

KOREA

L.T. - P. + G. Thurs., May 8, 1952. (Pasadena.)

Today's account of a tremendous air strike in Korea - has a quiet beginning. The roar of thundering violence ~~was~~ preceded by a mild overture of inaction and apparent futility. The U.S. Air Force laying down on the job, just loafing, taking it easy, -- so the Reds must have thought!

(The town of Suan, not far from the Armistice tents of Pan Mun Jom, was an enemy supply base.) Where, for a month, the Communists had moved in masses of armament, and munitions, equipment of every sort. They have been using the truce talks, the lull in the war, for a build-up of strength, along the battle front. And - a number one point was the town of Suan.

It seemed the U.S. Air Force must be asleep. The Reds unmolested -- for a month. They must have been laughing - the way they were fooling American air commanders.

Actually, the whole thing was under observation - by scout planes. The Fifth Air Force

was deliberately permitting the Reds to build up a number one target. Until the "rich plum" was ripe for picking. The plum picking came today.

At dawn - a squadron of American jets flew to Suan, for a preliminary ^{bombing} job on ^(the Red) ~~engines~~ anti-aircraft ^{batteries,} ~~guns.~~ ~~The jets knocking out enemy batteries~~ ~~them out~~ - with bombs.

^{Then} They were followed by groups of jets with napalm. The "Black Panthers" led by Major James Crutchfield of Moses Lake, Washington, The "Flying Fiends" commanded by Major Jack Wilson of Benton City, Washington, ^{and} The "Head Hunters" of Major Arthur Faunce, who comes from Palmyra, New Jersey. Those jet fliers have given themselves ferocious names - which were justified amply today.

(All day long, swarms of American jets and fighter bombers - criss-crossed an area of two square ~~mile~~ miles ~~It~~ crowded with supply buildings and dumps of munitions. Which blazed and erupted.) Suan is in a narrow valley -- and the flames crept up the sides

of the hills.

The astounded Reds called for air support -- and Soviet ~~made~~ MIGS flew down from the Manchurian sanctuary. They were met by American jets, which fought them off, shooting down two, damaging another.

The devastation at Suan continued until night-fall -- when attacking planes reported they had run out of targets. Not a building was left standing, not an installation left untouched by fire and explosion.

The latest report of the day gives the figures -- one-hundred-and-sixty-five enemy supply buildings completely destroyed, eighty-one others badly blasted. All adding up to the most devastating day's work in the Korean war thus far.

(It was a sort of greeting for General Mark Clark, our new commander out there.) He, today, was at the war front, accompanied by General Ridgway, whose command he is taking over. Ridgway was introducing

Clark to the officers who will now serve under him.
They were together as the news came streaming in --
telling how the "plum" was being picked.

KOREA -- GENERAL

(We can only gasp with amazement at the news from Korea. -- about General Dodd. The Commandant of the prison camp on Koje Island -- seized by red captives, and held as a hostage.) We have had some strange prison outbreaks over here in this country-- ~~xxxxxxx~~ but that one in Korea is the most amazing of all. Involving -- the United ~~St~~ States Army in war, and a General held ^{as a} ~~in~~ hostage.

^R The Island of Koje, off the South Coast of Korea, has been the scene of savage rioting by communist prisoners -- fanatical reds ~~and~~ terrorizing other captives with brutality and murder. In three separate outbreaks, ninety were killed -- including an American soldier. Of recent weeks, non-communist prisoners were taken from the Island -- leaving ^{only} a hard core of reds.

^R These fanatics began a new riot on Wednesday, and today the prison camp commandant went for ^a talk with ^{the} red leaders. General Francis Dodd, ^{of} Tallahassee, Florida -- accompanied by another officer, his own second in command. (At the gate of the barbed wire enclosure in

which the prisoners are kept, the General was talking with some communists -- when ^{the} reds broke into violence and seized the two Americans. The other officer managed to break away and escape -- but (General Dodd) was pulled into the enclosure, a prisoner of the prisoners. Who announced ^{that} they were holding him as a hostage.

~~EX~~ Later on, they passed out a note in the General's own handwriting -- saying that he was unharmed.

