

THE PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE VICTORY DIVISION
IN KOREA

MANCHURIA

YALU RIVER

PYONGYANG

KOREA

38°

INCHON

SEOUL

YELLOW
SEA

PUSAN

HIROSHIMA

SASEBO

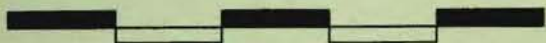
MATSUYAMA

BEPPU

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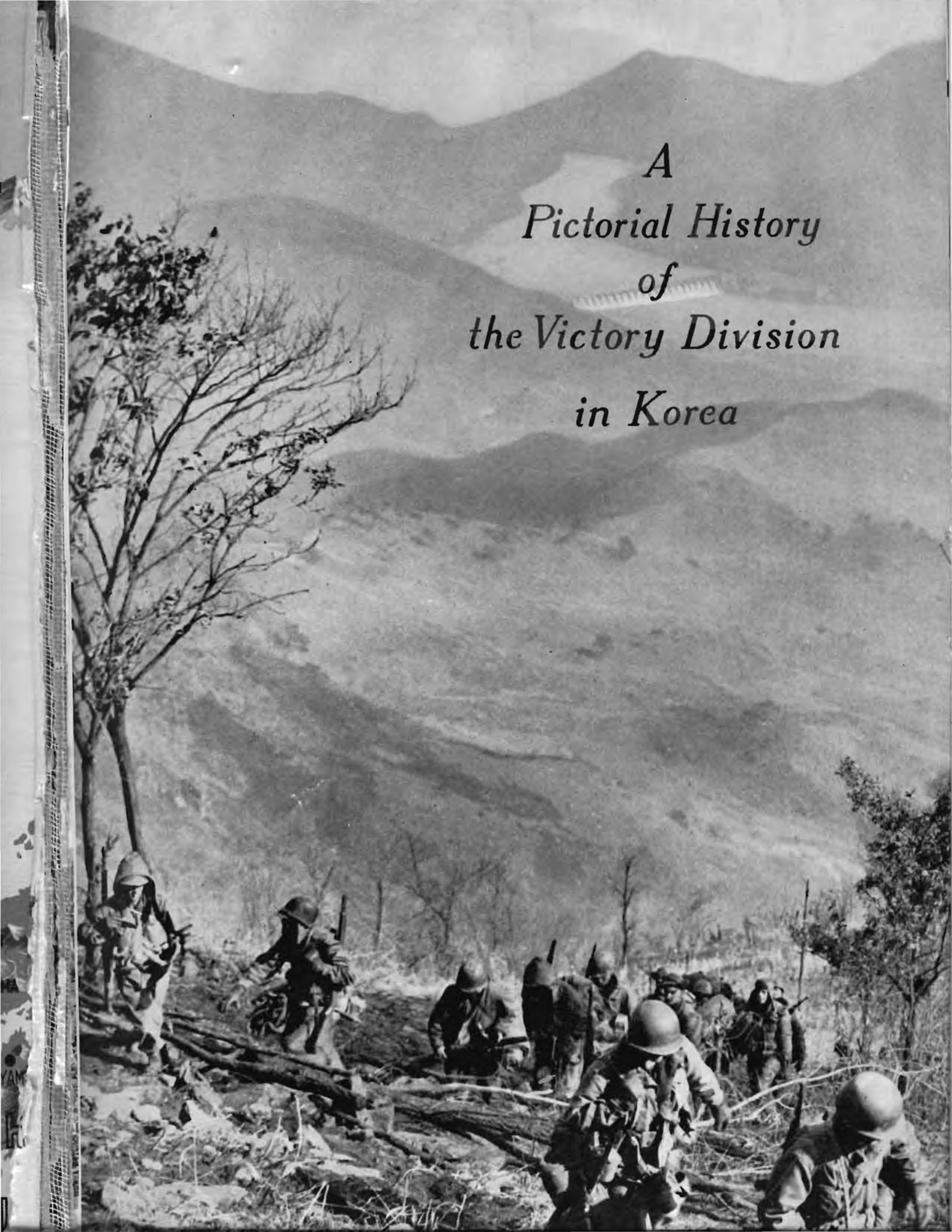
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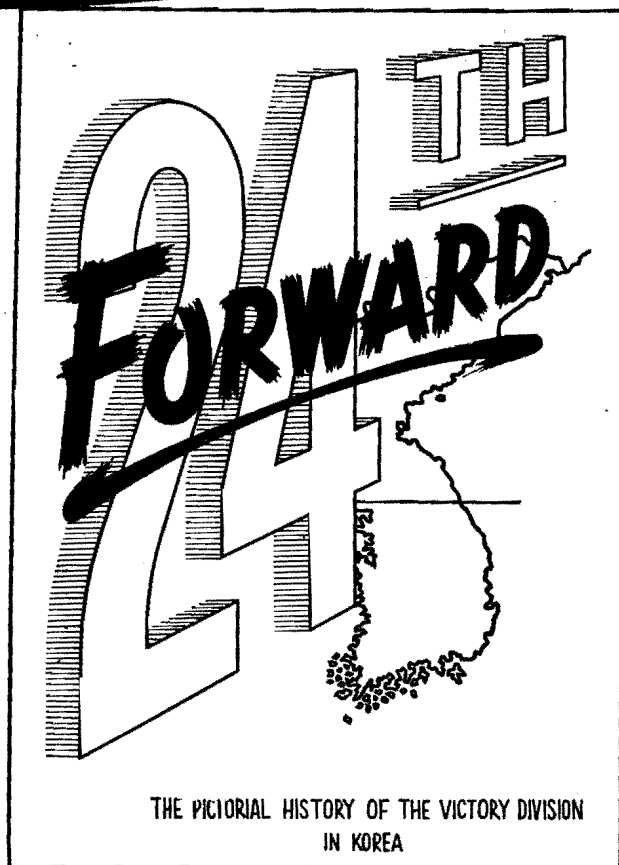
OSAKA

OKU



*A
Pictorial History
of
the Victory Division
in Korea*





ABOUT THIS BOOK

Pictures speak for themselves and words serve to identify them in the course of events. This book has stressed photographs for nothing can describe as well as a picture, the 24th's victory over a numberless enemy, a tortuous terrain, and a bitter climate.

It is for the men of the 24th to read their personal experience into these pages. To the relatives and friends of these soldiers, this book offers a fuller understanding of the conditions of combat on an alien battlefield. For the casual reader, this is the story of the infantry division that initiated the United Nations crusade in Korea. To all, this book will become a graphic remembrance of the nineteen significant months during which history was made.

This pictorial history reviews the broad outline of activities within the division. It shows how a winning team reflects successful teamwork, and how the job of every man with the 24th was a key contribution to victory. Even the independent, self-contained unit, that is the modern infantry division, functions within the framework of a larger field force. To illustrate this and to recall the related events and incidents that indirectly influenced the 24th's role in the course of the conflict, the chronology expands to picture the X US Corps' assault on Inchon, the Marine's evacuation from Hungnam, the part played by air and naval forces, and the exasperating months of debate over the conference table in the hope of recovering the peace.

Some limitations and omissions could not be prevented inasmuch as every book has a limited number of pages. Individuals and singular actions may be absorbed in the overall picture of the division in battle, for this is a comprehensive review in which the larger unit mirrors the fighting spirit of its components. The precise, living record of the grim campaign in Korea, contained between these covers, should become a lifetime memento for the men of the 24th Infantry Division who fought as bravely as they knew how.

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The Victory Division

The shoulder patch worn by members of the 24th Infantry Division is a green taro leaf—a leaf from the plant used by Hawaiians to make poi—a basic food in their diet. The leaf is bordered in yellow, superimposed upon a red circular background and again bordered by a thin line of black. The present design was taken from the patch of the old “Hawaiian” Division from which the 24th was redesignated on 26 August 1941.

During the World War II campaign on the Philippine Island of Leyte, the 24th became known as the “Victory” Division, a name it still maintains. The code symbol “V” was then used on all vehicles and on the helmets of division personnel. Further im-

petus to this name came from native Filipinos who greeted passing troops with the hand gesture “V” while they cried “Victoree” in shrill voices.

The 24th Infantry Division was created to protect American interests in the Pacific theater and has twice within ten years worn the taro leaf shoulder patch into war. From Pearl Harbor to Japan during World War II, from Pusan to the Yalu River during the Korean campaign, men of the 24th have been among the first and the finest to fight. The “Victory” Division has become the first combat unit in world history to actively serve under the blue and white emblem of the United Nations.

Past and Present



JAPANESE "ZERO'S" darted through shrapnel over Pearl Harbor's shipyards.

PEARL HARBOR

A spectacular air show appeared over the Hawaiian port city on Sunday morning, 7 December 1941. Soldiers of the 24th Division, in town on pass, marveled with other onlookers strolling down the bright thoroughfares, at the awesome squadrons winging overhead. Suddenly, the aircraft wheeled into the attack, circular red emblems flashed from the wingtips, and machine gun bullets and aerial bombs ripped into homes, streets, and installations. This infamous day brought death to three members of the 24th who were among the first to return steel for steel, to answer an unprovoked raid from the air with punishing ground fire.

PREPARATION

Defense of the Island of Oahu was the principal duty of the division, but when it trained, it trained for invasion. Amphibious practice, relentless combat and jungle discipline earned big dividends after the division left Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, for its next assembly area on the eastern coast of Australia. The 19th, 21st, and 34th Infantry Regiments were in combat readiness, minds and bodies were attuned to the final phase of training along the craggy shoreline of Australia for operation number one, the securing of Goodenough Island beyond the eastern finger of New Guinea.

TRIAL BY FIRE

A succession of exotic place-names marked the course of the 24th's island campaigns. Biak, Corregidor, Marinduque, Nasugbu, Bomblon, were among those pestilent, nightmarish regions that are now remembered as battle streamers on regimental guidons. Commenting on the 24th's winning technique after the recapture of the Philippine Island of Leyte, ex-Major General Tomochika, former Chief of Staff of the 35th Japanese Army, wrote, "The American forces took quick, penetrating offensive action when our units retreated toward the hills, and we underestimated the speed and strength of their attack." It was the lashing, unpredictable assault tactics of the division that helped earn for it the nickname of "Victory".

END OF THE WAR

"When the roll was called in the many decisive battles of the Southwest Pacific Area, units of the 24th Infantry Division answered 'present' and then shed their blood." The commanding general of the "Victory" Division summed up the combat record of the outfit with those vivid words. Even after the capitulation of Japan, men of the 24th Division were patrolling the hills of Mindanao, ferreting out the last pockets of Japanese resistance. The first unit to fight in World War II was the last to lose precious American lives after the enemy formally surrendered.



ATOM-BOMBED HIROSHIMA was policed by occupation troops of the 24th Infantry Division.

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FOUR YEARS of benevolent occupation witnessed the recovery and rebirth of Hiroshima.

OCCUPATION

Japan! Under an overcast sky, the men and officers of the division stared hard at the rocky shoreline of Shikoku. From the railings of the ships they saw the end of the road...a road that began almost four years before, in Hawaii. The occupation of Japan was at hand. The 21st Regimental Combat Team had been designated as the Okayama force on the southeast coast of Honshu, largest of the Japanese islands. The remaining regiments, the 19th and 34th, debarked at Kochi along the southern coast of Shikoku, the smallest island of the Japanese chain. Division headquarters was promptly set up in the Matsuyama City Library. The incredibly complex chore of demilitarizing Japan, destroying caches of arms, investigating secret societies, and establishing prefectural governments was soon mastered within the 24th's zone of responsibility. In mid-February, 1946, with the major portion of the job on Shikoku done, headquarters was moved to the main island of Honshu. All units of the 24th relocated on the same island for the first time when the division undertook sole occupation of the southernmost and third largest Japanese island of Kyushu. In this move, division headquarters was established at Kokura on the northern extremity of the island. The 19th was among the first to arrive. It encamped at Oita and later garrisoned at Beppu on the eastern coast of the island. The 21st moved into Kumamoto with its

headquarters at decorative Camp Wood. The 34th arrived at Sasebo, site of a former naval base and billeted four miles from the port city. Peace, in the turbulent Far East, seemed in the offing. But, unknown danger loomed across the Sea of Japan.

WAR TO THE WEST

At 0400 on 25 June 1950, the cycle was completed. Upon the premeditated incursion into sovereign South Korea by North Korean divisions, the free world once again called on the men of the 24th to reply first. Within a few days of the initial attack, the term "38th parallel" was to emerge into a rallying-phrase as rousing in historical annals as "Pearl Harbor." Two rifle companies and a single battery of artillery of the 21st RCT sped to Korea by air. They fought desperately at Osan, Korea, as the first American troops expended to detain the Communist invasion. Each page of this book is devoted to telling the story that followed.



DIVISION HEADQUARTERS eventually moved to Kokura on the southernmost island of Kyushu.



GENERAL OF THE ARMY DOUGLAS MACARTHUR



90 Church Street
New York 7, N.Y.

26 January 1952

...I am proud indeed to have been connected with that great unit. Its service in Korea marks one of the most dramatic pages of American history. Swift and sure in attack, courageous and tenacious in defense, its record is unsurpassed.

Douglas M. MacArthur
DOUGLAS MacARTHUR —



GENERAL MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF



18 April 1952

...With unexcelled fighting spirit and efficiency, the men of the division have consistently displayed the greatest gallantry and devotion to duty. Their record is a proud one, of great combat achievement, of unswerving loyalty and sacrifice

M. B. Ridgway
M.B. RIDGWAY,
General, United States Army

DIVISION COMMANDERS

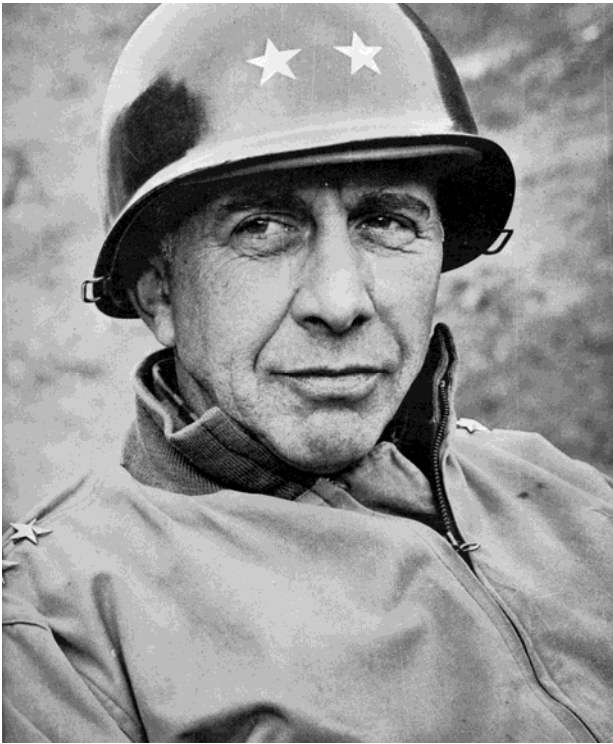
MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM F. DEAN. In ten brief months after he took command of the 24th, the husky, greying soldier from Clinton County, Illinois, saw the meager occupation force that had been distributed throughout Japan, stamped into a dedicated, vengeful fighting machine by a never to be forgotten baptism of fire. After his graduation from the University of California in 1922, he accepted a commission in the Regular Army and served in a number of positions until 23 July 1950 . . . the day he was reported missing in action near Taejon, Korea. As the 24th's commander during the early stages of the conflict, he led the first elements of the division in a fighting withdrawal which bought time for friendly forces and enabled them to regroup defenses. The 53-year old general, a veteran division commander who fought his way across the Continent during World War II, won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his single-handed attack on several T-34 tanks at a Taejon roadblock.



MAJOR GENERAL JOHN H. CHURCH. The third great war of the century found the wiry, battle-wise officer from Glen Iron, Pennsylvania, assuming command of an enfeebled embittered 24th Division, one week after the disappearance of Maj. Gen. William F. Dean. With the tactical insight gained while serving with the infantry during two world wars, the former New York University student transfused the division into a dynamic unit that helped shred the North Korean noose tightening around the Pusan perimeter. The 60-year old general spurred the 24th's drive up the eastern corridor of Korea to within artillery range of the basin of the Yalu River. As Chief of GHQ's advanced echelon in Korea, before taking the reins of the "Victory" Division, he amassed a detailed knowledge of the country's geography, manipulated his troops accordingly, and exacted a heavy toll of Chinese hostiles that steamrolled across the Manchurian border. The oft-decorated soldier left Korea early in February 1951 for the post of Chief of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

MAJOR GENERAL BLACKSHEAR M. BRYAN, JR. Upon relinquishing his post as head of the 24th Infantry Division in favor of new duties as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Far East Command, the genial eloquent general asserted, "I have finally achieved what I consider probably to be the acme of a soldier's career. . . the task of a division commander." His previous military appointments were with the Field Artillery, the Army's athletic program, the Alien's Division, and the Provost Marshal's Office. The Korean campaign gave the 52-year old officer from Alexandria, Louisiana, an opportunity to put into practice his pet principle of command: the C.G.'s presence on the line is not only essential for enhancing troop morale, but is, moreover, a realistic approach to evaluating the strategy of a foxhole war. His training at the United States Military Academy inculcated in him the decisiveness of a commander and later earned for him a reputation for bold and masterful leadership. As retiring chief in late December 1951, he left a confident combat-seasoned "Victory" Division to continue a calculated, inspired operation against the enemy.





MAJOR GENERAL HENRY I. HODES. From the horse cavalry of the 20's to the mechanized field armies of the 50's, "Hammering Hank" duplicated the course of maturing military practice with his personal career. In 1923 he enrolled in the Air Corps Primary Flying School in anticipation of the prominence that tactical aviation would eventually achieve. The 53-year old native of Washington, D.C. served for 12-years with cavalry units within the Zone of Interior, formulating programs for streamlining outmoded and obsolescent cavalry techniques in favor of greater maneuverability, armor, and firepower. He was hospitalized for wounds incurred while commanding the 112th Infantry Regiment in Germany during an engagement that earned him a Silver Star. The West Point graduate joined the 1st Cavalry Division in Japan and was assigned, 18 months later, to the Korea-bound 7th Infantry Division. January 1951 saw the stocky, energetic officer returning to Japan as Eighth Army's Deputy Chief of Staff. Before replacing Maj. Gen. Bryan, the former cavalryman became a UN delegate to the Korean peace conferences. After supervising the 24th's transfer to Honshu, he entrusted the command to his deputy, Brig. Gen. Paul D. Adams.



BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL D. ADAMS. Under Maj. Gen.'s Bryan and Hodes, the young deputy commander assisted in closing the active phases of the 24th's Korean campaign, withdrawing the vast complex of the division from the lines and preparing it for embarkation to the Japanese mainland. In early February 1952, the Alabama-born veteran supervised the organization's transition from combat to occupation status. During World War II, he served as Executive Officer with both the 34th Infantry Regiment of the 24th Division and the 1st Special Service group... a unit comprised of Canadian and US personnel. As commander of the 143rd Regiment with the 36th "Texas" Infantry Division, he took part in the invasion of Italy, the assault of southern France, and the drive through the Rhineland. In May 1945, the vigorous Military Academy graduate attained the rank of Brigadier General and shortly thereafter, assumed command of the 45th Infantry Division. The elevation to overall command of the 24th was announced three months after his arrival on the Korean scene. The officer left in March 1952 to fill a position as Deputy Commander of the X US Corps in Korea.



MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE W. SMYTHE. To maintain a keen edge of combat preparedness, to forestall a natural relaxation and lag of troop morale following the 24th's reversion to occupation duty in lush Nippon, an able officer, battle-hardened during World War II and acutely aware of training principles and practices, was appointed to command the "Victory" Division, then quartered in scattered camps throughout the main island of Honshu. Maj. Gen. Smythe, a member of Walter Camp's 1922 All-American Football team, and the best all-around athlete in his class at the US Military Academy, powered the 47th Infantry Regiment through the North African, Sicilian, and European campaigns. The 53-year old soldier from Norristown, Pennsylvania, spirited his regiment into the "Battle of the Bulge" to plug and hold the northern shoulder of the vital salient. On the night of 6 March 1945, the regiment moved 50-miles to become the first combat team across the Rhine. The personable, unassuming commander, whose post-war assignments were of an administrative nature, wears the Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star with Cluster, Legion of Merit, and Bronze Star. His foreign decorations, garnered during his participation in seven Continental campaigns, include major citations from the French, British, and Belgian forces.

ASSISTANT DIVISION COMMANDERS



BRIGADIER GENERAL PEARSON MENCHER

25 July 1950 to 29 August 1950

BRIGADIER GENERAL GARRISON H. DAVIDSON

1 September 1950 to 5 January 1951



BRIGADIER GENERAL NUMA A. WATSON

1 May 1951 to 11 November 1951





BRIGADIER GENERAL ELWYN D. POST
12 March 1952 to 18 May 1952



BRIGADIER GENERAL WILBUR E. DUNKELBERG
19 May 1952 to ...

DIVARTY COMMANDER



BRIGADIER GENERAL BARKSDALE HAMLETT
3 December 1951 to ...

EXTRA!

AP. UP. INS WIRE SERVICES

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SUNDAY, June 25, 1950

SHARE THIS PAPER

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 149

STARS AND STRIPES KOREA AT WAR

60,000 Red Troops Attack Along 200-Mile Front;
Rhee Telephones Appeal for U.S. Help to Tokyo

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JUNE '50

The time and place coincided. Days before overwhelming North Korean forces slammed across the 38th parallel, John Foster Dulles, consultant to the State Department, observed South Korean defensive positions along the border, in an area soon to be aflame. The Reds struck on Sunday morning, 25 June 1950. The scattering of

American nationals in Korea—missionaries, businessmen, army personnel and military missions—were in obvious danger from the hordes that swept through the surprised ROK defenders. Within hours, American authorities went into action. A two-fold job confronted troops of the 24th Infantry Division stationed in southern Japan... assisting the air evacuation of US citizens and readying for combat should the forces of freedom decide to counter this unwarranted breach of peace.





BEFORE DEPARTURE

A 24th Division infantryman, one of the first to leave, wondered at what may lay ahead.

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TERRACED SLOPES OF SASEBO PROVIDED A LAST GLIMPSE OF JAPAN FOR EMBARKING TAROMEN.

The port facilities of southern Japan were activated. Five days after the start of the aggression, President Truman ordered the division to the point of action. Every seaworthy carrier was immediately made available to take aboard troops and equipment

of the 24th, then assembling furiously for the move across the Sea of Japan. A small, compact task force that had already been airlifted to Korea was soon to be joined by the bulk of the division, from six scattered posts in placid, untroubled Nippon.

SHIPPING OUT, WERE MEN . . .



. . . AND JEEPS.





ON THE WAY

"Task Force Smith" composed of two rifle companies of the 21st Combat Team, Able Battery of the 52nd Field Artillery, two platoons of 4.2 mortars, six bazooka teams and a single 75mm recoilless rifle crew—a body of fewer than 500 men—boarded nine C-54's for the combat zone. They were committed to stop the Red advance and gain time for demoralized South Korean divisions to regroup, to bridge the gap while the main body of the understrength 24th was mobilized. Following in quick sequence were sections of the 34th and 19th Combat Teams accompanied by supporting arms. By 5 July 1950, all combat elements of the division were in Korea.



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GROUND TROOPS, FRESH FROM MOUNTAIN MANEUVERS in Japan, clambered aboard transports. This crossing to Korea marked the first time in military history that an American division moved directly from a peacetime garrison by water and air to make a landing in a combat zone.

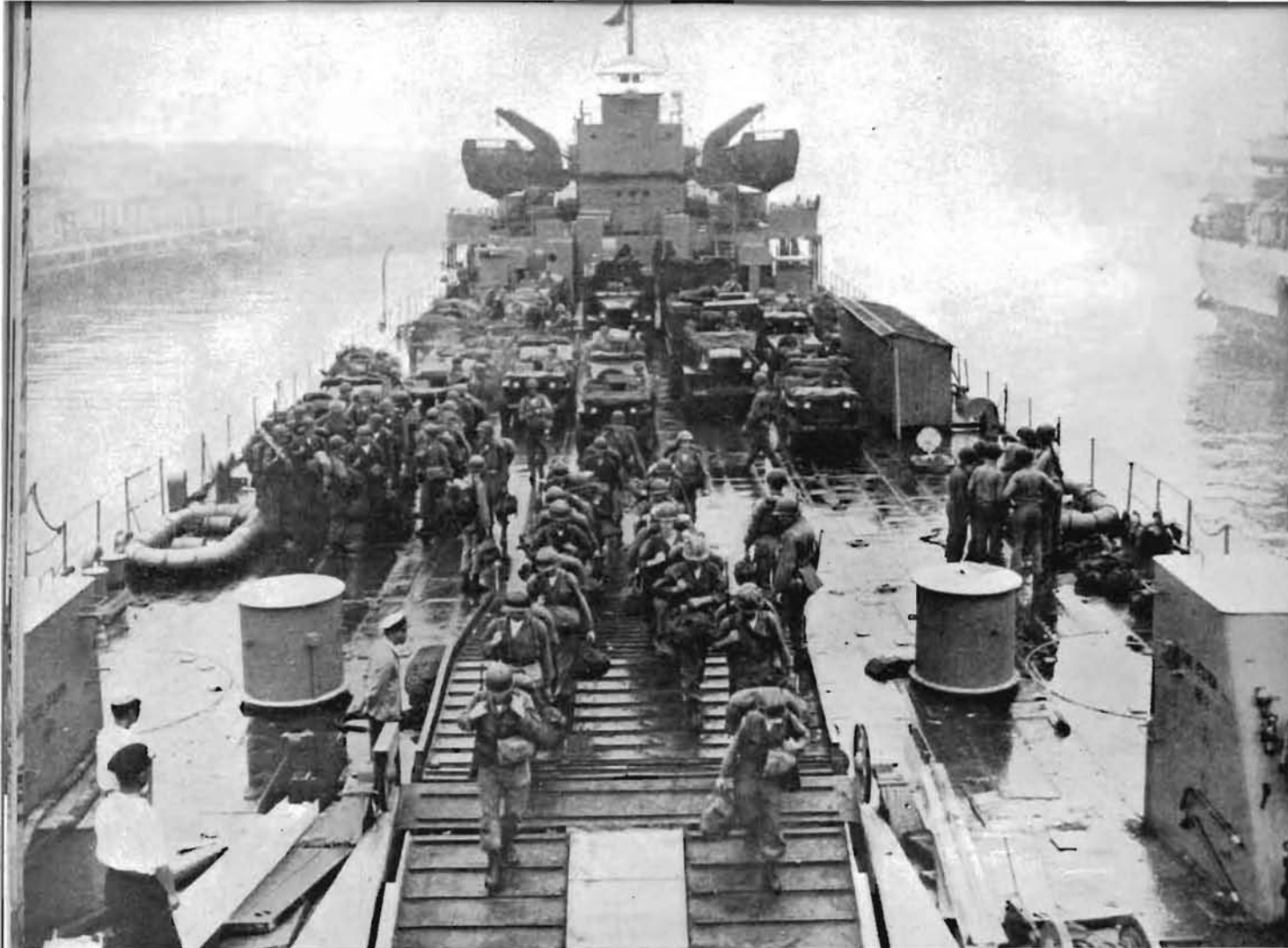
AT ASHIYA AIRBASE in Kyushu, C-47's warmed-up for the two-hour hop to Pusan.



A WEARY TARO-LEAFER, alerted for duty the night before, napped fitfully.



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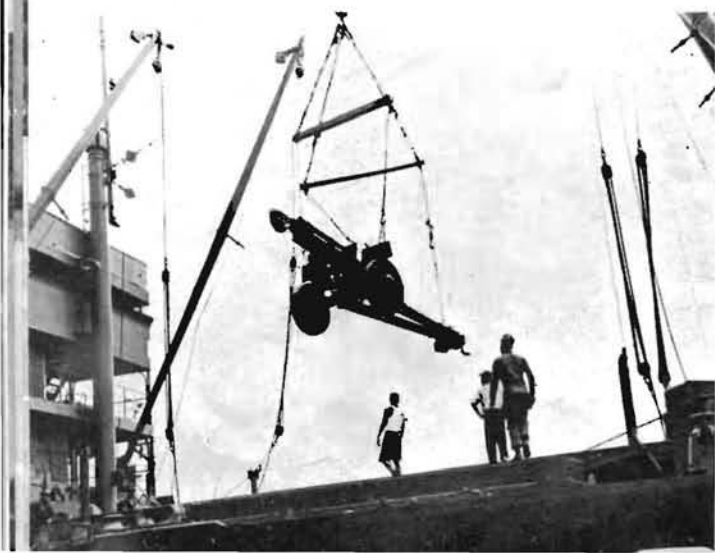
THE 34TH RCT PUT ASHORE FROM SLICK, DRENCHED DECKS OF FREIGHTERS AND LST'S.

KOREA

The days of debarkation were stifling. Under a sultry oriental sun, boatloads of soldiers arrived at the South Korean port city of Pusan to reorganize for the movement north. "Task Force Smith," speeding

along the Taejon-Seoul highway was strafed by Russian-built YAK fighter planes. Communist forces had crashed through flimsy ROK rear guard resistance and were threatening the left flank of the Korean army.

THE 52ND'S GUNS were hoisted from holds.



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THE PORT OF PUSAN WAS SOON DESTINED TO BECOME THE FAR EAST'S BUSIEST HARBOR.

PUSAN

The odds were heavily against them, the true nature of the mission was yet unforeseen. The "Victory" Division, as it discharged at Pusan, represented peacetime economy, military expenditures cut to the bone. Each infantry regiment included only two organic battalions, one under fighting strength. The artillery battalions embraced but two of their three standard batteries. The fluid tactical situation posed disruptive supply problems and hampered communications. Establishing close-in air support, breaching the language barrier, coordinating operations with ROK Army units, and setting up a successful fighting organization amid a floundering retreat, were obstacles that had to be quickly surmounted. "Task

Force Smith" was an unknown quantity. Its commander 32-year old Lt. Col. Charles B. Smith, unsealed his orders...orders that read simply, "On reaching Taejon move north...stop them where you find them..." The magnitude of the North Korean invasion was not yet clearly envisioned; the pitifully inadequate task force was relied upon to contain the Communist avalanche storming past Seoul. On this blocking action was gambled crucial time to motor the remainder of the 24th Division into the interior. Facing the single battalion were more than 50 Russian-built T-34 tanks, and 20,000 crack Red troops who had cut through Suwan and were rolling unopposed down the western corridor of the peninsula.



ASSEMBLY AREA. THERE WAS TIME ONLY TO HAND OUT C-RATIONS AND HITCHUP PACKS.



Friendly interchange encouraged Taromen to dole out candy and cigarettes to Kumchon crowds. The double-track railroad was kept open for trans-shipment of weapons-carriers and 2½-ton trucks of the 34th Regiment.

MOVING UP

All trains steaming northward were dead-lined at Pyongtaek, 40 miles south of captured Seoul. Beyond this outpost village and minor railhub, there were only wet, slithery roads to provide treacherous routes of approach to the front line...at best, a vague and indefinite demarkation. Vehicles were gassed as soon as they rolled from flatcars; ardent receptions by clamoring natives were brief but exciting. Archaic motor coaches, passenger vans—every roadable type of conveyance—was pressed into service. Slowly, the trickle became a stream. The 24th, then the lone American division in Korea, mustered its strength to fill the vacuum that expanded in the forefront of the enemy's advance. The division's command post and the Korean Military Advisory Group were tentatively located between Chochiwon and the Red forces under Suwon.



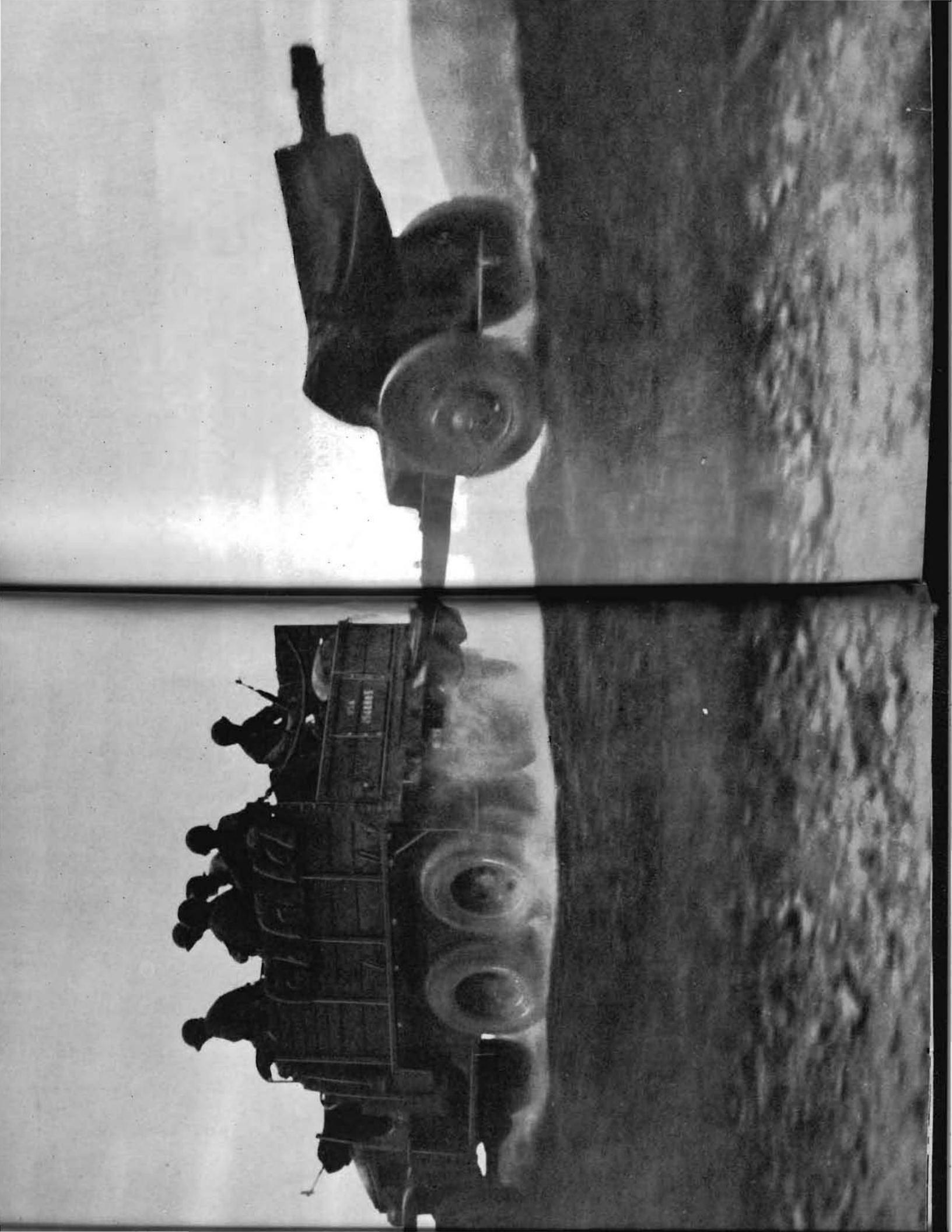
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TWO-WAY TRAFFIC

The South Korean Constabulary, with neither tanks nor heavy artillery, with but five air-planes, and outnumbered 5 to 1, could do little but fall back. It was ill-equipped, out-gunned, and the T-34's that rumbled ruthlessly through their hasty defenses made easy prey of soldiers and civilians alike. A sea of refugees, fleeing in terror of the invaders, streamed into the farmlands of the south. RTO personnel loaded this human freight into box cars that were highballed to army supply points in the rear areas.







THE U.N. ACTS

On 26 June, Secretary General Trygve Lie called an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council. Russia absented herself and Yugoslavia abstained from the vote, 9-0, which invoked member nations to condemn the Communist aggression, and instructed the aggressors to withdraw from South Korean soil. Fifty-three nations pledged their support to the Republic of Korea with armed forces and material aid. In response to a resolution passed by the Council, President Truman directed General of the Army Douglas MacArthur to send US air and sea forces to the aid of the invaded republic. Hours before the Soviet government refused to heed a US plea to intervene with North Korea. The president proclaimed, "The attack upon Korea makes it plain beyond all doubt that Communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations, and will now use armed invasion and war."





LOW-ANGLE FIRE WAS LEVELED AT FORMATIONS ATTACKING THE THIN LINE ABOVE OSAN.

OSAN

BURNING enemy stores, hit by 105mm fire.



On the wet, sweltering afternoon of 4 July, "Task Force Smith" succeeded in momentarily slowing the advance of the enemy. At dawn, 33 T-34 tanks in successive waves had rolled unchallenged through the battalion, and had disappeared beyond the shallow foothills to the south. In the teeth of massed US firepower, 4000 NK troops swarmed bodily toward the hill mass occupied by the task force and outflanked the 500 defenders. Simultaneously pounded by artillery, mortars, and small arms, the surrounded, weakening defenders soon lost all crew served weapons. Ammunition was exhausted by mid-afternoon . . . to hold on was futile. After dismantling their four supporting howitzers, the task force withdrew, cutting its way out of danger.

NK SOLDIER, killed in the Osan action.





KENNETH SHADRICK K.I.A.

South of Osan on 4 July, PFC Kenneth Shadrick crouched beside his gunner, loaded the 2.36 rocket launcher and stepped away from the back blast. At 1620 in the midst of a torrential downpour, Shadrick was struck

in the chest by a burst of machine gun fire. He died seconds after. The 24th Division infantryman was the first American soldier killed in combat during the battle for the invaded South Korean republic.



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"It was a tough breed that survived those days and somehow enough men to hold on just a little longer showed up at every fight." Bloodied "Task Force Smith" filtered through prepared defenses at Chonan and Chonui, 30 miles south of Osan, along a rail line that joined the three communities. The battle for Osan, first of a series of five costly delaying actions to dampen the enemy offensive, proved one thing: enemy armor could be stopped only with weapons more lethal than the 2.36 bazooka of World War II. Air Force F-51's were called-in for infantry support. Aerial rocket fire, guided by ground controllers, took a mounting toll of T-34's trapped in the open. A secondary defense line at Chosan, manned by the 34th, was hit on the night of 7-8 July, by a powerful enveloping host of NK soldiers. On the following morning, scores of Soviet-built T-34's ground into gun range of Chonan. The full fury of the regiment's firepower was unfettered against the thick-skinned tanks. Enemy ground troops circled the 34th's positions in an attempt to overrun the artillery, which was inflicting considerable damage on Red armor. By sheer weight of numbers, tanks and troops infiltrated through the defending Taromen. This impact drove artillery batteries to form a perimeter of defense much like doughboy outfits. Cannoneers became infantrymen, firing their howitzers point-blank into concen-

trations of milling NK's, coupling and driving away the pieces they could save, and withdrawing past roadblocks and ambushes after fighting with their personal weapons. Losses were high, but units retained their identities. The 34th battled its way out of encirclement, leaving its positions only when curtly directed to do so. On 9 July, near Chonui, the 21st, flanked by friendly tanks, sustained heavy attacks and minor penetrations. Instructions came late that evening to pull back several miles above Chochiwon to protect a vital road junction commanding an escape outlet for beleaguered SK troops in the north. At daybreak on 11 July, Red tank-spearheaded columns drove the 21st into the city with a crushing, engulfing displacement of forces. The regiment broke through to rejoin the battered 34th, then retiring to the south bank of the Kum River. The 19th "Rock of Chickamauga" Regiment sped from Pusan to bolster the mutual defense line set up by the two regiments entrenched along the broad, shallow waterway. In the van of the withdrawal lay numerous enemy tanks destroyed in the three brief but violent engagements. The entire character of the battle for Korea had changed... an optimistic "police action" had resolved into a prevailing fight for survival, on the outcome of which rested the prestige and power of the United Nations forces on the Asian continent.

ATROCITIES

On 10 July, four murdered American soldiers of the 21st Regiment were found between their outposts and Red lines, with their hands bound behind them, and single bullet holes through the backs of their heads. They may have been shot when friendly patrols attempted their rescue.







A Russian-built T-34 tank, *above*, armed with an 85 mm rifle, was knocked out by aerial rocket fire near Chonan. Light M-24 tanks, background, the first American type to see action, were no match for their more potent opponent. Red armored scout car, *below* succumbed to medium artillery fire.



Sullen, hatless North Korean prisoners knelt to await questioning by 24th Division intelligence teams. Fair treatment startled the Reds who had presumed that capture meant brutality and death.



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ENVELOPMENT IN THE WEST

The division was deployed athwart the Kum River, the enemy's supposed line of departure for Taejon... the temporary capital of South Korea following the capture of Seoul. Crucial Taejon housed functionaries of the Korean government and United States Embassy personnel who had not as yet been evacuated. The invaders merged two to three tank-fortified divisions under Chochi-won to retain the initiative and to envelop and destroy the residue of South Korean forces drawing back with the small US contingent. Beyond the flanks of the 24th extended a ragged battlefront... not a continuous line, but a staggered series of bulges of battalion to regimental strength, probing main roads and mountain trails in an effort to penetrate improvised UN blocking positions. The rearward areas were no less hazardous. Guerrillas and numbers of Red agitators, overlooked in the gross movement of panicked droves of refugees, kept supply routes in continual ferment.



THICK SHRUBBERY partially concealed a battery of heavy artillery traversing NK strong points.



PINE BOUGHS camouflaged an M-26 tank patrolling Red frontage along the Kum River line.

A "STRAW FOXHOLE," thrown up around a .50 caliber machine gun, shielded this outpost guard from enemy eyes. Natural concealment was abundant near the Kum River sector.





DEMOLISHED AND DESOLATED HOMES LINED SECONDARY ROADS.



"GIMLETS" OF THE 21ST (THE

KUM RIVER

On 13 July, fresh troops of the 19th relieved the 21st "Gimlet" Regiment in positions along the jutting spurs facing the broad expanse of the river valley. During the following day, wave after wave of assaulting Reds waded across the Kum River in a suicidal disregard for the firepower assembled by the 19th and 34th. For three consecutive days, the pressure continued. Sporadic armed feelers launched by the enemy kept the meager forces at Maj. Gen. Dean's disposal occupied. Grasshopper planes spotted boats

INFANTRYMEN TRUDGED BEHIND AN IDLING TANK. Weapons were unslung in a cautious watchfulness for snipers. An estimated 1500 guerrillas were active behind the United Nations frontier.





21ST ON THE MAIN ROAD TO TAEJON, FIRED WHITE PHOSPHORUS GRENADES TO HIDE THEIR MOVEMENTS.

and pockets of resistance for the 24th's ever-active artillery; shellfire, in lieu of our limited infantry, blocked crossing attempts. For several days a succession of skirmishes proved our inability to be everywhere with sufficient strength to repel an all-out crossing bid...ultimately, the NK breakthrough came. The 63rd FA Bn., already badly hurt near Chonui, was overrun in a manner which had become terribly familiar. Deprived of its artillery support, the 34th was isolated, outflanked, and also

overrun. A Company of the division's 3rd Engineer Battalion lived up to their reputation as combat engineers, with the emphasis on "combat." They stashed their shovels and marched north, deployed as an infantry company and helped cover the withdrawal of remnants of the 34th. The division was unprotected on the west, and was endangered at several crossing points near Taejon. The order to draw back was given. This movement culminated the fourth critical delaying action of the campaign.

"REBEL'S ROOST," the first American light tank to see action, underwent a thorough mechanical overhaul.



A US M-4 passed the losing contestant of a tank duel, a smoldering T-34.





ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE, hurled from the summit of high ground along the south bank, turned-back fleets of small North Korean assault boats being propelled across the Kum River.

BRIDGE BLOWN

BRIDGE EXITS were mined and booby-trapped.



The strategic Kum River Bridge at Kongju was a critical link between Red divisions in the north and the 24th to the south. Demolition crews of the 3rd Engineer Battalion, fighting intermittently as infantrymen, downed the supporting pilings at both entrances rendering the structure useless.

AAA HALFTRACKS scoured the bank.





MORTAR FLARES OVER THE KUM RIVER BRIDGE pierced the darkness for two oppressively hot, moonless nights. This artificial illumination deterred Red night raiders from slipping across.

DAMAGE INFLECTED ON THE 6TH NK DIVISION, in part by the 34th Regiment's mortarmen dug in near Kongju, induced the removal of the enemy unit from action to recoup its personnel losses.





GRIM GUIDEPOST. The first American dead were interred in transient cemetery plots near Taejon.



"OLD DOBBIN" joined the mechanized war. Horse-power bore ROK cavalry companies into the field. Not unlike the NK foe, friendly Korean troops were armed with a heterogeneous collection of outmoded weapons. Much of the armament was of Japanese, World War II manufacture, impounded after the surrender. Miscellaneous and antique Chinese, Russian, US, and home-made products complicated the standardization of munitions to a degree that crippled some ROK units. Hand-me-down American guns and vehicles eased the shortage until enough materiel was imported.

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, General J. Lawton Collins, **right**, consulted with Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker, Eighth Army Commander, **left**, and Maj. Gen. William Dean, C. G. of the 24th Division.





HOT CHOW

Taro-leafers partook of the deftly contrived menus dished-up by mess stewards. Jaded appetites and C-ration blues were allayed with heaping trays of hot food, stored in vacuum tins, and sped to line soldiers.



IN THE WAKE OF BATTLE

Towns were unsafe. Guerrillas and infiltrating NK's mingled with the villagers, and disguised as such, fired on unwary Yanks. Rural communities had to be flushed of these insidious elements. If opposition was encountered after towns were emptied of civilians, air strikes and artillery fire destroyed these cores of resistance. Roads were clogged with displaced and homeless South Koreans. Rustic ox carts, scrawny pack mules, and primitive "A" frames were employed to haul the scant belongings of the refugees. Saboteurs and informers were screened from the tide of humans flowing down the main supply route to Taejon.

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A "GLAMOROUS STOVEPIPE," one of the first 3.5 launchers to be combat fired, was zeroed-in on a strategic roadbed. Tanks were compelled to limit movements to the few, firm-surfaced highways.

BAZOOKAS PLAY DEADLY TUNES

New 3.5 rocket launchers, with greater armor penetration and faster muzzle velocities, replaced the ineffectual 2.36's as the infantryman's pet tank killer. Upon manning the ramparts of Taejon, bazookamen were outfitted with the king-sized weapon in ample numbers to tear a sizable gash in Red armor. The rocket launcher was frequently used as an anti-personnel device to hit the ranks of enemy troops stalking behind oncoming tanks. Highly mobile bazooka teams sped by jeep to points penetrated by hostile T-34's.



This was a simple monument to a ROK soldier who was killed in action... an inscribed marker and tattered flag.

HEAVY, AIR-COOLED .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS were dismounted from trucks and pressed into service. Constant vigilance was kept to check the sneak-in tactics of nocturnal Communist patrols.



THE DEAN STORY



TAEJON

The fifth and final delaying action was fought in the streets of Taejon on 19-20 July. The morning was torrid and the littered alleys were ominously stilled as the 24th distributed its forces for another stand. Many of the undermanned division's 11,000 Yanks had been lost. Few light M-24 tanks were still operative. Ammunition stockpiles were depleted. Despite a heavy rainfall, the city burst into flames like dry kindling as the Communists pounded it with artillery and two NK divisions plunged into the rubble outskirts. The 34th RCT and the 2nd Battalion of the 19th fought while other UN forces evacuated the city. While the Americans withdrew to the south, sporadic fighting erupted around the demolished houses. Elements of the newly arrived 25th Infantry Division were among the units departing Taejon under the covering guns of the 34th. By midnight 21 July, the evacuation was completed.

DEAN M.I.A.

Maj. Gen. William F. Dean knew his division could not hold Taejon. The equivalent of a fully armed infantry corps was beating down on his command, and defeat was a tactical certainty. The General personally took over. With a skeleton staff he remained behind the withdrawal to revitalize American defenses. He directed tank fire and rallied 3.5 bazooka teams against T-34's. Seven kills were scored by the new weapons with the first seven rounds combat fired. After assaulting a Red tank with grenades, he scrambled to within ten yards of its blazing guns and destroyed it with a launcher. While the rear guard pulled back, he organized the last elements, directed stragglers, and assisted the wounded. That evening, Dean suddenly disappeared from the scene. The first report of his fate was inconclusive... a report that he was bayoneted while he lay helplessly wounded. On 23 July, 1950 the War Department listed General Dean as—"missing in action".



"I JUST GOT ME A TANK!" ... DEAN

Speculation ran high immediately after the loss of Maj. Gen. Dean. Rumor and heresay flooded the press services and an account of his actions and whereabouts during the last desperate hours was muddled and snarled with confusing contradictory statements by soldiers who claimed to have "seen him last." Witnesses agreed, however, to his heroism, and great presence of mind and spirit, as exemplified by his jubilant cry. "I just got me a tank!" after he rocketed a T-34. None had seen him hit or captured.

With his fate still the subject of national concern, the government of the United States of America conferred upon him its highest award for valor—the Congressional Medal of Honor. The many months that followed disclosed no clues, and public interest in the Dean story waned.

On 8 April 1951, a plastic helmet liner was uncovered in the undergrowth of a rice paddy near Taejon . . . a weather-worn liner that was still clearly marked with the double stars of a major general and the painted taro leaf insignia of the 24th Division. Eight months later, a Presbyterian minister whose Chongju mission had been overrun by NK's insisted that he had seen Dean imprisoned in that city, alive and apparently unharmed.

During Christmas week 1951, the news broke. Communist delegates to the Panmunjom peace conferences released alphabetical PW listings. Maj. Gen. Dean's name appeared . . . he was said to be alive and well, in-

terned in a Pyongyang PW pen.

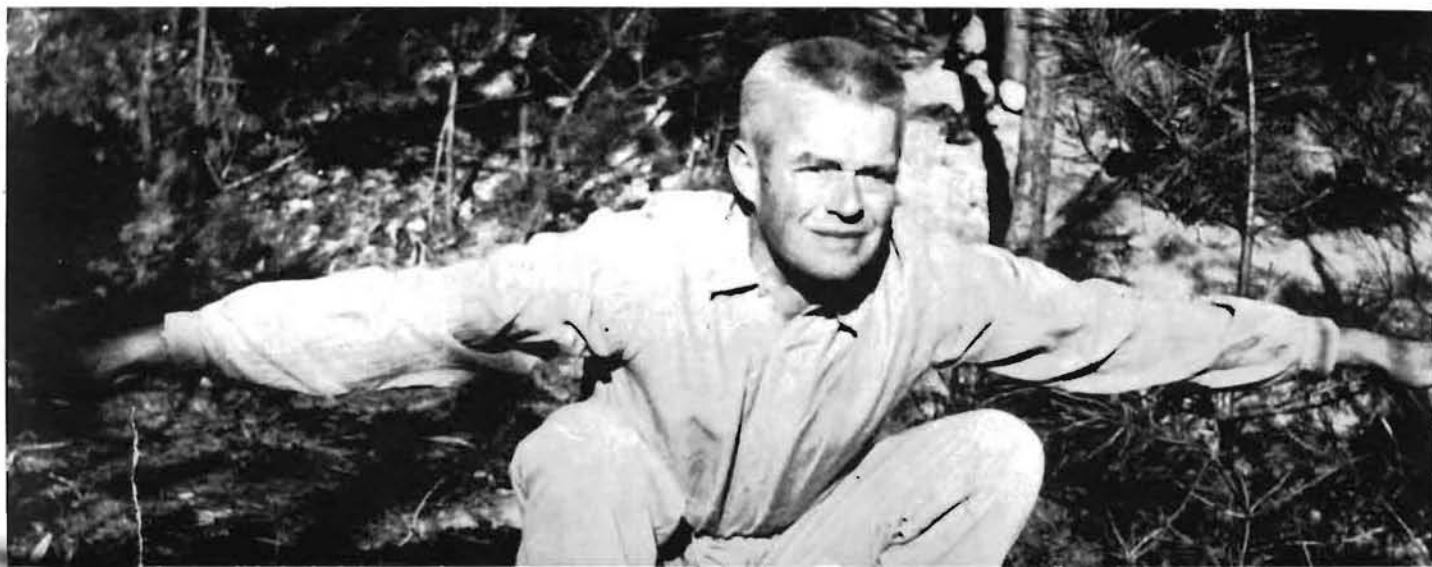
Wilfred Burchett, correspondent for a French Communist journal, interviewed the captured general in Red Korea. On 22 December 1951, he filed a story which reputedly carried this factual narrative by Maj. Gen. William F. Dean:

On the night of 25 July, Dean and fifteen others tried vainly to contact friendly forces near Taejon. The General, who was suffering from exhaustion after carrying a wounded man on his back, was separated from the others while searching for water. A hard fall had badly wrenched his shoulder and quite suddenly he found himself a fugitive in an unfamiliar, hostile country. He was armed with a revolver and twelve cartridges.

For 25 days he suffered from the pangs of slow starvation and from wracking bouts with dysentery and malaria. He lost sixty-pounds and eluded capture six times. During the hours of darkness he continued his solitary flight southward in the hope of finding the way back to UN lines.

At the end of August, Dean met a South Korean who, in fluent English asserted that he was also a Red victim fleeing from the invaders. Another joined the party some 35-miles south of Taejon and the three fled together. One Korean stole ahead to "explore" the road while the other deliberately led the sick, faltering Dean into a patrol of NK soldiers, who quickly overpowered the weakened general. The betrayal netted the informers 30,000 Won (about \$5).

These photos, released by United Press, were taken of the General during his long confinement and were turned over to UN sources by the Communists to prove his well-being. Dean is pictured playing chess with his North Korean guard, at mealtime, and exercising in his private yard.





Troops of the 19th Regiment, *above*, escaping through Taejon's squalid residential district, were caught unaware by volleys of automatic weapon fire let loose from the rooftops.



On the afternoon of 20 July, the tank-tipped pincers of the enemy's panzer columns converged on gutted Taejon. Red armor suffered prodigiously. Note, *below*, a derelict T-34 abandoned on the road behind the rapidly withdrawing truck convoy.



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A 34TH REGIMENT BAR RIFLEMAN JOINED STREET FIGHTING IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF TAEJON.

THE TEAM SHAPES UP

Early in the Korean conflict, one platoon of the 24th Division's MP company was called away from traffic control duties to rush into the line with the 21st at Chochiwon. After a week, fighting as a combat unit in the forward areas, the platoon resumed its police duties and aided the evacuation of the city. The remainder of the MP company assigned to patrolling the roads in the forward regimental areas were, in effect, combat patrols because of the large numbers of Communists filtering through the front lines. Later, at

Taejon, one platoon remained for thirty-six hours after the withdrawal of the main body, and engaged in fire fights with Communist tankers and infantrymen. They shot their way through ambushes and roadblocks while escorting the last convoy of ambulances out of the city. This diversion of the 24th's military police to combat status was typical of the sudden demands made of service and administrative units in view of the grave military requirements and the piecemeal commitment of the division.



FIRE FIGHTS FLARED in Okchon as 19th Regiment "Chicks" maintained unbroken contact with the Reds to determine the direction of the next offensive venture by Communist reserve strength.



