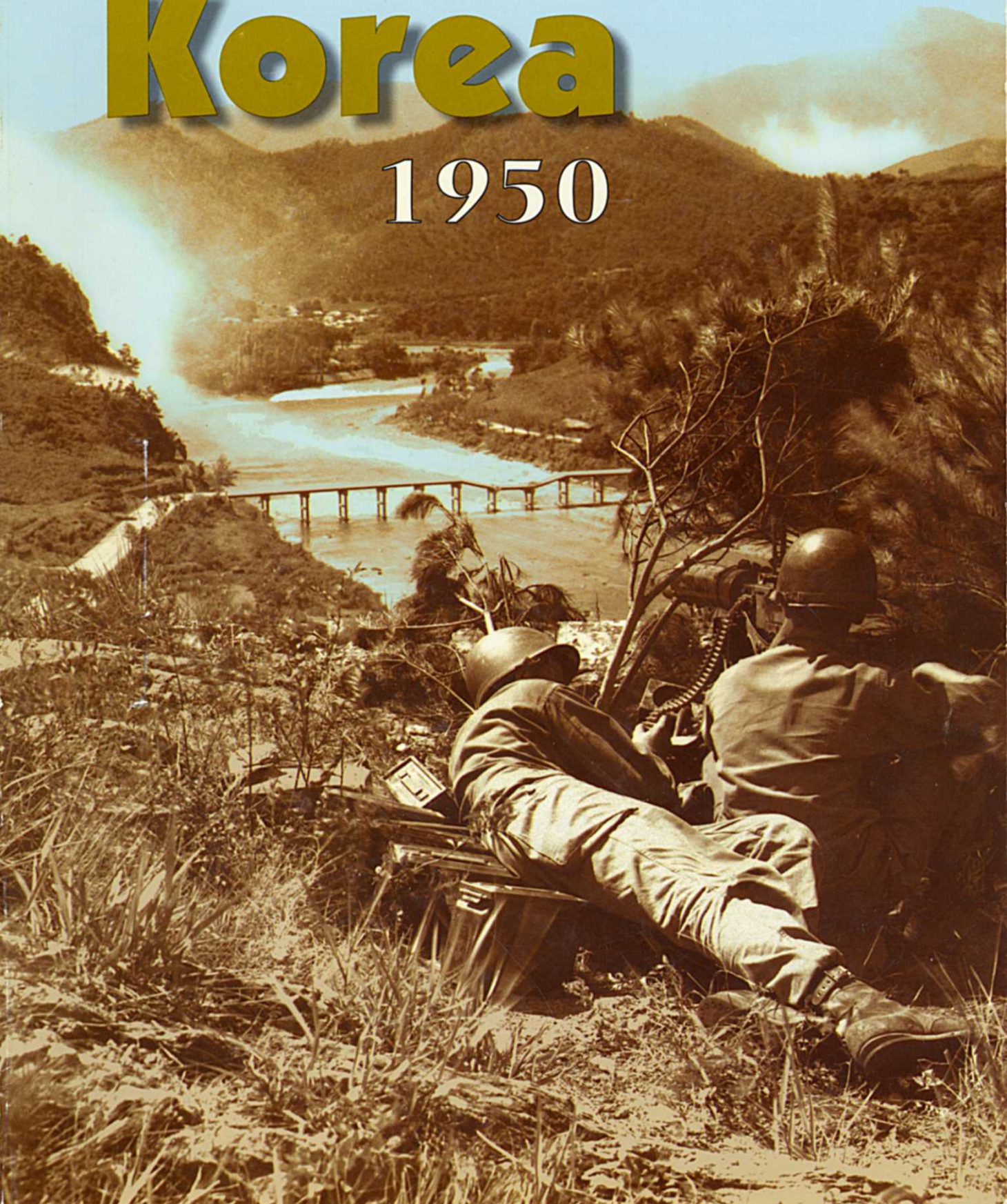
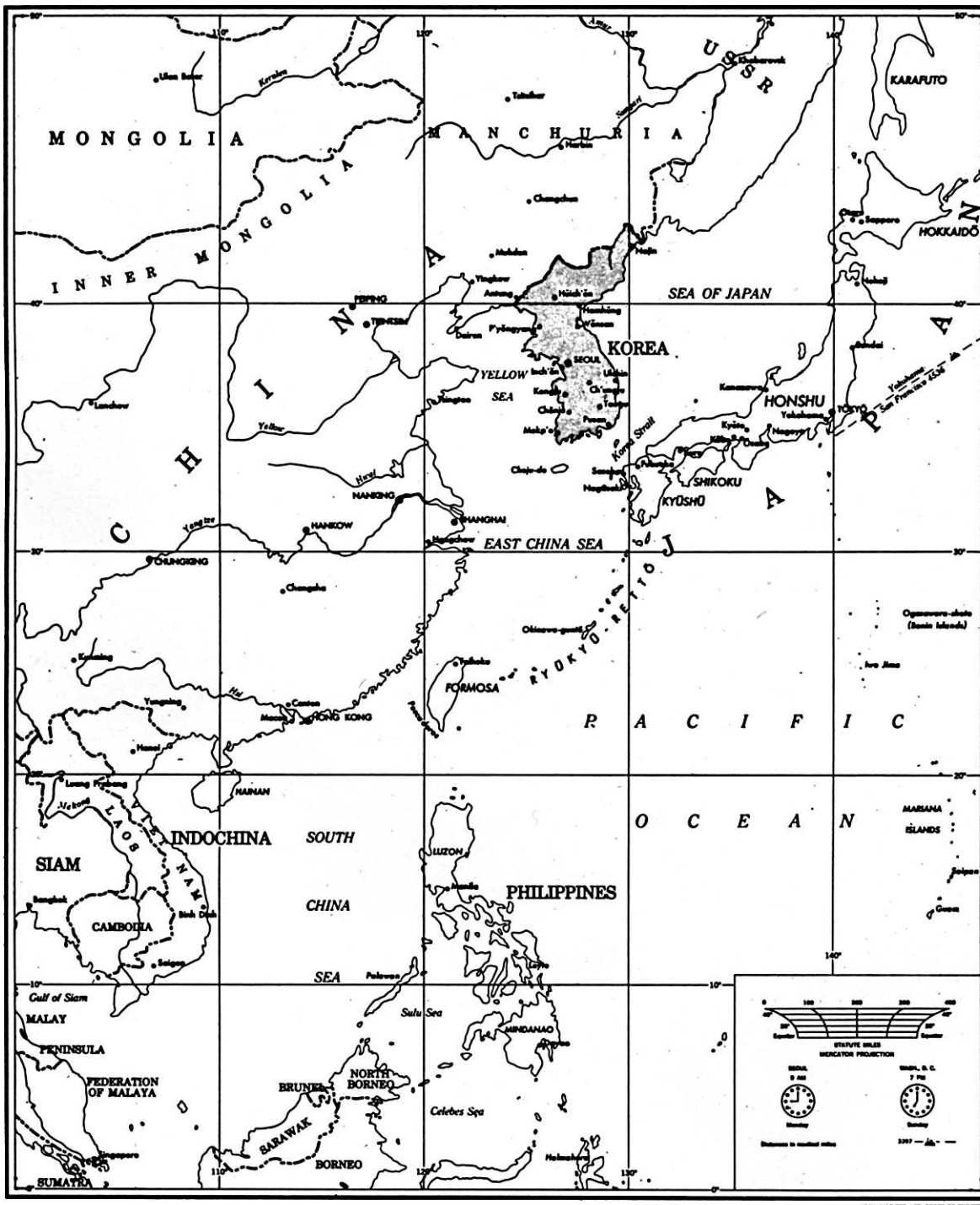
United States Army • Center of Military History

Korea

1950

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MALAY PENINSULA
FEDERATION OF MALAYA
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NORTH BORNEO
SARAWAK
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Map 1

KOREA—1950

Center of Military History

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Facsimile Reprint, 1989, 1997

CMH PUB 21–1

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, US. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402

FOREWORD
To the 1997 Edition

The fiftieth anniversary of the Korean War gives both the Army and the nation an opportunity to honor those veterans who served in that conflict, one whose results are still very much on the minds of American soldiers today. This work, first completed when that struggle was unresolved is an overview of the extremely difficult first six months of the Korean War. Through its text, photographs, maps, and other graphics, it provides a new generation of soldiers with a sense of what that conflict was all about and of the heroism and sacrifice that were needed to turn a series of initial setbacks into victory. I am thus pleased to release this new printing of a classic photographic collection.

Since the source of every photograph is noted at the back of this book, it is the Center of Military History's hope that various commands and offices throughout the Army will find this work useful also as a catalog of available photographs as they develop their own projects commemorating the anniversary of the war. Finally, I am mindful of the fact that as we honor those who served in the Korean conflict, we are also recognizing by extension those soldiers who continue to serve in Korea today, doing their own part in preserving freedom in a significant part of the world.

Washington, D.C.
11 Oct 1996

JOHN W. MOUNTCASTLE
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Military History

FOREWORD

By its participation in the Korean conflict the Army of the United States, in a determined effort to restore international peace and security, has been for the first time committed to battle under the flag of the United Nations. Confronted by most arduous conditions, the American soldier has fought with traditional bravery and skill against communist aggression in Korea. He has met every test with honor.

This volume briefly records, by text and photograph, the first six months of the conflict that began in Korea on 25 June 1950. It is dedicated to the American soldier and his comrades in arms who have endured the hardships of battle with unfailing devotion to duty.

J. LAWTON COLLINS
Chief of Staff

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Illustrations are from the Department of Defense files.

In this volume, the place names are spelled in accordance with the Army Map Service spellings. The breve mark, however, has been omitted.

KOREA—1950

CHAPTER I

PRELUDE TO NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION

In the early morning hours of 25 June 1950 when the North Koreans launched their powerful offensive across the 38th parallel against the Republic of Korea, the attention of the entire world was suddenly focused upon that little, mountainous Asiatic nation. Since the Republic of Korea was not a member of the United Nations, the United States Government immediately brought the aggression to the attention of the United Nations Security Council, branding the assault across the 38th parallel by the hostile forces as a breach of the peace, an act of aggression, and a clear threat to international peace and security. Why did the United States concern itself with an attack in distant Korea, and for what reasons did the invaders wish to conquer the newly sovereign people living in the south of Korea? The answers lie variously in Korea's geographic position, traditional relations with its more powerful neighbors, and the aftermath of World War II.

Korea is separated from its northern neighbors, Manchuria and the Soviet Union, by the Yalu and Tumen Rivers. (See map inside front cover.) The Siberian port city of Vladivostok is only eighty miles northeast of the Korean border. Although Korea was so little known to Westerners that it was long called the Hermit Kingdom, its strategically important position on the perimeter of the Asiatic land mass has been thoroughly appreciated by Chinese, Japanese, and Russian statesmen. The country itself is a peninsula resembling a jagged club thrust south from Manchuria and the Maritime Province of the Soviet Union. One hundred and twenty-five miles to the west across the warm Yellow Sea lies communist China's Shantung Peninsula. The Japanese Empire is about the same distance to the east, beyond the colder waters of the Sea of Japan.

Korea, a country about one half the size of California, is a jumble of mountains, particularly in the north and along the east coast. (See map at rear of book.) Although within approximately the same latitude as San Francisco, Wichita, and Philadelphia, Korea's climate is more extreme, especially during the bitterly cold winter months. Another feature of Korean weather is the monsoon, or rainy season, which from the last of June through August turns the country's dusty roads into muddy quagmires.

In modern material possessions and comforts, Korea is a poor country, and most of its people work long and backbreaking hours in

fields or rice paddies earning a precarious living as farmers. The population is well in excess of 28,000,000, of which less than one third live north of the 38th parallel. The southern portion of the peninsula is predominantly agricultural; the north is more industrial. South Koreans grow rice and barley, reaping harvests twice a year because of an extended rainy season. Crops in the north are of the dry-field type: wheat, millet, corn, soy beans. Less rainfall north of the parallel limits the farmers there to one crop annually. Natural resources such as minerals and water power are rather meager in the south, although they are not totally lacking. The north is endowed with ample reserves of gold, iron, tungsten, copper, and graphite, as well as highly developed hydroelectric power facilities. In the south, much of the land is cleared for farming, while the north possesses most of Korea's commercial forests. Obviously, north and south Korea complement each other and, in order to survive economically, the country best functions as a national unit. Until 1945 a lively exchange of products did exist. The south exchanged its rice, barley, silk, textiles, and manganese for wood, coal, iron, fertilizer, and electric power from the north. This trade withered after World War II, the country having been depressed in particular by lack of normal markets and by economic chaos in general.

In matters of religion and philosophy, Confucianism, Buddhism, and Animism are most important, although more than 600,000 Koreans are Christians. It was largely to Confucianism, however, that Korea owed the position it occupied until very recently. The Confucian code of moral conduct, which was current in China before the Christian era, reached Korea in medieval times and had become thoroughly accepted by the thirteenth century, The adoption of the Confucian philosophy eventually led to complete Chinese suzerainty over the Hermit Kingdom. During the centuries that followed, the native kings of Korea, while maintaining their autonomy, were to some degree dependent upon and inferior to their ceremonial overlords, the Chinese emperors. Although China did not consider Korea her colony, until the declining years of the nineteenth century Korea remained an inferior nation within a Confucian bloc of Asiatic states which regarded near-by China as the superior, or middle, kingdom. The relationship might be described as that of a respectful young man toward his mature elder brother. An understanding of this historic arrangement is needed to assess the difficulties which recently have beset Korean statesmen in their attempts to direct their political destiny since, for centuries, Korean independence has been tempered by reliance upon the will of one of its stronger neighbors.

Korea has long held definite attraction for the geopoliticians of China, Russia, and Japan. Late in the fifteenth century the Russian principality centering on Moscow emerged as a sovereign nation by throwing off Tatar domination. In the middle of the next century Ivan The Terrible formally assumed the title of czar, and Russia began to expand eastward through Siberia. Within sixty years Russian pioneers reached the Pacific Ocean and then initiated the movement south which brought Russia into contact with China. Throughout the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries the Russians, fanning out from humble beginnings, exerted tremendous pressure on all of northern Asia. It was this vigorous eastward movement that brought the Russians to the frontiers of Manchuria and Korea and to the long Siberian coast opposite the islands of Japan.

Paralleling Russia's development as an Asiatic power in the nineteenth century was the rise of modern Japan. Both courrtries schemed to dominate China. To accomplish this feat, control of Korea and Manchuria was fundamental. Manchuria, with its agri-

culture, industry, and means of transportation, and Korea, strategically valuable because of its geographic location and year-round harbor facilities, were caught in the mesh of Russo-Japanese imperialistic rivalry.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, when European powers were making great inroads into the territory of China, Western observers concluded that the Korean monarchy could no longer be regarded as even indirectly dependent upon the Chinese. A long rivalry between China and Japan for influence in Korea resulted in the 1894–95 war which crumbled China's prestige and established Japanese control over the Korean king and people. Shortly thereafter, Korea was disturbed by riatous anti-Japanese demonstrations and the king sought protection in the Russian legation at Seoul. For the next nine years Russia and Japan vied for dominant influence throughout Korea. In 1905 the Russo-Japanese War removed Russia from the strategic peninsula and for the next forty years the Japanese were supreme in Korea. The Korean monarch, Yi Hyeng, struggled against his captors, but was forced to abdicate and, in 1910, Japan annexed Korea, restoring to the Hermit Kingdom its ancient name, Chosen. From 1910 to 1945 Chosen, as a segment of the Japanese Empire, lost all semblance of sovereignty.

In 1931 Japan brought to fruition long-term political plans to separate Manchuria from China. During the following year the detached area was renamed Manchukuo and provided with the trappings of independence and a Tokyo-inspired government. The invasion of China proper by the Japanese Army then took place, but eventually Japan's imperialistic house of cards collapsed, and it surrendered to the Allied Powers on 2 September 1945.

Following World War II, the Soviet Union undertook to implement the old czarist dream of controlling China and its neighbors. Manchuria and that part of Korea north of the 38th parallel were occupied in 1945 by Russian troops. Communist control in northern Korea and Manchuria made available to the Soviet Union valuable warm-water harbors to complement the ports of Siberia, which are largely icebound during the winter months. From the communist point of view, the extension of the Russian sphere of influence was ideal since it facilitated the integra.tion of Siberia's economy and transportation systems with those of the rest of eastern Asia. Civil war erupted in China and a communist dictatorship replaced the nationalist government of President Chiang Kai-shek which finally took refuge on the Chinese island of Formosa (Taiwan) on 9 December 1949. Chinese communist authorities entered into far-reaching diplomatic agreements with their mentors in the Kremlin, and between 1945 and 1950 it became obvious that in the game of imperialism, communist Russia had successfully dominated China, the Manchurian provinces, and northern Korea.

Only the southern part of Korea remained outside the sphere of communist influence. During the forty-year period of Japanese occupation, the Korean people had been completely eliminated from all positions of responsibility in their own country. Although the Koreans are distinct from all other peoples of Asia in language and customs, the Japanese seem to have nurtured a desire to absorb the Korean people, virtually to change them into Japanese. The Japanese substituted their own language and customs, the names of Korean cities were changed to Japanese equivalents, and even the Japanese state religion, Shintoism, was introduced, bu.t the absorption program was a failure—the policy of absorption stimulated Korean nationalism. Groups of exiles met in China, the United States, and elsewhere to plan for the time when Korea could take its place in the ranks of independent nations. Among the exiles was Dr. Syngman Rhee, an American-educated scholar who had

long served the cause of Korean independence. It must be remembered, however, that Korea had never been a truly sovereign state in modern times and that the Koreans had resigned themselves to the habit of subservience to stronger neighbors—China, Japan, and czarist Russia. After World War II, the Soviet Union was eager to exploit the possibilities for economic, political, and military influence over the Korean peninsula, both north and south of the 38th parallel.

South Korea, itself a steppingstone to Japan, is that half of the peninsula containing the capital city of Seoul and many of the best ports. Acquisition of this portion of Korea was desirable to the forces of communism in order to complete control of eastern Asia. From the frozen arctic wastes to the steaming jungles of northern Burma and Indochina, vast areas of the Far East had, by subversion, revolution, and military might, fallen under communist domination. Chinese, Manchus, and north Koreans, imitating their Soviet teachers and aided when necessary by Soviet arms, supplies, and personnel, directed their respective governments within the framework of international communist policy. But the majority of the south Koreans gravitated toward a truly independent form of government.

The Korean national desire for independence had gained the sympathy of the Allied Powers during World War II. In the Cairo Declaration of 1943, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt, mindful of the enslavement of the Korean people by Japan, pledged that "in due course" Korea would become free and independent. In the summer of 1945, President Truman, Prime Minister Churchill, and Generalissimo Chiang, through the Potsdam Declaration, reaffirmed the principles of the Cairo agreement. An atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945. Two days later the Soviet Union declared war on the defeated people of Japan. In its declaration of war, 8 August 1945, the Soviet Government officially subscribed to the Potsdam Declaration.

Events moved swiftly after the Japanese Government's first surrender offer of 10 August 1945. In Washington the Secretary of War prepared a draft of General Order 1: which General MacArthur was directed to have the Japanese Government issue to all of its armed forces. This famous order instructed Japanese commanders to surrender to designated Allied officers. Regarding Korea, General. Order 1 directed that the Japanese forces south of the 38th parallel surrender to the American commander. The decision to issue this directive was made by the U.S. Government. The Secretaries of War and State, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee all reviewed the document before it was submitted to President Truman for final approval. Later, the approved text was sent to General MacArthur and America's British and Soviet allies. The Russians accepted the text without objection to the provisions concerning the stated parallel.

It should be clearly understood that there was never any formal wartime agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union to divide Korea into two zones of occupation. Korea was divided at the 38th parallel north latitude purely on a temporary basis to facilitate the surrender of Japanese troops in that country. Soviet troops had crossed into Korea on 12 August 1945, before the 38th parallel had been approved by President Truman. On that date, the nearest American troops were about 600 miles away on the island of Okinawa. Elements of the U.S. Army did not reach southern Korea until 8 September 1945, nearly a month after the arrival in northern Korea of the first Russians.

Korea was quickly occupied. Surrender of the Japanese forces in the southern half of the country was accepted by American officers on

9 September 1945. All powers of government over the territory and people south of the 38th parallel were assumed by General MacArthur. Nevertheless, in establishing military control over southern Korea, he stated that Korea's future independence had been determined and that the purpose of the occupation was to enforce the terms of Japan's surrender and to protect the Koreans in their personal and religious rights.

Meeting in Moscow later in 1945, the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States agreed to the creation of a joint commission consisting of representatives of Russian and American commands in Korea. In conjunction with Korean democratic parties and social organizations, the Joint Commission was to make recommendations to China, the United Kingdom, the USSR, and the United States relative to the organization of one provisional democratic government for the whole of Korea. The Moscow agreement made no reference to separate governments for north and south Korea. The Soviet Union, however, immediately proceeded to cripple the effectiveness of the agreement. Included in it was a decision to place Korea under a four-power trusteeship for a period of up to five years. Trusteeship was repugnant to most Koreans and, to make matters worse, serious dissension between the occupying authorities nullified the work of the Soviet-American Joint Commission. Nearly all Korean political groups denounced the trusteeship plan and clamored for the independence which they had assumed would be theirs upon the defeat of Japan. The communist elements alone, among all the political groups, refrained from denouncing the plan and advocated the five-year trusteeship as suggested in Moscow. Soviet representatives on the Joint Commission then insisted that in its work the Commission should consult exclusively with Korean groups which consistently supported the Moscow agreement. It was this patent Soviet maneuver to force the Commission into conversations with a minority group of Korean communists, or at least with those Koreans who were not professedly anticommunistic, that rendered utterly impossible the constructive discussion of Korean political problems within the Commission. The Joint Commission continued to meet in 1946 and 1947, but was harassed by a series of obstacles and frustrations largely injected by the Soviet representatives.

Meanwhile, north of the parallel, the Russian authorities made feverish efforts to sovietize the people. The border was sealed off and traffic to and from north Korea was sternly restricted. The 38th parallel, chosen arbitrarily only as a military expedient to facilitate the capitulation of Japanese troops, suddenly became a political frontier. For all practical purposes North and South Korea had developed, against the popular will, into two distinct nations. This artificial division made through the middle of the peninsula destroyed the possibility of continuing a normal exchange of goods. Economically, Korea began to shrivel and die. Like European countries occupied by Russian troops, North Korea was turned into an armed camp. Communistic Koreans poured back from China and the USSR, a heavily armed military establishment was created and trained by ideologically pure instructors, objectors were ruthlessly eliminated, and North Korea was prepared in every way for its ultimate role as a satellite nation of the Soviet Union.

By 1947 the U.S. Government moved to neutralize Russia's efforts to prevent the establishment of a provisional Korean democratic government. Since neither the military authorities in Korea nor the officials of the Department of State could penetrate Soviet intransigence, the U.S. Government laid the issue before the United Nations. The matter was discussed in the General Assembly where

it was resolved that, during the spring of 1948, the people of Korea be invited to elect one Korean national assembly for the whole country. To supervise the election, the United Nations appointed a commission representing nine member countries. The members of the United Nations Commission On Korea, with the exception of the Ukranian delegate who refused to attend, went to Korea and observed the election. Unfortunately, only the people of South Korea were free to participate. Soviet authorities, professing that the Korean question was beyond the scope of the United Nations, banned the election in the north and refused to permit the Commission to enter North Korea. When Korea's first democratic election was held on 10 May 1948, about 95 percent of the registered voters in South Korea cast their ballots for members of a national assembly.

Although the USSR did not permit the people of North Korea to participate in the election of 1948, the occupying authorities and people of South Korea did co-operate with the United Nations in a manner praised by the U.N. Commission. The newly elected National Assembly went to work on the problem of forming a Korean government. On 17 July 1948 the first constitution in 4,000 years of Korean history was promulgated by the National Assembly, and three days later the deputies elected Dr. Syngman Rhee to a four-year term as president. The government of the Republic of Korea was formed on 15 August 1948, and on that day the U.S. military government below the 38th parallel came to an end. The 50,000 American occupation troops were gradually withdrawn, the withdrawal being completed in June 1949. Only the Korea Military Advisory Group (KMAG) , numbering approximately 500 American officers and enlisted men, remained to continue training Korean security forces. The members of KMAG were, of course, scattered throughout South Korea on their various training missions. After the summer of 1949 General MacArthur was no longer responsible for Korea's defense nor did he retain command over the handful of American troops stationed in the republic. They were under the over-all direction of the U.S. ambassador to Korea, John J. Muccio.

In the meantime, Soviet authorities north of the parallel had created a communist state which they called the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. This regime adopted a constitution similar to the 1947 constitution of communist Bulgaria. For prime minister, the Soviets selected a young Korean communist who changed his given name to Kim 11 Sung in order to benefit from the fame of an old-time hero of the same name. In December 1948, the Soviet Government announced that its armed forces had been withdrawn from Korea.

The Republic of Korea was acknowledged by the General Assembly of the United Nations as the only valid government in Korea. Thirty-two foreign nations formally recognized the republic, but on 8 April 1949 U.N. membership was denied by a Soviet veto. The new government did, however, become a member of several other important international organizations including the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the World Health Organization, and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

From its inception, the Republic of Korea was subjected to the most extreme provocations by the North Korean regime which, between 1948 and 1950, co-operated with communism's world-wide propaganda facilities to inaugurate a campaign of character assassination against Dr. Rhee. The president was accused of the standard roster of crimes reserved for those whose record of anticommunism particularly distresses the Kremlin. He and the members of his government were caricatured as being responsible for the very economic ills with which North Korean offi-

cials were working to infect the young republic. For example, although 80 percent of the republic's electric power originated north of the parallel, the communists periodically cut off the flow of electricity into South Korea and then criticized the Seoul administration for failing to bring prosperity to the country.

While slandering the republican government by picturing its leaders as a group of economic royalists and warmongers personally responsible for South Korea's terrible difficulties, authorities in North Korea, with enthusiastic Chinese and Soviet aid, hastened the economic strangulation of the Republic of Korea and rigorously trained an aggressive army. North Korean troops were warlike and determined to gain preinvasion combat experience. By striking time and again across the 38th parallel, North Korean soldiers and armed civilians reduced the South Koreans' confidence in the Seoul government. These aggressive maneuvers were countered with the greatest difficulty and serious loss of life, by the military establishment of the Republic of Korea, which was a lightly equipped force designed solely for defense and internal security. Every American combat unit in Korea had left the country and the comparatively inexperienced South Korean troops were harassed by frequent border raids.

The United States was anxious that Korea be given the fullest opportunity to prosper and to defend itself from external attack. American economic aid and technical assistance were extended to the people of South Korea, a program of education was inaugurated, and a substantial amount of surplus naval and military equipment was transferred from the departing American forces to the Korean military establishment. Funds of the Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA) as well as of Government and Relief in Occupied Areas (GARIOA) , to the amount of several hundred million dollars, were furnished to the republic. Authorities in the United States, however, were seriously concerned about the possibility of communist aggression in many other parts of the world, a fact which materially reduced the amount of aid specifically available for South Korea. American policy, moreover, excluded the arming of a South Korean force capable of attacking its neighbors. The United States felt an obligation to avoid any legitimate inference that the South Koreans were being provided with tools for aggressive warfare. Rather, American military assistance to Korea was limited to providing light weapons. The type of assistance given was designed to preserve the internal security of South Korea, to deter border raids, and to resist aggression by an army from North Korea. The Republic of Korea received some of the arms needed to defend itself, but the great quantities of combat aircraft, naval attack vessels, and heavy ground weapons, which would have been necessary if the South Koreans had desired to launch an attack of their own, were withheld—a lack which later proved sorely detrimental to the republic.

The Republic of Korea being a free country, there was much sincere criticism of the way in which it was governed. Correspondents and U.N. Commission members were allowed to scrutinize the South Korean administration and to publish their comments freely. President Rhee was unable to solve immediately all the pressing economic problems, which were inflicted upon South Korea as an aftermath of World War II, thus further diminishing the popularity of his administration. A decidedly one-sided picture of Korean events was presented to the reading public of the world, however, because criticism of the regime north of the parallel was forbidden by the communists. As there was a blackout on truthful news from the north, the only derogatory reports emanating from Korea were those censuring the administration of the south. Unflattering, too, was the communist propaganda+ machine's lampooning of the U.N. Commis-

sion in Korea. Radio broadcasts originating above the 38th parallel ridiculed the U.N. representatives in South Korea, loudly denied the legality of the Commission, and condemned both the U.N. Commission and the Korean Government as futile and inept. This vicious propaganda campaign was pursued at a time when the economy of the republic was at best shaky. Loss of markets, military insecurity, lack of practical political experience, and the effect of North Korean sabotage and propaganda crystallized the people's dissatisfaction with President Rhee's administration. When the second general elections for the National Assembly were held in May 1950, failure to resolve the pressing economic problems turned the tide of votes toward independent candidates and away from most proadministration office seekers.

The office of president was not affected by the voting, but when the new National Assembly convened on 19 June 1950, 130 of its 210 members were independents. South Korea's desperate economic plight, and the government's apparent inability to cope quickly with the problem, contributed to the administration's failure to seat all of its candidates. The government, moreover, had charged many campaign opponents with being communists. The indiscriminate use of the communist label against political opponents boomeranged, and the voters apparently shrugged off the charges. The government party's overindulgence in name-calling, combined with the voting public's unwillingness to appreciate the genuine danger of communism, helped no one but the communists themselves, who at that very time were putting the finishing touches on plans to overrun the Republic of Korea. On the other hand, the fact that the government party did tolerate a defeat at the polls indicated that it was functioning on a democratic basis. In the South Korean election of May 1950, even more people voted than in 1948, and an average of ten candidates competed for each seat. The smooth conduct of the elections, together with the significant gains made by moderate political elements, infuriated communist sympathizers within the republic. Communist agents fanned the flames of resentment against President Rhee's administration and the propaganda war waged from North Korea increased in intensity.

In the years between 1945 and 1950, when international communism was camouflaging its preparations for aggressive war by protesting its affection for peace, the North Korean regime pursued an identical policy and conducted an undeclared war against the South Koreans. At a time when public opinion in the United States was forcing swift demobilization and the sharp curtailment of military spending, and when South Korean troops were in reality a lightly armed constabulary, the North Korean Army was receiving a realistic course of battle indoctrination. North Korean military forces were strengthened by a cadre of thousands of Korean soldiers who had fought in the Chinese communist armies against the nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek. Selected North Korean officers attended schools for advanced training in the USSR, and the North Korean Army was supplied with Soviet artillery and tanks. Moreover, the North Korean military establishment was tutored for its role as an aggressor force by Soviet advisers and technicians. While the North Korean radio daily accused the United States and South Korea of planning to attack the "peace-loving" population north of the 38th parallel, numerous armed communist raids south of the parallel, some of which were large-scale assaults supported by artillery, gave the North Koreans valuable combat experience.

Equally threatening to the security of South Korea and impeding its recovery, was the activity of terrorists, operating below the parallel, whose campaign of violence kept the people of the republic in a constant state of

alarm. The time, effort, and funds required to revitalize industry, repair run-down transportation facilities, and replenish the depleted stockpiles of raw materials, were dissipated by the high priority necessarily assigned to internal security measures. Unfortunately, the heavy demands made upon the output of industry in the United States limited the American military aid policy, and no deliveries of any consequence were made to the Republic of Korea under the Mutual Defense Assistance Program (MDAP) during the fiscal year 1950. The South Korean military forces, on the other hand, needed great quantities of weapons to repel communist border raids and to suppress diversionist activities. In one case during 1949, the North Korean Army launched a large-scale invasion of the Ongjin peninsula, which is just south of the 38th parallel in western Korea. Heavy fighting ensued before South Korean troops were able to drive the raiders back across the parallel.

