## Korean War, 70 Years Later, The Morning Call, Allentown, PA

Korean War Weekly Front Pages

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A nuclear specter hangs over Korea.



Rallying Red forces fought back in northwest Korea on Sunday and rushed reinforcements up for what may be the showdown battle with 110,000 surging UN troops. The Communist counterattack crimped a push by the US 25th Division on the Unsan sector of the general Allied offensive that jumped off Friday, aiming to end the war quickly. Enemy resistance stiffened everywhere except at the left end of the line where the US 24th Division had driven two miles north of Chongju without a fight, and in the snowy northeast sector, where the South Koreas had rolled unopposed into the big coastal city of Chongjin. It was the last big barrier between the southerners and the Soviet Siberian border, 55 air miles ahead.

The Americans in the center of the northwest front were hurled back as much as 2-1/2 miles by night assaults Sunday, and to the east South Korean forces were forced to withdraw six to 11 miles. Heavy Red resistance had also developed in northeast Korea, where a US 7th Division regiment ran into strong new opposition two miles south of the Manchurian border. The US 5th Marine Regiment got into close combat with Communists on the east side of the Changjin reservoir. The hardest blows, though, were aimed at the 8th Army offensive in the northwest. Field dispatches indicated a halt in the drive for a quick end to the fighting, but this might only be temporary, and the stiffening resistance had been expected.

On Tuesday, waves of Chinese Communist infantry smashed at the turned right flank of the United Nations in northwest Korea. The Reds attacked all along the 75-mile front, forcing new withdrawals. A US battalion was reported encircled near the center of the front and elements of the South Korean 2nd Corp were surrounded at the crushed right flank. Swarms of US 5th Air Force fighter-bombers strafed and rocketed the southbound enemy columns, inflicting heavy casualties. Six Communist armies, with approximately 40,000 troops each, appeared building up for a powerful attack aimed at further turning the UN flank and rolling on to Pyongyang, the former North Korean capital 30 miles south of the new defense line. In the center, US Marines failed to break a trap at the Chosin reservoir but a rescue column fought close by.

A Chinese Communist delegation sat in the UN meeting halls for the first time on Monday, silently listening as the Soviet Union charged the US with aggression toward China and maneuvered to prevent the US from asking 20 questions on Red China's intervention in the Korean War. The Yugoslav delegation also put forth arguments to prevent the questioning, but the Chinese heard a speech by US delegate John Foster Dulles saying that the Soviet foreign minister and his government were plotting to break up the old Chinese-American friendship to gain advantage for the Soviet Union. On Tuesday the United States openly charged the Russian-backed Chinese Communists with "open and notorious" aggression in Korea. Red China replied in their first speech in the UN that those Chinese Communists were volunteers and that Beijing would not stop their departure for the battlefront. The Chinese countercharged that the US was guilty of "cunning" aggression also against China, Vietnam, the Philippines and other Asian countries. On Thursday a Soviet veto killed a six-power demand in the UN Security Council for the Chinese to withdraw from the Korean battle.

Within a cloud of secrecy, President Truman met Wednesday with the National Security Council. The president's military and diplomatic advisers left his office in sober, tight-lipped silence. The Secretary of Defense said the free world was faced with "a very critical situation" which the United Nations must resolutely face up to. The Secretary of State told the world that the Korean crisis had created a "situation of unparalleled danger" and that "no one can guarantee that war will not come." He urged the Chinese Communists to end their "brazen aggression," telling them that this is their hour of decision and that they "stand before the judgement bar of mankind."

On Capitol Hill, some voices were raised in favor of using the atom bomb against the on-surging Chinese Communists. President Truman on Friday said the US would fight on in Korea with every means at its disposal – including the atom bomb if necessary – to keep Red aggression from spreading to American shores. With the exasperated air of a man near the limit of patience, he said this country has made every possible effort to head off a third world war. The British Prime Minister declared that Britain wanted the fullest consultation before a decision is made to use nuclear weapons in Korea. MacArthur said Friday that orders forbidding him to strike

across the Korean-Chinese border were putting UN forces under an enormous handicap, but it wasn't his place to comment on a nuclear option.

Total US casualties in the Korean War mounted to 31,028. A singe week's combat added 1,032 to the list, which included 5,307 deaths, 21,114 wounded and 4,611 missing. Meanwhile the Army stepped up its draft call and the Navy and Air Force lowered their standards for volunteers to speed expansion toward the 2.8 million military manpower goal announced by President Truman.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Allentown Morning Call)