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The Korean War, 70 Years Ago, The Evening Gazette, Indiana, PA

Korean War Weekly Front Pages

28 January – 3 February 1951

The Evening Gazette, Indiana, PA

Seven miles from Seoul.



Early in the week Chinese Communists died fighting in their mountain foxholes as the Allies relentlessly advanced to within ten miles of Seoul. Air strikes and artillery raked enemy positions, but UN infantrymen had to scramble up the frozen hillsides and blast out the Reds with grenades and rifle fire. The US Eighth Army reported advances up to three miles along the 40-mile western front. In the area north of Suwon, 38 P-51 fighter-bombers dropped 8,000 gallons of napalm in the heaviest mass Mustang attack of the war. Early estimates were that 100 Reds were killed and 240 buildings damaged or destroyed. Chinese artillery had been pounding away at Allied positions in the area.

On Tuesday, doughboys spearheading the Allies' limited offensive were slowed to a crawl by diehard Red resistance. They had apparently hit the main enemy force arrayed along a defensive line on the frozen western Korea warfront. One American officer said "They're well dug in and determined to stay." On the flank, however, gains of up to six miles were recorded. On the east coast, UN naval power hurled hot steel and bombs into a North Korean town from carrier-based planes and the big guns of warships.

Allied forces in bitter hand-to-hand fighting crunched ahead by as much as three miles in western Korea, but a French-American combat team was trapped by superior Chinese force in another sector of the warfront. The

encircled regiment had been fighting ff two enemy regiments for hours, in close combat. There were increasing signs that the eight-day-old UN limited offensive had slammed into the main Red defense line south of the Han River, which flows along the southeastern outskirts of Seoul. Hundreds of enemy supply vehicles were seen in North Korea moving southward toward the western battle line. By Friday, tank-led Allied assault forces had advanced through thick fog to a point only eight and one-half miles south of Red-held Seoul. Advance patrols had been reported only seven miles away. Heavier forces were moving up cautiously, wary of flank attacks which had been a favorite of the Communists. There was a difference of opinion whether the Allies had cracked the main enemy defenses.

The House Armed Services Committee called for testimony from the Defense Department on suggestions to raise the draft age two years and draft married men under the age of 26 who have no children. Legislators were reluctant to approve the reduction in the draft age from 19 to 18.

A plan to control prices by limiting profits was under government study while wage stabilizers pressed for their first major policy statement designed to free large blocks of wage earners from the recent pay freeze.

The UN General Assembly overrode Soviet opposition and voted to brand Communist China as an aggressor in Korea. In turn, China's premier, Chou En-Lai, declared the US "and its accomplices" had blocked the road to peace with the resolution.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Indiana Evening Gazette)