



FOREWORD

The unnatural division of Korea into a northern and southern sector is a part and parcel of the Communist master plan to engulf the whole of Asia.

In Korea, World War II ended with the Soviet armies accepting the surrender of all Japanese troops north of the 38th parallel and the United States forces accepting their surrender south of the parallel. This temporary arrangement between the U.S. and Soviet military commanders was used by the Russians to create an artificial barrier and divide a country which had been unified for more than 1,300 years. The four power pledge expressed at the Cairo Conference and in the Potsdam Declaration by the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and the Republic of China had assured a free and independent Korea.

Efforts by the Free World adherents to the Potsdam Declaration during the years 1945-47 failed to achieve Korean unification. Agreement could not be reached even on the basic principles of procedure for discussing the integration of the two segments of the nation. The Soviet Union would not accept the principle of free elections for the establishment of a democratic Korean government. Convinced of the futility of further direct negotiations, the United States submitted the entire Korean question to the United Nations General Assembly in September 1947. This world body of nations debated the Korean problem and in late 1947, adopted a resolution designed to provide a program for achieving a unified and independent Korea. The Soviet Union rejected the program. As a last resort, a commission established by the United Nations, unable to gain admittance to northern Korea, sponsored free elections in southern Korea in May 1948. From these elections emerged the Republic of Korea recognized today throughout the world, except by the Soviet bloc, as the only acceptable and legal government of Korea.

Any immediate hopes to unify Korea were shattered when the Soviet Union, countering the United Nations recognition of the government of the Republic of Korea, established a northern Korean puppet regime under the label "Democratic People's Republic of Korea" in September 1948. The frontier of freedom ended along the 38th parallel.

Early on 25 June 1950, the Soviet-trained, equipped and directed northern Korean military forces crossed the 38th parallel in great strength, on a wide front, and attacked the Republic of Korea. The United States had withdrawn its combat forces from Korea in June 1949, leaving only a lightly armed Republic of Korea militia to secure the southern area.

The United Nations Security Council, upon being informed of the unprovoked attack on the Republic of Korea, reacted quickly and adopted three resolutions in late June and early July 1950. The first of these resolutions called for an immediate cessation of hostilities; the second requested that the members of the United Nations furnish such assistance to the Republic of Korea as necessary to repel the armed attack and to restore international peace and security in the areas; the third prescribed that members providing military forces and other assistance make these available to a unified command to be established by the United States. Fifty-three nations responded to the United Nations request for assistance to the Republic of Korea; sixteen nations furnished military forces.

The President of the United States, on 8 July 1950, acting on the Security Council's request, appointed General MacArthur as the unified commander. Thus the United Nations Command came into existence.

The United Nations Command destroyed the Korean People's Army in 1950, and in 1951 decimated the armies of the Chinese People's Volunteers which had illegally entered the Korean War. After three years of the most bloody fighting, the military commanders of both sides agreed to a cease-fire on 27 July 1953. The war failed, as had the joint US-USSR conferences, to unite a divided Korea either within the Soviet colonial orbit or as a member of the Free World community of nations.

The United Nations Command is still in Korea. A peace treaty has not been signed; an armed truce hangs uneasily over this divided country. The primary mission of the United Nations Command is to maintain the sovereignty of the Republic of Korea against communist aggression and to ensure the continuance of the cease-fire agreement.

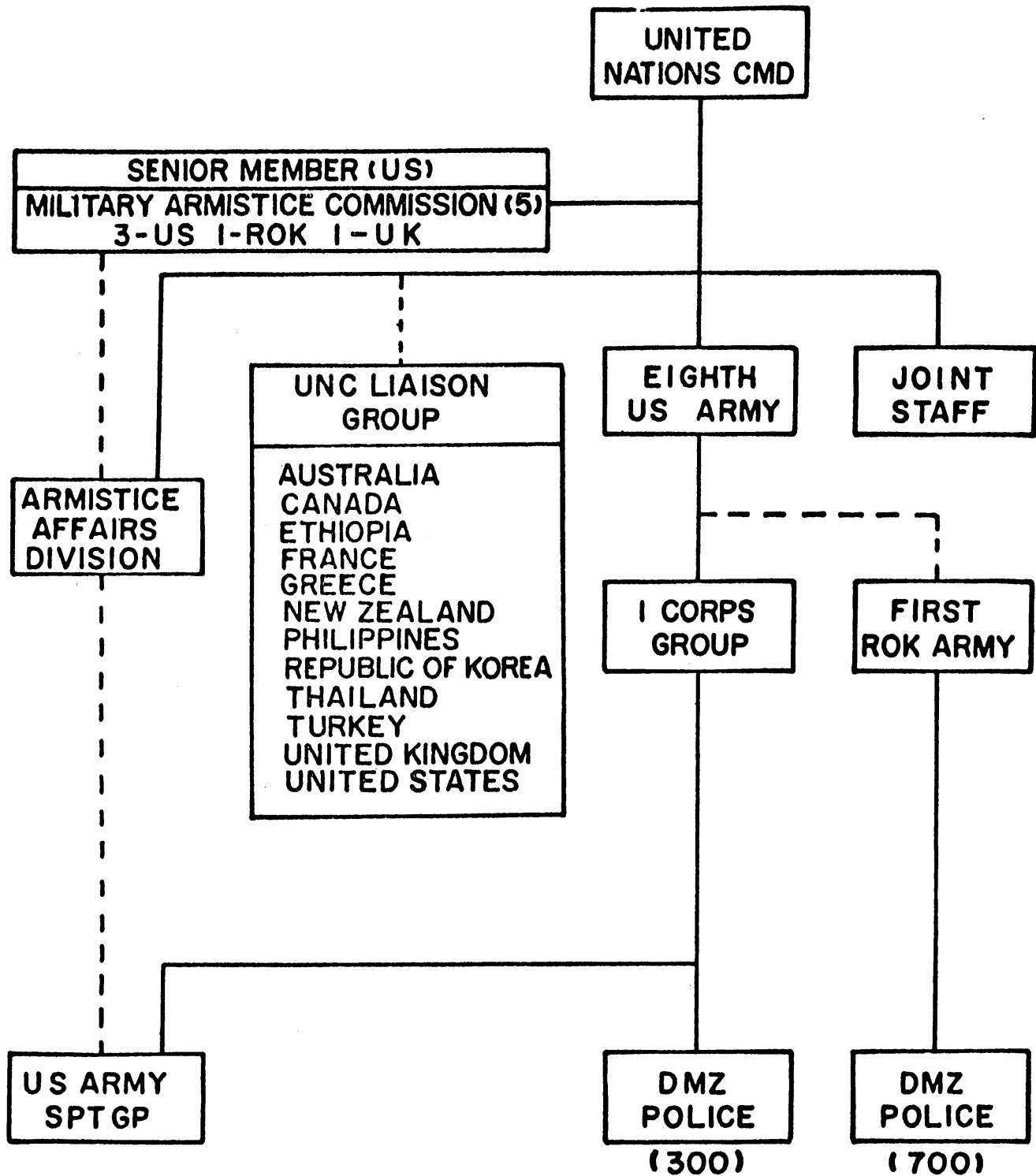
The purpose of this orientation is to acquaint you with the Armistice Agreement and the activities of the United Nations Command component of the Military Armistice Commission. Chart I illustrates the command relationship between Armistice Affairs agencies and the other elements of the United Nations Command/United States Forces in Korea. A list of abbreviations associated with Armistice affairs is included on the last page of this folder.