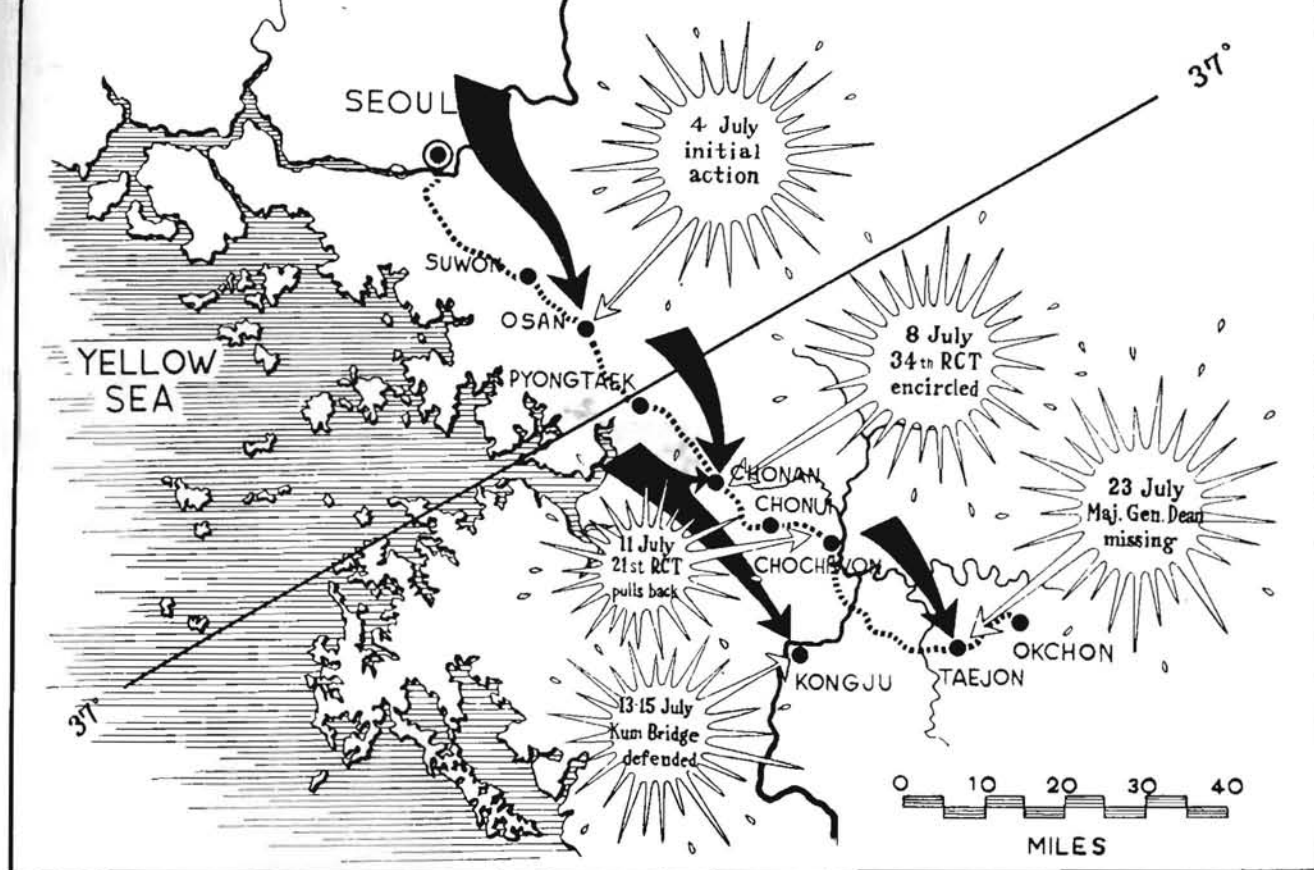
ROCKET FIRE unhinged this T-34's drive wheels and bogies.

FIRE AND MOVEMENT. Rear guard Taro-men screened their withdrawal.



TAEJON AFTERMATH

Performances of supporting units were outstanding. The engineers fought like infantry, cleared roadblocks, built and destroyed roadways and bridges. Medical units evacuated the wounded under fire, corpsmen were captured or injured while rushing emergency aid to hurt Taro-men. Signal units fought off snipers that circuited lines with refugee bands, and military police clung doggedly to their posts while under harassing fire from roving enemy parties. The five delaying encounters left the division with one effective strength regiment (the 21st), most of the 13th FA Bn., and portions of the 11th FA Bn. still astride the road from Taejon. Fragments of the other combat elements had been withdrawn to heal their wounds. At Okchon, before marching southward, outpost guards watched a fiery sky glowing high over Taejon. Despite a lofty, intervening mountain range, exploding fuel and ammunition stocks, deserted at uprooted railyards, reddened the horizon.



THE REVOLUTIONARY 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE BROUGHT ARTILLERY INTO THE FOXHOLE.





AT OKCHON, THE 24TH'S FINAL OUTPOST BELOW TAEJON, MORTARMEN SHELLED ROADS.

MORTARS & MESSGEAR

ONE-HUNDRED DEGREES in the shade, and no shade. An umbrella was an unequaled luxury.



After seventeen days of unrelieved combat duty, troops of the 24th withdrew to Okchon. From Osan to the present site, a stark, rambling village, the division had moved back a total of seventy miles. The strain was beginning to tell on the survivors, a fighting withdrawal had exacted its due in lives, stamina, and equipment. A two-day intermission, an uneasy lull but a lull nevertheless, was had by doughboys grouped above Okchon. Heavy weapons, mortars predominant, were laying down blankets of fire along the forward line to dissuade the enemy from staging a premature attack. Field kitchens upped their schedules to a maximum and delivered truckloads of hot chow to enliven the monotonous fare of canned and dehydrated assault rations. Three days later, the enemy, en-masse, plunged forward from three directions and precipitated an order to retire. On 22 July, the first movement south without the artillery positions first having been overrun was achieved. The 24th Infantry Division was brought up into position to meet the shock of the Red's flanking attack from the east. The 1st Cavalry Division, after accomplishing an unopposed amphibious landing in South Korea, moved into Yongdong to allow the 24th to pass through.

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GANGS OF NATIVE HOD-CARRIERS hauled crushed rock for the bed of a heavy duty airstrip. South Korean citizens were enlisted in growing numbers to furnish the backbone for a UN labor pool. Those eligible for military service were conditioned in rearward training areas by US Army cadre in view of creating an independent, up to date, indigenous army.



THREE TARO-LEAFERS, near Kum-san, blended into the greystone masonry. Here, another Red road-block was neutralized to hold open the escape route to Waegwan.

REINFORCED BUNKERS that entombed diehard North Koreans sprung up overnight across the Red frontier. Sandbags and resilient green timbers made them virtually mortar proof.





AMERICAN M-1 RIFLES were gifted to eager hands. The more plentiful items, stockpiled small arms' ammunition, and surplus QM fatigue uniforms were allocated for ROK line troops.

"THIS IS LIVING." Alongside a welter of wide furrowed stones, used by Korean homemakers as scrubbing boards, off-duty troops rinsed away some of their combat grime.



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A PATROL HEADED INTO ENEMY TERRITORY TO UNCOVER HOSTILE POSITIONS BY DRAWING FIRE.

NEARING THE NAKTONG

The division, now commanded by Maj. Gen. John H. Church, hurriedly drew back to the Naktong River. Roads branching southward were thronged with civilians and soldiers alike, moving in a great conflux toward Pusan. ROK forces, beaten back on the central and eastern fronts, joined the withdrawal to more tangible defensive positions along the Naktong. On 24 July, eleven NK divisions were identified on the line facing three US and four ROK divisions, all perilously debilitated. The apex of enemy might was focused on the central front parallel to Kumchon and positions of the 24th Division. A line was stabilized by the end of July. The UN outfits that merged into a tight defensive setup now hoped to muster enough manpower to service the shortened front. The defense of the Pusan perimeter had begun.

CIVILIAN VOLUNTEERS assisted the walking wounded tagged for evacuation.





Roads like this, timeless footpaths that were enlarged and strengthened to hold up heavy payloads, were the main arteries of transportation.

NO RESPITE

Veterans of the 24th, cheered by the arrival of the 1st Cavalry and 25th Infantry Divisions, looked forward to relief and a sorely needed rest and rehabilitation. This, however, did not materialize. North Korean strength concentrating in the southwest forced the division into action once again. The 19th was committed at Chinju, the first climactic battle of the Pusan perimeter, while the 21st moved to the southeast coast.

MOVEMENTS WERE AFOOT. DAY AND NIGHT, DUSTY HIGHWAYS ECHOED TO SHUFFLING BOOTS.



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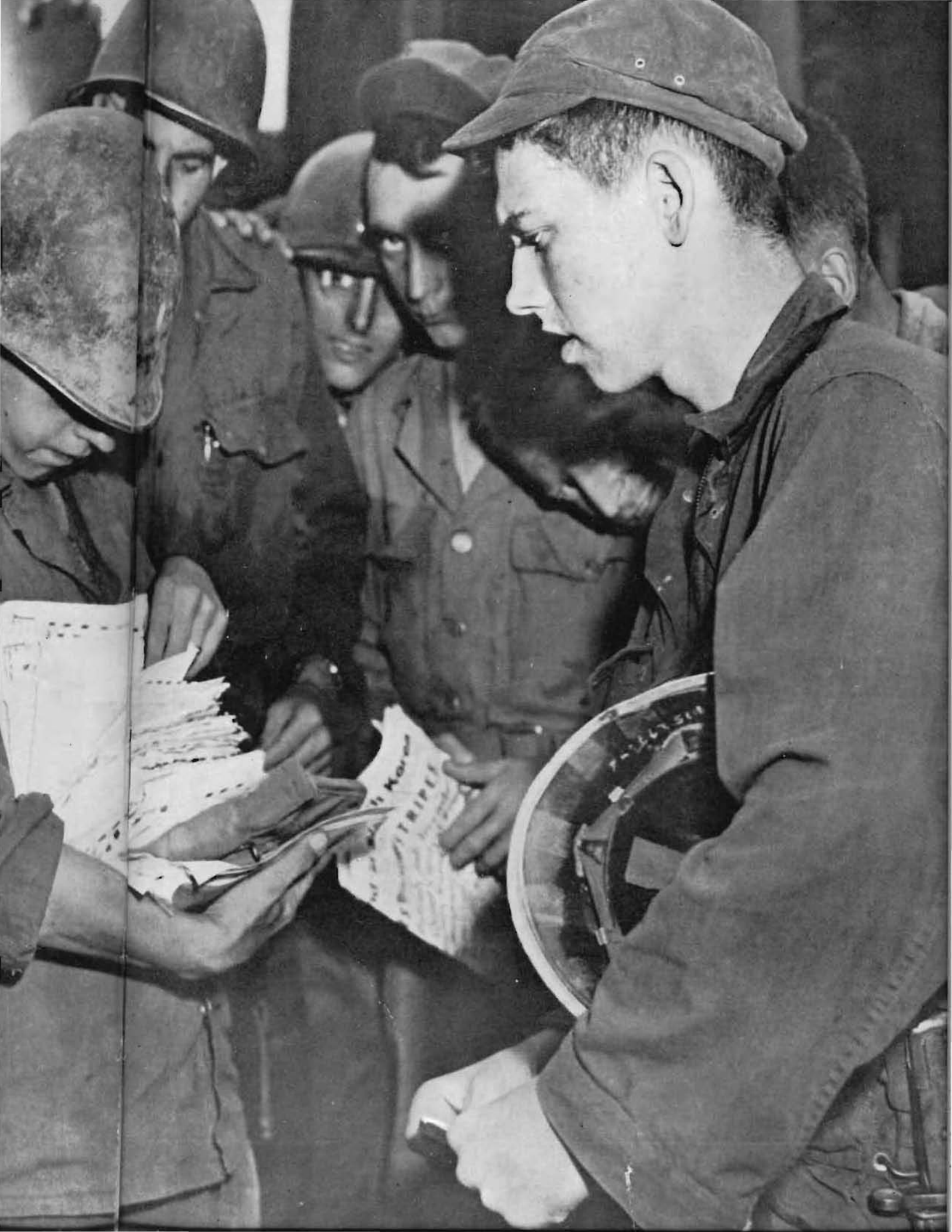


ON THE HEELS of the birth of the first United Nations Command on 24 July, came a meeting of the UN Council for Korea, in Taegu, the new provisional capital of South Korea.

DESPITE THE ASSIMILATION of thousands of refugees into southern institutions and foster homes, over 3,500,000 were fated to wander aimlessly in a pathetic quest for shelter.









THIS CONFLUENCE OF THE NAKTONG, at low water level, was typical of Korean rivers. It was shallow, swift, with many sandbanks and rapids; depth and width fluctuated with changing climate.

DIVISION VEHICLES operated under the severe handicap of clay roads, ranging from inferior to impassable for speed traffic. They were acrid and dusty when dry, slippery and risky when wet.



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In the downward sweep of the majestic Korean mountains, rising abruptly from the sea and extending throughout the central area, were nestled tiny villages and fertile valleys. One-third of the nation's agricultural lands were rice paddies, carved into

hillsides, or forming great steppes across her rich plains. On this type of terrain the long-distance punch of medium artillery was of special worth. The aerial view, *below*, shows WP smoke shells striking Red outposts on a saddle between projecting crests.





SKIRMISHING FLARED through the porous defenses at Chinju. Exhausted Taromen resolutely filed to the crest of a hillock near Masan, an objective in the Red's west-to-east push.

CHINJU

The enemy blatantly announced his drive through Chinju as the blow that would thrust the allies into the sea. An all-out Red offensive was being mounted, a genuine effort to crush the Eighth Army before a friendly buildup would permit a reprieve for UN forces. During the opening days of August, the 6th NK Division and two regiments of the 4th NK Division, supported by twelve T-34 tanks, applied considerable pressure along the Chinju-Masan axis. On the night of 30 July, 19th Regiment Taro-leafers thinly deployed in the vicinity of Chinju were fighting in the suburbs of the city. Because of the emphatic nature of the day and night attacks of the enemy it was often necessary for some units to occupy and organize as many as three positions in a 24-hour period. Losses were excessively heavy on both sides. Officer casualties approached alarming proportions; second lieutenants were compelled to assume command of companies, and corporals led platoons.

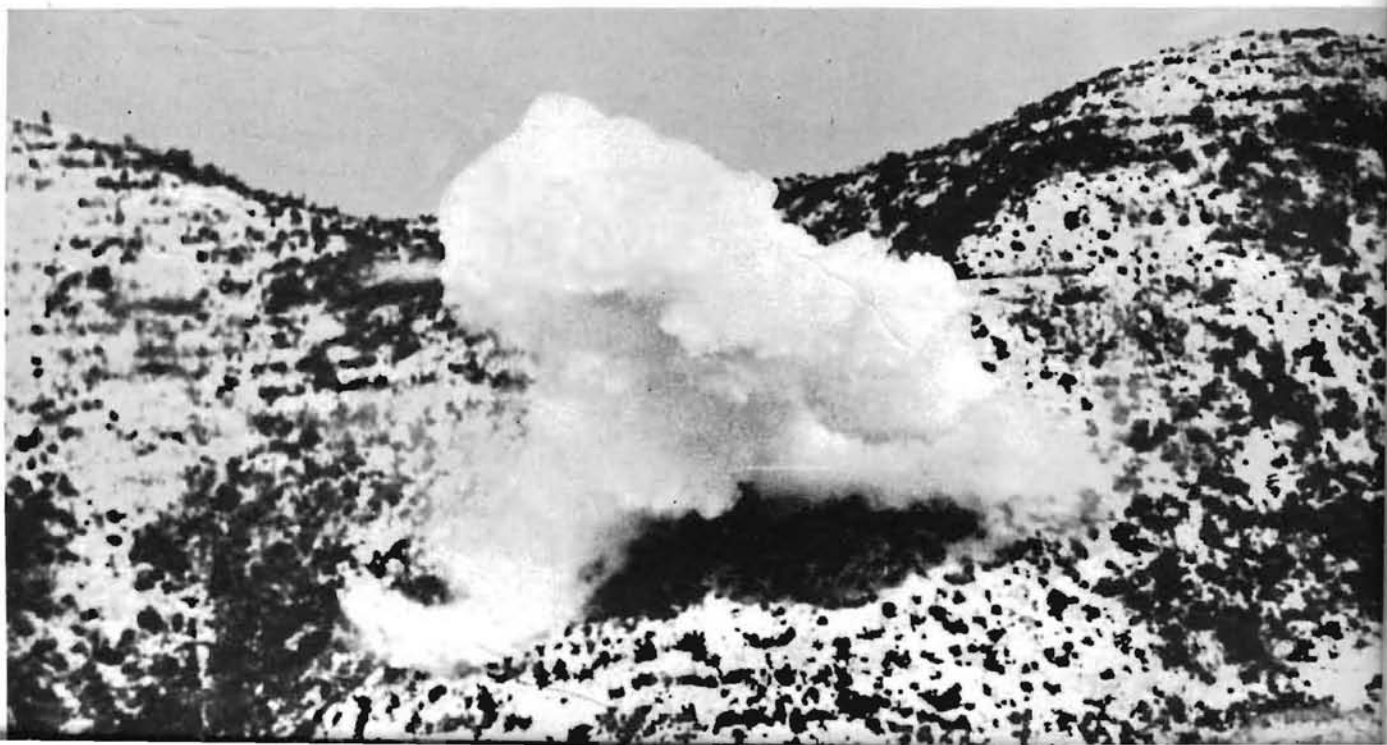
CONFINING COMBAT BOOTS were doffed at a river's edge during an unscheduled stopover.





Barking 155 mm howitzers spent tons of steel and TNT in the Chinju sector to reduce a two-pronged assault aimed at the essential port city of Masan. Two half-strength battalions of the 19th held up the drive for four days until the 25th Division hastened reinforcements into the mountain

passes west of Masan. The 25th's 5th Regimental Combat Team sparked "Task Force Kean" which helped to conclusively blunt the Communist thrust a scant eight miles from threatened Masan. Attack formations crumbled; the subsequent retreat of elements of the Red division became a rout.





UNDER MACHINE GUNNER'S SURVEILLANCE,
litter bearers removed a wounded Yank.

LINE TIGHTENED

A general withdrawal was ordered to solidify the forward structure. Although at Chinju the 19th held fast through 3 August, this new shift pulled the division into a tight web of defenses that bridged the Nakdong and spanned the central front. Red pressure eased suddenly and contact was broken. On 4 August, the Reds again closed on shortened Pusan perimeter.



STEEP KNOLLS peppered the 24th's 30-mile line on the central Nakdong front.

THREE 57MM RR ROUNDS IMMOBILIZED AN ENEMY SELF-PROPELLED ANTI-TANK GUN.





ANGUISH

A grief stricken infantryman whose comrade just died in action was comforted by another soldier. A medical corpsman sitting beside them methodically filled out casualty tags.

NAKTONG RIVER

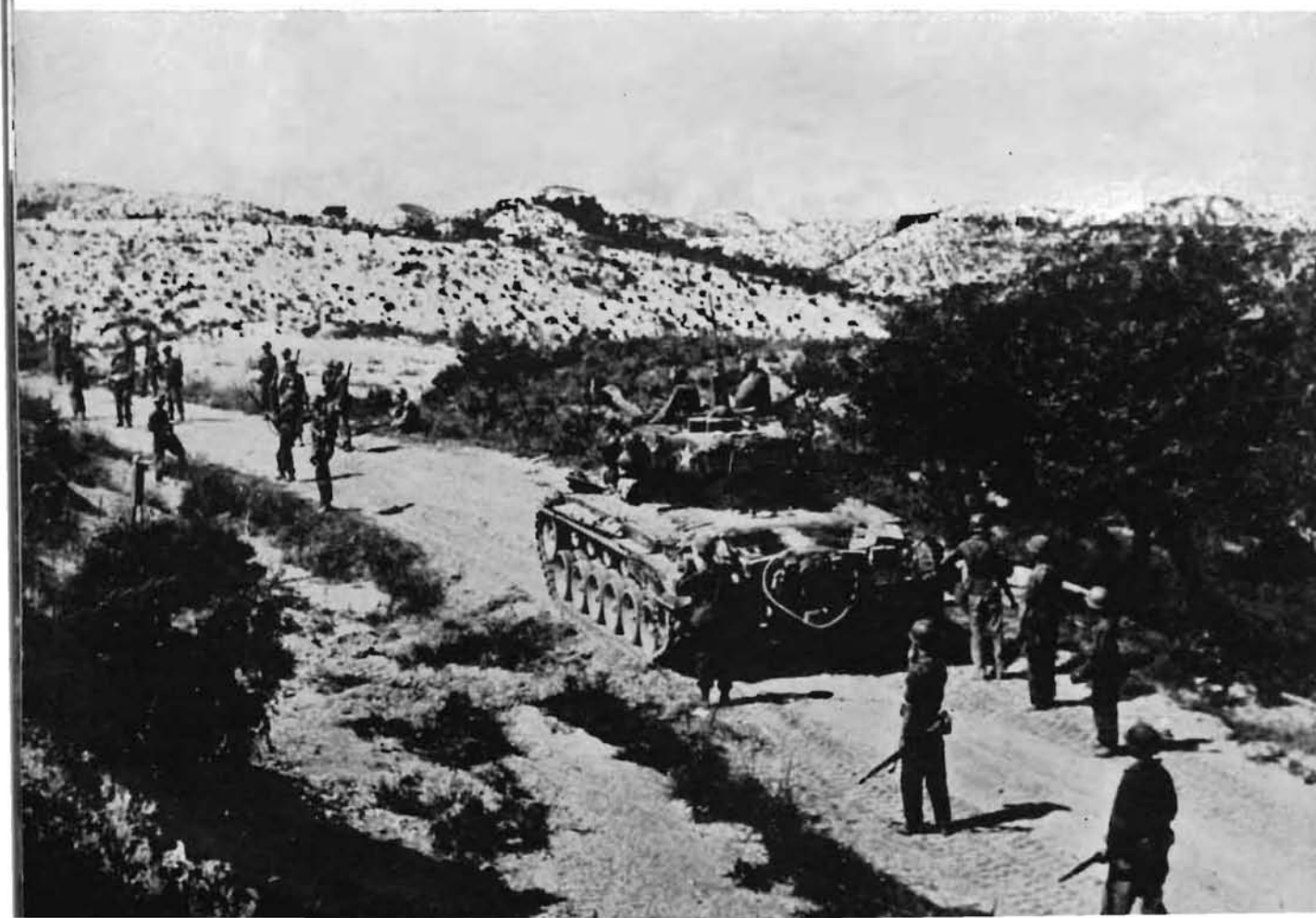


A RED HIGH-VELOCITY GUN was disabled by allied shellfire and was later salvaged by ROK troops.

The 19th and active portions of the 34th drew back to the wide, rock-strewn embankments of the Naktong River on 3 July in anticipation of a NK stab at the vital Yongsan-Miryang highway and railroad. Light probing stabs during the following day were easily contained, but a formidable enemy buildup signaled an imminent large scale assault. The brunt of the drive came on 8 August. The enemy divided his forces and pushed them bit by bit across the open

river area which afforded them no natural concealment or protection. The invader loaded his troops and tanks on rafts, launches, and improvised craft to move the men and machines across the river at several points. The 19th, deployed in depth behind the east bank, withheld fire until Communist pockets of two or three hundred were built up. Then, the "Chicks" cut loose. Infantrymen, backed by artillery and air, blasted Red companies into the river.

NEWLY IMPORTED, PONDEROUS "PATTON" TANKS VIED WITH RED T-34'S FOR SUPREMACY.



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AN INJURED RED hobbled to an allied PW compound with the aid of a makeshift crutch.

Three understrength regiments of the 4th NK Division had wedged into the narrow arc of land between Changnyong and the Naktong River, and there they obstinately held at bay the tank, infantry, and artillery teams flung at them by the 24th. Until 19th August, the contracting beachhead posed a threat to the western boundary of the perimeter. The Reds, however, had absorbed too much of the division's firepower. In two weeks, the touted 4th NK Division, sworn enemy of the 24th since the grisly Kum River campaign, folded and ceased to exist as a combat outfit. The

enemy unexpectedly shrank back from the central front and then drove deeply into the Pohangdong defense sector to impose a serious threat on the east flank. The need for a quick victory motivated the Communists to throw caution to the winds and to mass thirteen divisions along the periphery of the sector for a supreme offensive. ... a squeeze play designed to unpry the precarious allied handhold on the peninsula. By the end of the month the first impulse of the overall drive was successfully contained and disrupted by the unyielding United Nations army.

FROM A SLOPE, AN ARTILLERY FORWARD OBSERVER CALLED IN FIRE ON A LOWLAND FARM.





WEEK-OLD HEADLINES recorded the outcome of the Nakdong campaign. Riflemen of the Hawaiian 5th RCT, attached to the 25th Division, recessed during a pause in the battle for Masan.

AUGUST ALLIANCE

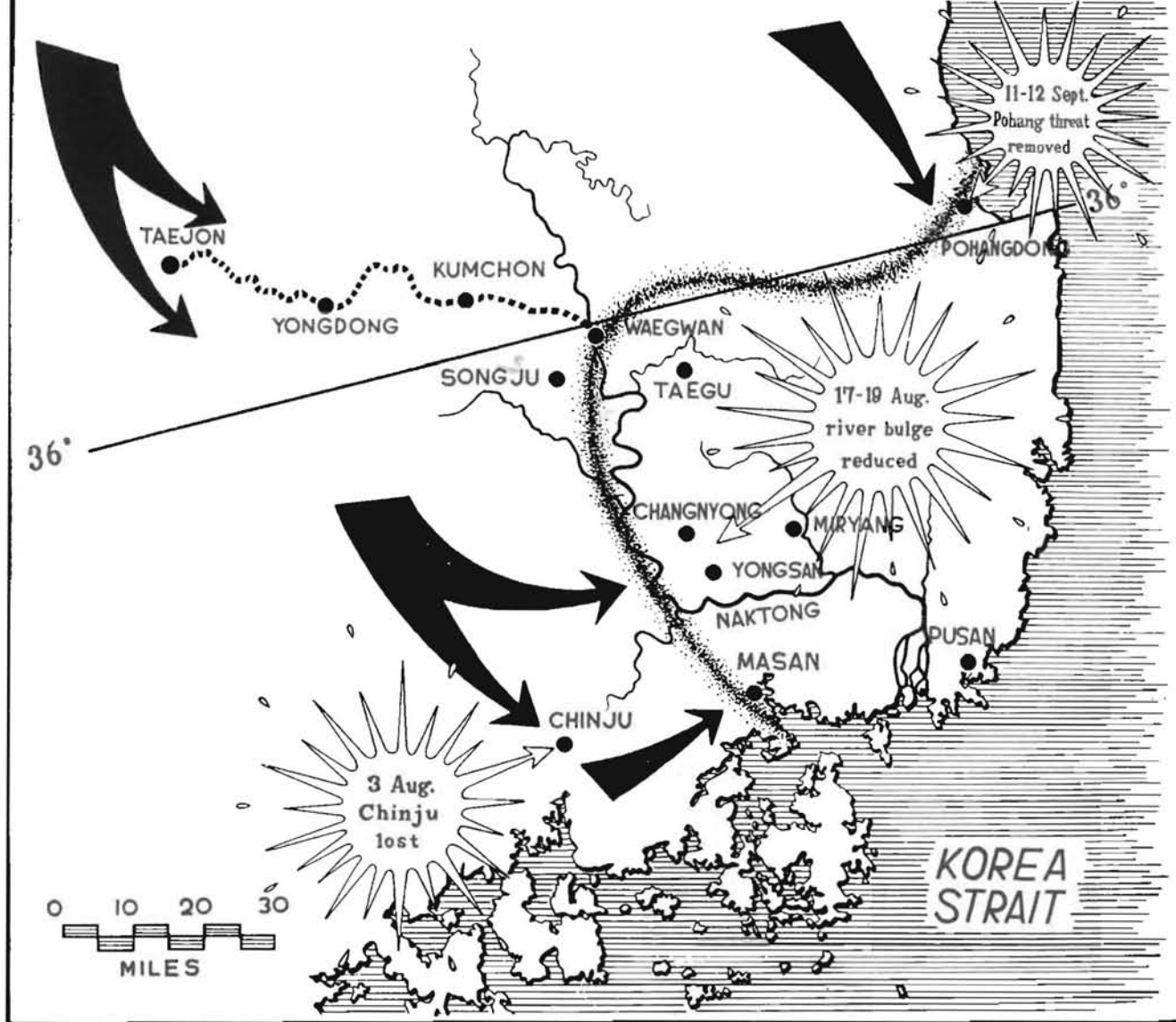
In August, the free world visibly pooled its resources to resist aggression. The UN made public its acceptance of manpower offers from Turkey, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, France, and the Philippines. The first foreign unit to join the hard-pressed American and South Korean forces, the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade from Hong Kong, debarked on the 29th.

NORTH KOREAN PRISONERS were snared after an ambitious Red assault party was stopped by the headquarters defense platoon, three miles short of the "Victory" Division's command post.



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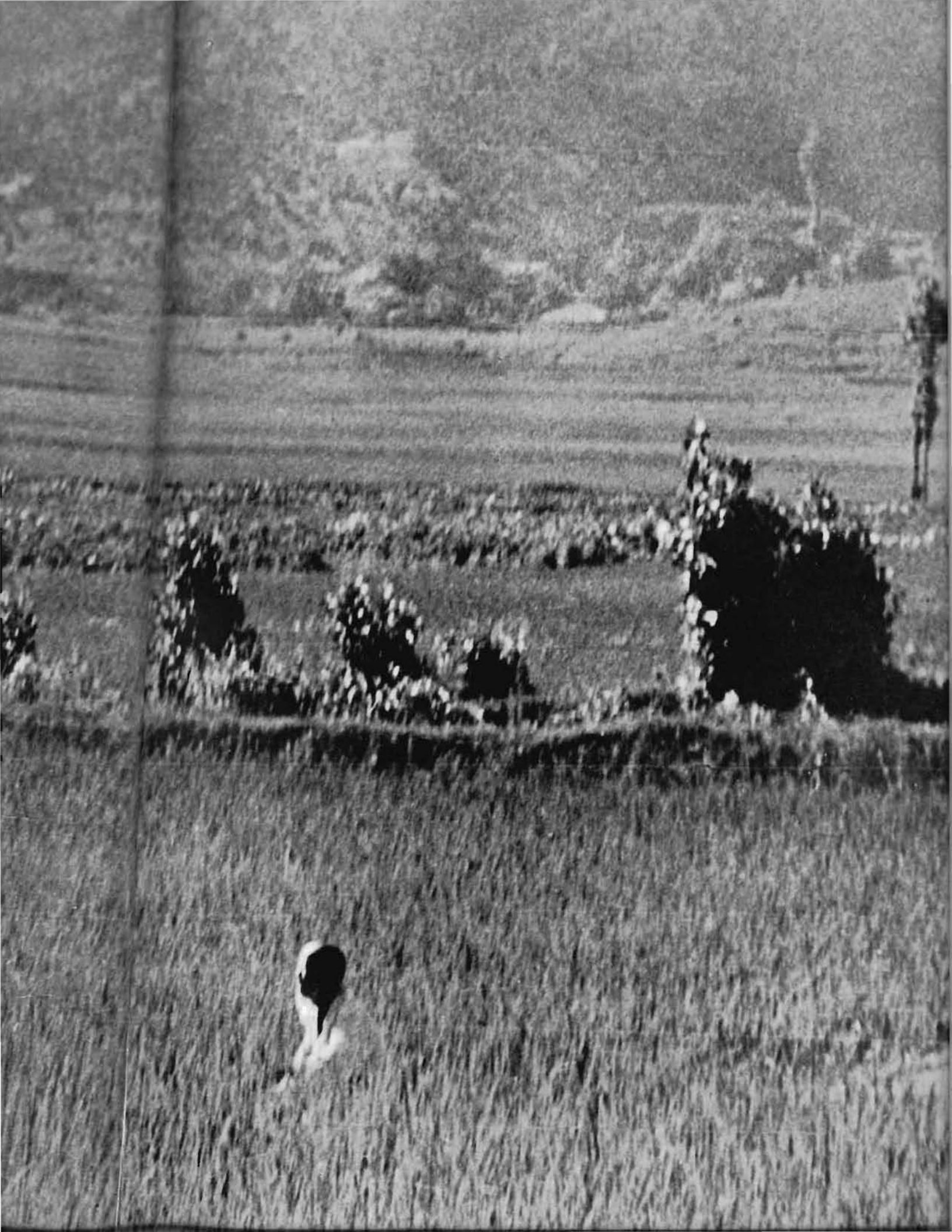
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THE CASE-HARDENED SHELL OF THE EXPERTLY TRAINED NK ARMY WAS WEARING THIN.







REDEDICATION



On 25 August 1950, after 55 consecutive days of combat, the 24th was relieved by the 2nd Infantry Division. It moved into army reserve, for the first time since its arrival in Korea, to rest, and recoup its wounds. With a solemn avowal of the principles for which many gave their lives, the living buried the dead on a gusty, sun-baked tract near Masan.

During the defense of the Nakdong River, the division had tasted victory for the first time . . . in thirty days, the doughboys found they could hold and throw back the best the Reds had to offer. They had shuffled from battle to battle, tempering the iron ring of the Masan perimeter with blazing fire fights in almost every part of the sector.

During the period of 26 August to 2 September, the 34th Infantry Regiment and the 3rd FA Bn. were reduced to paper units within the division. It was with great regret that these outfits were lost. Because of their

low strength, the remaining personnel were assigned to fill vacancies within the division. The skeleton units were then replaced with the 5th RCT and the 555 "Triple Nickel" FA Bn., outfits that had previously seen action with the 1st Cavalry and the 25th Infantry Divisions. The 6th Medium Tank Bn., outfitted with formidable "Patton" tanks, supplanted the 24th's lighter armor. The 27th British Commonwealth Brigade joined the "Victory" Division, and ROK troops were integrated into the 24th, but even with these much needed additions, the division was still thirty-percent under authorized strength.

A new energy was reawakened among the replenished units. Lounging Yanks leisurely bivouacked in the reserve area, trained wrote replies to long unanswered letters, dined luxuriously on three hot, savory meals a day, rehashed old adventures and anticipated new ones . . . the 24th was awaiting the next phase.



THE "HERMIT KINGDOM"

Unalterable methods and traditions governed the way of life of the Korean people. The war left some of the older farmers—men wedded to their land by an ancestral legacy—spiritually uninvolved. Proud, self-sufficient southlanders, guided by a philosophy of sober contentment, resisted many of the dislocations of the war raging around their homes. Wearing his characteristic hat, this retired patriarch smoked a long bamboo pipe as he strolled through the streets of his village.



A CLASSICAL DANCE TO A CONTEMPORARY TUNE. A ROK special service troupe, accompanied by a swing combo, glided through a pert routine for troops in a South Korean replacement depot.

FACES OF HOSPITALIZED DOUGHBOYS brightened to the lyrics of "April Showers."



AL JOLSON SINGS

An aging Al Jolson was the first of a galaxy of stateside celebrities to play to multitudes of entertainment-hungry Yanks. While the touch-and-go battle stormed across the Pusan perimeter, the famed "mammy" singer quipped, serenaded, and cavorted across clapboard stages before arena-crowds of soldiers. His infectious and youthful vitality cheered audiences throughout the besieged sector. His death, probably hastened by the sapping demands of this Korean tour, left a saddened nation and world to mourn his passing.





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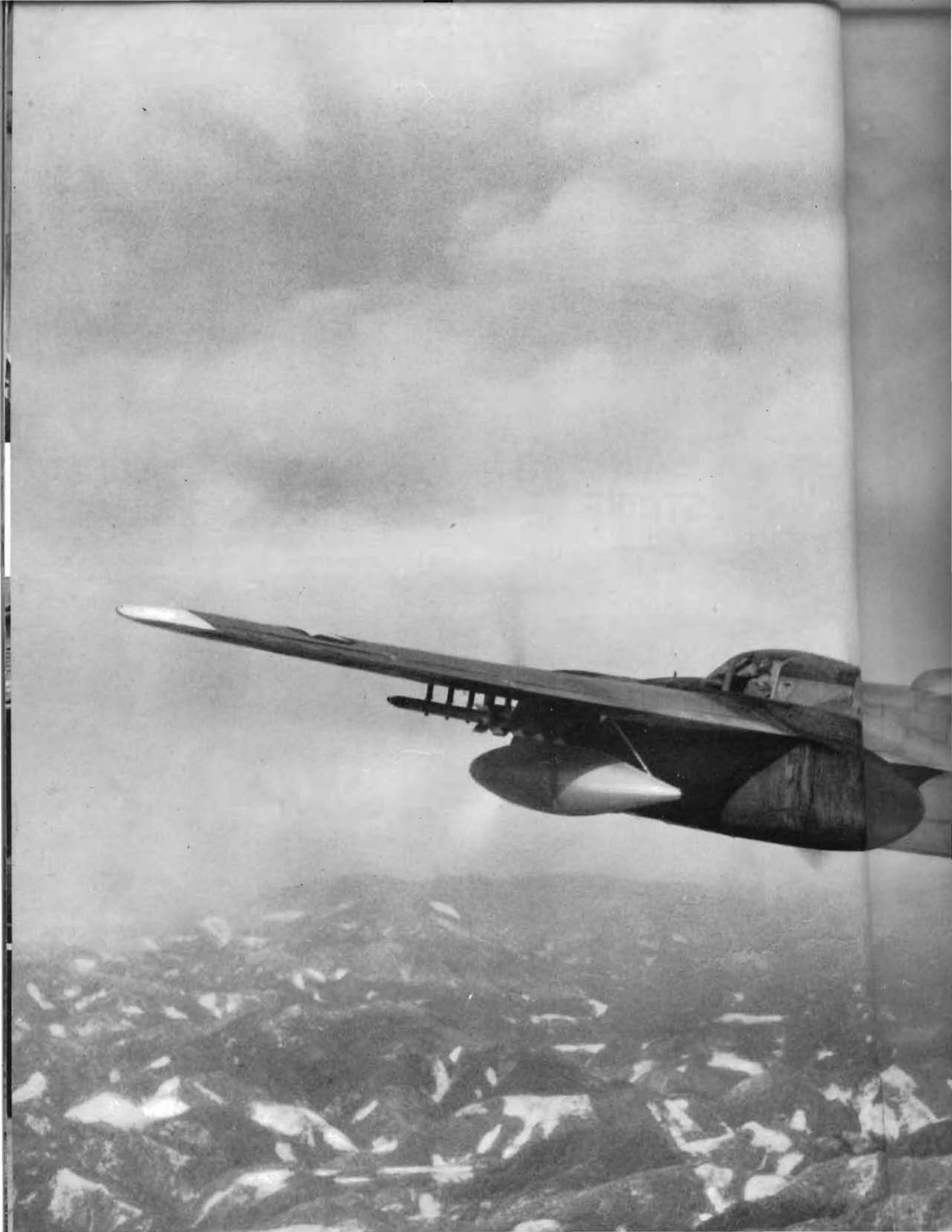
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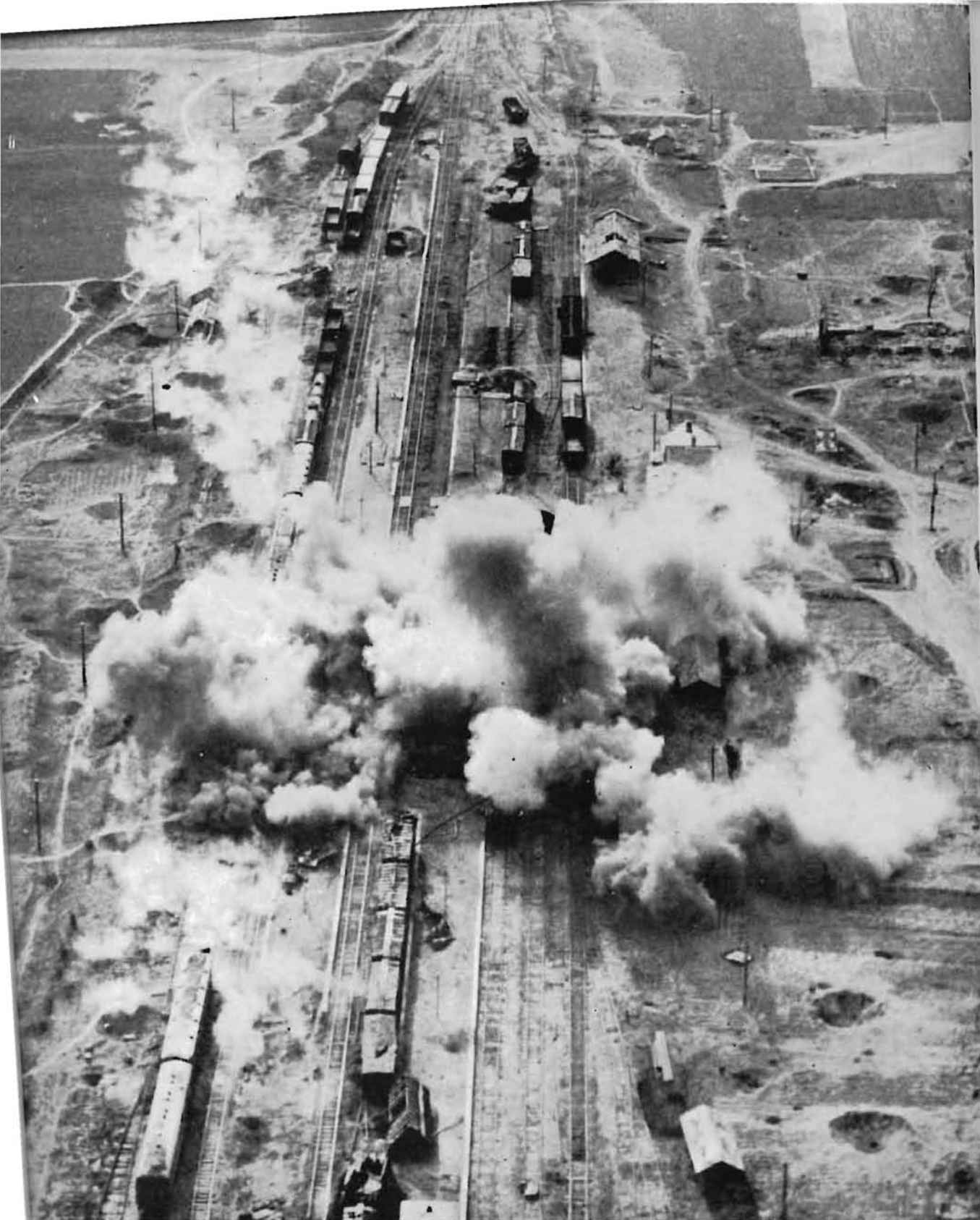
AIR STRIKE

Flaming jellied gasoline engulfed an enemy stockade in North Korea following a direct hit with a napalm bottle jettisoned by an American F-80 "Shooting Star." Since the outbreak of hostilities, Red supply, fuel, and ammunition dumps, warehouses, industrial plants, rolling stock, and rail and highway arterials had received daily poundings from fighter planes and light and medium bombers of the Far East Air Force. Even in inclement weather and after nightfall, damaging blows were leveled at Communist targets through the adaption of perfected radar techniques.









ARSENAL ALOFT

Salvos of rockets released from B-26 "Invader" light bombers churned up billows of smoke, flame, and debris, in NK marshalling yards. Rolling stock, always a choice kill, was systematically strafed with aerial cannon fire. UN strategy called for allied aircraft to sever the Red's exposed, distended supply lines—all critically drawn out. Fifth Air Force attack bombers would thus seal off thousands of tons of essential supplies earmarked for frontline troops.

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... HOW A MAN DIED.

POHANGDONG

An enemy pocket mushroomed under the Pohangdong sector, jointly tenanted by ROK and 24th units. The 21st, followed by the balance of the "Victory" Division, motored to the east coast, assembled as "Task Force Jackson," and struck at the Red penetrations. The 19th's "Task Force Davidson"

pushed off to the west in a coupled drive that marked the first time since their arrival that the full complement of the 24th fought as a cohesive unit. By 13 September, the Pohangdong threat was erased...the task forces dissolved and returned the zone of responsibility to neighboring SK soldiers.

... BETWEEN ACTIONS EVERY DAY WAS LIKE THE SABBATH.



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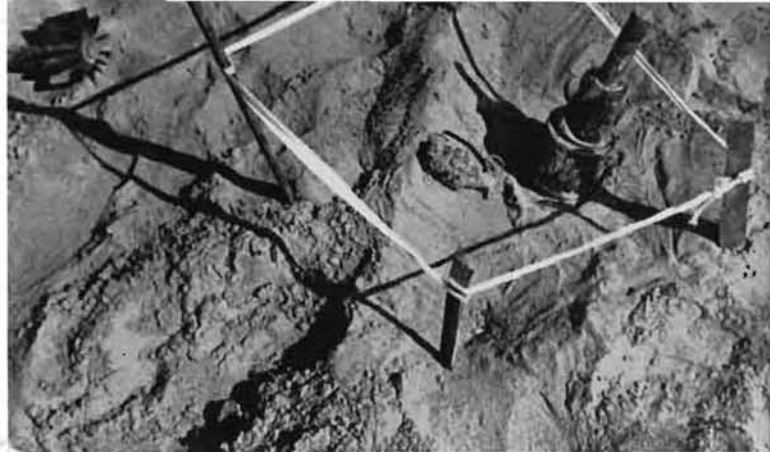


From the swelling inventories of incoming materiel, tons of food-stuffs were short-hauled to doughboy consumers. "Sgt. Jones' Supply Train," below, chugged up the track along "Spaulding Spur" with combat rations for the 19th Infantry Regiment.





LANDMINES, the foot soldier's nemesis, were rooted out with sensitive detectors.



WARNING TAPE fenced off an enemy "potato masher" and a US fragmentation grenade dud.

REWARDED

Every man fighting with the 24th Infantry Division from 2 July through 15 September 1950, was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service. The division, as a whole, received the United States Presidential Unit Citation for the same period in recognition of "the individual and collective

heroism displayed by all ranks of the 24th Infantry Division in its valiant stand against great odds." Additional honors were bestowed on the "Victory" Division by the Republic of South Korea—by Dr. Syngman Rhee—when it received the South Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

TIME TESTED "SHERMAN" TANKS, the indomitable mainstays of US armored divisions during World War II, cushioned the blow of Red tankers, whose numerical advantage was still telling.





HIT IT! THE 5TH RCT PACED UNITED NATIONS' RESISTANCE ON THE NAKTONG FRONT.



WALKING WOUNDED, with boats porting the more seriously hurt, crossed the Naktong.

TENSION

Like a coiled spring, the allied potential built up behind the perimeter. Pusan and Masan bustled with maritime activity as UN merchant shipping crammed the harbor inlets. Equipment in thousand-ton lots was heaped on the piers of both ports. Heavy artillery and tanks, fleets of trucks and jeeps, and fresh contingents of men were pipelined into the sector. Line troops felt the pressure of the expansion and sensed a keen desperation in the weakening tempo of NK flurries against the Naktong line.

BOGGED DOWN



Rainwater spilled into ravines from steep ridges; spring thaws and storms deluged lowland highways and reduced them to quagmires. The foot soldier plunged through muck that seeped into boots and chafed damp feet. Pools of mud trapped vehicle, caked equipment, and lodged in machinery.

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TAKE TEN!

Hard-bitten and enduring, a rifleman of the 5th RCT took a break. His utter weariness, after forty-three remorseful days of combat, was caught by a Signal Corps photographer.

BREAKTHROUGH



NORTH OF TAEGU, beyond this tributary of the Naktong, lay the Communist resistance.

On 16 September, the perimeter exploded. A large-scale amphibious attack by the X US Corps in the vicinity of Inchon, the adjacent port city of Seoul, was timed with orders to advance along all points of the perimeter. Twelve NK divisions were dispersed in the encirclement... a presentable force but lacking in depth. The division, under the control of the I US Corps, was directed to cross the Naktong and attack northwest along the Waegwan-Kumchon axis. Spearheaded by the 5th RCT, then deployed near Taegu, the concerted breakout on the central front hit hard against the forward wall of the Communist horde.

DELICATE ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTS loaded in the back of this ravaged 3/4-ton weapons carrier—an early D-Day land mine casualty—were a molten, irretrievable combat loss.



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GATEWAY

West of Waegwan rolled the sluggish, serpentine Naktong River. The ruined city's geographic location placed it among the prime stepping stones of the breakthrough... Waegwan commanded a point of departure for the heartland of South Korea.





WAEGWAN FALLS

Into Waegwan ran a rich tableland of rice paddies and truck gardens glibly dubbed "The Bowling Alley." Repeated tries by UN troops to negotiate this route, during the seesawing battle of the perimeter, were thwarted by unbudging Communists. With the opening assault on the central front, led by the 5th RCT, came a switch of direction... a sally around the nucleus of the enemy's main body uprooted his communications and scattered his logistical support. The 5th secured Waegwan on 19 September, relinquished the shattered city to the 1st Cavalry Division, and proceeded to occupy the vital high ground along the Waegwan-Kumchon axis.



The insubstantial dwellings of Waegwan were laid open by high explosives sent crashing into them by artillery and air. The few modern buildings fared little better.



INCENDIA

GRIM A
though b



INCENDIARY GRENADES CONSUMED THIS HOUSE. SNIPERS WERE DRIVEN FROM HIDING.

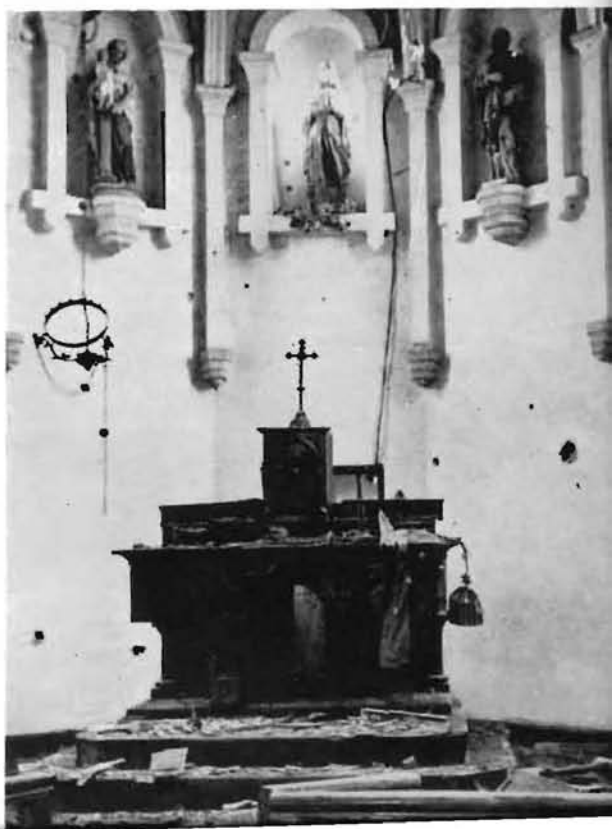


**Vaegwan
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GRIM AND HOLLOW. A Catholic church, though buffeted by heavy weapons fire, still stood.



ALTAR AND CROSS, miraculously left unscathed, were silhouetted against the ruins.





BOATS

Coincident with the 5th's liberation of Waegwan, the 19th and 21st trekked through moderate mortar fire and around densely mined roads to the east bank of the Naktong. Advance combat parties unlimbered squat, low-draught assault boats and pushed off for the far shore. Crossing sites were quickly fixed at the very same four points that had eluded the Red's grasp after a futile six-week effort.

& P





& BRIDGES.

Division and I Corps engineers trundled ungainly wreckers and tandem cranes onto the east bank of the Naktong River. Sections of prefabricated track were lifted on steel pilings sunk into the river bed. Some treadway units were bouyed up by swelling Pneumatic pontoons...others atop scores of assault boats. The 24th Division's trucking was driven over in orderly fashion.









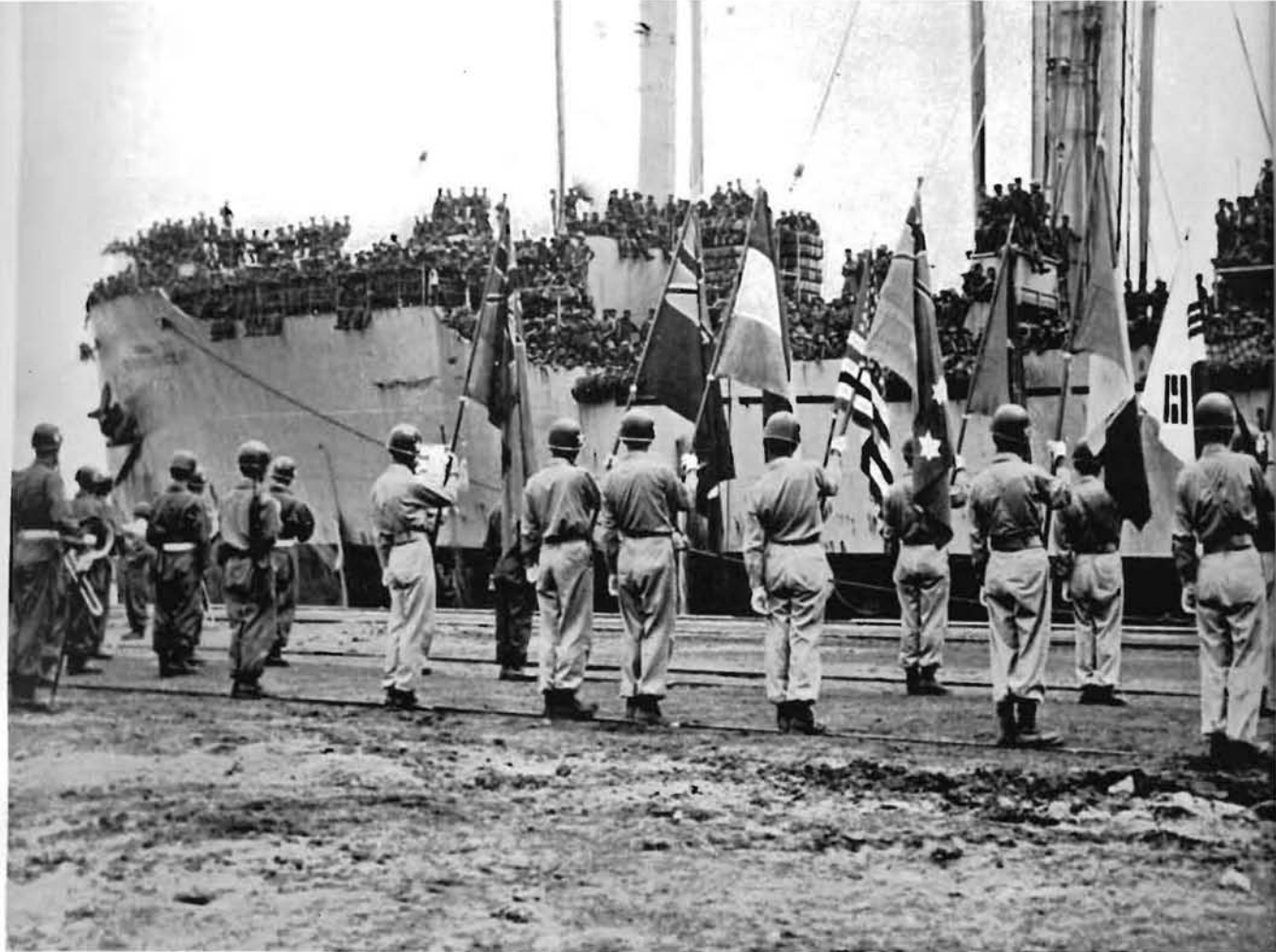
CHARGES WERE LASHED to the contorted girders of the Waegwan Highway bridge. In record time, laboring engineers dismembered skeleton remains to make way for a 270-foot Bailey bridge.

ON TO SONGJU

SURVEYING THE JOB. Carbine-wielding engineers took soundings of the river floor.



While the IX Corps with the 2nd and 25th Infantry Divisions and attached ROK units drove to the southwest from Masan, the I US Corps with the 24th Infantry Division and its 27th British Brigade, the 1st Cavalry Division and the 1st ROK Division, pushed 35-miles northward in a matter of days. The British Brigade, with neither artillery nor tank support, cracked the stout defenses of Songju on 24 September. An assist was recorded by 19th Regiment infantrymen who, after an overnight hike, took up positions with the Englishmen, circumvented the main NK force in a diversionary feint, and overran Red command posts. The "Tommies," in league again with the 19th's "Chicks," mopped up a strong enemy pocket east of Songju just two days later.



