

KOREA *P.T.R.* Fri, Sept. 15 - 1950.

Morning in Korea ~~which is new~~, brought another landing. This time - tanks. At Inchon, the port of Seoul, the mechanized equipment for the Marines ^{has just gone} ~~put~~ ashore, turning the amphibious forces into an armored column - for a drive to the Korean capital. The landing of the tanks went according to clock-like schedule, which is a notable feature, as the American counter-offensive begins - perfection of timing.

It had to be, to make it a success, because of the peculiar conditions along the west coast of Korea. In an ordinary amphibious operation, the timing has to consider sun-up and sun-down, the weather, the lay-out of defense ashore, the disposition of enemy forces. ^{TR} But there's an added ^P element over there in Korea - the tide. ^P They have enormous tides, running thirty feet high - and the contour of the shore creates a fantastic situation. At low tide, there are miles of mud banks outside the harbor of Inchon - and nothing can get through. So high tide is the time - to make the dash to the coast. ^P ~~Max~~ Yesterday, there were two waves of invasion -

the day having two high tides.

Last night, on this program, we had only vague intimations - in claims made by the Communists. They spoke of landing repelled, with the sinking of landing craft; - all dim, nothing convincing. But I couldn't get the notion of amphibious operations out of my mind, invasion behind the enemy line. So I passed along every indication suggesting ^{invasion,} ~~this~~ - never knowing ^{that,} ~~this~~ at this very hour last evening, the landings had already begun - the first wave.

The objective was, the island of Wolmi, connected by a causeway with the harbor of Inchon. That island used to be a park, but the Reds fortified it heavily, with machine gun masses and artillery replacements. ~~but~~ The Navy took care of that. A tremendous bombardment by warships and planes, which made the island look like an erupting volcano, and ^{then the} ~~and~~ landing boats ^{of} ~~and~~ marines went dashing to the shore. The timing was so fine, that the Leathernecks ^{hit the beach} ~~landed~~ ^{hit the beach} fifteen seconds after the bombardment stopped. They found all

resistance smashed, and took the island with ease - getting set for a further advance.

But now the tide was going out, and mud flats appeared, miles of mud off the coast. Our commanders had to wait until the next high tide, ~~in the evening~~ ^{around five P.M.} before sending in the next wave of the offensive. ~~With that they~~

Two forces of ~~island command~~ ^{the} Marines, in their landing boats, ~~came~~ ^{drove} hit the beach, and thrust into the city. for Inchon harbor ~~and they took it in a matter of hours~~ Inchon was captured quickly, and the leathernecks ~~departed with a number of divisions~~ ^{pushed on toward Seoul,} eighteen miles away.

Then, there was a wait through the night for the next high tide, morning in Korea, just a few hours ago - and that brought wave number three, the landing of the tanks, masses of armament for the drive of the Marines. One important objective is the Kimpo Airfield, and reports have come in of a paratroop landing there - but this is not confirmed.

Today, General MacArthur was on the scene, taking personal command of this newest flash of that old MacArthur

strategy - amphibious landings behind the enemy lines. The Supreme Commander sent a message to the warships and the Leathernecks, saying - "The Navy and the Marines have never shone more brightly." The congratulations, ~~which were being~~ ~~showered today~~, featured that big element of coordination and timing.

In Washington, the word is that Inchon was considered the most difficult sector of all for amphibious operations. At the Pentagon Building, ^(today,) a spokesman declared that Rear Admiral James H. Boyle was given the task of picking ~~out~~ possible landing places for the offensive, and he listed Inchon as - the worst, because of the tide and the mud flats. Yet that harbor of Seoul was chosen - partly because it would be a surprise to the enemy. ^P American Military Intelligence indicated that the Reds had no large reserves in the Seoul area - no masses of troops and armor to hurl for a swift counter-attack. Moreover, that's the most strategic area of all - since reinforcements, armament and supplies, must funnel

through a Seoul bottleneck to reach the Communists along the perimeter of southern Korea. ~~xxxx~~ We choke off the bottleneck, that's the immediate idea. So Inchon it was - and the Navy and Marine command said that, while it was the worst place for amphibious operations, they could do it. Coordination and timing - to beat the tide and the mud flats.

Such is the ^{big thrust} ~~plan~~ of the United Nations offensive.

But there are other landings too. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ On the opposite coast ^(of the Korean peninsula.) Free Korean Marines have driven ashore just to the north of the Pohang battlefront - eastern end of the perimeter. While - American troops have driven ashore further up that east coast, near Yongdok. Two forces there - ~~xxxx~~ to cut the strategic East Coast highway.

~~xxxxxxxx~~

The news from the perimeter today shows fierce fighting at various points, with the Reds attacking in places.

Apparently, ^(are designed) ~~the operations~~ the Communist assaults ^{are} ~~are~~ to cover the removal of ^(three Red) ~~defending~~ divisions, which are being taken out hastily to oppose those amphibious landings.

The enemy is threatened ~~is~~ with encirclement and destruction.

Today General MacArthur stated that the strategy is to hit the Red Army in South Korea on both sides, between the hammer and the anvil.

Well, we can now get a glimpse of what the MacArthur plan really was - during those long weeks of critical, desperate fighting around the perimeter. It looks as if he were holding the South Korean beachhead with minimum forces, while building up a war machine to strike by sea, and carry the offensive to the area behind the Red Army. Classical military strategy - hang on to a critical point with as little as you can, and mass your forces for a counter-blow. In this case, a huge flanking attack. I suppose that, in the next few days, the whole perimeter will dissolve, and the war will become a wild melee - with the Reds trying to block the amphibious drives, and get out of the trap.

