

PMM BLOG ARCHIVE

October 6, 2020

70 Years Ago, the Korean War, The Republican, Kane, PA

Korean War Weekly Front Pages

1 October – 7 October 1950

The Republican, Kane, PA

The South Koreans stream northward.



The South Korean Third Division was rolling across the North Korean border during the day as fast as their trucks could carry them, following the retreating North Koreans who traveled by night. On Monday they had advanced 30 to 35 miles across the border, and were fighting Communist rear guard elements fleeing toward the big east coast city of Wonsan. The US was being very careful not to provoke the Chinese Communists; B-29 Superfortresses were being kept a “comfortable” 20 to 25 miles from the border with Manchuria, but the Chinese Communist premier had made it clear that he would not stand by if North Korea were invaded. On Tuesday came a report, unconfirmed, that the Chinese had entered North Korea from Manchuria and American planes had already inflicted heavy damage on a 100-mile enemy convoy which also included artillery.

Midweek a third South Korean division had wheeled into line on the 38th parallel, amid increasing indications that UN forces were getting ready for a massive offensive to crush the North Korean Communist Army. MacArthur had apparently been given the green light for a final blow. Meanwhile, Communist defensive lines were forming in the area of the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, which was expected to be the west coast anchor of a line running across the country to Wonsan on the east coast. By Thursday South Korean forces were 80 miles north of the demarcation line and colliding with strong Communist rear guard forces. The next day they were nearing Wonsan. The US First Cavalry Division, replacing Marines in the UN line, had captured Kaesong, just two miles south of the 38th parallel. There were indications that the North Koreans also feared they were going to be hit from the sea – east coast waters from Changjon 50 miles north to Wonsan had been heavily mined, and some sandy beaches had been reported to have been land mined.

Western powers had rejected a plan by the Russians to end the Korean War. The main disagreement came from the expectation by the West that UN troops would occupy the country until elections could be held. The Soviets believed that free and impartial elections would be impossible unless UN troops withdrew completely from Korea.

Pennsylvania's 28th Infantry Division were all spruced up in new clothes with money in their pockets. They had been issued new Army winter uniforms, while the money came from the first pay they had received since being activated into federal service in September. The soldiers were given \$159.09 worth of clothing but from now on they would be responsible for buying their own with a \$4.20 monthly clothing allowance.

Outlawed free-floating Russian-made mines had been found in the waters off the North Korean coast. It was speculated that the North Koreans had sowed the mines in rivers and they were carried into the ocean. The US destroyer Brush had struck a mine Wednesday. Nine crewmen had been killed, ten had been wounded and five were missing. Seven men had also been injured when the destroyer Mansfield struck a mine in the same area.

American casualties in the Korean War were reported to be 20,756 through 29 September. This included 2,954 dead, 13,953 wounded and 4,143 missing. The North Koreans were estimated to have taken some 200,000 casualties, including 40,000 prisoners.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Kane Republican)