

(In the 26th article of his series, Gen. Wainwright today continued the story of American officers who rebelled against their treatment in captivity, and outlines the beginning of his long and arduous journey to his home in Manila.)

by GEN. WRIGHT M. WAINWRIGHT

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THE heartless Japs at Shirakawa Prison Camp quickly took steps to punish my brave officers who stood up for their rights under the Geneva Convention and refused to engage in menial work.

These officers were no longer permitted to lie or sit on their bunks before bedtime. They could not assemble in groups of more than two. They could not visit outside their barracks. All their mail was opened and read two or three times every night. They were routed out of bed, had to stand in the parade ground and stand a roll call. They were always kept waiting in the dark for a Jap officer to appear. When they were dismissed they came back, unressed and wet, and had to be back in their bunks before they were summoned again.

Then the Japs declared that a violation of the Geneva Convention involving the health of the entire camp, and ordered our officers to cut out all grass, brush and trees in a large area around the camp. This was their program to destroy mosquito-breeding areas. The American officers refused to do more than their share of work on the Shirakawa farm, but since they were being punished, they were not given the "work" they earned and so desperately they earned a little extra weight at an alarming rate.

At one of their worst times during this period, when the officers hardly able to do more than stand in the parade ground, the Japs authorized the cutting of one pig every week. These pigs had been bought and raised by our men, including the officers who were being punished to work against all covenants and their wishes.

When the first pig was butchered, the Japs took all the best cuts, gave the remaining parts to the enlisted men, and the rest was sold to a working man who had been retained at work.

One of our most cruel months was the month of January. The Japs held out on the strength of their American fortitude and willpower. They even came to laugh at the efforts of the Japs to break them down.

Toward the end of their fearful ordeal, two representatives of the Protective Powers visited the Shirakawa camp. The Geneva Convention provides that belligerent governments shall designate persons to act as their representatives in dealings with the enemy nation in matters relating to the protection of prisoners of war.

Switzerland was the Protective Power for the U. S., and British and Dutch for the British. A Swiss and a Swedish delegate made the trip to the camp.

Nimitz Voices Opposition To Merger Of Forces

Pearl Harbor Inquiry

Japs Ready To Risk Fleet In Battle If Attack Failed

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Espionage gave the Japanese task force last minute reports on the American warships in Pearl Harbor as it steamed toward the attack. Senate-House investigators learned today.

Sen. Adm. T. B. Inglis read to the Congressional investigating committee a report disclosing that the Japanese had decided to call off their attack if diplomatic negotiations with the United States succeeded.

In event the Pearl Harbor attack failed, the Japs were prepared to risk their entire fleet in a battle with the American fleet, the report prepared from captured Japanese documents and other sources.

In discussing the summary, Inglis inserted information he said had been received here only last week.

He said that on November 29, American time as it was moving toward the Japs, he was advised that there were only two American carriers in Pearl Harbor.

Conference Takes Step

Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The Labor-Management Conference made its first step toward industrial peace today when it adopted a report endorsing conciliation and voluntary arbitration when settling industrial disputes.

In negotiating initial agreements between a union and a company, the conference committee agreed, no strike or lockout should be called until after peaceful bargaining measures have been exhausted.

The report, still subject to approval by the Executive Committee and the full conference, was the first step toward settling industrial disputes by peaceful means.

WAGE ISSUE SNARL

But on the hot issue of a national wage increase policy, the committee was more divided than ever before.

Three resolutions now are before the Executive Committee, all in general agreement, but in three shades of opinion.

Management offered a proposal which would act as their representative in dealings with the enemy nation in matters relating to the protection of prisoners of war.

Adoption Of Forrester's Plan Urged

Favors National Security Council

WASHINGTON (AP) — Adm. Chester W. Nimitz today urged adoption of Secretary of Navy Forrestal's plan for a national security council as an alternative to a merger of the armed forces in a single department of defense.

The Pacific Fleet commander told the Senate Military Committee that creation of such a council, composed of the Secretary of War, Navy and State Departments, would insure co-ordination of military and Navy plans with the nation's foreign policy and the activities of the United Nations organization.

"As a means of setting the services together, this would seem the more desirable and in its way, more far-reaching," than an uncertain merger of the two existing military departments," he asserted.

Nimitz, who once favored a merger but later changed his mind, said that "in theory" there must be some advantages in recommending a merger. But, he said, "in practice" the disadvantages are so serious that it is not acceptable.