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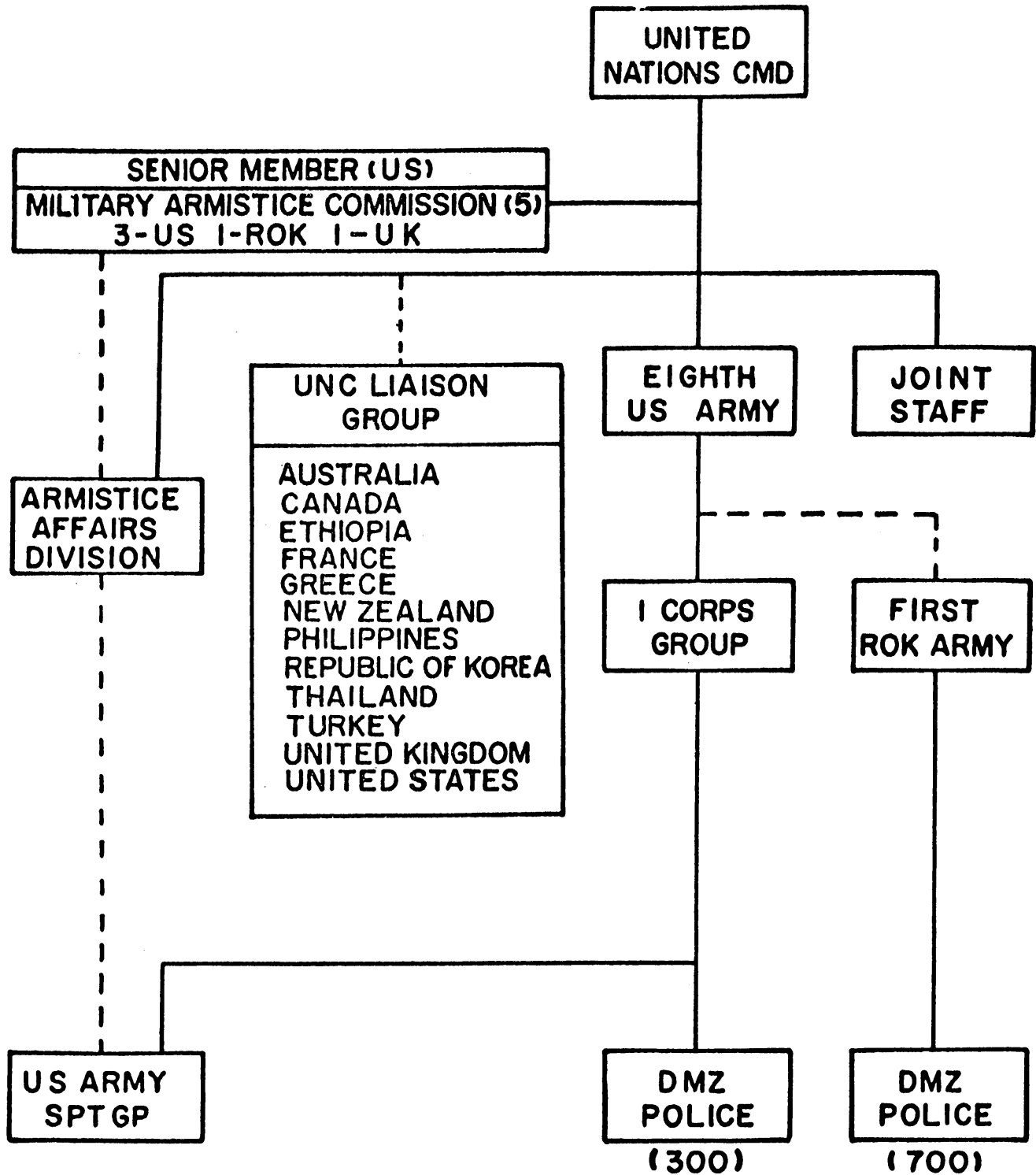


