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70 Years Ago, the Korean War, The Daily Republican, Monongahela, PA

Korean War Weekly Front Pages

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The Daily Republican, Monongahela, PA

The Naktong River line was holding, but Pohang was lost.



Tank-supported US Marines and Army troops drove nearly two miles on Monday toward Chinju, inflicting heavy casualties on the Communist enemy in the first American offensive of the war. Strong resistance in the form of artillery and mortar fire was met during advances of up to 3,000 yards on a broad front along the south coast by a reinforced Marine regiment and two Army regimental combat teams. By the next day, the drive had extended for 11 miles along the coast, removing any immediate threat to the port of Pusan. By the end of the week Chinju was burning and the Allies were within three miles of the city.

A perilous situation had developed to the north, where the Communists had breached the Naktong River defensive line and had begun pouring troops through. Taegu, the South Korean emergency capital, was now in danger. On 10 August American and South Korean forces threw the Reds back at both ends of the river and fastened a firm grip on enemy bridgeheads in between. It was the first effective stand of the war against a determined Communist assault on an Allied line.

Tank-led American and South Korean troops battled desperately outside fallen Pohang on Friday to save their biggest and best airfield from Communist forces that had speared to within a mile of its main runway. The Reds had smashed at the airport six miles south of burning Pohang, the second best port in the Allied beachhead, after a surprise thrust overran the city itself. Another 10,000 enemy troops and guerillas, massed in the mountains west of Pohang, were expected to join the Communist assault within 24 hours. Guerillas had ambushed an American rescue column, including 20 tanks, ten miles south of Pohang, but half the column got through to help the defenders of the airfield.

A Republican senator served notice that he would try to write his Communist-control legislation into an economic mobilization bill. The bill would require the Communist Party and its front organizations to register with the Justice Department, and bar Communists from holding government jobs or obtaining passports. Administration leaders in Congress were working on a bill of their own that would have some of the same features.

The state Selective Service chief said that 2,162 additional Pennsylvanians would be called for pre-induction physicals to make sure the state met its September draft quota of 3,503. The first group of Pennsylvanian draftees would report to the induction center on 28 August. The Marine Corps had set its sights on a mobilized strength of 174,000 by 31 October, and the Army planned to have more than a million in its ranks by 30 June 1951. The Navy's goal remained at 579,000 and the Air Force's at 548,000.

North Korea accused the American Air Force of "inhuman and barbarous methods of waging war" and "ruthlessly violating the rules of international law" in bomb raids throughout the Korean Peninsula. The complaint was sent to the Secretary-General of the UN with an endorsement from the Russian president of the Security Council. In turn, the chief US delegate opened a western barrage against the Soviets by accusing Russia of supporting "the zombie government of North Korea" and declared that the UN had no evidence that Russia does not "still control by military force all areas north of the 38th parallel."

The mayor of Monongahela was considering setting up a civilian defense organization there. Members of a steering committee had visited nearby Wheeling, WV, where progress was being made on a similar project.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Monongahela Daily Republican)