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WORLD AT YOUR ELBOW

Fire strikes in San Francisco at America's biggest naval base. Within a few moments of the blaze starting, it rages out of control. Five thousand navy men join San Francisco firemen in the battle to prevent the flames spreading. Sixty eight fire engines (many of them rushed from neighbouring cities) pour tons of water into the buildings.

Soon Treasure Island, where the naval base is situated, is enveloped in a mass of smoke. The man-made island, before being taken over by the U.S. Navy in 1941, housed the Golden Gate International Exhibition. The blaze broke out in the Navy's gigantic mess galley. Before it was extinguished, it threatened to destroy the electronic's laboratory. Damage is estimated at half a million dollars.

A Dispatch from our Far East reporter. These pictures come from Seoul, capital of Korea, on the first anniversary of the country's declaration of independence. Nationalist forces (regarded with favour by China's Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek and the American State department) clash with Korean Communist elements, who look to Soviet Russia for approval.

mKorea was liberated from the Japanese by U.S. and Soviet troops in 1945. Before withdrawing to a line of demarcation agreed between the two countries, the Russians took away much of Korea's industrial plant as war reparations. General MacArthur, Japan's one-man Government declared that the setting up of an independent Korea was out of the question. Today, on Korea's first Independence Day, foreign troops still occupy the country - Americans in the agricultural south, and the Russians in the industrial north.