A



--- OPERATIONAL CONTROL

CHART I COMMAND RELATIONSHIP



--- OPERATIONAL CONTROL

CHART I COMMAND RELATIONSHIP



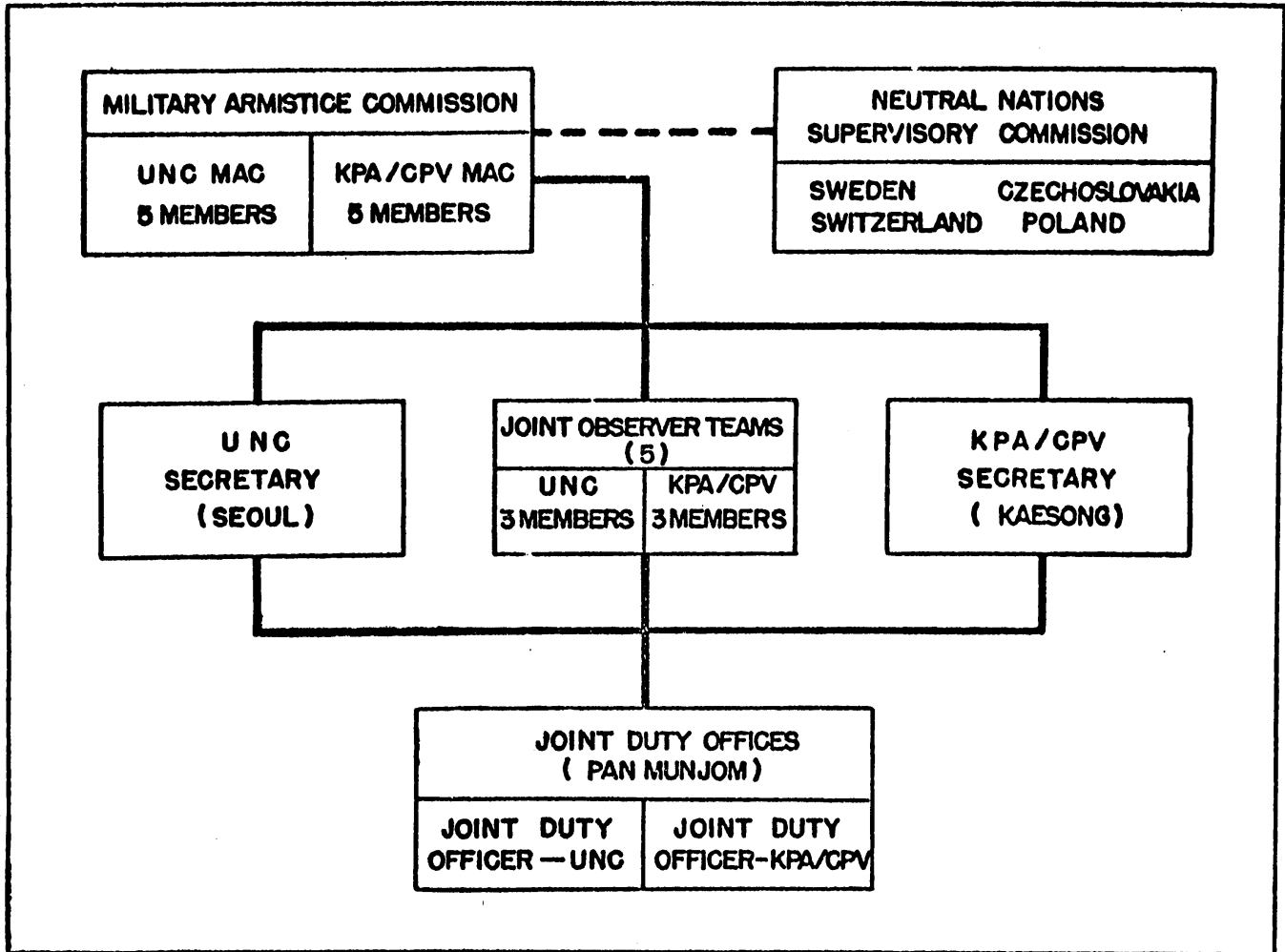


CHART 2. AGENCIES ESTABLISHED BY THE KOREAN MILITARY ARMISTICE AGREEMENT.



C

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED NATIONS COMMAND
MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION
APO 301

* * EXTRACT * *

SEVENTIETH MEETING OF THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION HELD
AT MAC HQ AREA, KOREA

- 31 MAY 1956 -

...The United Nations Command has made frequent formal requests in the Military Armistice Commission during these almost three years, most recently on February 25, 1956, that your side amend its behavior and comply with these provisions of the Korean Armistice Agreement regulating the introduction of combat materiel and equipment. Your side has failed to meet these demands and has given no indication of any intention to do so. It must therefore be concluded that your side intends to continue to default on its reporting obligations. It must be further concluded that your side intends to continue its practice of exploiting the unneutral conduct of the Czech and Polish members in vetoing embarrassing inspections, and that the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission will continue to be unable to detect and disclose the illegal introduction by your side.

The governments of Sweden and Switzerland have proposed repeatedly during recent months, to appropriate Czech, Polish and Chinese communist authorities, the withdrawal of the inspection teams to the Demilitarized Zone where both sides would continue to report to the Commission. This

reasonable proposal has been rejected repeatedly by your side. Most recently, in its note of April 9, 1956 to the nations represented in the United Nations Command, the Chinese communist regime took the position that this problem could not be solved until the problems of unification of Korea and withdrawal of troops are solved. Consequently, it has become necessary to invoke the remedies available to the United Nations side to meet the situation created by the defaults to which I have referred. Your side, and also the Czech and Polish members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, have failed to carry out faithfully important provisions of the Armistice Agreement. Therefore, the United Nations side, as a party to that Agreement, is entitled to take steps necessary to protect itself from the consequences of such unwarranted conduct. Accordingly, you are no longer privileged to take advantage of these provisions of the Armistice Agreement which have been violated and frustrated by your conduct, and that of the Czech and Polish members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

The United Nations side has exhibited the greatest caution and forbearance in this matter. We have pursued every other practicable alternative course to redress the situation. The course we must now adopt is carefully adjusted to the violations and frustrations, and to the burdens and injury involved, and is the least we must do to protect our legitimate interests

under the Armistice Agreement by lawful, peaceful and reasonable steps.

Because of these obstructions and violations of your side, and the conduct of the Czech and Polish members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and Neutral Nations Inspection Teams, the United Nations Command is hereby notifying your side, and the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and its subordinate teams at Inchon, Pusan and Kunsan, that the United Nations Command will provisionally suspend, during the time that your side continues in default, performance on its part of these provisions of the Armistice Agreement governing the operations in the area under the control of the United Nations Command of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and Neutral Nations Inspection Teams.

You are informed that this suspension will be put into effect in about one week and the United Nations Command will expect withdrawal of the teams from the area to be effected at that time.

The United Nations Command is taking only such steps as are indispensable to protection of its rights under the Armistice Agreement. The United Nations Command continues to regard the Armistice Agreement as in force and limits its action to the particular suspension described above.

Finally, since for the reasons above stated, the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission teams in the north have not been able to accomplish their purpose, we see no purpose in their remaining there.....



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HEADQUARTERS
UNITED NATIONS COMMAND
MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION
APO 301

* * EXTRACT * *

SEVENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION
HELD AT MAC HQ AREA, KOREA

- 21 JUNE 1957 -

UNC

I have a statement to make. Almost four years have elapsed since the signing of the Armistice Agreement which ended the Korean Conflict. The signatories of that document agreed to be bound and governed by a mutual application of the terms of the Agreement.

With complete disregard for your obligations under sub-paragraph 13d of the Armistice Agreement, your side has continued to violate the provisions of that paragraph in the following particulars:

(1) You have introduced reinforcing combat equipment of the types referred to in sub-paragraph 13d in contravention of the provisions allowing only piece-for-piece replacement of equipment worn out and destroyed after the date of the Armistice.

(2) You have also introduced combat equipment and weapons of entirely different types and capabilities from any you had in Korea at the time of the Armistice.

(3) You have failed to report introduction of such equipment.

(4) You have introduced such equipment at Ports of Entry other than those specified in the Armistice Agreement.

