ONE-MAN OPERATION FOR CARGOLINER

Third Mate Edward Shepherd of Swampscott, Mass., operates the automated bridge console as he guides the newly built cargoliner American Racer into the Port of New York on its maiden call to the city Monday. The 12,000-ton ship is the first American dry cargo vessel to be built from the keel up as a fully automated ship. It can be controlled and operated by a single person on the bridge. The vessel, part of the United States Lines' fleet made brief loading stops at Philadelphia, Baltimore and Norfolk, Va., before going on to her home port in New York.
(AP Wirephoto)

Truman Discusses Firing Of Gen. MacArthur In '51

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Harry S. Truman Friday night described the late Gen. Douglas Macarthur as an egotist "who thought he was greater than the president of the United States."

"He (Macarthur) seemed to have the notion that without him the whole country would collapse," the 80-year-old former president said in discussing his dismissal of Macarthur in 1951 as U.S. military chief in the Far East.

Truman, in a taped interview fed to some 50 television stations across the United States, recounted the series of disagreements he had with Macarthur over how the war in Korea should have been conducted.

"The president of the United States is the commander-in-chief of the armed forces," Truman said. "And in 1950 I was the commander - in - chief. And I had to make up my mind what I would do with an insubordinate general."

Truman contended against his orders, Macarthur repeatedly issued statements to news media calling for actions in Korea contrary to those he outlined to the general in a meeting on Wake Island.

ROLE SPELLED OUT

Truman said he spelled out in detail at the meeting the position he wanted the general to take in the Korean matter to insure against sparking an all-out war with Communist China.

This was followed by a meeting of the two with other ranking U.S. military leaders in the area.

"And he assured me in no uncertain terms Red China would not come into Korea," Truman contended. "I went home feeling very, very good about the situation."

In his memoirs, published shortly before his death this year, Macarthur claimed he never had told Truman China would not enter the war.

In his book, Macarthur complained "artificial restrictions" had been placed on his conduct of the Korean war prevented him from winning it.

Truman told his television audience 10 days after the meeting on Wake, "thousands and thousands" of Chinese soldiers came into Korea from the north.

Chinese pilots, Truman said, would fly into the south of Korea and maraud and then flee back north to safety with American pilots ordered not to pursue them beyond the Yalu River.

"We fell out on that very thing," Truman said. "He (Macarthur) wanted to chase these planes over the border, here, and bomb the Chinese back beyond the Korean border, as well as to move our army up and really fight a war with Communist China."

Truman said the issue was complicated by "a strong faction in Congress favoring all-out war on China.

"With this sort of backing, Macarthur grew bolder," the former president said. He said Macarthur began to issue statements to newspapers and "all the rest of the news agencies he could get to."

"Again I was tempted to fire him," Truman said. "But the opposition would have screamed that I was making him the 'goat' of military reverses."

Truman said he then issued a directive restricting statements by military commanders in the field.

"Macarthur stayed with this directive for two days," he said. "Then he sent a telegram of congratulations to the commander of the American Legion for urging bombs be dropped in Manchuria.

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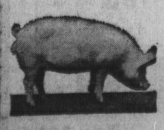

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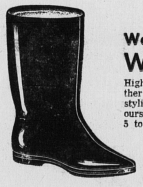

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