leet, Retiring As Head Of Eighth Army In Korea, Says eneral Offensive "Certain Of Success"; Tells Of Being Back From Showdown Battle With Reds By Superiors

The first time As- War Correspondent saw Gen. James ig Jim" had just mand of the U. S. They met in the on's sector in North April, 1951. About a Communist hordes Third fell back into During the pullback four times across a field, evacuating r Van Fleet pinned on Randolph's shirt They got to know l. "Big Jim is leav- morrow. But just be- over his command ndolph the following

N RANDOLPH —Gen. James A. Van day a United Nations sive in Korea now certain success.

of his farewell to the the 60-year-old re- nder again expressed rrying the war to the the U. N. lost oppor- whipping the Commu- alled for a million-man Korea Army with 20 sions.

made the statements eight questions asked iated Press as he pre- rn over his command Lt. Gen. Maxwell D. leave Korea for the since he arrived 22

stion "Do you think a sive in Korea can be this time?" Van Fleet only one word: ."

answers he said the ro chances for victory disclosed his own most decisions as com- general, and gave what are the two greatest s of the Eighth Army leadership.

a glowing tribute to Communist patriotism " of the ROK soldiers, transformed from dis- frightened bands into 14 hard-hitting modern divisions. In the absence of the victorious offensive he never led, the reshaping of this ROK Army will probably be Van Fleet's monument in Korea.

Authoritative sources say that for more than a year Van Fleet has not been able to launch a single battalion attack without consent from the Far East Command in Tokyo—and that Van Fleet himself was heart-sick when U. N. and U. S. decisions twice held him back from closing with the Reds for decisive, climactic battles in 1951.

Although Van Fleet followed his orders to the letter, it was never any secret at Eighth Army headquarters that "Big Jim" had only one solution for ending the Korean War. That was a stunning, crushing offensive that would smash the Communist army in a great field battle.

Failing permission for an all-out fight, Van Fleet was left for nearly 20 months of his 22-month command with only the hope that the Communists themselves would venture to attack once again and expose themselves to an end-the-war defeat.

The list of the Associated Press questions and Van Fleet's own answers are as follows:

1. Q—Do you think that a general offensive in Korea can be successful at this time?

A—Certainly.

2. Q—If there have been lost opportunities in Korea, what do you feel was the most serious?

A—When the Communists overextended themselves in May, 1951. When we broke Communist defense in fall of 1951.

3. Q—What do you feel was the Eighth Army's greatest success while you were commander?

A—Defeat of Communist April-May offensive.

4. Q—What do you consider to be the most important military action during your command?

A—The two defeats of the Communist Army—(A) April-May, 1951, including counter-offensive; (B) breaking Communists in October-November Allied offensive.

5. Q—What was the most important or perhaps most typical decision you ever made in Korea?

A—Two decisions: (A) the April May offensive; (B) took chance after that offensive cut off replacements to ROK Army to set up ROK Army training program.

6. Q—What do you consider to be the ultimate realistic strength of the ROK Army?

A—The answer of 20 divisions or one million men has been given in the past.

7. Q—On leaving Korea, what is your greatest regret?

A—Leaving Korea, the officers and men of the Eighth Army, and the ROK Army and people.

8. Q—Under ideal conditions, what would be your own solution to the military problem in Korea?

A—No comment.

Van Fleet declined to elaborate on how an offensive might be mounted in Korea. To do that would compromise possible future Allied operations. But his answer to his earlier questions—and his whole record in the Korean War—suggests the kind of battle he would have fought if he had his way.

It would probably have been a massive, violent, grinding line drive by the whole force of the Eighth Army from coast to coast with ruthless armored thrusts up the natural invasion corridors into North Korea, or wherever the Reds weakened and collapsed.

Van Fleet was offensively minded. Over and over he told his friends, his soldiers, and the war correspondents who followed him, "You've got to clobber those people" as he always called the Reds.

"The only thing they understand is force." . . . "When you've got a man groggy on the ropes is the time to finish him off." . . . and—

"The only good Communist is a dead Communist."