Solution To Shortage

Roberts Outlines Housing Program

The erection of 1,000 Government pre-fabricated houses on lots already available in Charlotte was advocated today by Coleman W. Roberts as a 30-day solution to the city's acute housing shortage.

"Once this has been done," Roberts suggested these houses be rented by a group of Charlotte business and professional men, who they have been declared surplus property in many of the war contracts which emergency production has been discontinued.

NECESSARY STEPS

However, before these houses could be erected, Mr. Roberts explained that, first, Congress must declare their surplus property; and staff of the Government must relax building restrictions from three to five years.

"Once they have been transported to Charlotte," continued Mr. Roberts, "they should be erected on existing vacant lots. In that way, families can rent them from two to five years, or until they can get the materials to build their post-war homes."

Mr. Roberts stressed that the acute shortage of houses in the city cannot be relieved by the building of a few new houses or apartment houses. "There are no vacant lots," he said, "where you want place to live. And this seems to be the only quick solution."

French Still Deadlocked

Paris, D. C.

PARIS (AP) — The deadlock in formation of an interim French Government continued today with the Communist Party refusing to join in a three-party appeal to Gen. de Gaulle to reconsider his resignation as President.

De Gaulle, whose card, according to his associates, is that he does not "especially want the job," prepared to state his address to the country in an address tonight.

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Nazi Brains Helping U. S.

WASHINGTON — A group of German scientists brought to the United States in September has been identified as the development staff of the Nazis' V-weapon base at Peenemuende.

A recent dispatch from Stockholm quoted an unnamed British officer as saying the entire German staff of the V-weapon base, about 90 men, was transferred to the United States.

Asked about this, War Department officials refused to comment to a cryptic statement issued several weeks ago which said "certain military and scientific personnel and technicians" were being brought here to help the United States make the most of these significant developments which are deemed vital to our national security.

Ships Reconverted To Move Troops

LONDON — The U. S. Navy announced today that fifty reconverted troopships are being converted for the transport of troops from Europe.

Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, commander in chief of the U. S. Navy, said that the reconverted ships, which were built for the transport of troops from Europe, will be used to transport troops from Europe to the United States.

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Kramer And Ten Others To Die For Atrocities

Irma Grese One Of Those Condemned

By CHAS. CHAMBERLAIN

LUENEBURG, Germany — (AP) British military judges today sentenced commandant Josef Kramer and ten others of the Belsen gang, including three women, to be hanged for atrocities committed at the Belsen and Oswiecim concentration camps.

One of the nineteen additional defendants convicted was sentenced to life imprisonment. The remainder drew terms ranging from one to fifteen years.

NO EMOTION SHOWN

Kramer, married and the father of three children, received without emotion the sentence which grew out of his career as a convicted prisoner and "The Beast of Belsen."

Hundreds of German civilians and British soldiers flanked the roadway to the Luenburg courthouse as the prisoners were marched toward the gallows by two three-ton trucks under armed escort.

Irma Grese, blonde, 22-year-old wife of the Belsen gang, and Dr. Fritz Klein, grey-haired physician who chose victims for the gas chamber, were among those condemned to die.

OTHERS FACING DEATH

Others to be hanged were: Peter Weingartner, 32, former member of the Yugoslav Army; Frank Hoesser, 34, an SS Guard and a former soldier; Karl Pfannsch, 33, SS Guard and former soldier; and Karl Pichler, 32, SS Guard and former soldier.

Frank Starke, 33, SS Guard and former soldier, was sentenced to life imprisonment for his part in the regime of brutality and starvation which cost thousands of lives among internees.

Chinese Reds Driven Back

Nationalists Push On Into Manchuria

By RICHARD BERGHOLZ

CHINWANGTAO — (AP) — Chinese Nationalist Army headquarters announced its troops captured Shanhaiwan yesterday in a flanking movement that forced the Chinese Communist Eighth Route Army to abandon the Great Wall gateway into Manchuria.

(The Changping press today reported, however, that Chinese Government officials who earlier had accepted control of postal and telegraphic facilities from the withdrawing Russians at Changchung Manchuria capital, now were returning to Changchung.)

PROTECTION LOST

"They had lost the protection of the Soviet occupation garrison," reports said, and "fully armed" Chinese Communists have been seen in the vicinity of Changchung in which Nationalists had only a handful of officials. Among those withdrawing, they said, was Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek's eldest son, Chiang Chung-Kuo, special commissioner for foreign affairs in Manchuria.