As a result of the republican government's preoccupation with North Korean attacks, the average citizen of South Korea continued to endure privations. In this respect, the communist plan was a success. Moreover, in this period of recurrent international tensions and habitual communist subversion everywhere, American interest in the plight of distant Korea was only lukewarm. In turn, the bitter and dejected Korean people were beginning to regard themselves as unwitting pawns tangled helplessly in the meshes of Russian and American political strategy. Many adopted the attitude that, if it was impossible for all of Korea to be politically and economically independent, it might be better to tolerate the unification of their country under one foreign power, even if that nation should be the Soviet Union. This feeling of despair suggests the tragedy of a country arbitrarily divided against itself. Playing upon the Korean's passionate desire. for national unity, the North Korean radio at the communist capital city of P'yongyang initiated a propaganda campaign for the unification of Korea. In the time-honored Soviet fashion, Radio P'yongyang announced on 3 June 1950 that 5,300,000 North Koreans had signed petitions demanding the peaceful unification of the entire country, obviously under a communist regime. This campaign was the communist answer to the free elections which had been held in the Republic of Korea in May 1950. Communists in South Korea had boycotted the elections, but on 7 June they clamored for South Korean acceptance of the P'yongyang unification plan.

Although the communists had refused to participate in the 1948 and 1950 elections which the United Nations approved, the North Korean government's latest maneuver proposed new national elections to be held throughout the country in August 1950. Members of the United Nations Commission On Korea and the principal officials of President Rhee's administration were to be banned from participating in arrangements for the elections, according to the communist plan. Although the government of South Korea reacted strongly against the proposal, which branded its top officials as traitors, the U.N. Commission was prepared to compromise with the communists in order to bring about a peaceful settlement. With considerable difficulty, a representative of the Commission crossed the 38th parallel into North Korea on 10 June 1950, and received the text of the communist's 'unification proposal. Three "peace" representatives of the North Korean regime thereupon crossed into South Korea carrying copies of the communist plan. The purpose behind the North Korean unification plan appears to have been a desire to create a split between those South Koreans who naively hoped that unification could be effected through compromise with the communists. and the more astute South Koreans who refused to be hoodwinked. As the North Koreans were at the time completing their final

preparations for the invasion of the Republic of Korea, the peace petitions and radio broadcasts may be written off as a thinly veiled propaganda attempt to soften up the South Koreans for the blow which was to fall two weeks later. With the failure of the last communist attempt to divide once and for all the South Koreans against themselves, the North Koreans began the invasion of the Republic of Korea at 0400* (Korean time) on Sunday morning, 25 June 1950.

Communist premier Kim Il Sung, who had assumed the rank of general, made a broadcast from P'yongyang at 0930 on 25 June to the effect that South Korea's rejection of the peaceful unification plan had been followed by a South Korean invasion of North Korea. Screening his carefully planned attack on the republic to the south with this false allegation, the communist leader ordered his troops to advance in the direction of Seoul. The world watched while the aggressive Soviet-trained army struck at the security forces of the Republic of Korea. When all else had failed—border raids, guerrilla warfare, bribery, strikes, sabotage, character assassination, economic strangulation, and intensive antirepublican propaganda—authorities north of the parallel decided upon full-scale hostilities to bring South Korea into the communist sphere. The government of the republic courageously ordered a determined defense of the southern half of the peninsula. While the troops and tanks of the northern army poured across the parallel, and while Russian-type aircraft strafed the Seoul area, Republic of Korea (ROK) forces resisted the invaders as best they could, but were forced to retreat in the face of the overwhelming superiority of the communist forces.

*Times and dates used in this volume are those of the place under discussion. It must be kept in mind that there is a time difference of fourteen hours between Seoul and New York City. Seoul is approximately half a day ahead of New York City.

What would the United Nations do about the North Korean offensive? The failure of the world to take action in 1931 against the Japanese had contributed to a general lack of confidence in the League of Nations and had encouraged, rather than deterred, other acts of aggression in Africa and Europe. Was a test case being made of Korea by international communism? Was it to become an invitation for unchallenged aggression in Europe, southeast Asia, and the Middle East? The free world wondered.

The North Korean high command moved for a speedy and decisive victory over the Republic of Korea which, without powerful and hurried assistance, would be submerged. It can scarcely be doubted that the North Korean high command assumed that victory would be won before substantial aid could be dispatched to the Seoul government. Relying upon prolonged discussion of the case in the United Nations and American unwillingness to commit part of its small Army to combat so far from normal sources of supply, and gambling boldly on the immunity from punishment which aggressors frequently enjoy, the North Koreans concentrated their military might against a government which had been freely elected under United Nations supervision. While communist newspapers from Moscow to New York cried out that the North Koreans were the innocent victims of an assault across the parallel by the South Korean republic, the communist troops advanced rapidly into South Korea. The United Nations Commission present in Korea feared that U.N. efforts to mediate would prove unsuccessful-as they did. The communists wanted control of all Korea at any price, and it appeared that the iron curtain was being rung down on another democratic nation.

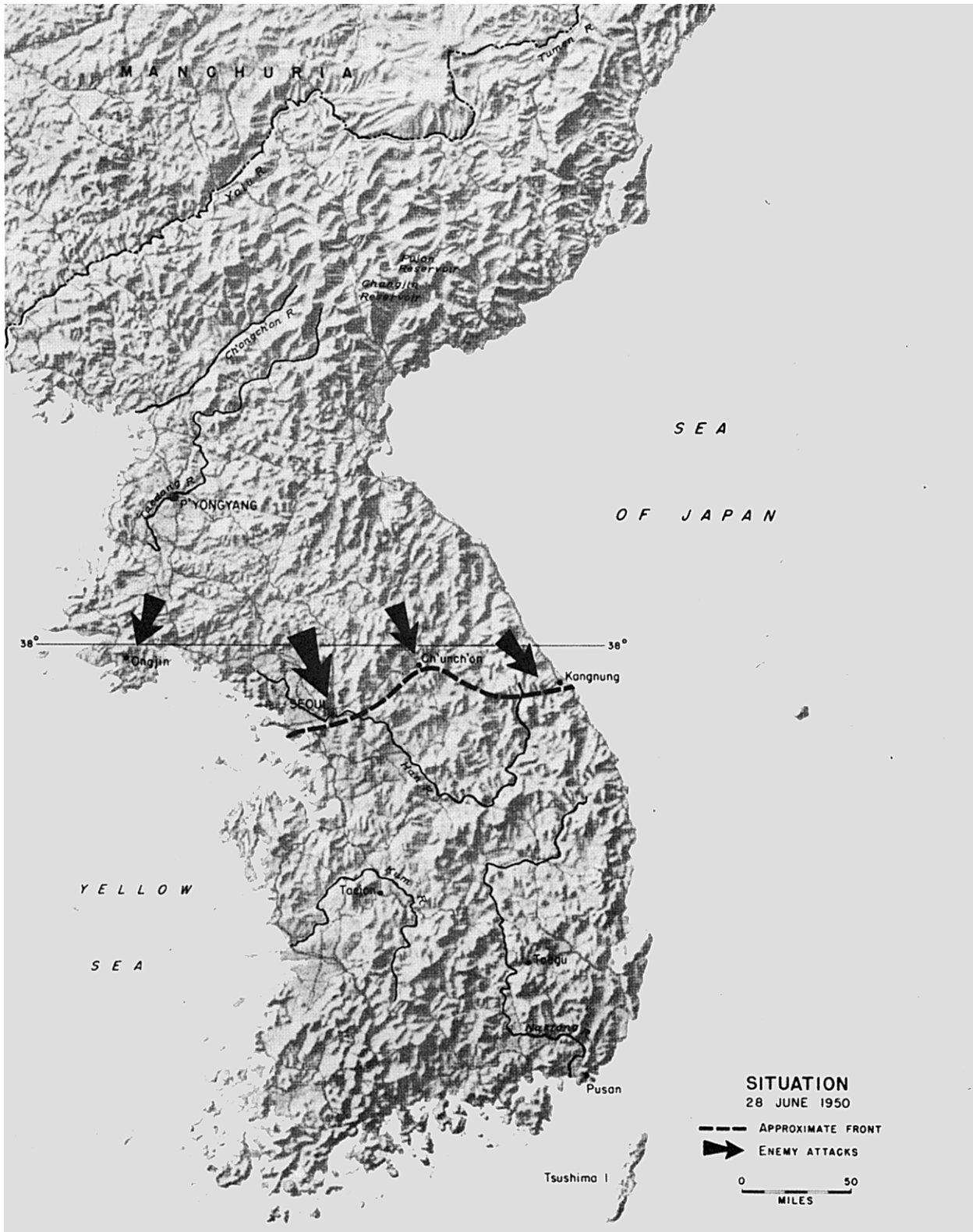
At 2126 EDT on 24 June, the U.S. Govemment received from Ambassador Muccio official notification of the invasion. Less than six hours later the United States asked for a

meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the matter and the Council met on the afternoon of 25 June. The Soviet representative deliberately avoided this meeting. At the session, the Security Council adopted a resolution observing that the government of the Republic of Korea was lawfully established and was, furthermore, the only such government in Korea. The Security Council resolution noted with grave concern the armed attack by the forces from North Korea and stated that the action constituted a breach of the peace. The North Korean authorities were called upon to withdraw their armed forces to the 38th parallel. The resolution ended by calling upon all members of the United Nations to refrain from giving assistance to the North Koreans. On 27 June a second Security Council resolution recommended that the members of the United Nations furnish such assistance to the Republic of Korea as was deemed necessary to repel the armed attack and restore international peace and security in the area. Again, the Soviet representative was absent. That same day President Truman, as Commander in Chief, announced that he had ordered American air and naval forces to give the South Korean troops cover and support. The President remarked that communism had passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations, and was now willing to use armed invasion and war. He noted that the forces of communism had defied the orders of the Security Council issued to preserve international peace and security. The President concluded, "A return to the rule of force in international affairs would have far-reaching effects. The United States will continue to uphold the rule of law."

The Soviet Union was plainly irked by the promptness with which both the United Nations and the United States reacted to the heavy-handed communist tactics in Korea. The Soviet representative on the Security Council, having avoided the meetings which denounced the aggression in Korea, attempted to label the Security Council resolutions illegal because of his absences. However, since the Security Council had determined that mere absence did not constitute a veto, the North Korean regime and its communist accomplices stood accused before the bar of world opinion as aggressors.

Implementing the Security Council's resolutions, President Truman, on 29 June, authorized General MacArthur to use certain supporting ground units in Korea, authorized the U.S. Air Force to conduct missions on specific military targets in North Korea and, further, ordered a naval blockade of the entire Korean coast. On 7 July the Security Council authorized the unified command in Korea to use the United Nations flag in the course of operations against the North Koreans, and requested the United States to designate the commander of the unified forces. The following day the President named General of the Army Douglas MacArthur as Commander in Chief, United Nations Command (CINCUNC) . Although responsibility for the defense of Korea had not been General MacArthur's for over a year, the responsibility for containing the invaders and driving them back across the parallel was now placed on his shoulders.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the problems which confronted the U.N. troops. The communist attack had coincided with the beginning of the Korean rainy season. The nearest American combat units, seriously understrength, were on occupation duty in Japan. When President Truman authorized General MacArthur to commit U.S. ground troops in the Korean action on 29 June, there arose the complexities involved in promptly committing sufficient ground forces to halt the communists. The manner in which the U.N. army reached the mainland, plunged into battle, and thwarted the North Korean assault, is the story of Korea 1950.


MANCHURIA
Tumen R.
Yalu R.
Pujon Reservoir
Changjin Reservoir
Ch'ongch'on R.
SEA
OF JAPAN
P'YONGYANG
38°
38°
Ongjin
Ch'unch'on
Kangnung
SEOUL
Han R.
YELLOW
SEA
Taejon
Kum R.
Taegu
Naktong R.
Pusan
Tsushima I
SITUATION
28 JUNE 1950
APPROXIMATE FRONT
ENEMY ATTACKS
0
50
MILES

Map 2

CHAPTER II

WITHDRAWAL TO THE PUSAN PERIMETER 25 JUNE–31 JULY

The attacking communist divisions moved swiftly across the 38th parallel toward Seoul, fifty miles to the south, and by 28 June 1950, three days after the beginning of the North Korean invasion, the capital had fallen into enemy hands. The element of tactical surprise and the North Koreans' overwhelming superiority in weapons crushed organized ROK resistance in the vicinity of the parallel. North Korean tank columns ground forward unscathed against the ineffective Republic of Korea forces which lacked tanks and adequate antitank weapons. As the communist offensive swelled in power, masses of South Koreans, soldiers and civilians alike, moved south across the wide Han River seeking whatever protection that natural obstacle might provide. The wild exodus of refugees from Seoul swelled the population of the town of Suwon, which lay a few miles below the capital.

Complicating this southward movement, a South Korean general prematurely ordered the destruction of an important bridge spanning the Han, and it was blown while packed with fleeing South Koreans. Individual ROK soldiers displayed a will to fight, but communications were in a state of chaos, and ammunition of every kind was running low. On 27 June the seat of the South Korean Government was temporarily moved from Seoul to Taejon below the Han and Kum Rivers. Although U.S. bombers attacked P'yongyang and targets nearer the front, enemy planes freely strafed the Suwon airstrip which was near the headquarters of Brig. Gen. John H. Church, the commander of ADCOM. While the monsoon, which had just started, turned Korea's dirt and gravel roads into bogs, the enemy managed to ferry his armor across the Han and advance into the outskirts of Suwon.

The armies of North and South Korea were about equal in size but not in equipment when the North Korean People's Army under Marshal Choi Yung Kun began its June offensive. Russian T34 tanks, Russian vehicles, Russian combat planes, and Russian automatic weapons were used against the people of South Korea. Thousands of North Korean soldiers with years of service in the other communist armies provided the hard core of the invading troops. There can be no doubt that Soviet advisers played an overwhelming part in planning the operation. Directing their activities in readying the North Korean forces for invasion was the burly Soviet ambassador at P'yongyang, Col. Gen. Terenti Shtykov. In

drawing up their timetable, the communists apparently assumed that the initial advantage of a strong surprise attack in great force against the Republic of Korea would be followed by a quick and decisive victory for the forces of communism. Members of the North Korean high command, and their colleagues in China and Russia, did not fully anticipate the indignation which their assault would arouse in the United Nations, and that one U.N. member, the United States, would promptly come to the aid of South Korea under authority of the Security Council of the United Nations.

Actually, the United States was hardly in condition to wage war during the summer of 1950. Popular sentiment against a large standing military establishment and eagerness to effect economies in government had forced drastic reductions in defense expenditures in the years following World War II. Few trained units were available for immediate commitment in Korea. There existed only twelve American combat divisions (including two U.S. Marine Corps divisions). Of these, every one was considerably under war strength except the 1st Infantry Division, then in Europe. Also, since no one knew whether Korea was merely a sideshow to divert attention from a larger communist thrust elsewhere, it was deemed inadvisable to send all divisions to the Orient. To maintain the maximum number of active combat units within manpower limitations, the Army had removed the third battalion from infantry regiments and had similarly reduced other organizations. Most of the American divisions, moreover, were many thousands of miles from either Japan or Korea. No U.S. combat units were in Korea when the communists began their invasion, and the four divisions of the Eighth U.S. Army in Japan had been concerned chiefly with occupation duties. Most of the men in uniform were very young and few had ever been exposed to hostile fire when the first of the four divisions in Japan was alerted for combat in Korea. Since time was of the essence, General MacArthur was forced to commit his command piecemeal.

With the North Koreans flooding down through Seoul and Inch'on and threatening Suwon, the young republic teetered on the brink of oblivion. To prevent a complete enemy break-through and to gain time for the creation of a defense zone, planes based in Japan and naval craft blasted North Korean troops and installations, and Task Force Smith, approximately one half a battalion combat team, was detached from the 21st Infantry Regiment of the U.S. 24th Division and transported by air on 1–2 July across Tsushima Strait to the South Korean port of Pusan. With the rest of the division following by sea, this task force raced north by rail from Pusan to the city of Taejon. There, it piled into trucks and, pushing through endless lines of bewildered refugees, made its first contact with enemy ground troops in the vicinity of Osan on 5 July. A strong force of North Korean infantry and tanks struck Task Force Smith as it stood alone in the roadway between Seoul and Ch'onan.

For seven long hours the outnumbered Americans poured their howitzer, bazooka, mortar, and small arms fire at the Russian-made tanks. Five of the tanks were knocked out by howitzer shells, but the North Koreans flowed around the American flanks in great numbers, forcing the surviving infantrymen to abandon their heavy weapons and withdraw. Hopelessly outgunned and outmaneuvered, the tankless Americans had received a grim baptism of fire. Two rifle companies, a battery of 105-mm. howitzers, two 4.2-inch mortar platoons, a platoon of 75-mm. recoilless rifles, and six attached teams equipped with World War II type 2.36-inch bazookas had held an entire enemy division from 0800 until 1500. The Americans who lived through the rigors of this battle lost their contempt for the fighting abili-

ties of the North Koreans. It was evident that the enemy soldiers were excellently trained, led with skill, and equipped with an unexpected amount of fire power. For these men of the 24th Division, the early days of the fighting were bloody and humiliating. They lacked the numbers and the weapons to defeat the North Koreans, and Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, the temporary ground force commander in Korea, had the unhappy task of sacrificing space to gain time in a series of hard-fought delaying actions. The battle for the railroad line from Osan south to Taejon was marked by frustration, heroism, and death.

As Task Force Smith fought its way out of impending encirclement near Osan, it withdrew through the 34th Infantry Regiment and additional elements of the 21st, both of which had moved hurriedly into position twelve miles south of Osan. During the task force's initial baptism of fire, a contingent of North Koreans had continued down the road and had struck the 34th Infantry Regiment. The enemy delivered a powerful frontal attack and then proceeded to execute the usual envelopment movement. The 34th Infantry was unable to knock out the enemy tanks and under the cover of darkness endeavored to escape the trap.

Farther to the south, at Ch'onan, an inspiring illustration of leadership and heroism was demonstrated when Col. Robert R. Martin, commanding the 34th Infantry Regiment, threw himself into the thick of the fighting in order to rally his troops by his personal bravery. This gallant officer met his death while firing his last bazooka rocket at a communist tank only fifteen yards away. Colonel Martin was posthumously awarded the first Distinguished Service Cross of the campaign.

Responsible officers in Tokyo, of course, did not expect that the limited forces first committed could hold the enemy indefinitely and, therefore, they prepared plans to establish an initial defensive position to include the railroads which connected Soch'on on the west coast with P'ohang-dong in the east. Such a zone would also protect the double-tracked railroad running from Taejon south through Taegu to the port of Pusan and thus roughly enclose the areas south of the Kum River. The tactical situation dictated that the 24th Infantry Division should initially fight a delaying action through the mountains and rice paddies of central Korea. In the meantime, other major U.S. units, the 1st Cavalry Division (Infantry), the 25th Infantry Division, and the 7th Infantry Division, were to cross from Japan and push northwest to reinforce the elements of the 24th. Later, additional substantial reinforcements could be expected from the United States. It was intended that, if necessary, the U.S. divisions would pull back to a perimeter around Pusan where, with military supplies flowing into the port from Japan and the United States, American forces and regrouped ROK units probably could hold a relatively large beachhead indefinitely. Within the perimeter a formidable concentration of men, equipment, and fire power would be developed while the enemy was subsisting on lines of supply stretching back into North Korea. After many weeks of preparation within the beachhead, a counteroffensive could then be launched against the communists, with the Americans and South Koreans breaking out for a drive to the 38th parallel.

By 9 July the battered Americans had left the smouldering rail junction town of Ch'onan to the North Koreans. When they tried to retreat by road, they were subjected to a withering cross fire from the hills. Bitter, haggard, tattered, and exhausted, they withdrew toward the Kum River and the town of Taejon.

The mud was one of the worst natural hazards in Korea. It slowed or stopped vehicular traffic and engulfed the straining leg muscles of the foot soldier. When under fire, the soldier who slipped into the stagnant, sickening waters of a rice paddy might find that only

by pulling his feet out of his boots could he escape from the slime and crawl to safety. He could never escape, however, from the eternity of rain. Throughout July and August it poured, three or four days at a time, drenching every man and coating equipment with mildew, rot, or rust. The heat of the Korean summer and the inescapable flies, fleas, and lice constituted other irritants for the exasperated American troops. Nauseated by the earthy smells which thickened the air, caked with dirt, the bruised and sweat-soaked men fought the enemy in filthy, water-filled gullies, in and out of small villages of mud-plastered huts, and over endless mountain ridges. As often as not cut off from the rear, jostled by hordes of refugees, sometimes shoeless, frequently bleeding and hungry, the men of the 24th Division, individually or in scattered units, slowed the enemy and disrupted his timetable.

The principal enemy thrust was down the Seoul–Taejon railroad. A parallel column was advancing swiftly in the central sector toward Wonju and Ch'ungju to cut the railroad east of Taejon. Two other enemy forces were thrusting into the far western Ongjin peninsula and down the eastern coastal strip toward Samch'ok, respectively.

Along the railroad between the Han and the Kum Rivers the countryside was littered with wrecked and abandoned equipment—the huts, which had once been the homes of the now dispossessed population, were in ruins. Stately patriarchs in tall black hats, worried bands of women in high-waisted skirts and loose white blouses, bewildered children naked in the oppressive heat, and wiry Korean fathers stooped beneath the staggering weight of overloaded A-frames, clogged the highways to the south. Strafed at times by Russian-made Yak fighters, buffeted by friendly soldiers hurrying to the front, splattered with mud, soaked by cloudbursts, the homeless host of refugees contributed to the tragic confusion which reigned below the parallel. Mingling with innocent civilians, enemy personnel in native dress moved inconspicuously, waiting for opportunities to stampede the crowds, block bridges, and throw hand grenades into passing groups of U.S. soldiers.

Elements of the original eight ROK divisions attempted to make a recovery after the enemy's first break-through. Fighting to the east of the U.S. 24th Division, ROK troops made a determined stand in those areas where the North Korean infantry was fighting without tank support. The United Nations air force (which included U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and Royal Australian Air Force planes) by 10 July won control of the air from the North Korean pilots who had terrified the population of South Korea. Combined U.S. and British naval units maintained a blockade and vigilant patrol along Korea's coast line.

On land, the communists had achieved great tactical advantages which fortunately they failed to exploit fully. After the second week of fighting, although the U.S. units were still spread thin and while the ROK Army commanders were struggling to regroup their divisions, the North Koreans slowed rather than hastened their pace. At that time, an all-out enemy assault against the 24th Division might well have resulted in its destruction, leaving the route to Taejon, Taegu, and Pusan bare of defenders. Every hour of enemy delay saw more troops and equipment arriving at Pusan. The need for additional ground forces and more and heavier weapons was a desperate one. Enemy casualties were high, but the heavy American casualties were even more serious because of the small number of U.S. troops actually engaged in the conflict. In addition, the North Koreans had a decided advantage in weapons. The presence of their Russian-manufactured medium and light tanks, 120-mm. mortars, and 122-mm. howitzers permitted the communists to outgun the ROK and U.S. troops in all the early

engagements. At first the heaviest American weapon was the 105-mm. howitzer, but by the third week of the fighting, 155-mm. howitzers began to arrive in the combat zone. The gradual improvement in American arms, however, did not offset the enemy's tremendous superiority in manpower and weapons which continued to force General Dean's troops to the rear. The 24th Division fought a difficult delaying action from Ch'onan to Kongju, and then south across the Kum River toward the important town of Taejon.

Taejon, with a population of 37,000 during normal times, lies fifteen miles below the Kum River and is one of the principal cities in southwestern Korea. It was a natural location for a determined stand by U.S. troops since it is an important communications center and is at the head of a highway and double-tracked railroad which twists in corkscrew turns through the mountains to Pusan, 125 miles to the southeast. To protect Taejon, the thinning ranks of the 24th Division were deployed between the town and the Kum River. Engineers blew the bridge crossing the Kum but, unfortunately, the waters of the river subsided and the enemy was able to ford the river at several places. On 12 July, before the battle for Taejon began, Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker, commanding general of the Eighth Army, had assumed command of all ground forces in Korea. He wanted to hold Taejon, but once the communists forded the shallow Kum River, the fate of the city was decided. Nevertheless, the battle for Taejon was bitter.

While General Dean's 24th Division attempted to hold the Kum River line, a few Sherman tanks began to make their appearance in combat, although their 75-mm. guns were not a match for the heavier armament carried by the Russian-made T34's. The new and highly effective U.S. 3.5-inch bazooka reached Korea while the battle for Taejon was raging. These rocket launchers were placed into the eager hands of the infantry as rapidly as they could be flown to the front from the United States. The troops found the 3.5-inch bazooka to be an effective close-range antitank weapon. Firing a nine-pound rocket with a shaped charge designed to focus its full force forward in a jet, it could and did stop North Korean tanks.

There were neither weapons nor troops enough, however, to hold the communists. In the west, probing attacks were launched by the enemy up and down the Kum and he established footholds across the river at Samgyo-ri and Kongju. After the communists forded the Kum they poured into the vicinity of Taejon. Lacking the reserves to defend its flanks, the bulk of the 24th was ordered to retreat before it was completely surrounded. A fierce rear guard action was fought in and near the city as the North Koreans appeared on every side. In baggy white civilian clothes or American fatigue uniforms, communist soldiers who had infiltrated Taejon at night rained death upon the Americans as they fought to hold off the enemy's frontal assault. Other North Korean units cut in behind the city, blocking the escape route which U.S. forces could not keep open because of a failure in communications. Among the men lost in this battle was the 24th's commander, General Dean, who remained with his forward units in Taejon when the North Korean tanks broke through. This fearless officer was in the midst of the fighting reassuring the disheartened, reorganizing men separated from their units, participating in attacks against enemy tanks, and directing aid to the wounded. For his gallant deeds at Taejon, General Dean was awarded the Medal of Honor. The three days of desperate fighting by General Dean's command at Taejon constituted the strongest resistance encountered by the enemy to that date.

The loss of Taejon on 20 July was of serious consequence to General Walker's Eighth

Army, but the event occurred while a large number of U.S. reinforcements were moving up to meet the enemy. The U.N. command in Korea was waging two great battles: the battle for ground, and the battle of the build-up. Since their left flank had been exposed by the fall of Taejon, hard-fighting elements of the reconstituted ROK Army in action slightly to the east of the 24th Division pulled back toward the perimeter which was shrinking about Pusan. Two additional U.S. divisions, however, had arrived in Korea and were advancing toward North Korean positions. Some troops of the 25th Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. William B. Kean, crossed from Japan as early as 9 July and were sent about fifty miles northeast of Taejon to Hamch'ang, there to block the North Koreans' advance down an alternate road to Taegu. As other troops of the 25th Division disembarked they also were dispatched to that area north of Taegu which the strong enemy column was threatening.

The third large American unit to reach Korea was the 1st Cavalry Division (Infantry), commanded by Maj. Gen. Hobart R. Gay. The division boarded a convoy of British and American ships on 15 July in Japan and sailed through the Shimonoseki Straits for southern Korea. A possible amphibious operation on the west coast behind enemy lines at Inch'on had been considered, but the tactical situation was so pressing in mid-July that the division disembarked on 18 July at P'ohang-dong, a port sixty-three miles north of Pusan. The planning for this landing had been rushed to completion in ten days. Its object was twofold: to place more American troops in Korea as fast as possible without overloading the congested facilities at Pusan, and to strengthen the right flank of the U.N. line which had previously been manned completely by ROK divisions. Haunted all the way by the threat of typhoon weather, Rear Adm. James H. Doyle's convoy steamed into the murky harbor of the little fishing port. Fortunately, there was no opposition to the landing and the troops of the 1st Cavalry Division left their transports adding fresh strength to the embattled friendly forces.

Eight days after the uncontested disembarkation at P'ohang-dong of the 1st Cavalry Division, more reinforcements in the form of elements of the separate 29th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) landed unopposed south of Chinju in South Korea, having come north by sea from Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands.

By the last week of July, the Eighth Army had been substantially strengthened. A logistical command, organized in Pusan on 4 July 1950 under Brig. Gen. Crump Garvin, worked around the clock processing men and equipment for transportation inland. The regrouped ROK Army fought along the northern rim of the U.N. perimeter where it was supported by the U.S. 25th Division. South and east of fallen Taejon, the determined 1st Cavalry Division reinforced the combat-weary 24th Division, now commanded by General Church. All divisions in the line were still seriously understrength. Pushing toward Chinju, fifty-five miles west of Pusan, were elements of the 29th RCT, which rounded out the ground forces then at the disposal of General Walker.

Opposing this coalition of South Korean and American forces, the enemy high command developed a four-pronged offensive designed to drive the defenders into the sea at Pusan. The North Koreans placed nine divisions in the line with an undetermined number in reserve. As the U.N. defenses tightened into the southeastern corner of Korea, the communists struck on four fronts. To secure the eastern coastal road, enemy forces effected landings along the shore near Samch'ok and at Ulchin and Yongdok. Another powerful column raced down through the central Korean towns of Ch'unch'on and Wonju toward

Hamch'ang, Yech'on, Sangju, Kumch'on, and Taegu. The third and main thrust was in the west. It had hammered through Seoul, Suwon, Ch'onan, and Taejon. During the last two weeks of July, a fourth enemy threat appeared in the southwest, where the west flank of the U.N. command had been left exposed by the fall of Taejon. Quickly taking advantage of this situation, the communists drove straight to the southernmost coast of the peninsula, scattering ROK resistance and capturing all the area between Mokp'o and Sunch'on. They then turned east for the final blow against Chinju, Masan, and Pusan. The temporary capital of the Republic of Korea was transferred once again, moving down the railroad line to Taegu. It was now the purpose of the North Koreans to assault Taegu from the north, northwest, and west, and drive the U.N. forces back toward Pusan.

Using Soviet-taught tactics, the North Koreans sought out soft spots in the U.N. defensive positions : a mass attack here, an armored thrust there, infiltration always, destructive penetrations occasionally, the determined rush of the enemy against thinly defended flanks, and everywhere the communist soldier in civilian clothes striking death into the ranks of the defenders. U.S. forces continued their fighting withdrawal in the direction of Yongdong, Hwanggan, Kumch'on, and the provisional capital at Taegu. Some U.S. units were cut to pieces and stragglers wandered about for days in the mosquito and leech infested mountain passes and rice paddies. The North Korean soldiers were not particularly handicapped by the saw-toothed terrain and the weather conditions to which they were long accustomed, but their losses in dead and wounded were very heavy. General MacArthur estimated on 29 July 1950 that enemy casualties exceeded 30,000. The communists, however, forced into the service as replacements every able-bodied man and boy in the area they dominated.

The final days of July witnessed a series of hard-fought battles all along the 200-mile United Nations perimeter. On the northern front the road running inland from Yongdok through Andong, Yech'on, Hamch'ang, and Hwanggan to Kumch'on was defended at critical points by ROK troops and the U.S. 25th Division. Soldiers of the division's 24th Infantry Regiment fought their way into the decrepit railroad town of Yech'on, the first town to be captured by Americans during the Korean conflict. The 1st Cavalry Division, battling on the west flank to keep open the Yongdong–Kumch'on–Taegu rail line, received a cruel baptism of fire in the sector where they were engaged in wiping out communists who had infiltrated Hwanggan. Six enemy divisions drove into the comparatively restricted Yech'on–Yongdong–Koch'ang area which the 25th and 1st Cavalry Divisions with reorganized ROK troops were fighting to retain. Although subjected to intense fire from artillery and air force units, the North Koreans kept coming day and night, using sharp flank attacks, and mass frontal assaults by tanks and infantry. The necessity for continuing the withdrawal was increased not only by the fall of Yongdok, Yongdong, and Anui, and the danger that the rail junction city of Kumch'on would be left dangling without adequate flanking defenses, but also by the North Koreans' rapid occupation of the whole southwestern segment of the peninsula.

