

Korea Fight Erupts On Christmas Eve

SEOUL, Korea, Monday, Dec. 24-(AP)—Relatively heavy fighting erupted on Korea's chill western front Sunday for the first time in nearly a month in a possible prelude to other bitter actions during the Christmas season.

The U. S. Eighth army communique reported a two hour and 15-minute battle southwest of Chorwon and said an allied tank-infantry raiding party withdrew under continuing fire after being "heavily engaged." It was the first such reference in the communique since an informal lull settled over the front November 28.

Safe-Cracking, Thefts Probed, Arrests Made

Railroad officials were Sunday investigating the possibility of connection between a safe-blowing job in Lebanon Saturday night and recent Salem burglaries.

Alfred Walter Tozier, Seattle, Wash., was arrested early Sunday by Salem city police on a Marion county warrant charging burglary involving Salem burglaries of the past few weeks. He was being held last night in lieu of \$1,500 bail.

Another man, George Carroll O'Beane of Portland, was arrested with Tozier on a charge of vagrancy on a district court warrant and held in lieu of \$250 bail. The pair were arrested on the charges after a Salem police officer noticed the tail light on the auto was not operating.

Police said a quantity of perforated-railroad stamps were found in the auto.

Investigations by railroad officials and state police revealed that a safe at the Lebanon station for Southern Pacific and Seattle, Portland & Spokane railroads had been "blown open" and \$41.19 in cash and \$13 in railroad stamps were missing.

Lebanon officers and state police said a rear window had been forced with a crowbar to gain entry to the station. The dial of the safe had been punched off and explosives used to force the door, officers said.

Police said conviction on charge of burglary by explosives carries a maximum sentence of 40 years.

Holiday Travel Crowds Salem Depots, Airport

Heaviest holiday traffic in history was reported Sunday by bus, train and plane services in and out of Salem.

Southern Pacific reported that passenger space on trains is virtually sold out through January 1. The railroad has added a second section to The Cascade to care for additional travelers north and south.

As many as seven sections have been added to bus schedules throughout Salem, according to the Greyhound bus depot in Salem. Traffic was expected to ease some today as passengers reach their destinations for Christmas.

Extra sections for United Airlines were added also to north and south flights out of Salem. The McNary field office reported air travel had been very heavy for the holidays with nearly all seats booked through January 2.

THE SHORT ROUTE East TRAILWAYS

THE FRIENDLY BUS LINE

All across the 145-mile battlefront allied patrols probed enemy positions and exchanged fire with communist troops.

High over North Korea the air war also gained intensity Sunday. Clearing skies permitted allied planes to swarm over red targets. The Fifth air force reported 688 sorties by 6 p. m.

For the first time in five days American jet pilots traded shots with Russian-made jets in "Mig Alley." There was no damage to either side, the air force announced.

About 60 enemy planes were sighted in the afternoon and some of these were briefly fought. In the morning 72 Mig's were sighted without contact.

Allied fighter-bombers hacked at red rail communications and frontlines with bombs, jelled gasoline and rockets. Flyers claimed 16 red artillery pieces and eight anti-aircraft guns destroyed, rails cut in 75 places and 115 troop casualties inflicted.

The ground action appeared to be sharpening as time was running out on a 30-day provisional cease-fire line across the peninsula. After December 27 troops again will be fighting for keeps.

Ground loss or gained after that date will form the basis for a new cease-fire line to be drawn just before an armistice is signed by truce negotiators at Panmunjom.

Reduction in Foreign Aid Request Due

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—President Truman is reported planning to ask congress next month for about one million dollars less in foreign aid than he sought this year.

High officials said today the president's new budget is expected to propose an assistance program close to the amount congress was willing to pay for in the last battle over the issue.

For the year which began July 1, the administration urged an 8 1/2 billion dollar military and economic aid program from the free world. Congress finally appropriated \$7,284,000,000, making most of its cut in economic aid.

A decision to reduce the asking price for foreign assistance would come in the face of growing financial problems in the rearming of western Europe, with Britain and France in especially tight economic straits.

The United States, however, was reported to have impressed its allies in recent conferences with the fact that the U.S. itself faces serious fiscal difficulties.

One high official, who has been close to these talks, told reporters other nations became "more realistic" in deciding what to expect from Uncle Sam.