The situation, as of tonight, is to be found in an official Army bulletin, which states: "A demand for ^{his} immediate release has been ignored by the communists." ~~It~~ sounds incredible, but ^{there's truth!} ~~that's a fact~~ -- an American General held as a red prisoner of war.

FOLLOW KOREA-GENERAL

Late NEWS IS THAT (GENERAL RIDGWAY HAS GIVEN THE ORDER -- TO USE ANY OR ALL MEANS TO BRING ABOUT THE RELEASE OF GENERAL DODD. INCLUDING -- THE USE OF FORCE, IF NECESSARY.

MEANWHILE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE GENERAL ~~XX~~ HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING FOR HIS OWN RELEASE,) AND THIS LEADS TO ONE OF THE STRANGEST TWISTERS IN THIS WHOLE FANTASTIC AFFAIR. (A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL DODD, PASSED ALONG BY THE RED PRISONERS OF WAR,) STATED THAT HIS CAPTORS WERE DEMANDING -- ONE THOUSAND SHEETS OF PAPERS. WHY THE PAPER? WE CAN'T SURMISE. BUT THE WORD IS THAT ALL THAT PAPER WAS ACTUALLY MADE READY -- THOUGH NOT HANDED OVER TO THE COMMUNISTS.

General DODD ALSO SUGGESTED THAT A HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE BE SENT INTO THE COMPOUND -- BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN DONE.

WE LEARN FURTHER, THAT (THE SEIZURE OF THE GENERAL HAPPENED TWO DAYS AGO, KEPT SECRET UNTIL NOW.) NEWS MEN ARE BEING KEPT AWAY FROM ANYWHERE NEAR THE PRISON CAMP ISLAND. ALL ADDING TO THE MYSTERY OF THIS ALMOST UNBELIEVEABLE AFFAIR.

STEEL

The Government has lifted the ban on shipments of steel from warehouses. The "freeze" was applied last week -- when the steel strike was on. But production has been resumed, and stocks of steel are at a good level.

There's a peculiar picture -- the steel industry still under Government control, in spite of that injunction issued by Judge David Pine - directing that the steel mills be turned back to their owners. But that now is before the Supreme Court -- the strike off, and production resumed, pending a verdict from the high tribunal.

OIL

(Today brought - the first break in the oil strike. Nothing large -- but at least, a local settlement in ^{the mid-west,} Indiana. The Rock Island refining company signed a union contract, raising wages by eighteen cents an hour. Whereupon, one-hundred-and-fifty strikers went immediately, back to their jobs.

~~However There is no indication that this may set a pattern. (At the White House today, President Truman stated the government is working hard to get an agreement and ~~it~~ said he holds out "some hope". The probabilities are that the nine day walkout of ninety thousand oil workers will be handed over to the White House for presidential action. The Wage Stabilization Board - having failed in every effort for a settlement.)~~

~~TR The President was asked today whether he might seek a Taft-Hartley law injunction. He replied that the situation has not yet reached that point. Well, it would seem to have reached some kind of point - when the armed forces of the nation have been compelled to curtail activities because of an oil shortage.~~

BASEBALL

Here is a report on baseball in the Pacific Coast League. Where the pennant race has a country-wide interest because of a personal feud, ^{a big} ~~at~~ "hate".

TP
I've been watching the progress of the San Diego Padres, because of La favorite of mine in the days when he was a star with the Yankees. And then the one Lefty O'Doul ~~which one~~ time mighty pitcher and hitter was for long years a San Francisco favorite, ^{as} Manager of the Seals. But, after many triumphs, the Seals fell into evil days of lost games -- and, at the end of last season, Lefty O'Doul was fired ignominiously. Which burned him up, as only an Irishman can burn.

He got another job, ^{in a hurry,} managing the San Diego Padres -- a humble sort of team that never had much glory. So you see the feud -- O'Doul out for a hot revenge ~~by~~ ~~beating~~ his old ball club, the Seals.

So what's the standing of the teams today?
~~Rx~~ The Padres -- in the lead. Lefty O'Doul's team out in front by a margin of several games. The Seals -- in second division, staggering along. The two ball

clubs have played fourteen games against each other.
Of which O'Doul's outfit now has won ten.

Revenge, they say, is mighty sweet - especially
for an Irishman called O'Doul.

