75 Years Ago, the Korean War, The Daily Notes, Canonsburg, PA

Korean War Weekly Front Pages

3 September – 9 September 1950

The Daily Notes, Canonsburg, PA

Pohang falls.



Strong American counterattacks slowed a breakthrough drive by 30,000 Communists down the Korean east coast toward the key transport hub of Kyongju, 17 miles southwest of Pohang, the site of a critical airfield. But the assault on the eastern wing of the Allied defenses penetrated the South Korean lines west of Pohang on a wide front. The counterattacks were ineffective, and Pohang fell to the enemy on 7 September. The American and South Korean defenders had now been squeezed into an area half the size of Connecticut.

The enemy also poured across the Pohang-Yongchon road in force. The vital entry port of Pusan was threatened by the yielding of defenses south and west of Pohang. At week's end, tank-led spearheads of three Communist divisions, attacking under cover of rain, rolled back South Korean forces on the 25 mile front between Pohang and Yongchon, a vital highway junction.

The battle line at the communication center of Taegu swayed back and forth. While the UN forces lost the two hills northwest of the city, they were doing better southwest of Taegu. There the US Second Division was advancing slowly against heavy mortar and artillery fire. North Korean forces were within eight miles of Taegu on Wednesday, within range of artillery fire.

Elsewhere along the 120-mile-long front the picture was brighter. US First Division troops clung stubbornly to Kasan, the old walled city 12 miles north of Taegu, and blocked the "bowling alley" approach to the former capital. Marines and Second Division forces rolled the Reds back toward the Naktong River along the western front. The Marines had gained up to six miles since they started hammering the enemy bridgehead in the Naktong elbow. On the south coast front, the Yanks trapped sizeable enemy forces and were mopping them up.

A Russian-marked bomber opened fire in an attack on UN naval forces off Korea and was shot down by UN fighter planes. Speculation immediately was touched off that Russia may have taken up arms to protect the North Koreans under a policy that might include reoccupation by Soviet troops of the northern half of the wartorn peninsula. There was no indication just yet that the US was ready to charge Russia with outright aggression in Korea.

Pennsylvania's 28th National Guard Division, the slugging "Bloody Bucket," entered active federal service in the second time in less than a decade. An official induction of more than 10,000 officers and men was scheduled to take place at "home" armories throughout the Commonwealth. Units of the federalized Keystone Division would then begin to move by plane and motor convoy to the state of Indiana for training.

The December demand for men for armed services would likely top the new request for 70,000 inductees in November. The speed-up in the draft rate coincided with reports that the number of regular Army divisions may be increased from 10 to 18 and the Marines may be permitted to put a third full-strength division under arms.

Canonsburg's Heavy Mortar Company of the PA National Guard was provided with the bare minimum from the federal government. Any day now, the order would come to send 100 Guardsmen to training camp and into the war. The Canonsburg-Houston board of trade headed up a community effort to provide non-military items to keep the men happy, proud, clean and self-possessed. Desired items included a television set (16"), radios, washing machines, day room furniture and writing material. On Tuesday the men were honored by the Canonsburg Aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. More than 100 marched in their dress uniforms to the applause of guests and members, and a chicken dinner was served by the Ladies of the Eagles.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Canonsburg Daily Notes)