

September 28, 2020

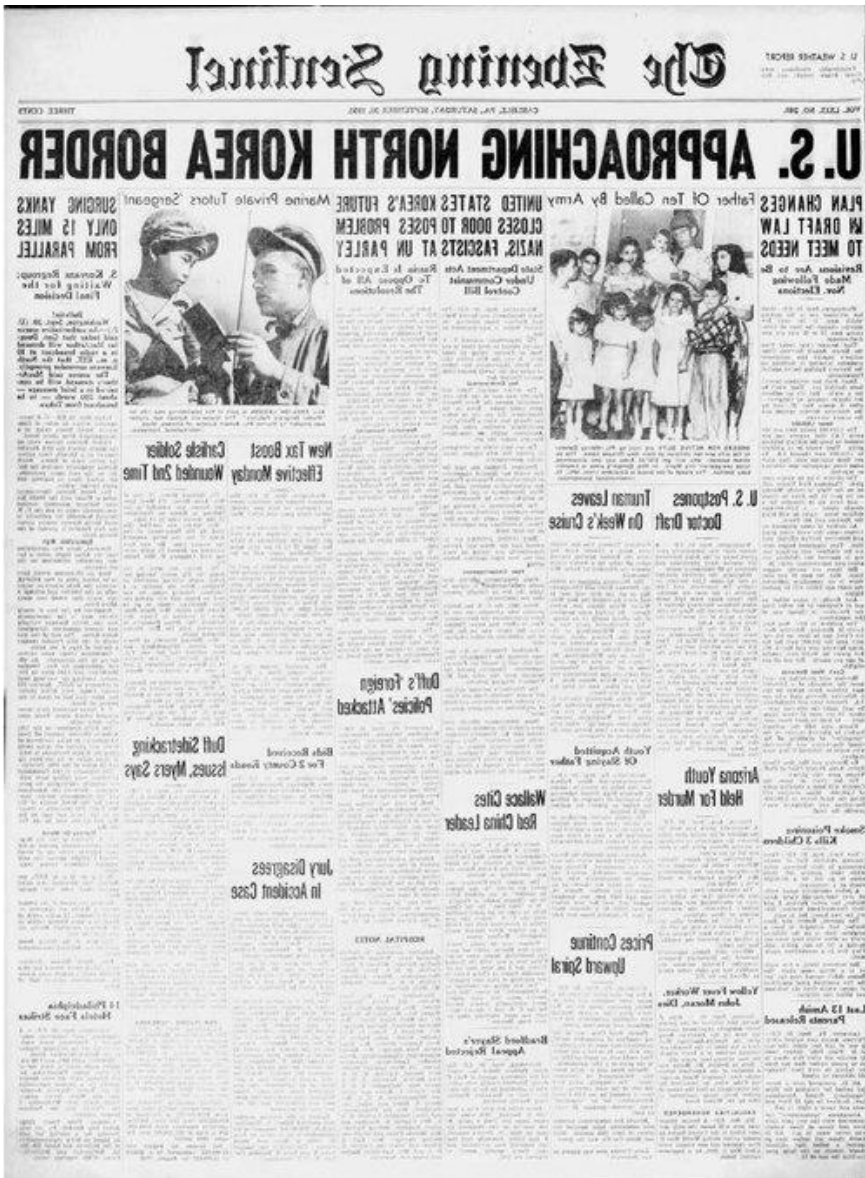
70 Years Ago, the Korean War, The Evening Sentinel, Carlisle, PA

Korean War Weekly Front Pages

24 September – 30 September 1950

The Evening Sentinel, Carlisle, PA

Seoul falls, and the US is approaching the 38th parallel.



On Monday it was reported that American forces had seized heavily fortified South Mountain inside Seoul, assuring the city's early capture. American Marines, Seventh Division infantrymen and South Koreans virtually had isolated the former republic capital. They soon would be in a position to turn for a link-up with other hard-driving forces coming up from the south, only 40 miles away. US Marines and Seventh Division infantry rammed deeper into flaming Seoul from both east and west in house-to-house fighting.

South of Seoul a racing spearhead of the US First Cavalry pushed to within 24 miles of a juncture with the Seoul fighters. On Wednesday American flags fluttered in the streets of Seoul as US Marines moved forward against dwindling Communist resistance. The same day a Marine private raised the US flag over the liberated US embassy. The same flag had been raised and lowered earlier in the day at the liberated Russian embassy, as a gesture of defiance to Korea's big neighbor to the north. Seoul fell on 28 September.

Beyond Seoul, American forces had jumped to within 24 miles of the border with North Korea, and American fighter bombers were blasting fleeing Red columns from Taejon to the 38th parallel. Late in the week it was reported that South Korean troops had reached the demarcation line and were regrouping, and US troops were only 15 miles from it. UN forces were now on the march along a 120-mile front.

On 27 September North Korea expressed its readiness to end the Korean War on terms providing for UN elections throughout the country, withdrawal of Communist forces beyond the 38th parallel, and confinement of US forces to the Pusan bridgehead. The North Koreans were said to have forwarded a four-point peace proposal to the Indian ambassador at Peiping through the Chinese Communist regime. The British simultaneously circulated a resolution to the UN General Assembly calling for elections supervised by a UN commission to unite North and South Korea. It also called for an elimination of the 38th parallel demarcation line, a declaration that a democratic government must be set up, establishment of a stronger UN commission for Korea, and provision for maintenance of UN forces in the country. "Informed sources" believed that the UN General Assembly would give authorization to General MacArthur to cross the 38th parallel into North Korean territory unless peace feelers from the North brought a quick end to the war. He was also fully empowered to draft a peace treaty. On Saturday an authoritative source said that the general would demand a prompt surrender from the North Koreans, but the Russians were opposing all the resolutions of the General Assembly's powerful Political Committee, including the one giving MacArthur authority to cross the border.

Twenty more American soldiers had been found shot dead with their hands tied behind their backs. The latest Communist atrocities were reported by an advance element of the 25th Division near Wonson on the south coast front. The victims were identified as artillerymen who had been cut off by the North Koreans a month ago; all had been shot in the back of the head.

Yugoslavia proposed that hostilities end when UN troops reach the 38th parallel, and that "a commission of good offices" be created, free from the influences of the great powers, to handle future international disputes. The Yugoslav foreign minister made the proposal to the UN General Assembly in a speech in which he also roundly condemned the Soviet Union for hostile acts against the Belgrade government.

The US State Department scanned the latest peace protestations by the Soviet UN delegate for a possible Russian peace feeler on the Korean War. The fact that he had spoken out indicated to officials that the Soviets might have something in mind. Experts had predicted that the Russians would open a new peace offensive to coincide with the rapid advances of UN forces in Korea.

Foes of the new Communist Control Law opened a full-scale fight to revise the statute's stringent provisions before they could be tested. A Democratic representative said he would press for action on a substitute bill as soon as Congress returned on 27 November. He said his measure would remove President Truman's objections that the anti-subversive bill passed over his veto on Saturday would do more harm than good. The bill required Communists and officers of front organizations to register, banned Reds from Government service and defense plants, and tightened the nation's immigration rules.

A doctor draft was temporarily postponed as the Army borrowed 570 reserve Navy physicians and dentists to fill emergency needs. Originally, the services planned to call up some 3,200 doctors, including 700 reservists, and 1,400 dentists in the next six months. In addition, draft law revisions were in the making, the exact details of which were yet unknown.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Carlisle Evening Sentinel)