communique tells of the First Cavalry approaching the Town of Kumchon, eighteen miles northwest of the captured Red stronghold at <sup>was</sup> ~~Amngvan~~. At the same time, the First Cavalry has closed a trap on a pocket containing two to three thousand Reds. These were encircled and put under violent air attack. But the longest gains reported tonight are by the Free Koreans, whose Eighth Division has advanced more than six miles.



The news dispatches give a graphic picture of the highway north of the perimeter. United Press correspondent Peter Kalischer calls it: "An unbroken cloud of dust, fifty feet high, raised by a solid thirteen mile long stream of trucks and artillery" - on the road to Seoul, to join the invasion forces there.



## DECORATIONS

The news brings along a list of decorations awarded today in Korea, medals for the brave - and there's a vivid reminder. How different things were a mere couple of weeks ago! In the citations, one thing is repeated - like a refrain.

Sergeant Joseph Rusek of Brookfield, Illinois - did a one-man job. With fast mortar fire - "He stopped an enemy advance that enabled his platoon to withdraw to safety", says the citation.

Sergeant Francis Leviska of Big Rapids, Michigan, destroyed two enemy machine gun nests - "enabling his unit to withdraw without further opposition," according to the citation.

Corporal Robert Oferrall of Trappe, Michigan, manned a machine gun on top of a truckload of explosives - and "his unit was able to withdraw to more tenable positions."

Private Newton Willbanks of Texas, retrieved mortars and ammunition "abandoned by his platoon in

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retreat." While Lieutenant Paul Swanson of Meadville, Pennsylvania - helped to slow an enemy advance.

So you note the refrain - withdrawal, retreat, enemy advance. Which takes us back to those days when the perimeter was being battered, the G.I.'s outnumbered, forced back. It looked like possible disaster, and we wondered: "Why wasn't the perimeter being reinforced? Where were all those American troops? Why weren't we throwing more into the defense - to make the fight less desperate?"

Then, at the time of the amphibious invasion near Seoul, I said it looked as if General MacArthur's plan was in the grand tradition of classical strategy - defending the perimeter with only a little, while gathering the main American strength for the counteroffensive.

Classical strategy - so what about examples in the past? Well, there was Napoleon, in his most brilliant victory - at Austerlitz. He faced a much larger army of Austrians and Russians, and the

situation was - that, if Napoleon's right wing was driven back, all would be lost. That was the critical point, and you might think he would mass his forces there. But Napoleon took the supreme gamble, and held his right wing position with as little as possible, a minimum number of troops. He had only about twelve thousand, five hundred there at the point of crisis - and these were assailed by forty thousand Austrians and Russians, in a ponderous drive.

So what was the Napoleonic strategy? The great commander massed the larger bulk of his troops at the center of the battlefield, for the counter-stroke. Then, while his thin right wing was holding desperately, he hurled everything he had through the center, broke the Austro-Russian line there, and cut the opposing army in two.

Then there was Robert E. Lee, and his most brilliant victory - Chancellorsville. The northern general, Hooker, outnumbered Lee so greatly, that he was able to send half of his forces around Lee's left



wing, to outflank him - while, at the same time, making a demonstration assault against the center of the Confederate army. But Lee held that center, with a mere fringe of troops, the smallest possible number - and sent his main force, under Stonewall Jackson, on a march around the out-flanking column. Stonewall Jackson struck the rear of <sup>the northern</sup> ~~his~~ column - for a disastrous northern defeat. The gamble was - the way Lee held the center with a minimum.

So, consider that perimeter. It looks as if MacArthur followed the same strategy as Napoleon and Robert E. Lee - defending the critical point with a minimum. Then, in a way, duplicating the counter-stroke of Napoleon at Austerlitz and the great march of Stonewall Jackson at Chancellorsville - throwing the main force by the sea route, for the counter-offensive at Seoul. War has changed a lot, but the classical strategy still seems to apply.

TRUMAN KOREA

Here's the White House view of that now famous - Thirty-Eighth Parallel. Reporters asked President Truman today - would the American<sup>s</sup> when they defeat the Korean Reds completely, chase them beyond that boundary line?

His reply was - it's up to the U. N. ~~He~~ pointed out that General MacArthur and his armies are officially under the command of the United Nations - and therefore will take orders from the U. N., in the matter of the Thirty-Eighth Parallel.