ADD KOREA

The latest tonight is an American offensive along the north and west of the perimeter. On the Taegu front the word is that the First Cavalry has begun an all-out ^(offensive) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ supported by new heavy tanks and an air cover sweeping the enemy with everything from rockets to Napalm bombs. At the same time, Free Koreans on the Northern front are attacking and driving ahead. This new offensive began at dawn, and was ^{coordinated with} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the amphibious invasion of the Seoul area. Tonight's despatch states: "American forces swung the second blow of their one-two punch" -- number two being a bursting out ^(of) ~~XXXX~~ the perimeter.

This Invasion Day brings one of those odd coincidences concerning just about the most remarkable exploit of invasion in World War Two. In Korea the giant amphibious drives are in full swing, and we have that mention of a possible paratroop landing to seize the Kimpo Airport. But there's still another way to get ground forces behind enemy lines, by glider - and you might hear of aerial invasion with those planes that have no motors. Gliders were used in the D-Day Invasion of Normandy; but, their most dramatic exploit was in Burma - where they staged the first all-air invasion in history.

I got the story ^{in war} ~~at the~~ time - from Colonel Philip Cochran, the real life Flip Corkin of "Terry and the Pirates," who commanded - together with his Air Force Pal, Colonel Johnny Alison. They collaborated with the legended British General Wingate, a strange genius of war - and landed Wingate troops in a Burma jungle clearing, seizing the ground and setting up a fortified base.

Well, the war ended before we could get the story into print - and the market for tales of battle dropped to nothing, as is likely to happen after a war. But then, last Spring, Collier's Magazine published a series about our trip to Tibet, adventure on the roof-of-the-world, and Collier's publisher, Ed Anthony said - did I have something else they could use. So ^{(out came the Phil Cochran - John Allen} ~~the~~ manuscript of the first all-air invasion.

That was before the Korean War broke out, and nobody suspected the story would turn out to be timely. Magazines have a way of scheduling far ahead, and the serial was marked down to start - Friday, September Fifteenth. ^{That means} ~~So~~ it appeared on the stands today. Which, by that twist of coincidence, turns out to be - Invasion Day. Timely? Well, the mountains and jungles of Burma are ^{not too unlike} ~~such like~~ the mountains and forests of Korea - and the business of using gliders to seize a position behind enemy lines, in an all-air invasion blow, is a thing to strike the imagination today.

ITUTE MARSHALL

Congress tonight passed legislation to enable General George Marshall to become Secretary of Defense. Nearly all the opposition came from Republicans, who objected to a soldier as the supreme head of the Armed Forces. There were complaints, likewise, on the ground that General Marshall, Secretary of State, carried out the Administration Far Eastern policy -- which was followed by the Red sweep in China. Furthermore, Republicans charged that the Truman Administration was using the great reputation and prestige of the war-time Chief of Staff as a shield against criticism -- politics. But, in both Houses the vote was overwhelming -- better than two to one in each case.

The President will sign the Bill immediately and then place the nomination of General Marshall before the Senate, where there will still be Republican opposition -- as announced by Senator Taft of Ohio tonight.

PRICES

~~In Washington~~ Savage words were spoken at a congressional hearing today - when Stuart Symington, who has the job of mobilizing the home front, told of speculators who are hoarding vital materials necessary for national defense, so as to run up the price. Stuart Symington called them - "unpatriotic chislers and profit hogs."

As Chairman of the National Security ^{Resources} Board, Symington was red-faced with anger, as he ^{informed} ~~told~~ a Senate sub-committee about ~~the operations of~~ a few big-time speculators. They've been operating, especially, in the rubber and zinc markets - buying up supplies, and holding them for exorbitant prices from the Government. As a result, rubber prices have jumped sixty-one per cent since the beginning of the Korean War, and ^{zinc} zinc prices are up sixty-two per cent.

(Under the new Control Law, the Security Resources Board has the power to seize materials needed for the armament program - and Stuart Symington said he felt like grabbing the entire stocks of rubber and ^{zinc} zinc held by the profiteers.

Sub-Committee Chairman Senator Johnson of Texas

retorted that the public wants the government, in the

Senator's words - "to quit talking and start acting."

Symington said he would.)

BRITISH DIVORCE

Here's the latest in Socialism - over in England, where the Labor Government is out to nationalize everything. They're now getting - Socialized divorce.

This comes about through a Labor Government scheme, whereby anybody with an income of less than forty dollars a week, ~~can~~ ^{will} get - free legal service, attorneys' paid by the Government. This applies to various kinds of law cases, but the headline is - divorce. Husband or wife, or both, can go to a court free of charge, and have their marriage dissolved, the Government paying the lawyers.

This goes into effect next month, and a huge divorce boom is expected. Husbands and wives, by the thousands, will take advantage of - Socialized divorce.

FRENCHMEN

From Paris, painful word about - Alphonse and Gaston. That is, a present-day version of those two funny-paper Frenchmen of long ago, whose politeness made their names a by-word.

In Paris, it was Jean Coussy and Pierre Nicard, two friends who today arrived at the barber shop at exactly the same time.

At the door, Jean said: "After you, my dear Pierre."

But Pierre replied: "After you, my dear Jean."

So they stood arguing in the old funny-paper way - "After you, my dear Alphonse." ^PIn the old comic strip, goofy things used to happen in that Alphonse and Gaston act, and it was equally surprising today - though painful.

Jean finally decided to give into the politeness of Pierre, and Pierre finally decided to give in to the politeness of Jean - all at the same moment. So both started to go into the barber shop - simultaneously. The door was closed, and they

bumped into it in such fashion as to dislodge a sheet of plate glass, which fell down from above, and landed on the heads of Jean and Pierre.

At last reports, these latter day Alphonse and Gaston were being treated for lacerations.

And now - my dear ^{Gaston!} ~~Alphonse~~ - I mean my dear Nel-son -

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