PHILIPPINE SALUTE

In compliance with its obligations to the UN, a member nation intimately concerned with the welfare of nearby Korea, recruited and shipped a volunteer expeditionary force to the war zone. A large Philippine contingent debarked at Pusan on 20 September, to a martial air played by a ROK Army band, and was greeted by representatives of the 19th Regiment. Note the code name "Doughboy"; the word-symbol identified the 19th's command posts and vehicles.





DURING THE MORNING the 5th RCT apprehend these prisoners; nine Red tanks and twenty anti-tank guns were bagged by the 21st Regiment. This constituted the NK's costliest loss to date.

NORTH KOREANS masterminded a labyrinth of foxholes which, for the most part, were left vacant. On 23 September, the 24th was ten miles north of Waegwan.

RIFLEMAN OF THE "VICTORY" DIVISION fired over the parapet of a Naktong River levee at a solitary Communist straggler who waded through the waters.



PROTE
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PROTRACTED COVER FIRE for Taro-leafers crowding the western shoreline of the Naktong was delivered by water-cooled .30 caliber machine guns. Fields of fire were constricted by thick foliage.

CIVILIAN VOLUNTEERS hand-carried ration pans of steaming foods to remote outposts.



CAT BATH. Spilling from the helmet was a turbid sampling of Naktong River water.









FROM THIS JUTTING "CROW'S NEST" vantage point overhanging the Nakdong River valley, Red troop movements could be sighted and pinpointed for the mortar fire-direction controllers.

NORTH KOREAN PRISONERS garbed in lighted cotton issue uniforms and wearing the nationally popular, thin rubber footgear, were across a sandy stretch of the Nakdong River beach.





"PONCHO" HOLDS A HILL

On the night of 23 September, Private Yun Chun Gi, the first ROK soldier to be integrated into the 19th Regiment, was alone on a steep ridge skirting the enemy's lines. Private "Poncho"—a nickname bestowed upon him by fellow Taro-leafers—volunteered to defend this position . . . a hilltop from which King Company recently withdrew. He could not be dislodged by the NK assailants. "Poncho" was a small, elusive shadow as he darted along the crest emptying clip after clip into the gunflashes below him. The following morning he reported to his command post, in halting English, that his hilltop was secure. "M-1 number 1," the 15-year old veteran chanted as he brandished his rifle and proudly displayed his brand new CIB.



ROADMARKERS, as often as not, were discarded on the same day they were erected, because of the rapidly shifting regiments. "Danger Forward" identified the "Victory" Division's command post.

RECONQUEST

With the 21st "Gimlet" Regiment in the lead, and the tireless 5th RCT following closely at its heels, the "Victory" Division drove to Kumchon through lax resistance. The 5th passed rapidly through the 21st, only to pull up abruptly against a strongly entrenched enemy garrison. For twenty-four hours, a perplexing, brisk counteraction stymied the regiments, both of which marked

time before the bulwarks of the city. On 25th September, the 21st circled the south western quadrant of the defenses in a wide envelopment while the 5th bypassed forward enemy strength and cut in from the east. Not fully appeased with mousetrapping an estimated NK battalion in a Kumchon pocket, the 21st, unimpeded by rearguard activity, rolled ten miles north in the space of hours.

Footsore doughboys on the road to Kumchon



trooped past open fields and thatched leanto's.



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COMMO TEAMS IN RADIO CONTACT WITH LINE FORCES WERE NERVE CENTERS OF PATROLS.

COMMUNIST FADEOUT

Seventy-five miles traveled in seven days . . . time and distance seemed to evaporate by September's end. Only token Red opposition was encountered in the familiar communities of Okchon and Yongdong—liberated two months to the day after they were forfeited to the NK's—to offer spotty resistance to the 19th. Miles of Korean real estate, so painfully given up, were recovered with comparative ease.



FOURTEEN T-34'S WERE STOPPED in the passes beyond Okchon by the 19th's tankers and supporting aerial rocket fire. The division's "Patton" tanks entered Taejon amidst disquieting stillness.

RETURN TO TAEJON

A vivid recollection of Taejon, more than any other thought, jarred the memories of veteran Taro-leafers and stirred in them an intense desire to avenge the defeat of last July. On 28 September, this wish was fulfilled. The 24th, spearheaded by the 19th Regiment, swung its armor around heavily mined roadbeds, through mediocre harassing fire, and into a teeming concentration of NK infantrymen. The Red force, denuded of armored support by accurate US airstrikes, was badly cut up by artillery and air. Remnants of the opposition fled before mopping up squads that were relegated to explore the maze of streets and alleys honeycombing the

sprawling living quarter. During the course of this investigation, a trio of imprisoned American soldiers was discovered, together with another appalling episode of Communist war crimes. US servicemen and South Korean civilian and military personnel were found with their hands bound behind them, their bodies riddled with small arms fire. A significant phase in the redemption of the peninsula had ended. In the words of Maj. Gen. John H. Church, the 24th's commander, "The close of this second period finds the division back in Taejon where it had concluded its initial holding action. The division has fought the 'long road back' victoriously."

I & R vehicles scouted ahead...

while the 19th's "Chicks" hiked into Taejon.





77 DAYS

Ragged, unkempt, but otherwise unharmed, Sgt. Ralph L. Kilpatrick rejoined "C" Company of the 19th after subsisting for 77-days behind Red lines. The sergeant was reported missing on 13 July from the Kum River sector. During the following weeks he sustained on melons, cucumbers, and greens gathered at night from native vegetable gardens. Infrequent meals of "gohan" and aromatic "kimichi" were fed to him by loyal South Korean villagers. Kilpatrick lost 40-pounds during the days of hiding and nights of foraging. The date of his return marked the 24th's triumphant re-entry into Taejon.



HIT AND RUN fire missions were additional duties of the versatile "Sherman" tanks. Direct fire was rifled-in on Red strongpoints bottling-up one of the 19th Regiment's P & A platoons, returning from a demolition assignment in no-man's land.

Although originally intended for rapid fire anti-aircraft work, 90mm "Baby Long Toms" were angled downward to lend supporting fire to advancing infantrymen. The conspicuous absence of enemy aircraft permitted double duty for AAA units. The ultimate in scientific refinement for fire direction control was embodied in radar screens, *left*, which tracked mortar missiles in flight. Counter-battery fire then pinpointed Red positions with devastating accuracy.

"POLE CLIMBERS" of the Signal Corps kept the all-important telephone lines secure at alltimes. Wire teams and linemen had the tedious responsibility of counteracting the deteriorating effects of the weather on common circuits.



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FIRST COKES. A toast was proposed with bottled soft drinks to wish Godspeed to the upland drive. PX suppliers were hard-put to keep up with the "Victory" Division's pace.

NOT EXPENDABLE. Among the booty haphazardly deserted by the NK's were Russian-made 122mm field pieces comparable to our own 155mm howitzers. Most of the guns were of World War II vintage.





The division was deployed across a hundred miles of desolate terrain, defending the main supply route from Wagewan ... the lifeline of the onrushing Eighth Army. Numerous bands of NK's had been outrun, therefore, part of the 24th's assignment entailed blocking the escape of these groups. Minor skirmishes kept them snugly bonded until policing details reduced them. It was in the changing nature of the campaign that the immensity of the North Korean military collapse was brought home. The elastic structure of the Red's high command had disintegrated; the residue of its once lauded divisions was an unorganized rabble of "last ditch" hold-outs. In the environs of Taejon, the 24th alone, captured 5,000 prisoners and an astronomical amount of equipment, in addition to many tons of precious foodstuffs.

In the coordinated Eighth Army - X US Corps offensive, the Communists had relinquished control of nearly all South Korean territory below the 37th parallel, while UN forces occupied an area four-times larger than the one they held at the commencement of the Inchon landing. From the initial holding—the four-thousand square miles of the Pusan perimeter—the Eighth Army's leap-frogging regiments, alternately pressing the attack and then resting, kept the enemy in abject retreat. On 27 September, elements of the X US Corps, then tightening its grip on the Inchon-Seoul sector, sent patrols southward. A historic linkup took place that afternoon between the front-running 1st Cavalry and 7th Infantry Divisions. On the east coast, three days later, ROK units were within 27-miles of the 38th parallel.



TURNABOUT

The would-be conquerors of South Korea left this "Victory" poster in the backwash of their retreat. The Communist forces of North Korea were depicted gloriously crushing UN "intervention" and capitalism beneath the treads of a mammoth Soviet-built tank.



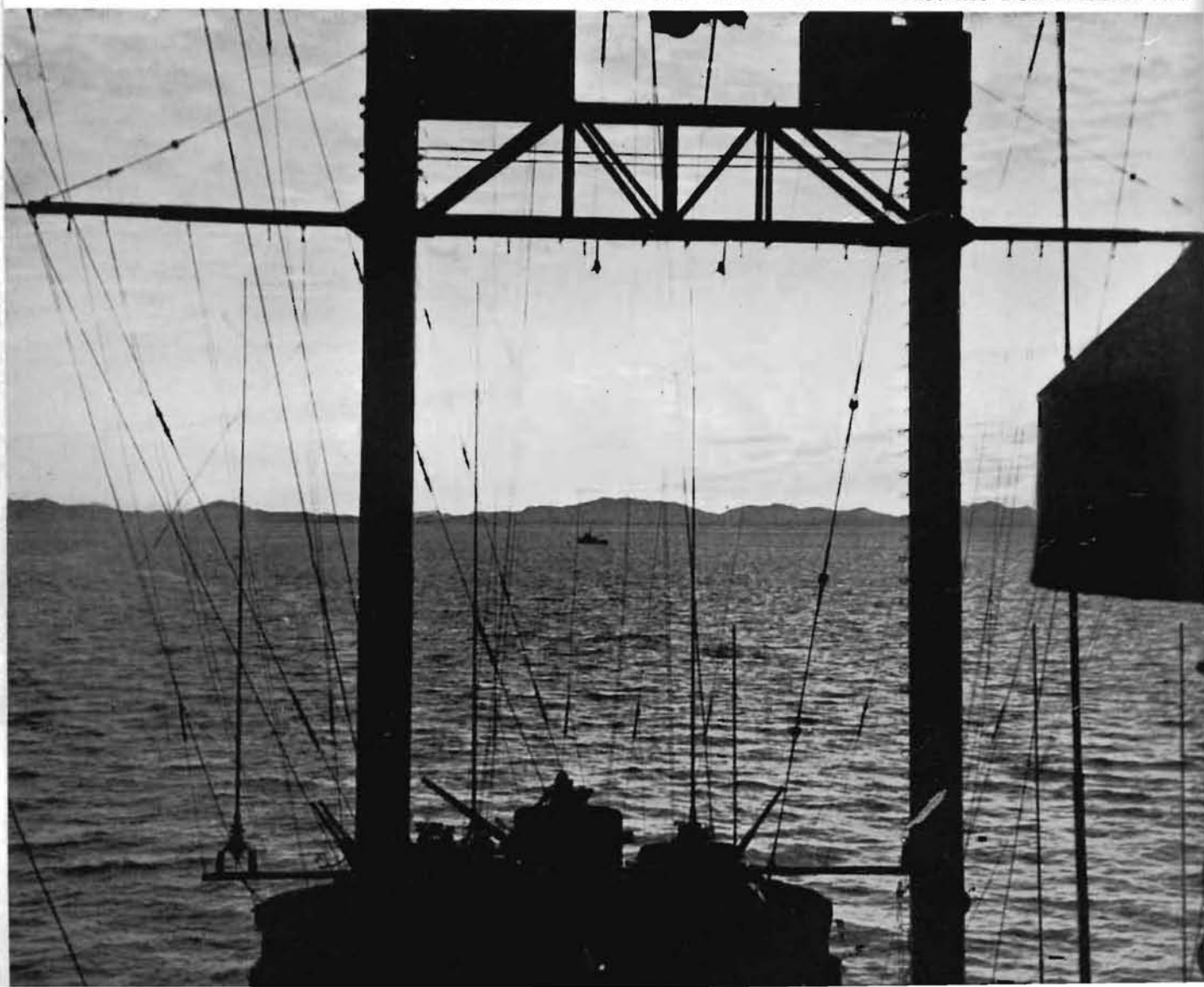
A SQUADRON OF DESTROYERS CONVOYED THE INVADING FLEET THAT SAILED FOR INCHON.

INCHON

An amphibious landing by X US Corps troops, on 15 September, timed to coincide with Eighth Army's breakout from the Pusan perimeter, cut into the soft underbelly of the startled NK Army. A second front

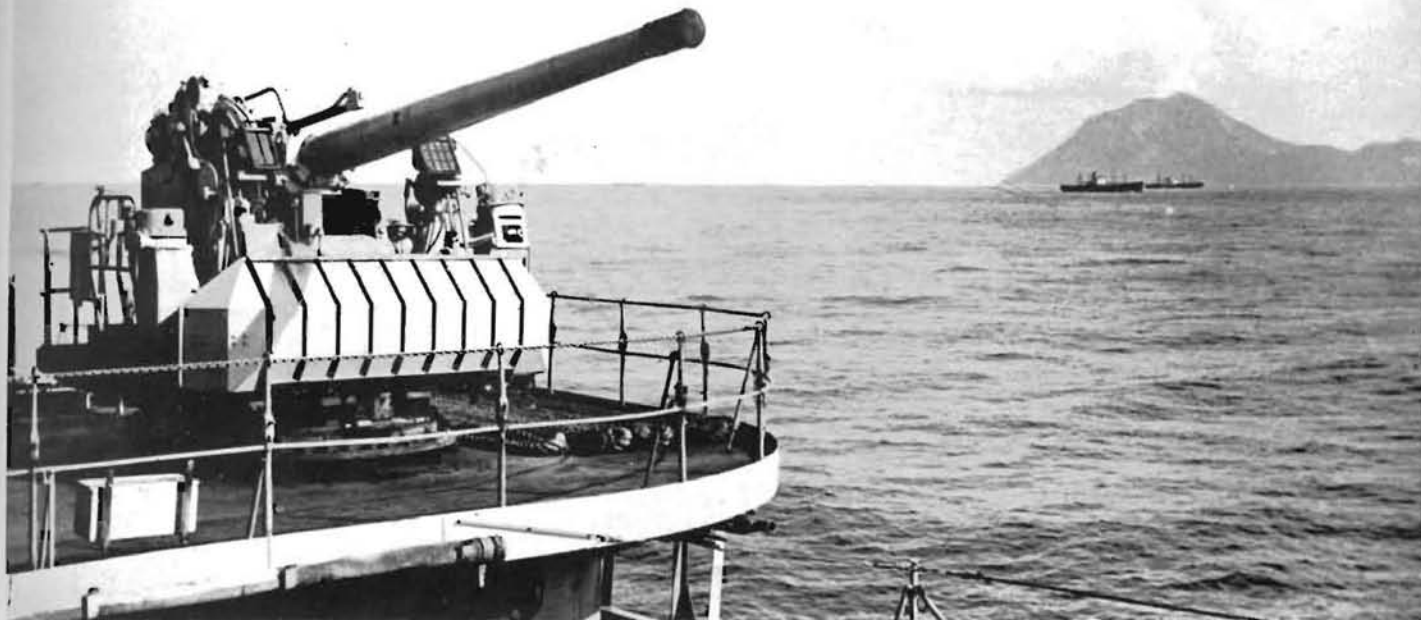
suddenly materialized. While the "Victory" Division forged northward from the Nak-tong, a brilliant military maneuver was shaping up ... a seaborne end run aimed at the twin cities of Inchon and Seoul.

SUNRISE OVER INCHON. NAVAL CRAFT UNCAPPED GUNS FOR PRELIMINARY BOMBARDMENT.



VESSEL
Oshima

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do. Th



VESSELS OF 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S DETACHMENT steamed past the active volcanic island of Oshima, south Japan. The impending action was to be the X US Corp's introduction to the campaign.

TROOP LADEN LSU'S CIRCLED AT A RENDEZVOUS LOCATION shortly before beaching on Wolmido. The pinnacled island, joined to Inchon by a narrow causeway, dominated the harbor inlet.





BLEAK AND FOREBODING WOLMI-DO ALEE OF THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION'S ASSAULT BOATS.

WOLMI-DO WAS OURS IN TWO HOURS

A booming 45-minute sea and air barrage charred the once verdant island. At 0630 the shelling lifted and landing craft moved into

the beach against indifferent shore-battery fire. At 0655 the colors were unfurled atop Wolmi's peak . . . only mopping up remained.



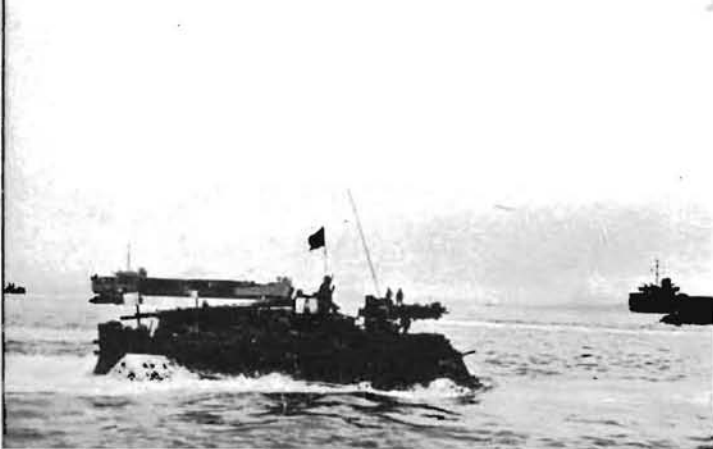
UNDER leaden skies, the armadas drifted in.

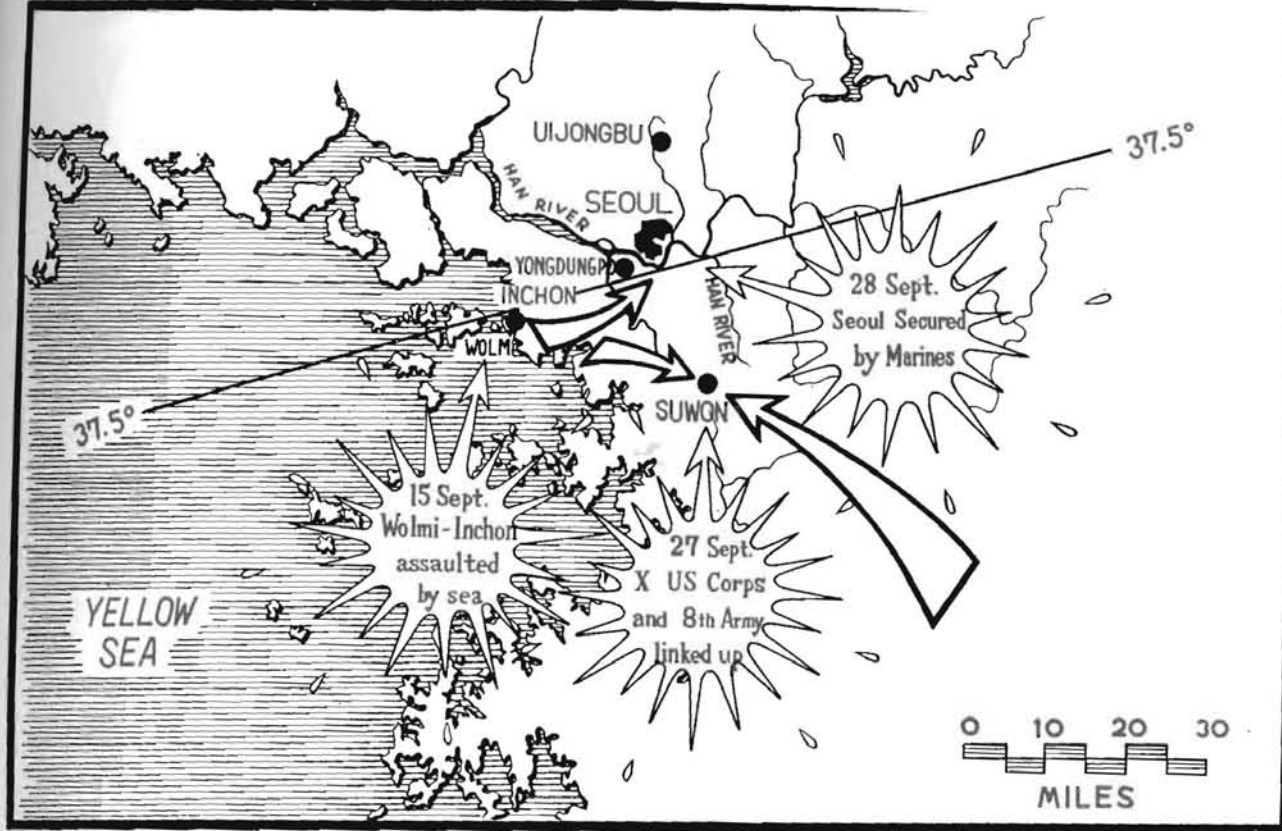
ROCKET rafts fired as Amtracks churned in.



CRUISERS softened-up the sandstone shoreline.

EDDYING harbor smoke obscured the horizon.





UNBRIDLED FURY

Under an umbrella of sand and spray, the first wave cracked the beach of Wolmi island a slim fifteen seconds after the naval bombardment was lifted. The advance parties exhibited a rare skill at amphibious technique by mastering the extraordinary tidal range of 29 feet. This operation, the first stage of the X US Corps' surprise attack, was logged long before schedule. A Corsair pilot returning from a support mission, marvelled, "Those assault marines were nonchalantly ambling up the slopes of Wolmi at port arms." Almost simultaneously, other X US Corps landing parties were scrambling aboard their beaching craft prior to pushing off for Incheon proper.



WITH FLAGS AND GESTURES, the beach-master wigwagged the second wave onto the uncontested shore.

ONE-HUNDRED stunned North Korean irregulars and militiamen were captured on the heights of the mountain-island and were led down to the principal landing beach for questioning.





DECKHANDS AND LONGSHOREMEN
labored on the waterfront of Kobe, Japan...



...to load fuel oil and tent poles—miscellaneous items of war—aboard the invasion fleet.

THEN ... THE HEAVY STUFF



LST's, helpfully beached by ebbing tides...

From yawning bows of LST's and LCM's...



...divested themselves of rations and ammo.

...issued forth "Dozer" tanks and ambulances.



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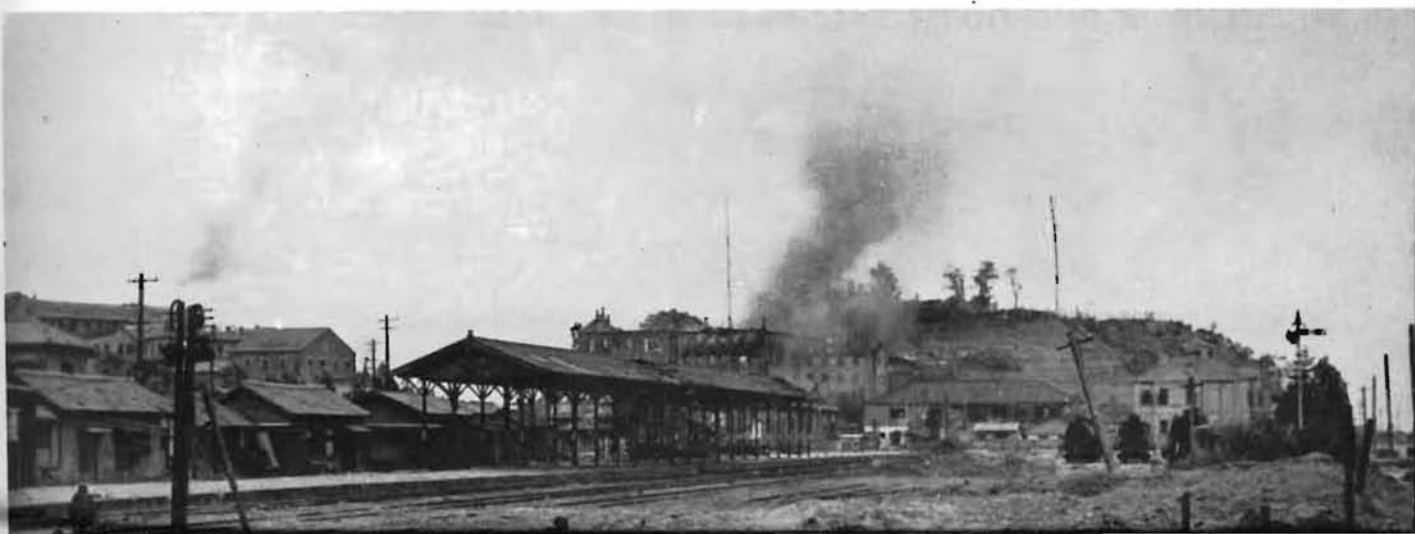


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By 17 September, X US Corps troops had secured the port city of Inchon and had punched inland to straddle the Seoul highway. The enemy garrison was bewildered by the alacrity and vigor of the well-conceived push. Blazing tobacco warehouses, **above**, and the battered Inchon railroad terminal, **below**, were cleared of the melting opposition.





LOYAL VIGILANTE GROUP OF SOSA HAILED X US CORPS WITH POSTERS AND PROCESSIONS.



ON 27 SEPTEMBER, X Corps troops encountered, and joined forces with, 8th Army units near the south gate of Suwon.



TO CIVILIANS fell the thankless task of conscripting hasty bucket brigades to quench the holocaust raging throughout Incheon.

REFUGEES, WITH THEIR CHATTEL PERCHED IN ANCIENT PRESCRIBED MANNER, FLED INCHON.





RED PW'S WERE SUBJECTS OF THE GENERAL'S SURVEY. HIS STAFF WAS IN ATTENDANCE.

MACARTHUR OVERSEES

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, supreme commander of the Far East forces, strode down the ramp of a US Navy barge onto Yellow beach, Inchon harbor, to review the invasion's progress. By 17 September,

the date of General MacArthur's inspection, three-hundred North Korean captives had been taken. Two days later over two-thousand were installed securely behind barbed wire barriers of PW compounds.

PW TAGS WERE AFFIXED to this glumly squatting, motley throng of NK's.



CLOTHING that could conceal weapons was stripped from Reds. New garments were issued.





CRIMES AGAINST THE PEOPLE

The murdered civilians prostrate on the floor of this prison for political dissenters were victims of their ideologies. In a savage attempt to liquidate deviators and anti-Communists before their imminent release by the liberating X US Corps, NK soldiers machine-gunned, bayoneted and cremated hundreds. Defaced bodies were left as mute evidence of an unprincipled extermination of defenseless people.

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CAUGHT UNAWARE

The North Korean reaction to the X US Corps onslaught was not noteworthy, but it could have been. The potential was there. The Communists were expediting construction of coastal fortifications, digging-in tanks, emplacing guns of all calibers, planning beach defenses, and instituting mining operations. Had the amphibious assault been postponed for as much as one month, the Reds would have been ready to repulse all comers, and the landing, if possible, would have been many times more costly to the UN beaching parties in the attack.



FEW RETURNEES HAD A HAPPY HOMECOMING.

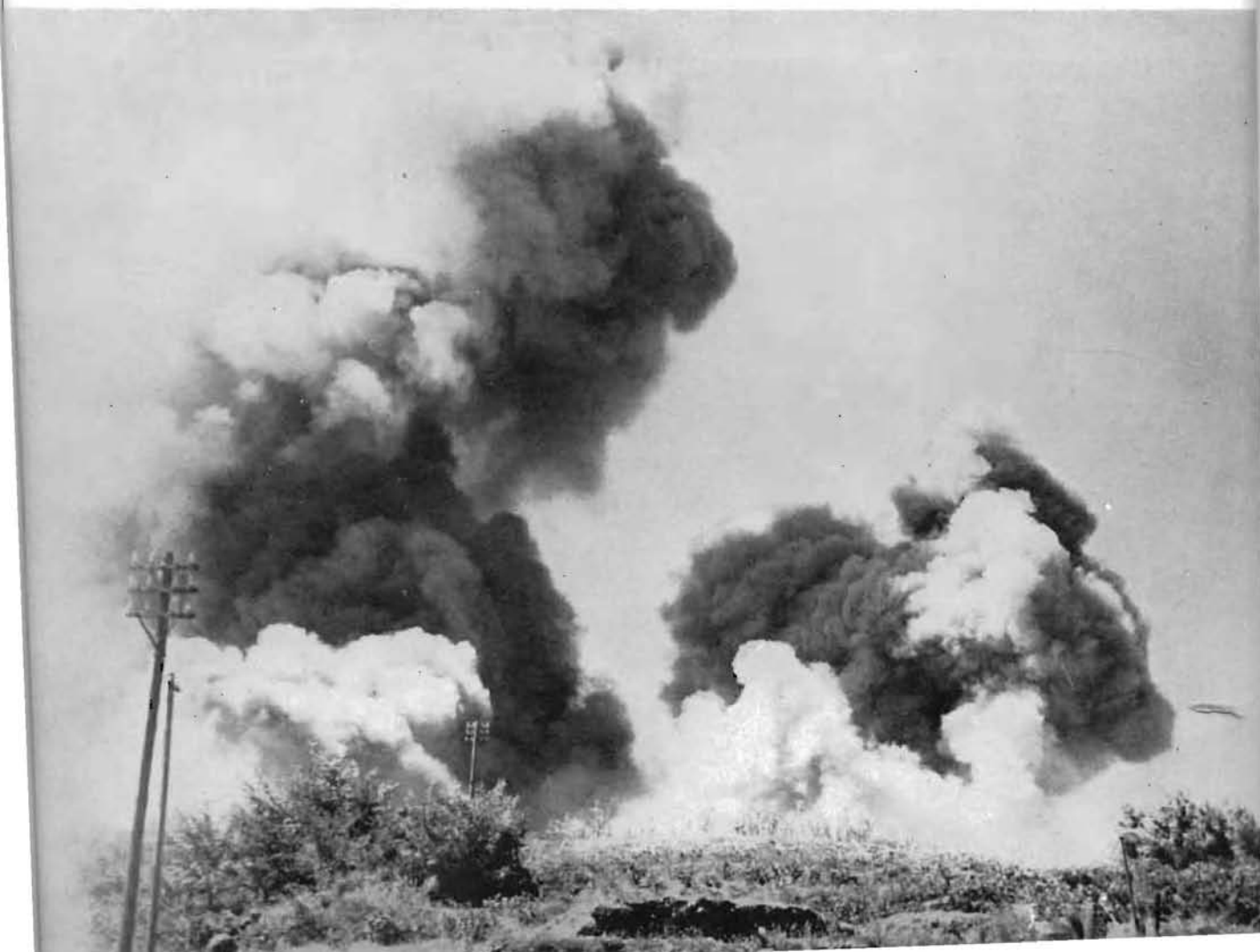
CIVILIANS QUEUED BEHIND GUARDS TO GAIN ENTRANCE INTO THE FREED CITY OF INCHON.





A MARINE SPECULATED on what would await allied forces on the opposite bank of the Han River. The mutilated railroad bridge connected Yongdungpo to the mudflats of outer Seoul.

A RED AMMO DUMP on the eastern shore of the Han River was booby-trapped by the retreating enemy. Alert marines sidestepped the ruse and detonated the shore from a safe distance.



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THE SEOUL
was the se

CIVILIAN





A TORN AND RIDDLED SOVIET-BUILT YAK WAS FOUND ON THE RUNWAY OF KIMPO FIELD.



THE SEOUL RAILROAD STATION
was the scene of a pitched battle.

ON TO SEOUL

The liberation of Seoul and the subsequent denial of its rail and communication facilities to the NK's, comprised the third stage of the Inchon operation. Kimpo airfield, the largest in the country, was opened to UN aviation on 18 September. Elements of the 7th Infantry Division augmented by ROK Army forces were next brought into the port city. They rapidly cleared the southern edge of the Inchon peninsula, advanced twenty miles to the south, and occupied Suwon. The 1st Marine Division plus the remainder of the 7th Infantry Division encompassed Seoul from the south and west.

CIVILIANS REMOVED THE WRECKAGE AND ROADBLOCKS CLOGGING THE THOROUGHFARES.





POPULOUS, SEMI-MODERN SEOUL—crippled by the war—was at one time an odd blend of the old and new. Mingling influences of the progressive regime and conservative traditions clashed here.

BEGINNING OF THE END

HOMELESS TOWNSPEOPLE sifted the debris for timbers and nails to rebuild.



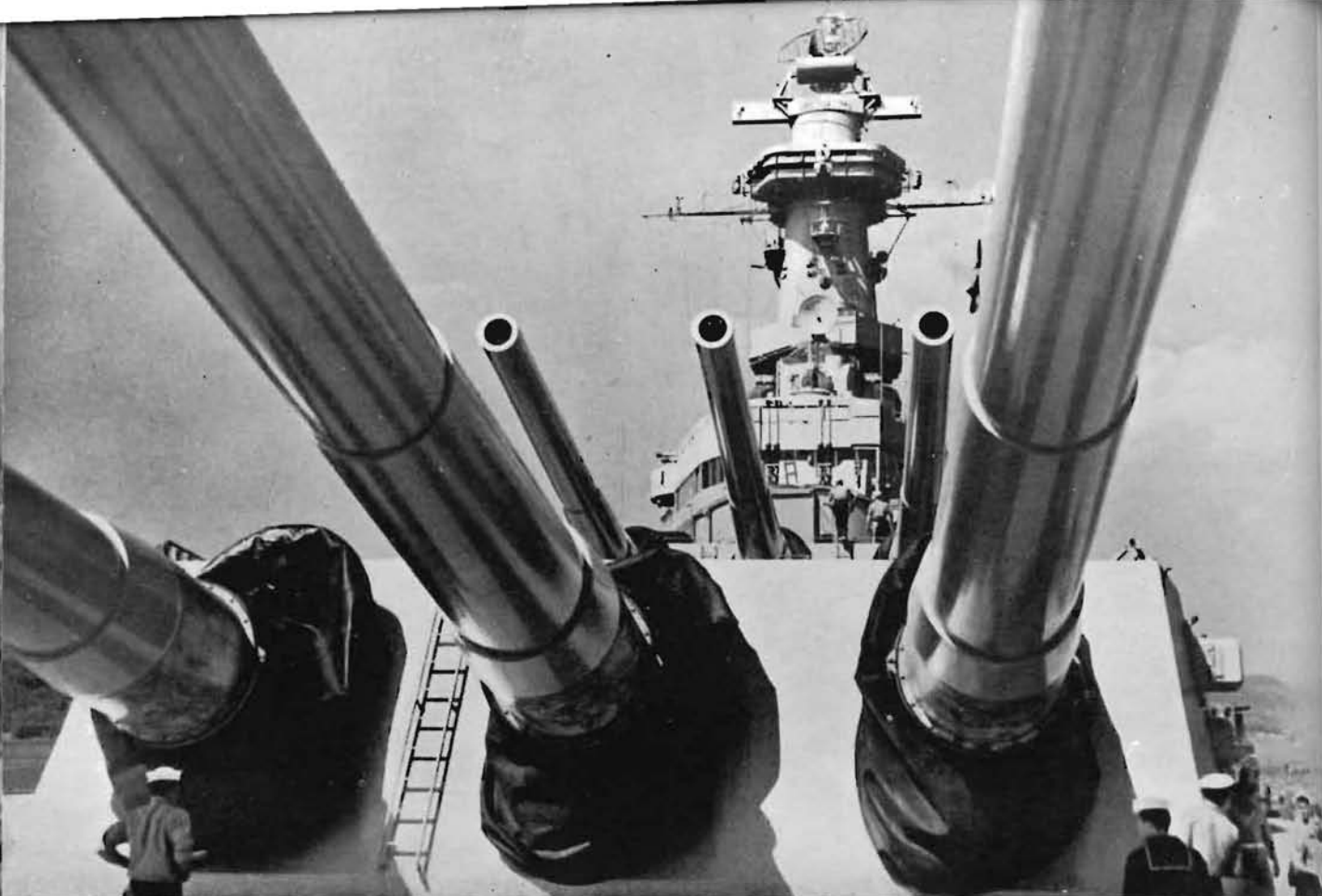
The NK defense of Seoul was cleverly coordinated and unexpectedly stubborn, thus forcing the X US Corps commander to order street fighting with its consequent hardships on civilian life and its hazards to public installations. On 28 September, marines raised the American flag over the US consulate in the heart of Seoul, and thereafter, only mopping up fighting continued. Other portions of the X US Corps were fanning outward from the Inchon-Seoul sector like an ever-expanding ring. In the south, isolated and leaderless remnants of six enemy divisions strove vainly to break out of the UN cordon which compressed them steadily into a deadly pocket. More than one-half of the enemy's combat forces were trapped south of the 37th parallel and were no longer available to him. Thousands of prisoners and huge stocks of materiel were lost in a futile NK flight north to the 38th parallel. Crude holding efforts against the Eighth Army failed to lessen the mounting pressure. The 24th Division had cruised through flagging resistance and was—at the time of Seoul's liberation—assembled in the Chonan-Pyongtaek sector.



DESTITUTE, PARENTLESS WAIFS were rescued from the squalor of backstreets and alleyways to be boarded in orphanages that were subsidized with UN funds and contributions from Yanks.

DR. SYNGMAN RHEE, the president of South Korea, returned the Republic's seat of government to the city of Seoul on 29 September. The burned-out capital building, underwent total restoration.





THE MISSOURI'S BIG 16-INCH GUNS GLISTENED BENEATH HER TOWERING SUPERSTRUCTURE.

MIGHTY MO'

On 14 September, the world's greatest battleship, the USS Missouri, trained her nine sixteen-inch rifles on military targets at Samchoek and destroyed them. The bombardment violently announced the "Mighty Mo's" intervention in the Korean conflict ... to aid and abet the naval blockade of the North Korean sea lanes. The Missouri, on whose decks the Japanese Empire capitulated five years earlier, helped back the Inchon operations.

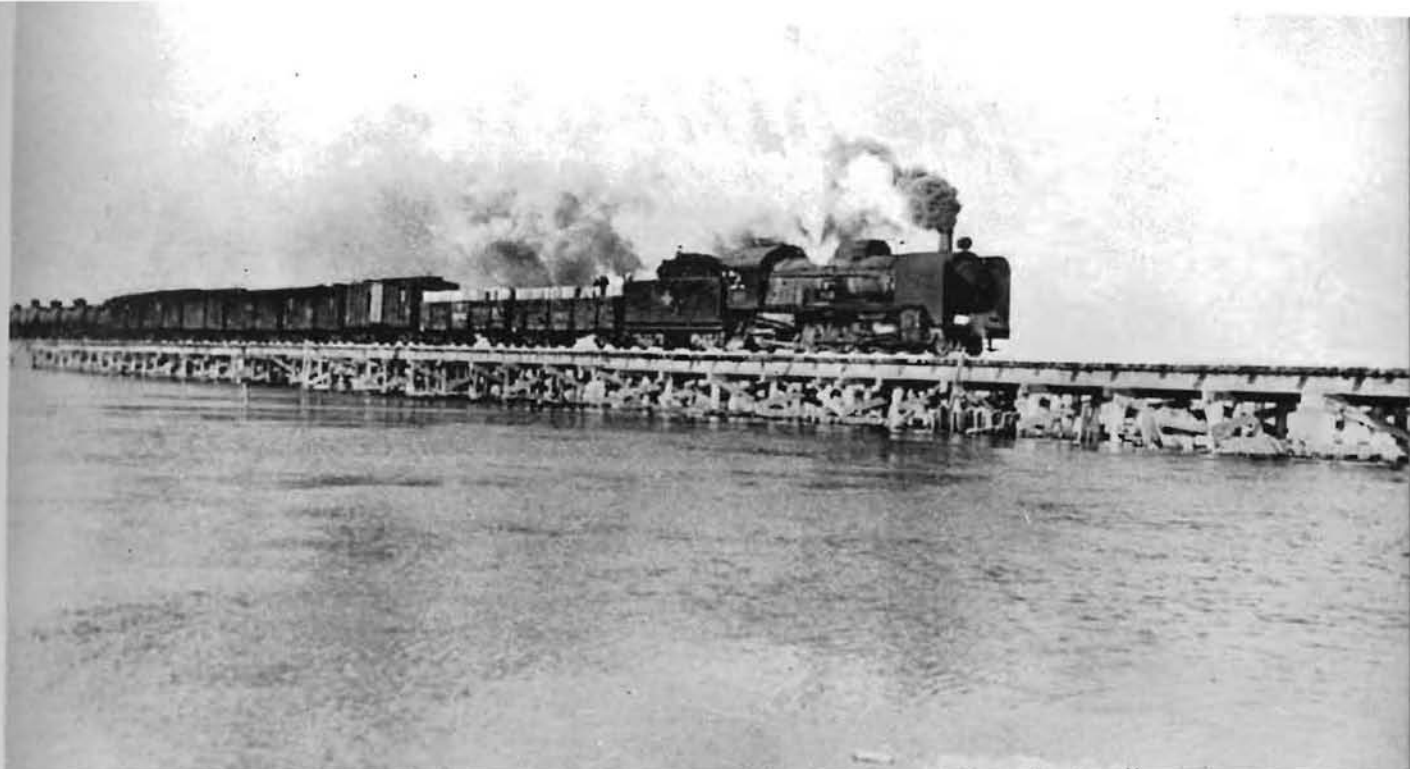


16-inch projectiles go below decks.

BOW GUNS laced into the Chongjin railroad car barns on the northeast coast.

THE MAIN BATTERY'S blast created the illusion that the deck guns were fired.





THIS NARROW-GAUGE LOCOMOTIVE, towing fuel, lumber, and perishables, was the first of an unending string of freight trains to cross the newly rebuilt Han River railway bridge.

RADIO MASTS were erected by the Reds and toppled by the Far East Air Force. From the captured SK capital, the Communists broadcast "Seoul City Sue," a maudlin propaganda offering.





JOE DIMAGGIO of the New York Yankees, **right**, and "Lefty" O'Doul, manager of the San Francisco Seals, favored O.D.'s for their visit with doughboy fans of the national pastime.

THE ARMY'S OWN. Local talent solicited by the 5th RCT's Special Service section staged an amateur review for division personnel. Slapstick humor and tomfoolery . . . no holds were barred.





THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM of an ailing M-46 "Patton" was traced for breaks in the circuit.

24TH ORDNANCE

"Repair and Maintenance" was the big phrase that embraced the restoration of every damaged or worn-out electronic and mechanical implement used in warfare. Nimble fingers and experienced, remedial insight were qualifications for trouble-shooting in the division's ordnance workshops. Expert technicians could nurse the works of a typewriter or rework the faulty breechlock of an eight-inch howitzer with equal facility.

A NEW ENGINE rejuvenated an aging vehicle. All major overhauls were done in Japan.



THIS 155MM HOWITZER, lost to the enemy, was recovered. It underwent repair.

THE SMALL INSTRUMENTS repair section serviced wristwatches, gauges, and meters.





"FLYING BOXCARS" LANDED AT KIMPO WITH PRIORITY CARGOES OF LIFE-SAVING PLASMA.

FOR SOME, BLOOD WAS THE ONLY MEDICINE



INSULATED CRATES of whole blood were securely lashed to the transport's flooring.

A straw-colored liquid bubbled from the inverted bottle held high over the still form of a wounded man. A medical corpsman watched the level of the freshly mixed blood plasma recede. He withdrew the needle from the punctured vein in the forearm of the injured soldier, called for another pint-jar of plasma, and repeated the operation. Plenty was on hand and needless deaths were averted because of prompt aerial shipment of plasma and whole blood to medical aid stations.

ABOARD A JEEP, speeding to a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, a critically wounded Yank received plasma.

A CASUALTY, bundled in protective plastic sheets, awaited evacuation by helicopter.



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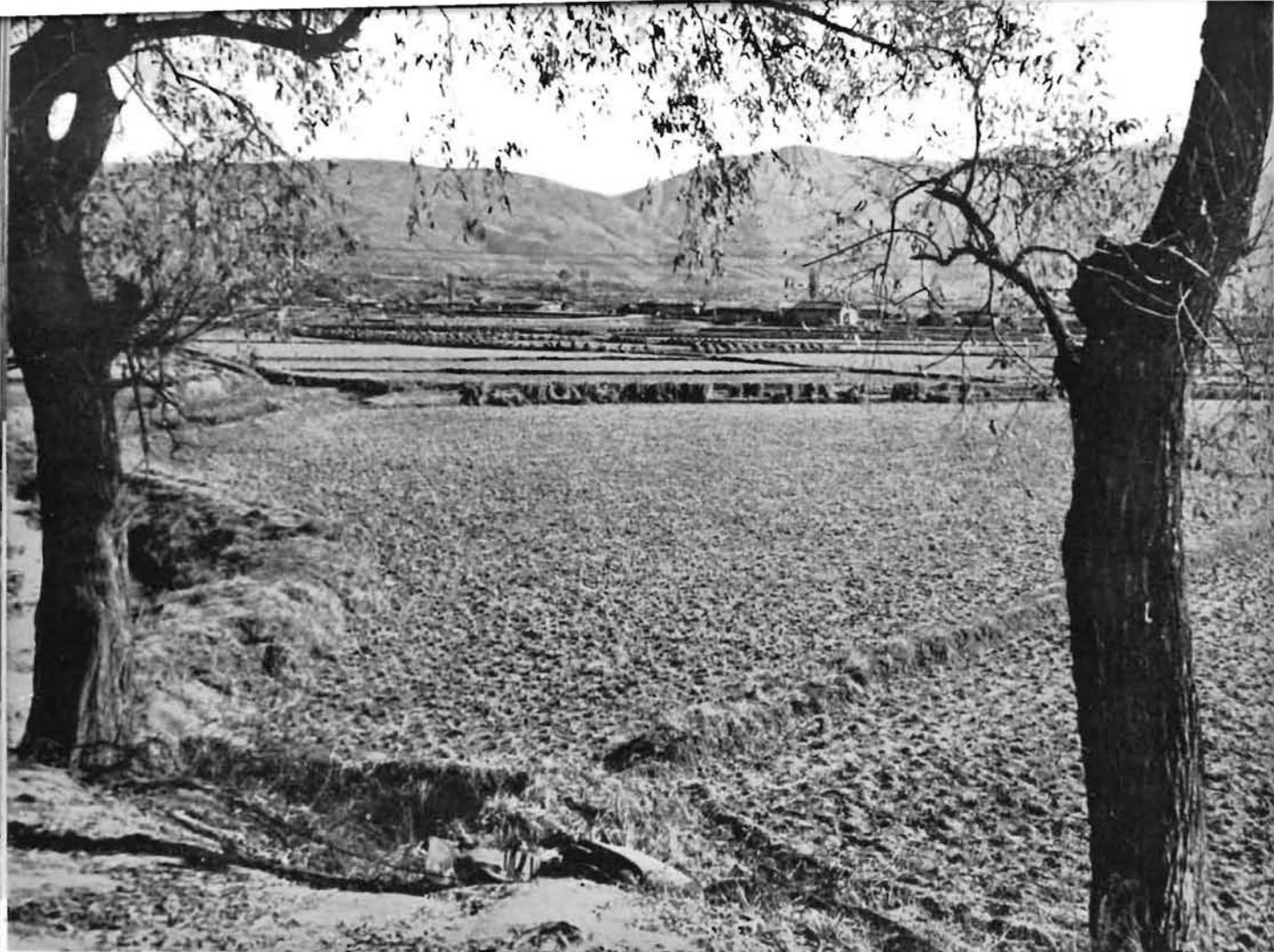
RICE FARMERS were driven from their small holdings by the war. They were guided courteously to the "Victory" Division's Civil Assistance collecting point for screening and shipment to safety.

HO HUM... with the calm aplomb of polished troupers, two waifs shielded their ears from the noise of a mortar's blast.



OUNCE OF PREVENTION. A thorough dusting with DDT relieved refugees of irritating, disease-carrying vermin.





RIPE SHOCKS OF "WET" RICE, LINING EDGES OF THE FARMFIELD, AWAITED HARVESTING.

RICE

Survival for South Korea's 15-million farmers was balanced precariously on the yield of rice from season to season. Every arable acre was harrowed, every bit of human resourcefulness was utilized to irrigate and cultivate the rice plant, the staple foodstuff. Seeding was done by crude but thorough methods; oxen and primitive plowshares were used according to a century-old prescription. The common practice of fertilizing with human

and animal wastes, however, infected most locally grown produce with minute dysentery organisms. On smaller plots, thousands of rice shoots were gingerly set-in by hand, and shallow fields of fragile, green sprouts were carefully nurtured to glean every ounce of grain from the furrowed paddies. "Gohan," though an unvarying and drab constituent of the Korean's diet, was starchy, filling and relatively nutritious.

FARMERS combed the plump grains from the stalks with broad hand rakes.

A FAN was manually turned to winnow the light chaff from the edible grain.





THE MOIST GRAIN was churned into watery mash cakes and was then toasted into crisp biscuits and crackers.



WAGONLOADS of rice shocks were carted to the mill. Coarse grindstones harnessed to oxen or bullocks crushed the hulled grain into flour.

FREE UN "GOHAN" was gratefully spooned by famished Koreans at a DP collecting point. Chestnuts, a protein supplement, were also fed to the refugees.



A COMMUNAL BOWL was refilled after weeks of disuse. Rice was liberally issued to needy families.





Irrepressible Bob Hope and popular Marilyn Maxwell topped a USO company that sparked across the Korean scene in late October. The pair high lighted their appearances in Seoul with a courtesy call to the home of the President and Mrs. Syng man Rhee.



With shoulders bared to Autumn's chill winds, the Taylor Maids sang their bit while Hope and Maxwell prepared for their next musical sketch. The entire troupe journeyed throughout the command and made a complete circuit of the peninsula.



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37mm cannon had fired its last at UN planes.

REDEPLOYMENT

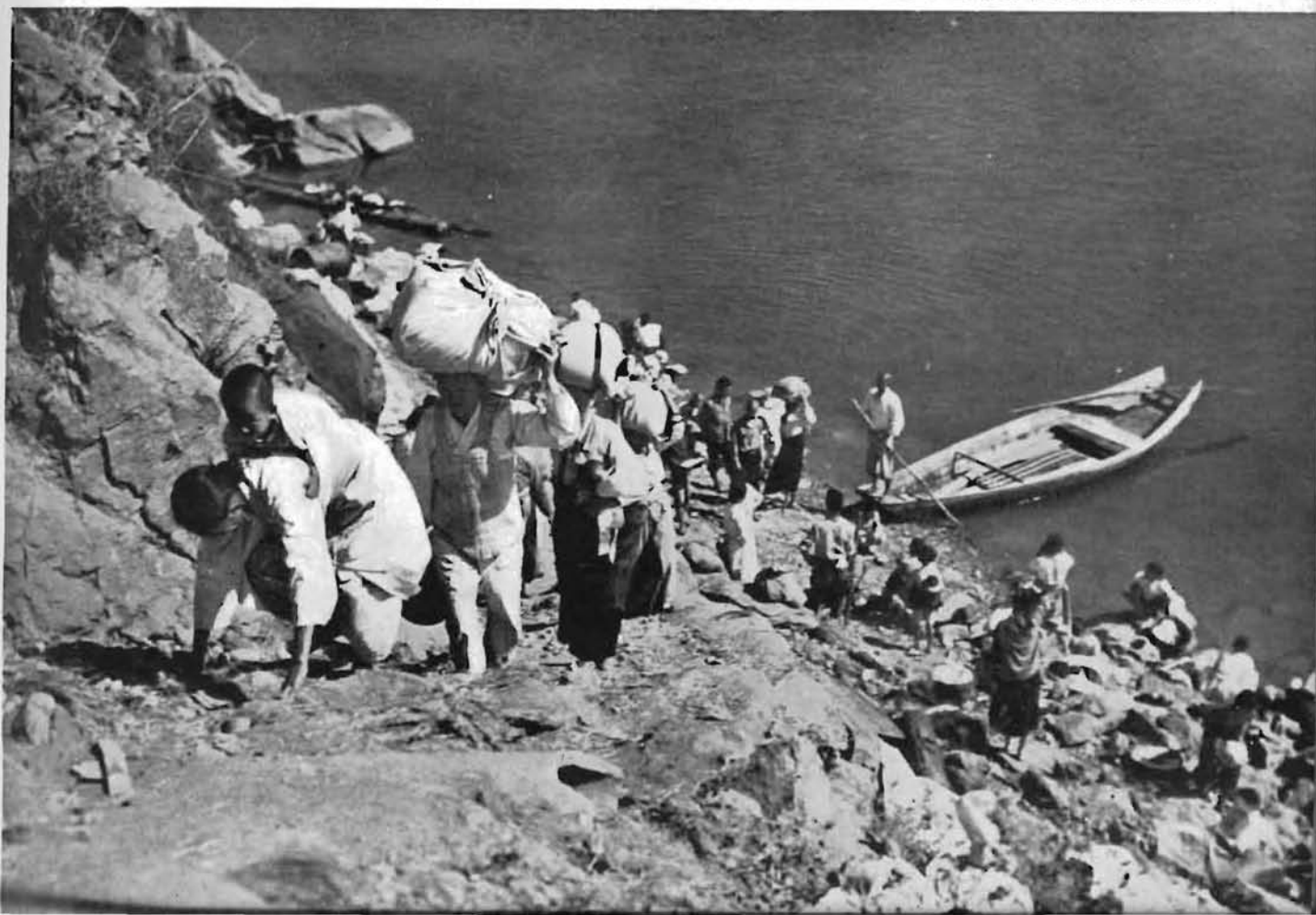
Using the shuttle system, the 24th Division motored from the Chonan-Pyongtaek area to Munsan, about 25-miles north of Seoul. Though not committed to action, the division encountered and interned numberless disheartened NK's who implored Yanks to take them prisoner. The paradox of a formerly fanatic breed of soldier now surrendering willfully and in wholesale lots at first astounded American troops. But this symptom revealed the true picture of conditions within the NK military establishment and illustrated the flaws in the Communists' methods for employing troops. Thousands



NK's "scuttled" this T-34 by spiking muzzle.

of untrained farmer conscripts who were once used by the NK's to absorb allied fire in hopeless first wave assaults, now comprised the bulk of the Red's force. These politically ignorant novices, with neither guidance nor discipline, surrendered eagerly.

WITH CHILDREN AND HAMPERS, FAMILIES STUMBLED UP FOOTPATHS WENDING INTO SEOUL.





PRIZES

Retreat was dually expensive for the enemy. Allied forces pressured the Reds back during the daylight hours, taking the full advantage which daylight offered for aerial assistance. For fear of exposing troops by fleeing with prime-movers and vehicles, which were easily spotted from aloft, the NK's left a graveyard of broken equipment behind them.



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Odd-caliber heavy mortar.



Russian-made 82mm mortar.



37mm Ack Ack gun.

Red copy (below), of a US Grease Gun (above).



Chinese version of a 3.5 rocket launcher.

BOX SCORE

Standardization was an enemy headache. From the scrapings of the last war, the generosity of Soviet arsenals, the captured materiel of this war, and the crude outpourings of home industry, the Reds gathered an odd assortment of tactical weapons to arm her infantrymen, cannoneers and mortarmen. Each caliber required a distinctive shell, but despite this failing the killing power of these weapons was not to be underestimated.



These two 76mm SP's were made by Russian industry. Anti-tank gun and chassis were of Soviet manufacture.



Red artillery awaited US ordnance analysis. An antique Japanese howitzer was scrapped.





A SPONTANEOUS EXPLOSION destroyed this ammunition secreted in a RR tunnel.



"OCCUPATION" CURRENCY. Bales of prematurely printed bills were unearthed in deep vaults.

