

RIDGWAY L.T.-P.Q. Mon. April 28 - '52 - *Trucker*

Today in Paris the council of <sup>the</sup> ~~Northern~~  
Atlantic Treaty Organization held a meeting -- and,  
in all due formality asked American delegate William  
Draper to ~~me~~ transmit a message to President Truman  
requesting the President -- to name General Matthew  
Ridgway as Commander of the West European Army  
succeeding General Eisenhower.

Whereupon delegate William Draper put in  
a telephone call to the White House in Washington.  
It was day-time in Paris, but night-time in this  
country, and the phone call got the President out of  
bed. Receiving the request to name a successor to  
General Ike the President replied: "Ridgway".

Whereupon the council of N.A.T.O. still  
in session in Paris, ~~xxx~~ voted an immediate unanimous  
okay.

Such were the forms in appointing the  
Supreme commander in Tokyo to a new job -- shifting  
him to Europe. Pure formality -- because the naming

of General Ridgway had been agreed upon in advance. Formalities today -- because this was the day when the Peace Treaty with Japan went into effect, ending the occupation over there. Ending, the post of Supreme Commander.

The American military chief ~~in~~ in Japan is now commander of U.S. forces remaining in Japan -- and of the Army fighting in Korea.

In that post, the successor to Ridgway, is General Mark Clark, as we heard some days ago. General Clark commanded the World War Two campaign in Italy, ~~and is~~ a strategist of much experience in battle -- ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ now taking ~~the~~ a command that includes the direction of the war in Korea.

General Alfred Gruenther remains at his post in Paris, where he has been Chief of Staff to General Ike.

Many in Europe were in favor of having Gruenther take General <sup>Eisenhower's</sup> ~~the~~ job -- he knowing so much about the organization of the West European Army.

But the word is Ridgway is preferred -- because of his reputation in the Korean war and as Supreme Commander in Tokyo. So Gruenther stays on in Paris as Ridgway's Chief of Staff.

## JAPAN

(Our war with Japan ended formally today, when Secretary of State Acheson deposited the Peace Treaty in the Government archives at Washington.) This, in a ceremony -- followed by the signing of documents putting an American-Japanese security pact into force.

All of which was echoed on the other side of the world in Japan -- with a large celebration. The temple bells rang out in cities and villages. Crowds made merry with the blowing of sirens and whistles, hailing -- end of American occupation, and a ~~xx~~ revival of the independence of Japan.

The Government of Premier Yoshida celebrated by issuing a white paper -- accusing Soviet Russia of making Japan "a second Korea." And announcing -- that Japan will rearm as a partner of the western democracies, in opposition to Red Imperialism.

A sour note comes from the Soviet side, the Red Embassy in Washington declaring -- that today's new independence of Japan is part of an American plan for an imperialist war in the Far East.



The Reds complain bitterly because the treaty calls for U S troops to be stationed in Japan for some indefinite period.

## KOREA-VETERANS

In California the big local news is -- veterans landing from Korea. Tonight, I am at Donner Pass, in the High Sierras -- with news filed from down in the Valley -- from Sacramento. And a whole string of dispatches ring the good old theme of -- welcome home.

At San Diego twenty-four hundred Marines landed today, taking the port by storm. Another two thousand Leathernecks -- going on to San Francisco for another ovation there. But that's the smaller part of it. The Fortieth Division of U S Infantry comes home -- two contingents arriving over the weekend, another due today. The Fortieth Division of the California National Guard.

~~The Marines from all over the country come in at San Diego and San Francisco. The California National Guard at Seattle. Why not at a California port? Well, for an answer the band will now strike up ~~xxxxxx~~ an old sentimental tune, so that we can sing -- "Sweet mystery of the Army."~~

The Californians made a great record in Korea, and deserve an ovation -- especially the kind recommended by their commander, still over there.

Major General Daniel Hudelson, is a gruff plain-spoken soldier who sent one of his officers Lieutenant Colonel William Henderson to fly in advance and arrange for the return. I have a message from Colonel Henderson who tells me what the General said.

"He doesn't mind <sup>those</sup> ~~receptions~~ with brass bands and hula girls at the dock, as the transports put into harbor. But," growled the hard bitten soldier, "what I want is for the soldiers to get a welcome in their home town, especially the small towns."

So that is part of Colonel Henderson's mission -- to make sure that each small town is notified when its own several veterans of the National Guard get off the train, coming home.

## KOREA CARRIERS

A squadron of Navy Panther Jets landed in Japan today -- after months of missions over the coast of Korea. The pilots have thrillers to tell of winging in combat. But the most painful story of all is related by four of them -- one of the four being Squadron Commander, <sup>James</sup>~~xxx~~ Kinsella of La Mesa, California.

Four weeks ago they took off from their carrier the Valley Forge, and assailed the enemy along the coast with such persistence they ran out of gas, and had to land on another U S aircraft carrier, the Philippine Sea. That was the evening of March thirty-first, and the next day -- what did they find? Their Panther Jets -- painted like scandalous ~~xxxx~~ caricatures. Every inch ornamented with pictures and inscriptions of a shocking sort. Which included a couple of words in letters a foot high -- April Fool.

They had to take off that way -- flying on another mission. I wonder what the Reds thought of American jets decorated in such outrageous fashion? Flying clowns on April Fool's Day.

## COLLISION

The story of disaster at sea is related by Captain B.C. McCaffree, Commander of the aircraft carrier, WASP - which rammed and sank the old destroyer, HOBSON, in mid-Atlantic. Both vessels were taking part in high speed maneuvers.

