

Soviets Dig In On Korea Border Line

(Editor's note: Roy Roberts, Associated Press correspondent in Seoul, Korea, who on Friday was the first to report Soviet-sponsored North Koreans' repeated broadcast invitations to South Koreans to take part in setting up a Russian-controlled Korean government, today visited the boundary between the U. S. and Soviet occupation zones. This is what he found.)

By ROY ROBERTS
OUTPOST 18 ON 38TH PARALLEL, Korea, March 29 (AP)—Soviet soldiers and North Korean villagers are digging trenches, foxholes and gun emplacements along the 38th parallel dividing the Soviet and American occupation zones of Korea.

Americans don't know why. They assume the Soviets ordered the World War I type of defensive line to justify Russian statements to North Koreans—reported by travelers from the north—that Americans and South Koreans plan to attack North Korea.

The digging was first observed by American patrols early this month. They presumed the first few undertakings were irrigation ditches. The activity stepped up sharply about March 9; the nature of the work became clear. One and two-man foxholes appeared.

The ditches became trenches six feet deep. Sometimes they were connected by communication trenches 2½ feet deep. Holes 10 feet in diameter were dug and given turret tops with openings for guns pointed south. No weapons were observed but at least one emplacement contains a bipod mount as large as that for an American 81 millimeter mortar.

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Mrs. Lee said the transportation company has "made no move to comply" with a promise to buy new equipment in exchange for a previous rate increase.

Fares here were 3 for 25 cents, have been 11 for \$1 and the company plans to ask for a straight 10 cent fare and no weekly passes. Mrs. Lee questioned a company statement it was losing money. She said the books show a March 1 surplus of \$1,689,537.04.

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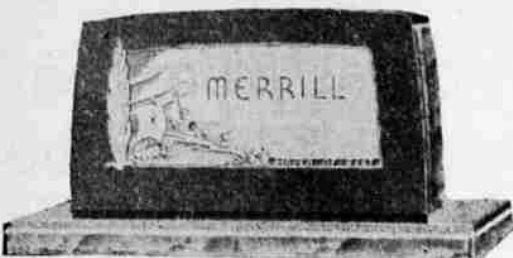
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