

Battalion Editorials

Page 2

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1950

The Vanishing Veteran -- A&M's Loss . . .

With the exception of a possible World War III, veteran students at A&M are soon to almost vanish. Should another war develop, however, the campus would again be packed with the men home from the wars.

Although it's easy to see the decreasing number of veterans, it took a news item in yesterday's Battalion to give us tangible proof. Veteran's housing is expected to be more easily obtained next fall than at any time in the past several years.

A&M's enrollment hit a record high in the fall of 1947, when over 8,500 were enrolled in the college. A large number of these were veteran students.

Since that time, the number of students has been decreasing annually, with the graduation of the men with the "lame

duck."

Some of the campus' ablest leaders have come from the non-corps area. There was a good reason for choosing these men to help in leading the student body's affairs.

Older and more experienced, the veterans gave to A&M, and to many of the younger students, a stabilizing influence that had been lacking heretofore. Yet it was given, and received, in a manner of appreciation—appreciation from the veterans for the school, appreciation from the cadets for straight, reflecting thinking.

Soon, however, the veterans will depart, but we believe they have left something behind them more lasting than a record in the Registrar's office.

Taking a Cue From Soviet Russia . . .

The advent of American armor in Korea may help the situation, but the trend of reports so far has not been encouraging. As has been noted heretofore, we should not expect it to be—not until we are able to throw in full strength of all arms.

One reason is tragically based in the continued failure of the nontotalitarian nations, including our own, to face totalitarian governments with their own weapons. It is partly based, too, in a fundamental, and also continuing, error of all nationalism, the hallucination that one fighting man is not as good a fighting man as another. Give the human being white, yellow, tan or black, the arms, the training, the leadership, and the average of him is an effective soldier. Napoleon put it that there were no bad regiments, only bad colonels. Perhaps he should have added, bad drill sergeants.

The drawback in defending South Korea is the weakness of the South Korean army. Their fault? Hardly. We knew Russia was training the North Koreans. We did not regard it as our job to train

the South Koreans, train, arm, prepare them for what they—and we—would have to face.

The freedom of democracies will have to be maintained by fighting, not by debate, but the Western Powers and their friends make small effort toward the practical development of the forces that will have to do the fighting. If Russia held Japan today, it would already have a Japanese Red army in being. It does hold East Germany and it has made progress toward developing a "police force" whose real character is in no doubt. We hold Japan. We hold West Germany. And what have we done to forestall invasion with the men who will have to resist it?

The problem is far simpler for Russia than it would be for us. Geography, their ace in the hole, is against us. But it is a card that can be used by Western Europe, by Southern Asia in co-ordination with us if we realize now not only the virtues but the necessity of providing the army now against the force that will have to be used later. We can't teach Communism a lesson until we learn one from them.—The Dallas Morning News.

Rejuvenation of the United Nations . . .

The United Nations was five years old when the biggest test of its short life arose with the attack by Communist-controlled North Korea upon South Korea.

The fifth anniversary of the signing of the charter at San Francisco—June 26, 1945—came squarely between the attack and President Truman's order for American forces to aid the Republic of Korea, in the name of the United Nations.

The world organization was in the doldrums. It had proven itself impotent in many instances. Russia was rapidly destroying its usefulness through abuse of the veto power and in the past several months by consistent abstention from the meetings of all agencies in which Nationalist China was represented.

What the future history of the United Nations will be, one can only guess. Its ideal, of course, is universality, but this has by no means been realized.

Russia has kept Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, and even Switzerland out through

application of the veto.

The majority have voted down Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria because they obviously are not independent and sovereign states, being Soviet satellites.

The occupied nations, Germany, Japan and Austria are not members. Nor is Korea.

If Russia secedes, taking her satellites with her, the United Nations would fall greatly short of being universal. And in that event the new nations of South and Southeast Asia might withdraw, too, and attempt to pursue a neutral course as between the two armed camps into which the world would be divided.