ACROSS THE PARALLEL

At either end of the 38th parallel, UN forces were poised to give chase. The question of whether or not to cross the parallel was one fraught with military and political implications. Was the danger of retaliation by Red dominated China greater than the danger of permitting the NK's to rebuild their armies behind an inviolable boundary? The UN decision came on 2 October. ROK troops along the eastern seaboard drove over the border. Shortly thereafter, the Eighth Army, with British, Australian, Philippine, and US units, moved up the west coast and

central sectors, relieved the X US Corps of the Seoul-Inchon area on 7 October and had resumed the attack to the north. On the important Seoul-Pyongyang axis, resistance was much stronger and far better organized than elsewhere along the 38th parallel. By 9 October, the Eighth Army had successfully cleared the Uijongbu region north of Seoul and had driven across the parallel. Behind the 1st Cav's spearhead, the "Victory" Division's three regiments were directed to cross the Imjin River and to assemble near Kaesong to follow the procession of allied might.

A 2½-TON TRUCK WITH ARTILLERY PIECE IN TOW FORDED SHALLOWS OF THE IMJIN RIVER.



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CHEMICAL CORPS INSPECTOR LOOSED TEST BURSTS BEFORE APPROVING A FLAME THROWER.



NORTH OF SEOUL, "VICTORY" DIVISION GUNNERS ANSWERED ENEMY SMALL ARMS FIRE.

RECOIL FROM AN M-4's GUNFIRE KICKED CLOUDS OF CHOKING YELLOW DUST INTO THE AIR.





WOUNDED YANKS BROUGHT IN ON M-4 "SHERMANS" WERE TRANSFERRED TO LITTER JEEPS.

NORTH KOREA

The impetus of the 24th's renewed attack carried the division half-way to the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. Three days after the whirlwind offensive pushed off from the Kaesong area, the 21st had advanced to the city of Haeju and the 19th had raced into Chaeyong. The 5th remained in a blocking position southwest of Kaesong. The symp-

toms of dissolution among the Red forces were apparent even on the home ground of the Communist defenders. Prisoners surrendered in droves, the incident of suicide among NK Army officers soared, and thousands of political internees were purged and massacred. Discipline became chaos with the premonition of military disaster.

NINETY-TWO NORTH KOREANS WERE EXECUTED BY "POLITICAL PRESERVATION" POLICE.





THIS NK DETENTION CAMP was strikingly reminiscent of the notorious concentration camps established by the "Axis" nations during World War II. Unlike its counterparts there were no survivors.



Roads became progressively worse as the UN salient found itself deeper in North Korean soil. The thorough roadblasting done by friendly aircraft during the previous months was a nightmare for the hardworking construction engineers. The routes were rutted, spine-jarring swaths of dirt, often indiscernible from the open fields that bordered them. Undermined roadbeds often gave way and brought quick death to the division's vehicles. Note the capsized "Patton" tank.

TRUCK WITH WATER TRAILER HEADED FOR AN ENGINEER'S WATER PURIFICATION DEPCT.





ROK'S UNFURLED THE ALLIES' COLORS IN THE ESPLANDE FRONTING THE TRAIN STATION.

WONSAN

On 10 October, the I ROK Corps, spearheaded by the crack South Korean "Capitol" Division, stormed the east coast city of Wonsan. Ten days later, the harbor was cleared of mines and the superb facilities of the great port were opened to serve as a supply hub and base depot for the eastern segment of the still-advancing United Nations forces.

FOUR-HUNDRED POUND FUEL DRUMS WERE DISPATCHED FROM WONSAN'S FREIGHT YARDS.





UN AIRPOWER left most of the public edifices in Pyongyang intact. Precision bombers attacked only clearly identified military objectives. This building housed EUSAK's advance headquarters.

PYONGYANG

Despite the advantage of extremely rugged and mountainous terrain, the Communist defensive effort could not prevent the fall of Pyongyang to the 1st Cavalry Division. The psychological effect of the defeat produced an apathy and loss of incentive in the remaining NK forces and partly explained the mounting tally of individual surrenders. The PW score reached an approximate figure of 135,000; captured materiel was in proportion. On the heels of the 1st Cav, the 24th Division moved swiftly and unopposed into the sector.



CALENDAR DATES were scrawled on a prison wall by American PW's.

ANOTHER DISMAL, menacingly quiet prison camp was discovered near Pyongyang. The NK's refused to properly mark their PW enclosures to prevent accidental bombings by friendly aircraft.



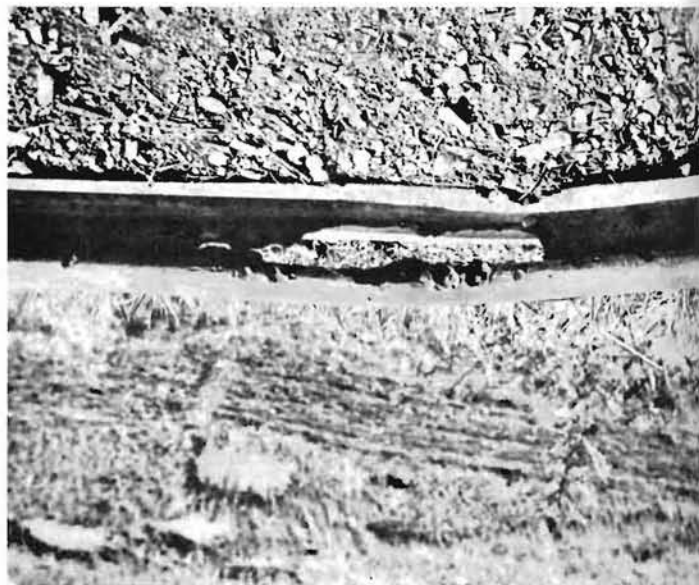


NATIVES FOUND CORPSES OF TEN AMERICANS. MANNER OF DEATH WAS UNDETERMINED.

CHINNAMPO

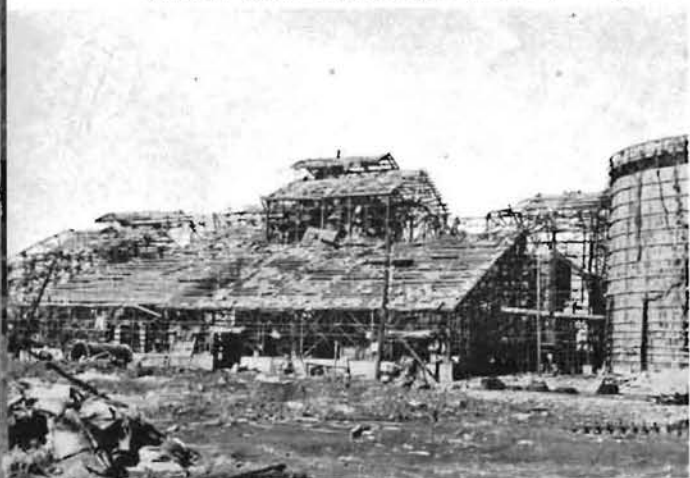
Chinnampo boasted the finest inboard harbor on the Yellow Sea. This highly industrialized port city of Pyongyang was another prize taken shortly after the conquest of the NK capital. Inchon could not be expected to carry the entire burden of seaborne supply destined for the UN Army. Therefore, the facilities of Chinnampo were quickly pressed into service to supplement the over taxed supply points.

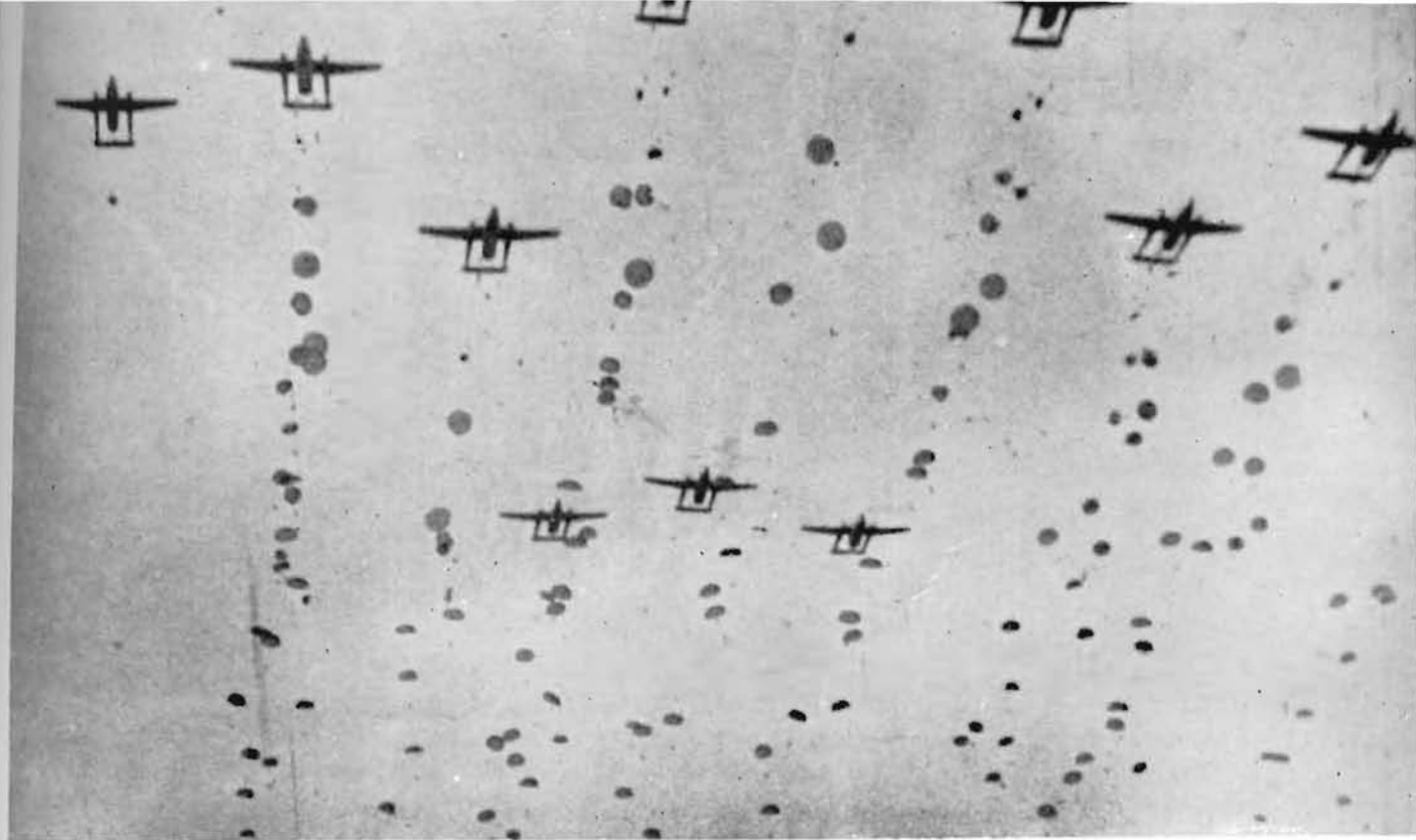
5TH AIR FORCE PLANES converted an ore smelter near Chinnampo into a junk yard.



"RAIL SPLITTERS" of the Far East Air Force shelled and wrecked sections of track.

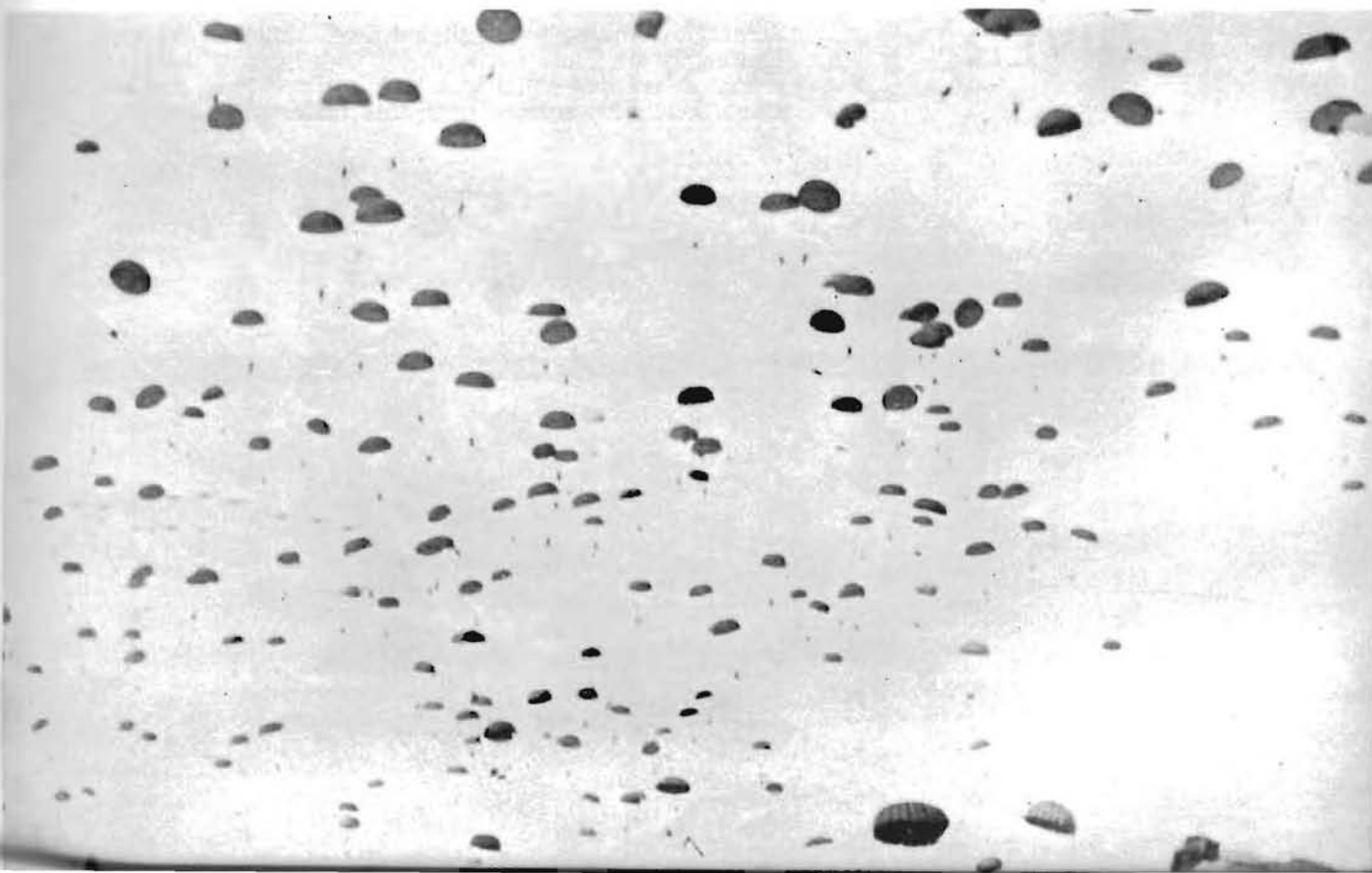
FROM THE INSIDE of the plant, twisted beams and girders attested to heavy bomb damage.

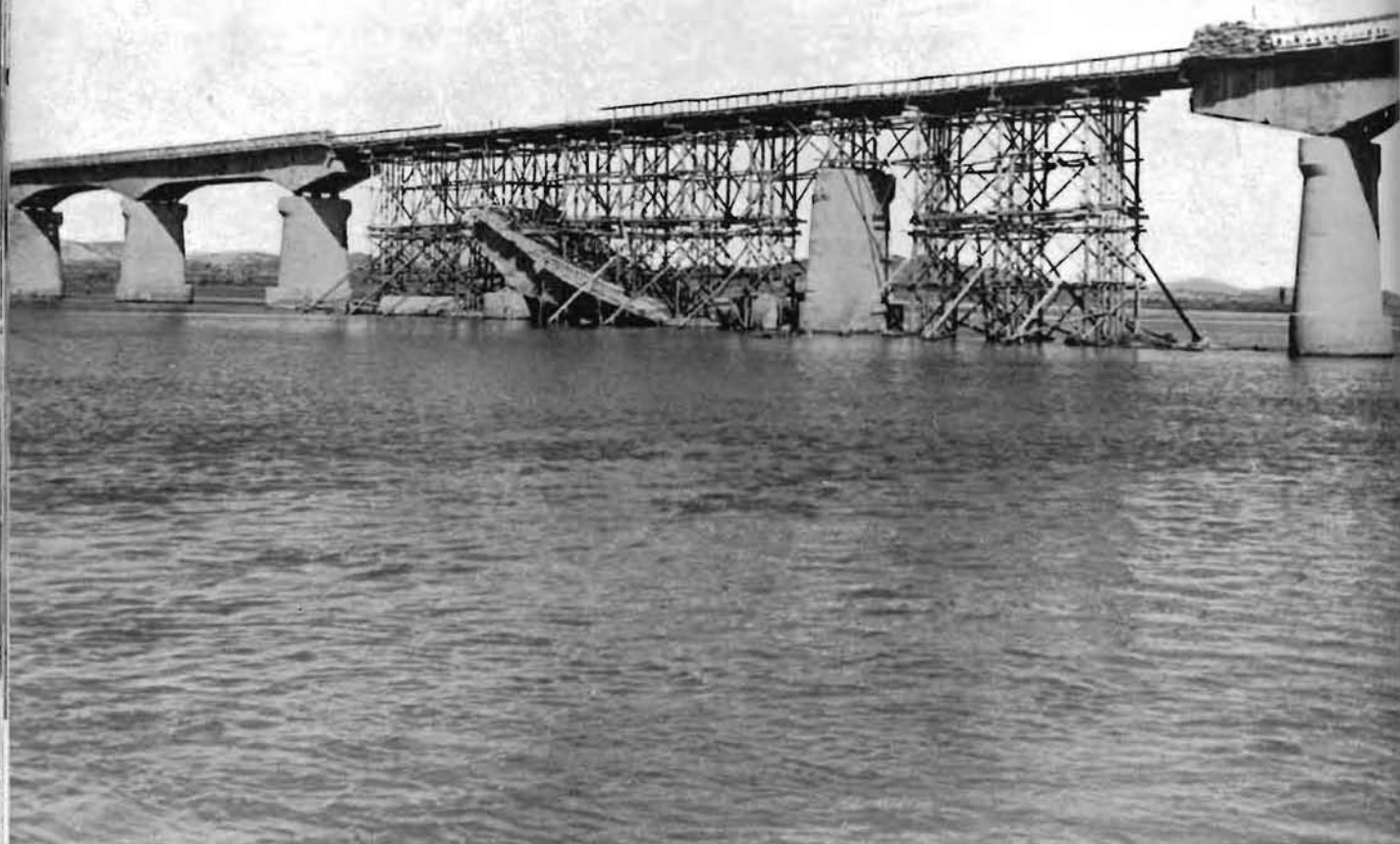




SILK FILLED THE SKY

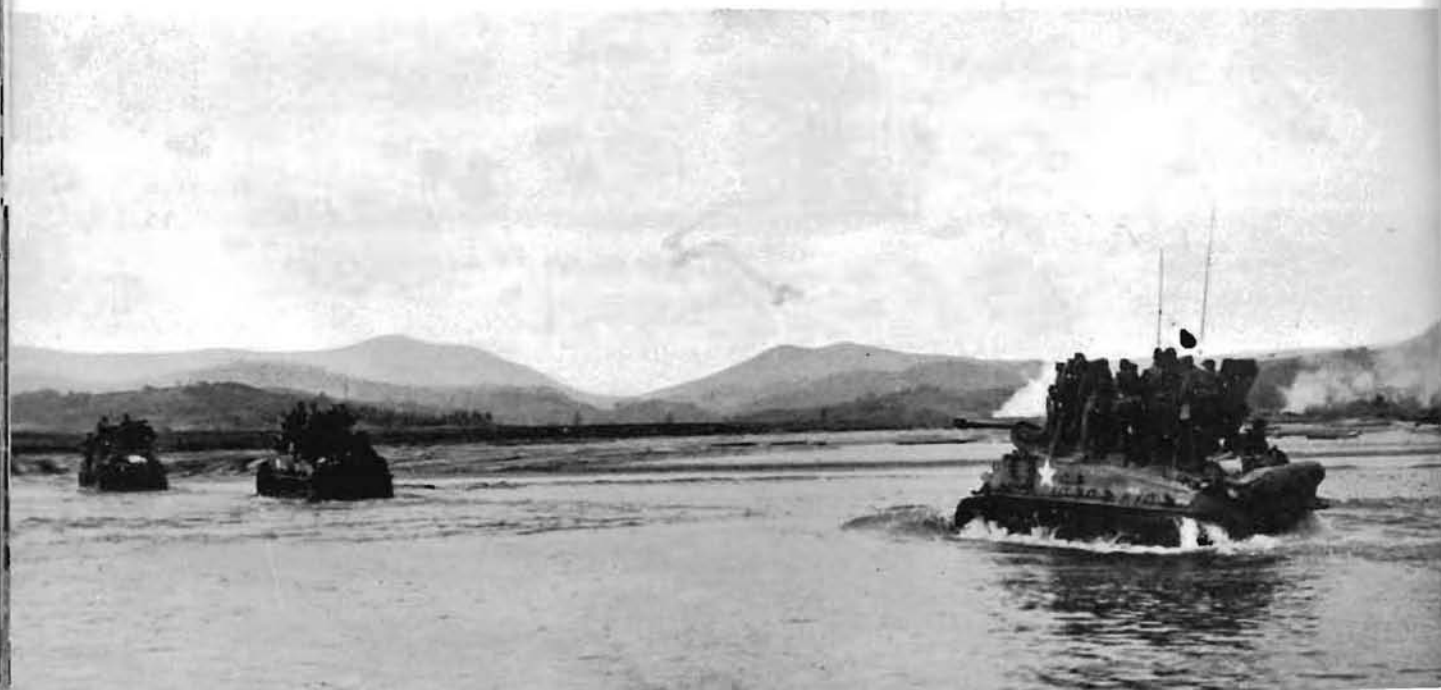
On 20 October, another kind of hell poured down from the sky. The 187th Airborne RCT, lofted-in from bases in Japan, parachuted into the Anju-Sukchon region about 30-miles above the NK capital. The combat jump severed the supply and escape routes of Pyongyang's defenders and jeopardized their attempts to regroup.





CHONGCHON RIVER

The advance to the Chongchon River was virtually a cruise for the "Victory" Division—it motored confidently over roads cleared and secured by the 187th Airborne RCT. The river, however, constituted an almost insurmountable barrier to the land-locked armored columns of the 21st and 5th Regiments. Strategic bombing had mangled the Chongchon bridge, *above*, and engineers could not span the great gap with an artificial truss. A natural shoal was luckily discovered, and the division's machines crossed over this underwater bridge, *below*.





THE 24TH CROSSED CHONGCHON RIVER WITH 61ST MIDDLESEX REGIMENT ENGLISHMEN.

TOMMIES AND TAROMEN TEAMED UP

The 27th British Commonwealth Brigade, in league with the 5th RCT, attacked north from Sinanju. The Tommy, fighting side by side with the Taro-leafer, was one member of the UN team who was justly admired. His courage and high spirits were legend . . . the ready grin planted across a broad English

face was a good-humored invitation for an exchange of quips or—rations willing—a can of mellow British beer. The English troops worked well with the Taromen. In the ensuing actions, the two units often overlapped each other's positions while still maintaining perfect tactical harmony.

KNITTED CAPS and Bren guns were trademarks.



TANKS FIRED while Tommies moved out.



TO THE YALU

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur called on the North Korean government to lay down its arms and liberate all UN prisoners of war and civilian internees. This message was broadcast in Korean from Tokyo and Seoul, while three-million leaflets were dropped over areas still harboring active enemy troops. In conjunction with this, the allied high command ordered a major assault to trap the remaining NK's and free

all the territory south of the Yalu River. On 25 October, the 24th moved toward Chongju against no appreciable resistance. Logistical problems halted the advance for several days. The main line had simply outrun its supply columns and this compelled an emergency rationing of gasoline and food. The attack was resumed on 30 October with troops of the 19th Regiment . . . Kusong was reached on the following day.



THE EMACIATED BODY of a Yank PW found weeks after he was shot.



TARO-LEAF HOUSECLEANERS checked interiors and yards for destructive enemy-laid mines and booby-traps.

FINALE

General MacArthur's "Christmas offensive" was in full swing. Far to the east the 7th Infantry Division and ROK Army troops could see the frigid banks of the Yalu, and beyond the river, the icy hills of Red Manchuria. Since October, Chinese "volunteer" units were identified as assisting the crumbling North Korean army but the realization of victory and eventual peace seemed too close for the elated doughboy to foresee the

threat . . . to sense an imposing danger. It seemed all over but the parading. Events on the front to the east caused the corps commander, on 1 November, to direct the 24th Division to discontinue the attack. By that time the 24th was but a few miles from Sinuiju, the NK's provisional capital since the fall of Pyongyang. No gains were made while the 24th stood pat above Kusong. Then came . . . the order to march to the Yalu.

DOUGHBOYS NEARING KUSONG plodded past stunted and burnt shrubbery that testified to the efficiency of allied artillery strikes. North Koreans rightly feared the UN's big guns.





AT DAWN, THE 21ST REGIMENT'S "TASK FORCE STEPHENS" PUSHED OFF FOR THE YALU RIVER.

"TASK FORCE STEPHENS"

The 21st Regiment organized "Task Force Stephens" and accelerated north toward Sinuiju, the last NK outpost on the basin of the Yalu River. By midday, 26 November, the salient was within artillery range of the mouth of the Yalu.

BUNDLES OF CORN-STALKS often housed nests of snipers. Koreans were ingenious craftsmen in the art of personal camouflage and the use of simple materials of the soil for effective disguises.



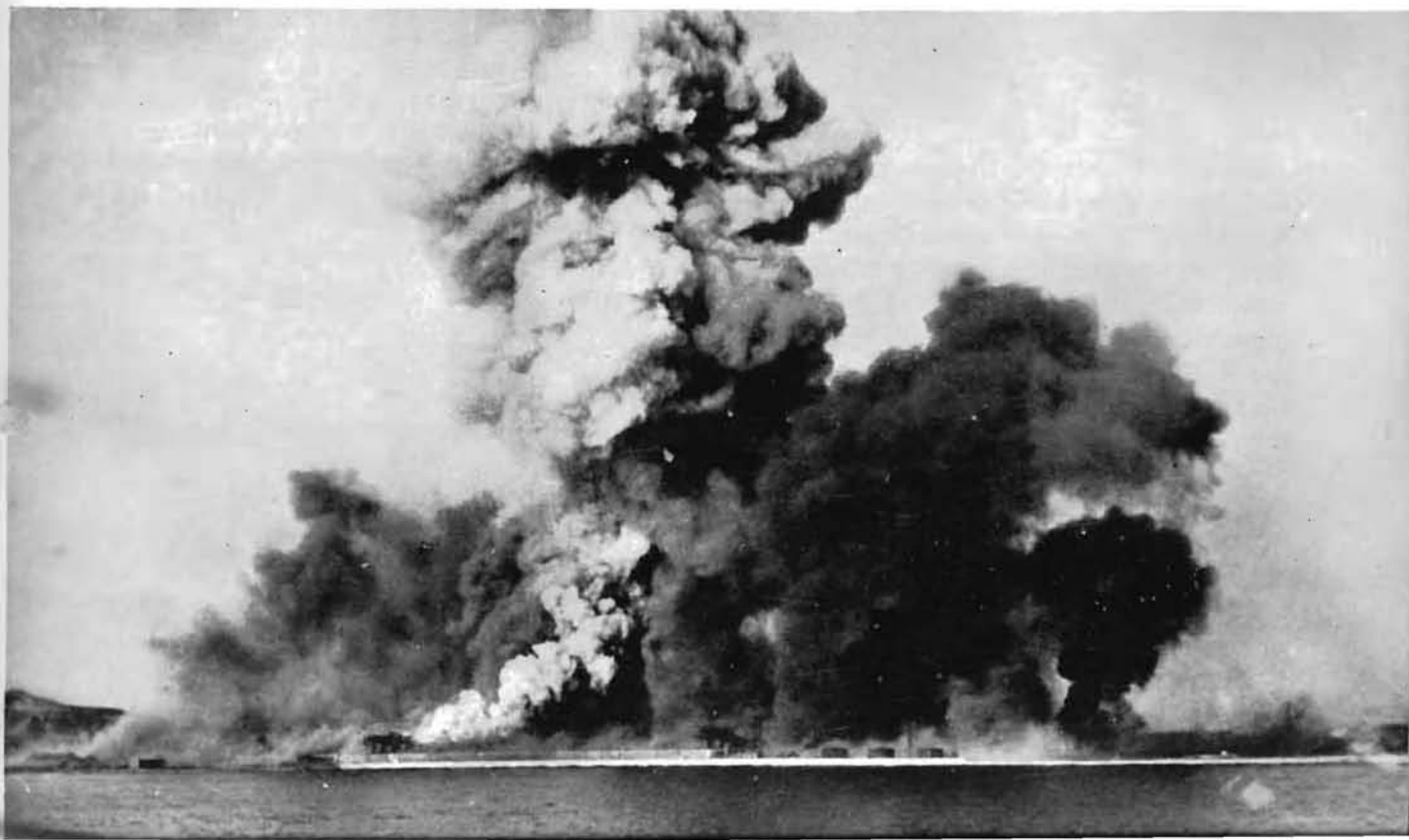


"WHAT D'YA DO IN THE INFANTRY ...?"

A pair of good boots was the Yank's best friend. In them, throbbing feet passed many long days and nights ... weary weeks of forced cross-country marches. Sturdy combat boots were the staunch allies of the doughfoot, universal symbols of the enduring ground soldier with whom rested the outcome of any war.



The 24th Division fell a scant 17-miles short of touching the shores of the vaunted Yalu, *above*, or of seeing the frost-capped Everwhite Mountains. Ultimate victory seemed to be but days ahead when the news rocketed around the world ... Chinese Communist forces poured from their Manchurian stronghold in crushing numbers.





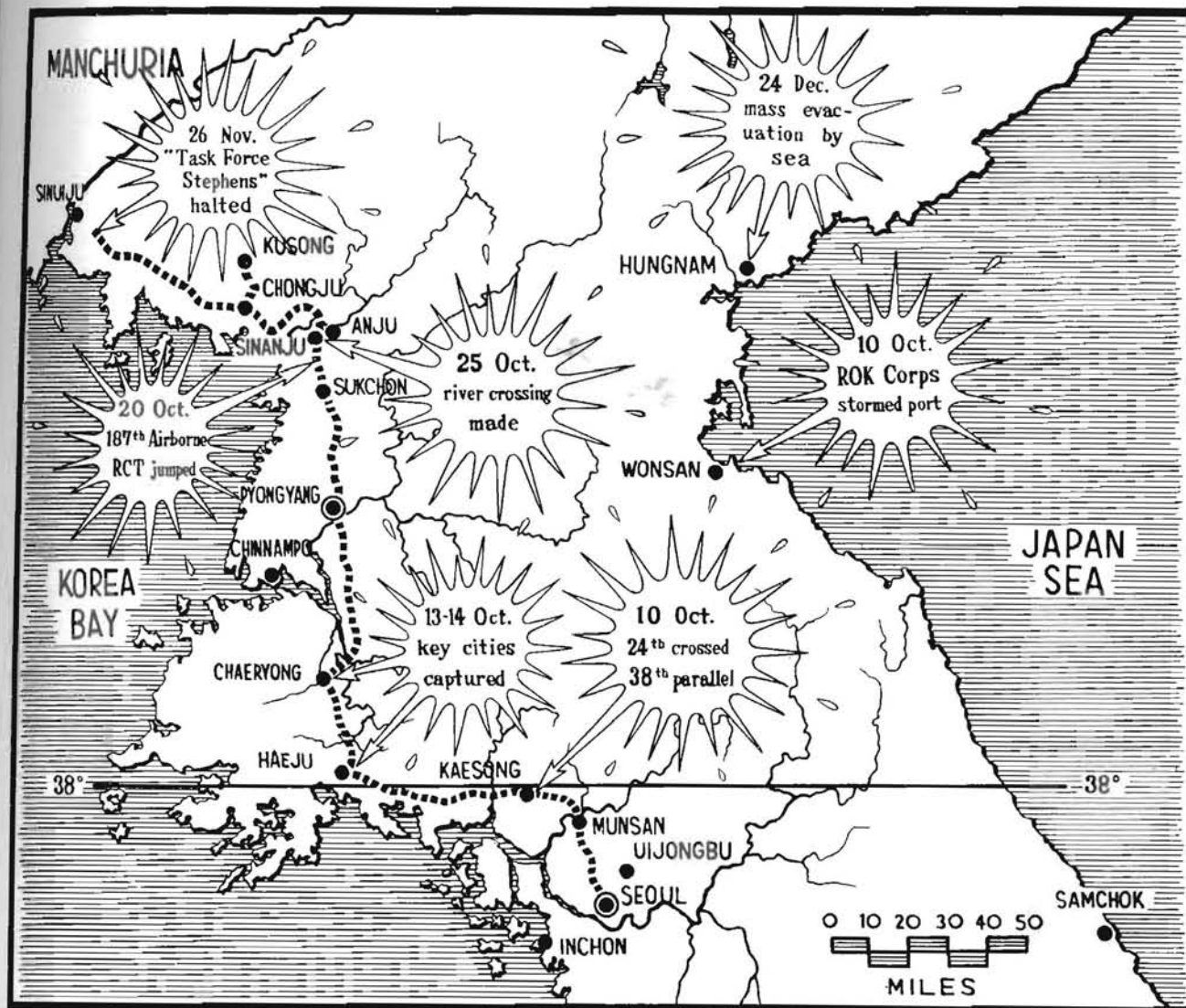
THE DECEMBER STORY started with the swift unwarranted Chinese intervention in the conflict. Mile-long truck convoys headed the withdrawal down the frozen main supply routes.

CCF STORMED THE YALU

During November the Chinese Communist forces were being poured into the Korean battle in ever-increasing numbers. A warning of what was to come was broadcast by Radio Peking following a vitriolic propaganda blast against the U.S. Peking asserted that Red China "will always stand on the side of the Korean people." By the end of November the estimated strength of the CCF in Korea exceeded 200,000 men and the potential for reinforcement was building up in Manchuria. On the night of 26-27 November, several fresh Chinese field armies crossed the Yalu, hammered at every allied forward position across the peninsula, and began what Gen. Douglas MacArthur termed, "a new war".

THE FIRST CCF TROOPS taken by the UN were experienced soldiers who had fought in the Sino-Japanese war.





"IF YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, BURN IT!" The destruction of stockpiled materiel, surplus fuel, and deadlined vehicles, was part of a costly, but necessary, "scorched earth" policy.





EXODUS

From newly resettled regions in the far north, from secluded villages and skeleton cities threatened by the resurgence of Communist aggression, evacuees again sought a haven in the south.





TWO RECAPTURED TAROMEN, weakened by NK brutality, were carried to an aid station on the backs of Korean porters. They were freed by 25th Division troops after three months internment.

WITHDRAWAL

A LIBERATED YANK contracted a malignant foot infection while being held captive by North Korean soldiers.



Eighth Army elements to the east had been stopped, and suddenly the 24th Division was threatened from the rear by mass CCF infantry who had infiltrated through the line. A brief defensive effort was staged along the line drawn from Kusong to Chongju. It stalled the enemy sufficiently and gained time for the division to regroup for an orderly withdrawal southward. UN bridgeheads north of Anju and Sinanju received intense poundings by Red artillery, the like of which had not been felt since the NK's had rated as top-flight contenders. The division disengaged, gave up the Chongchon River to the CCF, and drew back fifteen miles. From staging areas below the river the advance guard of an allied force was preparing to move north again to feel out and evaluate Red might arrayed against them. On 29 November, this limited offensive, formulated by the division's strategists, came to an untimely end. The enemy had interposed a strong task force dangerously near the 24th's escape route to Pyongyang. A tactical withdrawal by the motorized "Victory" Division outsped the would-be ambushing party.



Bands of Korean refugees struggled southward in a second migration to safety. The lucky ones salvaged old fashioned handcars, *above*, and chanced traveling the main RR lines despite the heavy rail traffic. Safety from the oncoming CCF hordes, was the only consideration.



South Korean internal security police, *above*, rooted out and detained Red agents infiltrating the columns of fleeing refugees. This minimized the danger of Red snipers slipping behind lines to plague US troops, *below*, marching to Pyongyang.





THE FIRST FROST STRUCK WITH A VENGEANCE. LADEN TAROMEN TRAMPED ICED PATHS.

RIVER LINE

The 24th Division came to a brusque halt above the Taedong River and assembled along its ice-crust banks several miles from Pyongyang. The composite result of coordinated patrolling by all three regiments, was negative. Chinese tactics were beginning to fit into a pattern. Quick disengagements were followed by quiet stretches of unnerving inaction. Then savage thrusts were flung at UN positions in the hope that

the allied defense had deteriorated during the lull. In opposition to the UN's holding operations along the Taedong River line were eight CCF combat divisions and an additional reserve force of six CCF divisions. Strong, sustained attacks, punctuated by the usual Communist infiltration and flanking moves soon drove holes into the river line. This made the front above Pyongyang, untenable. Again, a withdrawal was ordered.

SNIPER-RIDDEN HOVELS, crumbling from disuse, were festering sore spots in the division's zone of responsibility.



FROZEN EARTH of the gigantic steps of a terraced rice paddy, defied entrenching tools and pick-mattocks.





A 75MM SHELL with its characteristic perforated casing was fed into the breech of a recoilless rifle.



PRO-COMMUNIST PLACARDS failed to distract these card-playing Taromen.

The 1st Cavalry Division, which had spearheaded the drive north, was the last to be evacuated from enemy threatened soil north of the Taedong River. To the 24th fell the assignment of covering the 1st Cav's with-

drawal, and providing a rear guard to superintend the sealing-off of the approach routes across the river. With this successfully done, the "Victory" Division shuttled back below the 38th parallel.

LEAD ELEMENTS of over-jubilant CCF troops charged headlong into strong UN defenses north of Pyongyang. The patrol repelled by 5th RCT doughboys, **below**, had no time to retrieve its dead.

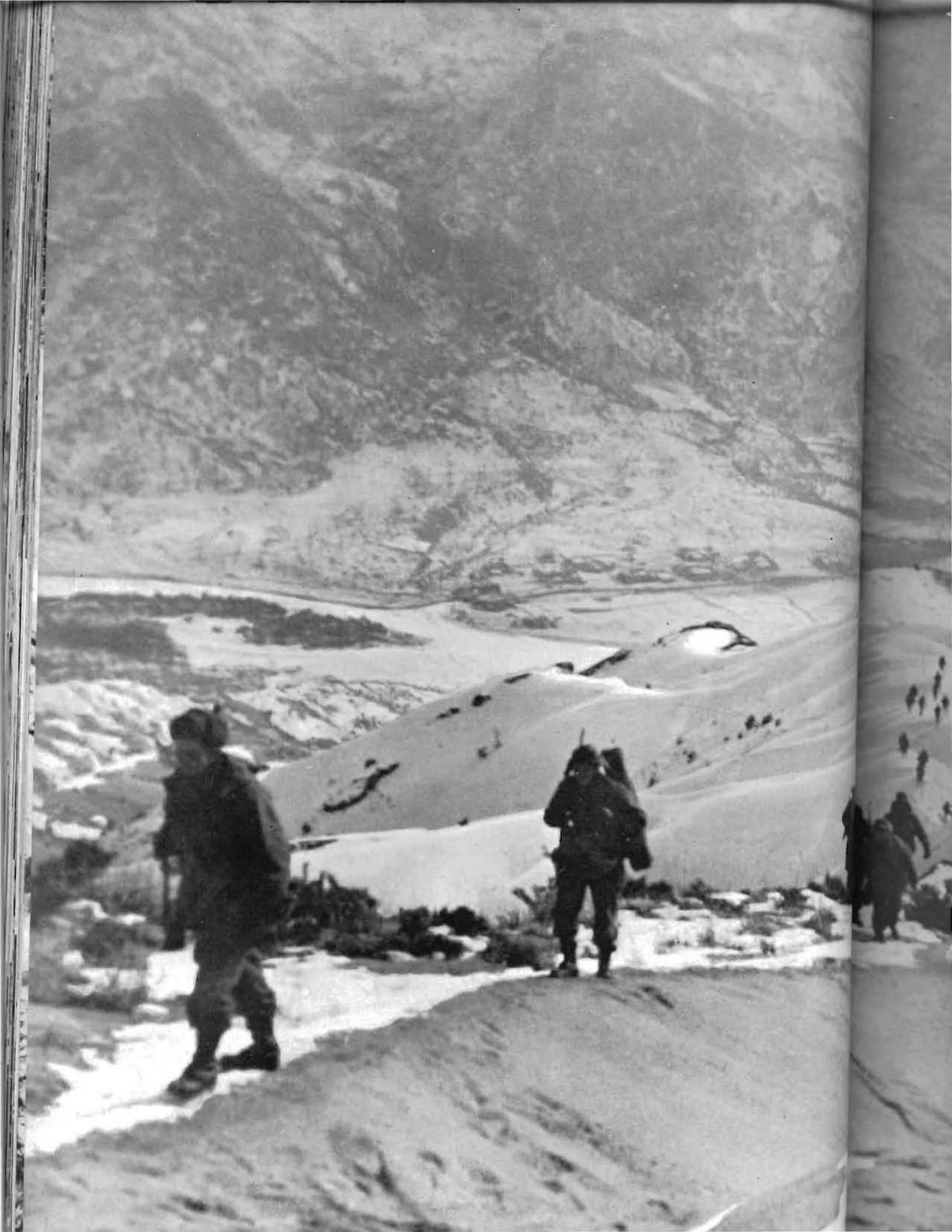


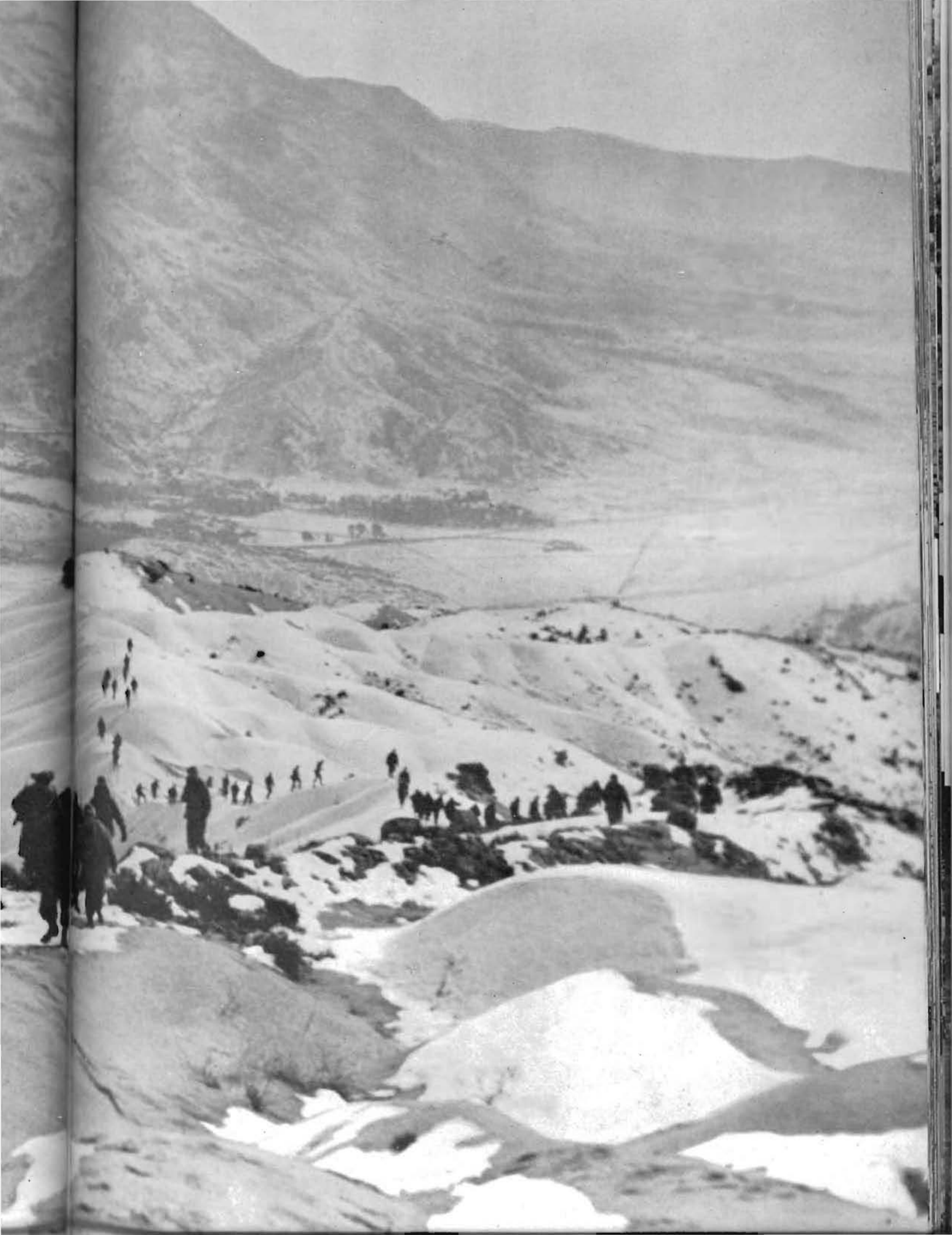


WINTER

The first swirling blizzards of late November were bone-chilling harbingers of things to come. From icy Siberia, winds of gale velocity whipped southward, throwing thick blankets of sleet and snow across the hills and lowlands of the Korean peninsula. The homeless refugees suffered in the cruel and unabating sub-zero weather. Even the doughboy, with his superior clothing, was miserable. The wet cold was through his pile lined parka; it invaded his rubbersoled shoepacs. Exercise was his only weapon against the numbing, penetrating, killing cold.









NATURAL FORTRESS. The craggy hills north of the parallel were, strategically speaking, a mixed blessing. Although they could be easily defended, they were incredibly difficult to assault.

CONGESTION. Displaced farmfolk and their draught animals huddled together for warmth and shelter. They jammed the few roads and passes that were not reserved for military traffic.



LOFT



PROM

TANK





LOFTY RIDGETOPS MADE FINE FIRING STAGES FOR .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS OF THE 19TH.



PROMINENT MOUNTAIN PEAKS TOWERED BETWEEN THE CCF AND A 5TH RCT OUTPOST.

TANK-INFANTRY RECONNAISSANCE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE A HARD, FALLOW RICEFIELD.





A FORWARD OBSERVER for Divarty (Division Artillery) radioed a warning to the tank rumbling into the valley, **left center**, of outgoing battery rounds falling into the road beyond the pass.



PERIODIC BREAKS OFFERED HURRIED MOMENTS OF REST. COMBAT GEAR WAS UNHITCHED.

ARMORED PATROLLING never ceased. Tanks lumbered near Pyongyang.

NO TIME TO DIG IN. Riflemen furnished covering fire for UN outfits fording the Taedong.



TWICE BITTEN

The repressed resentment on the faces of the two youthful Koreans, *right*, resulted from the double dose of destruction that was leveled at their homes and families...innocent non-participants in the conflict. From the steps of their shattered house they had seen the third action seesaw its way indelibly across the rolling hill country south of Seoul. From the worn and discarded equipment of the UN army—torn combat boots, ripped fatigue uniforms and caps—they were forced to salvage wearable garments. The older, less adaptable refugees, *below*, fared even worse. Their lot was that of the wanderer with little hope for resettlement in the near future. The personal integrity and pride of the Korean, however, was another matter...it could not be dimmed even by his absolute dependence for all things on the UN's benevolence.





A SUDDEN FISSURE ADMITTED AN 11-MILE PENETRATION BY A TANK-INFANTRY TEAM.

MORE HELP

During November the UN Command was augmented by the arrival in Korea of contingents from several nations. Early in the month, the Thai Expeditionary force and a Thai Naval Corvette unit entered the Korean theater. After consolidating and refitting in Japan, the 2nd US Infantry Division added more strength to the Eighth Army. The South African Air Force took to the skies in its first mission for the Far East Air

Force, and India's 60th Field and Surgical Unit added its humanitarian efforts to the over-taxed UN medical facilities. Additional troop strength came from the Netherlands Detachment and the French Battalion, both of which arrived soon after the Red recapture of Pyongyang. This raised to nine, the number of nations contributing army combat forces to the United Nations fight against Communist aggression in Korea.

DISEASE AND FAMINE THINNED THE POPULACE THAT CHOSE TO REMAIN IN RED KOREA.



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ALIEN ART

A granite monument from a bygone dynasty piqued the curiosity of three Taro-leafers and their adopted mascot, an orphaned Korean youngster. Century-old statuary eulogizing Korea's ancient soldier kings, were found in secluded sections of the country. Occasional lapses during the action gave sightseeing Yanks a chance to become tourists for a day.



MEMBERS OF 24TH RECON. BROUGHT A HURT RED TO THE REAR IN A MAKESHIFT LITTER.

AN INDIFFERENT "MAMASAN," oblivious of the mortarmen behind her, laundered her wash.



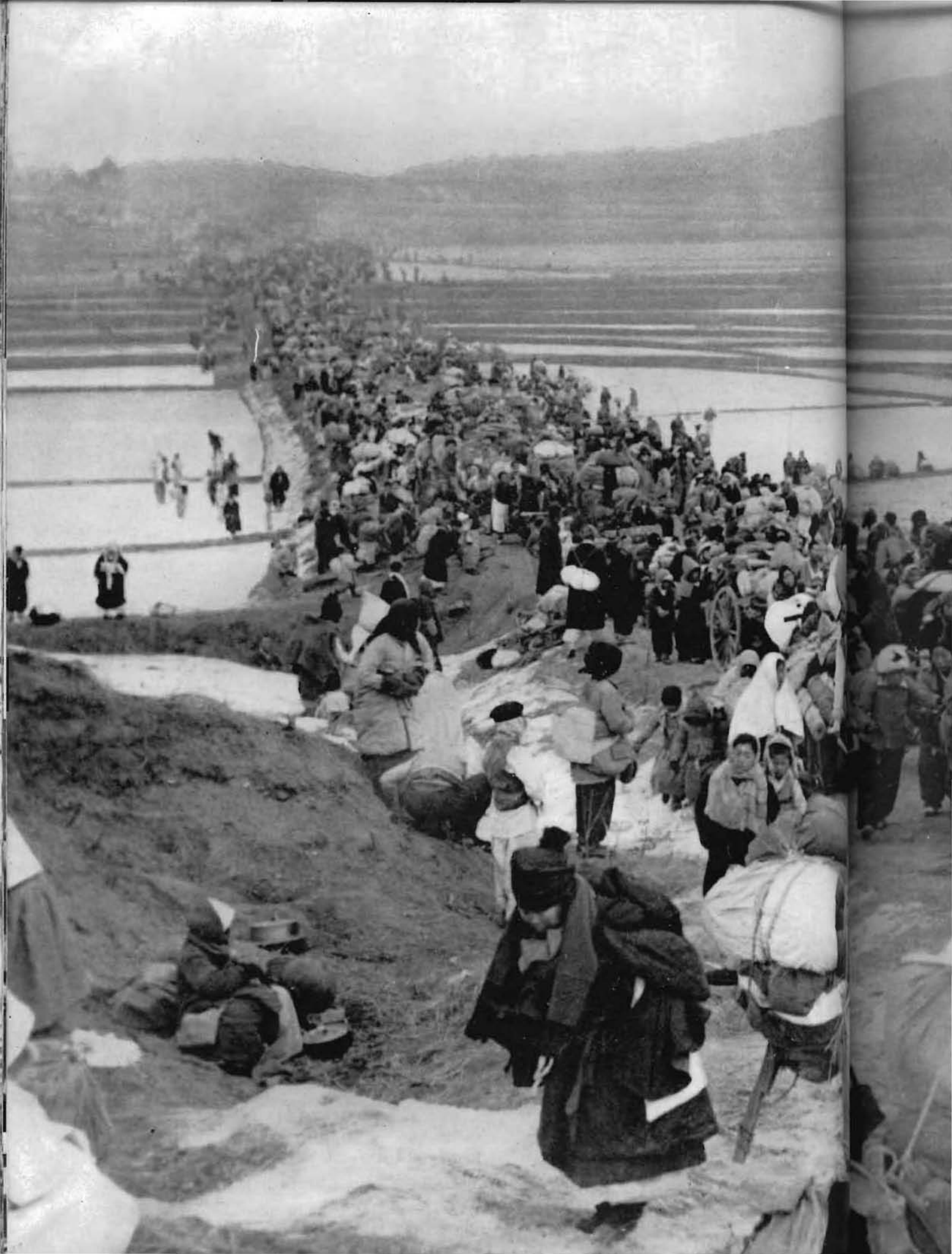
AERIAL CHALLENGE

The UN's supremacy in the air was challenged for the first time during the Korean operation by Chinese-piloted modern jets. Russian-produced MIG-15's engaged in aerial combat over Korea in early November, attacking UN planes in the Sinuiju area. The Communists took full advantage of the sanctuary afforded them beyond the Manchurian border. CCF aircraft were clearly observed taking off from Antung, Manchuria, for attacks south of the Yalu River. The Chinese jets in North Korean skies, however, failed to seriously crimp allied aerial activity. The short-ranged jets confined their sweeps to "MIG Alley," a narrow skylane hundreds of ground miles from the front. At first, Communist pilots were only of nuisance value.



"A" FRAME CHECKPOINT

A radio discreetly operated behind UN lines by a Red agent could stifle any attempt of maintaining internal security. Often, wireless equipment was smuggled inside bundles of personal effects to misdirect searchers' efforts.







SNOW TAMPED into a can was heated. Powdered soluble coffee was then added.



A FRESH LEG OF BEEF was bartered from local villagers by an astute mess steward.

UIJONGBU

The Eighth Army moved "en masse" below the 38th parallel, subdivided a defense perimeter above Seoul, and assigned sectors to its subordinate units. The 24th Division encamped near Uijongbu and waited for the Chinese Communist offensive to be resumed. With the exception of deep patrolling and incidental skirmishing by both sides, no noteworthy activity took place in the Seoul sector during the first three weeks of December.



CANNED C-RATIONS, the mainstay of the doughboy's diet, were rare treats for this Korean.

FOOT TRAVEL WAS THE ONLY RELIABLE WAY TO NAVIGATE HARD-PACKED SNOWFIELDS.





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DIGGING IN



The narrow, frozen plain above Uijongbu was an accessible approach to Seoul. All three regiments took up positions side by side and spanned the breadth of the corridor. Earthworks were thrown up and ice-hard dirt was blasted loose for deep entrenchments. Barbed wire apron fences were strung, and camouflage was rigged by the artillery battalions. A defense line was thus readied ten miles north of Seoul as a last resort for the protection of the capital.



GENERAL WALKER KILLED



THE GENERAL, above, observed artillery emplacements before his fatal accident. Maj. Gen. Frank W. Milburn, **upper right,** assumed command of EUSAK as acting CG on 23 December. Capt. Sam Walker, **right,** son of the late general, was called from combat duty to escort his father's remains.



On 23 December, the free world received news of the loss of Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker, the gruff, pugnacious commander of the Eighth Army. From forward positions he had led a successful defensive action during the early months. He had followed up with a brilliant exploitation of the NK collapse and had just

completed an evasive displacement of his troops in the teeth of the Chinese invasion. His death, resulting from injuries incurred when his jeep was struck by a larger vehicle, was more than a military loss . . . it saddened Yanks who frequently saw the stocky General walking along the battlelines.

THIS 6TH ROK DIVISION TRUCK COLLIDED WITH THE JEEP IN WHICH LT. GEN. WALKER RODE.



THE F
waitin



THE FLAG-BEDECKED CASKET of Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker was lifted aboard a special aircraft waiting at an airbase in Japan for the funeral flight to the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

LT. GEN. MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY arrived at Kimpo airfield on 27 December to succeed the late Lt. Gen. Walker as commander of the Eighth US Army in Korea. With him, **left**, rode Col. William A. Collier, Deputy Chief of Staff for Eighth Army.





SNUB-NOSED LST's lowered their bow-ramps.