"We have driven 10,000 Communist bandits out of Shanhaiwan and have taken the city," said Gen. Tu Li-ming, commander of the Nationalist forces assigned to take over Manchuria after withdrawal of Russian troops.

He predicted the occupation of Shanhaiwan at the Gulf of Chihai, end of the Great Wall, would make it unnecessary to attempt any amphibious operations along the coast at Manchuria.

Shanhaiwan is about ten miles north of Chinwangtao, where U. S. Marines are guarding the railway, southwest to Tientsin.

General Tu said the Nationalists were principally concerned with reopening the Tientsin-Mukden railway, which would mean that Chinese Communists withdraw at least 80 kilometers (about 50 miles) from the rail line.

Tu said Shanhaiwan was taken without heavy fighting and casualties on both sides were light.

The Fleet's In U. S. Sailors On Capetown Buying Spree

CAPETOWN, Union of South Africa — (AP) — The U. S. Fleet is in today, and its men are buying engagements rings and loose diamonds almost like peanuts.

The more than 6,000 officers and men from two U. S. battleships and six destroyers are "going crazy" over Capetown's vast assortment of gems, said the sailors here.

The highest price reported paid by an American has been \$2,300 for a pure white diamond weighing four and one-half carats.

One out of ten men are buying engagement rings, the jewelers said, and many are purchasing loose stones as investments. Some sailors have bought three or four watches each, they said.

The battleships, the California and the Tennessee, and the destroyers — the Armer, Tern, Nelson, Lansdowne, Stevens and Stockton — have put in here for the week-end.

Power Firms May Substitute Atomic Heat For Coal In Decade

power will put coal out of business. Coal will have its own field. For small heating units, such as kitchen stoves, atomic power has no place. If our national economy grows as rapidly as a chemical agent will increase in importance.

Dr. Compton said uranium may reduce the cost of heat and power in cities. There is the hope of a "cold fusion" which would mean a substantial cost advantage for uranium.

"This uranium power will be safe," Dr. Compton said that atomic explosions, such as destroyed Hiroshima, cannot occur accidentally.

The rays emitted by the burning uranium will limit power units to perhaps a minimum size of 50 tons. Most of this weight is the two or three feet of solid steel. Dr. Compton said is needed to shield personnel.

"Prominent advantages of atomic power will be that a reasonably efficient atomic power plant could be put into operation within a few months. It would be able to drive a mechanical superheated steam engine without a boiler. The plant would be only a demonstration, and not economical without a number of years of further development.



OPPOSED TO CONSOLIDATION—Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who today told the Senate Military Committee that the proposed merger of the armed forces would not work.

San Francisco Named To Observe Greek Elections

LISBON — (AP) — Portuguese voters go to the polls tomorrow with no alternative but to elect the strong-arm regime of Oliveira Salazar.

In an election proclaimed as free and obviously a bid for the return of democracy to the grip of the United Nations, not a single candidate opposed the nineteen-year-old dictatorship.

The opposition has come chiefly from the vast and uneducated Polish in silent protest against the Administration.

Plane Crashes Into Houses

HEMPSTEAD, N. Y. — (AP) — An Army fighter plane from Mitchell Field crashed into two houses in the south end of Hempstead shortly before noon today and burst into flames.

The pilot, whose identity was not announced, stuck to the ship and was burned to death.

The two houses were set afire and suffered considerable damage.

Nazis Reported Working On Atom Bomb In Spain

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — (AP) — The newspaper Express said today it had been informed by a reliable source that 20 Nazi scientists were working feverishly in Spain to solve the chemical equation for the atomic bomb. The paper declared the experiments were being conducted with the approval of Generalissimo Franco. There was no mention of the region from any other source.

Charlotte Returns

A number of Charlotte soldiers returned to the States yesterday aboard ships docked at East Coast ports.

Aboard the SS Kingston Victor, which docked yesterday in Boston, Pvt. Clarence Watson Jr., 21, of the 8888 Central Postal Directory, and Capt. Henry A. Ruddock, 40, of the 8888 Central Postal Directory, were among the first to disembark.

Holiday Meal Prices May Be Same as In '41

WASHINGTON — Public eating places may charge as much on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve as they did four years ago, the OPA says.

They may charge January 1, 1943, prices on New Year's Day, it said.