

Eyewitness Tells of Troop Heroism

Lauds Valor of 24th Div.

By FORREST KLEINMAN
Special To S&S

WITH THE 24TH INF. DIV.

—During the last two days, the 24th Infantry Division has entered the second phase of one of the most remarkable operations in military history.

After fighting a delaying action several hundred miles against heavily superior numbers, with units frequently widely deployed and understrengthened, the division has reorganized itself into an effective fighting team and is counter attacking the enemy and driving them into the Naktong river.

THE FEAT reflects the highest credit upon the inspirational leadership the 24th has enjoyed under Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, Maj. Gen. John H. Church, Brig. Gen. Pearson Menoher and Brig. Gen. H. J. D. Meyer.

In the thick of the fighting at Taejon, General Dean himself said, and Generals Church, Menoher and Meyer have frequently repeated:

"It's the man in the foxhole—the frontline doughboy—who plays the principle role in victory or defeat! Upon his courage and fortitude rests the outcome of every battle."

Recently I spent three weeks with a few hundred of these doughboys as they skirmished and fought their way from Anui back to Masan. Opposing them, pressing hard all the way, was the 6th North Korean

Division, flushed with its victories at the Kum river.

TODAY THE 6TH may still be in action, but it will never be the same again. The fighting 1st Battalion of the 19th Regiment chewed it up again and again at Anui, at Chinju an on the mountain passes leading toward Masan.

Waves upon waves of the enemy died under withering fire from that battalion and today those Yanks are biting deep into another enemy division as they drive forward on a new front.

DURING those weeks, I saw boys in their teens become men—lean, tough men—the kind it takes to win this merciless kind of war.

Only a few of them will ever wear a decoration for valor. There isn't enough

time or paper to write all the citations they deserve.

On the way back from the front with them, I sat in a dirty Korean railroad coach and watched a DSC winner flush tomato-red upon learning of his award for heroic action in an early battle of the war.

HE LOOKED around at the other grimy, battle-weary men in the car and said: "Hell, I'll be ashamed to wear it. There isn't a guy here who hasn't done as much or more a dozen times since."

His buddies were silent for a moment, then one of them grinned and said, "Don't be like that. We gotta have a hero and you're elected. You're sort of our representative in the hall of fame."

Submitted by Merry Helm, 24th Historian