The United Nations Command has again and again protested these violations by your side and has attempted in vain to have it comply with the provisions of the Armistice Agreement. All procedures established by the Agreement for the settlement of disputes have been exhausted by the United Nations Command.

The United Nations Command intends to maintain the Armistice Agreement. However, the flagrant, repeated, and willful violations of that Agreement by your side undermine the very provisions which were specifically designed to assure the stability of the Military Armistice. A cardinal purpose of these provisions was to insure the freezing of the military status quo by maintaining the relative military balance existing on July 27, 1953.

Your side, by its repeated violations of the Armistice Agreement, has seriously upset the relative military balance by modernizing the building up military capability in the area vastly superior to that which you had at the time the Armistice Agreement was signed. On the other hand, the United Nations Command, because of its scrupulous observance of the Armistice Agreement, has not increased its combat equipment and is still equipped with the same type of weapons it had at the time the Armistice Agreement was signed.

As a result of the long period of time since the Armistice went into effect, the equipment and weapons of the United Nations Command have become obsolete and outmoded, and those needing replacement cannot be replaced from stocks on hand or currently in production. This situation aggravates the imbalance created by your breach of sub-paragraph 13d of the Armistice Agreement. The possibility that this situation would arise was not foreseen at the time the Armistice Agreement was negotiated, and, indeed, it would not have arisen had your side proceeded to negotiate, within three months and in good faith a "peaceful settlement" as was contemplated by the Armistice Agreement.

In view of these facts and your gross violations of the provisions of sub-paragraph 13d, the United Nations Command considers that it is entitled to be relieved of corresponding obligations under the provisions of this paragraph until such time as the relative military balance has been restored and your side, by its actions, has demonstrated its willingness to comply.

The stability of the Armistice and the maintenance of the relative military balance, which it was the primary purpose of these provisions of the Armistice Agreement to insure, can now only be restored and maintained by the replacement by the United Nations Command of its old weapons with new items currently available. The United Nations Command is taking appropriate steps to this end.

It should be clearly understood that:

(1) The only purpose of the United Nations Command action is to restore the relative balance of military strength that the Armistice was intended to preserve.

(2) The United Nations Command emphasizes the fact that the replacement weapons are being deployed for defensive purposes only.

(3) The United Nations Command intends as it has in the past fully to observe the cease-fire provisions of the Armistice Agreement. It intends also to observe all of the other provisions of the Armistice Agreement save to the extent to which it is entitled to be relieved from compliance because of your violations of sub-paragraph 13d and of those covered in its statement to the Military Armistice Commission of May 31, 1956.

(The authority for this statement - DEF 924655 and DEF 924736)

E

ABBREVIATIONS

CINCUNC	Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command
UNC	United Nations Command
EUSA	Eighth United States Army
FROKA	First Republic of Korea Army
AA	Armistice Agreement
AAD	Armistice Affairs Division, HQ UNC
MAC	Military Armistice Commission
UNCMAC	United Nations Command Component, Military Armistice Commission
NNSC	Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone
MDL	Military Demarcation Line
JSA	Joint Security Area
JOT	Joint Observer Team
JDO	Joint Duty Officer
KPA	Korean People's Army (communist)
CPV	Chinese Peoples Volunteers (communist)
KPC/CPV MAC	Korean People's Army/Chinese People's Volunteers Component, Military Armistice Commission

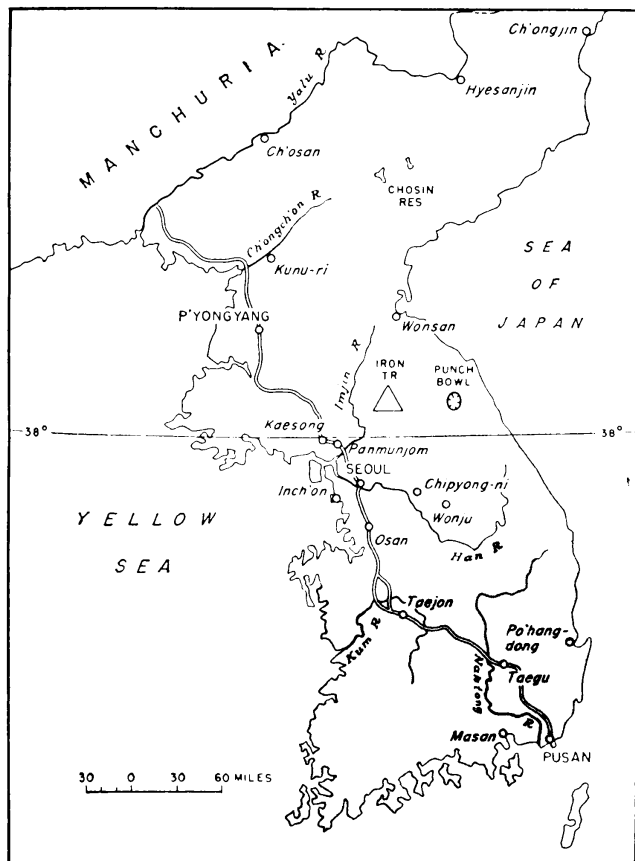
KOREA ON MAPS

Limited in resources and, ultimately, objectives, the Korean War involved several million men in a bitter struggle of conflicting ideologies. At peak strength the United Nations forces in the field totalled almost three quarters of a million men—about 400,000 South Koreans, 250,000 Americans, and 35,000 of other nations. In the three years of combat, UN forces sustained not quite half a million casualties. North Korean and Chinese Communist losses are estimated at two million men.

In addition to the sizable U. S. and ROK forces engaged, nations contributed ground troops to UN forces as follows: two United Kingdom brigades and one Canadian brigade—forming the 1st Commonwealth Division; Turkey—one brigade; Australia—two infantry battalions; Thailand, the Philippines, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Belgium, the Netherlands—one infantry battalion each; New Zealand—one artillery battalion; Luxembourg—one infantry detachment; India, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Italy—medical units. Some of these nations and others furnished naval and air contingents.

The phases of the war, the push and pull up and down the Korean peninsula, the alternating tides of fortune, are portrayed in the following pages of text and maps. The text is by Major Martin Blumenson, USAR, a historian in the Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army. The maps are the work of Major B. C. Mossman, USAR, a cartographer in the Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army.