To block the southwestern approaches to Pusan, which the enemy was threatening, the 29th RCT advanced toward Chinju. One North Korean division, which had hurried through southwestern Korea, lay in waiting for the unsuspecting Americans. From ambush about three miles east of Hadong, the enemy struck the 3d Battalion of the RCT from the front and both flanks. Overborne by the sheer weight of numbers, surrounded and infiltrated by a battlewise enemy, the battalion suffered extremely heavy losses. Some survivors

escaped to the coast and were evacuated by sea. An enemy report stated that the Americans had lost 500 killed, 100 prisoners, 70 vehicles, and seven 105-mm. howitzers. Also a casualty in this area was Maj. Gen. Choi Lyung Dok, former ROK Chief of Staff, who was killed at Hadong on 27 July. The communists, too, had suffered severe casualties, but by the end of July their tank-led comrades surged into the city of Chinju. The town was only fifty-five miles from Pusan, the closest enemy penetration to the U.N. port of supply in July.

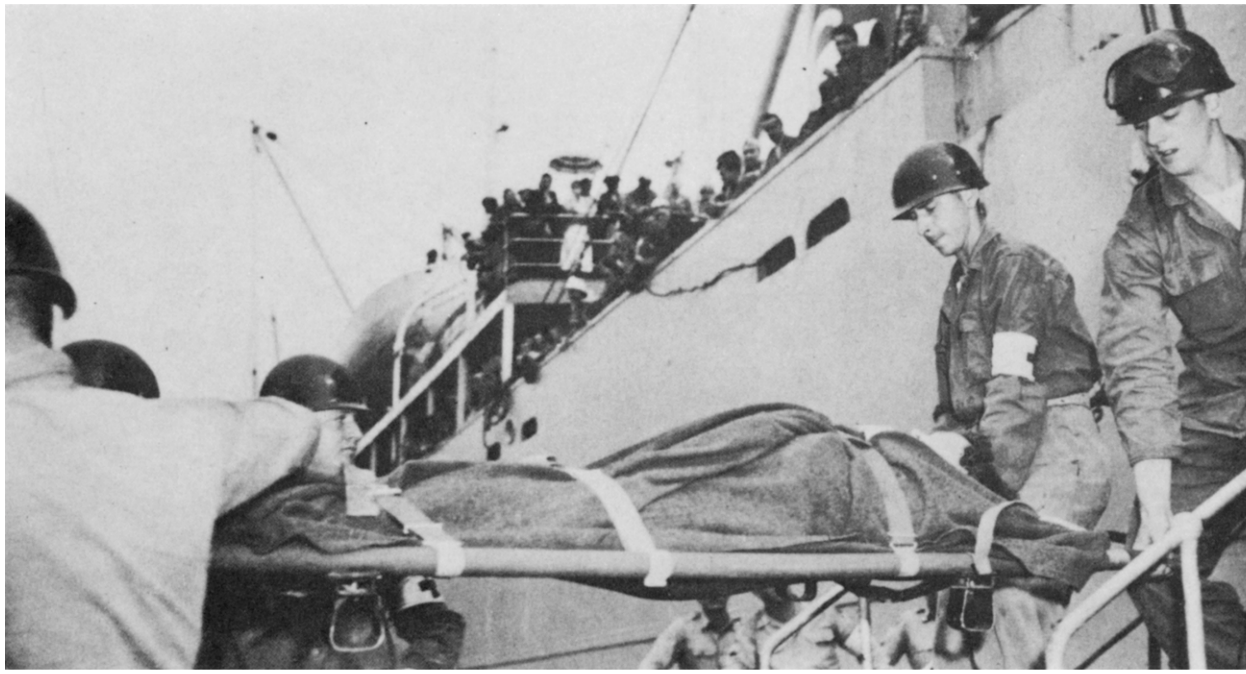
This was a matter of real alarm for the Eighth Army, and necessitated a tactical reshuffling of all defending organizations, for which General Walker was permitted little time. Unrelenting pressure continued against the entire perimeter and the new peril in the southwest grew constantly worse as the North Koreans' next objective appeared to be Masan, twenty-nine miles west of Pusan. The 24th Division, which desperately needed rest and rehabilitation, had had to stay in the line near Chinju throughout this critical period. From the northern front where they had been fighting a wearing series of delaying actions in the mountains between the coast and the Hamch'ang–Yech'on sector, troops of the 25th Division were ordered to make a forced march south to support the 24th Division and contain the North Koreans at Chinju. ROK soldiers continued to hold the enemy along the northern rim of the perimeter while the 25th Division hurriedly departed on its emergency mission. Only one road was open for this significant move. The 25th passed to the rear of the west portion of the entire front and by early August held its new position east of Chinju. Meanwhile, on the central and northwestern front the 1st Cavalry Division adjusted its position to the new situation and fought doggedly against several North Korean divisions. Before the month was out, troops of the U.S. 1st Cavalry and 25th Infantry Divisions were driven from Koch'ang on the western front. The dismounted cavalrymen fought a bloody holding action along the Taejon-Taegu railroad in the northwest but, outnumbered, outtanked, and outgunned, they also pulled back from Yongdong, Hwanggan, and Kwan-ni.

By the last day of the month there was heartening evidence that the U.N. battle lines were becoming more firm. At some points U.S. and ROK troops, under the direction of General Walker, staged limited counterattacks which took a heavy toll of the enemy. The U.N. air force grasped every opportunity to strike at communist convoys, communications, and troop concentrations. Maj. Gen. Emmett O'Donnell's giant B–29 Superforts of the FEAF Bomber Command turned from the blasting of strategic targets north of the parallel to provide tactical support for the hard-pressed infantry along the ridges of the mountains in the southeast.

More reinforcements were on their way, and even a few 45-ton Pershing tanks had reached Korea. Young soldiers quickly became seasoned veterans as they fought to prevent further contraction of the Pusan perimeter. There were no rear areas for rest periods or recreation. On terms of casual familiarity with enemy fire, gagged by the reeking stench of Korea, and plagued by malaria and a virus infection of the liver called hepatitis, the U.N. forces dug in to protect Taegu and Pusan. As July 1950 passed into history, the North Koreans held a tight noose around the southeastern extremity of the peninsula. The enemy-held line ran from Yosu and Chinju in the southwest to Kwan-ni on the Taejon–Taegu railroad, then northeast through smoking Yech'on to Yongdok on the Sea of Japan.

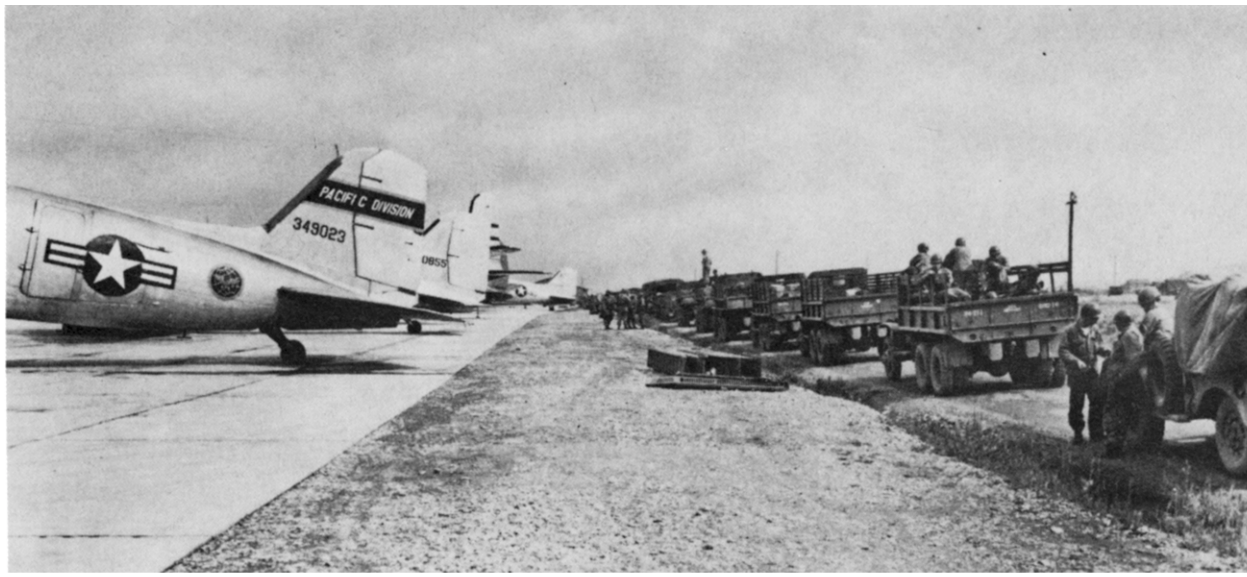
BRIEFING SOUTH KOREAN PILOTS on the performance of the North American F–51 Mustang, 27 June 1950. On 26 Jnne ten Mustangs were transferred to the Republic of Korea by the United States. By 2 July a U.S. volunteer force of 11 officers and 150 enlisted men arrived at a small air base in South Korea to fly these ships.

EVACUATING SEOUL AREA. Members of the Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG), withdrawing from their headquarters in Seoul on 27 June, walked over sixteen miles to the Kimpo air base. Note muddy road from heavy rainfall (top). South Koreans fleeing from the North Korean forces (bottom). On 27 June the South Korean Government moved south, and enemy tanks reached the outskirts of Seoul.

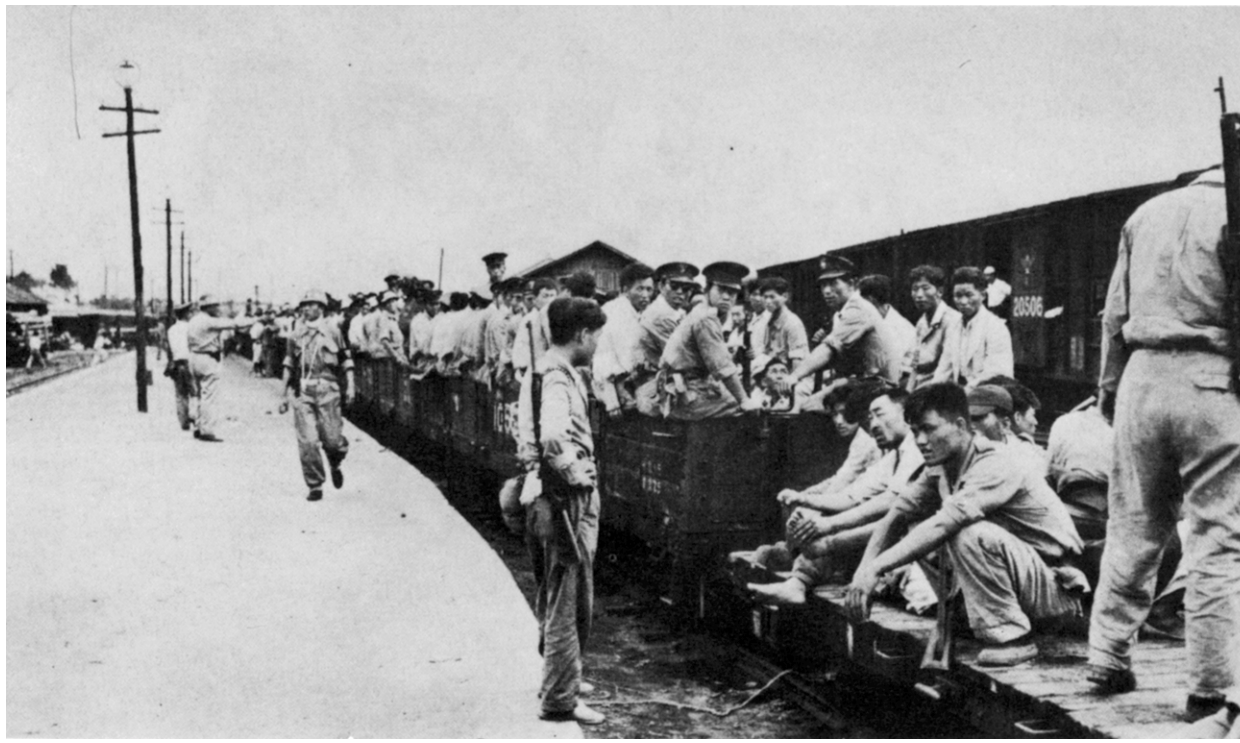


EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM KOREA. A litter patient being removed from a ship in Japan (top) and two men keeping an eye on one of the younger evacuees (bottom). Approximately six hundred U.S. citizens were taken to Japan aboard the SS *Reinholt* of the Ivarian Line on 28 June. U.S. planes provided air cover for the journey, and the evacuation was carried out without incident.

DOUGLAS C–54 MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANE ON FIRE after being strafed by North Korean fighter planes, 28 June. Seoul and Kimpo airfield reportedly fell to the North Koreans on the same day. U.S. planes went into action in support of the South Korean Government which had moved to Taejon.



SUPPLIES AND AMMUNITION for the South Koreans wait to be loaded into C–47's in Japan (top) ; cargo being unloaded from a C–54 transport into a camouflaged truck at an airfield in South Korea, 28 June (bottom). Member states of the United Nations pledged their assistance to the Korean republic, offering ground troops, ammunition, supplies, air and naval support, and financial aid.

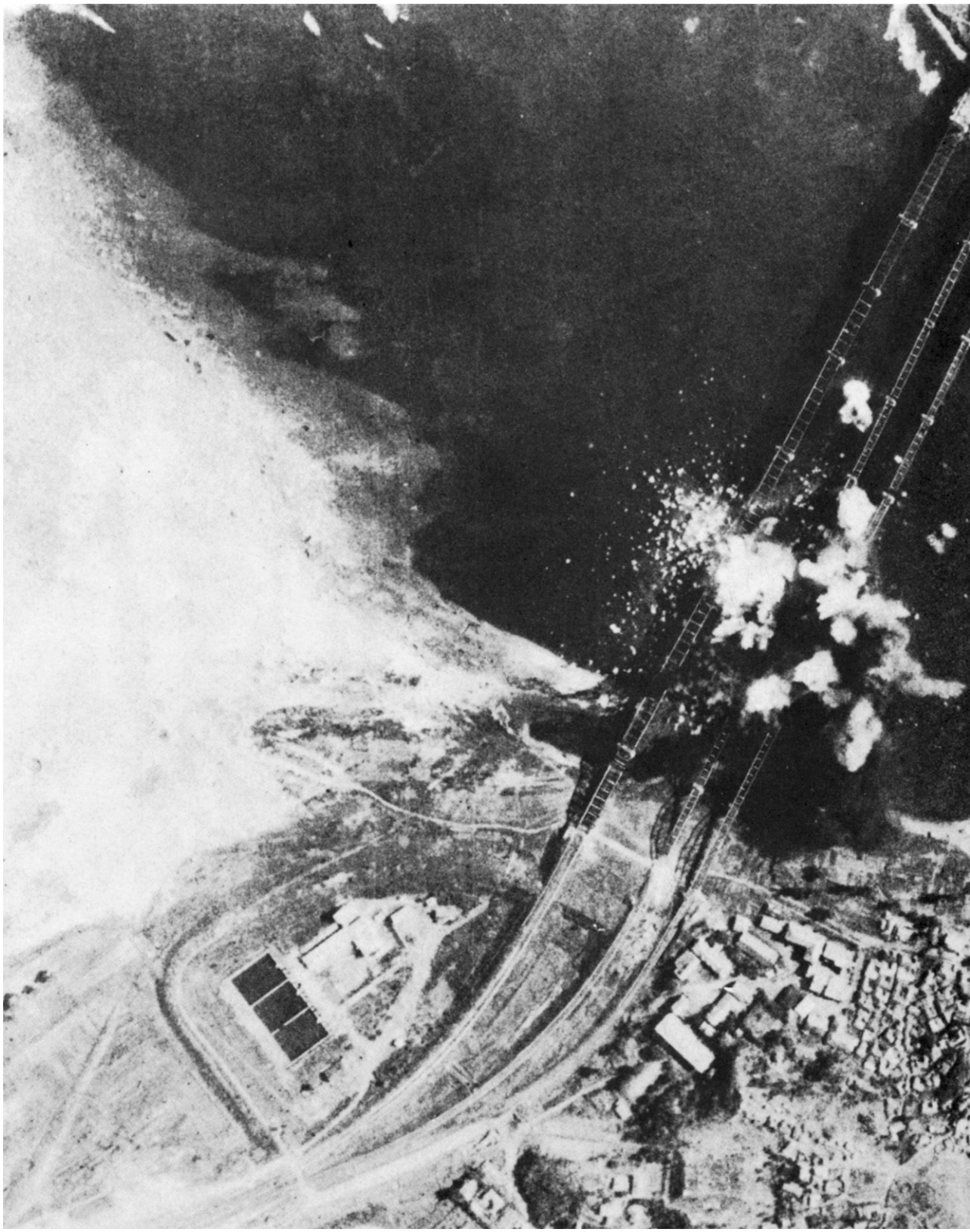


FIRST U.S. GROUND TROOPS FOR COMBAT IN KOREA board a C–54 transport in Japan, 1 July (top). South Koreans move up to the front on flatcars. Note assorted dress of the soldiers; man in center foreground is armed with a .30-caliber carbine (bottom). Although the North Korean forces were still north of Suwon, U.S. field headquarters of approximately 290 men withdrew from Suwon on 1 July.

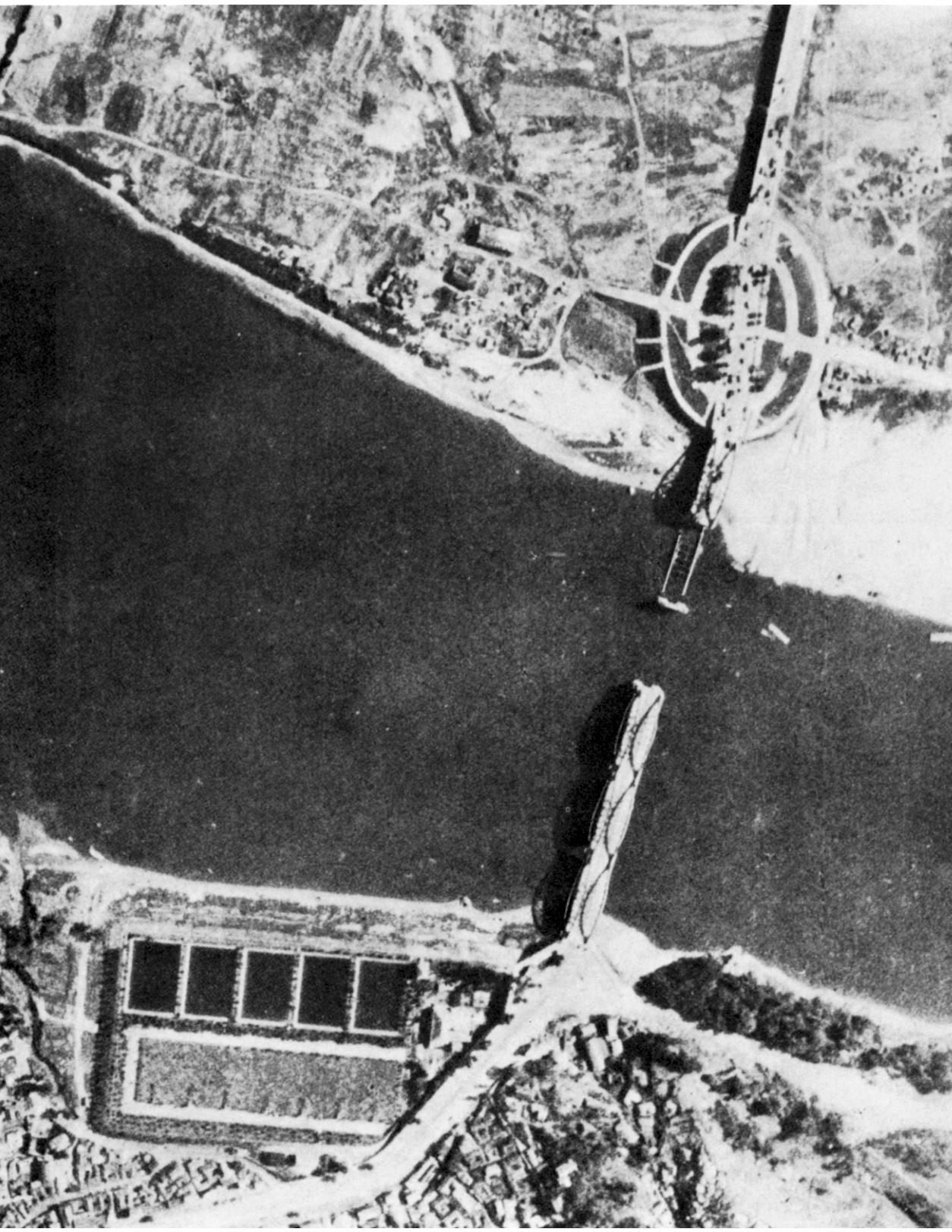
BOUND FOR THE FIGHTING IN KOREA, men take advantage of any chance to catch up on sleep while waiting to board a ship for the sea journey (top); troops equipped for combat and carrying carbines board a ship at a Japanese port, 2 July (bottom). Reports on this date indicated that Suwon fell to the North Koreans but this was not confirmed until 4 July.

FIRST U.S. TROOPS TO REACH KOREA. These men were

flown to Pusan from Japan, then moved up to Taejon by train.

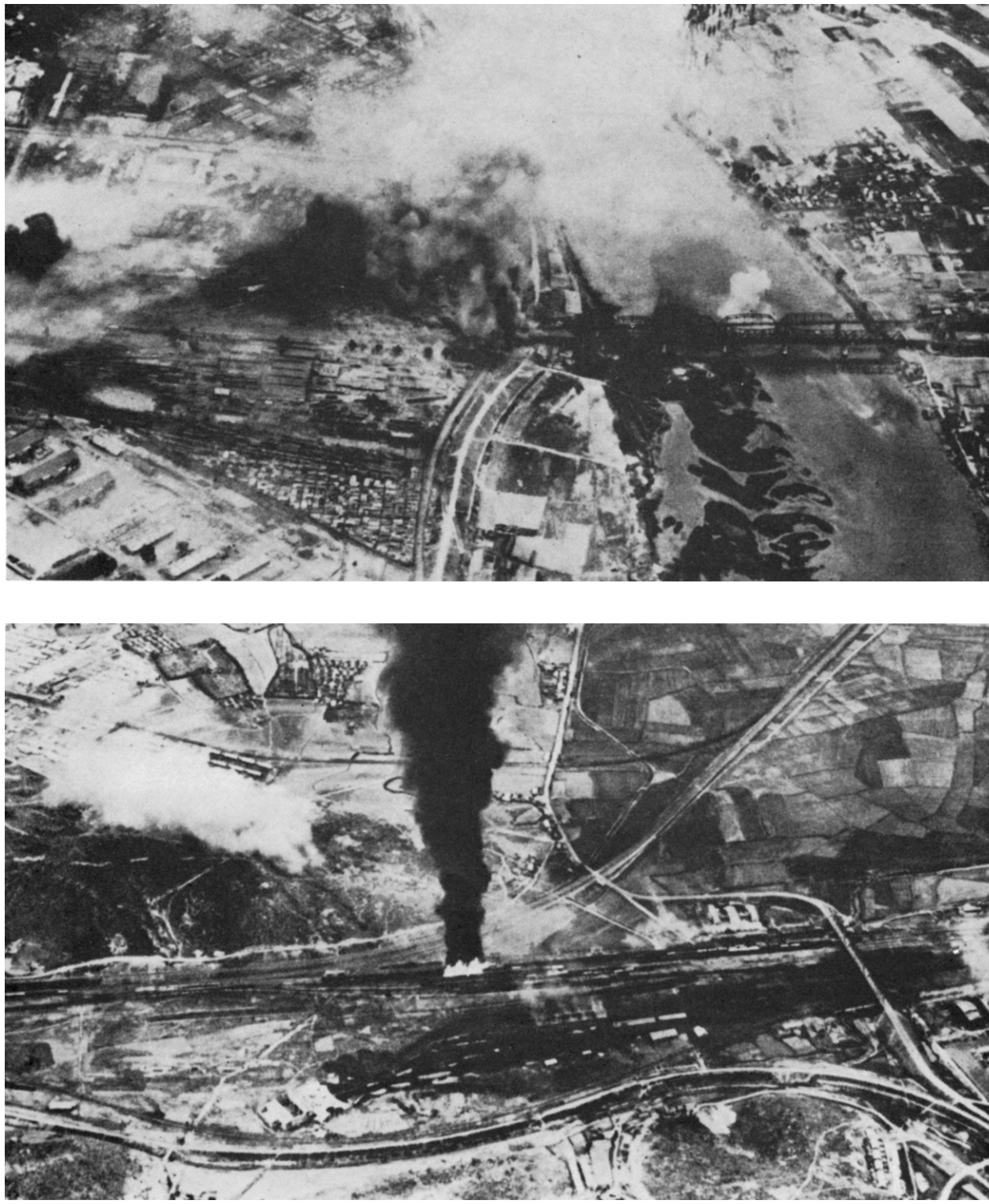


BOMB STRIKES on two of the three railroad bridges across the Han River near Seoul. the concrete highway bridge on the right was destroyed by TNT. On 3



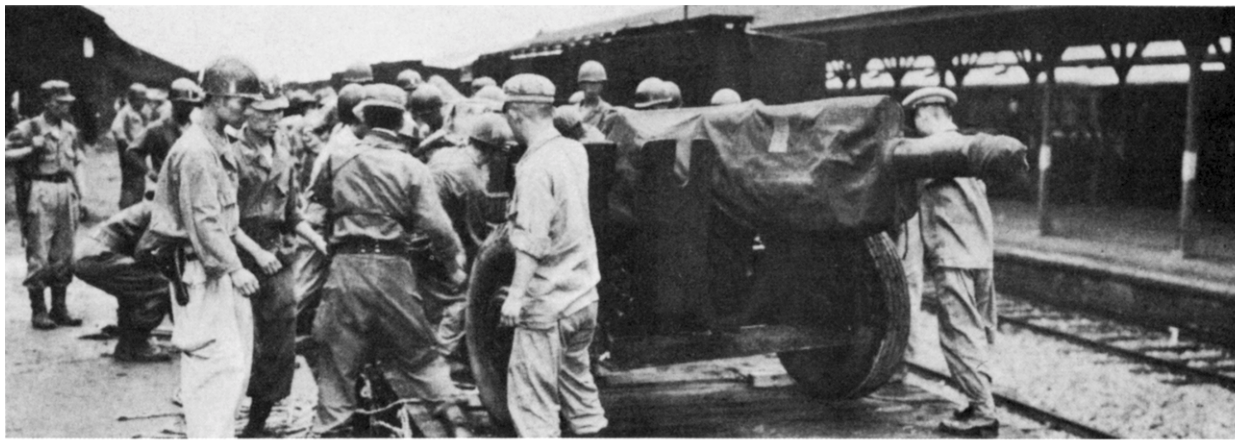
July U.S. planes chose targets in this area in an attempt to retard the North Korean build-up of supplies and units on the south side of the river.

PANTHER JET FIGHTER PLANES, on the flight deck of a Navy carrier, lined up to take off on a mission against military targets in North Korea. On 3 July American and British planes started a two-day air attack in the P'yongyang–Sariwon–Ongjin area.



BOMB STRIKES delivered on military targets by carrier-based British and American planes, 4 July. Smoke pouring from hits on a P'yongyang railroad bridge (top); tank cars and other rolling stock burning in a marshalling yard (bottom). At the same time American and British naval units off the east coast of Korea reported the sinking of five enemy vessels.

AIRSTRIP AT TAEJON. Lockheed F–80 jet fighters being serviced for a take-off (top); South Koreans pulling a roller (center) and using bulldozers (bottom) to repair airstrips for transport planes. Note wide-brimmed coolie hats worn by the civilians as protection against the sun. As air attacks continued against North Korean targets, a small U.S. ground force made contact with the enemy on 5 July.

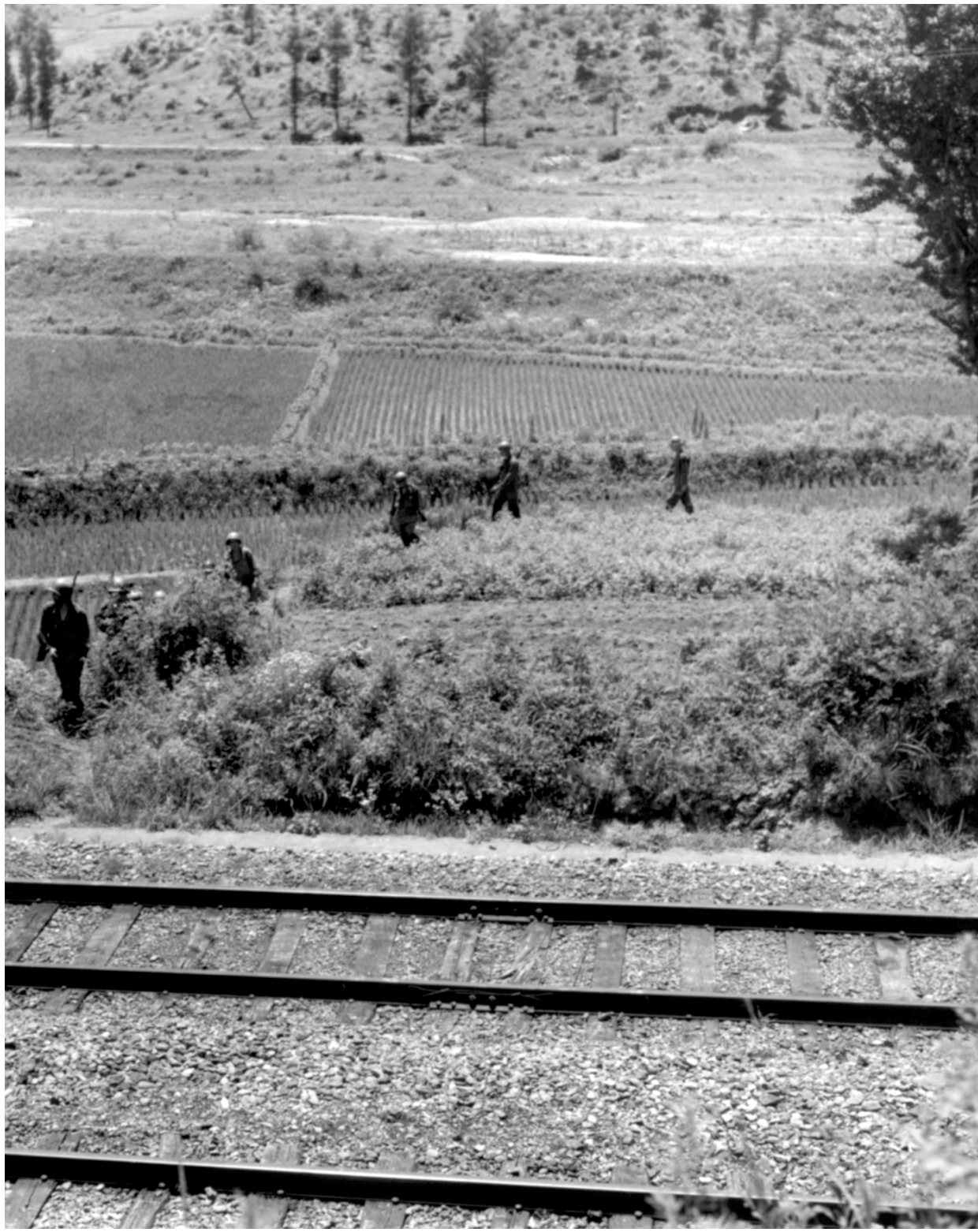


ROK FORCES, carrying 6.5-mm. Japanese rifles and wearing canvas-top shoes, move forward, 5 July (top); unloading an American 105-mm. howitzer (center); and newly arrived U.S. units in the port area after debarking from a ship, 6 July (bottom). At this time the enemy was threatening P'yongt'aek on the west coast and was south of Suwon. On the east coast the enemy held Ulchin.