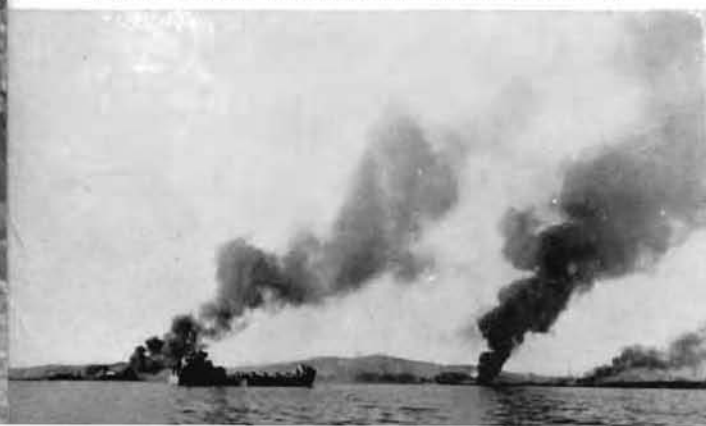
TROOP CARRIERS evacuated 100,000 civilians.

HUNGNAM

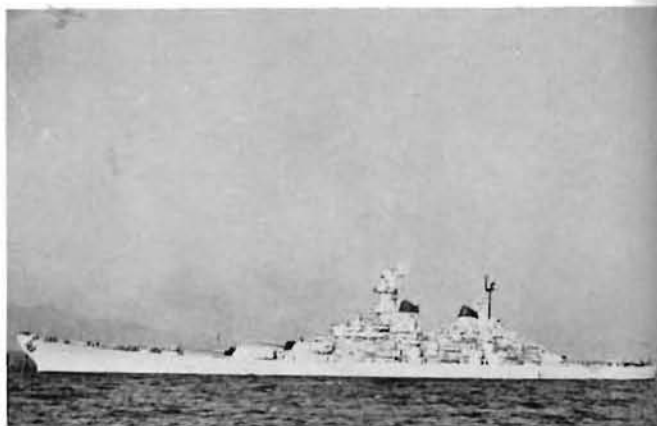
The X US Corps had operated out of the east coast ports of Wonsan and Hungnam in the joint move to the Yalu River. Elements of the corps had forged northward to the border at several points. But the advance was short-lived. The massive weight of the CCF attack forced the withdrawal of the corps from its northeastern holdings. Surrounding Red forces pursued it ruthlessly southward, through the bitter December cold. By nightfall, 11 December, the 1st Marine Division and elements of the 7th Infantry Division had retracted to the coastal plain outside of Hungnam. Red efforts to disrupt embarkation were foiled by artillery strikes coupled with air and naval support. The evacuation, on the afternoon of 24 December, however, once again gave the enemy control of Korea north of a line generally along the 38th parallel.



X US CORPS ENGINEERS destroyed the port.



USS MISSOURI harassed Reds with overhead fire.





civilians.



d fire.



Christmas dinner in the traditional manner was relished by 24th "Taromen." Without exception, "turkey and trimmings" were brought to every member of the "Victory" Division. It took time and trouble to reach them, but the division's service companies performed a logistical miracle.





A RIFLE COMPANY CROUCHED BEHIND A RIDGELINE WAS CALLED OUT FOR AN ALERT DRILL.



A PRIMITIVE FORM of hygiene was practiced.

RED APPROACH

Christmas week erupted with feints and light skirmishes. Chinese Communist forces had crossed the 38th parallel in the Kaesong area on Christmas day. Eighteen CCF divisions were jockeying into position for a push into Seoul, and the Eighth Army anticipated a massive drive. Despite reports of enormous concentrations of Red troops swarming over the boundary, Taro-leafers near Uijongbu still went through the motions of observing the Yuletide.

A 50-PERCENT GUARD WAS POSTED DURING THE ACTION. ONE SLEPT — ONE WATCHED.





RILL.



A PATROL LEADER TOOK CAREFUL AIM. NOTE CARTRIDGE EJECTED FROM THE CARBINE.

CHINESE OFFENSIVE

For its psychological effect, the Chinese timed their long expected offensive for New Year's day, 1951. Its inevitability was common knowledge to allied intelligence which had learned through intensive aerial reconnaissance of the considerable buildup of strategic supplies behind CCF lines. Only the magnitude of the impending drive was unknown.

The enemy employed his main force of 18 divisions, struck at friendly forces to the north and northeast of Seoul, and pierced the defense line at several key points from ten to twelve miles in depth. This effort, coupled with an assault on the central front, endangered the UN perimeter ringing Seoul. An allied withdrawal through Seoul began.

"CHIGGEE" BEARERS laden with rations toiled up a hill near the Uijongbu-Seoul highway.



LITTERS were brought into the field just before the 21st went on line.





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BRITISH "CRUSADER" TANKS of the Eighth King's Royal Irish Hussars joined the departure from Seoul. The Britons had absorbed heavy casualties during the withdrawal from the Chongchon River.

SQUEEZE PLAY

By 4 January 1951, Seoul was abandoned and UN forces were forced to displace south of the Han River to protect their flanks. A pall of smoke rose from the central sections of the city as rear guard tank-infantry teams fought a sharp running battle with CCF assault battalions. The 24th Division was charged with funneling the bulk of the Eighth Army—still

operating in the capital—to the south bank of the river and the safety of a prearranged defense line. Blocking positions were taken up by the 19th Regiment at the entrances of three adjacent bridges spanning the Han River. Teams of division engineers and M.P.s quickly mapped out lanes and established an efficient system of traffic control across the Han.

LAST TO EXIT. An English "Centurian" drove over the sandflats and across the shallows of the Han.

A PENNANT, once flown in victory, was an ironic reminder of the September liberation.





CAVALCADE. Columns of vehicles motored across the Han River pontoon bridge. At night, lanterns and flares illuminated the driving lanes to ensure an uninterrupted, around-the-clock movement.

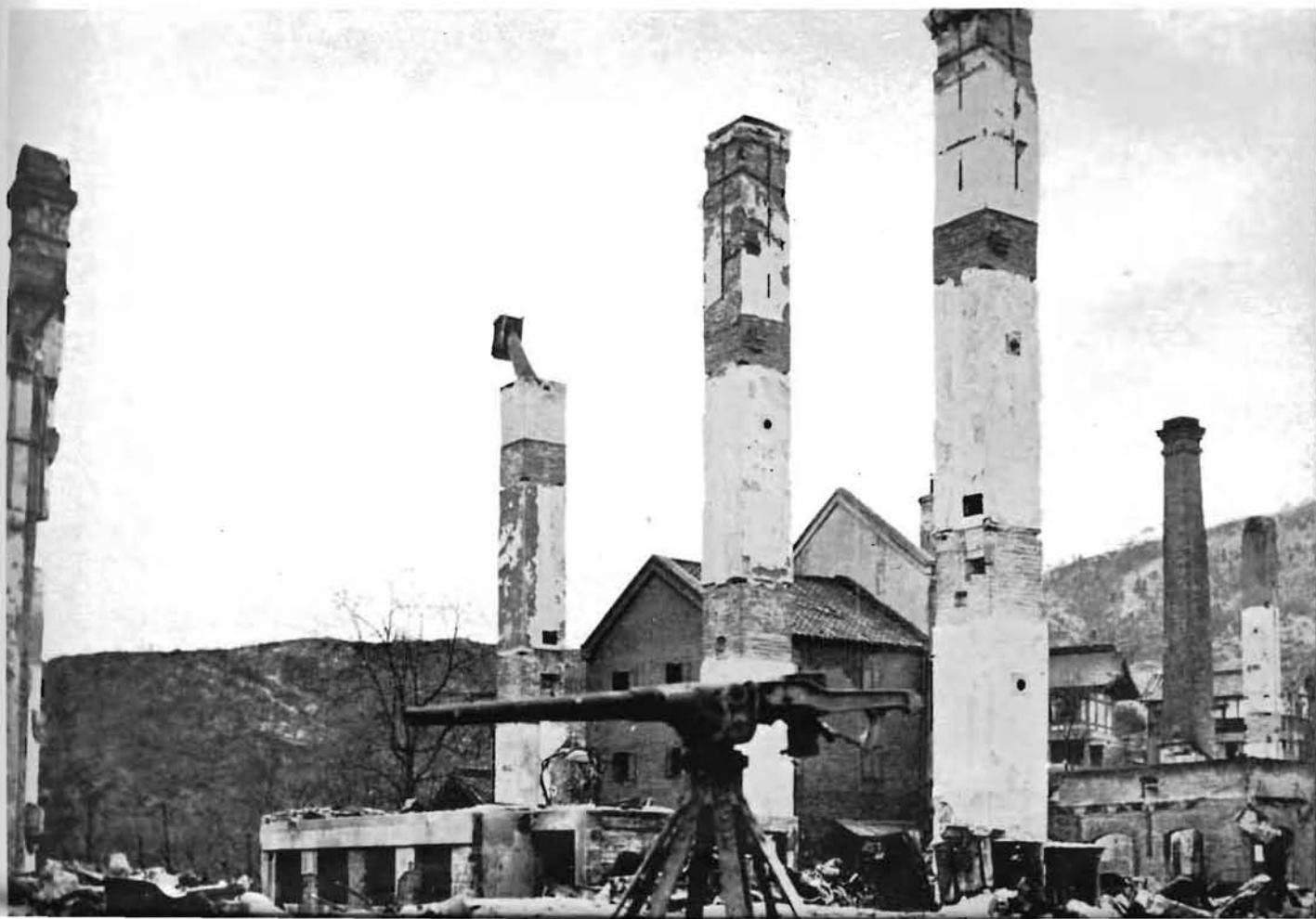
OVERHEAD COVER. A panama straw, somewhat worse for wear, was donned by a dapper doughboy with the 5th RCT during the shift across the Han. A steel helmet, however, was within instant reach.





VANDALISM

Wanton destruction by Red forces laid waste to the 50-year old Korean Severance Hospital and medical college, *above*, and the scientific museum. Invaluable, medieval firearms were looted from the ordnance exhibit, *below*, before the building was flattened by Chinese artillery. Both institutions formerly stood in Seoul.





RADIOS LINKED A RECONNAISSANCE PATROL NEAR SEOUL WITH FIRE DIRECTION CONTROL.



A REAR GUARD FORCE HUGGED A KNOLL WHILE EXCHANGING SMALL ARMS FIRE WITH CCF.

MG FIRE WHIPPED OVERHEAD. TAROMEN SPRINTED TO THE COVER OF AN OUTCROPPING.



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THROUGH A SPOTTER'S SCOPE MOVEMENTS ON THE FAR SIDE OF TOWN WERE OPEN SECRETS.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

On 7 January, the 24th Division took up new defensive positions near well-remembered Pyongtaek, the scene of two previous actions. It was this grim coincidence of the "yo-yo" war that enabled doughboys to climb into fox-

holes they had dug six months ago. During the ensuing days, the enemy maintained only light patrol contact and began deploying his assault forces along a course parallel to strong-points 10-miles from the UN's MLR.

A "PATTON" TANK SINGLEHANDEDLY FIRED AND DESTROYED THE ENTIRE RED-HELD VILLAGE.



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TWO SK YOUTHS MUFFLED THE EAR-SPLITTING DIN OF A "SHERMAN" TANK'S CANNON.

WONJU

The Eighth Army's new line extended from Pyongtaek northeastward to Wonju. Before mid-January eleven NK divisions and elements of a Chinese Communist corps raced down the center of the peninsula, crashed through Chunchon and struck at Wonju. Here the 2nd "Indian-head" Division, with the attached Netherlands and French battalions, made their historic stand. The Reds used "human wave" tactics and attacked relentlessly with huge numerical superiority. They repeatedly overran elements of the division.

A CANDY BAR and an easy smile dispelled some of the young Korean's shyness.



Heavy infiltration forced the 2nd to draw back, consolidate, and blindly fight its way through strong roadblocks set up by night raiders. Momentarily taking the offensive, units of the 2nd Division surprised an NK force preparing positions just southeast of Wonju. After killing more than 200 enemy they withdrew to their defensive stronghold. The Communist attempt to envelop the division's emplacements came against record air and artillery strikes which, in unison with ground action, turned back the Red offensive.

RED ENGINEERS unwittingly left this crude foot-bridge intact for the Americans' use.



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A DAWN PATROL RETURNED FOR BRIEFING AFTER A FRUITLESS SEARCH FOR RESISTANCE.

THE TIDE TURNED

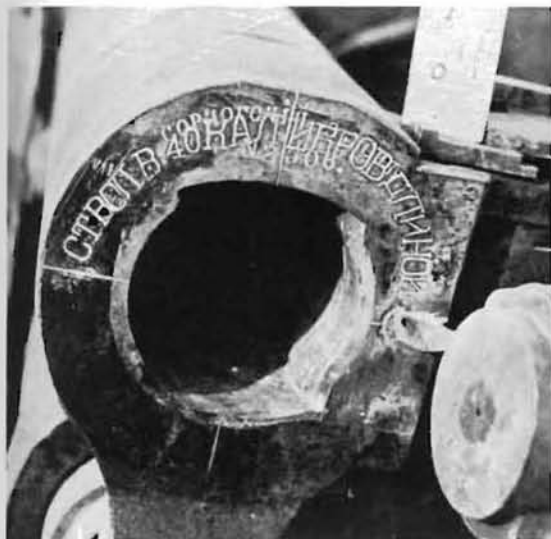
By the middle of January the Red attack faltered and aggressive UN patrols met only moderate resistance as far north as Suwon. At the same time, air sightings indicated numerous small scale displacements of enemy concentrations northward in an area south of the Han River. It was uncertain whether these minor withdrawals resulted from a genuine setback or were indicative of preparations for a new drive.

ARTILLERY CRASHED into the distant hills with reassuring precision, frequency, and volume.



"FIELD GUN, M1902/30, SOVIET."

These markings on the breech of a captured artillery piece identified its maker.





"INCOMING MAIL" FORCED TANK-RIDING YANKS OF THE 5TH RCT TO SCATTER AND SCOOT.

TANKERS PROBED DEEPLY INTO RED LINES

From its frozen outpost at Chang-howon-ni the 24th Division sent a series of tank patrols jabbing into Communist buildup areas. Riflemen in company and battalion numbers, bundled in their warmest winter gear, rode the gun carriages of the 6th's tanks. Infantry and armor duplicated the same flanking maneuver favored by the CCF. They side-stepped the enemy's forward strength, raided the vulnerable Chinese supply depots and inflicted heavy casualties among rear echelon groups.



AN M-46 "PATTON" that skidded into a drainage canal was towed out by a sister tank.

TAROMEN "TAKE TEN" ON AN OUTPOST HILL WHILE WAITING FOR A BARRAGE TO LIFT.





TIGER TANK

Minutes after this photograph was snapped, the M-4 "Sherman" buttoned-up and rumbled into the field once again.



After two weeks on line, a rifle company, *above*, trekked to a reserve bivouac for a three-day respite. The bare essentials for averting the cold—heavy clothing and mountain sleeping bags—were the only personal baggage brought down from the hills.



A platoon, *above*, scrambled up a much-traveled slope to assault a Red-held mountain fortress. During the bloodless action that followed, an isolated CCF squad, stunned and maimed by the week-long exposure to sub-zero temperatures, surrendered peacefully. They were led back, *below*, in the custody of United Nations' guards.



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SURLY CCF PRISONERS IN TATTERS, WERE TROOPED DOWN A SLOPE THEY FAILED TO HOLD.

OPERATION THUNDERBOLT

GOOD GROOMING. A persevering Yank kept up the shaving habit.



The UN's armored patrolling increased in tempo and scope. On 25 January, the Eighth Army accorded an official title to the front-wide operation. "Thunderbolt" emphasized the full weight of allied armor, artillery, and air to inflict maximum casualties. Although the recapture of enemy territory was not a principal goal, by the end of the month the Eighth Army occupied lost ground and consolidated a line of resistance three to five miles north of the Suwon-Ichon axis.

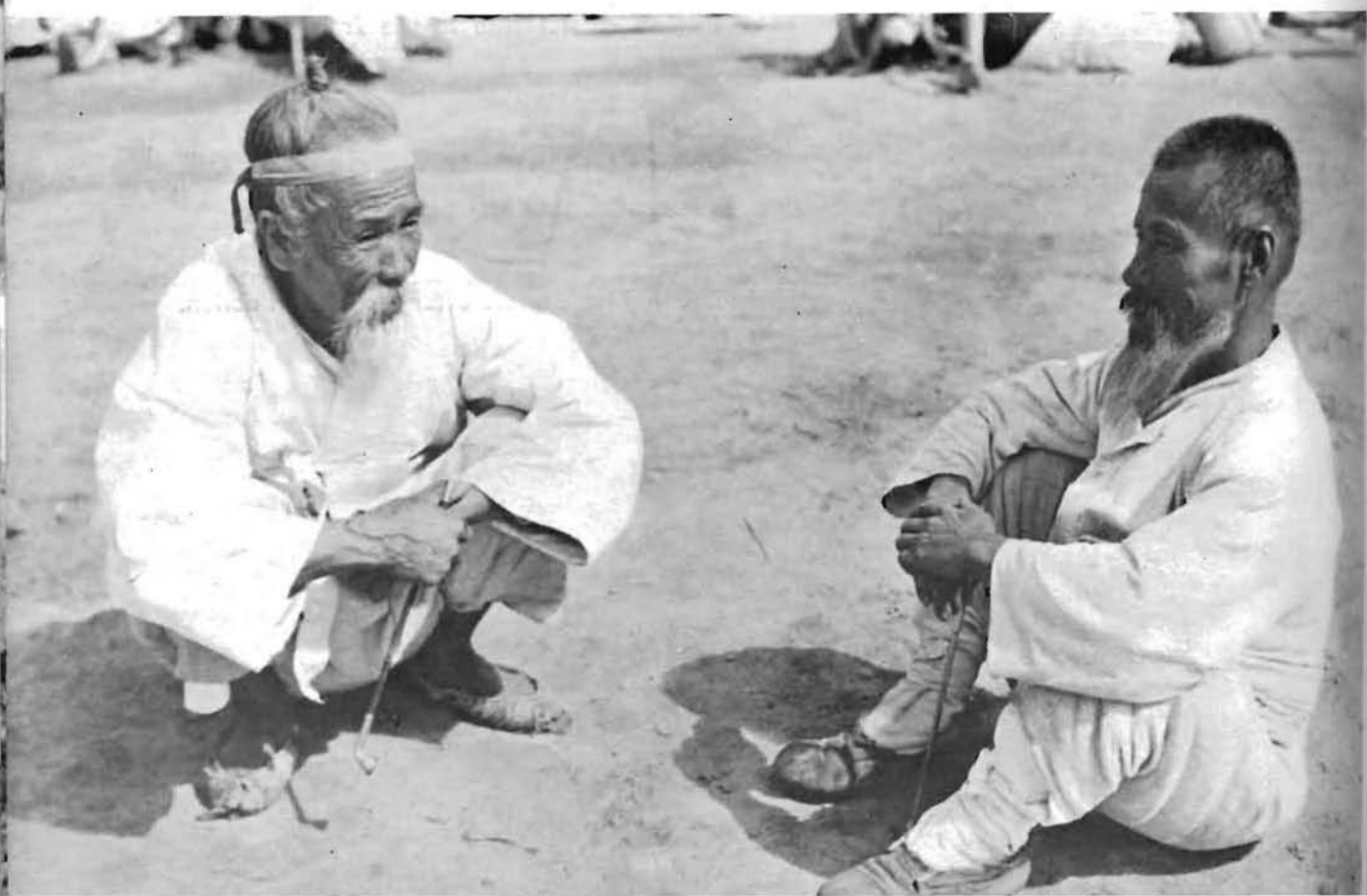
A COMMUNIST FLAG, worn for luck by its former owner, was confiscated by his captors after the Inchon action.





AT A
ments

During the first two weeks of January, southbound refugees exceeded all previous records. UN officials who directed the resettlement of displaced Koreans, took pains to safeguard personal effects. At an UNCACK (United Nations Civil Assistance Committee for Korea) camp, two aged brothers, *below*, were reunited after many months of separation.

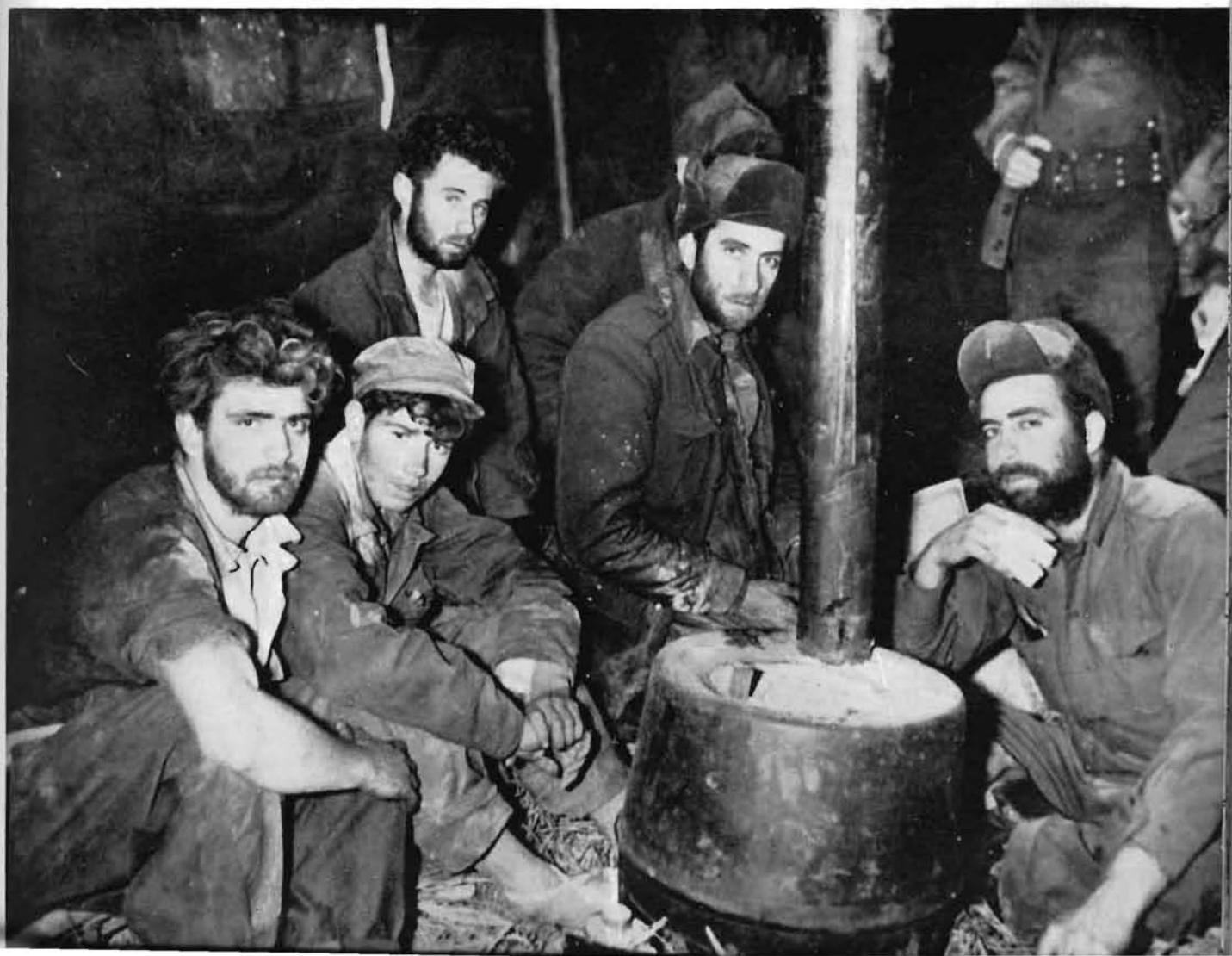


SIX A
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AT A REFUGEE CHECK POINT mine detector crews of the 21st's anti-tank platoon frisked instruments over knapsacks and bundles to suppress the smuggling of firearms and metallic contraband.

SIX AUSSIES AND YANKS, huddled by a stove in the 24th's medical clearing station, were returned to friendly lines by Chinese captors. Their opportune release was inspired by Communist propagandists.





"FRIENDLY ADVICE" blared from giant horns, leaped over the ridges, and reverberated through the valleys.

WINNING WITH WORDS

A projectile screamed into Chinese lines, but the violent blast of explosives failed to come. Instead, a shower of colorful leaflets was hurled into the air and carried by the wind into the hands of curious enemy soldiers. "Winter warfare," the leaflets read, "is upon you. Your bitter foe—THE COLD—has already taken a toll of your comrades . . . you can dig no grave for them in the frozen ground. Your Communist leaders continue their aggressive war. Facing increasing UN firepower, you are liable to suffer more casualties. Staying in a foreign country, you are very homesick. How much longer do you have before a bullet or an artillery shell finds



A COOPERATIVE PW voluntarily took over the mike to urge his comrades to desert the Communist fold.

you? The odds against you are great . . . **TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE! ESCAPE NOW!**" This message, disseminated either as printed matter or broadcast by powerful speaker units, was accompanied with written and verbal assurances of safe conduct and considerate treatment for those who deserted the Communist army. The use of psychological warfare leaflets (a random sampling is illustrated on the opposite page) was stepped up as the ferocity of the Korean winter approached its frozen climax. An all time high in propaganda output was reached on 6 February to capitalize on the enemy's observance of the Chinese New Year.

AMPLIFIERS of the 24th Division's psychological warfare team were installed in a convenient jeep trailer.



MOBILITY WAS THE KEYNOTE of the division's loudspeaker unit. Hill country often baffled the acoustical engineers . . . sound stages were fixed after time-consuming trial and error.





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迎命吧！





COMMUNIST PRISONERS rested in a compound near the 21st's CP after interrogation and a hot meal.



A THIRTEEN-YEAR OLD Chinese draftee was among the POW's taken.

OPERATION ROUNDUP

The invader's food supplies were becoming critically short. Small bands of Communists were pillaging to supplement their dwindling rations. To protect supplies from air attacks, the enemy used railroad tunnels to store ammunition and to conceal tanks and vehicles.

A further irritant to the Red's predicament was "Operation Roundup," a drive mounted in the western sector to clear enemy forces from the mountains behind UN lines. In a matter of days, pockets of infiltrators were blasted from the hills; lateral security was reassured.

THESE HANGDOG, PINCHED FACES belonged to Chinese prisoners of war who were snared in the Han River region. Many stumbled into American positions while foraging for food near the UN lines.



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A WINCING, FRIGHTENED CCF BATTLE CASUALTY RECEIVED TREATMENT AT AN AID STATION.

THE DIVISION MARSHALLED

By the end of February the Reds had been pushed ten miles behind Wonju on the central front and well into the Han River district along the western seaboard. The 24th Division continued to initiate deep, aggressive patrolling, but the more significant news was breaking behind the lines. Maj. Gen. Black-

shear M. Bryan, Jr. had assumed command of the 24th; the rest and recuperation program, granting veterans a five-day leave in Japan, had begun; PX supplies became more plentiful, mail deliveries more prompt, and a steady flow of replacements sped up from Pusan. Morale zoomed and efficiency was never better.

A RED PRISONER was brought in. Under his cotton-padded uniform he wore a plundered US fatigue jacket.





COMMO TEAM

Wire teams of the 24th Infantry Division went aquatic. Swollen, rampaging rivers were fed by a heavy runoff from melting snows on the higher elevations. A sharp-prowed fishing boat, *above*, was launched into the floe-packed currents with spools of field telephone wire to be strung taut over the flood waters.





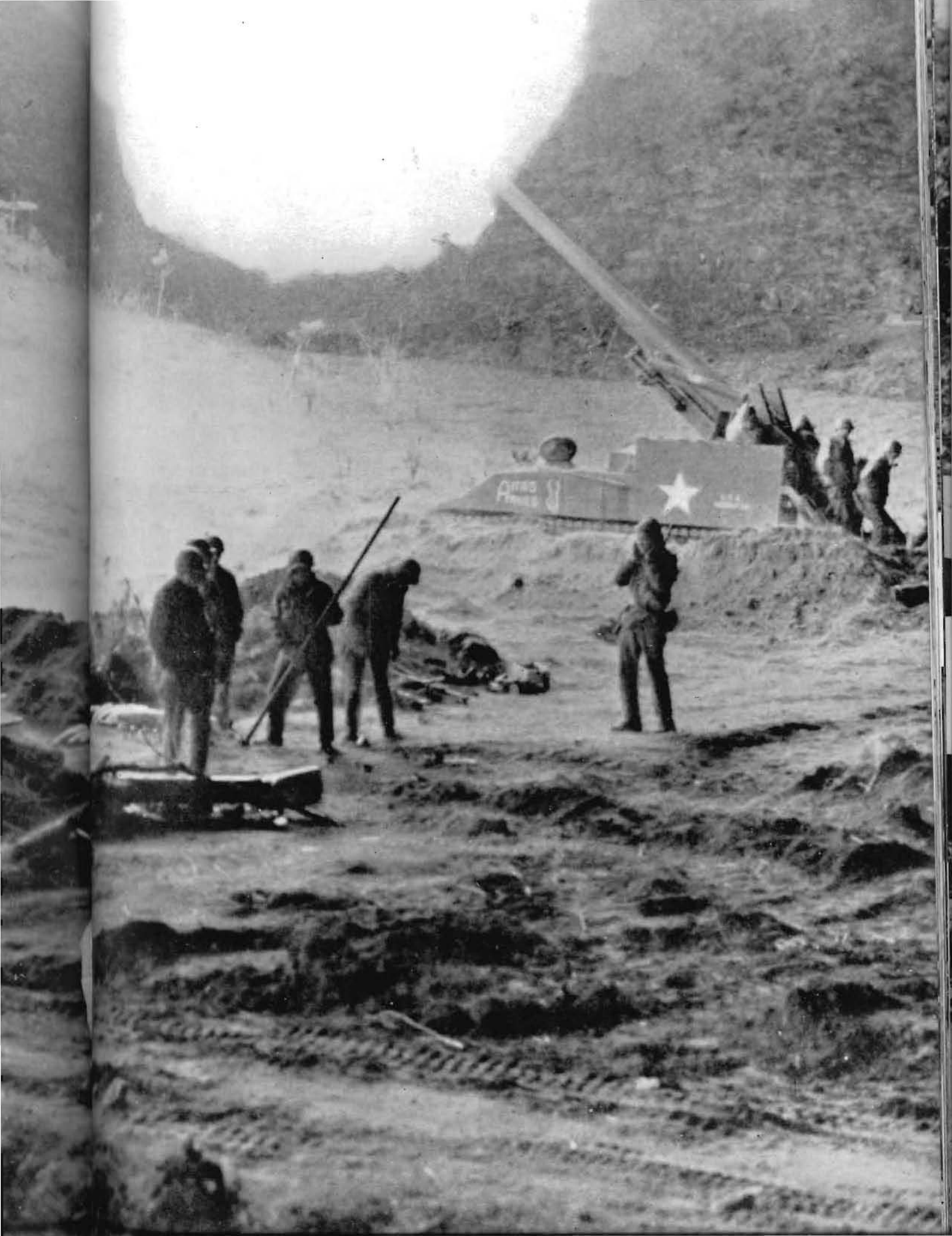
SWEDISH HOSPITAL

Sweden, a proud nation with a long-lived tradition of peace, donated to the UN cause in a manner which best suited her national temper. A large, competent staff of Swedish medical personnel arrived in Pusan on 23 September 1950 and founded a hospital, *above*, for injured UN servicemen. Shortly after, the death of their monarch, King Gustav IV, brought forth a convocation of mourners, *below*, to pay tribute to his memory.



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TAROMEN, LYING PRONE IN A FROZEN CREEK BED, PREPARED TO LOOSE BURSTS OF FIRE . . .

KILLER

On 21 February, "Operation Killer" was launched in the east central zone to bring UN units in that sector in line with forces to the west. Its scope was soon magnified in an operation that involved the whole of the Eighth Army. A series of combat missions was mounted to maintain continual pressure on the enemy, to prevent a buildup, and to inflict a maximum number of casualties. A secondary plan was proposed to flank Seoul thereby check its usefulness as a staging area for a countermove. Although the 24th was thinly dispersed across a wide front from

Ichon to the Han River, the division pushed off vigorously to destroy the off-balance aggressors. Allied infantrymen methodically pursued Red soldiers across the twisting mountain trails. Pockets were not bypassed. Every hill was flushed clean of enemy troops. Unmindful of his colossal losses—21,464 combined casualties for 7 March—the enemy continued to throw battalions against an impregnable curtain of artillery and tank fire. With reckless bravado, waves of bugle-blowing Chinese soldiers marched rank after rank into a wall of UN gunfire.

. . . TO COVER RIFLEMEN CLUSTERED IN A CULVERT, WAITING FOR THE WORD TO MOVE OUT.





A STUNNED, BEWILDERED CCF SOLDIER, WAS DISCOVERED TENDING A WOUNDED COMRADE . . .

RIPPER

A disabling cold descended on the combat zone by mid-March but this did not dint the fury of the UN's "war of attrition." The "Victory" Division embarked on a three stage advancement, code-named "Operation Ripper." During the first week of March, aggressive patrolling increased while infantrymen dashed over the Han River. Battalions were ferried across one at a time. On 7 March, all division units, as well as the supporting 999th Armored Field

Artillery Bn., were on a line of departure. The regiments, advancing abreast, cracked the 5,000 meter-deep Communist defense zone after countless wild clashes with bayonet-wielding, grenade-throwing Chinese. By 16 March, the division had reached the Pukhan River. The final effort of "Ripper" was made on 24 March . . . the entire division finally forded the Pukhan and set up its command post northeast of the city of Seoul.

... AFTER HIS PLATOON WAS SMASHED BY ARTILLERY. HE WAS SEARCHED AND MARCHED OFF.





SELF-PROPELLED 105MM HOWITZERS OF THE ATTACHED 6TH ARMORED JOLTED ALONGSIDE ...

COURAGEOUS

With the assistance of the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade, a familiar ally, the 24th followed up its decisive coup at the Pukhan River by driving northward of the 37th parallel. "Operation Courageous" was more a feat of engineering than an accomplishment by the force of arms. Construction engineers were confronted with a complete breakdown of the highways by flash floods and premature

spring thaws. Sticky, muddy roadbeds stalled and encased the ponderous armor, the strong arm of the division's limited offensive. Road builders and native labor gangs outdid even their earlier proficiency. They prompted the speed of the 24th's advance with ingenuity and industry. By the end of March, at the culmination of "Courageous," the division was poised within artillery range of the 38th.

... HALFTRACKS OF THE 21ST ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AND VETERAN 24TH FOOTSOLDIERS.





THE UNDOING OF A DESTROYER. AIR POWER SPOTTED AND KILLED THIS SOVIET-BUILT SP GUN.

IDES OF MARCH

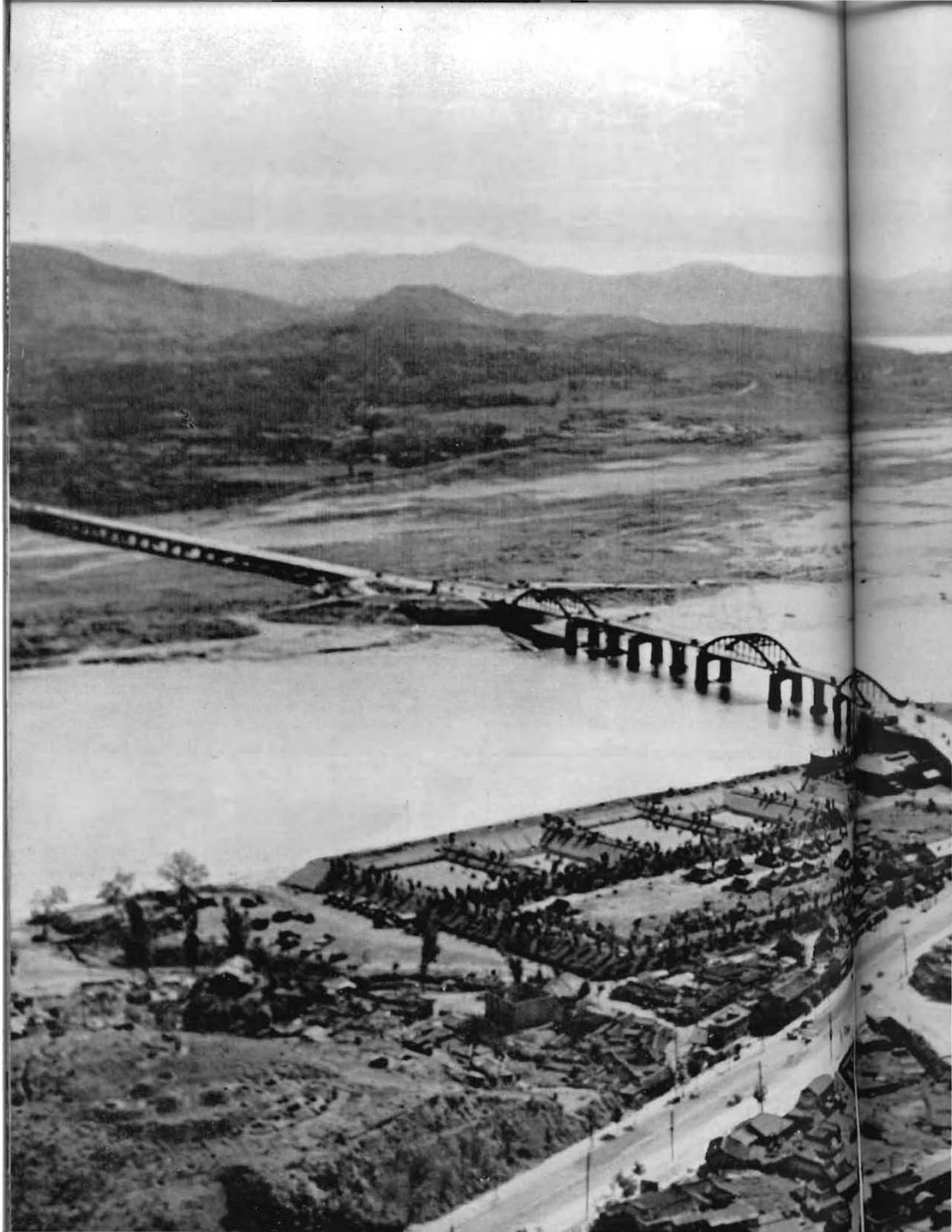
In the Seoul area, the enemy's counter-reconnaissance screen was notably effective; it succeeded in frustrating UN efforts to feel out the Red stronghold north of the Han River. His determination to hold firmly onto Seoul and its environs was underlined by a step-up of artillery action. Eventually, resistance flagged, and hints of a general Communist withdrawal became apparent. Contact was suddenly broken on 15 March, and Seoul, the ancient symbol of national integrity, was retaken. The residue of CCF forces in the metropolitan area escaped over the Seoul-Yongdungpo highway bridge (following pages). Until the closing days of the month, the enemy fought a rear guard action to cover his flight.

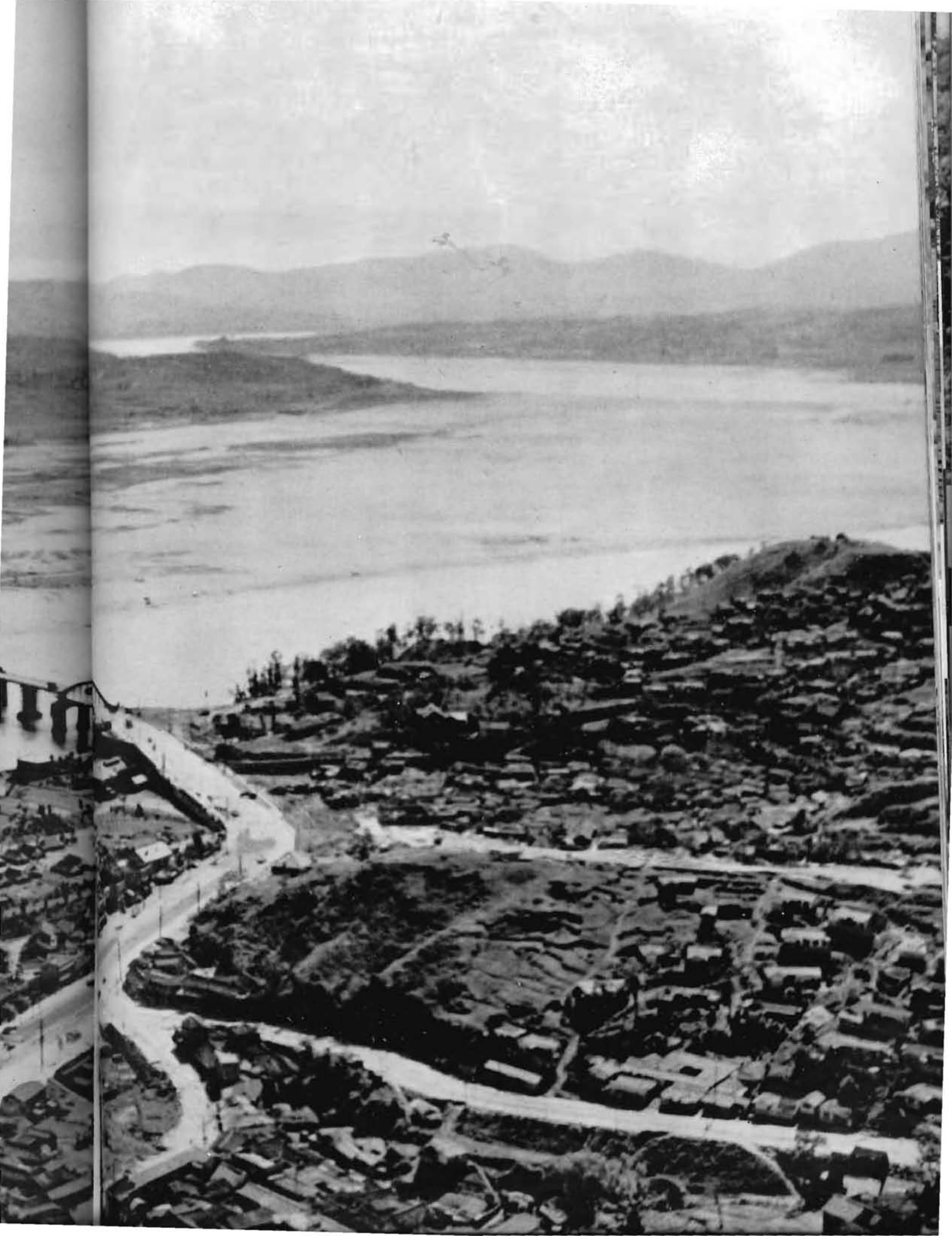
Inert enemy machines in littered profusion . . .



. . . were like landmarks on the road from Seoul.









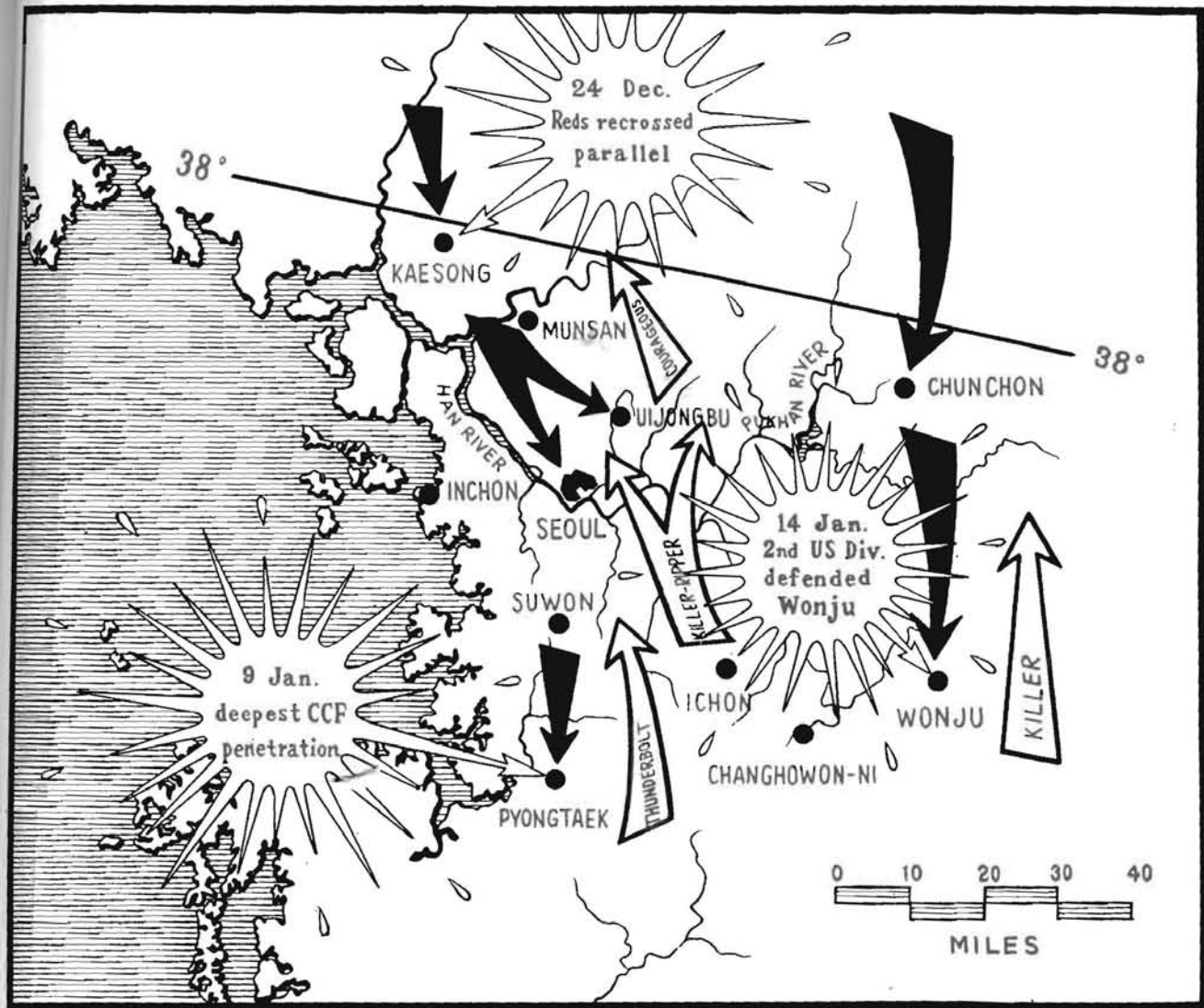
MEMORABLE CROSSOVER. Tank patrols rolled into North Korea on 1 April. An imaginary line became a physical reality as "courtesy" plaques were erected by amateur topographers of the 24th.

PROBING FOR MINES was ticklish business. Wooden casings often defied detection.



OVER AGAIN

There was no hesitation now. To the UN, the 38th parallel became but an arbitrary demarcation with little political or military significance. Armor of the "Victory" Division punched across the line on the crest of its grinding drive up the western corridor. Beyond the parallel, resistance stiffened. The enemy entrenched in high ground pitted with dungeon-deep emplacements, employed intense automatic weapons and mortar fire, fought long and fiercely, and released his "military crest" only when faced with imminent disaster. Then he drew back to the next element of critical terrain and repeated the performance. At the same time, the Communists assembled a great reserve within supporting distance of the front. The force included four fresh NK corps totaling 12 divisions, the equivalent of five fresh CCF armies totaling 15 divisions, and four CCF armies which had been recently withdrawn from combat.



MEETING OF MINDS. BILINGUAL UNDERSTANDING FOSTERED BY A 7-YEAR OLD INSTRUCTOR.



HIGH LEVEL CHANGE



GENERAL OF THE ARMY MACARTHUR, WHOSE VIEWS INCENSED THE ADMINISTRATION

WA

On 11 April, General Matthew B. Ridgway was transferred from command of the Eighth US Army in Korea to the post of Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers. He replaced General of the Army Douglas MacArthur who was released from high office by President Harry S. Truman for outspoken objection to, and criticism of, the national policy for limiting the Korean campaign to a war of containment. Lt. Gen. James A. Van Fleet was named new commander of the Eighth Army on 14 April.



ON WAS SUCCEEDED BY GENERAL RIDGEWAY, COMMANDER OF THE EIGHTH US ARMY IN KOREA.



ON 15 APRIL, the day the rotation program was announced, several truckloads of returnees from the 19th were dispatched by the division. Their destination was the Inchon port of embarkation.

ROTATION

It was all over for the first complement of soldiers from the 24th Division...all over in a way longed-for by all, but predicted by few. A process of troop rotation was established by executive order to bring back American veterans who had served actively for nine months. Replacements, in corresponding num-

bers, arrived from training camps in the United States. At first only a few were processed, but before long the system improved to assure a liberal, non-discriminatory and equitable method of rotation and replacement. Troop morale leaped as the news rocketed along the grapevine...here was a ticket home.

FORMS AND DOCUMENTS had to be made out before assignment to the reverse pipeline.

"HURRY UP AND WAIT" was a standard situation that failed to perturb Taromen who lazed patiently.





HAWAIIAN SOLDIERS of the 5th RCT lounged in the shadow of the 24th's rotation center signboard at ASCOM City—a subdivision of Inchon. They were among the first to be sent home.

AN ASSEMBLAGE of insignia was worn by a representative group boarding an LST at Inchon harbor. Shoulder patches of the 3rd, 1st Cav, 24th, and 25th Divisions were in evidence.





TRADITIONAL BRITISH RESERVE was tossed to the winds as Tommy rotatees cut up.

LAST LEG

The decision to rotate troops was significant. The move implied that allied strength had reached a point beyond which further uncurtailed reinforcement was unjustified. We had learned that keeping battle-worn soldiers on line was tantamount to squandering the combat training that was now invested in them. Rotation remedied this. Returnees, appointed as cadre in the Zone of the Interior, conveyed a measure of their combat savvy to green trainees. As a morale factor the promise of rotation was supreme; it added purpose to what some felt was a "no objective" war. The rapid turnover also gave to thousands the conditioning that the most realistic field training could not duplicate.



FIRST matters on the agenda were an immediate briefing and billeting.



DIVISION'S military band suited the occasion with a rendition of "California Here I Come."

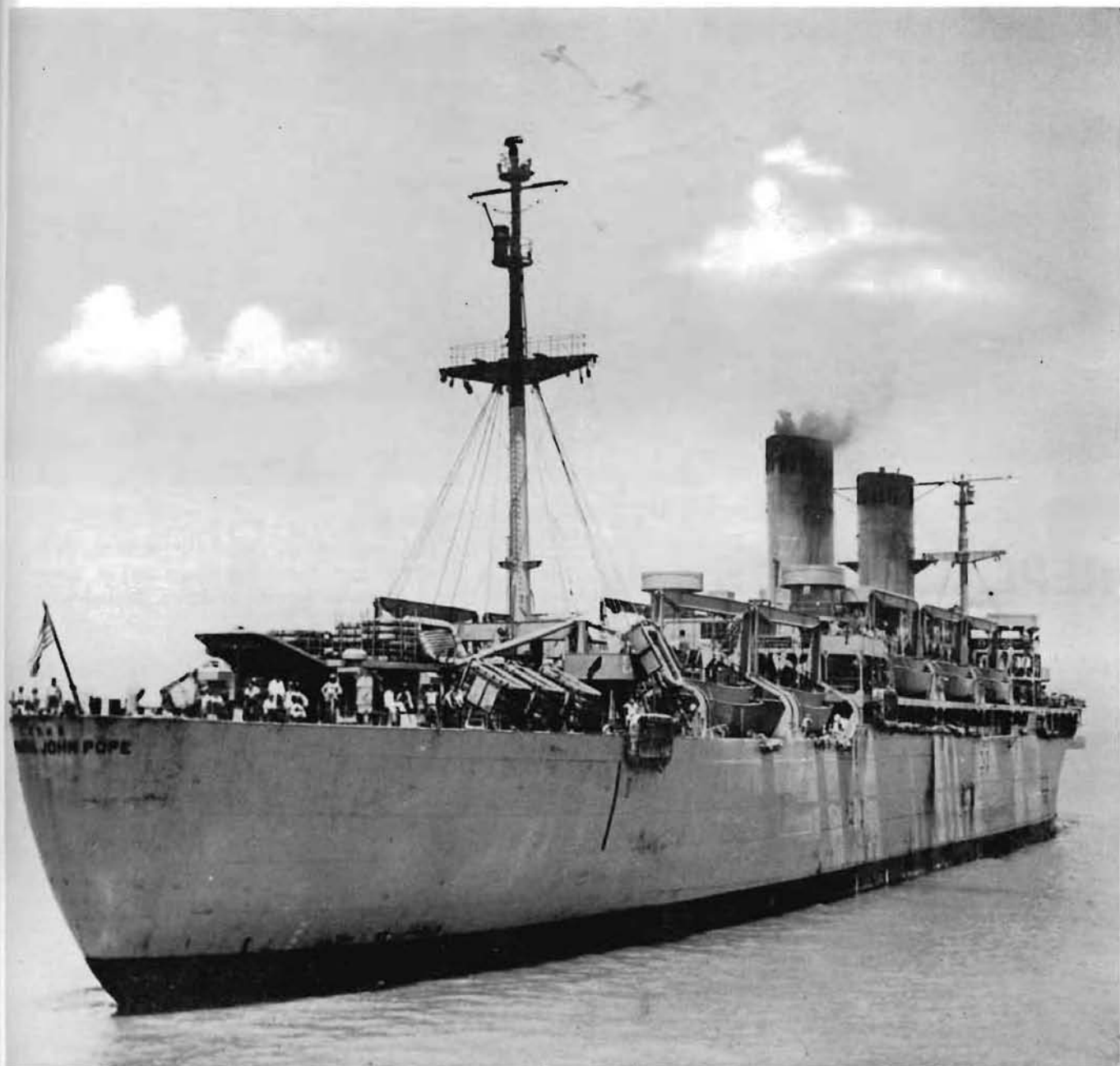
WAITING at the station for the "Bugout Special," were men on their way to Japan.



FINAL roll call. A C-54 loaded the happiest cargo it had ever flown.



HOMEBOUND



ON 18 APRIL, THE FIRST ROTATEES SAILED FROM KOREA TO JAPAN TO THE UNITED STATES.



REPLACEMENTS

To compensate for the quotas of veterans returning home, fresh replacements were carefully primed and fitted into the empty slots. Before seeing combat, they profited from the first hand advice of tried, tested soldiers who had learned the hard way.



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THE MORTAR TEAM OF A HEAVY WEAPONS PLATOON WEARILY TRUDGED TO THE MLR. . .

APRIL OFFENSIVE

With the exception of one small bulge dipping below the 38th parallel on the extreme left flank, the UN's forces were on a line substantially north of the boundary. The division inched over the Imjin River and positioned southwest of Hwachon. US air and ground observers spotted a huge buildup of Communist strength across the line. This sighting, plus fragmentary reports regarding enemy intentions, gathered and interpreted by army intelligence, tallied with the unanimous opinion that the Reds would launch a major offensive by 15-30 April. On 22 April, following a

stunning artillery barrage, the CCF hit. Just before nightfall a shrieking, bugle-blowing human wave hurled into point blank range. The first column of Chinese shock troops was riddled and dropped before they could unsling their bandoleers of grenades. Behind them robot-like ranks of burp-gun wielding infantrymen were slaughtered. Riflemen followed, and bands of unarmed scavengers—men who retrieved the weapons of the fallen—brought up the rear. The 24th, bearing the brunt of the initial attack, held fast for 24-hours and then retired to prepared positions in the rear.

. . . BEHIND ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS . . .



. . . AND HALFTRACK "QUAD-FIFTIES."





THE 76MM CANNON of M-4 "Sherman" tanks were added to the aggregate of Divarty's output. On 23 April, "Victory" Division cannoneers fired 15,712 rounds, the greatest 24-hour expenditure to date.