But, whatever its ultimate fate, the United Nations has enjoyed an amazing upsurge of prestige and confidence in the past two weeks. It took a crisis that threatened its life to turn the trick, but the patient shows signs of recovery now.—The Houston Chronicle.

TROUBLE IN THE TROPHY ROOM



Interpreting the News . . .

Korean River Battle Compared to Marne

By J. M. ROBERTS JR.
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

American boys, too lightly armed and poorly reinforced, were fighting last night to turn a strange river in Korea into a new Marne.

You will remember that it was the British-French armies along the Marne which, after disastrous retreat from the Belgian border, broke the impetus of the Kaiser's first drive in 1914. And it was against this same line in 1918 that imperial German armies bashed out the last of their brains.

The armies along the Kum can't compare with those that fought along the Marne. But the Marne stood before Paris and the allied holding operation made possible the long comeback through which they eventually won the war.

Protects Taejon

The Kum stands before Taejon, American headquarters and South Korea's temporary capital, and before Pusan, only decent port for handling the American reinforcements for which the thinly spread defenders are so urgently calling.

As night fell on massing Communist forces north of the river, few looked at the American line, and its South Korean-supported wings, with any great hope.

"You don't fight two tank equip-

ped divisions with 30-caliber carbines (small light rifles)" as one retreating American officer put it, adding "this is the most useless damned war up all my life." (He was referring undoubtedly, to methods and means, not motives.)

There was beginning to be talk that the U. S. forces would be thrown out of Korea, and speculation as to what might then happen.

Action Criticized

Criticism of behind-the-front activity was mounting in the United States. There was not enough action, said the critics. Too much compacency. Was that Defense Department, particularly the Army, which seemed to be dragging its feet in the first days, still doing so? Was the government still trying to do the Korean job on a shoestring?

Or were secret operations going forward normally? Were the planes and ships pooled for an important operation, and for preparedness for whatever might develop through new Communist aggression, being broken out of mothballs? Was the shortage of technicians needed for putting a real air force into operation being taken care of?

High government officials met and agreed to the gloomy warnings of a long fight, for which they seemed to have ample grounds. But they gave people nothing to rally around. Perhaps preparations were going forward. Word was leaking out that if we could just keep holding on in Korea until September, things would begin to show.

Peace Still Possible

Reports from London that Russia had not slammed the door on proposals for peaceful intervention served merely to add to the confusion. Allied diplomats know that with her puppet army advancing, Russia will make no deal except as out-and-out bargaining for a high price—a price higher than the west can pay. Yet now we have peace talk to confuse the urgent issue, which is backing for the boys along the Kum.

The Kum line may not hold as the Marne line held despite MacArthur's obvious efforts to make it do as well as possible with what he has. Its collapse might not mean the fall of all Korea, probably would not.

But the big question being asked everywhere is: If it is going to take two or more months for the U. S. to get started, how do we buy the time without more dynamic action than is yet apparent?

Behind the Scenes . . .

'Big Hangover' Will Make You Feel Almost that Way

By FRED WALKER

("The Big Hangover"—Palace, now showing through Saturday, starring Van Johnson and Elizabeth Taylor.)

I have seen pictures that I haven't liked, others that I have loved, but the picture that is now showing at the Palace made me want to leave my seat.

Why, oh why, oh why, can't people refrain from exploiting the war dead? Are we still living in the Prussian era of military domination that war should be a medium to remind us of the courage of mankind?

A constant reminder to the audience, in "The Big Hangover," is the fact that Davis did not become a lawyer because he wanted to, but because his friend whose aim was laid dead in his arms at untempered hands feet in a bomb-er.

The movie was supposed to be a comedy. In fact there WAS one fleeting moment of juvenile comedy in a dinner scene. Before and after that I'm afraid my ulcers could not make any separation.

The plot is old and simple. Ex-serviceman goes through school, makes good, is accepted to an es-

tablished firm. The law office symbolizes the corporations, rolling over the common man. The young idealist scorns the dirty capitalist and enters public service.