WEARY SOLDIERS RESTING ALONG A ROAD. Left foreground (bottom) a .30-caliber U.S. carbine M1 leans against a radio SCR 300, beyond which are two .30-caliber Browning machine guns; in center are two water-cooled .30-caliber M1917A1 Browning machine guns. South of Suwon on 5 July, American forces, in their first major action, were forced to withdraw more than ten miles.

U.S. TROOPS NEAR CH'ONAN, 7 July. 105-mm. howitzer M2A1 camouflaged with leaves and branches of trees (top left) ; Army truck mounting a .50-caliber M2 HB Browning machine gun, camouflaged with rice straw (top right, and bottom). The enemy had taken P'yongt'aek by this date and held positions just north of Ch'onan across to Ch'ongju and through to the east coast.

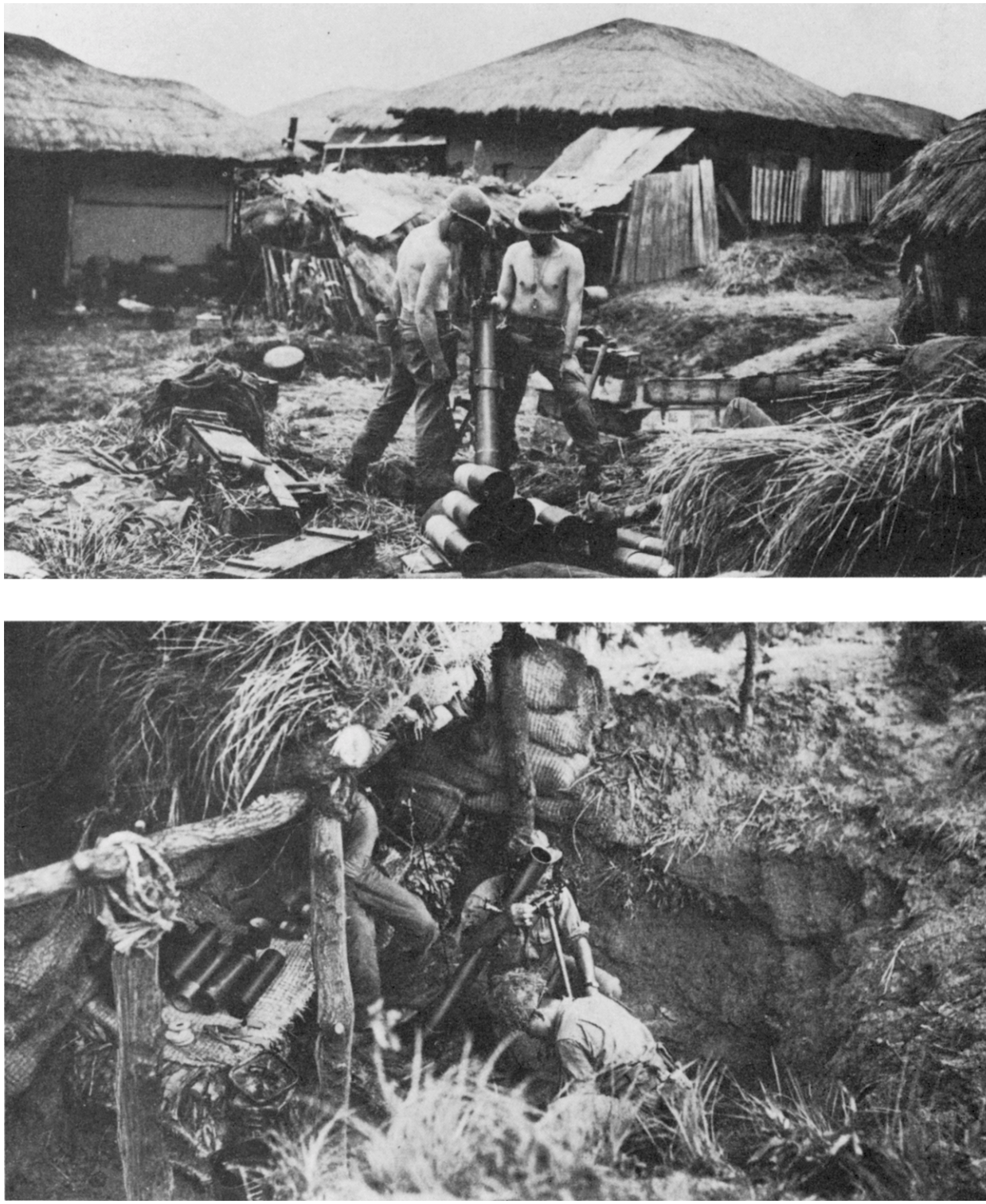
ACTIVITY NEAR THE FRONT, 7 July. American soldier checks the fuse on a land mine, planted near Ch'onan (top left); ROK soldier unaccustomed to American shoes carries them on the march (top right); South Korean civilians, fleeing from the North Koreans, pass a $^{1}/_{4}$-ton 4x4 truck (jeep) which is equipped for laying communications wire.



INFANTRYMEN LEAVING A HILLSIDE POSITION near Ch'onan. This town is on a railroad line reaching from the port of Pusan, through Taegu and Taejon, to Seoul. Despite air support resulting in a reported loss of forty tanks to the enemy, the Americans were driven from Ch'onan on 8 July.

PREPARING POWDER CHARGES (top) and loading a 155-mm. howitzer M1 (bottom) to fire on Ch'onan, which was held by the North Koreans. Despite poor flying weather on 8–9 July, American and British planes were active against enemy troop movements and other military targets.

INFANTRYMEN MINE A BRIDGE in an attempt to retard the enemy forces which were bearing down in the direction of Taejon and Taegu, 9 July. At this time the South Koreans were engaging the enemy in the vicinity of Umsong, Ch'ungju, and Check'on.



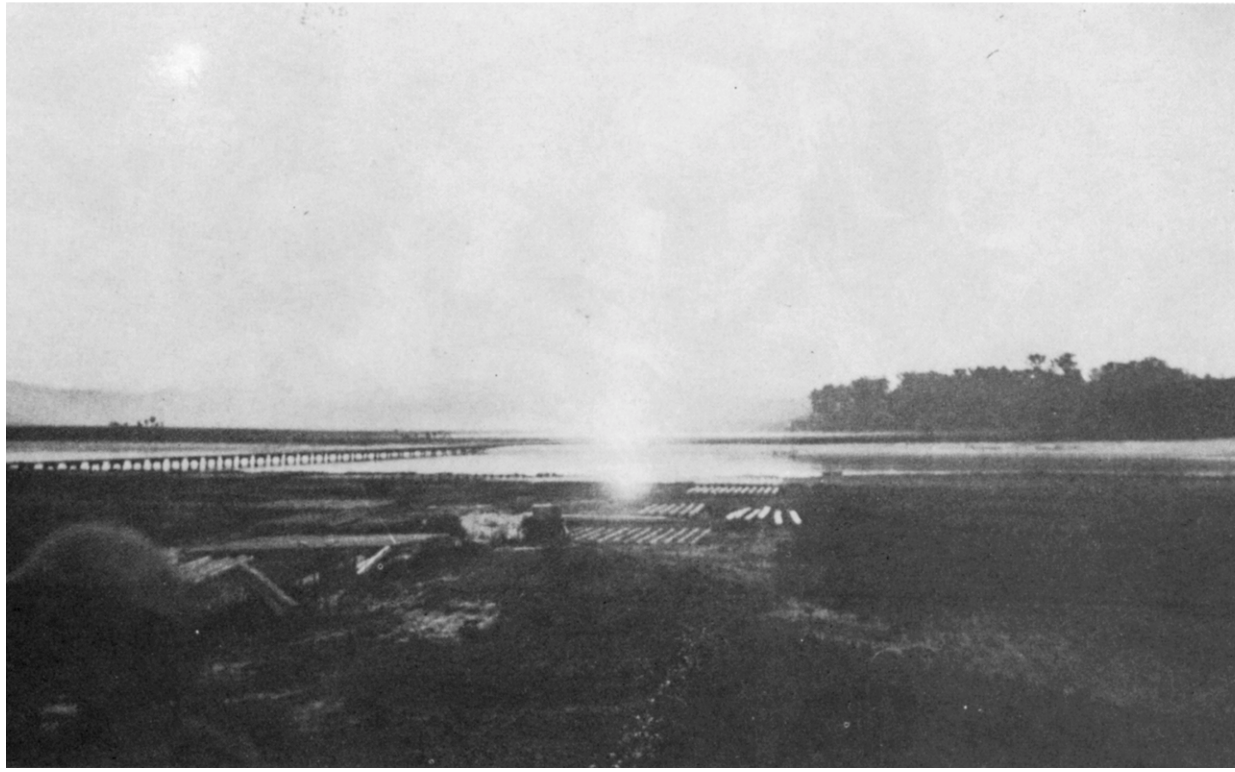
MORTAR EMPLACEMENTS. 4.2-inch chemical mortar M2 manned by a U.S. crew (top); 81-mm. mortar M1 manned by ROK crew (bottom). On 10 July U.N. forces were fighting a defensive battle against overwhelming enemy forces and weapons. At the same time the North Koreans claimed the capture of Umsong from the South Koreans.

THE GENERAL CHAFFEE LIGHT TANK M24 (top) and 155-mm. howitzers M1 (bottom) in action south of Ch'onan. Armament for tank included a 75-mm. gun M6, a 30-caliber machine gun M1919A4 fixed, a 30-caliber machine gun M1919A4 flexible, and a .50-caliber machine gun M2 flexible. On 11 July U.S. tanks saw action for the first time in the Korean conflict, engaging enemy tanks north of the Kum River, the last natural barrier north of Taejon.

ENEMY TANK captured by U.S. troops, 10 July.

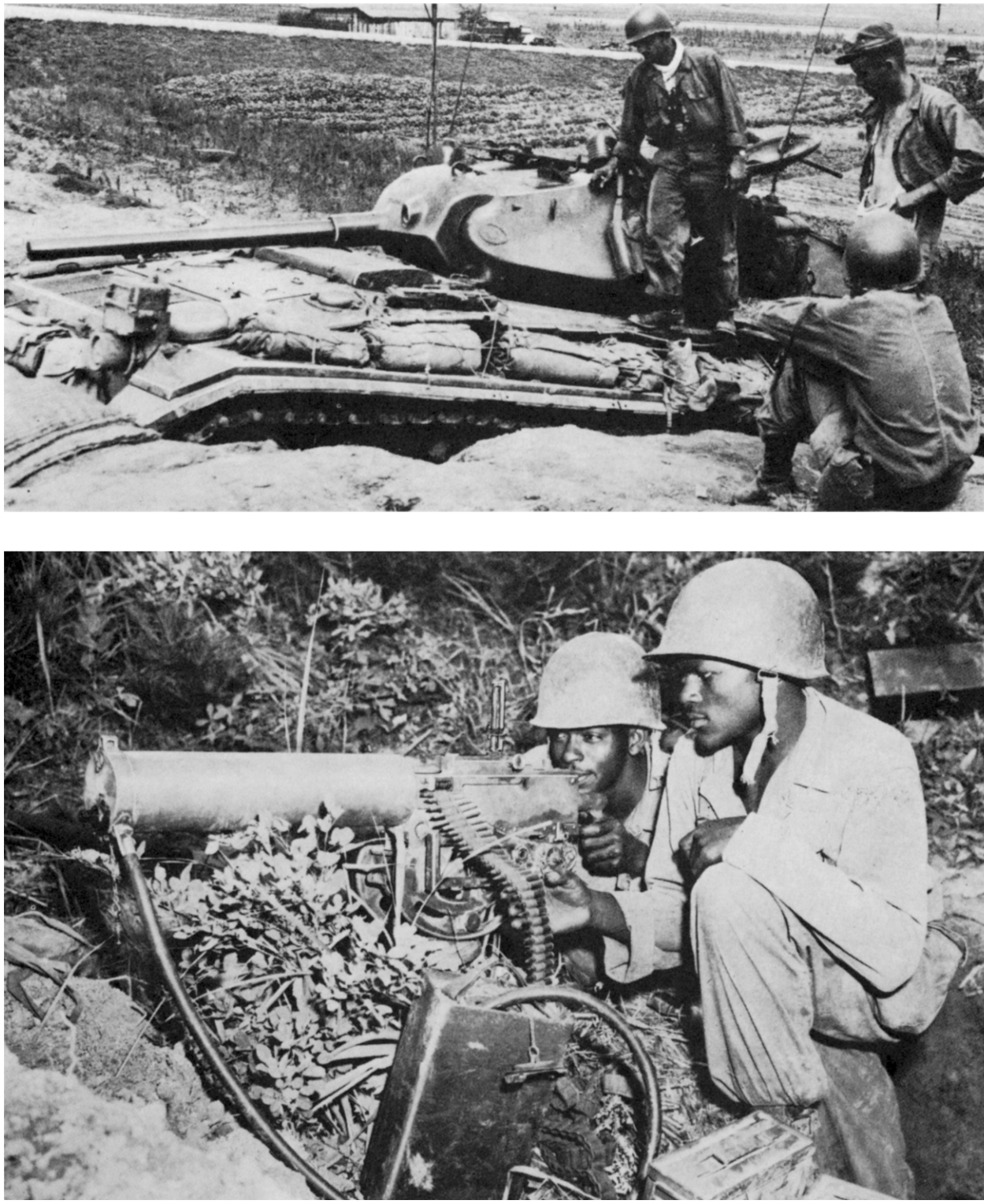
DESTRUCTION OF A KUM RIVER BRIDGE. Demolitions set off on the bridge by Americans (top) resulted in the wide gap (bottom). On 12–13 July U.N. forces made a planned withdrawal to the south bank of the Kum, leaving rear guard troops behind to delay the enemy's drive in the direction of Taejon and Taegu.

CAPTURED ENEMY VEHICLES. American soldiers using an enemy jeep (top); others inspecting an armored car (bottom). During this period the North Koreans were rapidly building up their reinforcements in Ulchin, on the east coast of the peninsula.



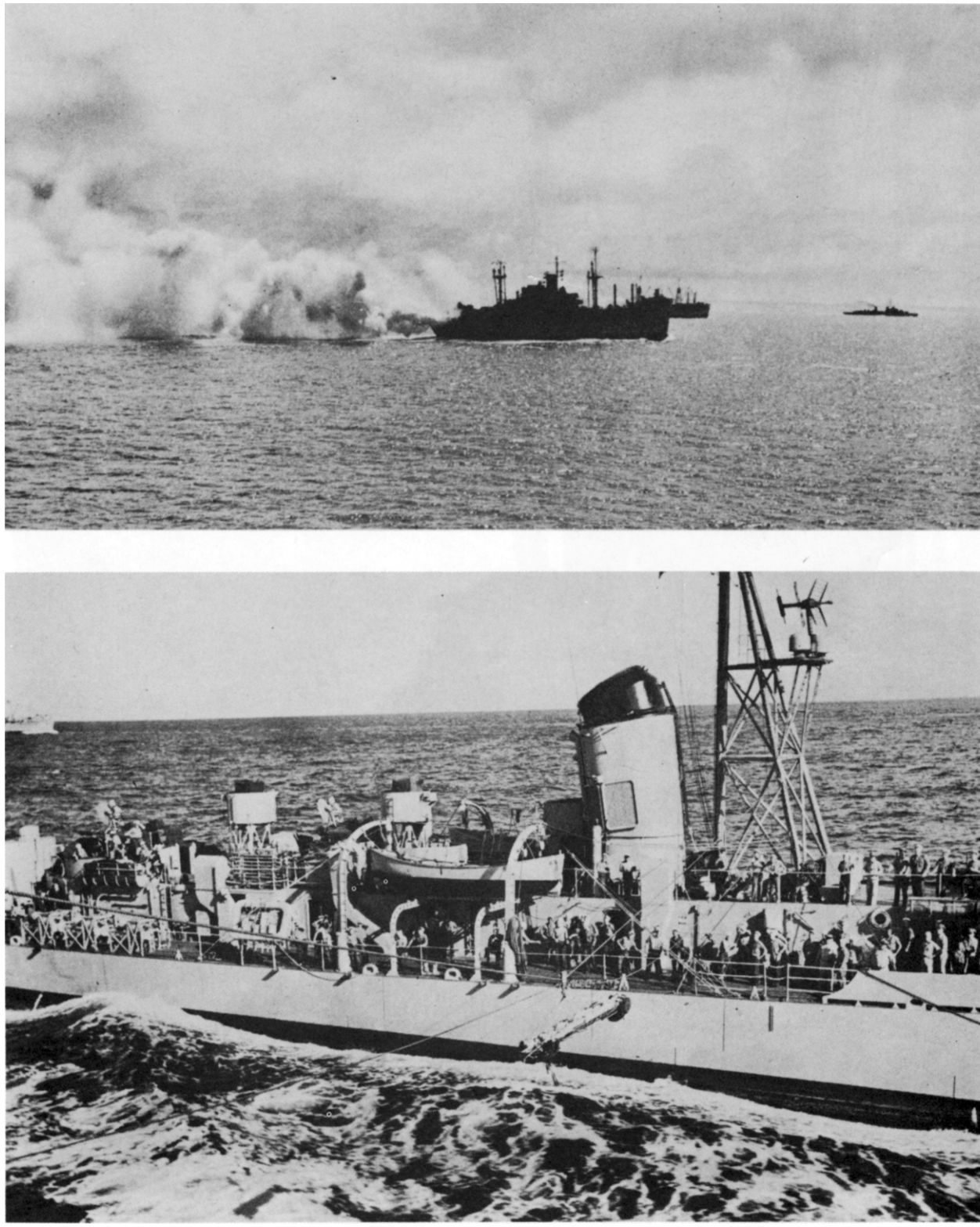
U.S. INFANTRYMEN MOVE INTO THE HILLS south of the Kum River (top); a flare fired over the Kum River bridge in an attempt to stop the enemy from crossing during the night (bottom). The North Koreans tried to flank the U.N. positions along the Kum River on 14 July while farther east they took Yonggung.

COMBINATION GUN MOTOR CARRIAGE M15A1 moving into position along the Kum River, 15 July. This weapon, carrying a 37-mm gun M1A2 and two .50-caliber M2 HB flexible machine guns, is used as a highly mobile antiaircraft weapon. Its basic chassis is the personnel carrier half-track M3 (top). Armorers load .50-caliber ammunition belts into the wing of a F–51 Mustang (bottom).



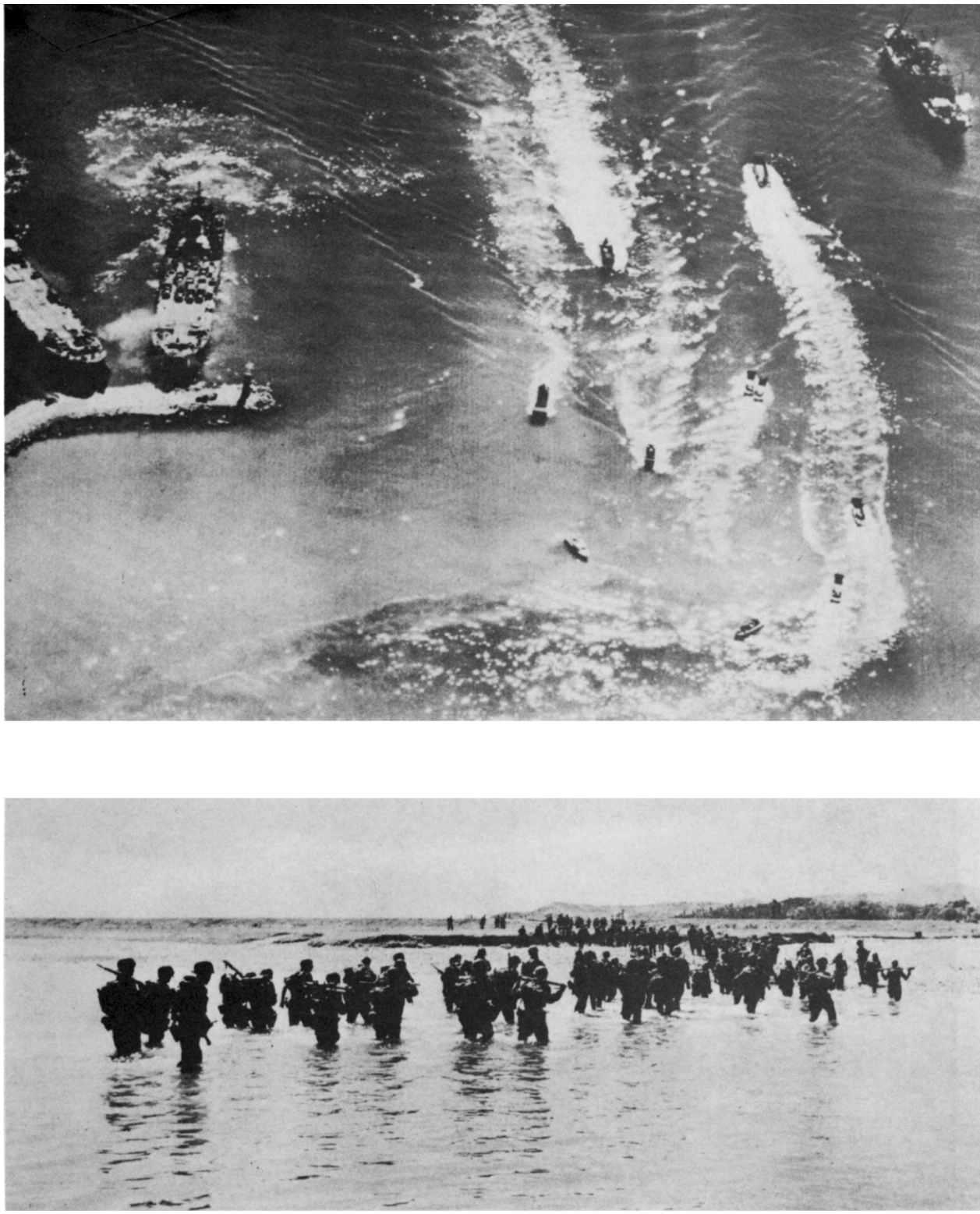
U.N. DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. Chaffee light tank M24 in a dug-in position (top); two infantrymen manning a .30-caliber M1917A1 Browning machine gun (bottom). North Koreans succeeded in establishing a bridgehead beyond the Kum River in the Kongju area northwest of Taejon and in making small advances on the east coast, 15 July.

TWO NORTH KOREAN PRISONERS, captured during the fighting near the Kum River, being interrogated by a South Korean soldier as American personnel look on. A great deal of difficulty in distinguishing North Koreans from South Koreans was encountered by U.N. forces.



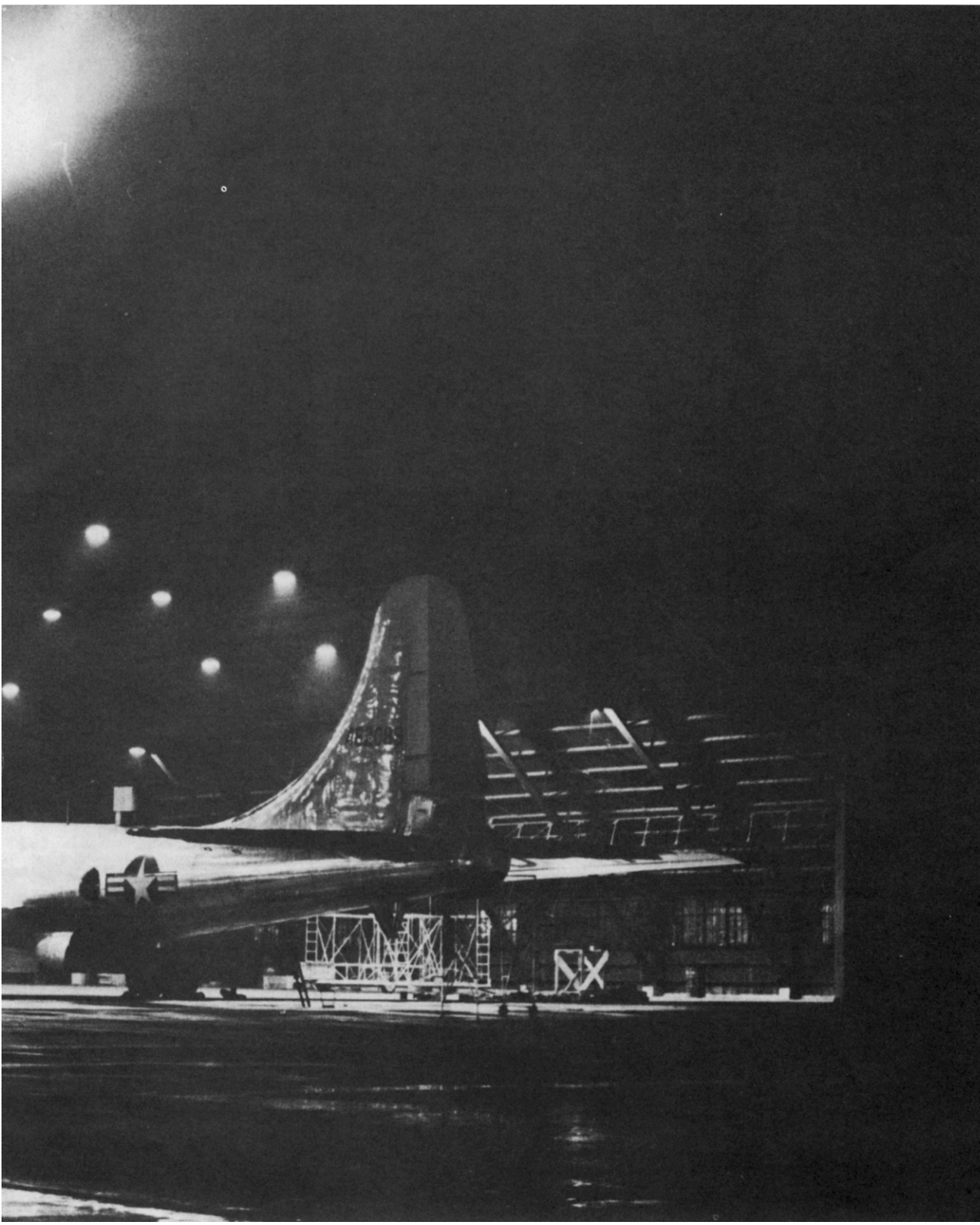
PART OF A TASK FORCE, en route to Korea, practices laying a smoke screen (top); crew member of a destroyer is passed to a flagship for an emergency operation, at sea near the Korean coast (bottom). Starting on 29 June, in support of U.N. ground troops, naval forces off the east coast of Korea bombarded enemy activities.

AMERICAN TROOPS LOADING INTO LANDING CRAFT from a ship off the east coast of Korea near P'ohang-dong, 18 July. These men were staged for this operation in ten days. U.S. carrier-based planes of the U.N. naval force provided air cover for the landing forces in addition to conducting a two-day air attack against enemy communications and supply lines in North Korea.



LANDING CRAFT SHUTTLING FROM SHIP TO SHORE with reinforcements and supplies. Note landing ships, tank (LST's) at left (top). Infantrymen wading ashore at P'ohang-dong, 18 July (bottom). This unopposed landing constituted the first amphibious operation of U.N. forces in Korea.

SUPERFORTRESS B–29, at an airfield in Japan, being made ready for the next day's raid on Korea. These giant bombers were active as early as 28 June in support



of the ROK troops. On 13 July B–29's made the first large-scale strategic strike over Korea, dropping 450 tons of bombs by radar.

FLIGHT ENGINEER AT THE CONTROLS OF A B–29 waits for the signal of the pilot before take-off for a bomb run over Korea. On 20 July B–29's attacked airfields and bridges north of the 38th parallel using more than 160 tons of bombs.

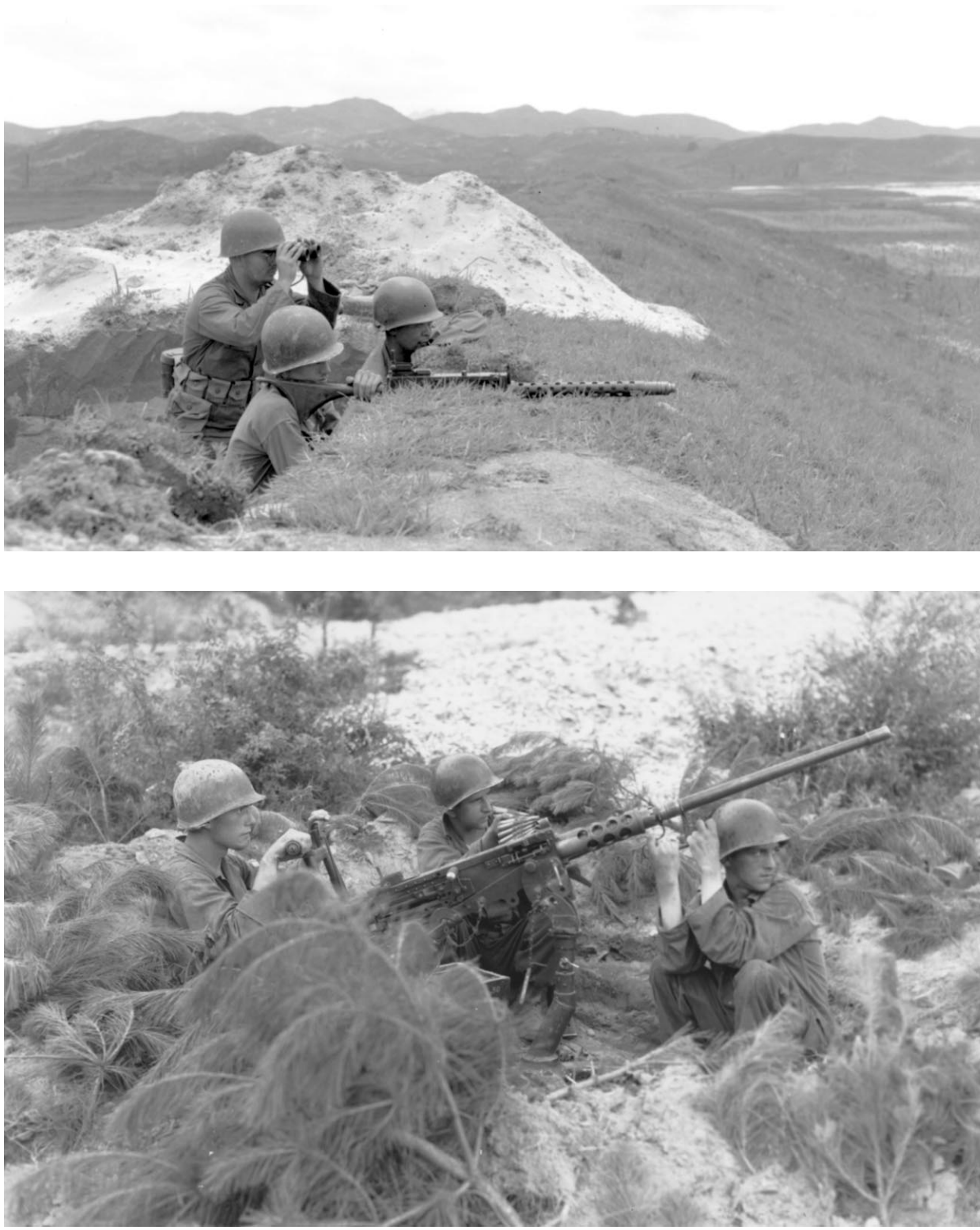
3.5-INCH M20 ROCKET LAUNCHER (superbazooka) on a battlefield, 20 July. This launcher, weighing fifteen pounds and designed for use against ground targets, is a two-piece unit which can be disassembled for ease in carrying.

