

Reds strike back in Korea

*U. N. forces utilize superior firepower
to mow down the Communist foe*

United Nations patrols in Korea probed north last week seeking out an enemy that wouldn't stand and fight. But early this week, after U.N. advance units had pushed to within eight miles of Seoul, the Communists suddenly stopped playing hide and seek and began to offer stiffer resistance. They brought up artillery on the front below Seoul and aerial reconnaissance spotted big enemy convoys moving toward the erupting front.

The Communist reluctance to fight last week caused much speculation at Eighth Army headquarters. Some officers thought the Reds were regrouping for a major push down the center. Others felt the Chinese had pulled back to give weight to the cease-fire negotiations at Lake Success. But they all agreed on one point: The Communists have paid an appalling price for their Korean adventure.

U.N. patrols found battlefields littered with enemy dead. That was convincing evidence that the price might have been higher than anyone imagined. For instance, the Air Force estimated 3,000 enemy troops had been killed in two napalm-bomb raids. But when U.N. troops reached the devastated areas they counted more than 7,000 charred bodies.

Prisoners also have testified to the mounting toll. One Chinese rifleman admitted that in seven days 1,500 of the 2,300 men in his regiment were killed by planes. A captured North Korean said most of his countrymen thought the U.N. would eventually win the war by sheer firepower.

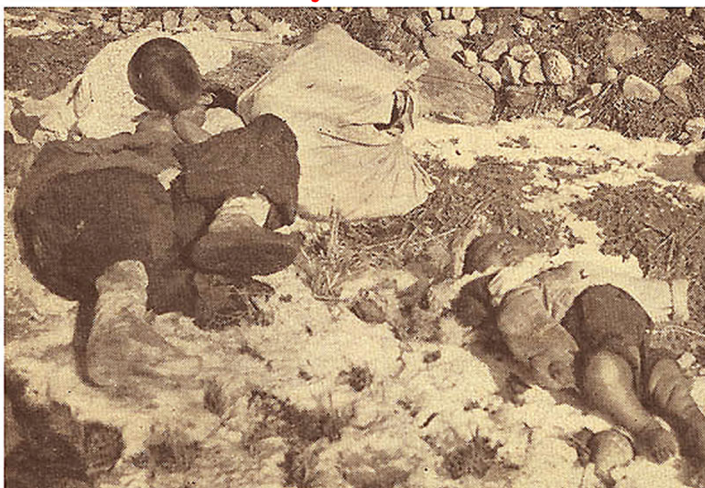
"Airplanes worry us most," he said. "As soon as we hear them coming we run and hide. I haven't seen a smiling face in weeks. Everybody is grim. . . ."

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Mechanized Assault. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway's strategy of using fast-moving combat teams to flush out the enemy and then knocking them down from the air had resulted in an estimated 40,000 killed and 120,000 wounded since Jan. 1. In addition the freezing cold was taking its toll of Communists. And there were reports that troops of Gen. Chen Yi's Third Field Army were being struck down by the deadly fever—typhus. Meanwhile, on the U.N. front line there seemed little inclination to accept a cease-fire on Chinese terms. Said one Air Force officer: "If they arrange a negotiated peace now, they can go home as conquerors who whipped the U.S. Army and its allies." U.N. troops were, in fact, far from whipped.

As Ridgway awaited General MacArthur's ninth front-line visit at Suwon airstrip, he told newsmen: "We've got the Chinese on the run and that's the way I want to keep them. We've got 11 hours of daylight every day now and I want 11 hours of fighting every day. I want a lot of Chinese casualties for every U.N. soldier who gets hurt."

On a lonely road in Korea



This graphic picture shows war in all its horror. A Korean mother, wounded by mortar fire, fell by the roadside. Her two children, alone, bewildered and sobbing, stayed by her side until death by freezing brought merciful escape to these innocent victims of Communist aggression.