But in Korea, the President of the Free Republic, Syngman Rhee, says that he expects to preside over a united Korea - north as well as south. This - in an interview with the president of the United Press, Hugh Bailey<sup>lie</sup>. The Korean president topped it off with a joke. Concerning the Thirty-Eighth Parallel, he smiled and said: "Show it to me, where is it?"

Yes, it would be hard to show anyone a parallel of latitude, across mountains, valleys, plains

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and the ocean. Lines of latitude and longitude are only on the map - but they can have a considerable reality, nevertheless.



Yugoslav Marshal Tito thinks that the United Nations' quick and effective action in Korea has had profound effects on the Kremlin. The Communist but anti-Stalinist premier, told four American Congressmen yesterday that the United States action will help stop further Russian "aggression." Tito's views, according to Senator Brewster, are, that the fight today is not between Communism and capitalism. It is a fight between "slavery and liberty - between the right of self-determination and complete domination."

Very interesting, coming from a Communist premier.

## MARSHALL

Secretary of Defense Marshall held his first news conference today - immediately upon taking his oath of office. He told the reporters he would meet with the British and French Ministers of Defense in New York tomorrow - to discuss the rearmament of Germany. The newsmen listened - and looked. In fact, they were as much interested in what they saw as in what they heard.

The sixty-nine year, old wartime Chief-of-Staff was in ill health a few months ago - and underwent a serious operation. So how is he now, as he takes up the huge task of running this country's expanding defenses? At his news conference today, he looked fine, in good shape - was alert and in good humor.

He was asked about his health, and said he had just had a physical check-up at the Walter Reed Hospital - this, in preparation for assuming his new task. He said the doctors at Walter Reed found him fine and fit, to which he added: "I feel well now, but I don't know how I'll feel a week from now."

Let's hope he'll feel even better.

## TRUMAN - SUBVERSIVES

The latest from Washington is a report that President Truman will veto the Communist Control Bill. He'll do it tomorrow with a strong message denouncing the bill as ~~Un~~constitutional and a threat to American liberties. The word is that the message was being drafted at the White House today.

All this, in spite of pleas from Democratic leaders in Congress - who, with election coming up, told the President that the Communist Control Bill is red-hot politically, and urged him to sign it. But he'll veto - we are told.



## CONTROLS

President Truman told his press conference today that he's working hard on plans for imposing wage-price controls. The President is proceeding cautiously, to prevent what he called - the "fuddle and travail" - the trial and error, of controls in the Second World War. Selective wage-price ceilings are being considered, but it is believed will not be enforced until after the November elections. Under the home front mobilization law, the White House already has powers to impose wage and price freezes whenever necessary, in the war against inflation.

## TRUMAN - TAFT

President Truman enters the uproar between his foreign affairs adviser Averell Harriman and Senator Taft of Ohio. At his news conference today, the President said he agreed with statements that Harriman made to a convention of the American Federation of Labor - when he declared that Senator Taft was ~~fixing~~ "furthering" Communist objectives. Of course, nobody suspects Bob Taft of Ohio of being a Red - it's completely the other way around. Positively, Mr. Gallagher, absolutely, Mr. Sheehan. What Harriman meant was that the Commies would have approved of the Ohio Senator's negative votes in such matters as the Marshall Plan, the rearmament of free Europe, and the nomination of General Marshall as Secretary of Defense.

So the President says he agrees with this -; and that immediately provoked a new Republican uproar in Congress. The elephant of the G.O.P. was trumpeting violently after the Harriman blast, and the Truman endorsement makes it now - a fanfare of wrath.

## MACARTHUR

From General MacArthur - a reminiscence of that other war. A hard-boiled reminiscence, as would naturally be the case - since it's about that hard-boiled admiral, Bull Halsey.

MacArthur visited the Battleship Missouri - renewing memories of that historic day when, aboard Big Mo, the supreme commander presided at the signing of the surrender of Japan. But he said it also reminded him of the time when Admiral Halsey was receiving a visit from a "very important person."

Bull Halsey was on his deck, and the boat with the V.I.P. was having trouble maneuvering alongside. Whereupon the Admiral leaned over the rail and roared down at the sailors in the boat.

One of the gobs down below was a ~~sixty~~ salty character, and he growled to the boatswain: "Who does that old pot-belly so-and-so think he's giving orders to?"

Up above, Bull Halsey heard the remark. He leaned over the rail again and roared down: "Where do



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you get that "old" stuff? Call him anything you like,  
but not - "An old so-and-so."

And now my young friend, Nelson  
& Case.