

August 19, 2020

The Korean War, 70 Years Ago, The Mercury, Pottstown, PA

Korean War Weekly Front Pages

13 August – 19 August 1950

The Mercury, Pottstown, PA

**Pottstown Mercury**  
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POTTSTOWN, PA., MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1950

**U. S. Launches Attack To Thrust Wedge Into Reds Massed Strength**  
TOKYO, Monday, Aug. 14 (AP)—American military command launched today its most ambitious attack on the North Korean Reds off balance on the eve of their expected biggest push of the war.

**Local Woman Faces Bawdy House Charge**  
A 35-year-old King street housekeeper was arrested last night on a charge of maintaining a house of prostitution.

**Area Mechanic Burned When 'Gas' Explodes**  
A 37-year-old mechanic was severely burned when a gas explosion occurred in his shop last night.

**REVOLVER SHOTS BRING ARREST OF LOCAL MAN**  
Police arrested a man Saturday night after he was charged with carrying a revolver without a license.

**CHILD INJURED BY AUTOMOBILE**  
A young child was injured when struck by a car on the street.

**Thieves Loot Cabin Near Fagleysville**  
Thieves who hid away through hidden doors in a wooded cabin on Fagleysville made a profit of \$100 and a valuable camera and jewelry.

**42 Men to Take Physical Exams For Draft Today**  
Forty-two men will be taken to the Pottstown High School for physical examinations today.

**65 Blood-Splattered GIs Cheat Death in Escape From Red Trap**  
Sixty-five American soldiers escaped from a North Korean trap in a bloody battle.

**Princess Elizabeth Goes Out for Lunch**  
Princess Elizabeth of the United Kingdom was seen in Pottstown for lunch.

**Police Group to Ask Council to Name Two Sergeants, Two Patrolmen Tonight**  
The Pottstown Police Association will ask the council to name two sergeants and two patrolmen.

**Sales Event Called a Success**  
A sales event for the Pottstown Chamber of Commerce was a success.

**Lucky Bucks Earn \$74 More for Shoppers**  
Shoppers at the Pottstown Chamber of Commerce sales event earned \$74 more.

**Fair Weather Expected to Remain Here Today**  
Fair weather is expected to remain here today.

**MAN CONFESSES TO SEX SLAYING**  
A man confessed to a sex slaying.

**THE WEATHER**  
The weather is fair.

**78 Mercury 57**  
Mercury 57

**Battles Rage in Four Sectors**  
A map showing the Pusan Perimeter with four sectors of battle.

**He's on a Spin-ach Diet**  
A photo of a young boy eating spinach.

**Hi-Run Suspect Chased by Passing Motorist, Arrested**  
A suspect in a hi-run was chased by a passing motorist and arrested.

**Air Guardsmen Arrive At Dover Training Camp**  
Air Guardsmen arrived at Dover Training Camp.

**MAIN DRAG**  
A list of names for the main drag.

Taegu, the provisional South Korean capital, is threatened.

This week battles were raging in multiple sectors on the Pusan Perimeter. On 14 August American infantry crashed forward in an attack designed to knock the North Korean Reds off balance on the eve of their expected

biggest push of the war. The Communists were reported pouring troops up to the Naktong River line where they had already amassed 60,000 or more men. The American attack was launched by the full US 24th Division with reinforcing units at the southern bend of the Naktong line. They smashed into an eight-square-mile Communist bridgehead near Changnyong, 23 air miles southwest of Taegu, the provisional South Korean capital. The next day Korean Communists shoved a thousand troops over the Naktong River in a new crossing on the central front. This bridgehead and another were expanded across the river southwest of Taegu, with one of them expanded in depth to seven miles.

North of Changnyong, near Waegwan, Red infantry with two tanks stabbed at the South Korean defense sector. The attempted penetration failed. Midweek, B-29s dropped hundreds of tons of bombs on North Korean troops in two divisions, who were poised for an assault on Taegu. The Reds had already crossed the Naktong River and were at a hill point only nine miles from the city. It was the largest aerial assault on ground troops since D-Day. Late in the week there was another thrust at Taegu, this time from the north, where 30,000 Korean Communists, led by tanks, moved from a staging area 25 miles north of the city. This development prompted orders for 500,000 civilians to evacuate Taegu. American and South Korean troops held, though, hurling back two Red smashes at the city. The Marines and the 24th Division made a three-mile dent in the so-called Changnyong bulge, virtually halving it, in 36 hours of ferocious fighting.

On the east coast, the US Air Force had evacuated the Pohang air field. A battalion of Red infantry held the smoldering town itself, six miles to the northeast. At the end of the week, South Koreans fought their way back into the city, the eastern anchor of the 120-mile battlefront. In the northern sector, Communist strength was reportedly thinning as they build up along the western Naktong line.

In the south, Americans held positions gained in a successful counteroffensive east of Chinju, but fought bitterly against 1,600 trapped Reds hammering at the US rear. A detachment of Marines was sent from forward positions to help clean out Red units cutting American supply lines and trying to hack an escape route through the trap.

Sixty-five US artillerymen were lucky to be alive as they crawled through an enemy encirclement to a frontline outpost. They had been trapped by a North Korean infiltration attack, which caught the rear echelon unawares, virtually destroying it, and cut off both the artillery and frontline supply route the American guns had been guarding.

Pottstown's 41 draftees who took their physicals at the Schuylkill Arsenal probably didn't realize that the speed and efficiency, the comfortable lounge with its dartboard and Coke machine and the mid-afternoon music were things the Willies and Joes of WWII never knew. It was later reported that only 14 of the 41 men passed their induction physicals. The Selective Service director stated that he expected additional draft calls in the next few months for perhaps far more than 85,000 men.

Seven captured American tankmen were reported to have been executed in the same battle for Hill 303 north of Waegwan in which some 30 other Yanks were atrocity victims of the North Koreans. Three American soldiers identified two North Korean prisoners as members of a group of Reds who shot to death 32 bound US captives.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Pottstown Mercury)