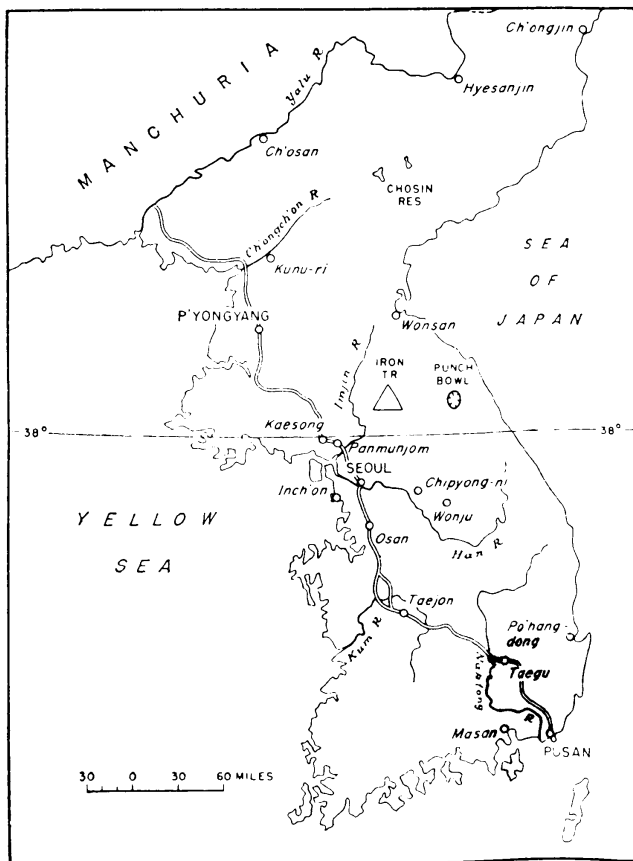
Reprinted, by permission, from *Army Magazine* June 1960.



OUTBREAK OF THE WAR

25 June to 13 July 1950

North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel early on 25 June, and three major columns, the main one striking toward Seoul, invaded the Republic of Korea. The United Nations Security Council denounced the aggression, and two days later requested assistance to restore peace. President Truman ordered U. S. air and naval forces to support the ROK, then authorized use of ground troops, air bombardment of military targets in NK, and a blockade of the coast. Though gallant ROK defenders had temporarily held up the central thrust, elsewhere the ROK army was overwhelmed. Seoul fell on 28 June, and ROK troops streamed southward in retreat. The U. S. 24th Division reached Korea from Japan, Task Force Smith (21st Infantry) making initial contact on 5 July with the enemy near Osan, 30 miles south of Seoul; then it fought delaying actions as the NK pushed south. The 25th Division arrived. Upon UN Security Council request, Truman appointed Gen. Douglas MacArthur Commander in Chief of the UN Command. By 13 July the North Koreans had overrun half of South Korea.

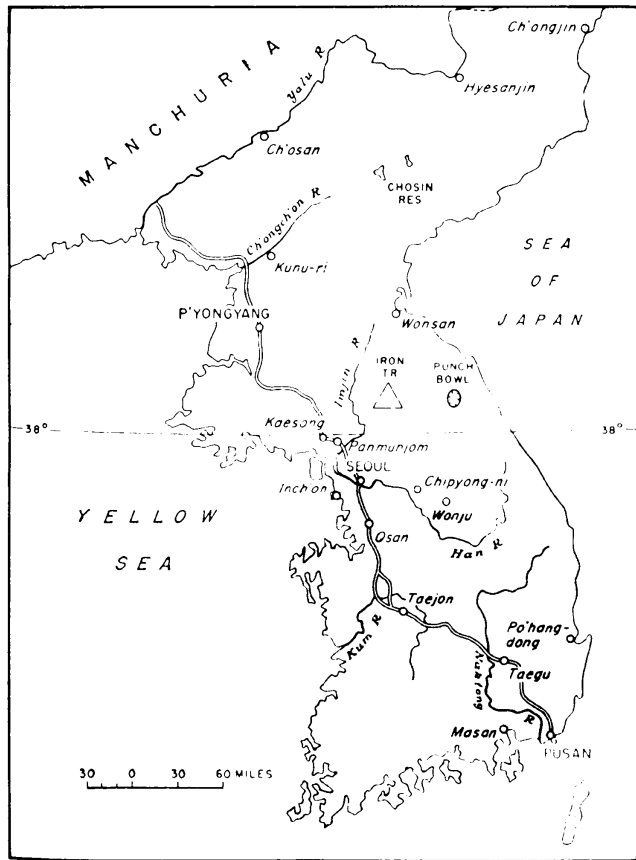


PUSAN PERIMETER

14 July to 14 September 1950

While U. S. personnel of KMAC worked to reconstitute the ROK Army (reduced to less than half its original 100,000 men), UN forces made a stand at the Kum River, lost Taejon on 20 July, withdrew toward the Naktong. Holding the southeast corner of Korea, so desperately short of troops that South Koreans augmented U. S. Army units in the KATUSA program, the UN forces fought a magnificent defensive battle. Three areas were critical: Pohang-dong, 63 miles north of Pusan on the east coast; Taegu, 55 miles northwest of Pusan on the main highway from Seoul; and Masan, 29 miles west of Pusan on the southern shore. Controlling additional forces—five ROK divisions, the 1st Cavalry Division (arrived 18 July), 29th Infantry RCT (from Okinawa, 26 July), 5th Infantry RCT (from Hawaii), 2d Infantry Division and 1st Provisional Marine Brigade (from the U. S.), Walker shifted units to close off enemy penetrations. The British 27th Commonwealth Brigade arrived from Hong Kong and replaced the Marines, shipped to Japan for a pending operation. By mid-September, despite continuing NK pressure, EUSAK firmly held Pusan.

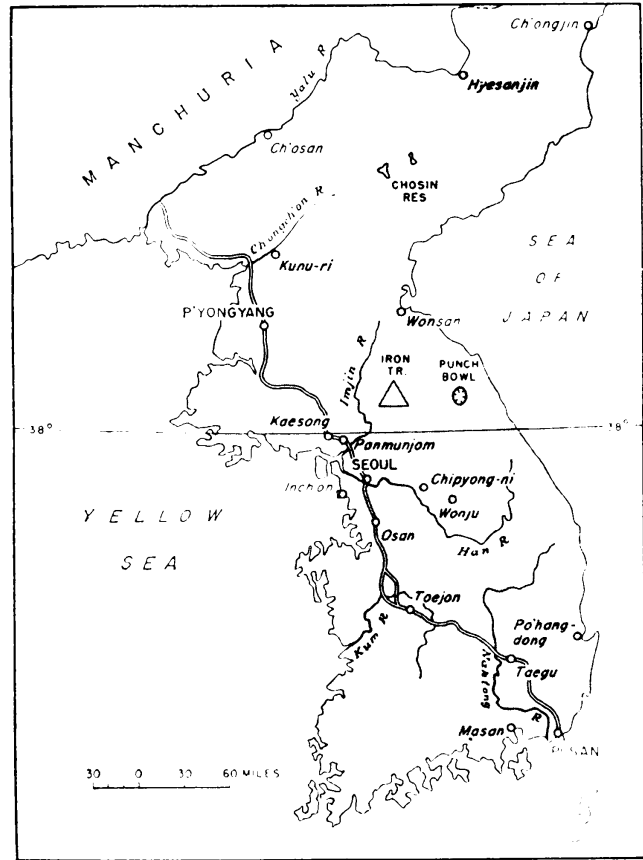
left hook at Inchon...North Korean Army destroyed...drive to north...Chinese intervene