A ROK COMPANY, in the foreground, filled the positions just vacated by King Company—shown jogging down the path—of the 5th RCT. A shift of sectors placed South Koreans at both flanks.



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By 25 April, the enemy had committed every man and machine he could muster into the battleline extending from Hwachon to Mun-san. With two exceptions, the terrain given up by the allies was forfeited voluntarily in timely, well-executed withdrawals. In one

sector, however, the defending 6th ROK Division faltered and collapsed; the second significant penetration was made south of the Im-jin River. Localized counter-assaults against the Red bridgeheads, coupled with another general withdrawal, sealed both breaches.

A MACHINE GUNNER ATOP A TANK CHOPPED .50 CAL BURSTS INTO A CCF SUPPLY POINT.





A ROK, swathed in bandages, questioned two PWs.



SANDBAGS were the foot soldier's life insurance.

SLACK-OFF

The division moved further back to a line west of the Pukhan River on 27 April. The ferocity of the enemy attacks abated somewhat and on the following day the 24th set up "No Name Line" above the Han River; the 19th entrenched west of the Pukhan and the 21st dug-in on the east. The decrease in Red pres-

sure was due mainly to the logistical problems which they encountered as a result of the deep UN withdrawals, rather than to a CCF tactical decision to limit the effort. His potential was far from spent. All available information pointed to a subsequent renewal of offensive operations.

THE SWOLLEN, TENDER FEET of a Chinese captive were treated at a medical collecting point. During April, the "Victory" Division had inflicted 32,875 combined casualties on the Communist forces.





MULTI-PURPOSE "QUAD-FIFTIES" CONTRIBUTED BY AAA TO AUGMENT UN FIREPOWER.

SECOND IMPULSE

Until 16 May, hostile forces had contented themselves with merely parrying UN patrols. On that date, a "do or die" drive designed to expel the allies from the peninsula was unleashed by thirty Communist divisions along the 105-mile battleline. The 5th RCT, emplaced in an advanced position in front of the 19th, blunted the initial thrust of the Chinese mass attack against the division. When the 5th broke contact and pulled back through the 19th, it disengaged from a sorely battered CCF force that had failed to crack the defenses of the outpost line of resistance.

A TANKER SIGHTED ON TARGET WITH THE TURRET MG TO GUIDE AIMING THE BIG GUN.





Newly taken by the UN . . .



. . . and guarded at a pass by an ack-ack halftrack.

COUNTERPUNCH

For three tragic days the Communists flung teeming thousands against the solid wall of mined approaches, barbed-wire aprons, and fortified bunkers prepared by the defenders during the previous weeks. He stoically accepted enormous casualties in an action that

developed into the most vicious pitched battle of the war. The UN surrendered ground on the east-central front, but three enemy divisions were destroyed in the drive. Those remaining were powerless to stem a UN counterblow uncorked on 21 May.

AT A 21ST LISTENING POST, VISUAL SOUNDINGS WERE TAKEN OF CHINESE DEPLOYMENTS.



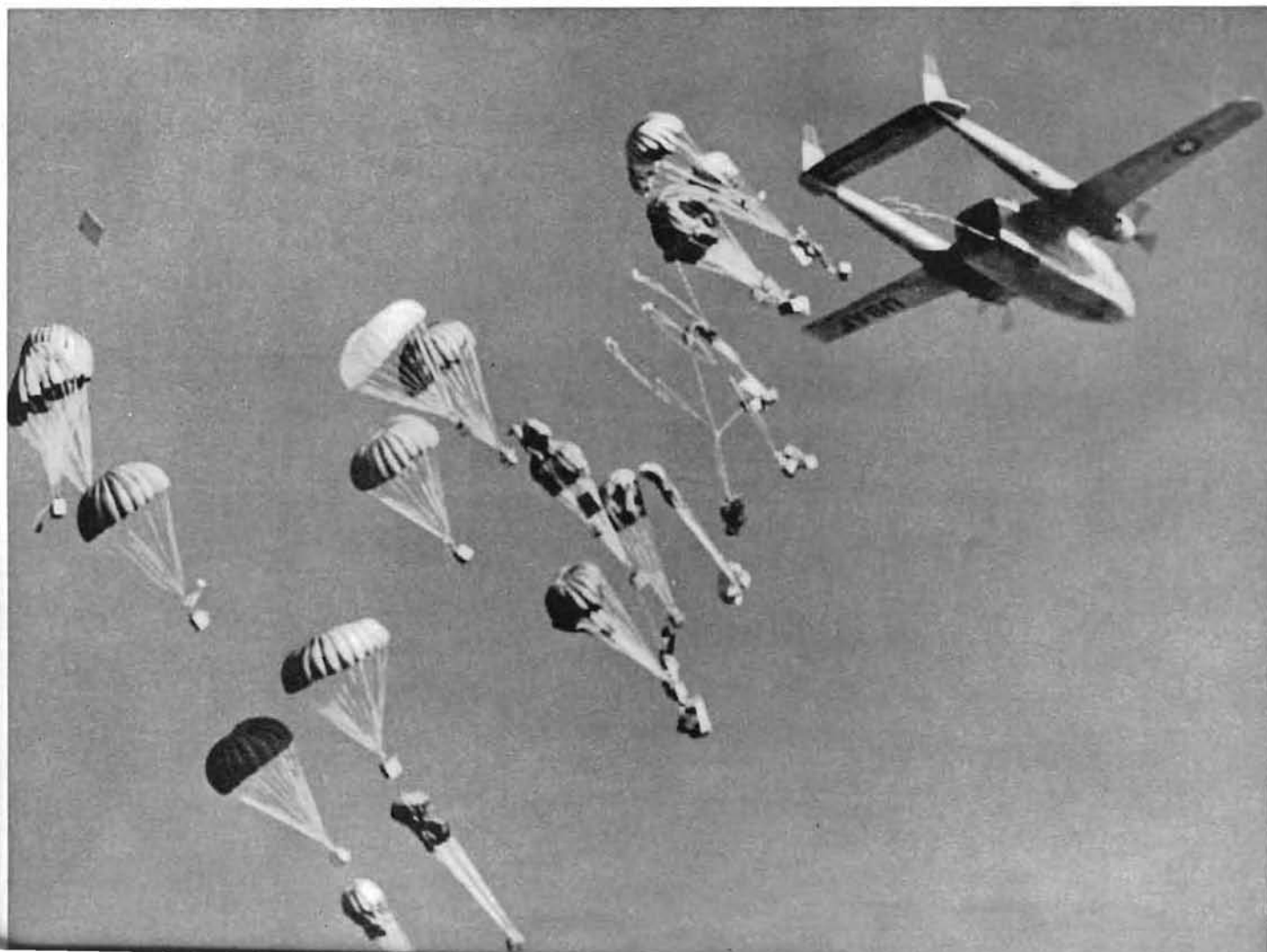
PURSUIT

Within a week the UN advance had surged northward of the 38th parallel. Some enemy units were temporarily trapped south of the Hwachon Reservoir and lost several thousand men in an attempt to escape through the Hwachon corridor. By 28 May, the enemy had expended more than 100,000 casualties, 12,000 prisoners, and vast quantities of painfully mustered supplies. Yet he only found himself thrust well north of his line of departure and generally on the same line he had held on 1 January. Of the 21 CCF divisions that initiated the offensive, 16 suffered personnel losses of 50-percent and were so badly shattered as to be incapable of effective resistance. The enemy had received his worst defeat since the Chinese intervention in November 1950,—a defeat that bordered close to catastrophe.

The "Victory" Division exploited the retreat. It surged up the Pukhan River and swept the remnants of several depleted CCF regiments before it. Evidence of the complete surprise of the spring counteroffensive lay in the camouflaged stocks of ammo deserted along the roadside. So hurriedly did the Chinese withdraw that pack mules, mortars, and entire surgical hospitals were abandoned. Groups of bewildered fugitives were cut off in the hills as the 24th bypassed, outflanked and enveloped them, and then pushed off again. It was not unusual to find Korean carrying parties, return from a portage with dozens of passive PWs. Hasty compounds were erected to accommodate the nondescript hordes but this was not enough. Often, PWs wandered for days before they found a captor with a vacant stockade.

AIR DROP

Spidery showers of parachutes spilled from the fuselages of C-119 "Flying Boxcars." Priority supplies were lugged by giant cargo carriers to inaccessible points, to stranded units that had outsped their landbound supply lines, and to regions where an emergency need for some hard-to-ship item arose. The skies of Korea, cleared of opposition, became invaluable byways for observation, transportation, and evacuation. From mail to munitions, a flotilla of transports flew tons of equipment to the lines.





IN MEMORIAM

It was the heartfelt wish of every sympathizer to the UN cause that this latest defeat borne by the enemy would preclude another bloody effort, another bid for the unlikely...the destruction of the forces of freedom on the ravaged peninsula. With mixed emotions, gratitude for the victory won and solemn homage to the many who died to obtain it, members of the UN team held Memorial Day commemoration ceremonies at the United Nations cemetery in Pusan, South Korea. Honor guards of the Eighth Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, above, fell into formation on 30 May for the sounding of taps over the rain-drenched crosses.





ANGELS IN O.D.

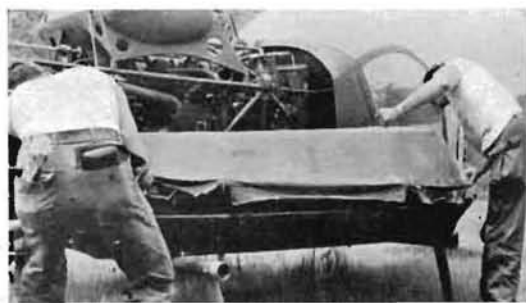
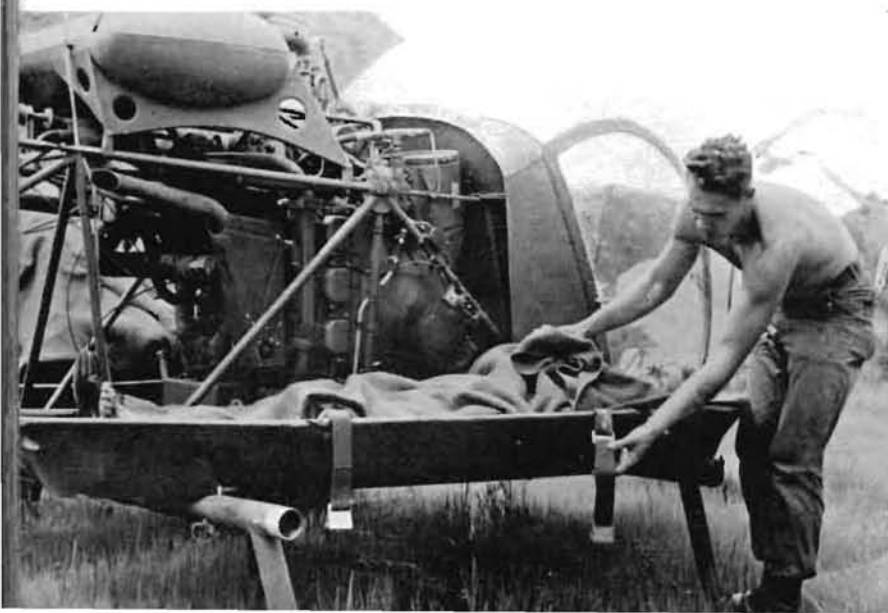
Down from the ridges came the wounded. Hurt doughboys were snatched-up yards from enemy outposts by combat aidmen and Korean litter bearers, and were brought back to aid stations for the initial step in healing . . . reducing the injury. Blood plasma, penicillin, sterile dressings, and morphine applied by medical officers, and spiritual ministrations given by interfaith chaplains, were the first items on the program of physical and psychological recovery.





EVACUATION BY WHIRLYBIRD

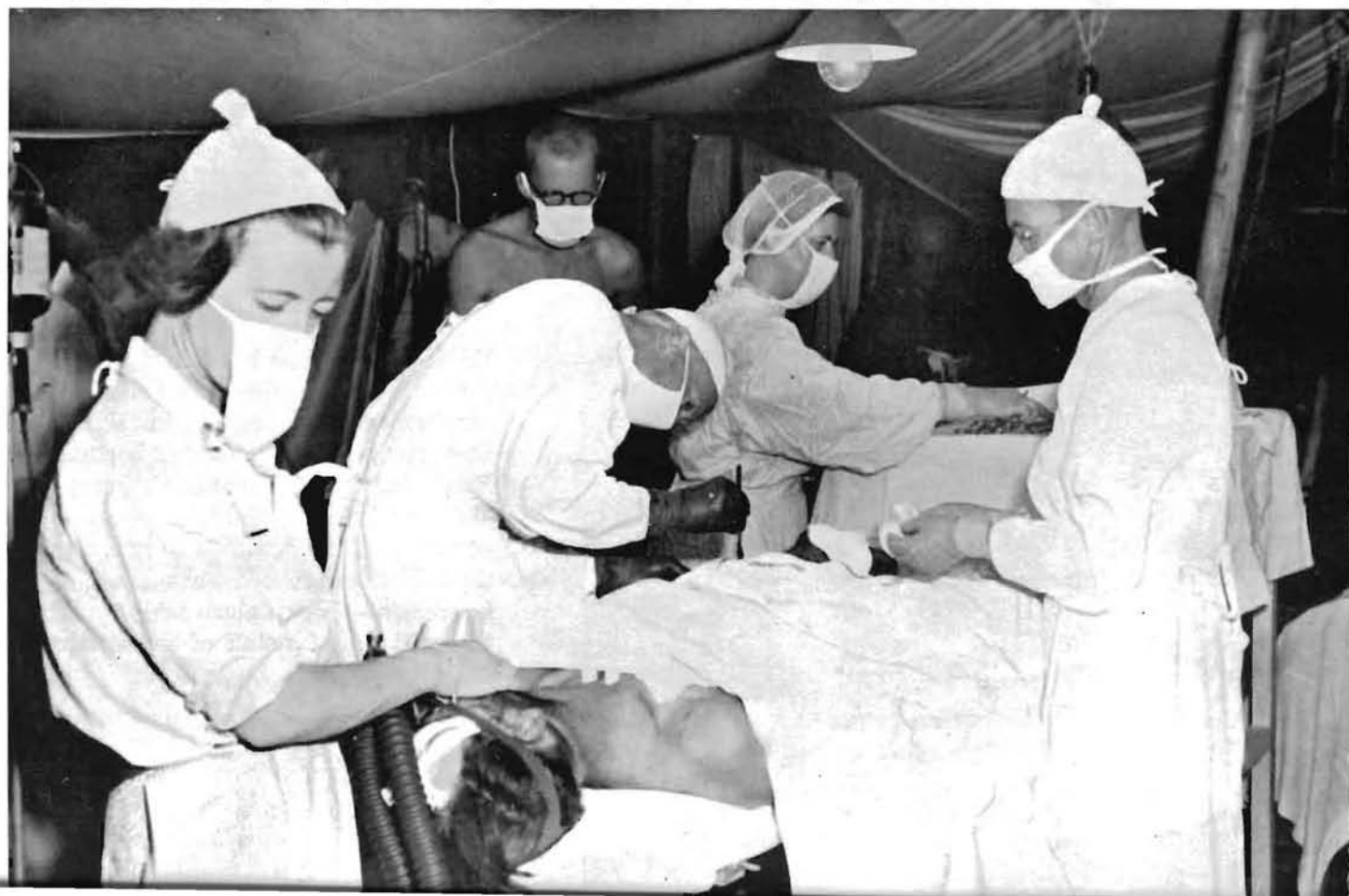
A chattering, bubble-nose helicopter settled heavily on a stamp-size paddy to answer an anxious call from a forward medical collecting station. The unconscious form of a wounded rifleman, lacerated by Red mortar fire, was eased gently into a litter basket bolted to the "Whirlybird's" undercarriage. The soldier, in deep shock and dulled from a heavy dosage of pain-easing drugs, was unaware of the miracle of coordination that sped him in minutes to the operating table of an ultra-modern mobile army surgical hospital. The helicopter, which could speed over rugged and impassable terrain, became a skyway ambulance without peer.





MINUTES MATTERED. Before the helicopter's rotors stopped, an injured American soldier was rushed to the receiving tent of a MASH hospital for a pre-operative examination.

MEN IN WHITE. At the mobile army hospital a Norwegian specialist, assisted by a trained surgical team of his countrymen, prepared to probe the wound for mortar fragments.





A FAR FLUNG system of railheads abetted the life and limb saving efforts of the Medical Corps by furnish- in hospital trains with a direct access to medical holding companies. Con- valescents, walking wounded, and hardier litter patients able to endure the rigors of a trip by rail, entrained for hospitals in the south. There, rest, and recuperative treatment re- stored them to fighting trim.



"MERCY TRAINS" carried injured servicemen to the more elaborate sta- tions deep in the rear. Medical of- ficers were on call during the journey to administer emergency aid should the need arise. Well stocked dispen- saries and compact surgery rooms were mobile, self-contained units that could speed to any point on the pen- insula and bolster existing facilities in the event of enemy action.



USNS REPOSE, a hospital ship that accommodated maimed and disabled servicemen returning to the United States, edged away from her berth in Pusan harbor. Occupational therapy and emotional rehabilitation—teach- ing the dismembered how to live with the loss of a limb or a permanent dis- figurement—began aboardship under the guidance of a staff of technicians and psychiatrists.



IN JAPAN a teen-aged Taro-leafer, evacuated by air from the peninsula in early May, was visited by screen star Jennifer Jones. Her USO unit made a round of the casualty wards in the Tokyo Army Hospital before bringing the Hollywood roadshow to the fighting men in Korea.



Combat gasoline was readied for jelling.



Drums were tapped by the 3rd Engineers.

NAPALM

The technology of napalm, more popularly regarded as an aerial weapon, was modified by the infantry to fill its own requirements. Anti-personnel mines were made from 55-gallon drums of jellied gasoline by attaching trip wires and detonators. Flame-throwers

packaged and controlled the lethal mixture more conveniently and safely. Although consumption was high and delivery of the cumbersome drums was difficult, doughboys still plugged its use...as a dread-provoking agent, napalm was unsurpassed.

Korean laborers opened cans of thickener.



Combining. The consistency stiffened.



Excess "foo-gas" was drained from drums.



Viscous napalm was canned for transport.





Demolitions prepared anti-personnel mines.



Laborers rolled 400-pound drums to hilltops.



A 55-gallon drum of exploding jelly set off by an electrical discharge burned fiercely and left . . .

The simple chemistry of napalm recommended it as a powerful device for the line soldier to build into his defense network. Wherever native labor could haul the unwieldy drums, jellied gasoline was used for illumination or for a potent and terrifying booby trap. Fifty gallons of ordinary combat fuel blended with thirteen pounds of thickener, jelled into highly inflammable "foo-gas." The flaming mixture killed by searing contact and suffocated by robbing the atmosphere of oxygen.

. . . a scorched, glowing patch.





THIS QUAD-FIFTY ON THE GRADIENT OF A MOUNTAIN PASS GUARDED THE DIVARTY AIRSTRIP.

TWO "STOPPERS" BRACKETED A DRIVE WHO MISCALCULATED HIS DISTANCE FROM RED LINES.





A BID FOR UN RECOGNITION. THE LONE STAR OF TEXAS WAVED OVER AN "IRON BRONCO."

RED SENTIMENTS adorned a riddled wall. The theme was echoed in leaflets and broadcast.



SPOILS OF WAR included a decorative blanket abandoned by the enemy in flight.





"WHAT'S GOOD FOR ME IS GOOD FOR MY JEEP." A FOXHOLE WAS DUG FOR IT'S SAFETY.



HEAVY 4.2 MORTARS went underground too. Excavations studded the hills.

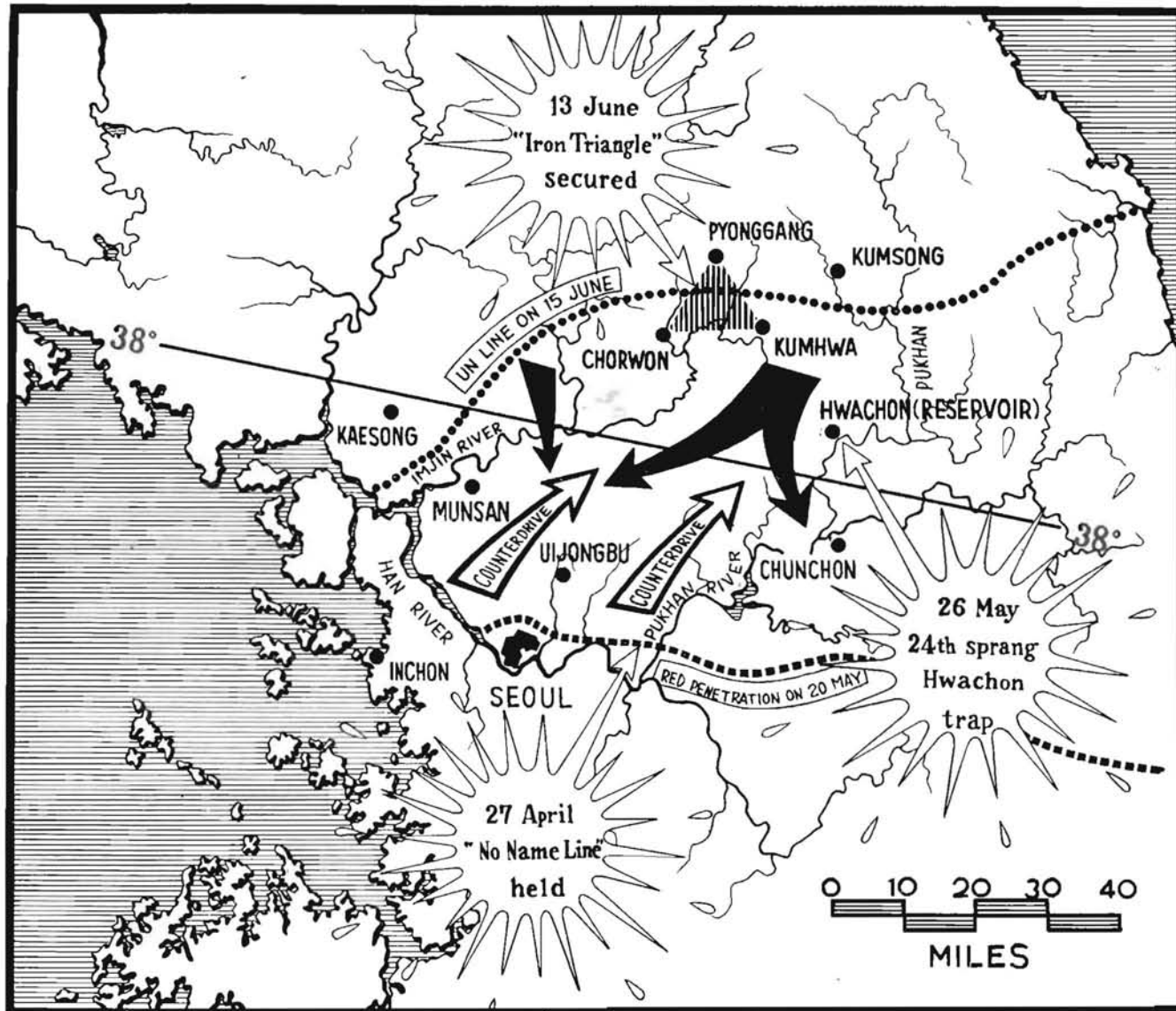


A FOOT OF DIRT was just so much body armor. Doughboys broke ground for shelter-half homes.

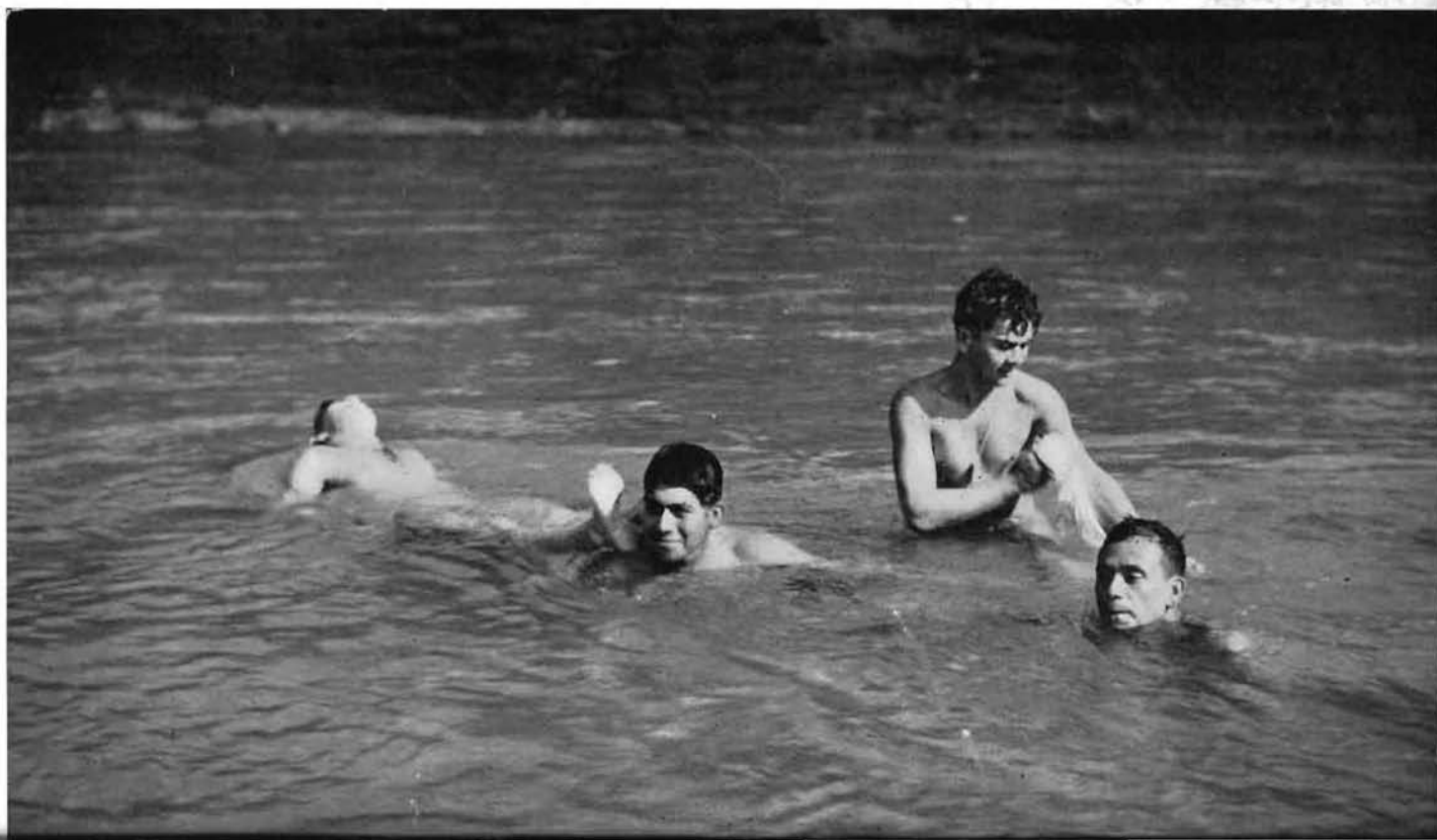
A NEW ARRIVAL dug his first with the diligence of an old-timer.

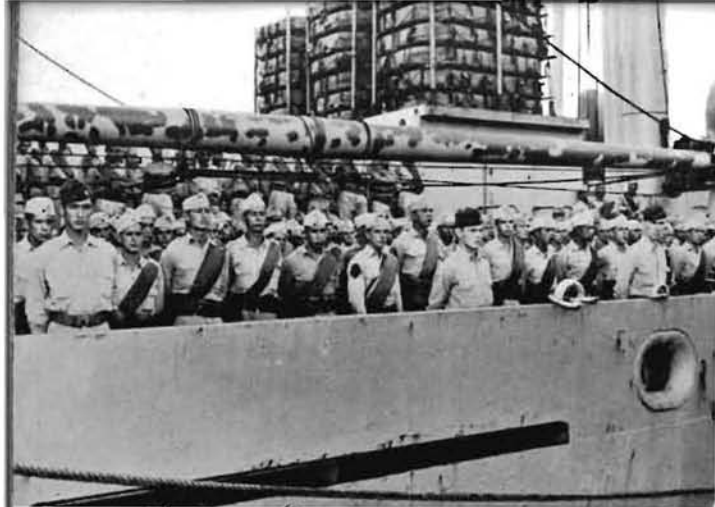
FUNCTIONAL TOUCHES were artfully added. Steps dressed-up this bunker's patio.





THE PUKHAN RIVER, SOUTH OF HWACHON RESERVOIR, OFFERED A REFRESHING INDUCEMENT.





RANKS OF COLOMBIANS stood by the gunwales awaiting debarkation.



A KOREAN YOUNGSTER gravely presented a floral token of good will to Colombian officers.



BATTALION C.O., Lt. Col. Jaime Polania saluted over a gift bouquet.

COLOMBIANS ARRIVE...

The Republic of Colombia, the only Latin American country to send troops to the Korean scene, discharged a battalion of volunteers at Pusan on 16 June. The unit was created by executive decree in 1950 to "Preserve and maintain peace and freedom throughout the world." The nation's minister of war enlisted officers and men from regular army sources to represent the small South American state in the UN crusade.

A RECEPTION COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS CAME TO ADD THEIR WELCOME.





... & TRAIN

A comprehensive six-week advanced training course, under Eighth Army supervision, was given to the spirited, zealous Latins. With its conditioning over, the Colombian battalion was attached to the 21st Regiment of the "Victory" division. The miniature yellow, blue, and red replica of the nation's flag emblazoned on helmets and equipment, became a familiar emblem to Taro-leafers across the front.





LATIN ASSEMBLY

At their Hwachon CP, the South American battalion attended a command briefing before moving into action. Their baptism under fire came on 7 August, the anniversary of the Colombian War of Independence.



SHOWTIME

"Junebug Frolics" caught up with the front-running division to play a three-day stand amidst a wide range of climatic changes. Every outfit that could be spared for a day was pulled off the line to join in the whistling.



OPERATION PIPEDREAM



While in reserve, the men of the 5th Regimental Combat Team participated in "Operation Pipedream" to display the fighting know-how learned in eleven months of Korean combat. The mock battle fought against a hypothetical invader was staged for dignitaries, observers, and high brass from civil and military branches of the federal government. The simulated "Pipedream" action served also to keep the unit in high gear and to demonstrate the leadership principles involved in the manipulation of an infantry regiment in the field.



All organic weapons within the regiment were applied to some phase of "Operation Pipe-dream." Tank-infantry-artillery teams worked in close harmony and unison with medium and heavy mortar sections. With frightening realism, assaulting companies scrambled up shell-pocked ridges behind live artillery fire to destroy specially built "enemy" bunkers and blockhouses. Armored vehicles, self-propelled gun carriages, and service units carried out their support functions under all foreseeable

difficulties. A supply and transportation system was devised to sustain the regiment during the supposed drive through hostile territory. Every conceivable form of defensive arrangement commonly used by the UN's actual opponent was previewed and then successfully cracked by some weapon in the doughboy's arsenal. By mid-June the bloodless operation ended and the 5th RCT was returned to the division's line above the Hwachon reservoir. The play ended . . . reality began once more.





AT HQ BATTERY of the 52nd Field Artillery Battalion the FDC staff consulted graphs and tables to assimilate the FO's data for their computing team.



THE VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL control sections of FDC worked hand-in-hand as they determined the target's range and elevation for the batteries of waiting 105's.

COMMUNICATIONS were handled by three field phone operators who kept in 24-hour contact with artillery officers calling in fire missions from infantry observer outposts.



FIRE DIRECTION CONTROL

Through the "Victory" Division's fire direction centers—the all-important computing houses in the relay from the forward artillery observers to their firing batteries—flowed a ceaseless monotone of mission requests, coordinate data, and aiming corrections. Incoming information was integrated—to the fine point of dubbing in the windage and air density figures supplied by army meteorologists—and rerouted to the guns of the FA battalions that FDC serviced.

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THREE CANNONEERS, joined by the gun crew's mascot, indulged in a little self approbation. The 52nd Field Artillery had already expended more shells than any medium gun battalion in Korea.

FIREPOWER UNLIMITED

At the business end of FDC's hookup, cannoneers of the 52nd Field Artillery Battalion spinned the traversing and elevating mechanisms of their howitzers to position the big tubes and drop 105mm rounds into enemy concentrations. Precise aiming coupled with on-the-nose timing screened advancing combat parties with rolling curtains of artillery fire.

The high trajectory weapons were also effective for plummeting high explosives onto positions hidden behind the reverse slopes of Communist-held hills. For this purpose, the division's air arm operated a half-dozen unarmed light planes to scout for troop movements and deployments, gun positions, and ammunition supply points unseen by ground observers.

A fire mission was called . . .

. . . battery round on the way!





CLASS OF '50



Members of the original 52nd Field Artillery Battalion, men who had made the historic first landing on Korean soil on 2 July 1950, gathered

one year later to commemorate the event. The unit's young mascot flourished a helmet with hearty approval from his sponsors.



"PATTONS" OF THE 6TH TANK BATTALION were driven up dirt ramps to elevate the chassis for long distance fire. A maximum range of ten miles, with fair accuracy, was achieved in this manner.

IRON TRIANGLE

"YOU'VE GOT TO SEND them before you receive them." Mail was a morale factor.



There was a marked increase in the volume of defensive mortar, artillery, and anti-tank fire after mid-June. Hostile forces displayed considerable flexibility and resilience as the allied drive slacked off. In heavy fighting along the central battlefield, the enemy was forced to surrender the southern reaches of the Pyongyang-Chorwon-Kumhwa triangle which had been a vitally important reserve and supply area for the two Communist offensives. Substantial quantities of munitions and supplies were captured when UN patrols seized Chorwon and Kumhwa on 13 June. Meanwhile, the preponderance of vehicle movement, for the first time, was to the north rather than to the south, as the enemy strove to evacuate installations from the Pyongyang sector.

CANNONEERS PLAYED a waiting game. Revolving shifts of crewmen were on duty 24-hours a day.





A SQUAD LEADER CALLED CORRECTIONS TO THE GUNNER FROM A TAILBOX INTERCOM.

STANDSTILL

By July, the war had become one of static conditions. Both sides were content to patrol cautiously while they feverishly erected durable defenses along the battleline. On 4 July, the 19th jumped off to raid in force. The regiment slipped through Chinese outposts across a wide front and laced into every military target that presented itself. Tank parks, maintenance sections, field kitchens, ammo dumps, and command posts were placed under attack. The commando-like raid lasted four days before the 19th Regiment finally retired to its line of departure.

A TANKER GLUMLY SURVEYED THE BOGY AND TREAD TORN AWAY BY A RED LANDMINE.





Dolores Gray, ringed by a cordon of military police, danced for thousands across a Uijongbu stage.

HI-JINX

July was a star-spangled month in more than one way. The quality of USO entertainment barnstorming through Korea was top-rate and audience reaction knew no bounds.

Impresario Jack Benny fiddled while troops clamored.



Benay Venuta sang.

Majorie Reynolds and friend.



Errol Flynn mugged for a hospital turnout.





SEOUL STOPOVER

Thomas E. Dewey, governor of the State of New York, landed in Korea at the capital city's airport on 8 July. This was the first leg of an extensive itinerary that included points on the Korean peninsula and embraced most of the anti-Communist nations in south and central Asia.



Holy Mass. Catholic troops bowed their heads.

A Jewish chaplain conducted "Tammuz" service.



Protestants employed jeep-altar and field-organ.

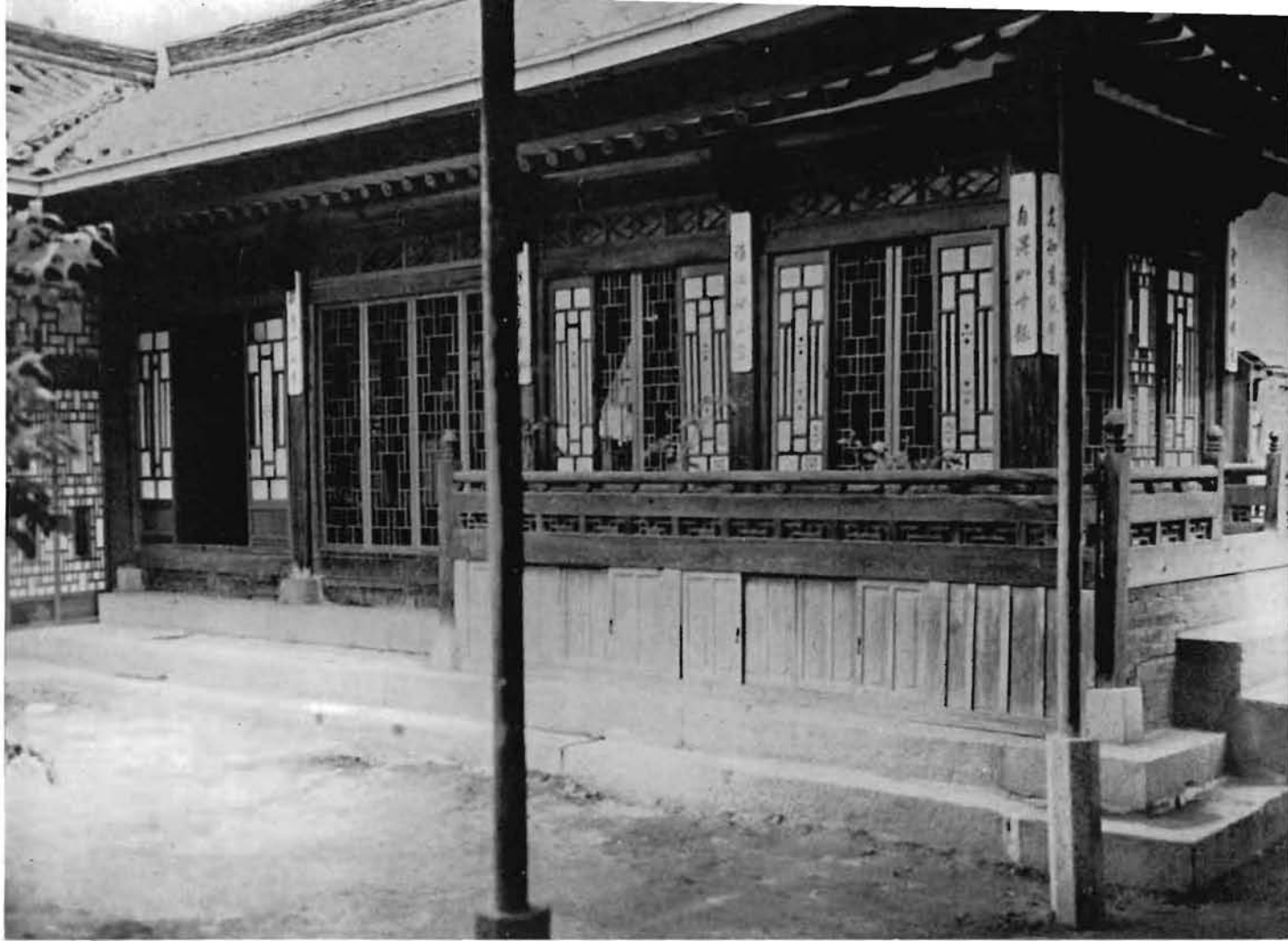
Seventeen Taromen took part in mass baptismal.



IN REVIEW

At the close of the year following the NK invasion UN might was deployed along a line 15 to 20-miles north of the 38th parallel and over 35-miles north of the boundary along the eastern seaboard. From the tidemark of his deepest penetration on 19-22 May, the enemy was hurled back 30 to 50-miles across the breadth of the front. However, he gave no sign of relinquishing his position in Korea despite the costly defeat and loss of ground. Massive efforts to stockpile supplies continued, while screening efforts were fought with the usual determination. Although prisoners reported preparations for still another offensive, there was no indication when such an offensive might materialize. The enemy still retained 70 divisions in Korea of which 50 could be made available for almost immediate use. Large reserves were still secreted in Manchuria and North China.

Twenty-two nations had sent Army, Naval, Air Force, or Medical units to help quell the aggression: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Columbia, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Greece, India, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Thailand, the Philippines, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. UN forces now held the base of the so-called "Iron Triangle" (Chorwon - Kumwha-Pyongyang), the heart of the Communist's supply and communications network in the forward areas. The Reds had suffered over 1,100,000 casualties, the loss of considerable hard to get materiel, and the almost complete ruin of NK industrial capacity. Soviet Russia's Jacob A. Malik, in a UN sponsored broadcast, gave the first public evidence that the Communists might be ready to discuss a "cease fire" in Korea.



ROCCO FACING trimmed the ornate building that was reserved for the preparatory armistice conferences to be held in Kaesong. On 8 July 1951, the warring nations first met in a council of peace.

PRELIMINARIES TO PEACE

A plan was devised to invite the enemy for a discussion of the steps to be taken to end the Korean conflict. On 30 June 1951, General Matthew B. Ridgway, acting as the UN's spokesman, radioed the following statement to the Communist Commander-in-Chief. "I am informed that you may wish a meeting to discuss an armistice providing for the cessation of hostilities and all acts of armed force in Korea, with adequate guarantees for the maintenance of such an armistice. Upon receipt of word from you that such a meeting is desired, I shall be prepared to name my representatives . . ." The free world waited. On 1 July, radio Peiping aired its reply: "We hereby declare that we agree to meet with your representatives to negotiate peace in order to cease hostilities and restore peace. We desire that the meeting be in the Kaesong area, on the 38th parallel. . ." This message was approved by Kim Il Sung, North Korean Premier and Supreme Commander of the NK

forces, and Peng Te-Huai, Chief of the Chinese "Volunteer" Army. A committee of delegates was assembled in good faith by the allied nations to conduct a frank and honorable negotiation of the Korean problem. Under the circumstances it was regarded as highly probable that the enemy had determined to win certain concessions at the armistice table that he realized he could not win by force. Nevertheless, optimism waxed high among political analysts and this attitude was reflected in the civilian press. With a mandate from the United Nations Command, a liaison committee met a similar Communist delegation on 8 July to arrange for the prompt commencement of the conferences. Our acceptance of the Red proposal to meet in Kaesong represented a concession on the location of the talks for it was obvious that the Communists planned to capitalize on the propaganda value at home and abroad by picturing the allies as petitioners and themselves as hosts.



UNITED NATIONS JEEP CONVOY NEARS THE FRINGES OF THE KAESONG MEETING SITE.

OVERTURE

At the opening session on 10 July, both factions submitted their recommended agenda. The proposals establishing items for consideration and topics for debate were reviewed in an atmosphere of constraint and stiff formality. After the second day of negotiations, the cold hostility thawed perceptibly and the United Nations Command could report "smooth" progress and could state that "an armistice is much nearer than it was 24-hours ago." Observers exulted; the stage was set for a bigger show.



A COPTER-LOAD of delegates lifted from US Eighth Army's Musan-ni airstrip.

NK NEWSREELMAN DUCKED STEALTHILY BEHIND A BUSH TO PHOTOGRAPH THE UN TEAM.





THE DELEGATE'S COMPOUND in Kaesong was jointly occupied by Red and UN officials. The structure served as interim headquarters for both groups while awaiting committee calls to the conference room.

A TENT CITY, erected in a Munsan-ni orchard, quartered the commuting UN staff.



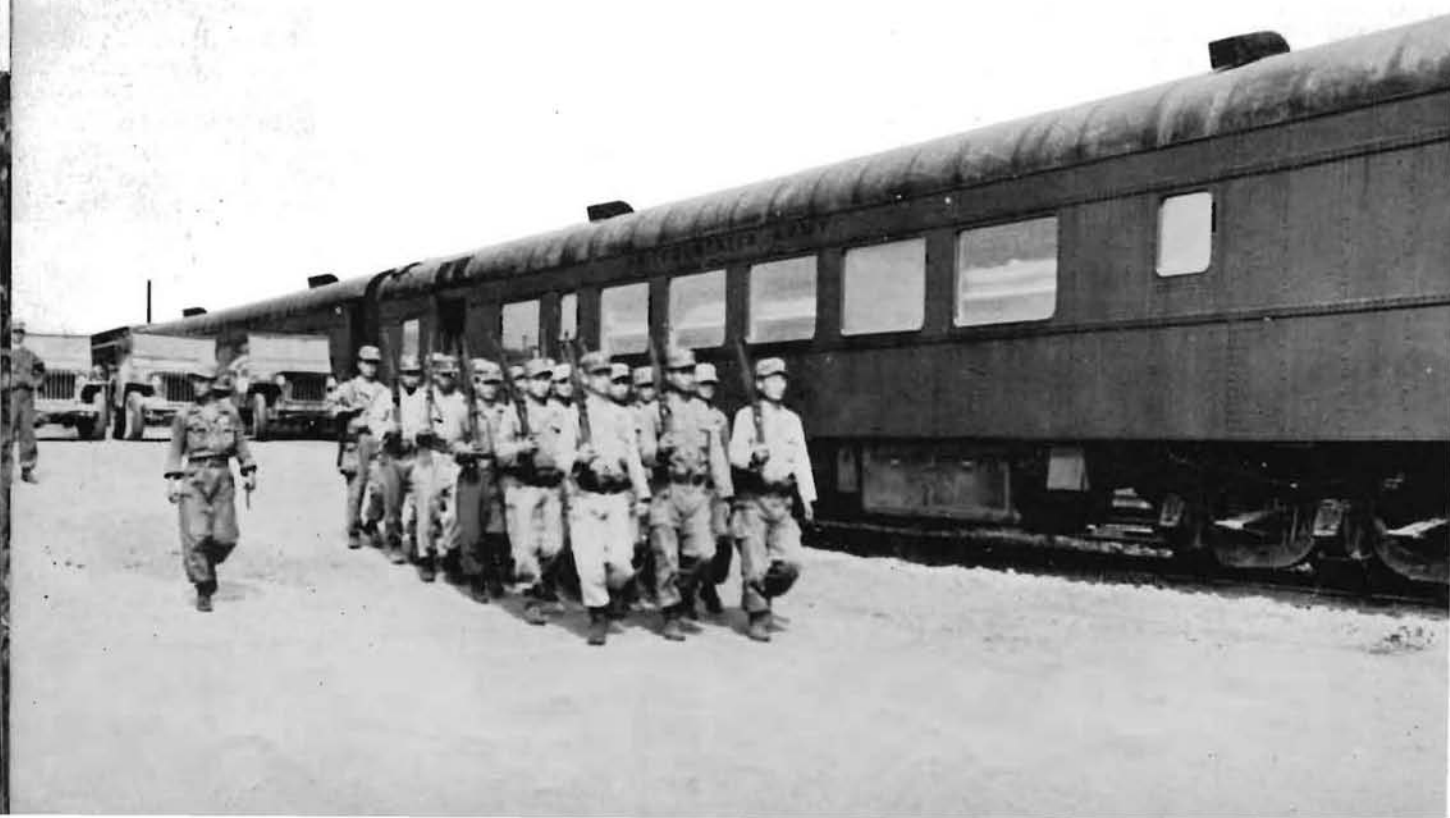
TILED, QUAINLY ARCHING EAVES protruded over the sunbaked courtyard of the conference site. Correspondents, officially barred from the actual discussions, loitered on the pavestones until the breakup of the current session. Concise roundups were later released to all at the press train in Munsan-ni. The UN mission had requested that twenty selected newsmen be permitted to move to and from the conference area as part of the allied delegation. NK General Nam IL, senior Communist delegate, accepted this proposal.





A 12-CAR TRAIN, sided near the delegate's billets, was the terminus for press activity. Living and working facilities were fitted into the revamped coach cars. Boiling pressure was up for an instant getaway.

AN SK GUARD DETAIL drilled alongside the press train. It reinforced the MP detachment posted around the vital allied centers to prevent unwarranted Red incidents, and to strengthen the security net.





THE PEACE CARAVAN WITH PHOTO AND NEWSMEN CRUISED TOWARD THE NK BOUNDARY



BEFORE CROSSING THE IMJIN BRIDGE, THE CONVOY HALTED FOR CHECKPOINT CLEARANCE.

THE LAST LAP OF THE JOURNEY WAS THROUGH ENEMY TERRITORY OVER A NEUTRAL ROAD.





THE ANGERED PRESS was briefed by Brig. Gen. Frank A. Allen, GHQ Information Chief, after their convoy was turned back by NK guards in violation of the informal agreement between delegations.

TROUBLE BEGINS

On 12 July, the earlier premonitions of trouble became realities. A UN motorcade conveying the twenty newsmen representing allied press services was refused entrance into the Kaesong area by Red sentries. In retaliation the armistice talks were recessed by the chief of the UN delegation, Vice Admiral C. Turner Joy. This was the start of what was to become the "normal tone" of the negotiations, as the haughty and enigmatic Reds stalled, hedged, and obstructed in order to gain every possible advantage from the talks.

Finally the Communists acceded to the UN's demand that each delegation have equal press coverage and unhindered freedom of movement to and from the demilitarized zone. The Reds made it plain, however, that the "newsmen problem was a minor problem," and that they were assenting only "that the conference may not be buried in prolonged suspension or break up as a result of such a minor question!" Talks were resumed on 15 July, after armed Communist guards were withdrawn, but the harmonious overtones were lacking.

Following a three-day lapse . . .



. . . UN delegates and newsmen returned.





"YOU HAVE LIVED TOO LONG!" exclaimed this NK "WAC" lieutenant — more in amazement than in malice — to a Yank admitting that he had fought in Korea for thirteen months.



AN ADOLESCENT COMMUNIST SOLDIER grimaced self consciously at the cameraman while he walked his guardpost in the vestibule of the conference room.

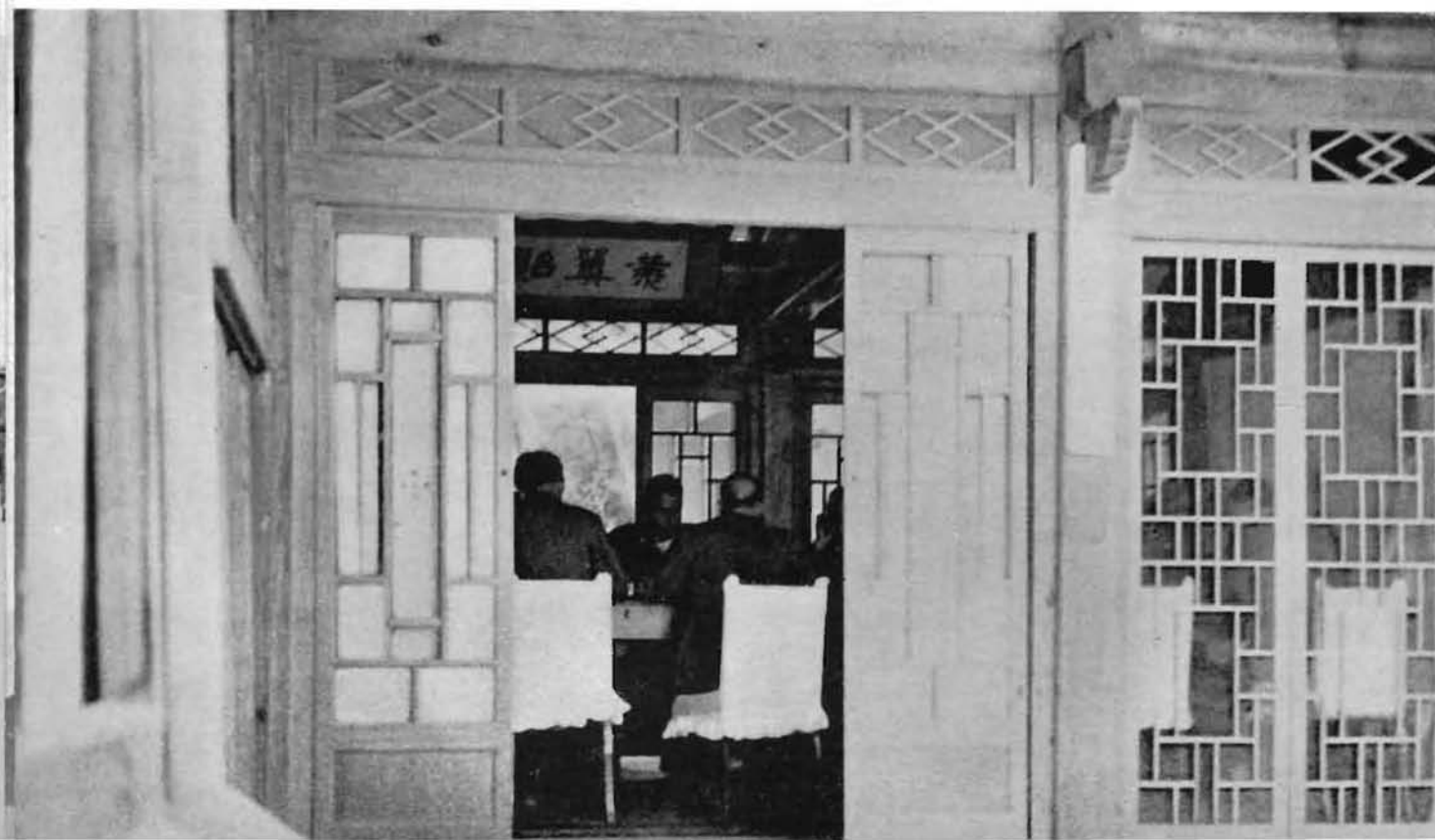
MUTUAL CURIOSITY dispelled some of the earlier reticence and aloofness. Here, a bevy of allied correspondents interviewed Private Chang, a female interpreter with the Chinese "Volunteer" forces.





ROK Lt. Col. Lee Soo Yong, Col. Andrew J. Kinney, USAF, and an American translator, *above*, awaited the arrival of the enemy retinue. The day's discussions included the UN's charges that details of armed Chinese guards were paraded through the neutral zone. The

tenth session conducted in the severely plain conference room, *below*, resulted in concrete decisions. Agreement on the agenda was reached and hope was rekindled that a speedy compromise of the issues involving the withdrawal of all foreign troops would soon follow.



CHARGE & COUNTERCHARGE

Following a three-day recess at Kaesong, on the request of the Communist delegation, the group met again on 26 July and approved the following five-point discussion program:

- Adoption of the agenda.
- Fixing a military demarcation line.
- Arranging and supervising a cease fire and armistice.
- Prisoner of War exchange
- Other recommendations by governments concerned.

With the agenda behind them, the UN pushed for agreement on a buffer zone, and the delegations began to iron out the details for a cease fire line. Within five days, however, the conference was deadlocked while the UN stood firm on its suggestion that the current battleline be accepted as the military cease fire line. General Ridgway had previously called for a demarcation line somewhere between the Manchurian border and the battlefield, but he was willing to forgo some strategic advantage to ensure settlement of the question.

Then came another flagrant breach of neutrality. On 4 August, a company of Red combat troops was discovered in Kaesong in what was construed to be an intimidating display of might. As a result, General Ridgway can-

celled the talks until further notice. Meetings were resumed after the Communists had admitted the infraction, but by 14 August and the twenty-fourth session allied optimism vanished at the dawning of another deadlock.

In hope of breaking the stalemate, Maj. Gen. Henry I. Hodes headed a United Nations Command two-man subcommittee that convened with a similar Communist team and held "informal" talks on an armistice line. New allegations of neutrality infringements overshadowed the debate, however, as the Reds forwarded charges of Allied bombings in the Kaesong area and declared that talks were "off from now on." A categorical denial from the UN coupled with an offer to resume the conferences was arrogantly rejected with further denunciations and indictments.

The criss-cross of charges that continued through September completely demoralized the progress of the conferences. The eleventh Red charge of UN violations had some basis in fact. Through a miscalculation of navigation a UN plane had passed over the Kaesong zone. An investigation and UN acknowledgment of this error mollified the enemy somewhat. By mid-September the Communists relented and met once again across the table.