When he took command of the Eighth Army on April 14, 1951, on the eve of the last great Communist offensive, he instantly quashed nervous plans of some lower commanders to make quick withdrawals. He gave hard-boiled orders that Allied troops might fall back slowly to preserve their line but would be expected to fight to the utmost for every defendable hill position.

In the face of public statements that Seoul was not worth fighting for, Van Fleet staked his reputation as a general on a midbattle announcement that this symbol of South Korean sovereignty would not be abandoned.

The Reds reached the city gates—and died there.

The implications of answer No. 2—confirmed by statements from those who know him best—are that higher orders held him back from major counterpunching when the Reds stalled at Seoul.

While Van Fleet chafed, the Reds pulled themselves together in slow retreat and on June 23, Russia's Jakob Malik brought the war to a temporary stop with his proposal for an armistice.

Van Fleet actually demonstrated his probable offensive technique in the three-stage limited offensive that put pressure on the Reds from August through September, 1951.

The first was the "Battle of the Hills" in Eastern Korea, where the ROK Army with heavy American support advanced on a wide front and won the line they now hold.

In the second and biggest, the British and Americans in the West—again attacking on a wide front that presented Red concentrations—smashed through deep Communist defenses and into the open for the last time in the Korean War.

In the final stage, the Reds were so strained by the two big battles on both flanks that much weaker American and ROK forces on the East-Central Front moved forward almost without resistance and occupied the present line that runs just below Kumsong.

At this point it is believed that Van Fleet was all set to swing the whole Eighth Army crashing into a coast-to-coast drive that would have seen the Communists reeling backward clear across Korea — only to be shackled by the virtual cease-fire order of Nov. 28, 1951, that froze the front for 30 days.

MANAGER

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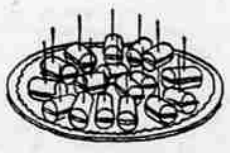
Refreshment Guide

Hot Crabmeat Puffs
Whip 2 egg whites until stiff. Fold in 1 cup mayonnaise and 1 cup flaked crab. Season with salt and pepper. Pile on toast rounds. Sprinkle with paprika. Broil until puffy, lightly browned—about 3 minutes. Serve hot . . . with cold, sparkling Olympia Beer.

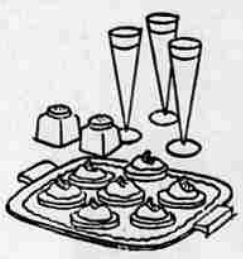
Super Dunk
Combine 1 can deviled ham with 2 tablespoons horse-radish, 1 tablespoon grated onion, 2 tablespoons minced chives and 1 cup cream, whipped. Serve with raw vegetables and light, sparkling Olympia Beer.

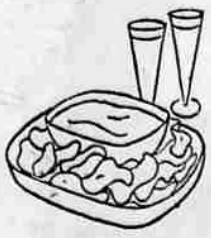
Chili-Cheese Spread
Mix 1 3-ounce package cream cheese with enough chili sauce to moisten. Serve with crisp potato chips and sparkling Olympia Beer.

Frank Juniors
Cut frankfurters in 1-inch pieces. Split lengthwise almost through. Fill with prepared mustard and sliver of pickle. Fasten together with toothpicks. Broil. Serve with light, refreshing Olympia Beer.



Tomato and Shrimp Canapes
Prepare rounds of toast. Cover with thin tomato slice. Top with marinated shrimp and dab of mayonnaise. To marinate shrimp, cover shrimp with French dressing for 30 minutes. Drain before using. Serve with cool, refreshing Olympia Beer.





Clam Canapes
Drain 7-ounce can minced clams. Combine with 1 cup sieved cottage cheese, 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce. Season with dry mustard, salt and scraped onion. Serve as dunk, with potato chips and light, refreshing Olympia Beer.

To meet the demands of odd hours' entertaining and unexpected guests, today's hostess must be prepared with a few easy-to-prepare snack recipes that have universal appetite appeal. Here are a few suggestions. Serve them with light Olympia Beer and win consistent praises. It's a smart hostess who buys Olympia by the case for economy and to assure an ample supply. Remember—"It's the Water" from our subterranean wells that gives Olympia its rare flavor.

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