SOUTH KOREA CLEARED

15-30 September 1950

While EUSAK fought the battle of the perimeter, MacArthur prepared an amphibious assault on Inchon to cut the main NK line of communications. Troops of the 1st Marine and 7th Infantry Divisions, under Lt. Gen. Edward M. Almond's X Corps, began to come ashore on 15 September. Next day Walker launched a breakout attack from the perimeter. The ROK I and II Corps drove north, Lt. Gen. Frank W. Milburn's I Corps advanced northwest along the main highway to make contact with X Corps; later Lt. Gen. John B. Coulter's IX Corps advanced westward to clear the southwest corner of Korea. Outflanked at Inchon, their main communications severed, squeezed from the south, the NK forces disintegrated. On 26 September, as the Inchon and Pusan forces made contact, UN forces recaptured Seoul. Reinforced by a battalion each of Filipino and Australian troops, with the 3d Infantry Division and a Turkish brigade soon to arrive, UN forces cleared South Korea of the enemy. By the end of September, ROK troops on the east coast again stood at the 38th parallel, while other units were driving toward it without difficulty.

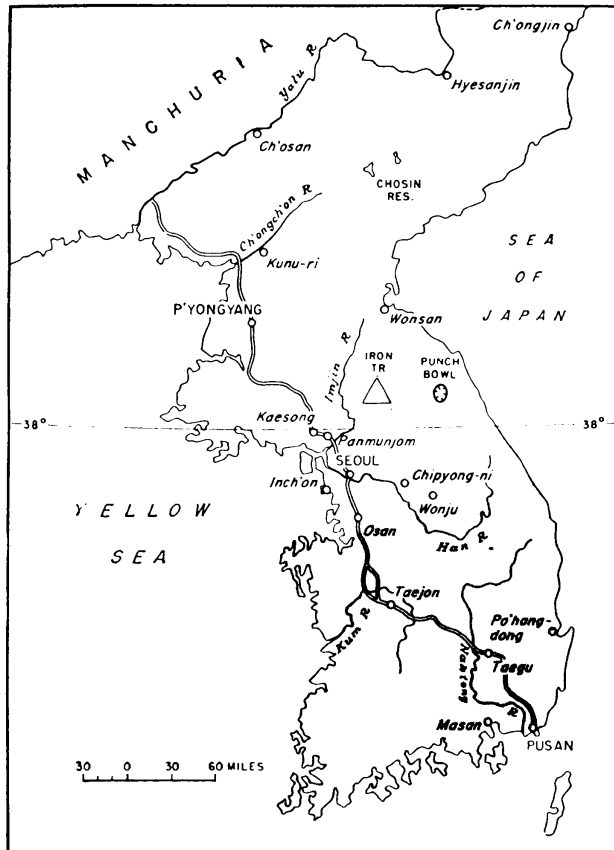


DRIVE TO THE NORTH

1 October to 25 November 1950

Given authority on 6 October to pursue the defeated Reds across the 38th parallel and destroy them, UN forces drove north. The ROK I Corps advanced up the east coast. X Corps embarked at Inchon and Pusan for another amphibious assault. EUSAK's I Corps entered Pyongyang on 19 October. The 187th Airborne RCT dropped 30 miles beyond. ROKs reached the Yalu at Choson on 26 October. X Corps landed on the east coast and pushed toward the Yalu. By the end of October the NK army had dissolved; 135,000 prisoners had been taken. But Chinese troops were striking overextended UN units. Though EUSAK consolidated along the Chongchon, X Corps reached the Yalu at Hyesanjin, ROK I Corps pushed into the northeast corner of Korea 60 miles from Siberia. The British 29th Commonwealth Brigade, a battalion from Thailand, and South African air units arrived in Korea. Victory seemed at hand when MacArthur announced on 24 November the final drive to the northernmost limit of the Korean peninsula. But within 24 hours the situation was to change with devastating suddenness.

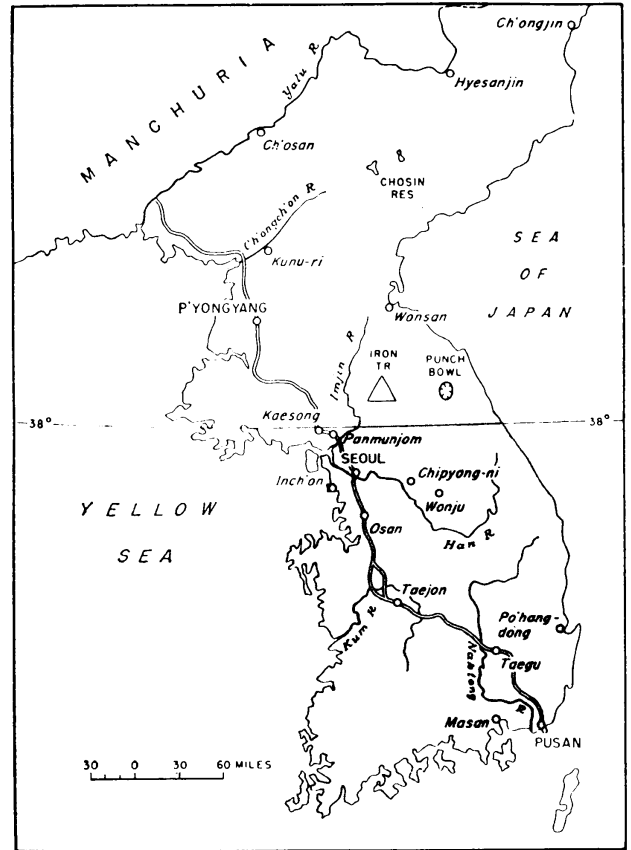
Eighth Army establishes a new line...Ridgway orders "Killer" offensive...Chinese



UNITED NATIONS RETREAT

25 November 1950 to 24 January 1951

The "entirely new war" opened 25 November when Chinese Communist forces struck and crushed ROK II Corps on the EUSAK right, next to the mountains separating it from X Corps. Two days later the CCF attacked X Corps around Chosin Reservoir, main EUSAK forces on the west coast, thereby threatening both with encirclement. EUSAK retired overland, covered by action at Kunu-ri, and established defenses below the 38th parallel to protect Seoul. X Corps fought a heroic 13-day battle to the east coast for seaborne evacuation along with ROK I Corps to Pusan. X Corps came under EUSAK, commanded by Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway after Walker's death on 23 December. Dutch, Greek, Canadian and French infantry battalions and New Zealand artillery augmented the UN forces. Pushed back again by the Chinese in their New Year's offensive, the UN lost Seoul on 4 January, Wonju during mid-month. When the CCF ran out of gas, Ridgway, with EUSAK's three U. S. corps on the left and the ROK army on the right, was ready to pass over to the attack.

