

Correspondent Tells Story Of Blockade In South China

EDITOR'S NOTE: Fred Hampson, chief of the AP's China staff, here discusses the Nationalist blockade of Red China. After more than four years in China, he is enroute to Hong Kong, since the Communists have forbidden further correspondence from that territory.

By FRED HAMPSON

PUSAN, Korea, Dec. 13.—(Delayed)—(AP)—There are a few leaks, but the nationalist blockade of Communist South China ports is keeping tonnage down to a trifling minimum.

Shanghai's waterfront, once among the three or four busiest in the world, is so dead that when an occasional big ship sneaks in, it is top news, celebrated through the city.

American ship Sir John Franklin of the Isbrandtsen line. Shelled By Nationalists

Running in, the ship was shelled by two Nationalist destroyer escorts which hover constantly at the Yangtze river mouth. Damage was not extensive, but the vessel was well peppered with three-inch and smaller caliber missiles. That was on Nov. 29.

The U. S. State department protested to the Nationalists. When the Franklin went out Dec. 9, there was no trouble, al-



SENATOR'S A SODA JERK—U. S. Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota spends his time during the recesses of Congress helping out in the family's drug store in Huron, S. D. Although a graduate pharmacist and a partner in the business, Humphrey also pitches in behind the soda fountain, where he is seen lending a hand (and a dishcloth) to Delores Timm.

I left Shanghai aboard the

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Washington State Pinball Ban Going To Supreme Court

SPOKANE, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Attorney Wilmot Garvin said the United States Supreme Court will be asked to stop the enforcement of an order banning pinball machines in the state.

Motorist Killed In Crash Near Medford

MEDFORD, Dec. 21.—(AP)—An automobile overturned on a curve here Monday night and killed the driver, Glenn Vernon Smith, 32.

It rolled over several times and struck a car from Grants Pass, injuring four persons.

The injured were William W. Ringley, 29, route 1, Grants Pass; his wife, Iva; and two children, Joyce, 2, and Lois, 6. Three other children in the car were unhurt.

The northbound Smith car failed to round a slight curve and rolled into the Ringley vehicle.

Hospital attendants said the Ringleys were not seriously injured, but were badly bruised. They were en route to Klamath Falls, where Ringley planned to go to work.

About 41 million turkeys were grown in the United States in 1949.

The attorney said the nation's high court will be asked to "stay the execution" of an order from the Washington supreme court declaring the machines to be gambling devices and illegal under state law.

The attorney said he could see no way to keep the machines legally in operation after today in Spokane. The city has ordered them shut down by that hour.

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though we were stopped by a destroyer escort. A boarding party inspected the cargo manifest and passenger list, and waved us on. Farther out another Nationalist warship ignored us.

Still farther out we sighted a small British freighter, waiting a chance to run in. Out beyond what appeared to be the three-mile limit was a British frigate at anchor.

There have been as many as 11 ships at a time hovering off the Yangtze, trying to reach Shanghai, but in three weeks only the Franklin and a small British freighter from Hong Kong made it.

Ironical Occurrence
Ironically, the British ship, the Elsie Moller, was damaged by Communist shore guns on her way out. Apparently the Reds mis-

took her for a Nationalist Isbrandtsen liners have been the only consistent blockade news and the only large ships to enter Shanghai without safe-conduct guarantees from the Nationalists. Two of them have been shelled by Nationalist warships.

The Reds seem unable to do anything about the blockade except blame it on "Nationalist bandits" and "foreign imperialists." They have tried three times to take the Nationalist blockade base, the Chusan islands, 100 miles south of Shanghai. All three times they were repulsed with considerable losses.

The Communists are mum about their military failures, but rumors put their losses as high as 70,000 men and thousands of junkies and sampan.

When I left Shanghai there was a rumor that they were preparing a fourth expedition with 20,000 small craft. Owners of such vessels were busy dismantling or hiding them to avoid requisition.

The Red charges that the United States and Britain instigated the blockade do not make sense. Ships of both nations have run the blockade at great danger and expense with no help whatever from the Communists.

The Reds criticize western navies for not using their navies to break the blockade, yet they themselves forbid foreign warships to enter territorial waters—and that's where the blockade is.

Before being permitted to leave Shanghai I was called to the central police station and questioned two hours. The questions ranged from, "How did you cover the Civil war?" to "What is your opinion of the Communist management of Shanghai?"

To the latter I replied that I thought Communist officials were unwise in refusing to see foreign correspondents because there were many important questions that should be answered in the interests of all parties.

"What questions?" the Communist officer snapped.

Blockade For Instance
"The blockade for instance," I responded. "The Communists say they think the western powers should break the blockade since they do not recognize the legality of it. Yet you yourself forbid foreign warships from escorting and protecting foreign merchant ships through Chinese territorial waters, and that's where the blockade is. You are not able to protect these ships yourselves yet and you won't waive your order so that others can protect them why is that?"

He looked at me for several seconds and then replied:

"I think that is a very good question."

"Will you arrange for me to see Chen Yi (military mayor of Shanghai) so that I may ask it of him?" I asked.

"I am sorry," he replied, "but I am a very small official. I cannot do it. But it is a good question."



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