Captain McCaffree reports: "The night was clear, but very ~~xxx~~ dark, with overcast at eight thousand feet, sea calm and winds light. The HOBSON continued the Captain, crossed the bow of the WASP from port to starboard and was struck amid ship on her starboard side. All the WASP's engines were backing at <sup>a</sup> emergency speed at the time of the collision. The HOBSON broke into two parts and sank four minutes later along side the WASP.

You see the terrifying picture -- the stricken vessel at the side of the great aircraft carrier, and plunging to the bottom. Rescue operations were so rapid that sailors were snatched from the destroyer, as she ~~xxxx~~ sank. Life jackets, floats and lines were thrown to the men in the sea, and boats



were lowered instantly. But the HOBSON foundered so swiftly that more than one hundred and seventy of her crew were lost -- sixty-five survivors picked up.

## FOREIGN AID

The foreign relations committee of the Senate votes a cut in the foreign aid program. A sweeping slash of ~~One~~ Billion. The program calls for seven billion nine hundred million dollars -- to support the defense of western Europe. Today the committee voted to reduce all items in the schedule --~~xxx~~ for a total cut of one billion dollars.

## IMPEACHMENT

In Washington more moves for impeachment -- Republican Congressman Paul Shafer, of Michigan, today introducing a resolution calling on Congress to impeach H.S.T. for "high crimes and misdemeanors". Which is the verbiage under the Constitution, for removing a President from office. In this case, the seizure of the steel mills constitutes the "high crimes and misdemeanors."

~~I don't know how long it would take for an impeachment, if any, but it had better be before next January when Harry Truman ~~xx~~ retires from the White House. Or, they might have to impeach him as a private ~~xx~~ citizen, Independence, Missouri.~~

# SUPREME COURT

(The Supreme Court ~~has~~ upholds the New York school program for "release time", that is, time for children to attend classes of religious instruction. Pupils may be ~~be~~ dismissed earlier on written requests from their parents -- "released time" for education in religion.

This was attacked as unconstitutional -- first amendment -- "which bars the establishment" of any religion by the state.)

~~Previous the high tribunal had ~~be~~ banned a school program of religious instruction in Illinois, where, however, classes in religion were held on school property. In New York they are not.~~

Today's decision affects ~~children in other~~ <sup>children,</sup> ~~states, too~~ Some two million <sup>this</sup> all over the country who participate in programs under "released time."

## FIRE

Vancouver has another waterfront fire -- a Dutch vessel bursting into flames at the dock. The fire broke out in an engine room, and it took three-hundred-and-seventy-five blaze battlers nearly four hours to get the fire under control.

The vessel, a luxurious craft for both passengers and freight. The second big waterfront blaze that the British Columbia harbor has had in five days.



## METHODISTS

News from San Francisco that a strong effort is being organized for major reform in the Methodist Church. The proposal -- to establish a coordinating council with large powers of supervision.

The Methodists are holding their conference at the Golden Gate, and the new program has aroused plenty of opposition. The Coordinating Council, would have <sup>veto</sup> powers over a whole series of church activities, including missions and publications.

The claim is that it would save the church money, and eliminate a duplication of effort in various departments, thereby promoting efficiency.

Opponents <sup>(argue)</sup> ~~argue~~ that it is much too ~~an~~ drastic -- and would confer ~~excessive~~ excessive authority on the Coordinating Council. One delegate to the conference put it in these words:

"It is like sending a patient to the hospital for a major operation when all he needs is a little advice."

So there will be more debate -- with top ranking churchmen getting together to have the plan adopted.

Meanwhile, ~~xx~~ yesterday was a banner Sunday at Methodist churches in these parts. The conference is ~~xx~~ attended by four hundred Methodists <sup>— including many</sup> ~~and~~ Bishops, and <sup>most</sup> ~~many~~ of these were guest clergymen, preaching sermons in churches all over northern California.

## SALT LAKE FLOOD

Salt Lake City is having a flood. I drove through a bit of it before leaving Utah. The record snows in the nearby mountains, the Wasatch, are now melting rapidly. A heavy thaw at Alta and elsewhere, and down come the torrents.

When I left Salt Lake City on Friday efforts were being made to check an inundation, <sup>improvise</sup> ~~improve~~ levees thrown up to hold back flood waters of swollen streams.

Well, the flood was on in earnest today -- the dykes have broken under the weight of water. At one place, ~~xxx~~ the deluge poured through a break one hundred feet across. Of the six hundred blocks of Salt Lake City, one hundred and thirty-five are under water or surrounded by water.

All - another sign of the unusual snows the west had this winter.

I am back among old friends here in the Donner Pass area tonight.. All set to check up those record storms they had here this winter. Tomorrow,

night I hope to give a report on the High Sierras.

Yes, once again I am broadcasting from the Southern Pacific Railway station at Truckee at the western end of Donner Pass, near Lake Tahoe. I've just come from Squaw Valley, a few miles from here. There on Squaw Mountain I found the snow still fifty ~~xxx~~ feet deep -- ideal for spring skiing. On the valley floor, at Squaw the snow is up to the second story where we are staying.

Merle Jennings, snow expert for the Southern Pacific, says the snow is still fifteen to twenty feet on the roofs of the snow sheds through which these long transcontinental trains pass. The Truckee River outside my railway station broadcasting studio, is roaring and plunging in a way that spells flood for some who live in the flat lands on the western side of these Sierras.

I am hoping to hear some of the stories of the adventures of these people -- how they survived this year's record storms. And now from the Pacific to the Atlantic - to you, Nelson.