.30-CALIBER BROWNING HEAVY MACHINE GUN M1917A1 in position overlooking the enemy, 20 July.

AMERICAN AND ROK TROOPS NEAR TAEJON. South Koreans were integrated with U.S. units and fought side by side with American soldiers. Browning automatic rifle, .30-caliber M1919A2 (foreground bottom) is a gas-operated, magazine-fed, automatic light infantry weapon.

SOLDIERS IN A REAR AREA waiting for orders to move forward. Shelter half in foreground provides a shady spot for a midday nap. The rifle, a U.S. .30-caliber M1 (foreground), is gas-operated, semiautomatic, and clip-fed; in the background is a 57-mm. recoilless rifle. Note the bayonet M1 stuck in the tree.

REPORTING BY FIELD TELEPHONE from a forward command post. Note standard sniper's rifle, the U.S. rifle .30-caliber M1C, which is identical with the M1 except for a bracket assembled to the left side of receiver for mounting a telescope, a removable flash hider, and a cheek pad laced to the stock.



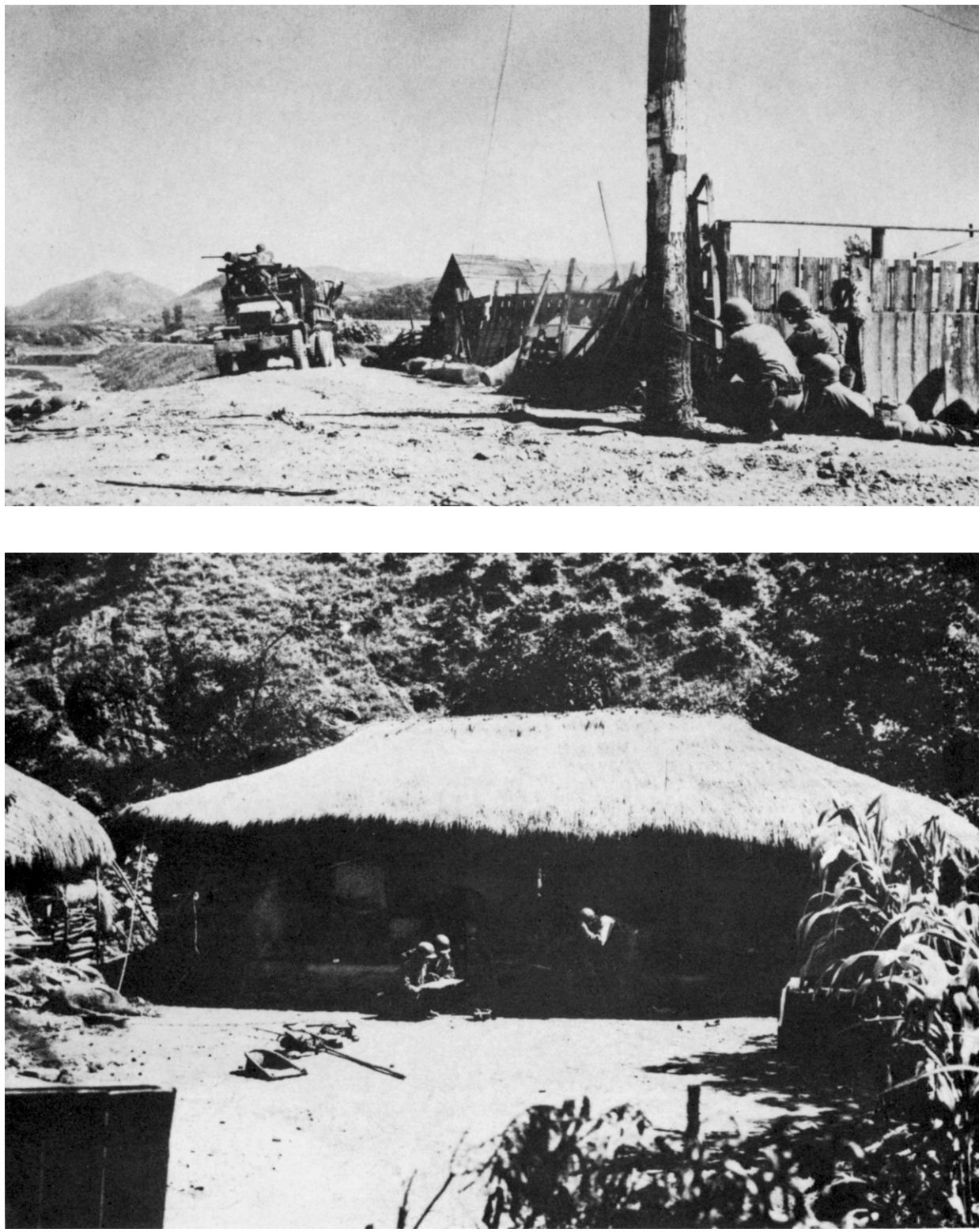
MACHINE GUN POSITIONS. .30-caliber Browning light machine gun M1919A6 (top); .50-caliber Browning machine gun M2 HB (bottom). As rear guard troops left Taejon on 20–21 July, defensive positions were set up southeast of Taejon. Units to the northeast continued to fight for Yech'on, and others recaptured Yongdok on the east coast.

SMOLDERING REMAINS OF A SOUTH KOREAN TOWN between Yech'on and Andong, 21 July. In this area the enemy maintained heavy pressure on U.N. forces near Hamch'ang. Southwest from Hamch'ang, on this date, the enemy approached Yongdong, and on the east coast retook Yongdok for the second time.

ROK'S FIRING A 57-MM. ANTITANK GUN M1, a light and highly mobile weapon (top) and placing a land mine (bottom) 22 July. At this time, carrier planes from the fleet off the east coast were active, effectively attacking communications targets and installations both north and south of the 38th parallel.

EXPLOSIVES WIRED TO A BRIDGE as a precautionary measure against a break-through by North Korean forces. On 24 July the enemy positions ran roughly from Mokp'o on the southwest coast through Kwangju and Namwon, north of Yongdong and Yech'on, to Yongju, then down to Yongdok on the east coast.

CHAFFEE LIGHT TANK M24 on a street of a South Korean village near Yech'on, 24 July.



INFANTRYMEN TAKE COVER as a machine gun, mounted on a $2^1/_2$-ton 6x6 cargo truck, is fired at enemy positions (top); men attempting to locate a place suitable for a field hospital to take care of the rapidly mounting number of casualties, 25 July (bottom).

YONGDONG, southeast of Taejon. Units and equipment massed for action (foreground); note artillery bursts (center background). The numerically superior enemy, emplaced in the rugged hills around the town, forced the U.N. army to withdraw to Hwanggan on 26 July despite heavy artillery fire directed at enemy positions. Yongdong and other towns in this area, the scenes of heavy fighting, were wrecked.

JEEP BRINGS AMMUNITION to men who are trying to hold back the enemy with small arms fire. Radio SCR 300 used by a soldier to maintain com-

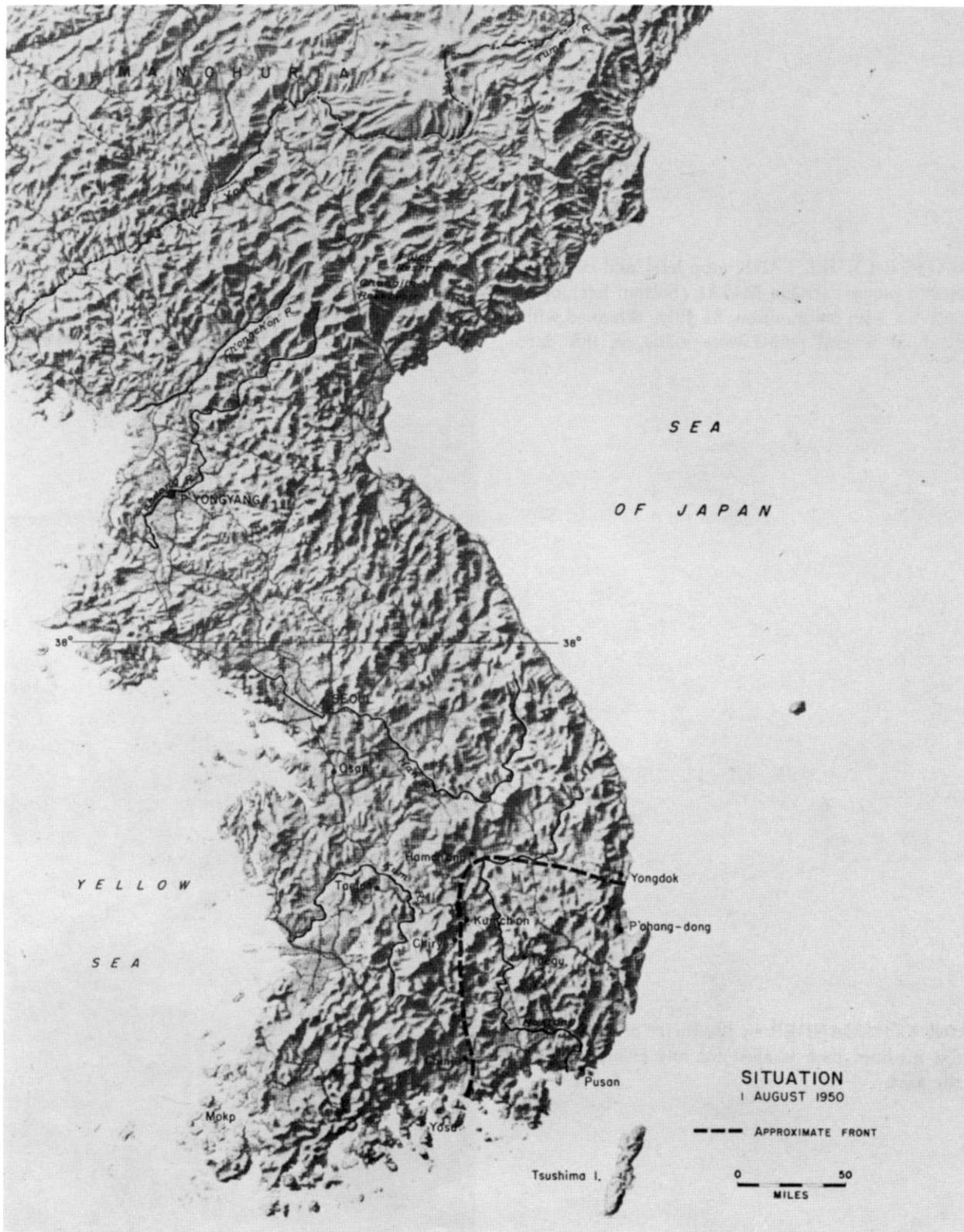
munications with a forward mortar position (lower left) ; soldier in a tank turret directing tank fire (lower right).

U.S. TROOPS MOVING FORWARD. On 29 July the Americans fell back under heavy frontal assaults to establish defensive positions near Kumch'on. Heavy fighting continued on the east coast for control of Yongdok.

AIRSTRIP on the harbor front; note use of camouflage on some of the aircraft (top). Loaded transport, Curtiss C–46, being pushed to solid ground by ROK soldiers and civilians. The ship became stuck when the runway collapsed (bottom). At the end of July the effectiveness of air operations against enemy targets was greatly diminished by unfavorable weather conditions.

CHAFFEE LIGHT TANK (top left) and combination gun motor carriage M15A1 (bottom left) being resupplied with ammunition, 31 July. Planned withdrawals at several points were made on this date.

TANK COMMANDER in the turret of his camouflaged medium tank is alert for any enemy activity in the area.


MANCHURIA
Tumen R.
Yalu R.
Chongchon R.
SEA
OF JAPAN
P'YONGYANG
38°
38°
SEOUL
Osan
Taejon
Hamhung
Yongdok
YELLOW
SEA
Taegu
Kunchon
P'ohang-dong
Chinju
Pusan
Mokp
Yosu
Tsushima I.
SITUATION
1 AUGUST 1950
APPROXIMATE FRONT
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MILES

MAP 3

CHAPTER III

DEFENSE OF THE PUSAN PERIMETER

1 AUGUST–14 SEPTEMBER

During the first week of August three large contingents of U.S. reinforcements began to disembark in Korea. Sailing directly from the United States, advance elements of the 2d Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Laurence B. Keiser, landed to prepare for the arrival of the rest of the division which followed in the middle of the month. On 3 August the 5th Regimental Combat Team (Separate) reached Korea from Hawaii and was committed quickly on the Chinju front. At about the same time, Brig. Gen. Edward A. Craig's 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, a heavily armed advance component of the 1st Marine Division, reached Pusan after a sea voyage from Camp Pendleton, California.

By the first of the month, the U.S. and ROK forces had been withdrawn generally behind the Naktong River, a position the U.N. command was determined to hold at all costs. In form, the territory in southeastern Korea still held by the Eighth Army resembled a rectangle: the east and south flanks were bounded by the sea; the west flank was the Naktong River; the north side of the perimeter followed the Naktong upstream as it bends to the east, then left the river and ran slightly south of due east to the vicinity of Yongdok on the coast. On the southwestern end of the defensive position, the U.S. 24th and 25th Divisions were disposed abreast to prevent a possible enemy break-through to Masan, an eventuality which probably would have doomed Pusan. The U.S. 1st Cavalry Division was deployed near Chirye on the western front, guarding the approaches to Taegu's vital railroad. The northern front was defended principally by ROK divisions from a point south of Hamch'ang—where the Naktong turns and flows south—to the east coast.

Within his perimeter around Taegu and Pusan, General Walker now directed an army composed of elements of four U.S. divisions, a Marine brigade, and five ROK divisions. The enemy commander had about the same strength committed, but had a striking advantage in an additional reservoir of reserves. This superiority in numbers permitted the enemy to maintain the initiative, despite his very high casualties, and to pour reinforcements into the depleted ranks of the assault units.

To the U.N. commanders, the matter of replacements was of utmost concern. Even after the arrival of new troops from Hawaii and the United States in early August, the

odds were still heavily against the defenders. The strength of American divisions fighting in Korea had been sharply reduced by sickness and casualties. Troops from other member nations of the United Nations were offered in brigade, regiment, and battalion size, but weeks, even months would pass before much of this assistance materialized. Immediate replacements were required to prevent the North Koreans from crushing the Naktong River line. To fill the ranks of his American divisions, the Commander in Chief, United Nations Command, at first permitted and later ordered the integration of South Korean nationals.

Some of the South Koreans selected to serve with the United States Army had had previous military training, but most were farm boys who joined the combat organizations directly from civilian life. In the latter case, the new soldiers passed through a brief period of training under American direction, received uniforms and weapons, and were quickly moved to the combat zone. In August General MacArthur approved plans to integrate a hundred South Koreans into each U.S. Army company-size unit under his command. (Official integration did not apply to the Marine Corps.) The situation was critical, and partly trained troops were preferable to no troops at all. Although some of the South Koreans had fired only one clip from an M1 rifle before facing the enemy, they were valuable reinforcements for the American infantry and artillery. The integrated South Koreans' knowledge of the terrain, ability to withstand the rigors of the Korean climate, natural instinct for Indian-type fighting, and acquaintance with the language and customs, together with their desire for independence and enthusiasm for victory, partly offset the language barrier and lack of familiarity with American weapons and tactics. Many Americans owe their lives to these brave and rugged South Koreans. Commanding officers employed their own discretion in making the best possible use of integrated Korean troops in the combat zone. Often they were assigned tasks which did not require an extensive English vocabulary, such as carrying ammunition and supplies and, in the dangerous role of litter bearers, assisting in the evacuation of wounded.

With the arrival of U.S. reinforcements, Generals MacArthur and Walker could now attempt to end U.N. withdrawals and make a vigorous stand in the southeast. By the first week of August the policy of trading space for time had paid dividends. The communist forces were operating on precarious supply lines which extended far back into North Korea. The likelihood of their conquering the entire peninsula was becoming less probable. U.N. forces noted that heavy enemy casualties were forcing the North Koreans to use comparatively green replacements in some battles. This was substantiated by the increasing number of communist prisoners of war in the U.N. stockades. For example, during the first two weeks of August 464 prisoners were captured, but the second half of the month saw an additional 2,000 transported to the prisoner of war collecting points. Seven million airdropped leaflets guaranteeing humane treatment might also have had an effect in increasing the number of communist soldiers who surrendered. In general, however, the enemy appeared determined to annihilate the Eighth Army and to take Taegu and Pusan. To capture these cities, the North Koreans massed for a two-pronged drive across the Naktong, one from the west and the other from the southwest. The principal actions were fought along the river from Waegwan south through Song-dong and Ch'irhyon-ni to the juncture of the Naktong and Nam Rivers, and then southwest toward Haman Chinju.

The North Koreans continued their relentless probing for soft spots along the front and pushed three bridgeheads across the Naktong in the Waegwan–Taegu area during the first

week of August. Other penetrations carried the enemy across the river in the Ch'angnyong–Ch'irhyon-ni–Yongsan sector. There, the U.S. 24th and 25th Divisions faced a number of elite North Korean troops which had had previous service with the Chinese communist armies.

On the western and northern fronts American and ROK divisions ranged along the Naktong River, blunting North Korean penetrations wherever they appeared. Near Waegwan, U.N. forces blew bridges over the river as they pulled back behind it. Under cover of darkness, enemy patrols sought to cross the Naktong to the U.N. side while other North Koreans labored feverishly to build underwater causeways. These corduroy bridges of sunken logs anchored by rocks were designed to provide night river crossings for tanks and other vehicles. Since the causeways were about a foot under the often muddy water, the U.N. aircraft had difficulty in detecting them.

U.N. troops were able to repel many of the enemy river-crossing operations during the first week of August, but during the following week the North Koreans concentrated such quantities of artillery, armor, and infantry in selected spots that they effected crossings in force. The Eighth Army's strength was insufficient for defense in depth of the entire front. Numerical superiority permitted the communists to throw heavy forces into widely separated sectors such as the areas around P'ohang-dong on the east coast and Chinju in the south. The enemy also struck successfully in the Waegwan–Taegu and Ch'angnyong–Yongsan areas. Simultaneously, he crossed the Nam River near Chinju and broke through the northern perimeter toward the port of P'ohang-dong. Units of the Eighth Army were rushed from one critical area to another as field commanders shuttled them to contain the limited penetrations of the perimeter.

General Walker's short and quick counterattacks helped to keep the enemy off balance capture Taegu or Masan, primary enemy objectives. The U.N. defensive positions in Korea were held by tired but battle-worthy men whose usual rest was a few hours of troubled sleep in freshly dug foxholes. When attacking, the Americans first had to climb steep hills in roasting heat under withering enemy fire. When attacked, which was more often the case, the defenders were invariably outnumbered. Frequently they found themselves in combat with enemy troops which had temporarily exchanged the green uniform of the North Korean Army for the white shirt and baggy trousers of the civilian.

While sweat-soaked American soldiers fought along the banks of the Naktong, another battle was taking place in the southwest. There, the North Koreans concentrated the veteran *6th Division*, east of Chinju, for an assault upon Masan and Pusan. Before the enemy jumped off, however, he was hit by Task Force Kean. Named for the commanding general of the 25th Division, Task Force Kean consisted of the 5th RCT, the 35th RCT of the 25th Division, the 1st Marine Brigade, and an ROK battalion. The 24th Regimental Combat Team of the 25th Division was held in reserve. The mission was to secure the left flank of the perimeter in order to prevent an enemy drive to Pusan. The force, on 7 August, opened a strong U.N. counteroffensive. Sharp engagements were in progress all along the 140-mile perimeter, and the attack by Task Force Kean at first met heavy opposition from an enemy which had even determined the location of the Marine command post. In their usual fashion the communists infiltrated the U.N. positions and raised havoc in the rear while the Army and Marine units fought their way up enemy-held mountain crests in temperatures which hovered at the 100-degree mark. Friendly artillery support, because of communication and other difficulties, was at first limited but Marine, Navy, and

Air Force flyers co-operated magnificently to strafe and bomb the North Koreans' camouflaged positions. Enemy soldiers in civilian clothes nearly succeeded in turning the U.N. attack into a disaster by accurately spotting targets for North Korean guns.

One large band of North Koreans appeared behind the advancing Americans and attacked two batteries of howitzers. The artillerymen, however, fought their 105's at point-blank range in a furious action which finally repulsed the enemy. Throughout 7 and 8 August the battle raged unabated. Despite the slow start, Task Force Kean made progress in the difficult job of ejecting the enemy from the mountain ridges. For most of these Americans this was an introduction to combat and the action was attended by severe losses in killed and wounded, as well as by a great many cases of heat prostration. The task force eventually overcame the North Koreans and, by 11 August, the high ground to the east of Chinju was again in friendly hands. The 5th and 35th RCT's held their positions along the banks of the Nam River while the marines captured Kosong near the coast, to the southeast of Chinju. Task Force Kean thus secured the left flank of the Eighth Army and, having created a deep salient in the enemy positions, forced the North Koreans to retreat, abandoning quantities of equipment. The Chinju counteroffensive proved to be an encouraging reflection of increased U.N. strength. From the point of view of morale, the victory was of incalculable importance. The threat to Masan having been relieved, which in turn safeguarded the approach to Pusan, General Walker was now able to shift some units to the Naktong River and others northward. The 1st Marine Brigade was released for duty along the southern portion of the Naktong front to fight beside the battle-worn 24th Division.

Although the Eighth Army commander still found it necessary to shift troops constantly to plug the holes in his perimeter, inflict casualties, and gain time, he had one important advantage: shorter interior lines of communication. From Pusan it is 63 miles north to P'ohang-dong, 55 miles northwest to strategic Taegu, and 29 miles west to Masan. Pusan itself had swiftly expanded into a sprawling supply base packed with vehicles, clothing, rations, tents, artillery, tanks, ammunition, and fuel. In addition, an infinite variety of supplies, weapons, and equipment was stacked at numerous concentration points within a fifteen-mile radius of the port. By mid-August almost any needed item of supply could be procured on short notice from the logistical command at Pusan.

The North Koreans, meanwhile, were experiencing great difficulty in moving materiel to the combat zone because of the constant daylight bombing of strategic targets and visible routes of communication. Night intruder missions by B–26's also slowed the movement of troops and supplies. The communists resorted to horses and oxen when their vehicles and fuel dumps were successfully attacked. Civilians, including many women, were pressed into service to carry ammunition. Human and animal transport, especially when used after dark, met most of the needs of the North Korean Army. The shortage of food, however, was a matter of acute concern to the enemy. American troops reported that some North Korean soldiers acted as if they were half starved. This was an unexpected situation for the communist planners, who had intended to overrun all of Korea in short order. They had planned to loot and forage, but the South Koreans were hiding their stores of rice. When the invaders found it impossible to commandeer rice from the local population, they had to transport food from depleted warehouses north of the parallel. Many of these storage points had been bombed and all of them were far from southeast Korea.

Despite an embarrassing shortage of food, the enemy did not cease his attempts to cut

through the Eighth Army defenses. While the North Korean *6th Division* (which Task Force Kean had defeated in the Masan-Kosong–Chinju sector) was being reorganized and reinforced, the enemy high command delivered a hard blow at the other end of the U.N. perimeter. On the easternmost flank of the perimeter, the town of Yongdok was lost by the isolated ROK 3d Division which then had to be evacuated by sea. Elements of the North Korean *12th Division* thereupon built up strength for a drive south while many hundreds of their comrades in civilian clothes filtered into the important P'ohang-dong area. On 12 August the port of P'ohang-dong was attacked by an enemy force which broke through the ROK positions near Kigye, ten miles to the west. Led by tanks which mounted screaming sirens, elements of the North Korean *12th Division* poured through the breach in the perimeter to link up with their inconspicuous-looking advance agents at the port.

A short distance south of P'ohang-dong, an airstrip of great importance to the U.N. forces as a base for tactical aircraft was also in danger of being captured. Brig. Gen. Francis W. Farrell, commanding KMAG, investigated the situation and sent back an urgent request for additional assistance for the defense of the P'ohang-dong airstrip. While the enemy advanced without opposition from Kigye toward P'ohang-dong, a U.N. task force of U.S. tanks and infantry was hurriedly assembled and set out for the area under attack, followed by the famed ROK 17th Regiment. The innocent-looking refugees who had been moving down the road from the north for several weeks now showed their true colors. From oxcarts and A-frames they produced mortars, machine guns, and other weapons. As the task force pushed north, enemy fire drove its units from the roads, scattering them through adjacent hills and rice paddies. Meanwhile, a small force of North Koreans took the burning town of P'ohang-dong while the airstrip itself was defended by U.S. Air Force personnel and ROK troops already in the vicinity. As elements of the task force drifted into the airfield and strengthened the defensive positions, it became evident that the port itself might soon be recaptured from the enemy. The North Koreans were so close to the strip, however, that on 13 August all planes were evacuated. Within five days troops of the ROK I Corps, in co-operation with the small U.S. task force at the airstrip, struck the enemy from front and rear, forcing him to relinquish P'ohang-dong to U.N. control.

During the time that the enemy had tried to smash the U.N. line on the left and right flanks at Chinju and P'ohang-dong, a much larger force of communists was battering at the Naktong River sector in an attempt to take the rail junction at Taegu. To hold a line near the river, General Walker rearranged his combat divisions. The ground taken by Task Force Kean was abandoned to flatten out the salient in the far southwest and make it easier to hold the flanks in that area. Elements of the 25th Division were pulled back and directed to defend the Masan area. Slightly to the north near Yongsan, on the 25th's right flank, stood the veteran 24th Division. General Craig's 1st Provisional Marine Brigade was moved north from the Kosong–Masan sector to take up positions around Ch'angnyong on the right of the 24th Division. The 1st Cavalry Division covered the Waegwan-Taegu axis. From Kunwi to the coast, the ROK I and II Corps together with a few U.S. units held the northern perimeter.

Along the twisting Naktong River, the limited U.S. forces were deployed in a manner which assigned combat zones of 15–30 miles to each division and permitted only limited liaison between divisions. By the middle of August troops of the North Korean *4th Division* still retained a bridgehead, which they had established earlier, in the Pugong-ni–

Yongsan sector. Slightly to the north, the North Korean *10th Division* fought across the wide river bend below Tuksong-dong. Three enemy divisions faced the 1st Cavalry and the ROK 1st Divisions where the Waegwan–Taegu rail line crosses the river. Taegu loomed as the next target of the North Koreans as ROK and American units fought skillfully and successfully to hold the provisional capital. The city was under attack from three directions: north (Tabu-dong) , northwest (Kumch'on) , and southwest (Tuksong-dong).

Using his limited resources as prudently as possible, General Walker continued to keep the front lightly manned until enemy assaults were reported and then moved his meager reserves to the critical points and forced the enemy back across the Naktong. While the ROK 1st and 6th Divisions, the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division, and the 27th Infantry Regiment of the 25th Division stood in the path of the powerful enemy thrusts at Waegwan and Taegu, elements of the South Korean Army effected two amphibious landings on islands near the west coast port of Inch'on. These landings and a third on the south coast twenty-four miles below Masan were indications that the enemy might soon expect an increase of initiative on the part of the U.N. forces. The North Koreans, however, still showed no inclination to give up their plan to smash across the Naktong River and capture Taegu. The government of the republic moved to Pusan as the communist divisions once more struck against the river defenses.

While nearly 600,000 civilians choked the exits from Taegu, the Eighth Army fought to hold the city, its important airfield, and its rail communications. When the North Koreans tried to expand their bridgehead at Tuksong-dong, General Gay's cavalrymen drove them back with sharp counterattacks. Along the railroad at Waegwan many savage engagements were fought, while up and down the Naktong River the Americans gave way under blows from the communist army, only to snap back and push the enemy to the west side of the river. The weight of U.N. air power had had a telling effect upon the North Koreans. Their Russian-made tanks were less and less in evidence and many of the communist veterans who had swept through South Korea in July were dead. Often their places were filled by untrained recruits.

The North Koreans resorted to every conceivable ruse to take their objectives. Frequently they ordered helpless refugees to move out of the hills or to cross a river toward the American lines. As the bewildered civilians milled about the U.N. area, blocking traffic and interfering with vision, the enemy enveloped positions from behind the refugee column. The problem created by the passage of civilian hordes through combat areas troubled the Americans, who shrank from shooting at them but who knew that their appearance often implied that the enemy was lurking in the vicinity. Eventually, it was decided to shoot anyone who moved at night. Legitimate refugees were permitted to make their way south in the daylight hours when the chore of screening them was a little easier.

The enemy continued his efforts to crack the perimeter, and at Ch'angnyong only the most determined counterattacks by units of the 24th Division and General Craig's Marine units finally managed to force the North Korean *4th Division* back to the west bank of the Naktong. Above Waegwan several enemy divisions massed to assault Taegu from the north. Despite the reported damage caused on 16 August when General O'Donnell's B–29's hit the area with 850 tons of bombs, the North Koreans launched a powerful attack from a slightly different jump-off point and penetrated the positions of two ROK divisions in the Kunwi–Kumwha-dong sector. Reinforced by the 27th Infantry, the South Koreans recovered from the enemy's massive onslaught and recaptured Kumwha-dong. The stal-

wart defense and swift countermeasures in this area on 19 August saved Taegu from almost certain capture, parried the enemy's three-division thrust at Taegu, and hobbled the forward motion of the North Korean offensive.

It was about this time that mistreatment of captured soldiers by the North Koreans prompted General MacArthur to issue a terse warning to the North Korean Premier, Kim Il Sung, stating "I shall hold you and your commanders criminally accountable under the rules and precedents of war."

The Eighth Army had developed its strength and resources to a degree which finally permitted the relief of the 24th Division. To take the place of General Church's veterans, who had suffered 30 percent casualties since 4 July, the fresh and well-equipped 2d Division moved into position along the Naktong River at the Tuksong-dong bulge. Victory was more consistently eluding the enemy and the morale of U.N. forces rose accordingly as August drew to a close. American, Australian, British, and ROK pilots of the U.N. air force daily spread terror through the ranks of the enemy, the number of Eighth Army artillery pieces now vastly exceeded the guns in North Korean hands, and the Russian-made T34 tanks had met their match in the U.S. General Pershing medium tanks.

In a campaign consisting of hundreds of large and small engagements and marked by thousands of casualties, the allied forces still clung to their Naktong positions. The weight of the enemy drives was decreased by a communist inclination to strike here, there, and everywhere along the U.N. perimeter instead of concentrating at one point for an unswerving smash to victory. The North Korean high command had utilized one armored and thirteen infantry divisions to hack at the Eighth Army during August. U.N. forces along the perimeter were badly crippled, but the line held as more troops and supplies were unloaded at the port of Pusan. At the end of the month the ranks of the Eighth Army were augmented by the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade, composed of one battalion of the Middlesex Regiment and one of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. These regular British organizations had embarked at Hong Kong for duty in Korea. Welcomed at Pusan by a group of their kilted bagpipers, the Commonwealth force landed just in time to participate in the Eighth Army's desperate efforts to halt what an American general called the North Koreans' "one final blast."

