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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

'Paper' Curtain For Chinese Reds

By Drew Pearson

and outspoken with all the free- "If so happens that I was here

Bellhops at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, all World War II vets, are sore as a boil at the big liquor parties thrown by the Chinese Communists in the Waldorf Tower.



One bellhop, on being summoned to the Communist suite, was asked to bring up the newspapers. He loaded himself with the New York Times,

New York Mirror and the Herald Tribune and rapped at the door.

Taking one look at the newspapers, the bland Chinese reprimanded: "No, no, not these papers. The Daily Worker."

The bellhop, though seething inside, just as blandly replied: "Sorry, sir, we can't get it here. You'll have to make your own arrangements."

Trapped Marines

Worried Pentagon strategists will only talk about it privately, but one of the most serious military errors of any recent war was responsible for trapping the First Marine Division and the two Seventh Infantry regiments which made their painful, gallant fight out of Hagaru.

The tragic fact is that they never would have been trapped but for three unforgivable military errors.

The first error was lack of liaison between Lieut. Gen. Walton Walker, commander of the Eighth Army, and Maj. Gen. Edward Almond, commander of the Tenth Corps. For some strange reason, known only to MacArthur, these two generals had no battle communication with each other, but had to talk to each other by way of Tokyo some 700 miles away.

Second, both generals had their men racing for the Manchurian border to see which could get their first. Reassured by MacArthur's intelligence that they had nothing to fear from the Chinese, the troops fanned out, instead of driving forward in a strong, compact spearhead. Furthermore, the Tenth Corps under General Almond went racing off toward the north, instead of sticking close to the Eighth Army.

French Ambassador Henri Bonnet, acting on instructions from his government, warned United States officials against this advance before it started. Specifically, he warned that there were 700 miles of Chinese border toward which MacArthur was headed, along which the Chinese were concentrated.

The British also warned against advancing into this area, and their warnings were relayed to MacArthur by Washington.

Furthermore, the Joint Chiefs of Staff cabled a reminder to MacArthur that General Almond had no battle communications with General Walker. MacArthur sent back a curt reply that he knew what he was doing.

Result was that the Chinese wisely hit at the vacuum between the Eighth Army and the Tenth Corps.

During this confusion, General Almond tried to send his Marines to close the gap between him and the Eighth Army. But after a brief, bloody battle, they were forced to turn back to the Chosin Reservoir.

Then for some reason, so far not explained, the Marines were allowed to remain at the reservoir for four days, giving the Chinese an opportunity to swarm all around them and cut off escape.

NOTE—During this period, MacArthur had time to send five messages to American newspapers explaining why he was not to blame in Korea.