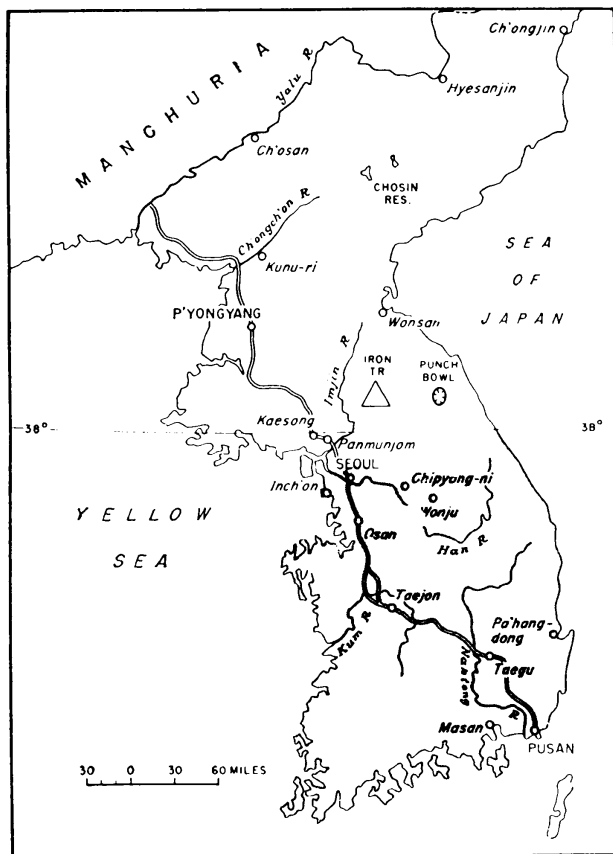


UNITED NATIONS OFFENSIVE

25 January to 21 April 1951

Ridgway's offensive, designed to damage the enemy rather than gain real estate, was a methodical, limited advance along a solid front developed from a reconnaissance in force into full-scale attack. Operations Tunderbolt, Killer, Ripper and Rugged carried the UN forward. By 10 February forces on the left had taken Inchon and were within striking distance of Seoul. Forces in the center captured Wonju and were probing northward when the enemy struck in two places. The enemy reaction bent back the front and surrounded for three days the 23d Infantry (2d Division) and its attached French battalion at Chipyang-ni, where an outstanding action was fought. Enemy pressure relaxed along the front by 19 February, and UN forces again advanced. A drive up the center outflanked Seoul, which came into UN possession again on 15 March. An airborne assault on 23 March by the 187th RCT 20 miles northwest of Seoul proved the enemy in retreat. Ridgway succeeded MacArthur as CINCUNC on 11 April, Lt. Gen. James A. Van Fleet becoming EUSAK commander. UN forces were advancing north of the 38th parallel virtually unopposed.

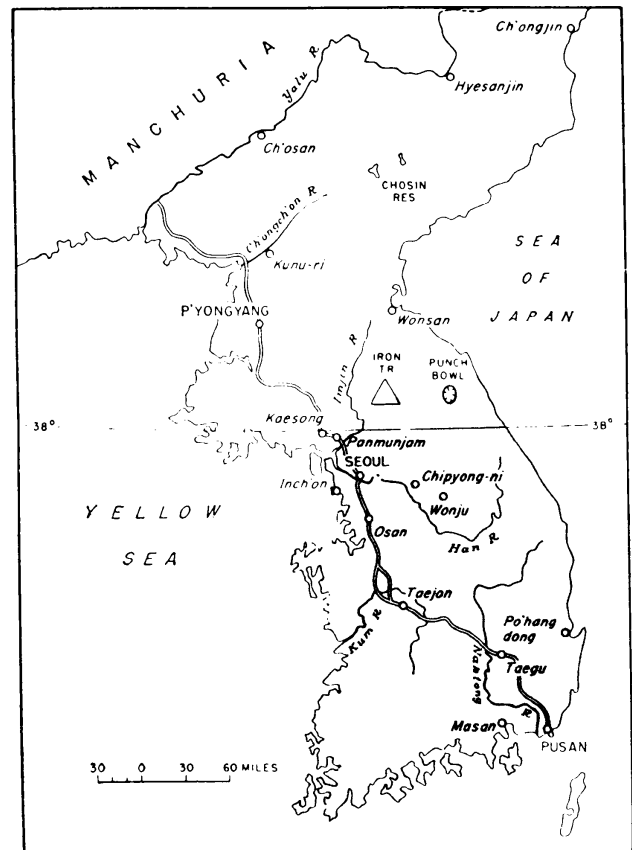
attacks repulsed...United Nations counter-attack...drive enemy above 38th Parallel



CHINESE SPRING OFFENSIVE

22 April to 19 May 1951

The Chinese attacked during early evening of 22 April, and cracked the UN line in the center, near Hwachon. Rather than expend his troops in a defensive stand, Van Fleet ordered a step-by-step withdrawal to permit the full force of artillery and air to be brought against the enemy. A battalion of the British 29th Brigade, isolated and virtually overrun on 23 April, fought a gallant battle. Though Van Fleet had hoped to anchor his withdrawal on Line Kansas, a series of positions across the Korean peninsula generally just above the 38th parallel, enemy pressure pushed the UN south of the parallel after a week. The Canadian 25th Brigade arrived to bolster UN forces. The enemy rested, then launched a second offensive on the night of 15 May, pushing back the UN right, striking on 17 May on the UN left. Putting out thousands of tons of artillery ammunition in what came to be called "the Van Fleet load," EUSAK stabilized the front. By 19 May the enemy was at a standstill, and it was the UN's turn to take up the offensive.