Shortly before midnight on 31 August, the communists once again rushed the Naktong River, this time in tremendous force. Although enduring very heavy casualties from U.N. air force bombing and strafing, the North Koreans were able to mount an impressive general offensive against the entire Pusan beachhead. From Haman in the south to P'ohang-dong, the perimeter was under attack. Along the northern rim, the U.N. positions were breached at some points and from a few miles north of Taegu to P'ohang-dong on the east coast the enemy registered impressive gains. The North Koreans showed considerable offensive power as they advanced toward the ancient city of Taegu. To the east, they threw the ROK divisions guarding Yongch'on, Kyongju, and P'ohang-dong into confusion. Although the main attacks were in the southwest and north, a diversionary feint also threatened P'ohang-dong. Out of a rest area the combatwise 24th Division was again ordered into action and moved north in time to secure the Yongch'on–Kyongju highway and railroad. The port of P'ohang-dong which is about 15 miles northeast of Kyongju, fell to the enemy on 6 September, but once again the communists were unable to capture the airfield. Along the western front the North Koreans hit savagely at the defenders of the Naktong. Ruined Waegwan and the ancient temple, called the "walled-city," at near-by Kasan were overrun as the U.S. 1st

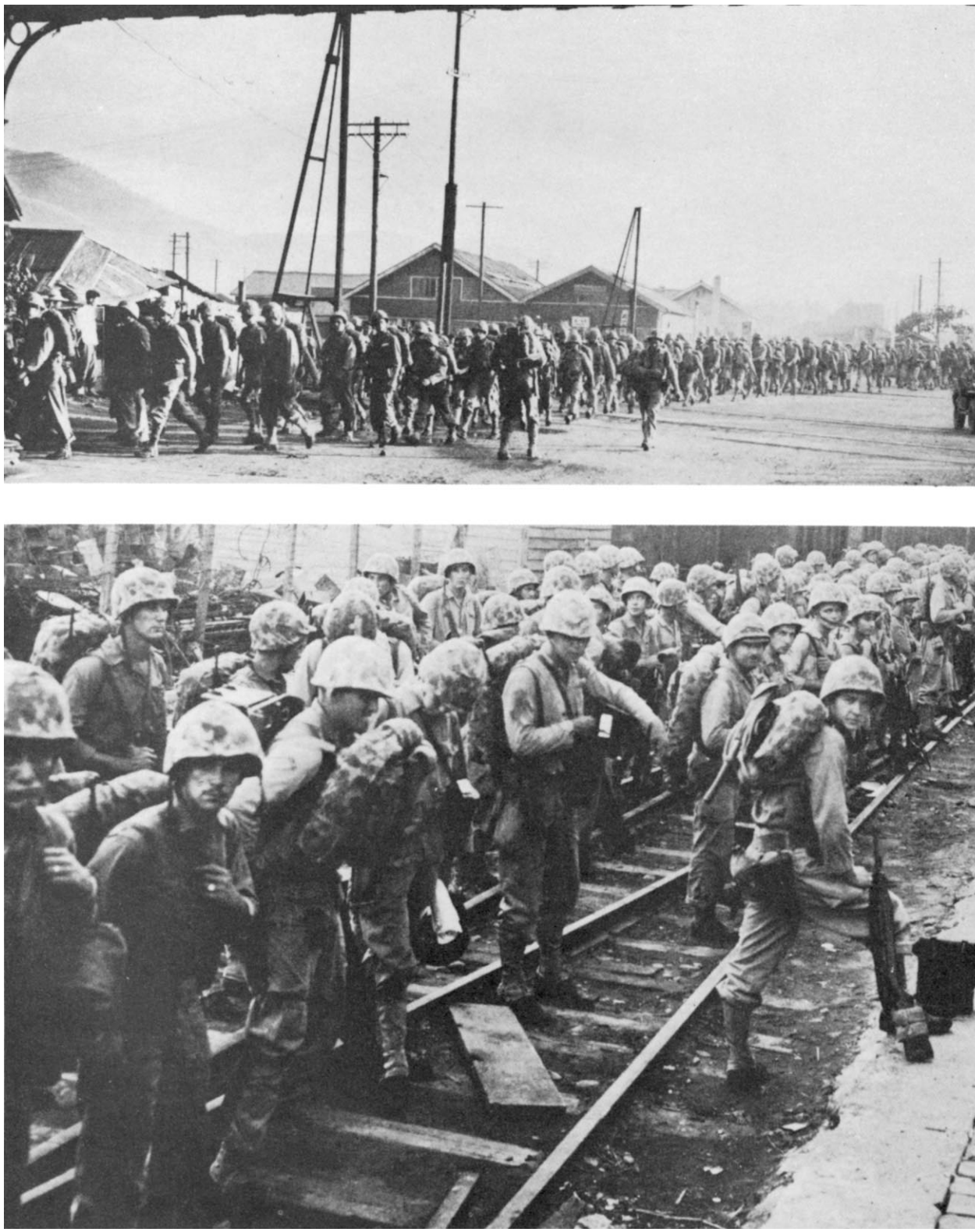
Cavalry Division and the ROK 1st Division fell back for a last-ditch stand at Taegu. To help defend Taegu, the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade, commanded by Brigadier Basil A. Coad, raced into the fight. North Korean Marshal Choi Yong Kun's divisions drove hard for Taegu, but the blue and white flag of the United Nations continued to fly over the city. Between 4 and 11 September the enemy made important gains along the Naktong in some of the heaviest fighting of the Korean conflict. The U.N. forces blunted the drive on Taegu, however, and began to show slow progress of their own against strong enemy resistance.

On the southern front a communist offensive had jumped off after an unprecedented North Korean artillery barrage near Haman, midway between Chinju and Masan. There, two enemy divisions unleashed an attack against 25th Division positions, striking the dug-in Americans with tanks and waves of infantry. General Kean's men were in a precarious situation as their forward areas were swamped by the human-wave tactics of the enemy. Bloodstained Sobuk Ridge or "Battle Mountain" changed hands for the thirteenth time in less than a month. In other battles the North Koreans attacked across the Naktong River in the face of desperate countermeasures by the U.S. 2d Division and the 1st Marine Brigade. Using rifles, bayonets, and grenades, Army and Marine units fought to drive the invaders back into the river. Rain drenched South Korea, and the Naktong became a torrent which crippled enemy efforts to transport additional troops to the east bank. The smell of death hung over the Yongsan–Ch'angnyong sector as the North Koreans planned to cut the Taegu–Pusan railroad. The Americans gave ground and many small units were temporarily cut up or isolated, but the U.N. defense did not break.

Using his usual tactics of infiltration and flank attacks, the enemy had penetrated the outer U.N. positions where troops were thinly spread along the Nam and Naktong Rivers. The American forces counterattacked to break principal road blocks and restore communications with encircled units. Stories of incredible heroism, self-sacrifice, and calm indifference to danger are told of the actions which took place in the first two weeks of September. The simple bravery of many soldiers and marines who were killed in action contributed to the North Korean failure to drive the U.N. forces from the peninsula. Impressive enemy gains had been made along the U.N. perimeter, especially in the north, and General Walker still had to shuttle his units from one critical area to another, but a strong beachhead remained under the control of the U.N. army. The defenders, moreover, had demonstrated their ability to contain and beat off powerful North Korean attacks, and the possibility of an Eighth Army counteroffensive daily grew more feasible as the communist offensive ground to a halt.

ROK'S PROCEED TO NEW POSITIONS after a general reorganization of their forces. By 1 August Andong, Hamch'ang, and Sangju had been abandoned to the enemy; fighting in the Yongdok, Chirye, and Taegu areas continued.

U.S. TROOPS PREPARING TO MOVE from a port area. The vehicle in foreground is a $^{3}/_{4}$-ton 4x4 weapons carrier; at right are 2 $^{1}/_{2}$-ton cargo trucks. Throughout August attempts were made to consolidate positions along the Naktong River line.



U.S. MARINES IN PUSAN, 2 August. Marching through the streets of Pusan after debarking (top) and a few hours later at a railroad station awaiting orders for movement northward (bottom).

PERSHING MEDIUM TANKS M26, made secure on flatcars. U.S. units abandoned Kumch'on as ROK forces, with supporting U.S. artillery and naval gunfire, recaptured Yongdok on 2 August.

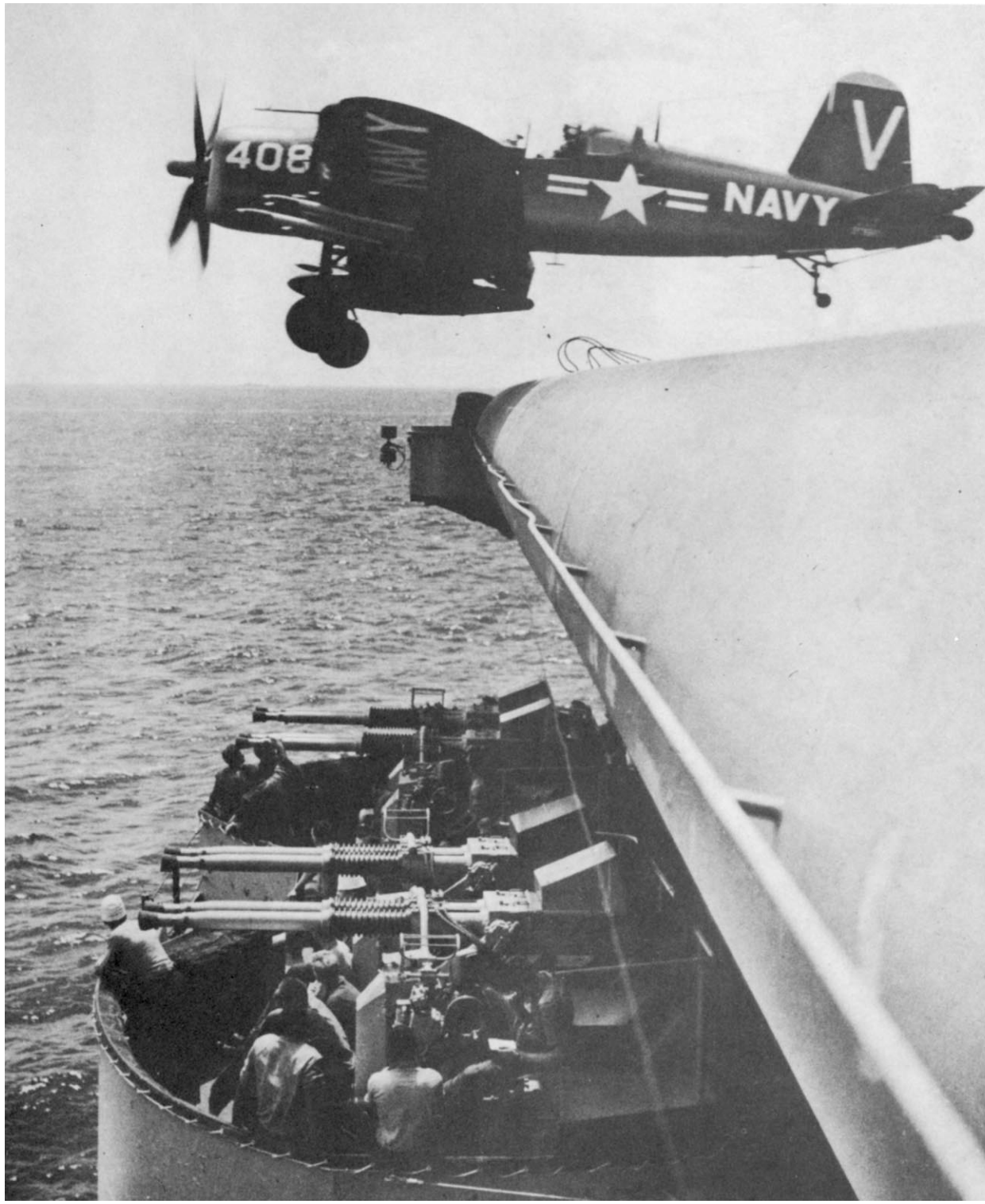
PERSHING MEDIUM TANKS M26 in position on the outskirts of a burned-out village (top); Sherman medium tank M4A3 with horizontal volute springs,

mounts a 76-mm. gun with muzzle brake (bottom left); and Sherman medium tank M4A1 with a dozer attachment (bottom right).

HIGHWAY BRIDGE AND RAILROAD BRIDGE (left and right, respectively) over the Naktong River near Waegan, destroyed by Americans after their withdrawal (top); artillerymen building a barricade around a 105mm. howitzer M2A1 (bottom).

TWO SOLDIERS SPLICING A COMMUNICATIONS LINE to a forward observation post, 4 August. Man on left has a bayonet knife M4 fastened to his belt. On 3–4 August U.N. units dug in to establish a defense along the Naktong River.

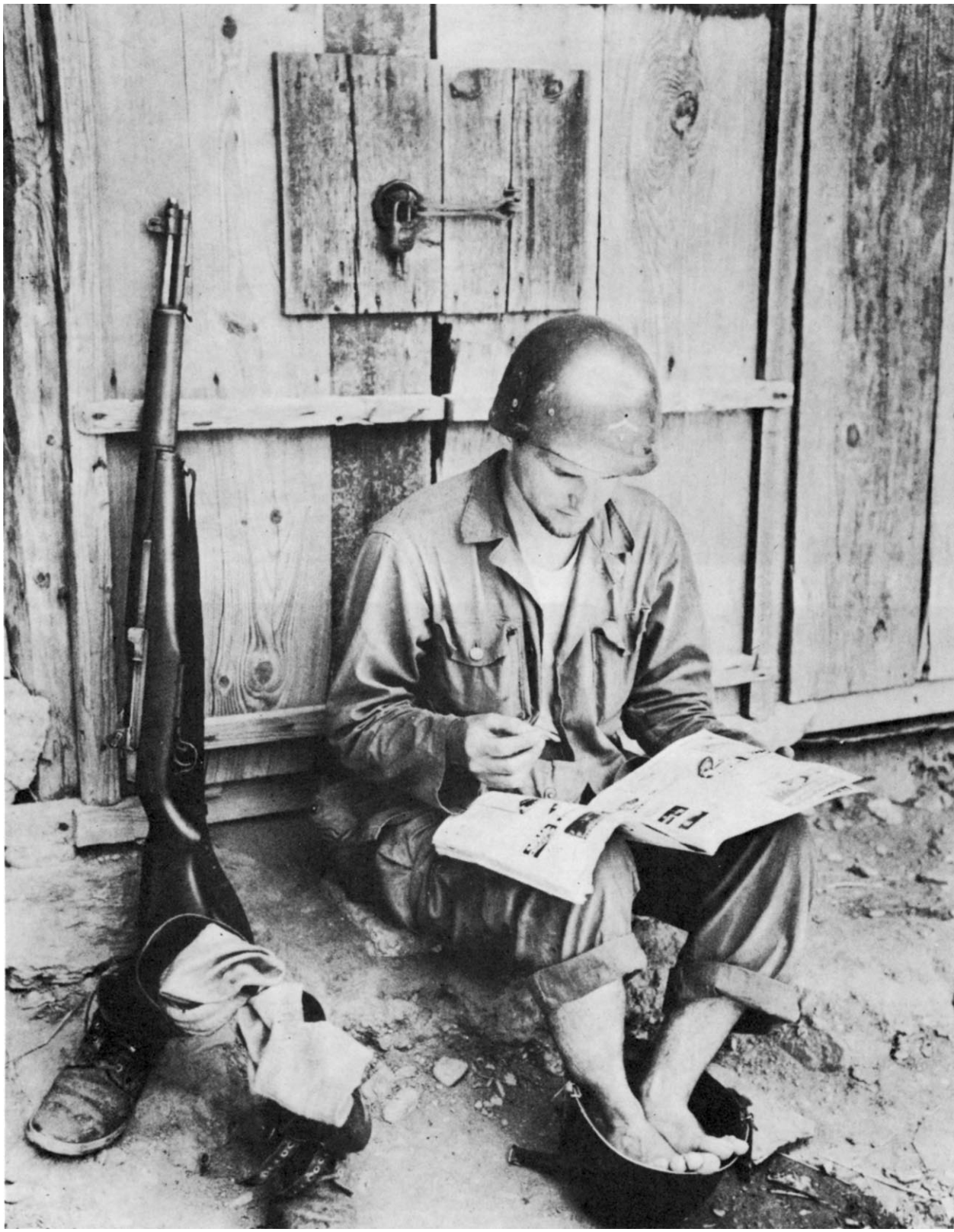
SIKORSKY HELICOPTER R–5 TAKING OFF from the deck of a carrier operating off the coast of Korea. Helicopters, with a two-man crew, were kept in the air during naval operations in case it was necessary to effect a speedy air-sea rescue (top), Navy Panther jet receiving a maintenance check on the flight deck of a U.S. aircraft carrier (bottom).



VOUGHT F4U CORSAIR SINGLE-SEAT FIGHTER leaving the deck of a U.S. carrier; note rockets under wing of craft. On 4–5 August, Navy planes attacked targets in the Suwon–Seoul area and provided support for troops fighting in the Chinju area. B–29's, B–26's, and fighter planes were active at this time, attacking the Seoul marshalling yards and enemy shipping, as well as rendering support to ground troops.

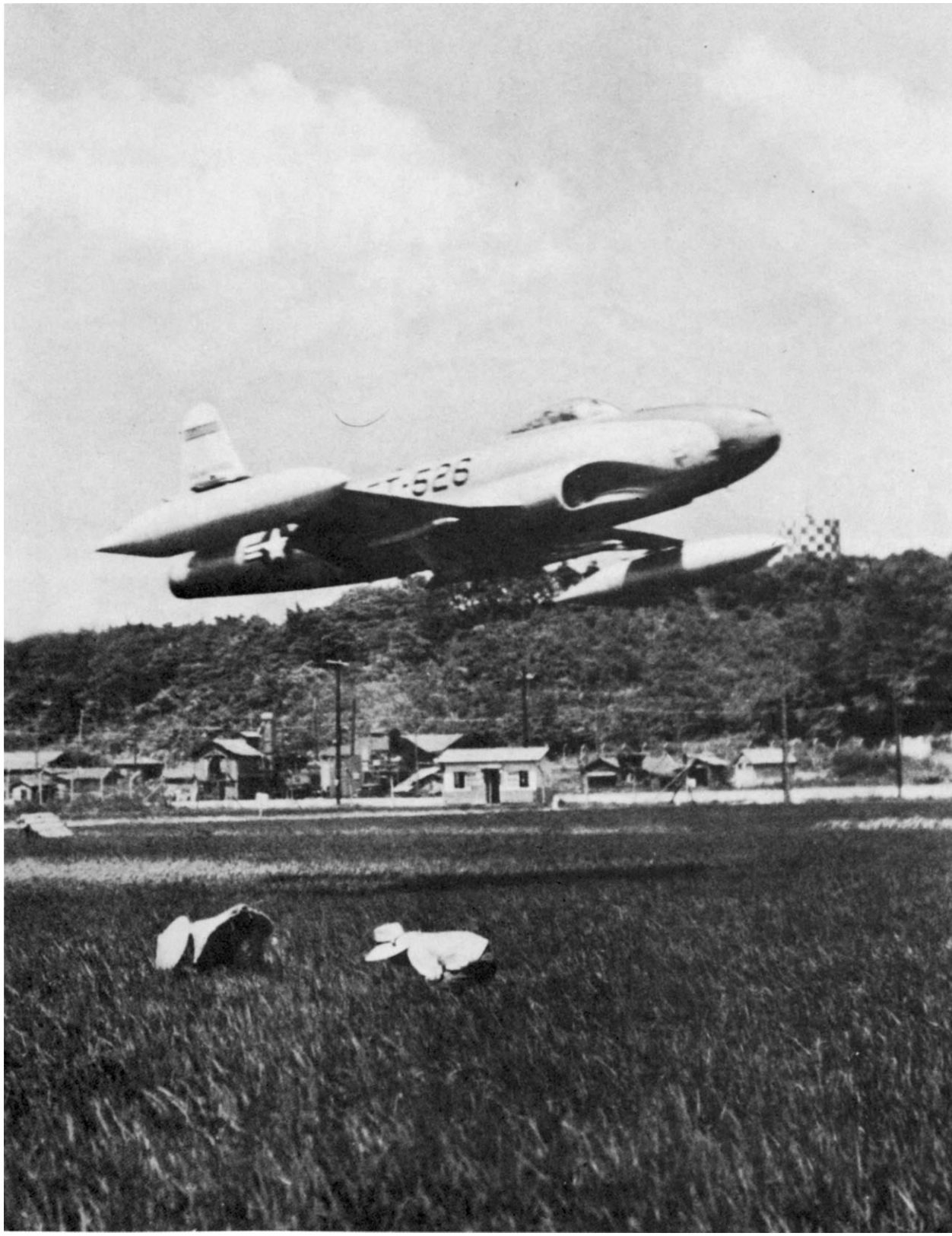
TWO AMERICAN SOLDIERS with a North Korean prisoner of war pose for a picture, 5 August. Small enemy patrols crossing the Naktong River were quickly wiped out or captured. Four of the five enemy tanks, discovered at the river bank near Waegwan on this day, were knocked out by air attack and artillery fire.

SOLDIERS BUILDING A SHELTER FOR A SWITCHBOARD (top); two men in a vehicle maintain radio contact for artillery units which are dug in on the main line of resistance, 5 August (bottom).

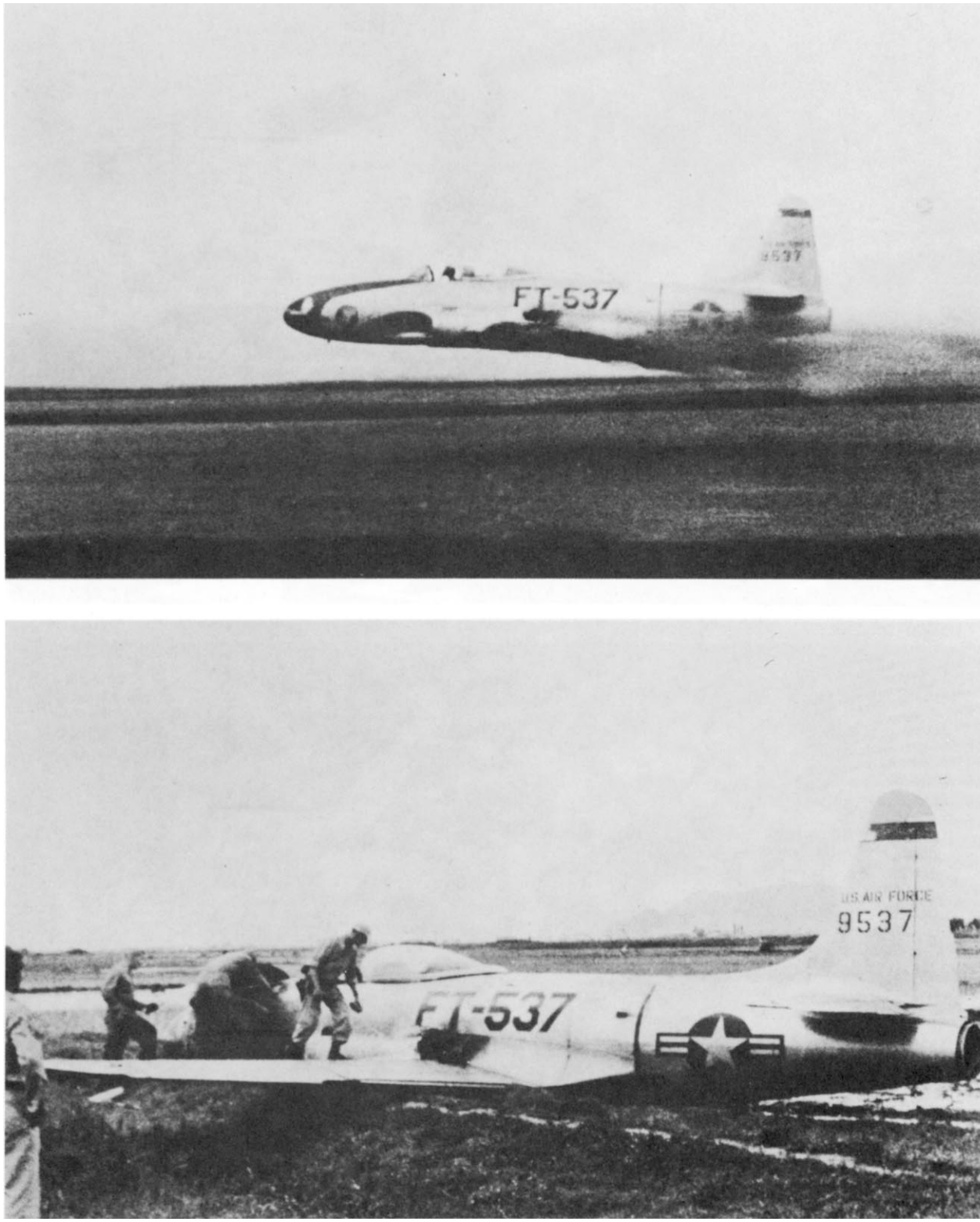


VERSATILE U.S. HELMET used as a foot bath by a foot-weary soldier. His rifle is a .30-caliber M1.

105-MM. HOWITZER M2A1 AND 4.2-INCH M2 CHEMICAL MORTAR (top and bottom) returning enemy fire on 6 August. Note shelters built by the troops with heavy logs, rice straw, and matting. The enemy, steadily building up strength for the attack on the Naktong River line, continued heavy pressure on ROK units south of Andong, established a small bridgehead about five miles southwest of Ch'angnyong, and in the southwest sector threatened U.N. positions near Chinju.



LOCKHEED F–80 SHOOTING STAR, based in Japan, leaving on a mission against the North Koreans, passes over Japanese workers in a rice paddy.



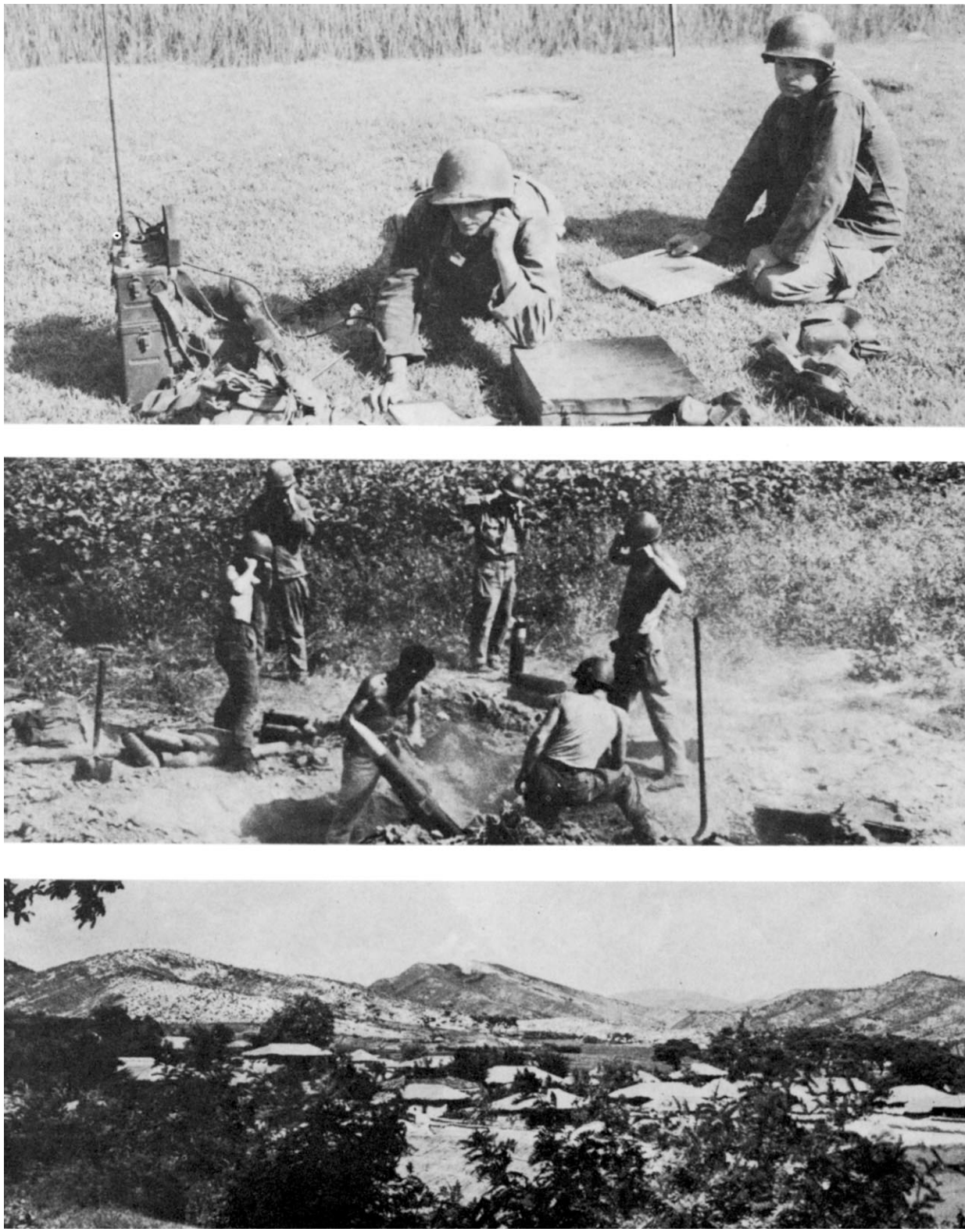
DAMAGED F–80 RETURNS SAFELY TO BASE IN KOREA. The ship (top) bounces into the air after making a forced belly landing; the same plane from which the pilot walked away unhurt after it came to a stop (bottom). The landing gear had been shot off. Note the large hole in the fuselage below the letters "FT."

F–51 RECEIVES A LOAD OF FRAGMENTATION BOMBS for its next mission (top); pile of empty .50-caliber ammunition boxes accumulated after loading two jet fighter planes with enough ammunition for two days of fighting (bottom).