This official, declining to be quoted by name, predicted the president in his annual budget message will ask congress for no more than the \$1,440,000,000 approved by congress for economic aid this year.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23-(AP)—A government watchdog committee is being formed to keep a check on prices charged for all military equipment. This was announced today in a joint statement by the office of price stabilization (OPS) and the defense department.

Korea Peace Lost in Maze Of Bickerings

MUNSAN, Korea, Monday, Dec. 24-(AP)—Armistice negotiators made no progress this morning in a day-before-Christmas session but did agree to allow prisoners on both sides to send and receive mail through neutral Panmunjom.

The Reds made the proposal for exchange of mail and it was accepted quickly. Details will be announced later.

MUNSAN, Korea, Monday, Dec. 24—Truce negotiators met today in two winter-whipped tents near the little Korean seaside village of Panmunjom, but the peace they were seeking remained lost in a maze of bickerings.

The allied and red delegates were far apart on their recently-exchanged lists of prisoners of war and methods of policing the truce.

There was little prospect of the delegates getting down today to actual working discussion of an exchange of prisoners, a matter of paramount concern to the allied group.

Aside from an unsuccessful appeal for immediate exchange of the sick and wounded, the United Nations and communist delegations have wrangled so far only over disputed lists of the prisoners each side holds.

The breach apparently was widened Sunday when the allied sub-delegate Adm. R. A. Libby, told the Reds that, according to official broadcasts of the Pyongyang radio, the communists hold more than 50,000 prisoners not yet accounted for.

Figures Conflict Libby said the red radio gave out a figure of at least 65,363 prisoners for only the first nine months of the Korean war, but the entire red POW list handed to the United Nations December 18 totalled only 11,539 prisoners.

The communists were asked to have an explanation ready when the sub-delegation convened today at Panmunjom. At the same time, the allied and communist sub-delegation was deacknowledged supervision of an armistice in another tent a few feet away.

The supervision sub-delegation has been stalled since Nov. 27 over red insistence that construction of airfields during an armistice was their own business and any limitation would be "interference" in North Korea's internal affairs.

Little Chance The communists still demanded an explanation of prisoners they said were missing from the allied POW list of 132,474 but were on lists supplied them earlier by the international committee of the Red Cross.

Libby has explained, apparently without satisfying the communists, that 37,500 captured red army soldiers were removed from the prisoner list when it was found that they were loyal South Korean citizens, impressed into the red army.

"They are not now, and never have been, adherents to your cause," Libby told the Reds. He added that another 16,000 Korean civilians swept into POW camps by the war, also would be "rescreened."

Pace Praised as Money-Saver WASHINGTON, Dec. 23-(AP)—Senator Lyndon Johnson (D-Tex.), who has often been critical of the military, today "highly commended" Secretary of the Army Pace for his willingness to save the taxpayers' money.

The chairman of the Senate's defense preparedness subcommittee praised the secretary for moving to end duplication in food inspection by both the army's quartermaster corps and the agriculture department.

Johnson's watchdog defense group had been rapping knuckles of officials for more than a year for "serious waste of manpower and money" in duplication of food inspection and grading.

Salem Churches Plan Special Yule Services Tonight, Tuesday

(Story Also on Page One) A high point in the Christian year will be celebrated in Salem area churches tonight and Tuesday for the Christmas season.

Tonight's services include: First Baptist church, candlelight service at 11 p.m.; St. Paul's Episcopal church, Holy Eucharist service at 11 p.m.; Christ Lutheran, nativity services at 7 p.m.; Grace Lutheran church, Carols and candlelight service at 11 p.m.; St. Mark Lutheran church, service at 10:30 p.m. Both Salem Catholic churches will hold Christmas eve midnight mass. Christmas day services will be conducted by The Rev. Joseph E. Vanderbeck at St. Joseph's at 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11:15 a.m. High mass will be at 10 a.m. St. Vincent de Paul services conducted by the Rev. John J. Reedy, are scheduled for 6, 7, 8:45 and 11 a.m. Christmas day. Other Christmas day services will include: First Congregational, worship at 6 a.m.; St. Paul's Episcopal, communion at 10 a.m.; Central Lutheran, 11 a.m.; Christ Lutheran, Episcopal worship at 10:30 a.m. Grace Lutheran, Episcopal worship at 11 a.m.; St. John's Lutheran, Episcopal service at 10 a.m.