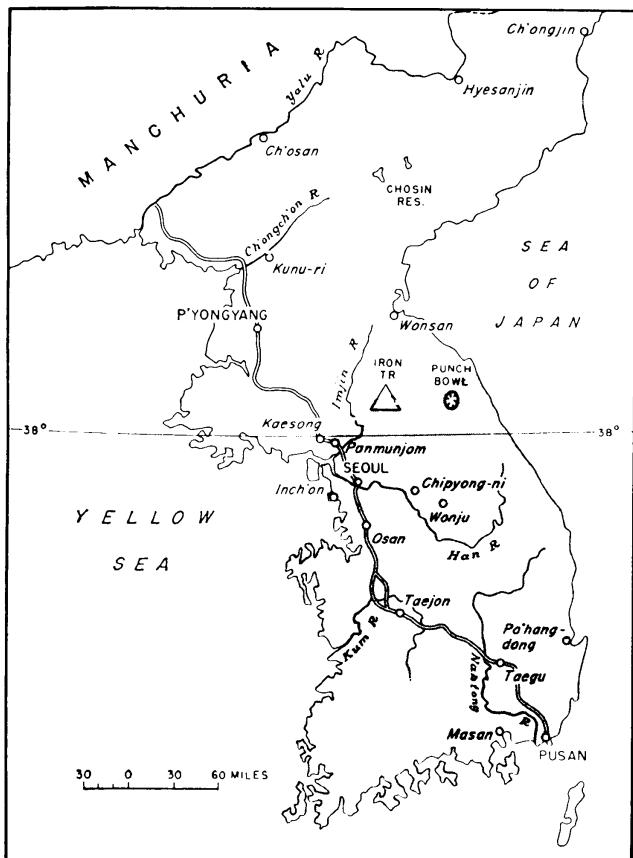
UNITED NATIONS COUNTEROFFENSIVE

20 May to 23 June 1951

Against generally light resistance the UN forces rolled forward. By the end of May the front was practically back on Line Kansas, and South Korea was again virtually cleared of enemy troops. Though the Joint Chiefs of Staff had limited EUSAK to the general vicinity of Kansas, local advances to gain more favorable ground were permissible. Van Fleet therefore ordered Kansas strengthened on 1 June, while at the same time he directed attacks toward the Iron Triangle in the center and toward the Punch Bowl in the east. Though troops for the most part developed defensive lines, patrolled, and engaged in local skirmishes, violent action developed in these two areas, with the result that Van Fleet designated Wyoming in the Triangle area, along with Kansas elsewhere, as the main line of resistance. As the first year of conflict drew to a close, the fighting diminished, stalemate appeared, and political settlement began to seem preferable to military victory. When the USSR delegate to the United Nations proposed on 23 June a cease-fire in Korea, EUSAK was well above the 38th parallel and ensconced on favorable terrain.

KOREA ON MAPS (concluded)

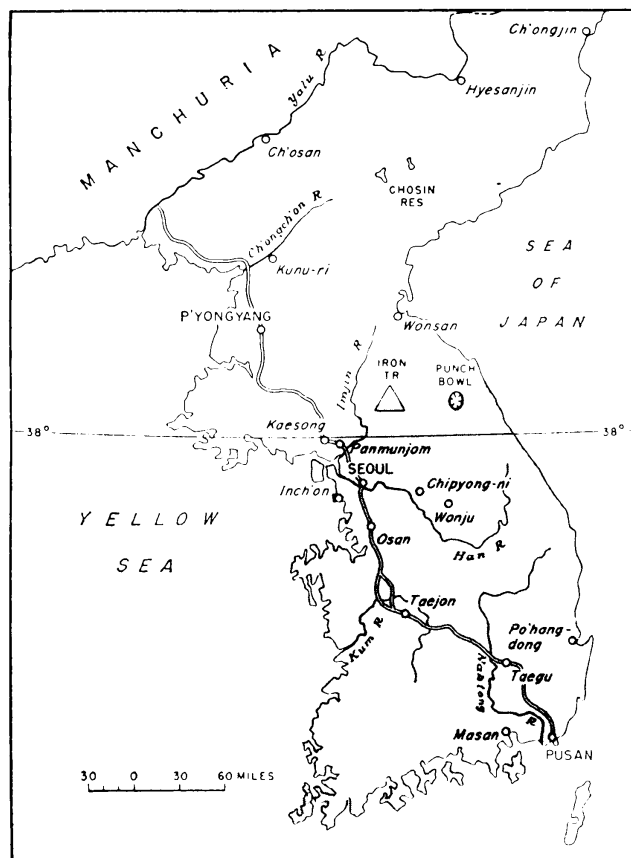
Truce talks begin . . . stalemate . . . truce—after 37 months of bitter limited conflict



LULL AND FLARE-UP

24 June to 11 November 1951

With the Chinese indicating an interest in a truce, President Truman authorized Ridgway to negotiate with the enemy military command. Meetings began on 10 July at Kaesong with the understanding that hostilities were to continue until the armistice was signed. Yet neither side wished all-out warfare while peace talks progressed, and the fighting decreased in intensity. The troops improved positions, consolidated ground, exchanged artillery fire, tried to capture prisoners, raided, and patrolled. A battalion each of Colombian, Belgian and Ethiopian troops joined the UN forces. The two British brigades and the Canadian came together to form the British 1st Commonwealth Division. In August the truce talks broke down. Late that month the Battle of Bloody Ridge commenced. It developed eventually into the Battle of Heartbreak Ridge, which did not end until 14 October. Ridgway persuaded the enemy to reopen negotiations at Panmunjom on 10 October, but a misdirected UN air attack interrupted the meetings. Late in October negotiations finally resumed. Yet the fighting, though subdued, continued.



STALEMATE

12 November 1951 to 27 July 1953

On 12 November, Ridgway ordered Van Fleet to cease offensive operations. Warfare devolved into raids, local limited attacks, combat patrols, artillery fire. UN forces established outpost positions to screen the main defensive line, and sharp skirmishes occurred. Two National Guard infantry divisions (45th and 40th) arrived during December 1951 and January 1952, and the 1st Cavalry and 24th Infantry Divisions returned to Japan. Van Fleet retired in February 1953, and Lt. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor became EUSAK commander. As the armistice negotiations entered their final and decisive phase in May, the enemy stepped up the action. Twice hostile forces struck, once in mid-June, again in mid-July, to erase bulges in the front. The UN forces recoiled, lost a few miles of ground, but inflicted great losses. The negotiators reached agreement on 19 July, signed the armistice on 27 July, and on that day, though the opposing forces remained in place, the warfare that had ranged up and down the Korean peninsula for 37 months ceased and perhaps came to an end.

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