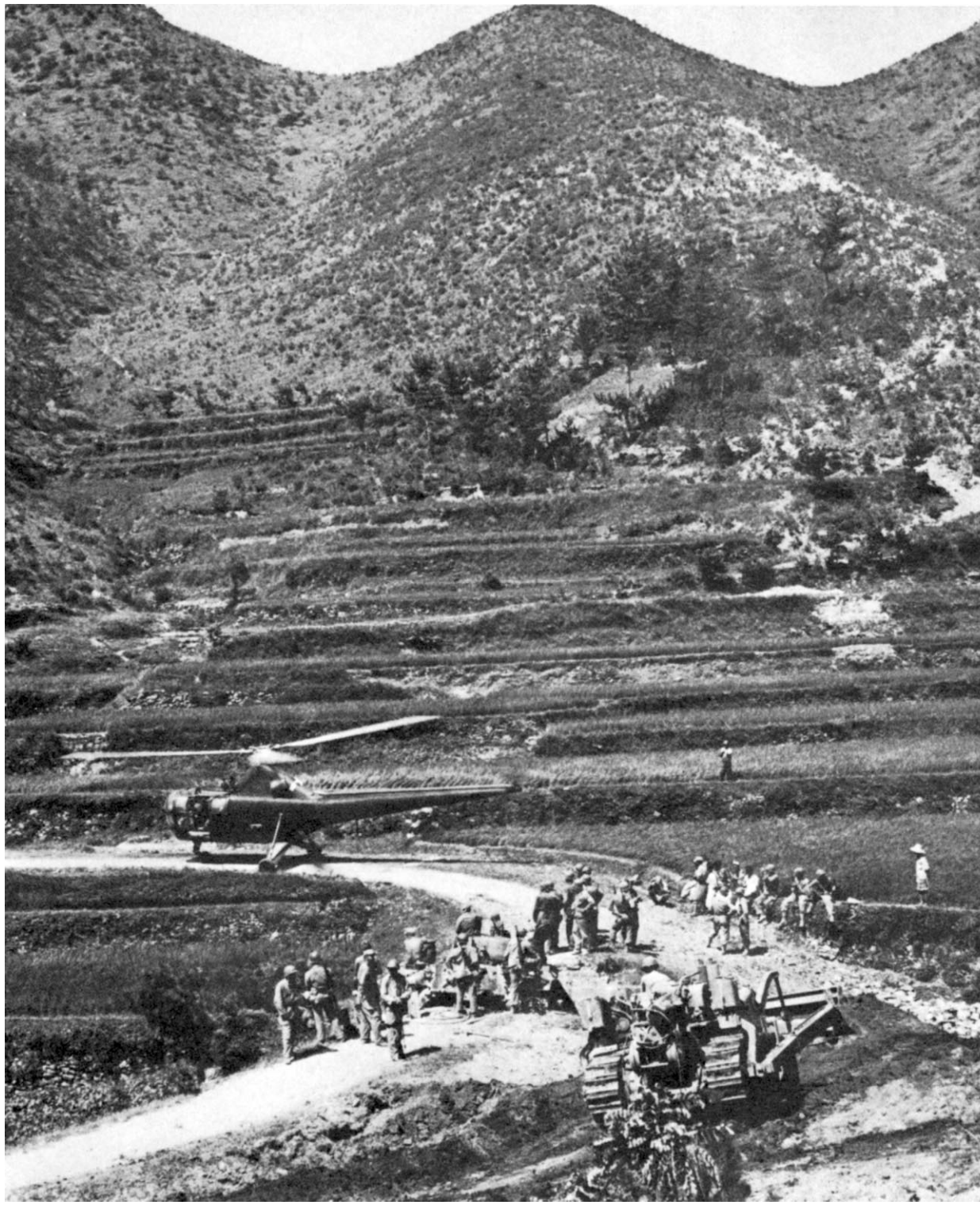
LOADING .50-CALIBER AMMUNITION for machine guns of an F–80 jet fighter. On 7 August enemy units crossed the Naktong River near Waegwan; others drove south from Yonggi-dong against U.N. forces.

CHOW FOR B–29 CREWS. In-flight lunches of roast beef sandwiches prepared by cooks (top); afternoon snacks served to the men returning from a mission (bottom). About seventy B–29's struck at North Korean targets with 625 tons of bombs on 10 August. The main targets were the oil refinery at Wonsan, railroads, and bridges.

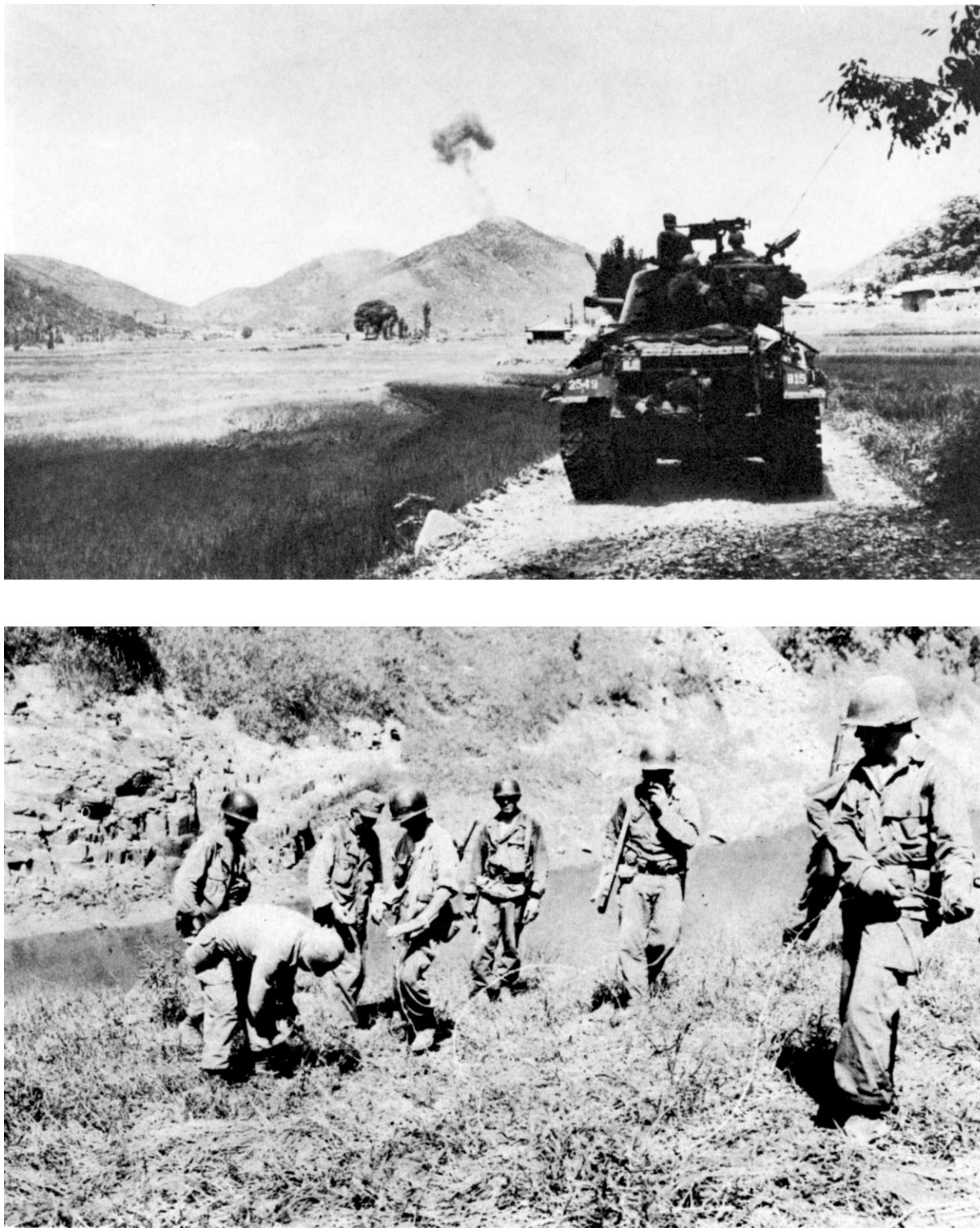
INFANTRYMAN RELAXES, reading the latest news available while having lunch, 9 August.



RADIO SCR 300 (top) used to direct the fire of 4.2-inch M2 chemical mortar (center) on 10 August. For two days the hills (background bottom) were subjected to mortar fire in an attempt to dislodge the enemy from his positions.

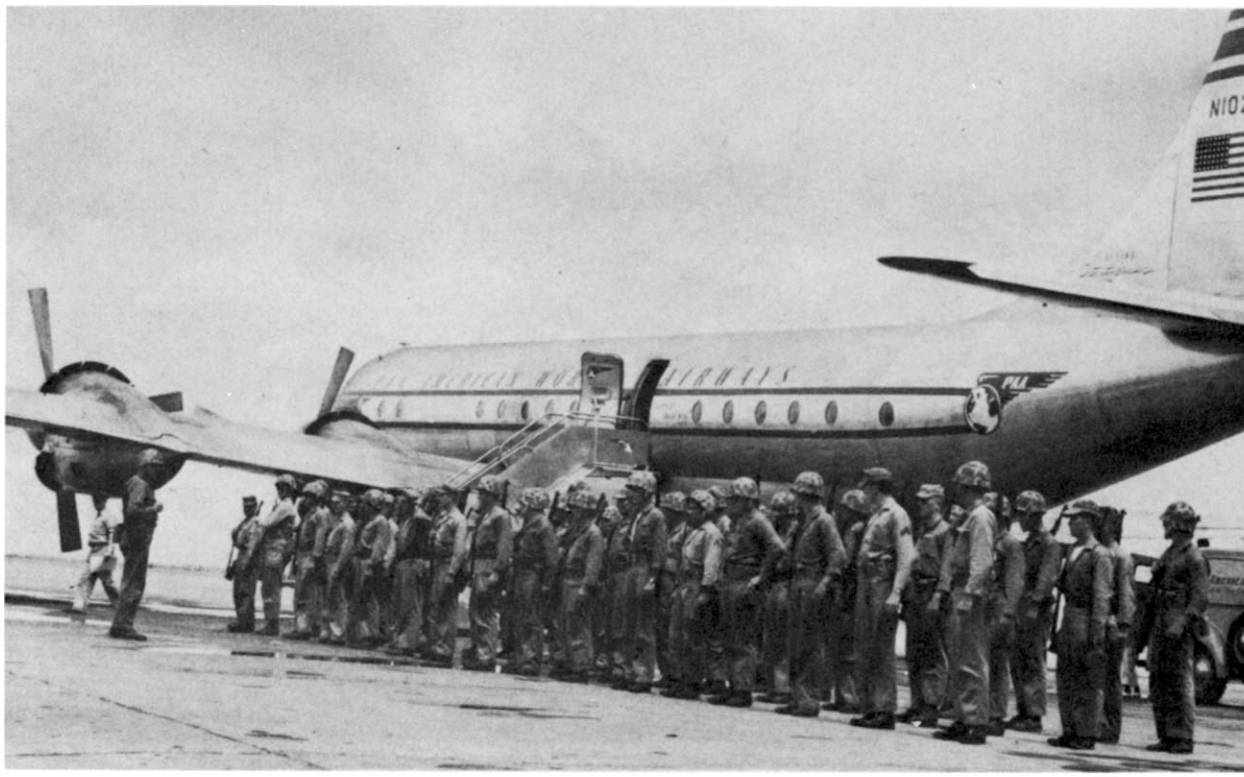


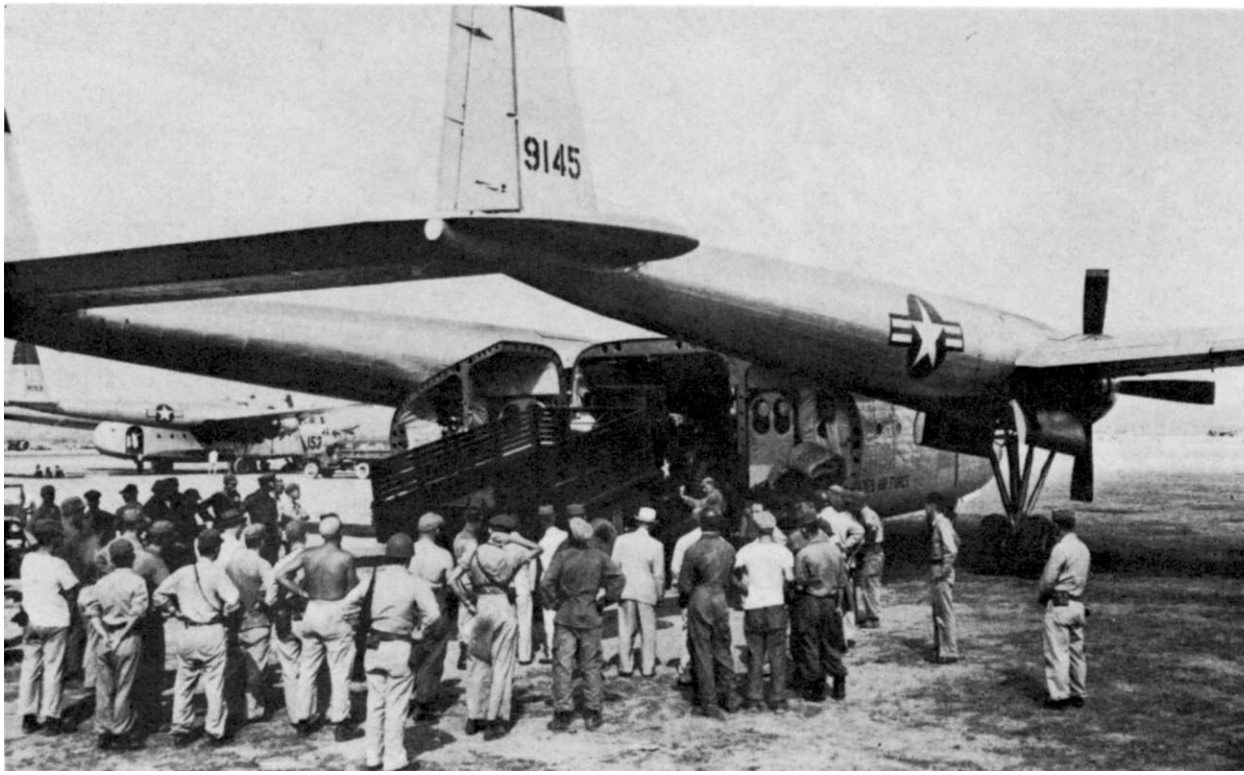
AN ATTEMPT TO RETRIEVE A MEDIUM TANK which is embedded in a hole in a road. Helicopter in the background is preparing to take off. By 10 August the North Koreans had reinforced their bridgehead southwest of Ch'angnyong despite a counterattack by Americans; in the Waegwan area enemy bridgeheads were destroyed, while on the east coast the North Koreans threatened P'ohang-dong.



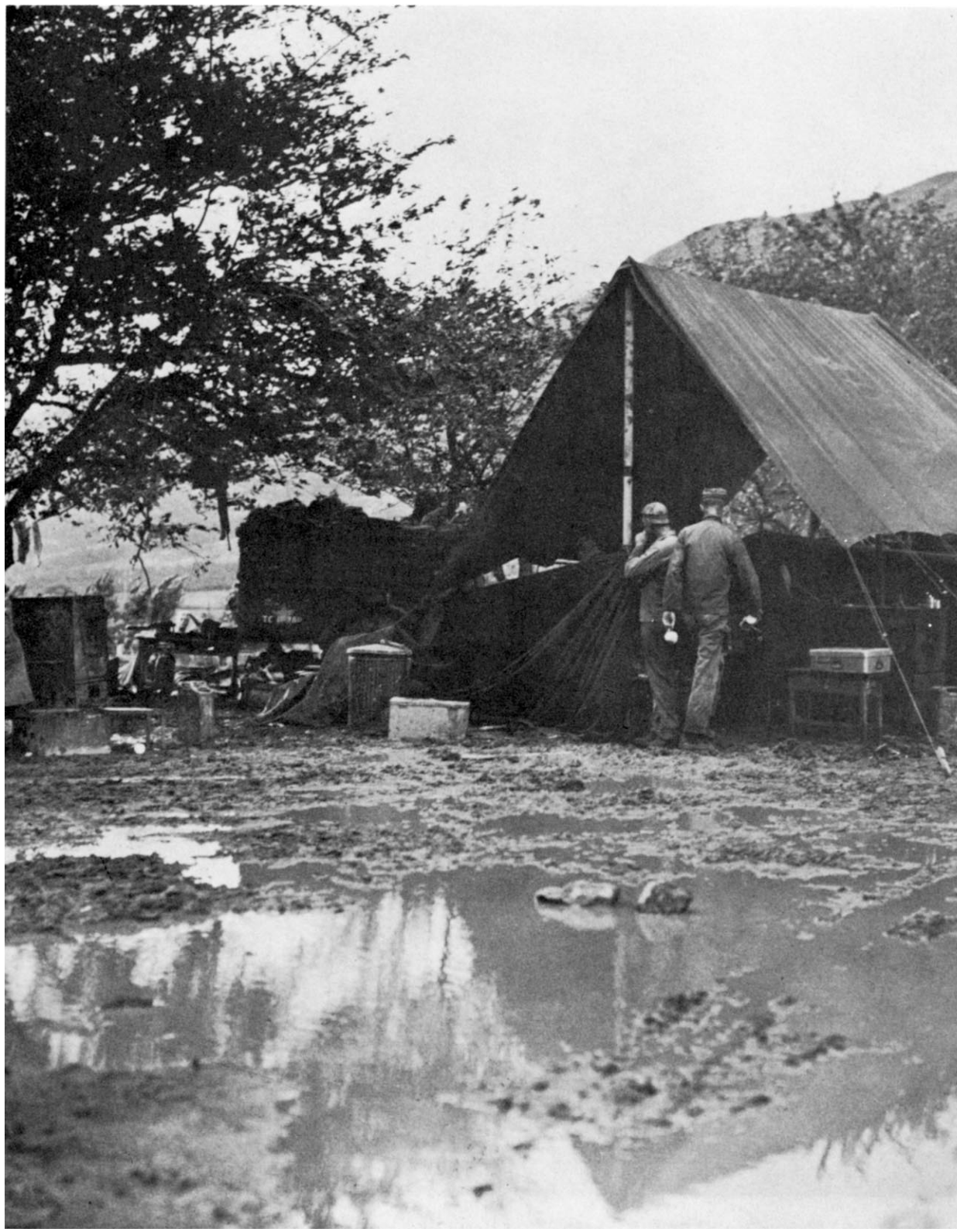
SHERMAN MEDIUM TANK M4A3 fires near a North Korean-held village (top); infantrymen set up a barbed-wire entanglement to help delay enemy progress (bottom). The western front appeared fairly stable on 11 August despite enemy efforts to establish new bridgeheads.

DESTROYED ENEMY SELF-PROPELLED GUN (top); infantrymen seem amused as they stand guard over a prisoner of war who nonchalantly has a smoke as he waits to be interrogated, 11 August (bottom). In the east communist troops entered P'ohang-dong and made a drive toward the airfield near the town.





MARINE REINFORCEMENTS EN ROUTE TO KOREA line up before boarding a plane for the last lap of the journey (top); 2 $^{1}/_{2}$-ton truck loaded into a giant Fairchild C–119 cargo ship. On 12 August the first trucks were airlifted into Korea.

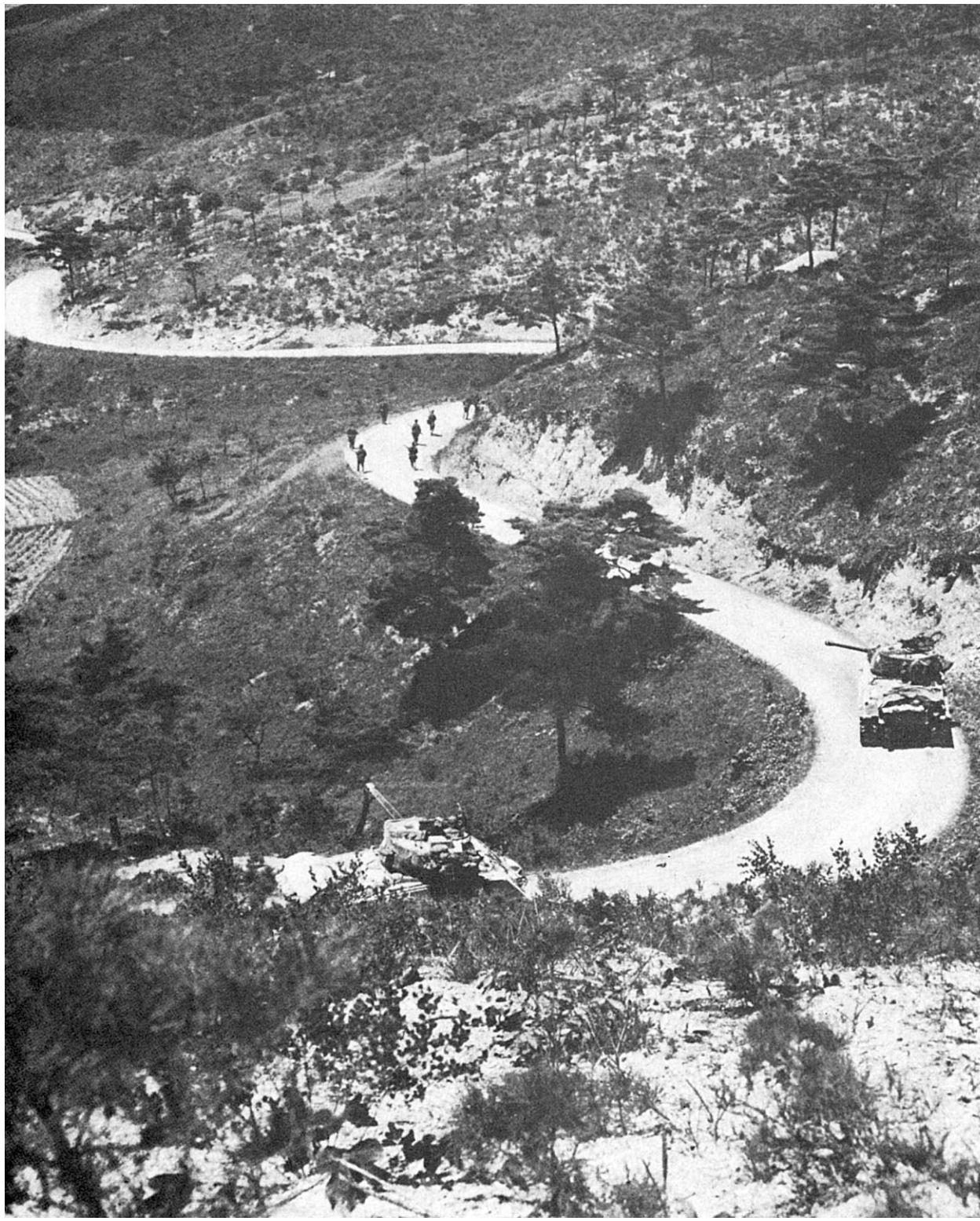


FIELD KITCHEN operating despite inclement weather. Whenever possible, combat troops received hot food, often prepared under great difficulties.

STRAFING ATTACK BY F–80 JET FIGHTERS on a small Korean town housing enemy troops and vehicles. Smoke in center and right background registers hits; small vehicle in foreground on road is burning from a direct hit. Note the terraced hillsides. Bomb craters are from previous air attacks.

TERRAIN NEAR KUMCH'ON (top); two knocked-out enemy tanks on highway leading from Kumch'on to Yongdong (bottom). Daily, aircraft flew both strategic and tactical missions in support of U.N. forces.

U.S. TROOPS MOVING UP, pass knocked-out enemy tanks. Several of the men carry 3.5-inch rocket launchers M20. The man in right foreground carries rockets on his back for the launchers. South Korean litter bearers, left, are removing a casualty to the rear area.



INFANTRYMEN SCOUT ALONG A HIGHWAY as Sherman medium tanks M4 wait around the bend, 14 August. On 13–14 August the U.N. army was greatly outnumbered by the enemy who faced them across the Naktong River. Planes were evacuated from P'ohang-dong airstrip because of constant enemy artillery fire.

BIVOUAC AREA, 16 August. Note both 3.5-inch and 2.36-inch rocket launchers on

right. Weapon, left foreground, is a 4.2-inch M2 chemical mortar.

TANKS FIRING AT ENEMY POSITIONS NEAR YONGSAN, 18 August. Tank in foreground is a medium M4A3 mounting a 105-mm. howitzer and has a dozer attachment. Tank in background is a medium M26 mounting a 90-mm. gun M3 (top). Tractor, earth-moving crawler, diesel-driven, clears field for light aircraft airstrip (bottom).

MOTOR CARRIAGE M19 mounting twin 40-mm. guns (top) and motor carriage, combination gun M15A1 (bottom) prepare to move forward near Yongsan. These are primarily designed as antiaircraft weapons. Note .30-caliber carbine on door of motor carriage in bottom picture.

HILLSIDE POSITIONS, 19 August. Note the use of camouflaged shelter halves over foxholes. Several of the men seem to be on the alert for enemy activity. The Naktong River, forming a natural defense between the U.N. and North Korean forces, can be seen in the background.

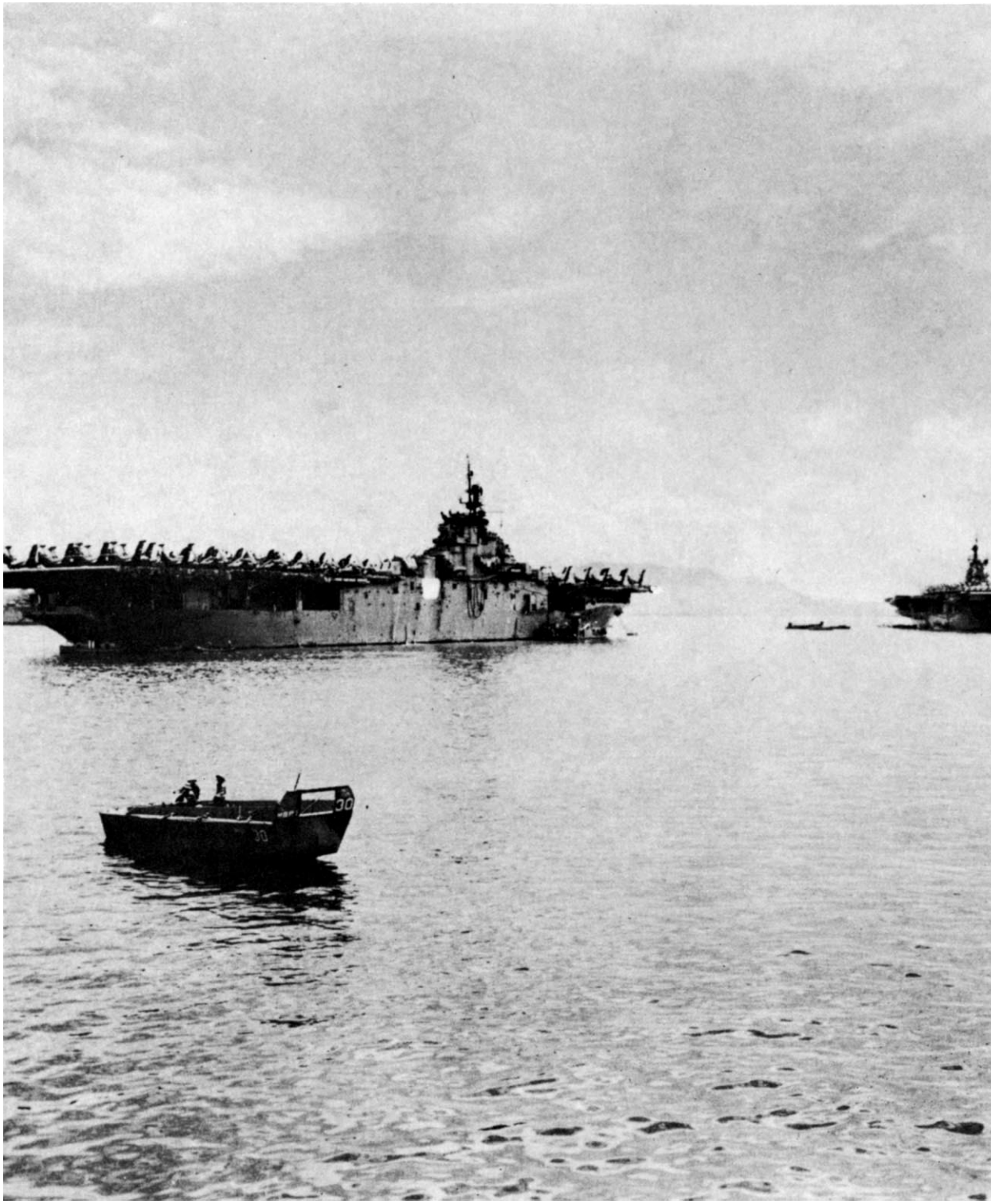
PATROL MOVES FROM THE HILLSIDE AREA, 19 August. On 18–19 August the U.N. situation improved as ROK forces regained P'ohang-don and Kigye; U.S. forces defeated the enemy west of Yongsan and repulsed enemy attempts to penetrate U.S. defenses on the left flank.

P'OHANG-DONG two days after ROK units regained the town from the North

Koreans. Note the rough, irregular mass of steep-sided mountains.

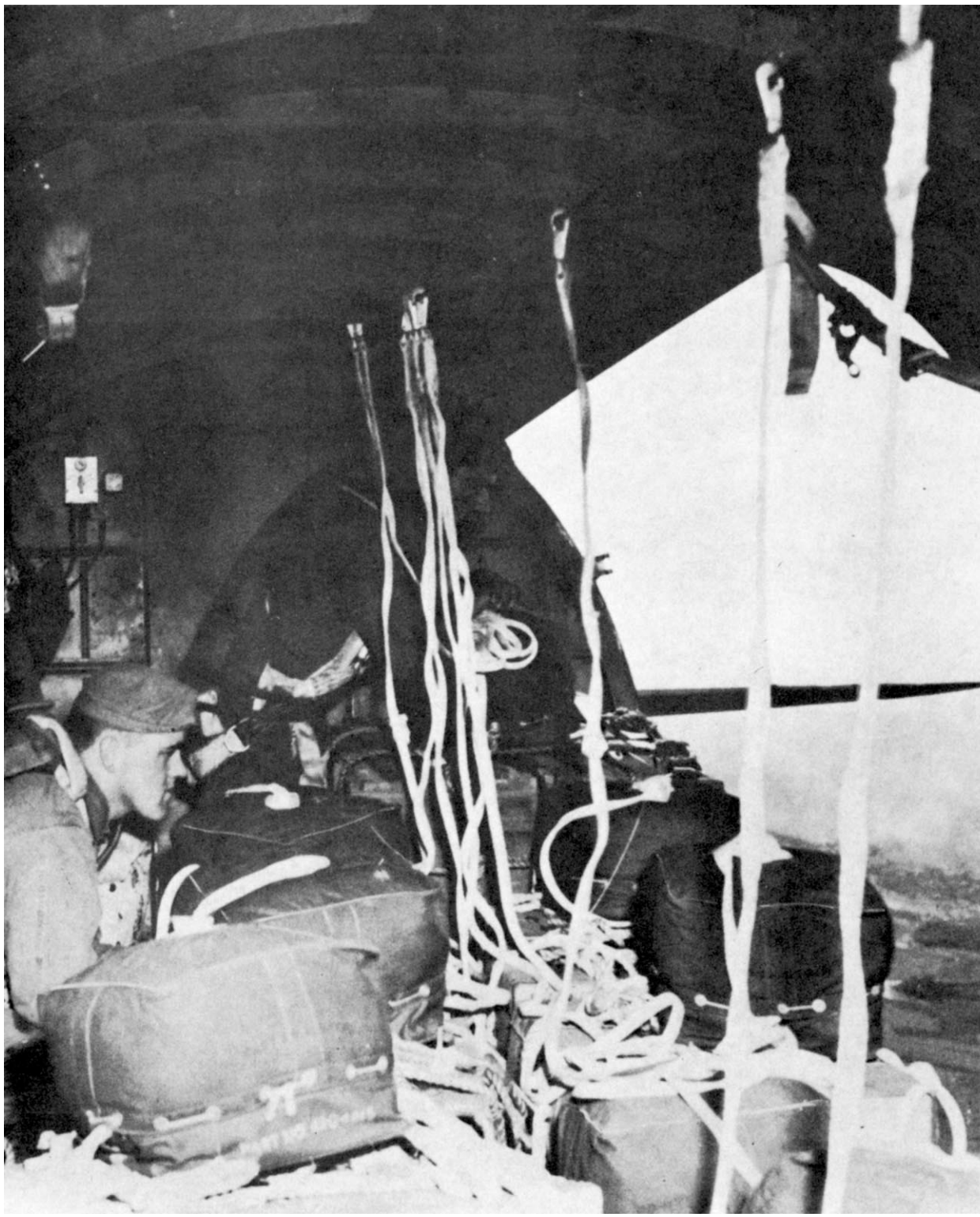
TWO U.N. SOLDIERS take time out for coffee (top); faces seem to brighten as these weary marines go through the chow line (bottom). By 23 August U.N. forces were fighting bitterly to hold the defense perimeter. Enemy pressure diminished west of Masan and north of Taegu, but increased along the east coast.