Well, well, well. I'm beginning to wonder if we missed someone in that Hollywood cleanup.

Stars, Too

Oh, by the way, Van Johnson and Elizabeth Taylor were supposed to be the stars of the picture.

I think it very fitting that these two should work together. The women seem to enjoy looking at Johnson, and I am not so sure that Miss Taylor's figure appears distasteful. But that is as far as it goes.

In Battleground, Van Johnson showed, that with the right coaching and directing, he might be able to ascend. In this picture he is right back where he started, a nice looking young man with an engaging smile.

Monotonous Portrayal

Miss Taylor's portrayal of the "poor little rich girl" dealing in psychiatric problems was for the most part monotonous.

Even such a stalwart supporting actor as Gene Lockhart (who made quite a name for himself in the Broadway production "Death of a Salesman") was hurt cruelly by this picture.

Comment: If you see this movie, you will have to remember that there is a wide gap between acting and imitating.

Reds Seeking to KO American Economy

By DEWITT MacKENZIE
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

One of the most important aims of Soviet strategy in furthering its world revolution is to bleed the democracies economically with the hope of this rendering them vulnerable to Reds attack.

This crafty line of thought long has permeated Bolshevik operations. A prime example of it was the Russian blockade of western Berlin. That forced America and Britain to maintain a long and tremendously costly air-lift to provide the city with necessities.

And it's notable that Moscow carried out this coup without expending much strength herself.

Two Main Objectives

Now we have the Korean show, which is more or less a piece off the same cloth. Russia has two main objectives in backing Communist North Korea's invasion of non-Communist South Korea.

These objectives are (1) to gain control of the entire Korean Peninsula because of its strategic value in possible future operations, and (2) to compel America and other western allies to spend themselves and to expend economic strength in defending the South Korean Republic.

Again we note that while Russia has trained the North Korean armies and has provided many sinews of war, the Soviet itself hasn't become directly involved. As usual she is using one of her satellites to do the heavy work for her. Under expert Russian military guidance, of course.

Evidence that Russia again has been crafty is seen in the reaction by the western powers. John M. Hightower, AP diplomatic expert in Washington, reports that administration officials are beginning to regard the Korean war as a long, difficult and costly struggle for America.

Hightower adds that depending on how the fighting goes, this development of a less optimistic outlook about an early end to the war apparently means a steady build-up of American forces in the war zone—with increasing requirements for money, men and munitions. Furthermore, the U. S. is faced with the need to keep up a billion dollar flow of arms to western Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, while keeping its

own forces set to deal with any new moves by the Red bloc.

So that's the strain Russia is putting on America, without taking on any great additional load herself. And Korea isn't by any means the only theatre involved in this Red strategy.

Over in China the Chinese regime has served notice on the United Nations that it is determined to capture the big island of Formosa "despite any military steps of obstruction taken by the United States government." America has assigned naval units to protect Formosa, which is the seat of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek's Nationalist government and his last stronghold.

And what is the significance of this? Well, it means that Moscow is pushing another of its satellites into the foreground to challenge America. It is an effort to make the United States weaken itself by widdening its operations.

That there is the making of a long and costly struggle in Korea certainly is in the cards. As this column has pointed out before, Russia is in the position of pouring an endless stream of Manchurian and Chinese Communist troops down through the North Korean funnel into South Korea. So long as this can continue there always will be new Red troops to take the place of those knocked out.

The U. S. A. will have to bring a mighty lot of military strength into play before the situation can be overcome—and that will take time. This accounts for America's action in ordering use of the draft to bring her armed forces up to full operating strength for the Korean war.

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—Double Feature—
FIRST RUN

—Feature No. 1—
Starts—1:35 - 4:25 - 7:10 - 10:00

"BEAUTY ON PARADE"
—Feature No. 2—
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7:55 - 9:30

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