## 70 Years Later, the Korean War, The Evening Gazette, Indiana, PA

Korean War Weekly Front Pages

The First Week of November 1950

The Evening Gazette, Indiana, PA

The Chinese Communists pause.



General MacArthur formally notified the UN Security Council that Chinese Communist forces were fighting US troops in Korea. He said, "...the United Nations are presently in hostile contact with Chinese Communist military units deployed for action against the forces of the United command." A high-ranking Eighth Army staff officer said the Chinese have probably 300,000 troops deployed along the Korean-Manchurian border. The situation in the critical Unsan-Kuna area, north of Pyongyang, appeared stabilized. In the northeast, two US Marine battalions were cut off north of Sudong, while other Marines, driving north toward the Changjin Reservoir, had met strong opposition. Near Majon, a third isolated battalion was reported dug in and in no danger. ROK Capital Division troops and Red Koreans were engaged in bitter street fighting in Kilchu in the northeast. As the week progressed, UN troops were pushing forward on all fronts amid an unexplained Communist withdrawal. A surprise news blackout had been clamped on developments between Communist battle lines and the Chinese border, but the Chinese appeared to be awaiting orders.

Sixteen propeller-driven US F-51 Mustang fighters engaged ultramodern Russian-built jet fighters in the longest air battle of the Korean war. American F-80 Shooting Star jets, ordered to the battle over Sinuiju, near the border with China, arrived too late to engage. No American planes were damaged; three of the Mig-15 aircraft were reported hit, and all enemy planes fled across the border after the hour-and-a-half long dogfight. Pilots in other actions said that Red jets were trying to lure them over the border, but UN planes had been ordered to stay clear of Chinese airspace.

Mid-week, 600 Allied warplanes blasted North Korea all along the Manchurian border to block off Red reinforcements from Communist China. But air observers reported "very heavy traffic" rolling across Manchuria toward the Yalu River boundary. They also spotted an estimated 700 vehicles already south of the river in North Korea. As the UN air arm mounted one of the largest raids of the war, reinforcements arrived on the Korean east coast. Elements of the US Third Infantry Division landed at the port of Wonsan.

At week's end, the Allies had forged a steel band across North Korea's narrow waist with the linkup of US Tenth Corps forces from the east and Eighth Army elements from the west. The linkup was made near Tokchon, in north-central Korea. It came as Chinese Communists just north of the border continued their ominous buildup of troops. Other Chinese Red forces already in Korea, estimated at about 60,000, were still withdrawing into far North Korea's wooded mountains under constant lashing by Allied air power.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Indiana Evening Gazette)