CHINESE AND NORTH KOREAN officials glowered defiantly at Signal Corps photographers during a midmorning intermission of the peace talks. NK General Nam Il, nominal spokesman for the Communist faction, had voiced his insistence for settling the cease fire on the 38th parallel. The UN's reply was that such a line would be militarily indefensible.



IMPASSE

Again, the Communists claimed an allied violation upon taking four "heavily armed" UN soldiers into custody while they were "trespassing" inside the neutral zone. In reality, they were South Korean laborers plying the fields with DDT sprays; this explanation satisfied the Reds. On 20 September, they agreed to renew the talks, but constructive negotiations were still weeks away. The long and arduous labors of the staff officers up to this point had succeeded only in clearing up the controversial charges of zone violations. Unproductive days passed while both delegations marked time and waited for the other party to advance a first move. There was mounting indignation and outrage amongst the free press at the obvious play for time revealed by the delaying tactics of the Communist committee. The bad turn in the negotiations had worked to the advantage of the Red's propaganda mill. At this time a demand for a change of the conference site was made by General Ridgway and



THE UN TEAM, while conferring at the Munsan base camp, pored over Communist testimony.

was backed up by General Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Bradley, who had flown to Japan and Korea to "survey all aspects of the Korean situation," agreed that another site would offer more assurance of equal rights and remove chances for the enemy to hurl further accusations of violations at the allies.

AN NK CHAUFFEUR, sitting rigidly behind the wheel of his Russian-built "jeep," waited for the adjournment of the day's session. American equipment was the subject of intensive Communist scrutiny.





MAJ. GEN. LAWRENCE CRAIGE, FEAF, left, Vice Admiral C. Turner Joy, COMNAVFE, and Maj. Gen. Henry I. Hodes, 8th Army's Dep. C of S, left the compound at Kaesong for the base camp at Munsan.

NK GENERAL NAM-IL, senior Red delegate, received his portfolio before entering the conference.



AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT, Pat Barham, interviewed an NK "WAC" sergeant.





THE PRESSMEN'S 2 1/2-TON TRUCK, enroute to Munsan-ni, graciously towed a stalled flooded jeep from the muddy waters of the swollen Imjin River. One hardy passenger decided to walk.

RELOCATION

The die was cast and a trend had been established by the earlier discussions, a trend toward invective, delay, and imprecation... anything that would provide fuel for the enemy's propaganda machine. There were many reasons behind General Ridgway's demand for a new site. Among them was a desire for the avoidance of new incidents, real or alleged, which it was believed, could be accomplished by reducing the size of the conference area. A second reason was that relocation of the site to a "no-man's land" somewhat south of Kaesong would insure equality of responsibility and free access to the zone. Furthermore, it was time to bring an end to the geographical disadvantages connected with the old area which had lent color to the Red's repeated pretensions that the allies were, in fact, the beggars for peace. The tiny

community of Panmunjom was agreed upon as the site for the new Korean talks; General Ridgway approved the selection and its inclusion in the neutral zone. Munsan continued to serve as the base of operations for the United Nations Command representatives to the peace talks. Liaison officers reached a compromise under which actual armistice negotiations were to be resumed on 25 October. A neutral area with a three-mile radius instead of the five-mile radius wanted by the Communists or the 3000-yard radius previously suggested by the allies, was established. At the first session since suspension on 22 August, the UN delegation submitted a map showing its proposed demarcation line. The Communists made a counterproposal and the dickering began again.

THE PICTURESQUE Kaesong site was vacated in favor of the new location at Pammunjom.



REPUBLIC OF KOREA representatives discussed their country's role in the peace parleys.





THE LAND SLUMBERS

In mute contradiction to the rumblings of war across the peninsula and the battle of words at Panmunjom, stately monuments and temples set against a pastoral backdrop lent a false air of serenity to the Korean countryside. The impoverished land, no larger in area than the state of Nevada, was a fleeting symbol of the splendor and the past glory of an ancient era. The people, inextricably rooted to an obscure past, were strongly nationalistic, highly sensitive and more than a little cautious of change. Theirs was a mystical reverence for their homes, lands, and shrines, greatly intensified by 4000-years of unbroken culture.





ALLIED CORRESPONDENTS messed at the EUSAK press billets in Seoul.



THE "FOURTH ESTATE'S" Mr. and Mrs. team of Keyes and Linda Beech typed copy for rival papers.

WORKING PRESS

This remote corner of the world was congested with hundreds of foreign correspondents as diverse in makeup as the many nationalities fighting for the Korean cause. The marathon peace parleys droning laboriously through long months received a thorough press coverage unique in the history of diplomatic negotiations... they merited and were accorded world-wide attention and speculation. The combined facilities of the news dispensing agencies of the free allied nations communicated spot reports almost instantaneously to avid listeners and readers on seven continents.



THE SEOUL PRESS BILLETS and the Army's attendant agencies had been moved forward from Taegu.

LEROY HANSON, UP, filed news stories with censors of the Press Advisory Division.



IN THE BASE CAMP briefing room, UN newsmen edited releases written from pooled information.





ALFRED SMOULAR and Pierre Guillerie of the Agencie Frances Presse combined talents.



VICE ADMIRAL Charles Turner Joy scanned a communique delivered to the press train.



MARGARET HIGGINS, N.Y. Herald Tribune, Cecil Brownlow, INS, and Bob Vermillion, UP.



NEWSMEN'S WORKSHOP aboard the press train in Munsan was a turmoil of activity.

PULITZER PRIZE winning novelist James A. Mitchener interviewed a Korean for feature material.



ROBERT TUCKMAN, AP, and Warren Lee, UP, were served lunch in the press train diner.



UN MISSION, Maj Gen. Yu Jai Heung, ROKA, Maj. Gen. William K. Harrison, Jr., USA, Vice Adm. C. Turner Joy, COMNAVFE, Maj. Gen. Howard M. Turner, USAF, and Rear Adm. R. E. Libby, USN.

PANMUNJOM

NK General Nam IL strutted by.



The delegations reconvened, this time between the canvas walls of a squad tent erected on a Panmunjom cow pasture. By 1 November, the attitude of conference observers had brightened as the Communists backed down on certain demands. They had insisted on the removal of all allied troops from a 17-mile belt behind the battleline; now they asked for only a 3-mile withdrawal. But as the delegates neared agreement on a truce line they fell into another clinch. The Reds wanted Kaesong on their side of the line—the allies countered with an offer to neutralize Kaesong—the Communists rejected this compromise. As the verbal hassle continued Admiral Joy reminded the world of the four UN objectives:

- A demilitarized zone based on the tactical situation at the time a full armistice is signed.
- Security for troops during a cease fire.
- Guarantees against troop buildup during a cease fire.
- Quick, satisfactory arrangements for POW's.

This reminder was followed by a Communist ultimatum: "Stop shooting or call off the talks." They were still plugging the discredited proposal that all "foreign" troops leave the peninsula. Tempers simmered down at the UN's tentative suggestion that a provisional truce line be adopted for 30 days. This was accepted, but just as tentatively, by the Communists.



HOSTILE CLOSEUP

Thinly veiled antagonism flowed between the UN and Communist security guards assigned to mutually protect the Panmunjom conference area. During the ceremonious changing of the guard, *above*, and the regular stints of standing the post, *below*, both groups coldly, though passively, accepted each other's presence. Ironically, from any point in the peace zone, the crack of big guns could be heard and the flash of shellfire could be distinctly seen.





INCIDENT

An explosive aside—dramatically captured in this series of photos caught by an alert cameraman—pierced the dull humdrum of the peace discussions. Eighth Army engineers had ascended sounding balloons over the conference site, *left*, to warn military aircraft away from the neutrality zone. On 28 October, an accidental spark ignited and detonated a stream of escaping hydrogen gas, injuring thirteen men, *below and lower left*. Thereafter, US personnel servicing the marker balloons donned heavy asbestos coveralls, *lower right*.





AGREEMENT

At Panmunjom on 27 November, there was some cause to rejoice. A provisional demarkation line to be effective for 30 days was agreed upon in principle by UN and Communist staff officers. (Col. James C. Murray, USMC, *above*, and NK Col. Chang Chun San, *below*, both liaison officers for their respective delegations, initialed the maps establishing the line.) On the tide of the agreement fixing the line of contact, *left*, UN and Communist delegates tacitly instituted a demilitarized buffer zone to enclose the demarkation line. The negotiations appeared to take on an encouraging note. There was, however, no military cease fire.



INDECISION

"NO INSPECTION"

Disagreement flared immediately as the delegates approached item three on the agenda: concrete arrangements for cease fire. The matter of inspection soon disclosed that the Communists wanted no behind-the-line investigations during the Korean armistice. The ways and means for making this proposal a reality bogged down the parleys for days. The UN offered to swap islands they held off North Korea for Red concessions on policing the Korean armistice. When it became clear that another deadlock was threatening, Admiral Joy proposed the matter of supervision be turned over to a subcommittee. Under their review the issue had boiled down to this: Communists demanded that no belligerents be on the creation of a joint Allied-Communist inspection team.

NEARING THE DEADLINE

As discord sunk into sullen obstinacy on the part of the Communists, a shroud of apparent hopelessness descended on the council tent at Panmunjom. Expiration of the 30-day agreement came without decisions on the major issues of supervision of an armistice and exchange of prisoners, or on such collateral issues as troop rotation, the retention and buildup of armed forces during an armistice, the repair and construction of airfields in North Korea. The agreement died, making it necessary for another demarkation line to be drawn when other armistice points were settled.

OFFER TO COMPROMISE

The UN had reduced its terms for policing a truce, calling the compromise a "calculated risk," and stating that it was the final allied offer. Abandoned were requests for:

- Aerial observation anywhere in Korea during the armistice.
- Retention of outpost islands behind enemy lines.
- Single supervisory authority for the armistice.
- Allied-Communist inspection team free to travel anywhere in Korea.

In addition the allies offered to permit rebuilding of a limited number of NK airfields. The allies asked the Communists to accept:

- A freeze on military buildup, but limited rotation of troops.
- Restriction of airfields to civilian use during the armistice.
- Open all roads and rails to neutral observers.

The following day the Communists "categorically rejected the allies' formula.

PRISONERS OF WAR

An early allied proposal that both factions begin submitting data on POW's was reviled by the Communists. A UN demand on 10 December that the Reds agree to discuss PW exchange or face a breakdown of the talks, inspired an enemy statement to the effect, "We agree to an all-for-all exchange." The UN indicated it would prefer the return on a man-for-man basis, contending that it could not humanely repatriate thousands of NK's and Chinese who had been impressed into the Red armies against their will and who voiced their plea not to be returned to their former leaders. Pending some solution the allies suggested that the International Red Cross be allowed to inspect PW camps. This was acknowledged with thumbs down.

"UNACCOUNTED FOR 50,000"

PW lists were produced on 18 December. Red delegates turned over to the UN officials a listing of 11,559 names including 3,198 American servicemen. The UN, in turn, handed over the names of 132,474 Red prisoners. This was considered the biggest advance in the armistice talks since the agreement on the proposed demarkation line.

An inconsistency appeared. The sum of Americans listed constituted only one-third of the Yanks known to be missing in action. Since the Communists had openly boasted that 65,000 UN and ROK soldiers were interned in NK pens, their listings were glaringly deficient. The phrase, "unaccounted for 50,000" jarred the consciousness of the free world with a presentiment of mass exterminations. A proposal by the UN for an immediate return of sick and wounded PW's was received with a noncommittal reply that, "It would be considered."

Through Christmas, the delegates were still requesting clarification of the PW lists.

COMMUNIST REJECTION

On 1 January 1952, a compromise agreement, forwarded by the UN in a final attempt to salvage a mutually acceptable solution, was turned down. The rejected proposals were:

- Exchange of 11,559 or more allied PW's for an equal number of NK's or Chinese.
- Exchange 105,000 more NK and Chinese prisoners for SK's on a man-for-man basis.
- An all-for-all exchange of civilians.
- All repatriation to be voluntary, under control of the International Red Cross.

As with the general issues concerning the maintenance of the armistice, the PW problem plunged the free nations into a quandry.



AFTER A SUDDEN SEASONAL SQUALL, A RAINBOW ARCHED OVER THE CONFERENCE TENT.

STAGNATION

After six months of discussions — some of which bore fruit, some of which wilted and died, and some of which were still pending — the armistice talks dragged on. When 1952 dawned, an officer in the Public Information Section of Eighth Army summarized the situation in Korea with the terse comment "Truce here is stranger than friction." In February, the two remaining items to be settled were the Communist's right to build airfields during the armistice and the wholesale repatriation of all PW's irrespective of their wishes. The UN's opposition stand on both issues was firm, as was the Communist insistence on unlimited expansion of airfields and the return of Red PW's despite their refusal to be repatriated. During the early part of February, resolution of these problems seemed distant and difficult. In the long view, however, the eight-month old truce talks brought the two divergent sides closer to the realization of a cease fire and eventual settlement of the Korean tragedy.

Russia made another proposal on 3 January 1952. She suggested the calling of a top level meeting of the United Nations Security Council to consider a successful conclusion of Korean armistice negotiations and methods to relax world tensions. The United States rejected this bid. Such a session, it was pointed out, would worsen the prospect of peace in Korea by bringing political considerations into play to cloud the essential purpose of the military armistice negotiations. The timing of the Russian proposal and the chronic hedging being done by the Communists inspired UN representatives to express their feelings that the Red delegation was waiting for instructions from higher up. With the discussions snarled and knotted by Communist demands for additional concessions, Admiral Joy explained, "Time is the price you pay for progress," but to affirm the UN's policy of non-appeasement he stated further, "We did not come here to make arrangements for our own destruction."



F-51 "MUSTANGS," WORKHORSES OF THE FAR EAST AIR FORCE, WERE TUNED UP AT SEOUL.

AERIAL UMBRELLA

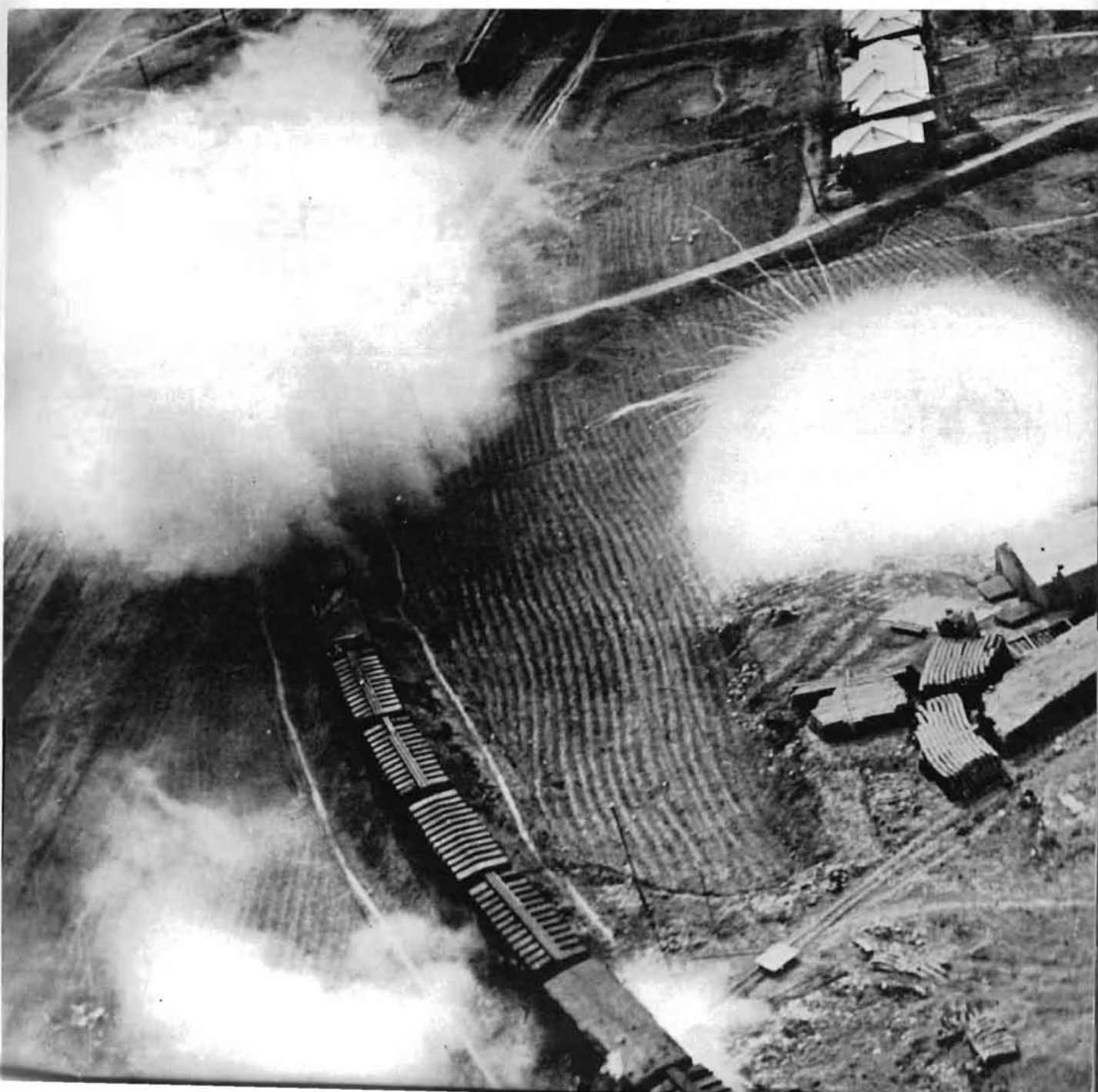
To the average doughboy whose conception of the campaign was curtailed by the outcropping of mountains to either side of him, strategic bombing seemed divorced from the day-to-day business at hand ... fighting the fractional part of the war within the radius of his foxhole. This detachment was also evidenced in his confident conclusion that everything flying overhead was friendly. But it was strategic bombing that drove enemy airpower from their North Korean airdromes to less commodious bases in Manchuria; UN winged might literally "cleared the air" over the peninsula and reduced enemy counteraction to occasional "bedcheck" raids by moonlight. Allied bombers skimming Communist supply routes, chopping convoys to bits and snuffed out all attempts of daylight transportation.

Although ground action across the front was relatively light during the first months of the conferences, the UN continued its satura-

tion air operation against Red land forces. "Operation Strangle," an aerial program begun in August 1951 to nip enemy buildup efforts, was intensified by Fifth Air Force fighter bombers and B-26's, and FEAF B-29's based in Japan and Okinawa. Railroad lines and complexes, marshalling yards, bridges, supplies and troop shelters were class-A targets. Both light and medium bombers engaged in night strikes with B-29's up to the Yalu River. Fighter-bombers delivered constant air support, destroying or damaging more than 2,300 gun positions and 75 tanks to date. F-86 "Sabrejets" escorted the heavy bombers and patrolled "MIG Alley," the jetplane ground below the Yalu. Since the beginning of the Korean campaign, allied fighter planes claimed 1,180 kills. This included a MIG score of 336 destroyed, 75 probables, and 513 damaged. During the same period 637 UNC planes were lost in aerial combat.



F-86 "Sabrejets," *above*, zoomed skyward and flashed through "MIG Alley" to lure the Russian-built MIG-15's from their Manchurian sanctuary to do battle. Red pilots reneged unless they greatly outnumbered the American fighter planes. NK freightcars, *below*, were fused by direct napalm hits directed by low-flying B-26 "Invaders." Fighter-bombers and bombers kept pounding Communist transportation facilities and supply and personnel concentrations as well as frontline troop and gun positions.





BROOKLYN'S OWN jet fighter squadron streaked from the flight deck of the giant USS Antietam. Another F9F "Panther" fighter, **foreground**, was wheeled into catapult position on the flat-top's deck.

SEABOARD SENTINELS

American dreadnaughts resoundingly followed up their conquest of the sea lanes around Korea, by lacing key cities and supply and transportation centers on both coasts, sometimes lobbing shells 25 miles inland. The great port of Wonsan, first bombarded on 16 February 1951, underwent the longest siege in US naval history. The UN fleet, which had opened operations with one light cruiser and four destroyers, now numbered more than 400 vessels, over 200 of which were American

naval units. Navy and marine carrier and land-based aircraft played a leading role in "Operation Strangle," in addition to flying regular close support missions for the ground forces. During one six-month period, planes and ships inflicted 14,433 personnel casualties, destroyed or damaged 3,586 railroad cars, 2,175 trucks, 706 gun emplacements, and cut rails in 12,002 places. Eighty-seven downed Red aircraft and 88 damaged were credited to Navy and Marine fliers.

VAPOR STREAMS spewed from the wingtip tanks of several "Pantherjets" as they sped past the USS Princeton. As regular as clockwork the US Navy brandished its air arm over the Korean peninsula.



TWILIGHT WAR



The Korean campaign declined to something new in armed conflict between July 1951 and February 1952. While the idyl of peace was being pursued diligently at Panmunjom, the Eighth Army continued to readjust and maintain a line which saw little variation during the half-year. There were some highlights during the seven-month period—the US Air Force's program and the birth of a ROK Army—but fundamentally the story was one of "big party" talks and "small unit" tactics.

The Communists took advantage of the lull in large scale action to build durable defenses, emplace more artillery, add to armor, strengthen manpower, refresh worn and decimated divisions, and hoard supplies behind the front. UN artillery strikes and the Navy's and Fifth Air Force's aerial campaign, while they did not

rob the Reds of offensive potential, did take a costly toll of men and materiel.

The Eighth Army, too, was digging-in, reinforcing its defenses, replacing troops through rotation, revamping its highway system with little interference from either enemy artillery or air action, and of prime importance, equipping and training ROK units to assume a new mantle of responsibility.

The Communists, with two and one-half times as many troops, and possibly with more artillery than the Eighth Army, showed no intention of duplicating his offensives of May and June 1951. The hot, dry summer spell brought little change in the pattern of fighting; the line of contact established at Panmunjom on 27 November remained virtually the same throughout the subsequent fall and winter.

ORDEAL BY FIRE



Across the craggy central front the enemy transformed the gorges, ravines, and headlong cliffs into a mountain redoubt that stood like a colossal embattlement across the narrow neck of the peninsula. The Communists burrowed caverns and an intricate webwork of passages dozens of meters under hillcrests; a direct hit with medium artillery might eradicate a bunker, anything less just ruffled the dirt; a rain of napalm could purge entrenchments, only to have them rebuilt and remanned after dark. The enemy was cunning, ruthless, determined and adroit in the use of camouflage. He cratered, mined, and booby-trapped roads, destroyed bridges, jammed the hills and lowlands with automatic weapons, artillery, mortars, and mines. His "Banzai" charge was a thing of the past but the tight-fisted defense of every foot of ground compensated for his failing aggressiveness. Again the foot soldier was kingpin... the savagely personal combat fell on the man with the M-1.



AIR ALERT

A three-man crew: lateral pointer, loader and firer, and vertical pointer, combed the skies behind the business end of a rapid-fire 40mm anti-aircraft weapon. They were part of the tight, inner aerial defense system incorporated by the key installations in 24th Division rear areas.



HWACHON-BASED "GIMLETS" of the 21st Regiment on reconnaissance patrol were astounded to stumble upon a family group digging for potatoes in an allied minefield. The migrant Koreans fled from the CCF, wandered through enemy lines unscathed and took up housekeeping in no-man's land oblivious of the warring camps at either side. They were removed to the safety of the regimental C.P., fed, and rerouted to a civil assistance station.



"THIEVES MARKET" flourished. Sidewalk stalls and booths sprung up throughout Seoul.



FLAG SELLER played no favorites in her flamboyant display of United Nations colors.



A SQUALID SHANTYVILLE took root in the



FEMALE STEVEDORES loaded the ship with



THIN-LIMBED, listless, vagrant children were treated at the 24th's Civil Assistance collecting point while a survey was being made by the ROK authorities to locate their parents.

MALNUTRITION and disease spared but three members of a DP family. The children were taken to foster homes.

BUNKER BABIES. These bewildered, sickly waifs were found in a deserted entrenchment near Kumhwa. Their hair was shorn off as part of the delousing and immunization treatment.





LONG TOMS

Like the Kentucky long rifle of the Indian wars, these self-propelled guns became a master weapon of its day. The 155mm rifles fired 96-pound missiles with on-the-nose accuracy to pulverize Communist blockhouses and fortified dugouts. Batteries of Long Toms, in support of the 24th, added long range authority to allied gunnery.





DOZER MAGIC

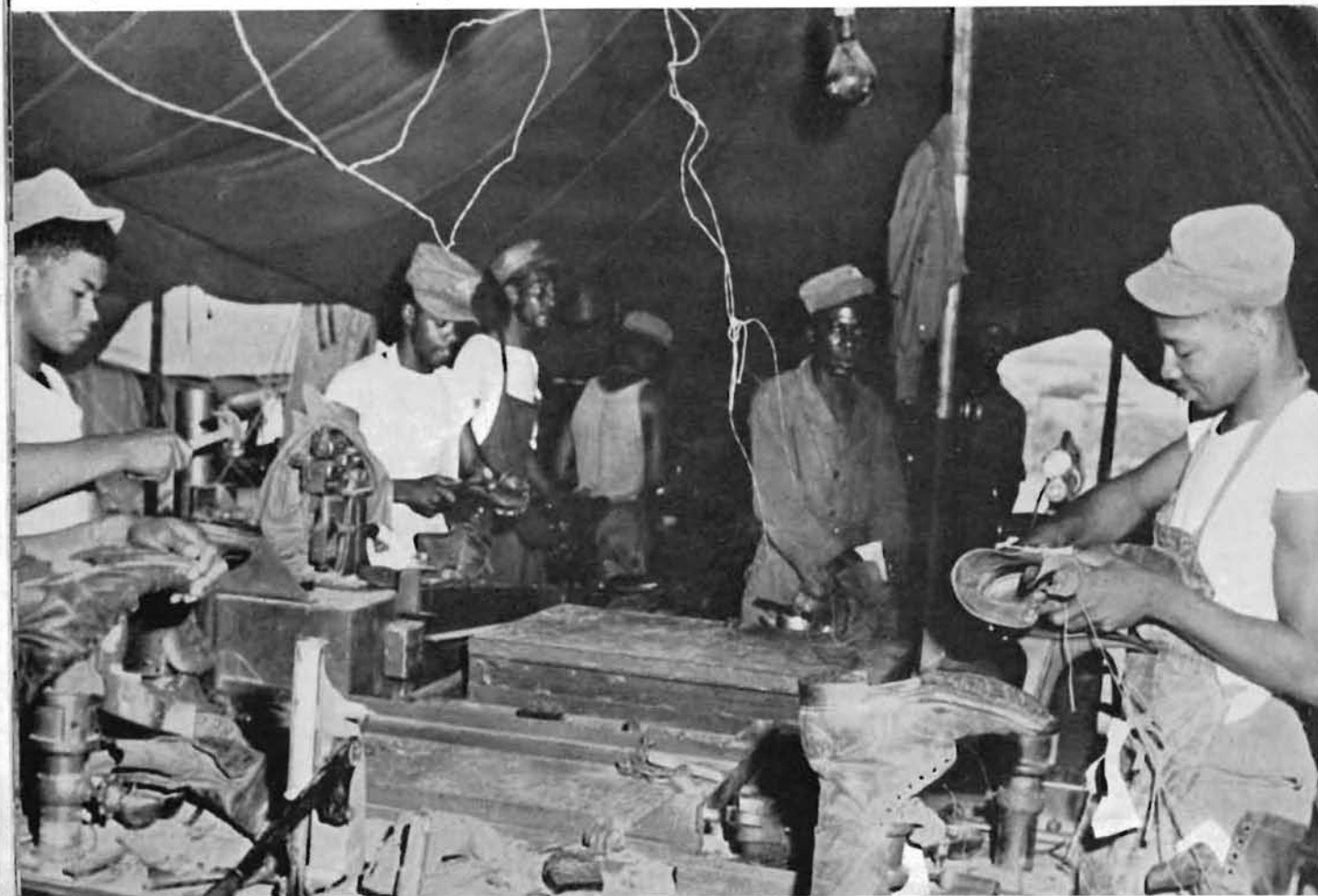
The tough, ugly bulldozer announced itself with churning diesels and gnashing gears and tamed the unmanageable terrain by chewing roads through hill country where roads could not be believed to exist. Dozer blades were affixed to M-4 tanks charged with clearing obstacles and roadblocks in forward areas, where Red snipers endangered the unarmored bulldozer and its engineer-operator riding in the jouncing bucket seat.





RESUPPLY OF COMBAT EXPENDABLE fatigue uniforms began afresh at the reserve bivouac. Huge consignments of organizational and field equipment, some for winter issue, overflowed storage tents.

NEVER SAY DIE TO A PAIR OF COMBAT BOOTS. Repair and maintenance shoemakers mended lasts and resoled bottoms at an Army shop near Uijonbu. Retreads were turned over to ROK relief agencies.





BUG KILLERS

Sanitation engineers employing specialized apparatus were called upon to decontaminate the breeding grounds of infection...stagnant pools which were festering with malarial larvae and other disease bearing insects. Portable three-gallon pneumatic sprays or bulkier "Kyoritu" fog machines were brought in with the first signs of summer. Rotary hand dusters coated the surface of puddles and still water with DDT insecticides and thick oil slicks to destroy the Anopheles. Exterminators with the 10th Preventative Medical Control Detachment, who cleaned house for the 24th, were one of the diverse service groups that contributed to easing the harsher elements of exposed living in inhospitable Korea.





"LIKE THE ONES MOM MAKES . . . almost," quipped a connoisseur of the division's baked products. A "Doughnutmobile" was operated by the 24th's special services for field units returning from the line.

INTERMISSION

Nothing elaborate was needed in the way of diversion to relieve the dreary sameness of the days and nights. With little but uninhabited desolation within scores of miles, off-duty Taromen depended on recreational pursuits more at hand to pass the time. Letter writing became a serious project, and PX ration breakdown was the major undertaking of the day.

Soft drink "chasers" were doled out after . . .



. . . the free beer ration was distributed.



INST
railwa
broug
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to for
Inform



INSTRUCT, inform and entertain. A new kind of railway courier, christened the "USAFI Train," **above**, brought a fund of movies, books, magazines and USAFI (United States Armed Forces Institute) courses to forward units, **below**, through the courtesy of the Information and Education department.

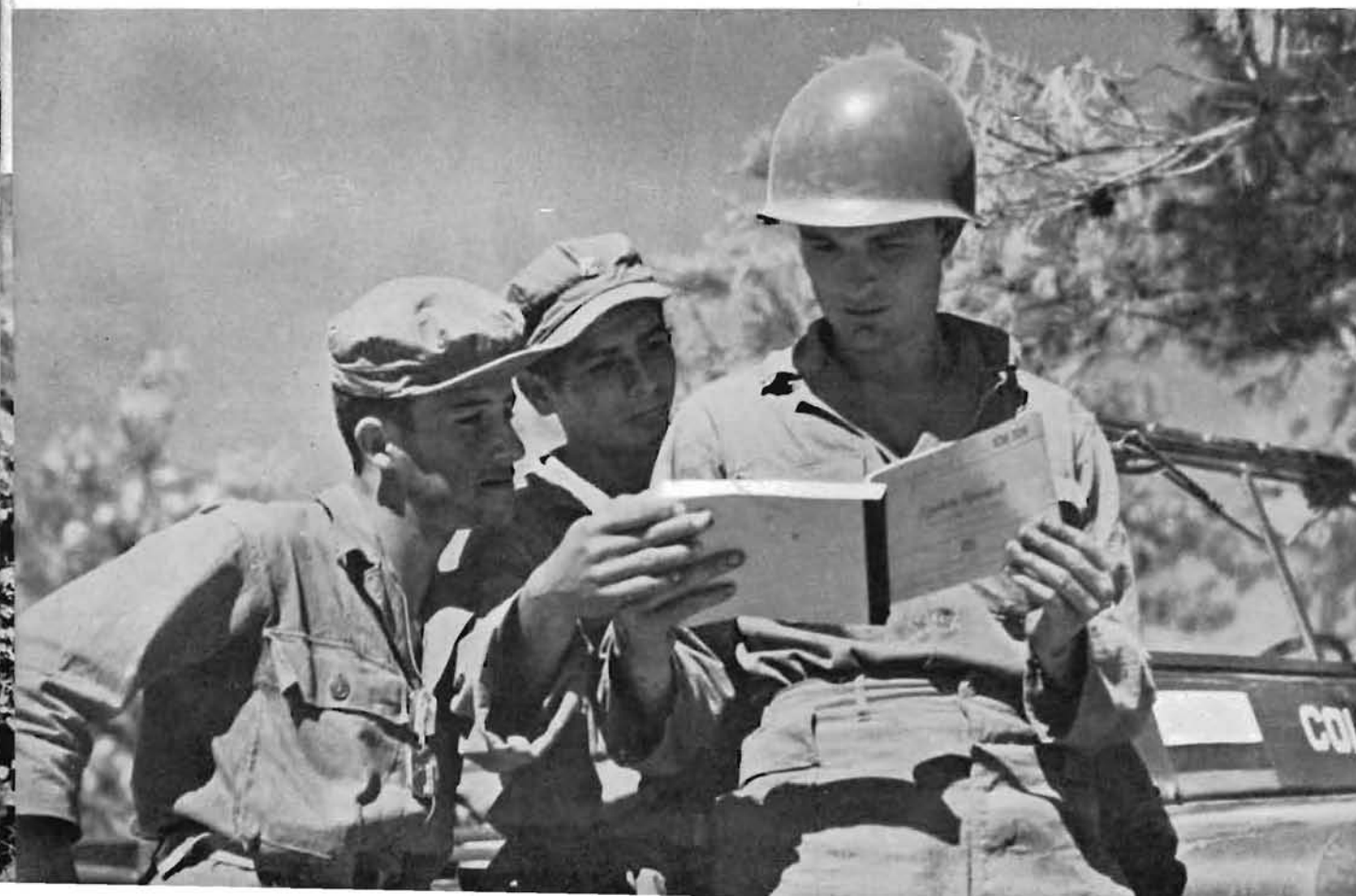


"**TARO NEWS**," a mimeographed news flier published daily for 24th Division Yanks, made a late deadline, **above**. A facsimile "Little Red School House," **below**, mounted on a jeep trailer, issued USAFI tests and courses.





Leaf-worn and dog-eared printed matter made the rounds of the "foxhole circuit", *above*, to help dispel the monotony of the wearisome waiting hours. A studious Taro-leafer, *below*, pondered quiz-zically over a USAFI Conversational Spanish course. Latin soldiers of the Colombian Battalion, looking on, lend their assistance.





MAJ. GEN. BLACKSHEAR M. BRYAN, JR. and Brig. Gen. Numa A. Watson, stood retreat on 26 August 1951 in observance of the 24th Division's tenth anniversary. The CG reaffirmed the 24th's policy of "business as usual," and stated further, "This team with supporting units is unbeatable!"

RADIO COMMENTATOR H. V. KALTENBORN JOINED NEWSMEN TOURING THE KOREAN FRONT.





AT KIMPO AN R&R BUNCH, STILL WITH EQUIPMENT, BOARDED A C-54 BOUND FOR TOKYO.

REST & RECOVERY

A time came when the indelible grime of combat life could be scrubbed from the doughboy's hands, when a spit and polish shine meant something once more. The highpoint of the soldier's Korean tour of duty came the day he was hailed by the first-sergeant, told to stow his gear and join the next levy for R & R leave. Orders were out, trucks revved up, troops piled aboard and highballed to Chunchon or Seoul where air transports idled in readiness for the flight to Japan.



All nations shared the R & R flight.

TOKYO GENERAL HOSPITAL WAS A BRILLIANT EYE-CATCHER ON THE MUNICIPAL SKYLINE.





MILITARY AIR TRANSPORTATION WINGED THOUSANDS MONTHLY TO AND FROM JAPAN.

ISLE OF NIPPON

The conversion was startling. Often in a matter of 24-hours an R & R soldier was spirited from a harsh, primitive existence into the streamlined environment of one of the more modern Japanese cities in the rest-leave area of his choice. Kyoto, Osaka, and Kokura competed with Tokyo in popularity. A chapter in novel dining experience, of scenic discovery and exotic attraction was unveiled to the recreation-seeking UN servicemen who stepped onto the concrete of a metropolitan airport.

QUARTS OF MILK WASHED DOWN POUNDS OF STEAK WHILE PROCESSING AT CAMP DRAKE.





CLEANUP

Little time was wasted on the preliminaries. Complete changes of crisp and clean class A uniforms were issued before the abbreviated session at the receiving station was over. Currency was exchanged, reservations to US leased R & R hotels were booked on request, and consultations were had with Special Service officers for advice concerning the availability of recreational facilities. Five days of R&R leave began the moment the transformed doughboy left the receiving center.





THE PILLARED DAI ICHI BUILDING IN TOKYO HOUSED FECOM'S GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

INTERLUDE

The Rest and Recuperation program embraced every member of the United Nations fighting team in every echelon of the organization, in every branch of the military. After an accrued length of service, fixed by their parent unit, soldiers were accorded five days of leave time on the regular R & R quota. This program was devised to bring to the doughboy several days of rest, relaxation and recreation as well as to give to the Westerner a chance to visit fabled Nippon and its cultural wonders. Here was an opportunity to vacation in a land of great natural beauty, to marvel at the intensity of the oriental way of life and to benefit intellectually and spiritually from first-hand observations of the people and their customs . . . an enjoyable interlude in a memorable setting.

Throughout the Japanese mainland a chain of twenty-five special service resort areas, most of which were situated along the Pacific seaboard, were chosen for their year-round offerings of seasonal activities. Up to date facilities, prompt personal services, and ultra modern fixtures, spiced piquantly with an oriental flavor, graced the special service hotels within the R & R's reach. Although the rest resort was often a self-contained vacation spot

which occupied the whole of the visitor's stay, unrestrained inland excursions were encouraged. The people were hospitable hosts and accomodating guides for their guests. With acrobatic gestures and "phrase book" conversation, a basis of understanding was reached which helped to convey requests and ideas, answers and acknowledgements. A surprising discovery was the grim poverty and difficult livelihood of the great majority of the population. Ringing the more spectacular metropolitan districts were acres of desultory clapboard houses, the homes of the poor and middle-class Japanese families, while in the rural areas a patchwork of diminutive, painstakingly cared-for plots and paddies told the story of a rice-poor nation trying desperately to keep its coffers full. To its credit, however was the elegance and grandeur of the ancient temples and shrines of Kyoto, Nikko and Nara . . . favorite subjects for the foreign shutter-bugs. To the casual shopper, endless sorties into novelty and souvenir shops brought forth a wealth of kimonos and brocades, fine ceramics and lacquerware, ivory bric-a-brac and jewelry. —all tagged for shipment stateside as reminders of a memorable five days of leave in Japan.



THE ALABASTER FACADE of the enlisted men's Atami Golf Course Hotel, sixty-miles south of Tokyo, overlooked spacious groves and lawns that receded into a well-tailored green.

ORNAMENTAL EXTERIOR of the officers' Fujiya Hotel masked the modern, functional decor of the interior. Hot mineral-spring water was piped into the resort's bath house.





Tokyo,

A VARIETY of water sports off the shores of Suruga Bay were available to guests of the Atami rest hotel. Dining and rooming privileges were had by the visitor for a small token fee.

of the

THE CLUB ROOM of the Atami Golf Course Hotel boasted a subdued, comfortable atmosphere with the accent on relaxation. Souvenir concessions and a PX sales store were on the premises.





Menu service enhanced the delights of dining.



Stateside luxury mixed with Japanese tradition.



The bar, rustic lounge, and swimming pool of the special service resort in Atami represented the acme of good taste. Its sister hotels to the north offered a full bill of skiing, hunting, and fishing... the more strenuous sports for cold-weather enthusiasts. Swimming, boating, and tennis ranked with the favorites among the R & R vacationers on Kyushu and southern Honshu.





KABUKI DRAMA

At the Kabuki-za in Tokyo, *above* a cast enacted "Sanbaso-Okina," to prevue the reopening of the mother theater. Although the structure was bombed out during World War II popular demand spurred its reconstruction and the return of Japan's traditional art form to the stage. Kabuki dance-drama, *below*, with its vivid costuming and unusual musical effects, is rich in pageantry and symbolism.





SUMO

The 2000-year old wrestling sport of Sumo retained much of its ancient, elaborate pomp and ceremony, but was plodding and slow by Western standards. Two combatants, *below*, exhibited the approved stance taken by Sumo contestants. Traditional trappings of the grand champions were sported by three title holders, *above*.





ONE LESSON was not enough. The "fall guy" took an undignified spill onto the mats.



THE ART OF JUJITSU, often lauded as the perfect knack of self-defense without the use of weapons, depended largely upon the principle of making use of an opponent's strength and weight to disable him. The system was demonstrated to an attentive audience of Taro-leafers by professional instructors employed by the Meiji rest hotel in the Tokyo area.

THE DIPPING, rolling links of rest hotels' golf courses were tackled only by the most expert players. The well-kept but tricky greens were bristling with many and varied traps and hazards.





RETURN

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Reserve training ended for men of the 24th on 3 October 1951, the day all three regiments refilled positions south of Kumsong Valley, above, positions vacated in favor of the 7th Infantry Division.

The replacement was a bunker for bunker exchange of fortifications that were staked out by the 24th Division months before, and were completed by the incumbent 7th.



WOUNDED MEN OF THE DETACHMENT OF TARO-LEAFERS WITH "TASK FORCE BYORUM" . . .

TASK FORCE BYORUM

At September's end, all elements of the 24th mounted up to move forward once again. During the interval of reserve the division's gun batteries had remained in emplacements behind the 7th Infantry Division to multiply by two, the normal artillery backing on line. Units of the 6th Tank Battalion did not forego their support status either. M-46 "Pattons" rumbled into the Kumhwa Valley to perform "Task Force Byorum" in unison with a saturation shelling by 7th and 24th firing batteries.

. . . WERE MOVED BY STRETCHER BEARERS



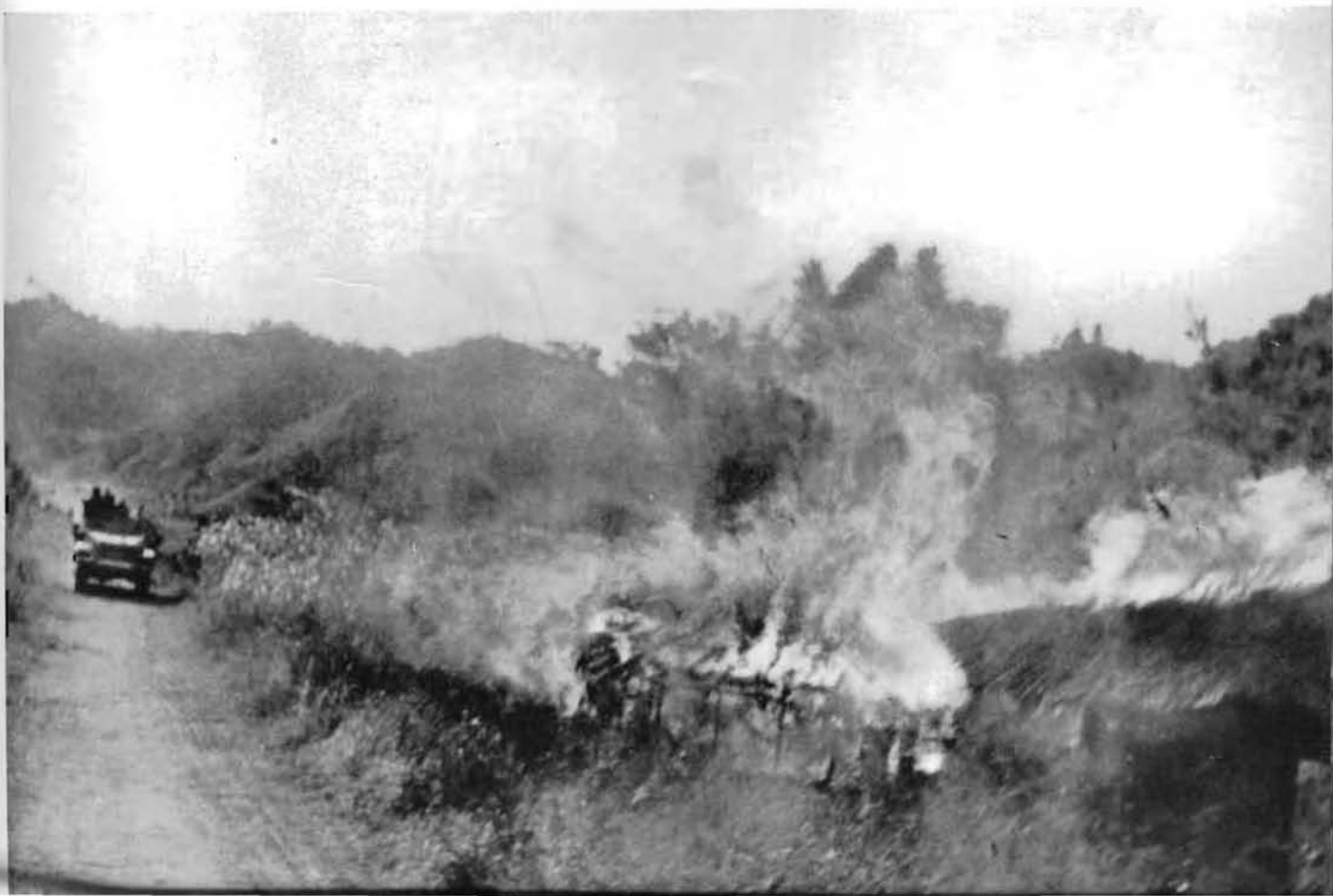
. . . AND TENDED BY MEDICAL CORPSMEN.



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INTO THE KUMHWA VALLEY lumbered "Pattons" of the 6th Tank in joint action with "Gimlets" of the 21st Infantry Regiment. Mined roads were a grave threat to the heavy machines, but electronic "sniffers" soon detected hundreds of Communist wooden box mines for removal. The tanks crowded in to bombard and fire questionable huts and sheds.



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MIGHTIEST CUSTOMERS to hurl shells at the Communists were the pounderous eight-inch howitzers of Eighth Army's 17th FA Battalion. A battery of "Persuaders" fired missions in support of the 24th.

GEN. GUSTAVO ROJAS PINILLA, center, the chief of the Colombian field forces in Korea, discussed tactical matters with Col. Jaime Polania, **left,** commanding officer of the Colombian Battalion.





WATER-LOGGED TAROMEN dug a bypass for the heavy rainfall flooding their pup tent. Shelter halves were pinned over the mouth of foxholes to ward off the elements.

IN SPITE OF his obvious annoyance and the safe conduct pass he clutched in his left hand this South Korean's belongings got a thorough frisking at an MP checkpoint.



SERVING LINE and chowhall were carved into the face of a Kumsong slope.

CIVILIANS HOBbled along footpaths with their chattel across their shoulders





JEEP ammo trains cruised over rutted roads to points unreachable by trucks.



4.2's of the 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion supported the "Gimlet" Regiment.

UNDER THE JUMBLE of pine boughs, bramble and shrubbery, a well hidden 21st Regiment rifleman poked out his M-1. The enormous dome over his bunker was compounded from sturdy timbers, sandbags and gravel-filled ammo crates, made to withstand a barrage of Red shells.



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THE BACKBLAST FROM A COLOMBIAN-OPERATED RECOILLESS SPEWED SMOKE AND DUST.

HIP-POCKET ARTILLERY

Direct fire with large caliber weapons from gun positions atop lofty terrain was the strategist's dream, an ideal that was dimmed by the difficulty of scaling the rugged hills rising in tumbled disorder across the face of the peninsula. The highway-locked medium artillery which was expected to deliver this support fire rattled across the treacherous passes at a snail's pace in an attempt to keep up with more agile infantry units; the time consuming business of folding up a howitzer, hooking it to a prime mover and rolling forward denied the foot soldier the services of that gun during a

long interval. When a firing stage was finally set up, an intervening mountain often blocked the target area from direct observation. Recoilless rifles were the stopgap solution . . . portable cannons with the accuracy of their bigger brothers. They were worthy additions to the heavy weapons section of rifle companies, winning favor for their versatility, range, and hitting power. Besides reliability and compactness, the 57's and 75's were equipped with multi-purpose optical sights for either direct or indirect fire; they were mainstays that could be "choggied" with platoon size attack parties.

A 75mm recoilless rifle was posed for display



. . . then loaded for fire by its crew of three.



OPERATION NOMAD

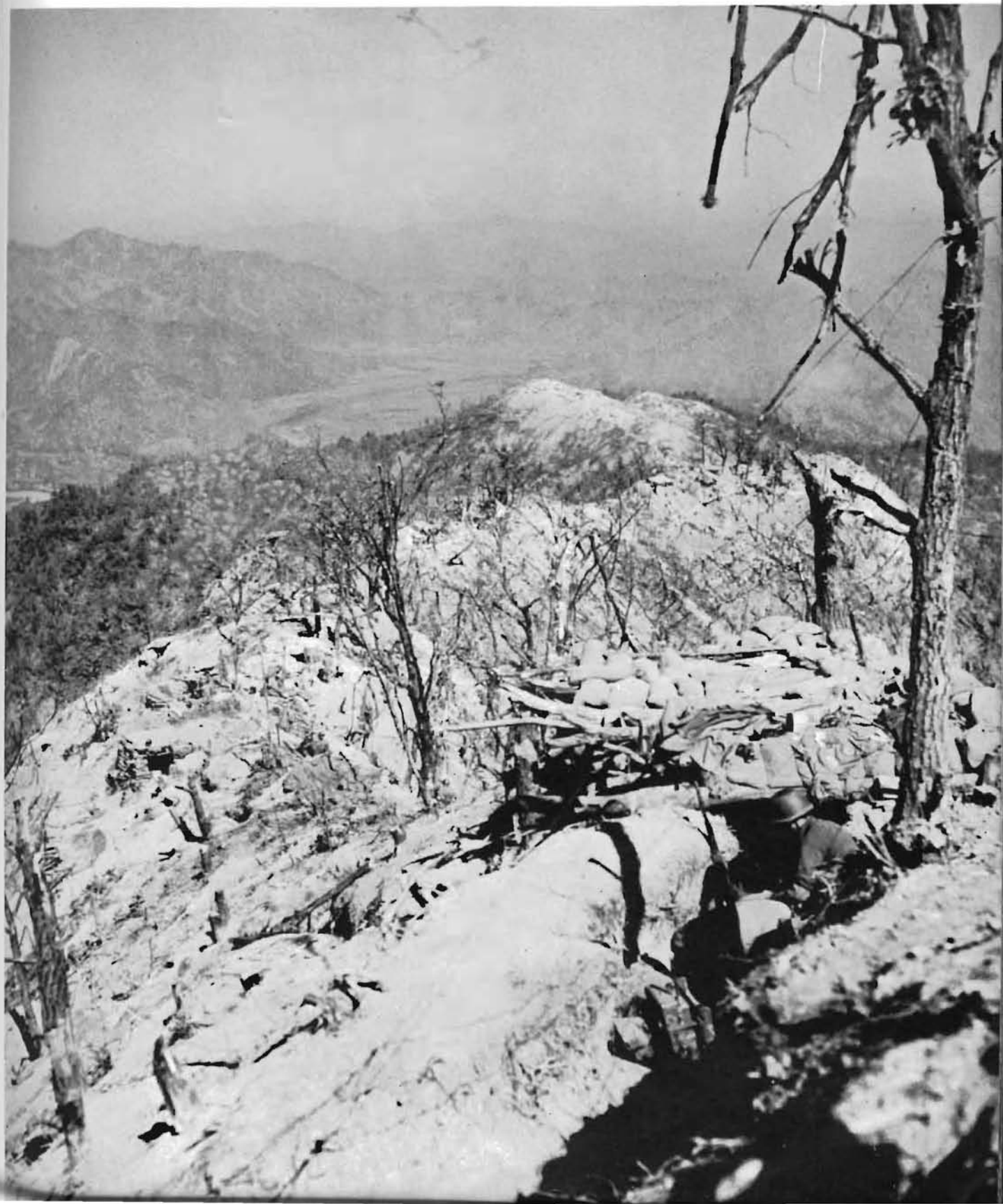
Summer had officially ended, but the blanching heat of early October still swept across the ridgelines. "Operation Nomad" began on 13 October, at the height of an unseasonal hot spell. The division jumped off from the security of its strongly fortified main line of resistance, *below*, into the teeth of a Chinese defense line that had been continually undergoing strengthening construction since July.

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An intensive artillery bombardment introduced the offensive operation, a limited drive designed to root the CCF from its proposed winter line, to gain high ground overlooking the Kumsong Valley, and to demonstrate the considerable fighting potential that was still at the command of the allied powers. Two ROK divisions on either side of the 24th protected its flanks from an enveloping countermove, and prepared to

move out to consolidate any friendly gains made near their positions. It was an uphill struggle every inch of the way. All three divisions wormed forward against the well-engineered fortress that was the Red's inner line of resistance. Enemy mortar and artillery was hidden and staggered, calculated to evade counter-battery fire; a steady fusillade of shells poured into the advancing ranks of infantrymen.





"DOG" COMPANY'S TANKERS SWIVELED THEIR 90MM GUNS TOWARD A CHINESE BUNKER.

A "PATTON" SHED SMALL ARMS FIRE AND PLOWED AHEAD OF PINNED-DOWN DOUGHBOYS.





KER.

THIS HEAVILY ARMED consort of a team of construction engineers scouted ahead and cleared the valley floor before a road survey was begun. They crept into position to emplace a BAR.



OYS.

Smoke rings swirled over an outgoing barrage.

These crevices were earthwork tank traps.



M-16 HALFTRACKS were pulled from sentinel duty to stitch Red bunkers with .50 caliber gunfire.





WELCOMED INQUIRY On 24 October, Mrs. Ana Rosenberg, Assistant Secretary of Defense, discussed doughboy problems with a cross section of servicemen from the 24th Division. Questions relating to rotation, replacement and veteran's rights were aired and clarified.

UPHILL BATTLE

Kumsong was a staging area for the Communist supply system on the east-central front. The Red's unreliable and primitive methods of moving equipment plus the telling effect of aerial strikes against their routes had hamstrung the enemy's efforts to keep a passage open for the systematic delivery of supplies. They were forced to mark off certain localities as depots in which to stockpile substantial quantities of materiel that dribbled in irregularly. A main purpose of "Nomad" was to mount troops close enough to Kumsong to render it useless to the Chinese forces operating in the area.

The limited-objective drive ran up against several regiments of vigorous, combat-ready veterans, a fanatical defending force that was ordered to resist until death. Despite this frantic attempt to hold firm, after two weeks the division drove seven miles inland and occupied every position it had set out to acquire.

Chinese tactics had changed drastically since their last offensive ventures petered out. They were cagey in their deployment and they avoided grouping up out of respect for the "deadeye" accuracy of UN artillery fire. Their own big guns struck back with unexpected savagery and with an effectiveness that indicated a great deal of training and practice; shrapnel took a bigger toll than did small arms fire.

The battleline was well defined. Months of inaction had permitted civilian elements to evacuate the war zone and to leave a clear field for unhindered military traffic. Bunker-building and emplacement-digging by both sides was kept up. Vast mining operations took place, barbed wire and booby traps converted the approaches to either OP into a nightmare of hazards. The "wait and see" policy adopted while the talks at Panmunjom still held a hope for peace, had dissuaded the allies from any aggressive course of action until now.

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FIERY FLASHES bloomed out at night while nocturnal Long Toms fired harassing missions into Communist territory. Random shellings after dark disrupted the Red's feverish nighttime building activities.

HILL 747 near the Kumsong Valley was subjected to a drubbing by recoilless and medium artillery.