Libya Receives Independence In Simple Rite

TRIPOLI, Libya, Monday, Dec. 24-(AP)—Libya, a poverty-stricken North African former colony, became independent today. It is the first country to achieve its freedom fully under the auspices of the United Nations.

Britain and France turned over their governing powers to the Libyan government in simple ceremonies here, in Benghazi, and on a remote oasis in Fezzan, southernmost of the country's three provinces.

Libya, a former Italian colony, will be a democratic, constitutional monarchy with a federal government having two capitals, Tripoli and Benghazi. The three constituent provinces are Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Fezzan.

King Mohammed Idriss El Senussi will proclaim full independence of the country later today at Benghazi.

Libya has a population of 1,340,000 and comprises 1,100,000 square miles, mostly desert. Its national income of \$30 annually per capita is considered the lowest in the world. Although once the pride of Mesopotamia, 10 per cent of its population is blind, 20 per cent blind in one eye, and more than 90 per cent illiterate.

Mrs. Keene, Formerly of Gervais, Dies

Mrs. Mary Grace Keene, 78, Gervais resident for 52 years and Salem resident since 1945, died Sunday at the residence, 245 E. Wilson st., after a long illness.

She was born June 12, 1872, at Donnelly's Mills, Penna., the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Campbell. She moved with her parents to Monmouth, Ill., in 1881, then to Hecla, S. D., until coming to Oregon in 1890.

She was baptized in the Methodist Episcopal church in 1885. In 1893 she was married at Woodburn to Elmer Ellsworth Keene, who died in 1942.

Survivors include sons, Chester E. Keene and L. Arthur Keene, and daughter, Miss Mayme E. Keene, all Salem, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements will be under direction of W. T. Rigdon company.

Fizzling Fuse Foils Plan to Blast Church

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 23-(AP)—A dynamite who threatened "to celebrate Christmas by blowing up Catholic church," failed today when a stick of dynamite left on the steps of Sts. Peter and Paul church fizzled.

The explosive was of the same make and strength as that used in six recent Jewish synagogue dynamiting cases, Police Chief Walter E. Headley said.

Sexton Joseph Fedorowitz discovered the charge about three feet from the main door when he prepared to open the church for early mass.

"The fuse has smoldered for a few seconds," Headley said. "It couldn't have gone off, however. The fuse hadn't even been seated in the dynamite correctly."

Earlier today, Coral Gables Police Chief William G. Kimbrough reported an anonymous telephone call warning of the dynamiting.

Gov. McKay Asks Holiday Drivers Use Extra Care

Gov. Douglas McKay, in a statement urged Oregon motor vehicle drivers to rid themselves of what he termed an apathy which so far this year has resulted in more than 400 traffic fatalities throughout the state.

"As a people we are guilty of a scandalous waste of human life because of our continued tolerance of accidents which could be prevented," Governor McKay said.

The governor referred particularly to the holiday season which, he said, would result in unusually heavy traffic both on the streets and highways. "This should be a joyous season," Governor McKay said, "but if we do not recognize our obligation to observe sober care in the use of our automobiles it will be marred and saddened by useless loss of life."

Marines Rush Trousers to Stranded PFC

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23-(AP)—If it hadn't been for his mother and two or three generals, Pfc. Morton Charles Waldeck of the marines might still be lacking the pants he needed to wear home on leave.

Waldeck, says the marines, is six feet tall, weighs 245 pounds and his pants size—44 inches at the waist—is something made up special at the marine depot of supplies in Philadelphia.

Waldeck, his recruit training finished, was getting set to go home to see his mother, Mrs. Morton Waldeck, sr., at Sturtevant, Wis. But he didn't have any uniform with the right size pants so he could make the trip.

His mother wrote the marine corps' head man, Gen. Clifton B. Cates, saying she had done a lot for "Bud's" visit but it looked as if baking and other preparations though he wouldn't get home because of the pants situation.

That put the problem into channels. The brigadier general in charge of personnel of the corps telephoned the brigadier general who is chief of staff at the San Diego recruit depot. Suddenly the usual six weeks needed for making up special size uniforms dwindled to practically no time at all.

Marine corps headquarters notified Mrs. Waldeck that Bud, with pants, would be home soon. They also explained that while in training he hadn't needed uniform pants; he wore the utility garb for trainees.

