



DON H. PLYMALE, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Plymale, Route 3, was recently promoted to sergeant. He has been in the Korean war zone since October, 1951. Above, Plymale is perched on the king's throne in the palace at Seoul. The sergeant's address is RA 1940247B, 62nd Eng. Topo. Co., APO 301, PM, San Francisco.

NATO Nations Agree on Defense Money

PARIS (AP) — The North Atlantic Treaty nations agreed Thursday to spend \$219,000,000 in 1953 for airports and other solid defenses against Soviet aggression. This is just a shade more than half of the \$28 billion which Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, supreme commander in Europe, had outlined as the "minimum" to provide security. Rene Pleven, French defense minister, said the reduced figure was agreed upon by the NATO council after a four-day debate. The money voted will provide enough to begin work on airports and other long term projects as

soon as weather permits. Decision on the final figure was taken a few hours before the projected conclusion of the meeting, called to get the 14 member nations to vote all the money they could afford without going broke. Field Marshal Viscount Alexander of Britain, meanwhile, announced that "in time of war" Admiral Lord Mountbatten will be boss of NATO's Mediterranean naval and air forces. Alexander, Britain's minister of defense, told a news conference: "While the United States Sixth Fleet is not now under the new Mediterranean command, the new

authority the new Mediterranean Naval commander-in-chief will have. The ministers of the NATO nations last Tuesday approved both

the setting up of the new naval command and the appointment by Britain of Lord Mountbatten. The NATO communiqué had distinguished between the responsi-

bilities of Mountbatten and U. S. Admiral Curny. Hans Norland Auto Insurance, 627 Pine St.

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German Christmas Divided

BERLIN (AP) — In the West, the Germans are singing: "Oh little star of Bethlehem..." In the East, they are chanting: "Oh, great red star over Moscow..."

It's Christmas time in Germany and like everything else in this topsy-turvy land, there are two sides to even this. There are even two "Princes of Peace."

The West German, following long tradition, pays his "yuletide" homage to the Nazarene. The East German, dominated completely by Communist rulers, is forced to turn to a disciple of peace who wears the uniform of a marshal of the Soviet Union, Josef Stalin.

Pre-holiday preparations in two-headed Berlin illustrate the wide gulf of the two worlds. The free broke out early with the usual Christmas markets, giant posters of Santa Claus, a spurge of gifts, Christmas trees and ornaments, stepped-up church services, nightly caroling and a gay spirit of good will.

Stepping from this atmosphere into the Soviet sector of Berlin is like falling into the ice-clogged Spree River.

In the Communist East, the accent is on Stalin, "peace" building, socialism, eradicating "enemy spies and saboteurs," and resisting "the Western warmongers."

In East Berlin, and throughout the East zone, city streets are full of posters and signs shrilling these messages. Communist state store windows are full of them, too. There isn't a poster of Santa Claus anywhere.

In the Western stores and factories, collections are being taken up for Christmas parties for the underprivileged. In the Soviet factories, mills and mines, workers are being urged to "exceed production" as a "gift" for Stalin's birthday Dec. 21.

Soviet zone efforts to kill the

Christmas spirit by ignoring it appear to be working among the young, rabid Reds. But the older generation still hangs onto the habits and customs of the past.

Shockingly short on consumer goods, the Red regime frowns on "wasting" fir trees by adorning them with ornaments and candles. Prices in the state stores are so high the average worker is lucky if he can buy a toy for his child. For most the holiday meal will consist of sausage, potatoes, bread and beer.

In West Berlin, bent by blockade and isolation, the poorest of families will have a goose, or a roast chicken, wine, fruit, nuts and liqueurs for the traditional holiday neighbor who "drops in."

The West Berlin Christmas market is loaded with luxury gifts. A pale, dingy reflection is the East Berlin market which presents household furnishings, books, clothing (mostly cotton), imitation leather goods, ersatz furs and wood carvings.

The Western Allies are collecting many thousands of dollars to provide Christmas parties and gifts for the needy. The Russians take up "collections" for the Korean War.

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