

Can Mauled Reds Mount Another Big Offensive?

SEOUL, (AP)—There is strong feeling among U.S. eighth army officers that the Communists are incapable of mounting another major offensive in Korea.

The officers believe this is the reason the Reds are willing to offer and accept compromises on terms for resuming armistice talks.

Eighth army officers have come to these conclusions about the Communists:

1. A sudden change in Red battle tactics indicates they are badly hurt and unable to fight again on a broad front.

2. Artillery fire by big guns of the United Nations army has taken such a heavy toll of veterans that green recruits are being rushed into the line.

3. The air force is gradually "isolating" Communist troops from the battlefield, leaving them high and dry without supplies.

DECISION

If armistice talks which it is believed will be underway soon at Panmunjom are as fruitless as were the cease-fire talks at Kaesong, Gen. James A. Van Fleet, U.S. eighth army commander, will have to decide whether he wants to push on to the north or hold the line where he is, anywhere from 15 to 50 miles north of the 38th parallel.

There is common talk around Van Fleet's headquarters in Korea, and Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway's headquarters in Tokyo, that the inevitable line in Korea will be a narrow waist running east across

the peninsula from Pyongyang to Wonsan.

This would be half the length of the present 150-mile front. A drive beyond this line would widen the front several hundred miles.

Shoving forward to the Pyongyang-Wonsan line, however, would mean lengthening Allied supply lines another 80 miles in the West.

By the same action they would be shortening the enemy supply lines and bringing United Nations transport within closer range of the Communist aircraft.

GOAL

Points in favor of a winter campaign by the U.N. Allies to reach the Pyongyang-Wonsan line are many.

First of all it would end the war in Korea, to all intents and purposes.

Once that line is reached the upper one-sixth of the peninsula could be marked off as stolen property and forgotten.

The lower five-sixths of the peninsula could be referred to as Korea, elections held and the war declared over as far as the United Nations are concerned.

Of course a line would have to be established and heavy fortifications installed, but it wouldn't be the first time in history military might held a political border line. This is believed to be one way to end the war if talks fail.

Red battle tactics have changed so radically in the past month that it is obvious they have given up all plans to try for another major breakthrough with the human sea wave of troops which failed them last April and May.

Instead of trying to force their way through Allied lines now with mass assault, the Reds are breaking up their armies into small units.

On the U.S. first cavalry division front last week and when the U.S. second infantry division was trying to take "Heartbreak ridge," the Reds singled out one unit at a time and tried to wipe it out.

This was almost successful both times, as far as annihilation tactics were concerned, but the injured units were replaced quickly and the holes in the U.N. line plugged.

RED MASS

A year ago the Reds massed a hundred thousand troops in one sector and rushed them in wave after wave into one position, hoping to break through by sheer force.

This tactic, which had worked so well against the Chinese Nationalists, was a complete failure against the United Nations firepower.

The big guns of the eighth army took a toll of 200,000 Communist killed and wounded in the last three months before the armistice talks began last July.

This week, fresh Chinese infantry units on the front near Kum-sung, broke and ran under United Nations attack.

There will be a winter campaign, if the talks break down, but the man behind the wheel this time is Van Fleet and not North Korean Premier Kim Il Sung.

Heavy Docket Awaits Solons

WASHINGTON, (AP)—The second session of the 82nd congress convening January 8 will face a crowded work docket, topped by two continuing major problems—national defense and how to pay the huge cost of it.

The first session which ended Saturday night dealt for nine and a half months with those key issues plus a variety of others, and the lawmakers chalked up a spending record for what technically is called peacetime.

AMOUNTS

Congress went home after appropriating \$91,600,000,000 (B). That was the figure most members used, although Sen. Ferguson (R-Mich.) said \$6,000,000,000 (B) should be added to it to cover so-called permanent appropriations—mostly interest on the national debt.

In any event, only during world war two was the total for a single year greater. In 1943 congress voted \$147,000,000,000 (B), the record.

In the orderly closing hours of the first session of this congress, three bills carrying \$13,133,000,000 (B) were sent to the White House. One provided \$7,328,000,000 (B) in foreign military and economic aid to bolster friendly nations abroad against communism. The amount was slightly less than Pres. Truman requested.

TWO FUNDS

The second bill was a \$4,128,000,000 (B) military construction measure, which brought this year's appropriations for the army, navy, air force and marines to approximately \$61,000,000,000 (B). The other bill carried \$1,675,000,000 (B) in supplemental funds for miscellaneous purposes.

As congress was closing up shop, Truman signed the \$5,691,000,000 (B) tax-increase bill which the lawmakers sent to him Friday. The president had asked for at least \$10,000,000,000 (B), and he said "a statement that the half loaf he got was not enough."

Baby Killed In Collision

ROSEBURG, (AP)—A traffic accident Sunday took the life of a three-month-old infant and sent others to the hospital in serious condition.

Dead is Edward James Weinhold infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Albert Weinhold, Tenmile.

The baby died shortly after a collision on highway 38 Sunday afternoon near Elktion.

Injured in the accident were Weinhold, his wife Evelyn, and children Judith Kay, 3, and Jennette Faye, 22 months; and the occupants of the other car, Warren C. Plank and Bessie Annette Crippen, both of Woodburn.

Auto Prowler Gets Rifle

Theft of an 8mm Mauser from his car was reported to city police yesterday by Lloyd Moore, 1814 Etna.

W. C. DePew, 430 Main, said a tire and wheel was stolen from his jeep parked at 4th and Main over the weekend.

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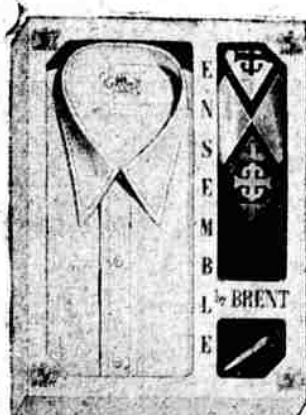
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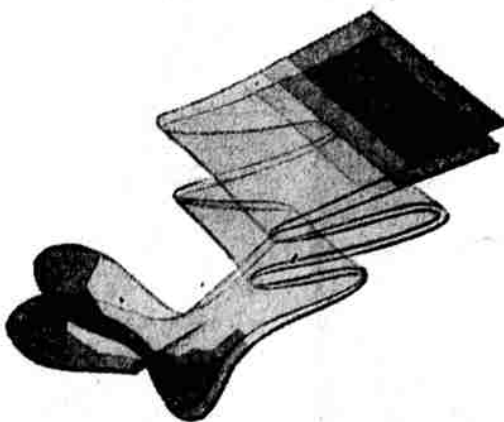
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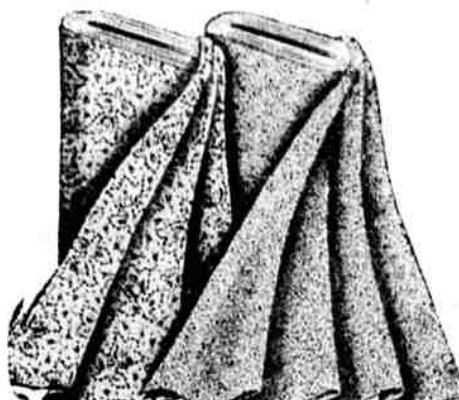
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