V. F. Livesay Dies Of Heart Attack

PORTLAND, Dec. 23-(AP)—Verne F. Livesay, for many years prominent in state agricultural activities, died at his home here today following a heart attack.

He was a former state director of the farm security administration and had been active in grange work. He was born Dec. 14, 1884 in Albion, Neb. Surviving are his widow, Clara L. Livesay and two sisters, all of Portland.

Churchill Gets Plan for Malay Red Cleanup

LONDON, Dec. 23-(AP)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill received reports today upon which he will base a master plan for clearing Britain's rich Malayan territories of communist guerrillas once and for all.

Colonial Secretary Oliver Lytton, just back from an inspection tour of the prized territory, presented to Churchill his impressions and documents on what must be done to end the red-spurred strife that has gripped Malaya since the end of World War II.

The prime minister has given top priority to restoration of peace to Malaya, whose rich tin and rubber resources are Britain's greatest dollar earners.

Churchill's plans almost certainly will include a shakeup in the British high command in the southeast Asian peninsula as well as detailed proposals for more effective use of the 120,000-man British security force already fighting the guerrillas.

Eight Arrested In Sweet Home Police Raid

SWEET HOME, Dec. 23—A 25-year-old woman was arrested here in a police raid early this morning on a charge of operating a bawdy house. The raid also netted another woman and six men.

The raid took place at the Santiam hotel at about 1 a.m. Arresting officers were Assistant Police Chief Roy Clover of Sweet Home and Deputy George Miller of the Linn county sheriff's office. The eight arrested were taken to Linn county jail at Albany.

Kitty Moore, who told officers her true name was Patricia Stewart, posted \$300 bail on a charge of operating a bawdy house. Louise Hayward, 29, was charged with being a prostitute and posted \$150 bail.

Thomas E. Moore is charged with accepting money from a prostitute, and is released on \$1,000 bail.

Five other men were arrested during the raid on charges of loitering. They are Merrill Chandler and Lytle J. McIlhenny, both of Sweet Home, both released on \$100 bail; Carl H. Gregory and Jake Hackenorth, both of Sweet Home, held in lieu of \$100 bail each, and Andrew E. Hutson of Deadwood, also charged with non-support on a Grays Harbor, Wash., warrant, held in lieu of \$150 bail.

All are to appear at 11 a.m. Monday before Justice of the Peace Harlow Weinrick.

German Leader on Road to Recovery

BONN, Germany, Dec. 23-(AP)—German socialist leader Kurt Schumacher, stricken with a circulatory ailment yesterday, is better today. His doctors said that barring complications he is on the road to recovery.

Schumacher, 56, is frail and lost an arm and a leg because of wounds and concentration camp sufferings.

Gen. Gruenther Gives 'Lift' to British Private

LONDON, Dec. 23-(AP)—London newspapers told with delight today the story of an American general who gave a British private a neighborly lift home in his airplane, calling him just plain "Sid."

British generals don't do such things. "Said the general to the private: OK, Sid, let's go," one newspaper headlined the story.

The man who broke through the barriers of British military decorum was four-star General A. L. Gruenther, chief of staff to General Dwight Eisenhower.

Gruenther flew over from Paris yesterday but inquired first among British personnel at supreme headquarters, allied personnel, Europe (SHAPE) if anyone wanted to come along for an 18-hour pre-Christmas visit. The general said he had an empty seat on his plane.

Private Sid Spooner, a clerk at SHAPE headquarters, snatched in-lieu of the sharp British salutes and volunteered. He said he lived very close to General Gruenther's destination.

And this is the way one London newspaper described their arrival: "Officers stood at the salute. The ground crew stood to attention. The general patted the private on the back, said: 'OK, Sid, let's go.'"

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Truman May Use Taft-Hartley Act In Steel Dispute

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23-(AP)—President Truman is believed ready to invoke the Taft-Hartley law to avoid a New Year's day steel strike unless the workers agree to delay the walkout.

The next move is up to CIO President Philip Murray, head of the Steelworkers union. It is uncertain what he will do.

Murray, in Pittsburgh for the holidays, declined immediate comment on Mr. Truman's request last night to call off the wage stabilization board (WSB) can hold hearings and recommend a basis for settling the union's demands.

A number of CIO and other union officials here said they thought Murray would reject Mr. Truman's plea.

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