I am in Pasadena tonite - broadcasting from the
stage of the Civic Auditorium. - later to show a film
of one of the most important expeditions of our time,
in a region that is the complete contrast to Pasadena,
famous for its flowers, its homes, its Huntington
Library, Cal. Tech; Pasadena means - civilization at
it's best!

THE BIRD

The Chicago Museum of Natural History has ended a ~~xxx~~ quest going on for years. They wanted a specimen of -- a Huia bird. Nothing ^(they'd) ~~they would~~ like ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ better than to put on ~~ex~~ display a stuffed example of -- a Huia. Sounds a bit like hula, ~~hula,~~ but this one had feathers, and flew around in New Zealand.

~~But~~ ^{It} seemed a hopeless quest -- because the Huia bird has long been extinct. The species died out about the beginning of the century -- nobody having seen a Huia for forty years.

~~But now~~ ~~success.~~ So where did they find ^{One?} ~~an example of that bird, long extinct?~~ [^] Why, right there in the Museum. Some professor was rummaging around in the taxidermy section -- and, off in a corner, found a Huia bird, ~~which had been~~ procured ~~in~~ and stuffed back in 1890. Forgotten ~~xxxx~~ among a lot of odds and ends for all those years. ^P Which reminds one of that other bird in the play by the poet Maeterlinck -- the Bluebird. How the hero sought the

Bluebird of Happiness all around the world, only to find it perched in his own backyard.

The same sort of irony today, but it's a Huia bird.

TOMBSTONE

The Mayor of Tombstone, Arizona, is not going to remove that epitaph -- to Jack Williams. His Honor wrote to President Truman, saying -- he intended to do just that. But he now finds it impossible.

The argument goes back to a presidential statement four years ago when President Harry S. Truman declared that he didn't want any better record than that of Jack Williams, on whose grave at Tombstone Arizona, was a stone marked with one brief, eloquent line: - "'Jack Williams -- He done his damndest.'" Some while afterward, the President repeated this all over again. Whereupon the epitaph became more famous. But there was doubt and misgiving at the town of Tombstone.

In that Arizona town they have a famous graveyard dating back to the bad old days of the Wild West; called -- Boot Hill. Because that's where they laid to rest the citizens who died with their boots on. Mayor Wally Foster investigated and found that, on Boot Hill, there

actually was a stone marked with that epitaph *concerning* Jack Williams. But it was a new stone, much too new. Moreover, there was no record of anybody with the name Jack Williams ever~~x~~ having been buried on Boot Hill. So the Mayor figured -- it was a ^{fake}~~fact~~. Somebody had put the stone there, after those presidential remarks -- which remarks had no basis in fact at all. So Mayor ~~Max~~ Foster wrote to the White House, saying the gravestone would be removed -- as a fraud. ^P This, today, drew a retort from the President -- who told a news conference that the epitaph was ^{genuine}~~correct~~. He *explained* that a new stone had been placed on Boot Hill -- but that was only because the old one had been neglected, and was disintegrating.

Nevertheless, at Tombstone today, his honor the Mayor ~~Max~~ went up to Boot Hill -- to remove the stone and epitaph. But he couldn't -- because the stone wasn't there. Somebody had swiped it -- some souvenir hunter, apparently, with an enthusiasm for Jack Williams. ~~So~~ ^{the} the Mayor at Tombstone was

frustrated -- but he can console himself by reflecting
 that he tried. Though he ^{failed} ~~felt~~, he did his best. Like
 Jack Williams -- "He done his damndest."

And now Nelson — do yours!

FOREIGN AID

General Eisenhower warns Congress -- that a cut of a billion dollars in foreign aid will be seriously felt in the defense of Europe. As he retires from his North Atlantic Treaty Command, General Ike ~~XXXXXX~~ sends a cable to Senator Tom Connally, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee which has voted to cut foreign aid from seven billion nine hundred million to six billion nine hundred million. The General posed the problem in terms of two types of danger. One -- the risk of a Soviet attack, with a weakening of western power defense. The other, what he calls: "The equally obvious risks of ruinous spending." On one hand -- the danger of Red aggression. On the other, the chance that we may bankrupt ourselves. We've got to steer a course between the two hazards -- like the Scylla and Charibdis of old.