AFTERSTAGE

The important allied holdings bordering the Kumsong Valley constituted a deep salient into the east central front. The regiments of the 24th Division were hemmed in on three sides by hostile forces; despite the Communist setback and the dislocation of his main line of resistance, Taromen did not breathe easy until the ROK units that were deployed at their sides moved forward on "Operation Vulture" and plugged defensive gaps on either flank. For the first time loyal Korean troops demonstrated the lessons taught to them during the new basic training program instituted by Eighth Army. ROK units had been removed from the line for reconditioning under US tutorship, had been resupplied and streamlined, and were then returned to action, backed with identical artillery, armor and air that normally supported the American foot soldier. Self assurance, competent leadership, and added firepower were the three qualities that transformed the South Korean soldier from an unpredictable, mediocre fighting man into one that was a formidable adversary.



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"CHARLEY" COMPANY BRANDISHED A MAN-SIZED RAMROD TO SWAB THEIR MOUNT'S GUN.

THIS CCF BUNKER HAD A NORTHERN EXPOSURE PEERING DOWN ON ITS FORMER TENANTS.





A QUAD-FIFTY OF THE 26TH AAA'S "DOG" BATTERY LOCKED TREADS IN AN EXCAVATION . . .

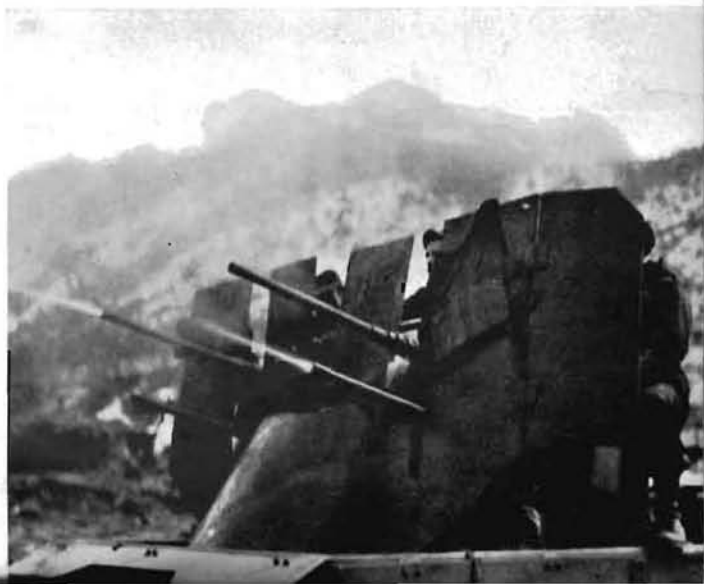
QUAD LIGHTNING

. . . FILLED ITS AMMO CHESTS WITH BELTS



Halftrack quad-fifties, lethal "battlewagons" that packed four rapid-fire heavy machine guns, ruled the roost in their calling as mobile arsenals. Machines of the 26th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion were on tap for the widest range of combat duties designated to any specialized weapons unit in the division. They whipped torrents of automatic fire into hostile hillsides to keep down enemy heads while Yanks crept forward in assault formations; they sprayed suspicious woods with .50 caliber slugs to make the task of mopping-up details immeasurably safer; and frequently they looped fire like high-trajectory artillery over Communist-held ridgelines to chew up preplotted target areas.

. . . AND LOOSED TWO GUNS AT A TIME.





A FORERUNNER OF THINGS TO COME. The first touch of autumnal frost brought a prospect of the biting-cold weather to follow. Rotation had made heavy inroads on the number of holdovers left from the previous year but the memory of the winter still lingered. To waylay the sharp, stunning cold soon to descend on the peninsula the division broke out its winter gear.



NEW FACES. The 100,000th rotatee had since been returned stateside. At Pusan and Inchon a great pool of replacements were trained and processed before loading aboard trains destined for combat areas.

MUSICALE. Sousaphones and trombones played a throaty greeting during official turnouts. Here, the 24th Infantry Division band tuned up prior to accompanying a presentation of awards and decorations.





LIGHT TO FIGHT

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TWO CRISS-CROSSED BEAMS were projected northward to help sentries maintain an efficient watch after dark. The full moon effect bathed the battlefield with an eerie but revealing half-light.

LIGHT TACTICS

Enormous carbon arc searchlights threw man-made moonlight over the battleline, enough light to read a newspaper . . . or to spot an enemy patrol. These self-powered, 60-inch instruments, mounted on the vans of converted 2½-ton trucks belonged to the 86th Engineer Searchlight Company operating in support of the 24th Infantry Division. An eight-million candlepower ray was reflected from low-lying cloud banks or was bounced from prominent hills to illuminate the Communist's holdings.

THIS IS A GENERAL VIEW of the searchlight rig used to produce artificial moonlight.



THE ANGLE of the reflector housing was adjusted by an engineer-operator.





K-9 CORPS IN KOREA

The master and his charge, an indivisible team that trained and worked together to exploit the keen senses of the dog under the intelligent direction of his handler were members of the 26th Det. Inf. Scout Dog platoon temporarily attached to the "Victory" Division.



SIDE BY SIDE, TRAINER AND CANINE PRACTICED "HITTING THE DIRT" AND TAKING COVER.

WAR DOGS

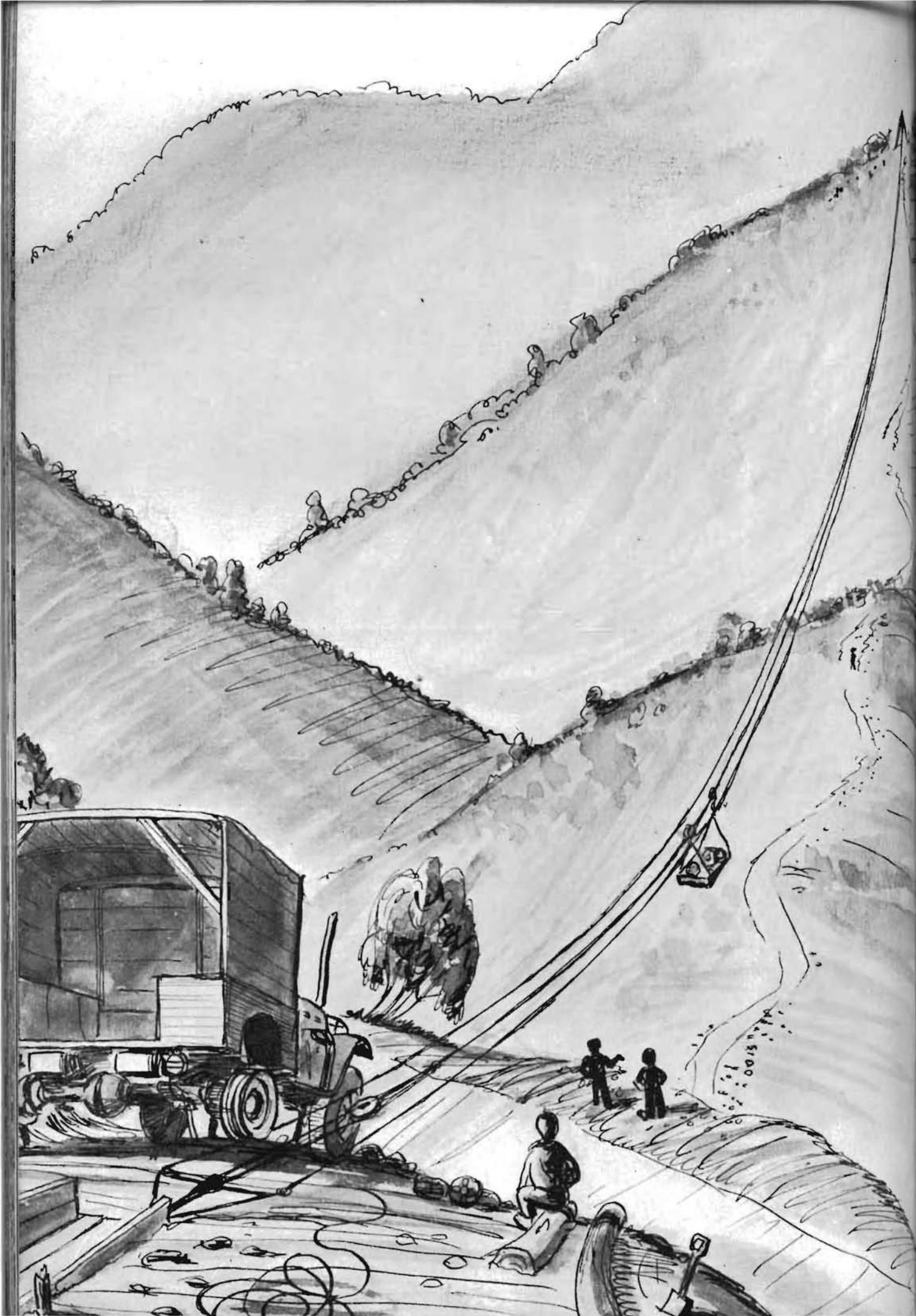
AS A PRELUDE to a handshake, "Jon" gestured with his paw. The brainy animals responded rapidly to their training.



The division employed handlers and their dogs in limited numbers as forward scouts for reconnaissance groups to test the practicality of the scheme under Korean combat conditions. In many instances the acute sense of smell and the lightning instinct of the German Shepherd were invaluable aids to the game of "hide and seek" played by patrolling units to "sniff out" concealed Reds.

"MAN'S BEST FRIEND" often saved patrols from ambush, and key positions from infiltration.







AERIAL TRAMWAY



Cable tramways, similar in construction and functions to ski lifts, swung tons of material up near-perpendicular slopes to points that would be impossible to supply by foot. The large carrying baskets could comfortably hold combat casualties on the return trip, thus doing away with needless suffering in transit and saving precious time. Under battle conditions a single tramway, powered by the engine of a jacked-up truck, could give logistical support to two rifle companies, and in static positions, one lift provided for the needs of a battalion. (The aerial tramway on Hill 690 is depicted in Sgt. Hal Ruble's illustration on the facing page.)





DANNY KAYE and songstress Monica Lewis entertained 24th Division troops in early November. A natural arena formed by a sloping hillside, just recaptured from the enemy, was the setting for a show that played to five-thousand.

JUNE BRUNNER, a popular virtuoso on the accordion, frequented the Korean circuit. She visited field hospitals, toured with USO troupes, and, **below**, played and sang to Taro-leafers assembled near the 5th RCT's command post.



KAYE AND LEWIS collaborated in a bit of musical comedy.



BETWEEN ACTS the MGM star thawed out in her arctic-tent.

BOOTS PREFERRED by Kaye after a rollicking skit in civilian garb.





NO HOT STOVE LEAGUE THIS . . .

Ferris Fain of the Philadelphia Athletics and American League batting champion, Johnny Price, the Cleveland Indian's clowning infielder, and George Strickland, Pittsburg Pirate shortstop, swapped baseball gossip and gospel with Taromen during a mid-November visit. With Price at the sights and Strickland looking on, Fain dropped an HE round into the business end of a 4.2-inch mortar.



THE FIRST SNOWS CLOAKED BUNKERS



. . . THEN MELTED INTO THE VALLEYS.



NATIVES, WISE TO THE WAYS OF WINTER, VENTURED FORTH TO GATHER WOOD AND PEAT.

MEN RETIRED TO THE WARMTH OF TENTS.



ANIMALS NIBBLED ON ICY BARK.



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HILL 770. Seven-thousand meters southeast of the Kumsong Valley lay Hill 770, the heart of Red resistance to the last UN offensive. Commo tunnels and connecting shafts plunged incredibly deep into its crest; entrenchments were complete with excellent fields of fire and passages of escape; plentiful clothing and ammunition stocks were stored in hollowed-out caverns, and ample quantities of rice for winter use were preserved in great underground bins. The Communist soldier, outfitted in cold-weather regalia, confidently manned what he believed to be an impregnable defense line.



NO ESCAPE. When the fury of "Operation Nomad" was spent, Pioneer & Ammunition platoons and burial details explored bypassed Hill 770 to estimate the damage inflicted on Chinese positions. Demolition experts probed into the debris to unearth caches of arms, deserted subterranean hospitals, and even kettles of half-cooked "gohan" perched over the dead embers of discrete fires ... all signs that pointed to the unexpected suddenness of the 24th's attack. Behind the earthworks spraddled the unattended enemy dead. Entombing bunkers had allowed them no escape.





A **"CHIGGEE" BEARER** with the 126th KSC (Korean Service Corps) Regiment hauled supplies by mule-back. Enlisted SK personnel comprising this unit were attached to the 24th for logistical support.

KSC'S WITH "LOVE" COMPANY of the 19th Regiment lined up for noon chow at their private rice kitchen. A platoon of laborers was assigned to every company-size outfit in the "Victory" Division.



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MAYOR KEALOHA OF HAWAII, BANTERED WITH SOME OF HIS FIGHTING CONSTITUENTS.

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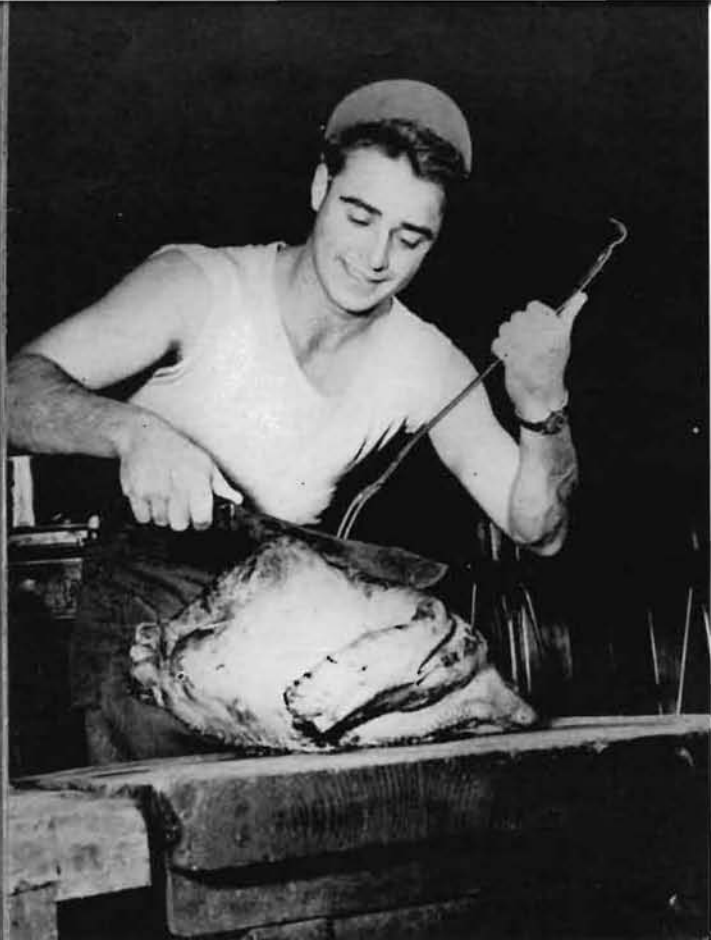
"Hello friends," James Kealoa, mayor of Hilo, Territory of Hawaii, expressed this greeting to fellow islanders serving with the "Victory" Division. Rotation had returned home all but one company of native-born soldiers from the 5th RCT, a unit that had once been Hawaiian staffed and based. The volunteer soldiers of the original RCT were rugged, battling islanders who boasted of a mutual bond of US citizenship and a common allegiance to the United Nations.

MEMORABLE BAIL OUT

Capt. Richard B. Newport abandoned his smoking Corsair fighter over friendly lines after it limped back, badly damaged by Communist groundfire. He parachuted to safety minutes before his aircraft stalled, spun, and crashed into a hillside several hundred meters from the "Victory" Division's C.P. The marine flier untangled himself from the nylon shrouds and hailed a passing jeep . . . that of Maj. Gen. Blackshear M. Bryan, Jr., CG of the 24th. The captain stayed to dinner.

A CAPTAIN dropped in for a two-star welcome, Maj. Gen. Bryan greeted USMC pilot Newport who had cleared his flaming Corsair.





THANKSGIVING IN KUMSONG

In scores of mess tents cooks prepared a festive board for Thanksgiving Day 1951. Hot roast turkey was carved, jeeped and hand-carried to the lines, then ladled into the eating utensils of voracious Taro-leafers. A deluxe bird, *left*, was sectioned and sped to "Gimlets" of the 21st, *above*.

HOLIDAY SPECIALS WERE DOLED OUT AFTER DRUMSTICKS AND STUFFING WERE DISPATCHED.





VEEP VISITS

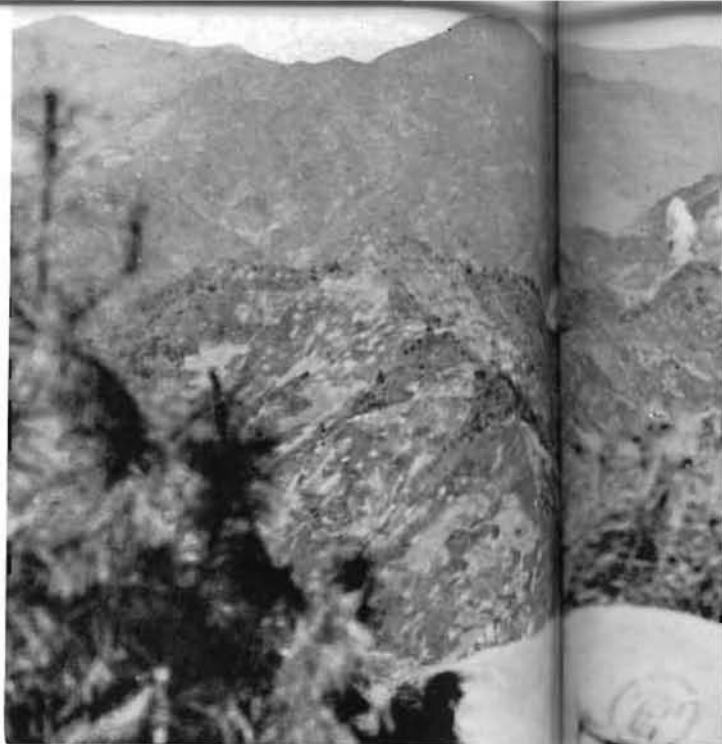


Parka-clad Alben W. Barkley, Vice President of the United States, was accompanied by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, Gen. James A. Van Fleet and Maj. Gen. Blackshear M. Bryan, Jr. on a brief inspection tour of artillery and infantry units within the 24th Division. White-haired, jovial Barkley messed with enlisted personnel of the welcoming honor guard, *above*, following a review of the 21st Regiment's deep-patrolling platoon, *left*. The Veep climaxed his visit by pulling the lanyard of a 105mm howitzer, *below*, blasting off the first round—inscribed: "Fired for Freedom"—of an intense barrage sent sailing into enemy territory by IX Corps artillery battalions.



ASSAULT BY FIRE

Allied artillery took over in late November. Volumes of fire were directed by massed batteries into relatively small target areas identified by intelligence as harboring large cells of Communist troops. Heavy bombardment alerted the enemy in that sector to prepare for what would normally follow . . . an infantry attack by UN forces. The attack never came. Instead, the barrage was shifted toward some other point to upset the calculations of Communist strategists and to cause them to realign their concentrations in order to bolster forces in the new area that was being subjected to shelling. Allied ground troops were ever committed. Besides taking a toll of Red soldiers who exposed themselves while redeploying, this "assault by fire" disturbed the equilibrium of the enemy's defensive network worth of the Kumsong valley and kept his outposts in constant turmoil.



While the 24th Division's spotter planes hovered,

high expl

BEHIND STEEL, A TANK-RIDING ARTILLERY 'FO', OPENED SHOP WELL FORWARD OF THE MLR.



I&R



es hovered, high explosives fired by the 11th and 13th FA Battalions . .



. . . fell into the Communist's holdings.

ALR.

I&R (INTELLIGENCE & RECONNAISSANCE) MACHINE GUNNERS PLACED FIRE THROUGH SCOPES.





Debris dynamited loose to widen a path . . .



. . . was scooped aside by a 3rd Engineer bulldozer.

THE RIDGERUNNERS



Roadworkers leveled an obstructing ledge. . .



. . . then felled and trimmed timbers for the slope.

Logs inlayed in the loose dirt gave traction . . .



. . . to a tank grinding uphill toward the MLR.





A last barrier was blasted from the zigzagging course to the crest, *above*. Finally, the M-46 climbed over the edge, *below*, and swung its big 90mm gun into position.



By perching "Pattons" on strategic hilltops the ridgerunning tankers became "Johnny on the spot" with high velocity cannon fire. The machine, *below*, dwarfed by the enfolding terrain, shrugged off counterfire and knocked out eighteen Red bunkers in one afternoon.









THE FORWARD COMMAND POSTS OF THE 19TH'S 3RD BN. WAS STRUNG WITH FIELD WIRE.

WINTERIZING began in earnest. Now that large scale operations had been ruled out by the severe climate, the doughboy's thoughts turned toward combatting the sub-zero temperatures. Timbers were sheared off the slopes to provide materials for weather proofing; bunkers were calked and sandbagged, and great care was lavished on renovating the interiors for warmth and comfort. The more extravagant and inventive Taro-leafers installed battery-lighting and personal radios. An elaborate intercommunication system was set up to link every unit with a master command to reduce the chances for an unreported Red penetration during the dark days and long nights of winter.

CLIFF-DWELLING TAROMEN, BUNKER APARTMENTS KNIFED INTO LEVELS BEHIND THE MLR.





RESCUE MISSION. Medics and litter bearers followed a beaten path through mine fields, apron fences and coils of concertina barbed wire to evacuate casualties, wounded in ambush during a patrol action.

SOUP'S ON. Goatfooted KSC porters brought a hot meal, stored inside insulated containers. Fatalities and injuries from flying shrapnel were numerous among the exposed, unarmed "chiggie" laborers.





COUNTER SNIPING. This .50 caliber machine gun, equipped with telescopic sight, fired tracers into an emplacement nominated for extermination. Other weapon units guided on the illuminated bullets.

GROUNDKEEPERS. Engineer detector crews backtracked to reprobe every foot of roadway for overlooked mine beds. The Red's wooden box mines were often activated after they lay dormant for months.





CAMOUFLAGING, WHITE COVERALLS ISSUED PATROLS, RENDERED MOVING MEN ALMOST INVISIBLE.

CLOTHING MAKES THE SOLDIER

Exposure to the raw, damp cold of the '51-'52 winter held few terrors for QM equipped Yanks. The latest issue, one of many individual units, was worn in layers for maximum protection. A properly dressed doughboy would don rubber-bottomed shoepacs over two pairs of ski socks, a suit of cotton underwear, woolen "long Johns," a heavy undershirt, wool OD trousers and shirt, cotton field trousers, a pilelined parka overcoat, a wool muffler, a cap with ear flaps, and a regulation steel helmet. Accessories to this wardrobe were: high-necked sweaters, field caps, waterproof pile jackets, and wind breakers. Mountain sleeping bags and inflatable mattresses served the sleeping soldier.

TRAYFULS OF STEAMING HOT STEW WERE SPOONED BY A FAMISHED SQUAD BACK FROM PATROL.





PATROL END

A reconnaissance patrol had returned after a numbing six-hour hike through the misty mantle of wind-driven snow that cloaked the Kumsong Valley. The squad leader lighted-up after briefing, work for the day was over and his men retired to their sheltering bunkers. Frost had driven the enemy into his burrows and the valley's floor was a stilled, ice crusted no-man's land for the duration of the winter.

FEET FIRST

Winter hit hardest at the infantryman's feet. Frostbite and trenchfoot, the two agonizing consequences of inadequate wear and improper care, had victimized too many for this problem to be left solely to the doughboy's own judgment. These permanently disabling injuries were kept under rigid control. Regular inspections, compulsory sock-changing and massaging decreased the frost's prime disabler of men.





THE SCHOOL, ESTABLISHED IN A SERVICE COMPANY AREA, ADMITTED SCORES OF STUDENTS.

NCO SCHOOL

In a squad tent schoolroom near a battlefield campus the 19th Regiment founded an "academy" of military science for non-commissioned officers. Top soldiers in line outfits were nominated by their commanding officers to attend a series of lectures and refresher courses instructing the latest practices and innovations in combat tactics. Field work was thrown in to recreate a training camp atmosphere.

EVALUATION AND NOMENCLATURE OF ENEMY WEAPONS WAS A CLASS ON THE CURRICULUM.





C-119's disgorged tons of mail at Chunchon . . .



. . . for trans-shipment by motor convoy . . .

APO 24

The division's postal facilities swung into high gear as the Christmas holiday season neared. Troop carriers of the Military Air Transport System engaging in "Operation Santa Claus"—a redoubling of air passage to bring many more rotatees home for Christmas—flew back with a ballast load of letter mail and gift packages that in some measure helped to ease the loneliness and nostalgia of those still in Korea.

... to Army Post Office 24 and then speedy distribution to every organic unit within the 24th Division.





ON THE MLR a "Gimlet" of the 21st Regiment received a Christmas gift package from home. The helmeted mail clerk trucked, jeeped, and "choggied" bundles and pouches over miles of hill country.

MAIL CALL

Postal workers made their rounds across the Korean battlefield much like their civilian counterparts stateside. Sorting, routing, and delivery were conducted in the same manner as at home although the occupational hazards here were profoundly greater. The volume of incoming letters was both an accurate barometer and a good control for troop morale;

with this in mind the 24th's postal system was expanded and streamlined for ultra speed and efficiency during the Yuletide. The distribution of letter mail received top priority, it ranked in importance with the movement of medical supplies and rations . . . along with chow and cartridges, "chiggie" trains ported packets of mail to the most remote outposts.

EXTRA HELP was called in from other service units to process the overflowing holiday input.

R&R GIFTS were mailed home by an artilleryman. APO services were listed on the shingle.



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AN L-17 "NAVION" unloaded its top secret cargo of military mail at the division's airstrip. Courier shipments of security information kept headquarters in direct liaison with the corps high command.

M-46 "PATTON" TANKS pinch-hit for overburdened postal trucks by adding duffel bags of package mail to their basic load. Every motorized unit pitched in to bring yuletide cheer to the front.





Season's greetings in filigreed carpentry dangled below an archway erected at the gate of the 21'st CP.

XMAS '51 ABOUNDED IN TRADITION

Stuffing recipe called for piquant seasoning.

Meticulous decorating primped up a pine tree.





CHRISTMAS ON THE HILL was more restrained. A businesslike alert was kept for Red attacks.



SLEIGHLESS SANTA cut a fitting figure against the white dunes and drifts.

CHAPLAINS AND OFFICERS of the 19th "Rock of Chickamauga" Regiment carolled on Christmas Eve during an hour-long program of meditation and song. Bitter cold did not dampen the celebrant's ardor.

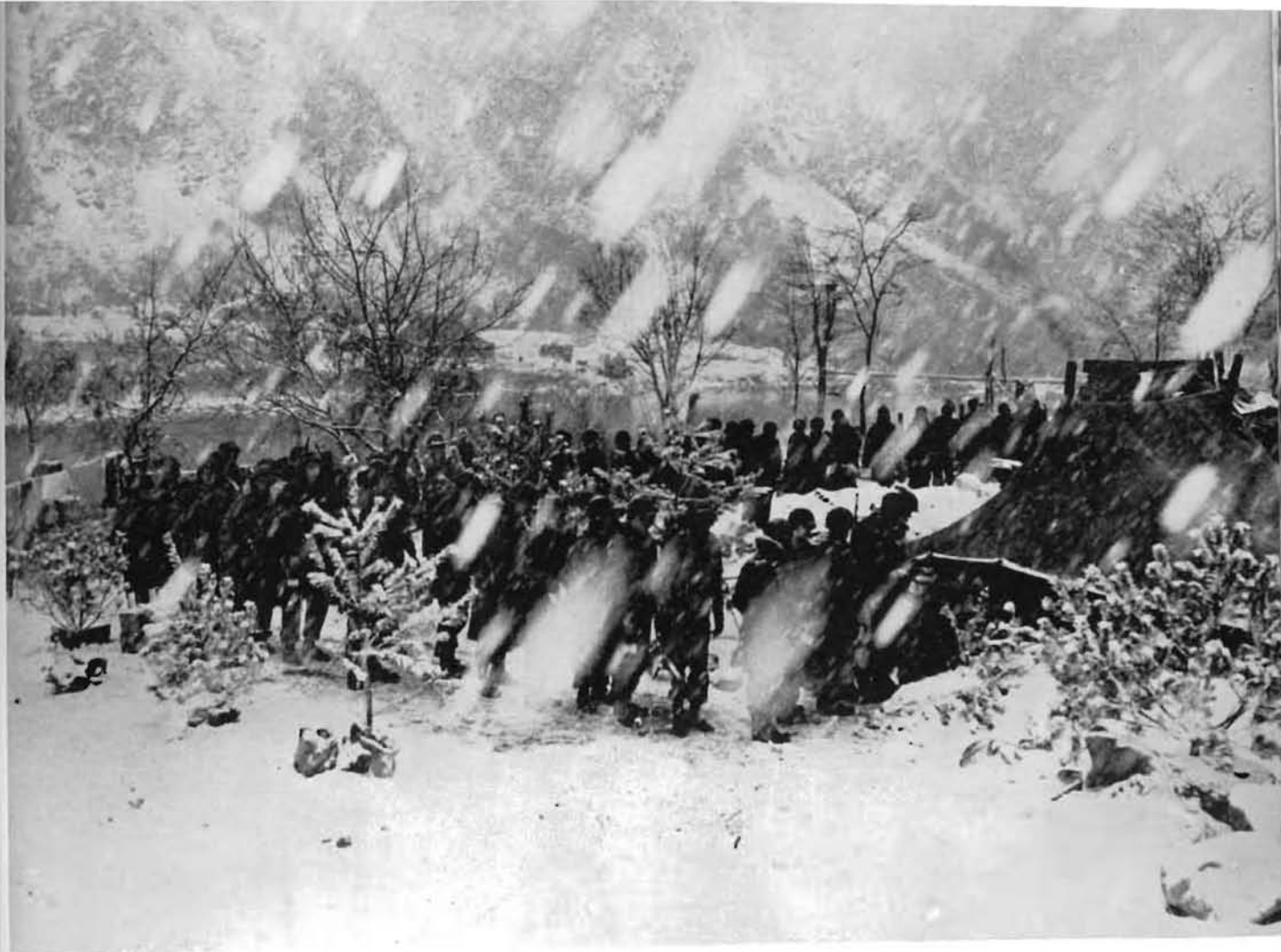




“EATINGEST” DAY OF THE YEAR

Christmas Day was also dedicated to the appetite. The festive quartermaster menu (facing page) excelled, and surpassed itself in variety and abundance; nothing was omitted from the customary Yuletide fare. Every Taro-leafer partook of the noon-time meal and many participated in the informal period of worship and spiritual devotion that followed. An uneasy hush fell across the battleline during the day . . . the enemy had refrained from staging any expected nuisance raids, as if in deference to the high holiday.





MENU...CHRISTMAS DINNER

Shrimp Cocktail	
Stuffed Celery	Green Olives
* * * * *	
Roast Young Tom Turkey	
Stuffing	Dressing
* * * * *	
Snowflake Potatoes	Cranberry Sauce
Buttered Carrots & Peas	Candied Sweet Potatoes
Canned Sweet Corn	Parker House Rolls
* * * * *	
Fresh Fruit	Mixed Nuts
Hard Candy	Fruitcake
Ice Cream	
* * * * *	
Coffee	Fruit Punch



GUEST SPOT

Stage and screen personalities Paul Douglas and Jan Sterling, husband and wife in private life, were performing guests of the 555th Field Artillery Bn., an organic 105mm gun battalion backing the 5th RCT. The stars helped to garnish Christmastide with comedy bits and chatter for their doughboy audiences.

LAST LAUGH

For these boisterous veterans, here was the last laugh, a last chance to laugh through the grime and discomfort of Korea at a touring Hollywood funnyman or a fellow comic. On 16 January, the official word came down . . . the 24th Division was alerted to return its headquarters and two of the regiments to Japan.





THE BIG MOVE

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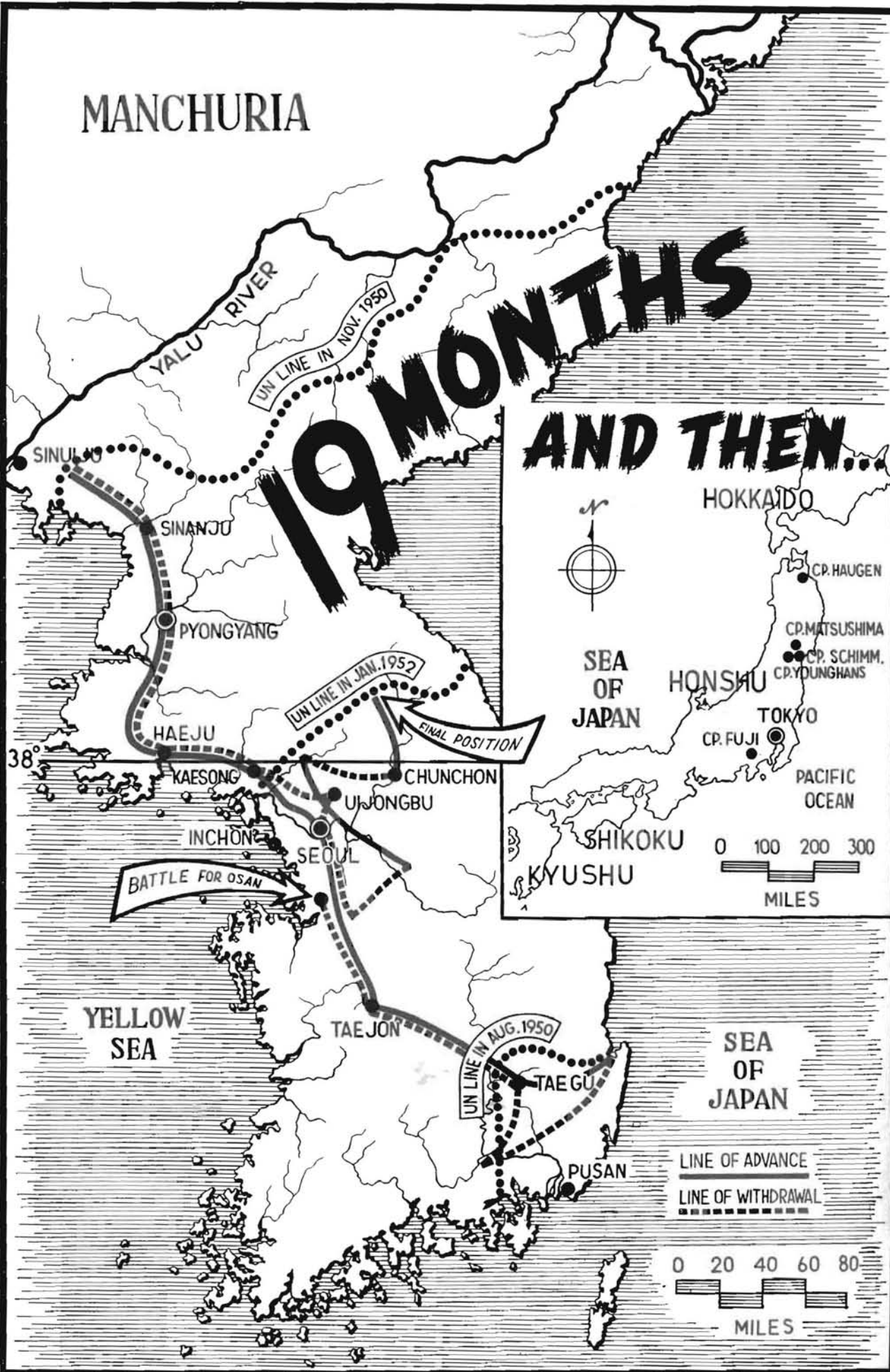
On the date of the announcement, the "Victory" Division's 19th "Rock of Chickamauga" Regiment shouldered its gear and left the ridges for the last time. While the 21st "Gimlets" prepared to vacate its positions in favor of the 40th "Sunburst" Division—the 5th Regimental

Combat Team was slated to continue its combat mission in Korea. The two regiments groomed for replacement motored through the snow-sheathed valleys, *above*, and down the Main Supply Route. They encamped in temporary tent cities at the rear to await sailing orders.

MANCHURIA

19 MONTHS

AND THEN...





CHANGING OF THE WATCH

Somewhere on the east central front, a departing Taro-leafer handed over a clip of M-1 ammo to his replacement, a security guard with the 40th Infantry Division. This was an act representative of the man-for-man switchover that took place during the month of January.



They backed off the line in fleets of trucks.



... and exulted at the news of their return to Japan.

OPERATION "CHANGE"

Weeks before the year's end, the "Sunburst" shoulder patch of the 40th made its debut in the 24th's sector. Groups of specialists and technicians from the Japan-based outfit were briefed and indoctrinated on the field by veteran unit commanders of the "Victory Division," men whose functions they were scheduled to take over. This way, it was expected, neither confusion nor interruption would hamper combat operations during the transition. For security reasons word of the big move was withheld from the public, although to expectant Taromen the early tidings were merely confirmation of what had been a strong rumor.

The 45th "Thunderbird" Division, formerly on occupation duty in Japan, had since replaced the 1st Cavalry Division. There had been indications that a second occupation force, the 40th, would soon follow suit. The "Victory" Division, first to fight on the peninsula, was the logical choice for secession to Operation "Change." Unit for unit the exchange was made. Simultaneously, the 5th RCT was cut loose, attached temporarily to IX Corps and placed in reserve, there to await reassignment. Only personal belongings and portable property was lugged away . . . heavy equipment was left for the replacing organization.

A convocation bespoke gratitude and prayer for an honorable end to the crusade, now in others' hands.



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A shakedown came in the late afternoon



. . . bringing the hectic moving-day to an end.



THESE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN of the first rifle company to arrive in combat strength. "Item" Company of the 160th Regiment had undergone eighteen months training in Japan with its mother organization before relieving a battle-weary unit of the 19th. The 40th Division's barracks and offices scattered across the main island of Honshu were in mothballs, ready to receive their new Taro-leafer tenants.





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LANDMARKS

"Baker" Battery of the 13th FA Bn. fired "Blood and Guts," *above*, wheeled her around and made the field piece ready for a 40th Division gun crew. The 105mm howitzer had unloaded Divarty's last round into the Kumsong Valley in support of the "Victory" Division. A noteworthy "first" was recorded by an "Able" Battery gun of the 980th FA Bn., *below*, as it took up supporting chores where the 24th's artillery had left off.



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With little fanfare or ceremony a gradual turnover in command took place that still left no outpost unguarded or gun position solvent.



A gun changed hands. Cannoneers of the 40th Infantry Division trundled out their new charge and swung it into place to cover the 11th Field Artillery Battalion's former sector while Taro-leafer artillerymen packed their paraphernalia and moved out.





TAROMEN DON'T LIVE HERE ANY MORE. THE MLR NOW RESTED IN "SUNBURSTER'S" HANDS.

SMILES APLENTY AS A COMPANY COMMANDER AND FO HAILED THEIR 40TH COUNTERPARTS.



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THE REGIMENTS MARSHALED, CONVENED, AND QUIETLY MARKED TIME IN A TENT METROPOLIS.

NEXT STOP... JAPAN!

SIGNS THAT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. Combat dress was still the uniform of the day.



Tent cities were thrown up near Sabanggo-ri and Chunchon for the transplanted 24th Division headquarters, followed by the 19th "Rock of Chickamauga" Regiment, the 21st "Gimlet" Regiment, Divarty, the tank and medical battalions, and every component service, support and supply unit, was soon boarded in acres of canvas shelters. Parkas were turned in for dressier field coats and the reformation of the doughboy into a garrison soldier, began. By the end of January 1952, every man had been cleared and loaded onto trucks and trains. Destination . . . Inchon harbor and its port of embarkation.

DIGGING CAN BE DELIGHTFUL if it's the last Korean assignment before embarkation.





MEN JAMMED COACHES SHUTTTLING FROM TENT CITY IN CHUNCHON TO INCHON'S PORT.



They huddled under sleeping bags and coats



. . . to reminisce over ads in stateside magazines.

Scintillating music spirited away the day . . .



. . . that was punctuated with a cold noontime meal.





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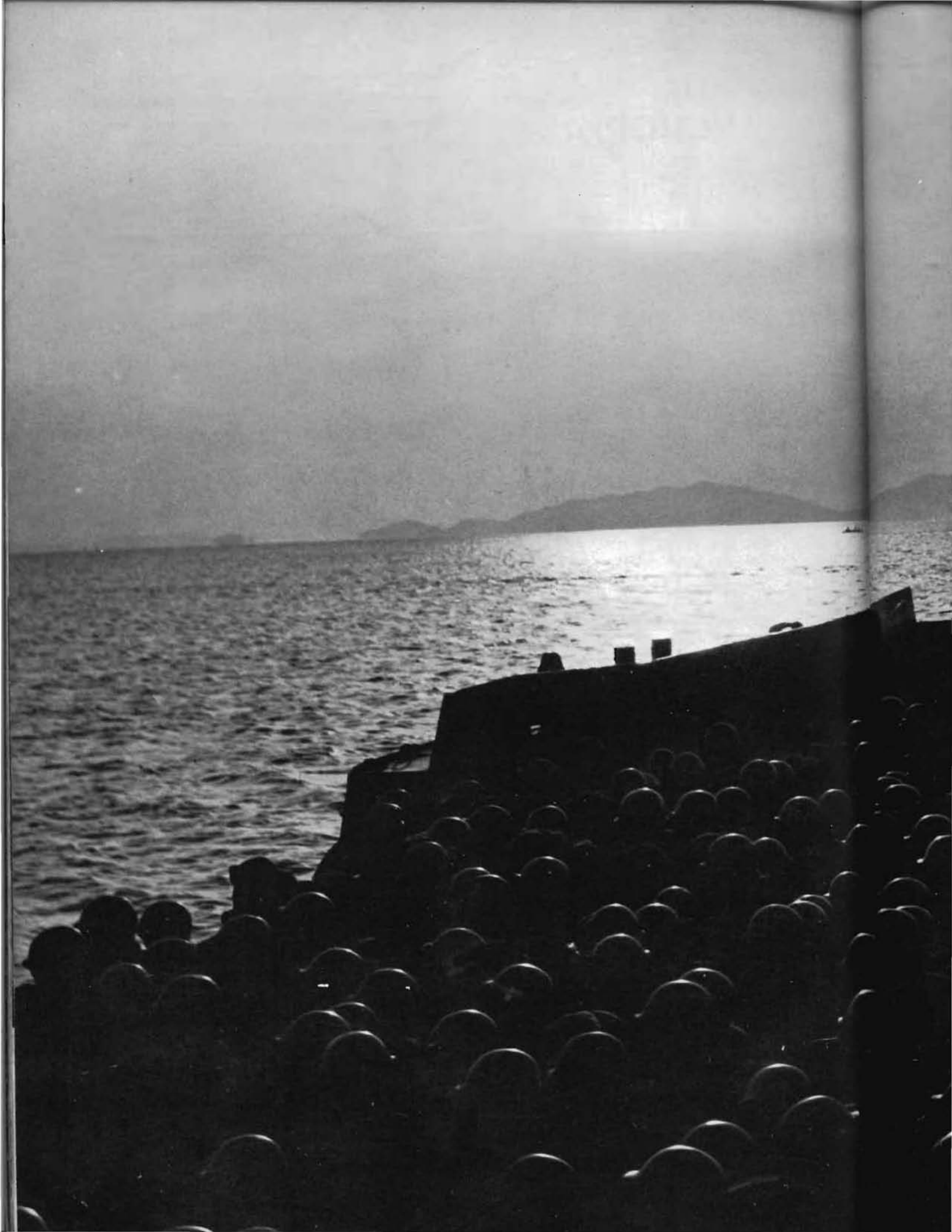
OTHER CONTINGENTS mounted up on trucks for an arduous, wind-battered journey to ASCOM City in Inchon. Even the 40 mile-per-hour gale ripping through the troop laden vans did not dampen high spirits, for this last hardship was regarded as the final bout with the Korean winter, a mass withdrawal consummated in victory and success. The Communist army had been stemmed on a line of our own choosing; the combat mission of the 24th Division—to contact the enemy and drive him back—had, after nineteen long, battle-filled months, been fulfilled.



UP ANCHOR

Embarkation before the sunrise. From a broad transfer float bobbing alongside a Japan-bound troop vessel, doughboys clambered up a gang-ladder to the spray-lashed deck.









BELOW DECKS

In the filtered half-light of teeming troop compartments deep in the transport's holds, veteran Taro-Leafers made the best of a sardine-can existence for five discomposing days.

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SHIPBOARD BLUES. The woes of weather and rocking decks wreaked havoc upon the landlubber's innards. Although less hardy "railbirds" tried to bed down below, daily fire drills, **above**, aired all hands.



A destroyer, bringing up letter mail in mid-ocean



. . . was welcomed in the daily routine.

Troop carries were berthed in Yokohama



. . . and the division debarked into Japan.





Then, the destinations were made known. Camps Matsushima, Fuji (on the slopes of Mount Fujiyama), Schimmelpfennig (Sendai), Younghans (Jinmachi), and Haugen (Hachinohe), were designated the five permanent stations for Taro-leafer troops. The division was taglined as an occupying force responsible for the security of Honshu, the main island of Japan.



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Duffle was stowed on the Sendai special . . .



. . . before the morning meal was served.

HOURS AWAY

Korea seemed a long distance off as the frail, gray-streaked villages and the mathematically neat truck gardens and paddies of central Honshu streamed by the train windows. Mail was waiting for the passengers between stops and hot food was dished out inside the parlor car-diner. There was time to make a round of the coaches in search of old friends, or for a leisurely gab fest with the guy across the aisle.

A HARMONICA DREW A PART AUDIENCE AS THEIR MIDNIGHT EXPRESS HIGHBALLED NORTH.





"WE NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD!"



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ANTICLIMAX

A phase had ended; a chapter in the fighting history of the 24th "Victory" Division. Although a hard-fought campaign had won for it the esteem and gratitude of the free world, this was not the end of the road, but merely a starting point for a new career.

The mistake of laxity had been unmade by tragic months of withdrawal with costly experiences etched in blood-red on the rolling hills of the "Land of the Morning Calm." No one basked now in the pseudo light of false security or reveled in the new-found luxuries of this changed tour of duty, for an exacting training schedule was to be met by veterans of the 24th. From the hub of command, situated in Camp Schimmelpfennig, **above**, issued detail directives establishing a training program designed to preserve the keen edge of preparedness that had brought the division to the forefront of the fighting. The 24th was being conditioned to maintain its deadly fighting team, combat wise and ready.

There were chances, too, to relax . . . emotionally, if not in body. The screaming pitch of perpetual combat faded into the familiar monotone of lectures and cadences. The jolting pace of brooding days and dangerous nights was replaced by Class A passes and the habit of a calm and untroubled full night of sleep. Here were opportunities, as soldier-ambassadors in a former enemy's land, to travel widely and strike up friendships among the people that would promote richer understandings and a deeper appreciation between the two cultures.

In reviewing the significance of these, the nineteen most perilous months for world security and for the infant UN organization. Future generations will recall those men of the 24th Infantry Division who fought well . . . those who died in history's most honorable cause and those who were returned to their former homes as a part reward for their courageous efforts.

Medal of Honor



The Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for military valor, is given to those who have acted with supreme courage and total disregard for their own safety in the face of the most hazardous conditions. It is an award that only a comparative handful of men in the world are entitled to wear. It is bestowed by Act of Congress and reflects Democracy's gratitude to those who, in moments of uncommon risk, offered everything they had in its defense, including life itself. The medal is but a humble token, a gesture of recognition for sacrifices which cannot be repaid to its honored holders in worldly goods.



MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM F. DEAN

Commanding General, 24th Infantry Division.

In command of a unit suddenly relieved from occupation duties and as yet untried in combat, and faced with a ruthless enemy highly trained and overwhelmingly superior in numbers, he felt it his duty to take actions, which to a man of his military experience and knowledge was clearly foreseen as apt to result in death. He personally and alone attacked an enemy tank while armed only with a hand grenade. He also directed the fire of American tanks from forward positions while under intermittent artillery and small arms fire, with neither cover nor concealment. When the town of Taejon was finally overrun, he refused to ensure his own safety by leaving with the leading elements, but remained behind to organize his withdrawing forces and direct stragglers; he was last seen assisting the wounded to a place of safety. These actions indicated that General Dean felt it necessary to sustain the courage of his troops by a show of excessive gallantry committed always at the threatened portions of his front line. The magnificent response of his unit to this willful sacrifice, done with the full knowledge of its certain cost, made history.

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SGT. GEORGE DOLTON LIBBY

Company C, 3rd Engineer Battalion

Sgt. Libby—with several members of an engineer platoon — was withdrawing in convoy from Taejon on 20 July 1950, when the truck was disabled at a roadblock by enemy rifle fire. Every occupant, with the exception of Libby, was either killed or injured. After twice crossing the highway to aid his wounded comrades he took cover in a drainage ditch alongside the road and returned enemy fire with his carbine. When an M-5 artillery tractor chanced by he lifted a wounded man aboard and mounted the cab of the prime mover. Noting that the enemy was now directing fire at the driver and realizing that no one else could operate the controls he boldly stationed himself, completely exposed, between the driver and the enemy and answered their fire, killing and wounding a number of the ambushers. He refused first aid for the deep wounds in his arms and legs, but continued to shield the M-5 driver with his own body while he countered the fire of the Communists. As the tractor sped to safety he lost consciousness and collapsed, fatally weakened from the loss of blood.



M/SGT. MELVIN O. HANDRICH

5th Regimental Combat Team

On 25 August 1950, his company was busily engaged while trying to repulse 150 North Korean infantrymen attacking American positions located on Sobuk Mountain. Handrich, a rifle platoon leader, volunteered to leave his unit, which was in blocking positions not under attack, for a distant outpost then being subjected to heavy small arms and mortar fire. He remained eighteen-hours in this forward area to direct mortar and artillery on Communist troops who at times charged to within fifty-feet of his dug out. Next morning the enemy attempted to break through the lines of the defending company. Handrich observed a portion of his unit beginning an unordered withdrawal. With neither cover nor regard for his personal welfare he left the safety of his position repeatedly to reorganize the remaining troops into fighting squads. At this time he was hit in the leg and back but he refused to discontinue fire control duties to receive medical attention. At 0700 his bunker was overrun and Handrich was killed. When Sobuk-san was later reoccupied, 71 enemy dead were found in the area he had been defending.



CPL. MITCHELL RED CLOUD, JR.

Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment

On 5 November 1950, from his exposed station on the point of a key ridge overlooking the approaches to "Easy" Company's command post, the American-Indian security guard was the first to detect the presence of Chinese soldiers and to sound a warning as the enemy charged from a brush-covered wooded section less than one-hundred feet from his post. Springing up, he delivered devastating point blank automatic rifle fire into the advancing phalanx of infiltrators. His accurate and intense fire checked this assault sufficiently to gain time for the company to swing into action and consolidate a perimeter of defense. With utter fearlessness he maintained this vulnerable firing position until he was severely hurt by enemy bullets. Refusing assistance or medical evacuation he pulled himself to his feet, wrapped a free arm around a tree and resumed his deadly fire by cradling the weapon in the fork of two branches. He fell again, fatally wounded. This heroic act stopped the enemy from surprising and overrunning his company's positions and it allowed an opportunity for reorganization and the removal of the injured.



M/SGT. STANLEY ADAMS

Company A, 19th Infantry Regiment

Near Sesim-ni on 4 February 1951, Adams organized and led a bayonet counterattack against a small foothill occupied by 150 Communist troops. Within fifty-yards of the enemy's lines he was struck in the leg by small arms fire. Ignoring the painful wound, he continued his dash up the enemy slope; fanned out behind him were only thirteen men, all that remained. Several enemy grenades ricocheted off his body before one exploded nearby, hurled him to the ground and inflicted further injuries. Undaunted by superior numbers he tore into the defenders savagely with bayonet and rifle butt, and spurred his men on to drive the stunned enemy from the top of the hill. After an hour-long melee his small force was ordered to retire to friendly lines. The sergeant remained behind as a one-man rear guard. He prevented the enemy from retaking the position by directing volleys of intense and accurate fire on hostile concentrations grouped at the foot of the hill. After Adams rejoined his company, and again moved forward with it to secure the hill mass, at least fifty enemy dead were counted in the vicinity of the assault.



S.F.C. NELSON V. BRITTIN

Company I, 19th Infantry Regiment

With diffident supporting fire from his scattered and depleted squad, S.F.C. Nelson V. Brittin openly braved the murderous counterfire of entrenched enemy units dug in near Yongdong-ni, on 7 March 1951. He personally destroyed the Communist's nearest small arms position, but before returning to his unit for more ammunition he was knocked down and injured by a shower of grenade fragments. The squad leader refused any medical attention; he replenished his supply of grenades and cartridges and resumed the attack. When his carbine jammed he leaped without hesitation into a Red communications trench, bayoneted its occupants, and continued his successful grenade assault against a machine gun nest that had pinned down his squad. Less than 100-meters up the hill his men once again came under intense fire from camouflaged automatic weapons protectively flanked by a score of Communist riflemen. Brittin charged this remaining obstacle but ran into a burst of machine gun fire which struck him full in the chest and killed him instantly. In his sustained driving action he individually accounted for twenty enemy soldiers and four automatic gun positions.



1ST LT. CARL DODD

Company E, 5th Regimental Combat Team

Dodd commanded an assault platoon assigned the mission of seizing and securing Hill 256. He advanced his men approximately half the distance before the unit was pinned down by heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire. Rallying his men, he led them in a determined bayonet charge; he was first to reach the Communist emplacement and wipe out the enemy's machine gun nest. His dramatic actions, running and dodging, firing his carbine, and throwing grenades with either hand, so inspired his men that they resolutely followed him to capture the first objective. Personal kills registered for the action were: one 120mm mortar, one machine gun, seven automatic rifles, and scores of small arms. When darkness came he maintained an all night vigil while continually exposing himself to a hail of incoming fire. By morning he had reorganized his men and despite stubborn and fanatical resistance he began to push to the crest of the hill. Throughout the 1200-meters of the route of advance he displayed great heroism and dogged determination to succeed and encouraged his men by his own example to continue up the slope in the face of overwhelming odds.

P. F. C. MACK A. JORDAN

Company K, 21st Infantry Regiment

On 15 November 1951, near Kumsong, as a squad leader of the 3rd Platoon, he was participating in a night attack on key terrain against a fanatical hostile force when the advance was halted by intense small-arms and automatic-weapons fire. Crawling toward an enemy machine-gun emplacement, he threw three grenades and neutralized the gun. He then rushed the position, delivering a devastating hail of fire, killing several of the enemy, and forcing the remainder to fall back to new positions. He courageously attempted to move forward to silence another machine gun, but before he could leave his position the ruthless foe hurled explosives down the hill and in the ensuing blast both legs were severed. Despite mortal wounds, he continued to deliver deadly fire and held off the assailants until the platoon returned.

For information concerning the purchase of additional copies of "24th Forward...
The Pictorial History of the 'Victory' Division in Korea", Please address inquiries to:

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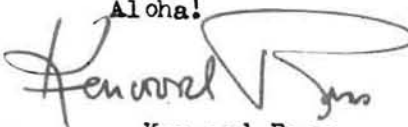
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FT. BENNING GA.

The Twenty-Fourth Infantry Division Association salutes the thousands of men of the Twenty-Fourth Infantry Division who made the brilliant record which is recorded herein. When history reflects upon our beloved Division, and studies its record of exploits during the early phases of the Korean War, and when such a record is compared with the records of other American Divisions in other days and in other wars, it will be recorded that, of all American Divisions of all time, "this was their finest hour."

Aloha!

Kenwood Ross
President

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