SWITCHBOARD IN OPERATION (top). Infantryman attaches a battery to a sniperscope M2 in preparation for use by U.S. troops in night fighting; rifle is a U.S. carbine .30-caliber M1 (bottom).



AIRCRAFT CARRIERS of the U.S. Navy *Essex* class, anchored at a naval base in Japan F–80's can be seen on the deck of the carrier at left; landing craft in foreground is an LCVP. Carrier-based aircraft continued to support U.N. troops. On 24 August villages east of Hyopch'on, enemy positions on Sobuk Ridge, and targets behind the enemy were hit.

USS *TOLEDO*, heavy cruiser, fires its 8-inch guns of No. 3 turret at North Korean military targets on the east coast. On 25 August fire from U.S. naval ships severely damaged a rail bridge and more than 250 boxcars, most of them loaded, at Songjin on the northeast coast. The Navy also gave close support to ROK troops who were attempting to stop a communist counterattack north of P'ohang-dong.



INTERIOR OF A TRANSPORT PLANE where U.S. troop-carrier personnel prepare to drop much-needed ammunition and supplies to part of the U.N. forces who were isolated and encircled by the North Koreans. The smoke of battle can be seen oar of the transport.

SUPPLIES BEING DROPPED BY PARACHUTE over green rice paddies. Note location marker at the left, placed by isolated troops. The transport planes followed a hazardous route over enemy-held territory to drop essential ammunition, food, water, and other supplies.

AMERICAN TROOPS STOP FOR A BRIEF REST along a South Korean road. Tank in foreground is a Sherman medium M4A3 mounting a 76-mm. gun (top); men prepare to fire the 75mm. recoilless rifle T21, 25 August (bottom).

60-MM. MORTAR M2 FIRING at a North Korean position across the Naktong River. During the night of 26–27 August artillery fire stopped sixteen enemy boats from crossing the Naktong River west of Ch'angnyong. In the east ROK troops put up bitter resistance against enemy attempts to retake P'ohang-dong and Kigye.

AN INFANTRYMAN BEING COMFORTED, as a casualty tag is made out.

CHOW IN STYLE near the front lines, 28 August.

ENEMY TANK KNOCKED OUT NEAR WAEGWAN. On 27 August ROK troops were forced out of Kigye; in other areas, enemy attempts to penetrate U.N. defenses were repulsed.

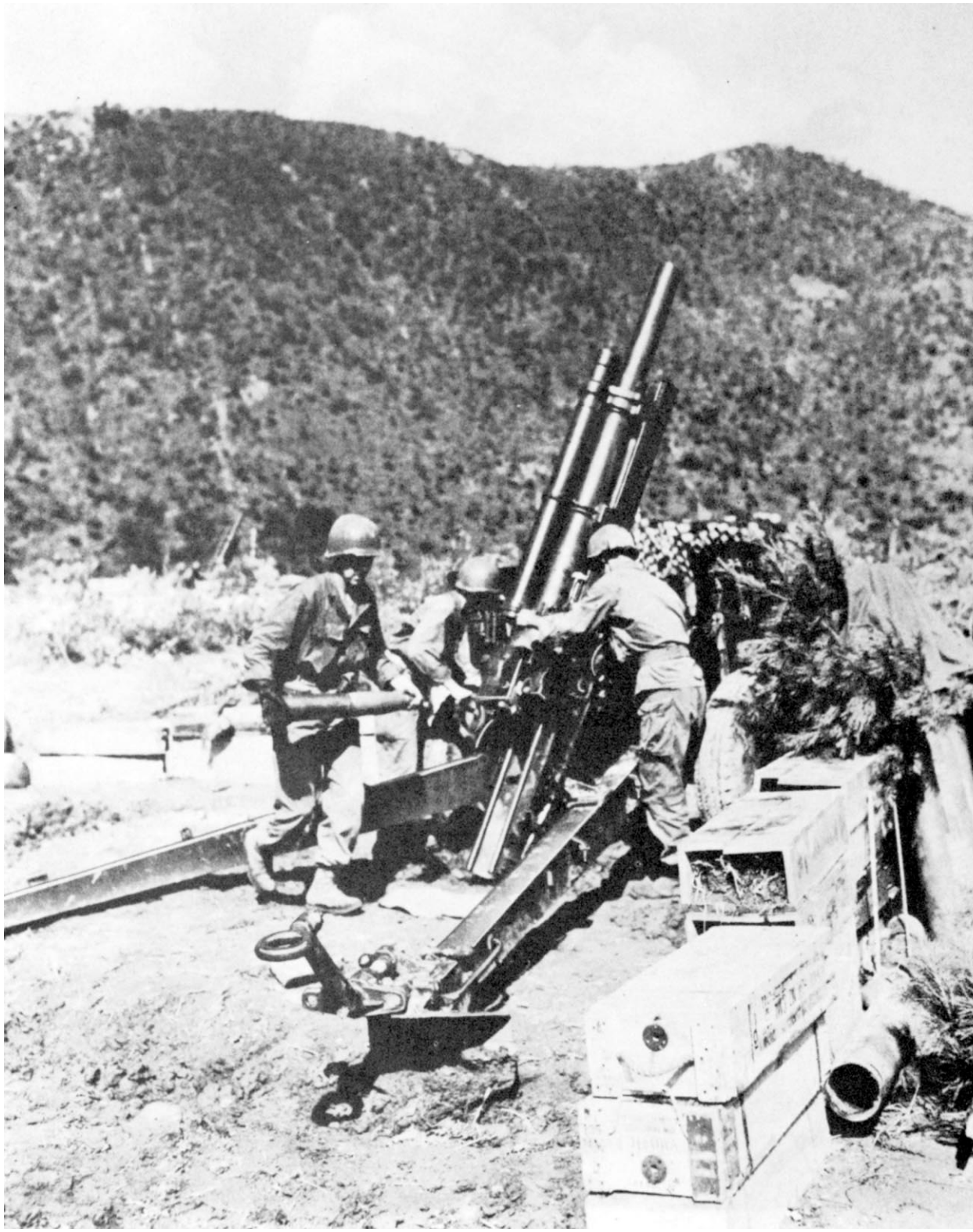
TANK CREW LOADS 76-MM. SHELLS into a Sherman medium tank M4A3 at an ordnance depot in a rear area where the tank has been repaired.

MEDICAL AID MEN CARRYING A WOUNDED SOLDIER. Machine gun to right of men in foxhole is a .30-caliber Browning M1919A4 flexible. In the south enemy units made several sharp attacks on 29 August, West of Yongsan the North Koreans made three unsuccessful attempts to cross the river in small boats during the night of 29–30 August, while on the east coast ROK troops retook Kigye. North Koreans recaptured the town again the next day.

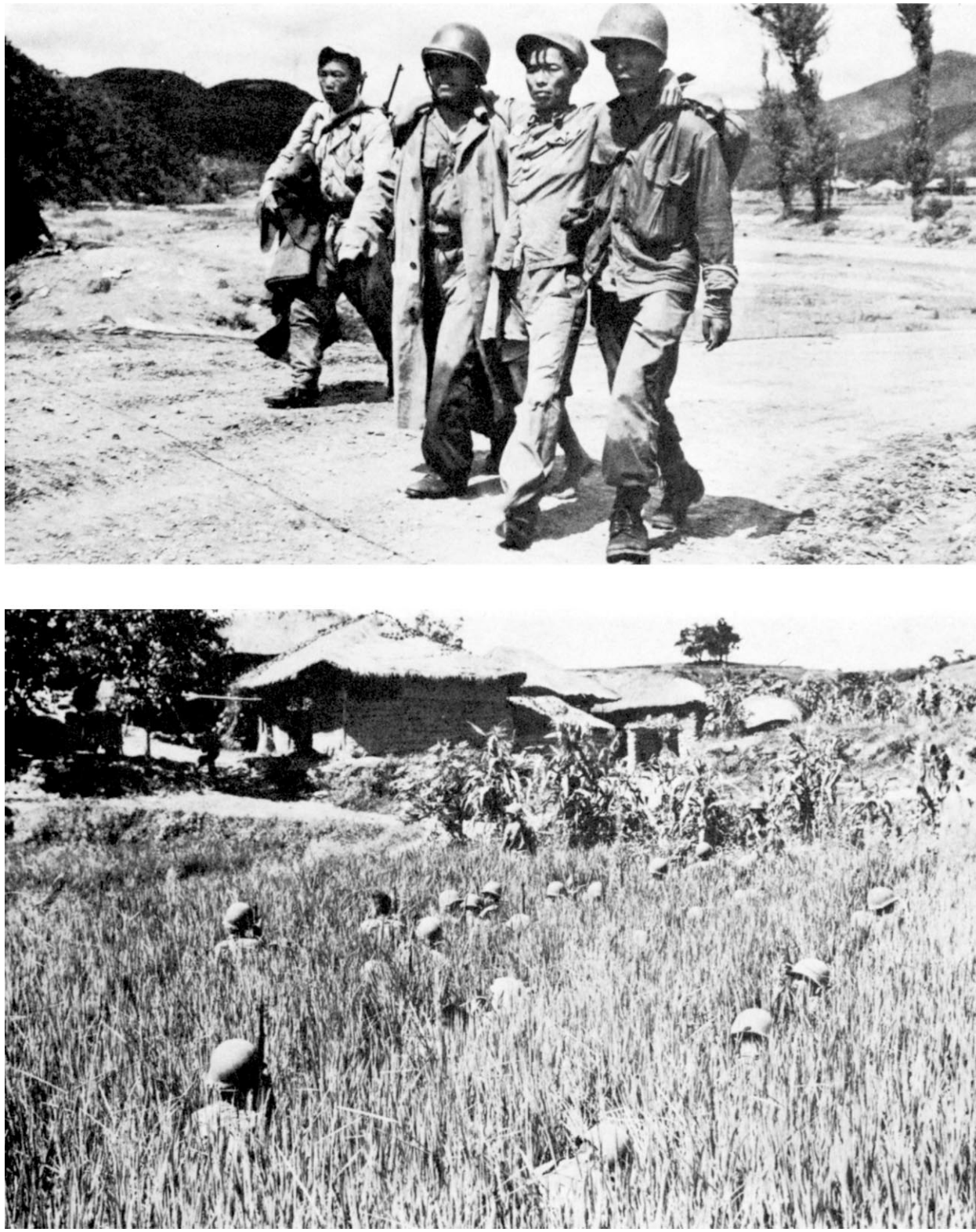
TRACTORS, TOWING RADAR EQUIPMENT, stop at their rendezvous area in a river bed (top); bivouac area in a river bed (bottom). Little or no concealment was used because of a temporary lull in the fighting in this area. (Top: 13-ton high-speed M5 tractors.)

COLUMN PASSES AN ENEMY TANK which is burning from a hit by a U.S. tank. Second man from left is carrying a portable flame thrower M2–2. This weapon can be loaded with liquid fuel or with a thickened fuel which has a longer range than the liquid and burns on the target for several minutes. The two outside tanks hold a total of four gallons of fuel; in the center is a pressure tank, charged with highly compressed air or nitrogen used to propel fuel from tanks through the gun to the target. Third man from left carries a 3.5-inch rocket launcher.

PERSHING MEDIUM TANK M26 in position to stop enemy attempts to cross the Naktong River. Throughout the month of August strategic targets in North Korea were constantly bombed and close air and naval support was given to the ground forces fighting in South Korea.



CREW PREPARES TO FIRE A 105-MM. HOWITZER M2A1. North Koreans crossed the Naktong at several points on the night of 31 August–1 September. Their main crossing was at the junction of the Nam and Naktong Rivers, west of Yongsan.



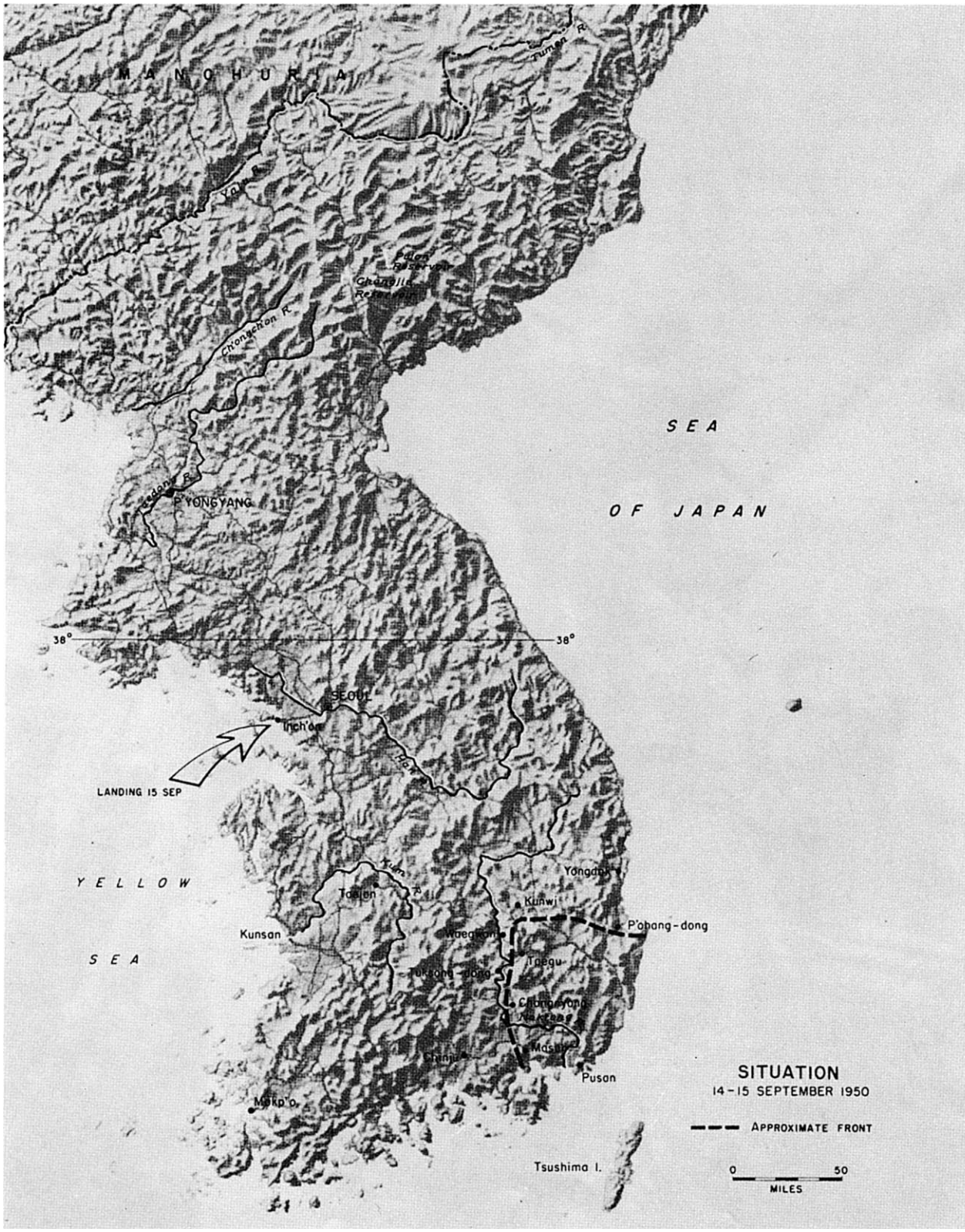
ROK MEDICAL AID MEN help one of their wounded back to an aid station (top); ROK troops, in a rice paddy, await orders to move forward (bottom). Note construction of native huts in background.

TREADWAY BRIDGE across the Naktong River constructed by U.S. engineers. Before the bridge was built, the only means of crossing the river was a small ferry operated by South Koreans (top). Artillery moving up over muddy ground into firing position near Taegu. Several tanks and men can be seen in the background (bottom).

HOT FOOD. Container keeps the food piping hot while being transported from field kitchen to combat troops. On 6 September enemy efforts to exploit the penetrations of the UN. positions were generally halted. U.N. forces pushed north from Kyongju and east from Yonch'on, repelled two attacks north of Taegu, and made a small gain in pressing the enemy back toward the Naktong River west of Yongsan.

HELICOPTER LANDING to pick up a wounded soldier for evacuation to a rear area hospital. Container on the side of the helicopter holds the casualty.

SOUTH KOREAN REFUGEE, with his belongings on his back, waits his turn to board a boat at Masan for evacuation to a small island near Pusan, 13 September.


MANCHURIA
Yalu R.
Chongchon R.
Taedong R.
P'YONGYANG
SEA
OF JAPAN
38°
38°
SEOUL
Inch'on
LANDING 15 SEP
Han R.
YELLOW
SEA
Kum R.
Taejon
Kunsan
Yongdok
Kunwi
P'ohang-dong
Taegu
Chinju
Masan
Pusan
Mokp'o
Tsushima I.
SITUATION
14-15 SEPTEMBER 1950
APPROXIMATE FRONT
0
50
MILES

MAP 4

CHAPTER IV

UNITED NATIONS COUNTEROFFENSIVE
15 SEPTEMBER–24 NOVEMBER

The North Korean regime, which had counted on a quick and overwhelming conquest, was given a stunning shock during the last two weeks of September: the U.S. X Corps swept into Inch'on from the Yellow Sea and the Eighth Army drove north from the Pusan perimeter. This gratifying turn of events, which led to the defeat of the North Korean divisions in South Korea, was the culmination of General MacArthur's plan to cling to southeast Korea until sufficient reinforcements were concentrated in the Far East to permit an amphibious landing behind enemy lines. While the U.N. army fought along the Naktong and Nam Rivers, the X Corps had been activated in Japan. Commanded by Maj. Gen. Edward M. Almond, the new organization in mid-August was given the mission of making an amphibious landing on Korea's west coast, and seizing Seoul and the communication routes over which enemy troops and supplies were traveling south.

General MacArthur personally had selected Inch'on for the landing since the difficult tides in that particular area might lead the enemy to expect an attack elsewhere—probably at Kunsan or Wonsan. Two U.S. divisions, the 1st Marine and 7th Infantry, were assigned to the X Corps. The 1st Marine Division was formed in Japan by Maj. Gen. Oliver P. Smith who withdrew the 1st Marine Brigade from the Pusan beachhead and added to it six battalions which came from the United States, the Mediterranean, and shipboard units. Maj. Gen,. David G. Barr filled out his U.S. 7th Infantry Division, on occupation duty in Japan since 1949, with approximately 8,000 integrated South Korean soldiers.

The necessary logistical build-up for the operation was effected in a remarkably short time and the main invasion fleet, commanded by Admiral Doyle, left Japan on 13 September. The actual landing, which took place on 15 September, had to coincide with the peak tides of that date in order to permit full maneuver of the fleet off Inch'on. Unless the troops succeeded in landing during the limited period of favorable tides, it would be necessary to postpone the operation until October when once again abnormally high tides would pour over the mud flats, giving the required depth.

U.N. planes provided strong tactical support for a sudden counteroffensive launched by the Eighth Army along the Naktong River. The battleship *Missouri*, rushed to Korea from Norfolk, Virginia, shelled communist port

installations on the east coast. At Inch'on, airplanes and naval guns pounded the harbor defenses with rockets, bombs, and shells in preparation for the Marine landing parties. While the more than 260 vessels of the U.N. invasion fleet maneuvered for position off Inch'on, the bombardment against the beach defenses ceased, and at 0630 on 15 September a battalion of the 5th Marine Regiment dashed from landing craft to the bomb-cratered shores of Wolmi, an island just offshore which had to be taken quickly since its guns commanded Inch'on. In less than two hours Wolmi was captured. In the afternoon, after the tide had ebbed and come in again, Marine assault waves clambered over the city's sea wall, overcame sporadic enemy resistance, and drove into the heart of Inch'on. The plan to invade Inch'on was carried out with brilliance by those who fought their way through the city. During the following days, the remainder of the 1st Marine Division disembarked and, together with four battalions of Korean marines, pressed toward Kimpo airfield, the Han River, and Seoul. The U.S. 7th Division was put ashore and a portion of its troops moved south in the general direction of Suwon. The X Corps, having the advantage of complete air and naval supremacy, acted swiftly to capture the Seoul–Suwon area in order to dislocate the logistical supply of North Korean forces in South Korea.

The Marine units had to fight for Kimpo, but they easily disposed of the communist defenders who, making one fanatical rush, were decimated by American fire power. Within three days after the Inch'on landing, U.N. planes were flying in and out of Kimpo airfield, the largest in Korea. On 18 September, the huge planes of FEAF Combat Cargo Command began an airlift to the field, augmenting the stream of supplies which the Navy was putting ashore at Inch'on. Commanded by Maj. Gen. William H. Tunner, who had directed traffic over the "Hump" in the China–Burma–India Theater during World War II and later supervised the Berlin airlift, the crews of Combat Cargo Command functioned smoothly and efficiently. Later, on return flights to Japan, the C–54's and C–119's were converted into hospital planes. A few days after the field was secured and the cargo aircraft were dropping down every few minutes with gasoline and ammunition, Col. Frank S. Bowen's 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team was flown into Kimpo airfield to strengthen U.N. defenses in that sector.

With Kimpo secured, ROK Marine and U.S. Marine and Army units pushed inland to liberate Seoul. Marine and naval aircraft concentrated on close support of the ground advance. At first the North Korean opposition was moderate and it was hoped that the capital might be taken with only slight damage, but the communists had turned the city into a fortress.

The capital is built around the base of South Mountain, the tree-covered slopes of which bristled with clusters of hidden enemy weapons. To attack Seoul, X Corps moved in from two directions. Some units inched over mountains from the northwest, while in the southwest others advanced through severe artillery fire to the industrial suburb of Yongdungp'o and to the banks of the Han River. The North Koreans had resolved to fight for the capital street by street and had concentrated strong fire power in and near it. Casualties among U.N. troops were heavy before they set foot in Seoul. Once the limits of the city had been won, the advancing troops fought their way through sand-bagged buildings and barbed-wired boulevards in the face of heavier mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire. On the outskirts of the city, the advance had been yard by yard; within the city proper, attacking troops moved ahead foot by foot. On 26 September General MacArthur announced that Seoul was again in friendly hands, but sharp engagements continued in the charred and ruined metropolis for several days. The enemy

defenders had been reinforced by the North Korean 9th Division, which had been fighting along the Pusan beachhead. However, Seoul was captured before other communist units could reach the area. Credited with the liberation of the republican capital were the U.S. 1st Marine Division, the ROK 17th Regiment, and elements of the U.S. 7th Infantry Division. On 29 September, at a ceremony in the blackened capitol building, General MacArthur welcomed President Rhee back to Seoul and turned over to him and his government the discharge of civil responsibilities.

With the capture of Seoul, the U.N. forces commanded the railroads and major highway supplying communist troops around the Pusan perimeter. Caught between the X Corps and the Eighth Army, and with dwindling sources of supply, the ultimate fate of the North Korean divisions could be foreseen.

As soon as the Marine Corps struck at Wolmi Island and Inch'on, the psychological warfare section of the U.S. Army began transmitting the invasion news throughout Korea by leaflets and radio broadcasts in an effort to impress upon the rank and file of the enemy the futility of further resistance and to assure them of the humane treatment they could expect as prisoners of war. Although it is difficult to judge the precise impact of psychological warfare upon the enemy, many North Korean prisoners reported that their decision to surrender had been influenced by the leaflets.

In conjunction with the amphibious assault at Inch'on, the Eighth Army initiated its successful movement to break out of the Pusan beachhead. General Walker's army of four corps began its important offensive on 16 September. Along the north side of the perimeter the ROK I and II Corps were in position. On the Taegu front, Maj. Gen. Frank W. Milburn commanded the U.S. I Corps, which included the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division, the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade, the U.S. 24th Division, and Maj. Gen. Paik Sun Yup's ROK 1st Division. Maj. Gen. John B. Coulter's U.S. IX Corps, along the Naktong, was composed of the U.S. 2d and 25th Divisions with attached ROK units.

Although the communist radio refrained from mentioning the Inch'on landing, the Eighth Army engaged the enemy all along the Pusan perimeter in order to prevent the diversion of substantial North Korean aid to the Seoul–Inch'on sector. At first, the X Corps' success at Inch'on did not have a noticeable effect upon the communists in southeast Korea. Both sides fought stubbornly and the Eighth Army's offensive to link up with the X Corps made only limited progress. By 20 September, nevertheless, U.N. forces were penetrating the communist defenses. The U.S. I Corps struggled to cross the Naktong River for a push up the Taegu–Kumch'on–Taejon railroad, while the IX Corps forced the enemy back in the Masan–Chinju area.

On the northern front four enemy divisions resisted fiercely, but within a few days they dropped back seventy miles under the slashing attacks of the ROK I and II Corps. Enemy losses in personnel and equipment were particularly high in this sector, and at Uisong, about eleven miles northeast of Kunwi, over a hundred tons of rice and supplies and most of the equipment of one North Korean division were captured. Between Taegu and Chinju the attack finally gathered momentum after a period of nearly a week in which the communists fought fanatically to retain their prepared positions. The 24th Division battled up the strongly defended rail line to Kumch'on. Farther to the south the 2d Division encountered stiff opposition before breaching the Naktong beyond Yongsan and driving west through Hyopch'on. At the southernmost extremity of the U.N. positions, the 25th Division again fought over "Battle Mountain" and, crossing the Nam River, advanced into the vicinity of Chinju.

In an effort to elude the trap which X Corps and Eighth Army were closing, many communist soldiers changed into civilian clothes to remain dangerous and elusive foes behind the U.N. lines. Others managed to escape north to the comparative safety afforded them be yond the 38th parallel. A considerable number, however, remained with their units and fought with conspicuous courage.

Meanwhile, units from the Inch'on and Pusan beachheads sought to effect a full encirclement of the enemy by accomplishing a junction of X Corps and Eighth Army. The distance between the two organizations was reduced daily and through the ever-narrowing gap the enemy fled northward. From Inch'on, the U.S. 7th Division advanced south through Suwon. To link the Eighth Army with the X Corps, a small force of tanks and jeeps of the 1st Cavalry Division's 70th Tank Battalion was ordered to break through to the northwest. From Poun, nineteen miles northeast of Taejon, the detachment sped through Ch'ongju, Ipch'on-ni, and Ch'onan. Racing past enemy positions and frequently subjected to heavy fire, it joined forward elements of the 7th Division, a short distance south of Suwon, late on the night of 26 September. The mission had been accomplished in eleven hours. The link-up of the two forces did not imply that a solid barrier of U.N. troops stretched across South Korea from Inch'on to Pusan. Only in the last days of September did organized enemy resistance collapse in the Eighth Army sector.

By the end of September the enemy had relinquished effective control of nearly all territory south of the 37th parallel. The retreat of the North Korean Army had degenerated gradually into a rout and the U.N. forces at the end of the month controlled a territory four times greater than they had had at the time of the Inch'on landings. While the ROK I Corps, with the support of British and U.S. naval gunfire, moved quickly up the east coast toward the 38th parallel, and the ROK II Corps edged north through central Korea, the U.S. I and IX Corps advanced across the peninsula from east to west overwhelming rear guard elements of the retreating enemy. North Korean regiments disintegrated as their communications broke down and escape routes were denied them. Arms and equipment were abandoned ; tanks, artillery, mortars, and small arms littered the highways and footpaths of South Korea as the communist army below the parallel ceased to exist as an organized force. Isolated remnants of six communist divisions, however, drifted into the mountains where their harassing activities made it necessary to divert the U.S. IX Corps from its principal mission in order to eliminate the remaining enemy operating in South Korea.

With many of its best troops either dead, captured, or in hiding, the North Korean regime deployed its remaining units for the defense of the territory north of the 38th parallel. Poised on the eastern end of the parallel was the ROK I Corps, waiting for orders to march over the artificial barrier and continue the pursuit up the east coast to capture the ports and industrial centers in that area of North Korea. On the opposite side of the peninsula, the Eighth Army streamed into northwestern South Korea. During the latter part of September the Eighth Army was reinforced by a battalion each of Philippine and Australian troops, and early in October the arrival in the Far East of the U.S. 3d Infantry Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Robert H. Soule, was announced.

The question of pursuing the North Korean forces across the 38th parallel now arose. Governments within the pale of Soviet Union influence obviously opposed sending a U.N. army into North Korea. The delegate from India to the United Nations also objected to the crossing for fear that Russia and China would thereby be tempted to intervene. The entire matter was handled with caution by the

United Nations at Lake Success, with some delegates suggesting that only South Korean forces pursue the North Koreans. The United States took the position that, if the North Korean Army were not completely destroyed and its war potential eliminated, the people of South Korea would live indefinitely beneath the threat of renewed communist aggression. Most of the U.N. delegations felt that General MacArthur had sufficient authority, under the 27 June 1950 Security Council resolution calling for restoration of international peace and security, to launch a campaign in North Korea. President Rhee, on 19 September, announced that with or without U.N. assistance, the ROK Army would continue its attack against the remnants of the North Korean divisions.

Before ordering the crossing of the parallel, General MacArthur called upon the enemy commander in chief to surrender unconditionally to avoid further shedding of blood and destruction of property. On the same day, 1 October, the ROK 3d Division pushed over the parallel and sped up the east coast. On 6 October the General Assembly of the United Nations voted implicit approval of the decision to make the crossings.

As the ROK I Corps, spearheaded by the ROK 3d Division, scattered enemy opposition on the east coast during its rapid drive to Wonsan, the U.S. 7th Division reached Kaesong and crossed the parallel above that city on 9 October. Led by the 1st Cavalry Division, the ROK, British Commonwealth, and American troops of the U.S. I Corps advanced astride the western railroad and main highway which linked Seoul and P'yongyang. Strong organized communist resistance was met by the 1st Cavalry Division as it proceeded toward Kumch'on, a little railroad town located a few miles north of the parallel. The ROK I Corps overran the port of Wonsan on 10 October, but across the peninsula the U.S. I Corps encountered resistance to its plan to capture the communist capital. The enemy displayed a marked determination to fight for the lines of communication leading into the city, placing the bulk of his remaining forces in the hills overlooking the routes north from Kaesong. The Eighth Army, which had relieved the X Corps in the Inch'on area on 7 October, fought through the enemy's deep defenses, but progress was slow. By mid-October the U.S. I Corps, leading the Eighth Army's attack on P'yongyang, had penetrated roughly twenty miles into North Korean territory. The speed of the advance was somewhat retarded by the complicated logistical problems related to the readying of the X Corps for an amphibious landing elsewhere in Korea.

The second half of October saw enemy resistance weakening and the U.N. rate of advance averaging ten miles a day over extremely rugged, mountainous terrain. Enemy troops surrendered by the thousands and by the end of the month about 135,000 North Koreans were prisoners of war. The tactics of the U.N. command involved not only the capture of important North Korean cities, but also the destruction of the remaining communist divisions before they could escape to an area in which the Chinese or Russians might provide desperately needed reinforcements and supplies. While the ROK II Corps spread through the mountains of central Korea, the ROK I Corps secured Wonsan in the east without great difficulty. The Capital Division then struck north toward the rich industrial area centering around Hamhung and Hungnam, while the ROK 3d Division turned west along the Wonsan–P'yongyang road. The U.N. navy ranged the east and west shore lines, shelling coastal installations and dispatching carrier-based planes to support the advancing ground forces. After fighting through the pillbox defenses which had guarded Kumch'on, General Gay's 1st Cavalry Division hastened its progress up the Seoul–P'yongyang railroad. Fighting alongside the Americans were the

British and Australians of the 27th Brigade. On General Gay's right flank was the fast moving ROK 1st Division, and far off on his left flank the U.S. 24th Division attacked across the parallel toward the ports southwest of P'yongyang. While the 24th Division drove to the south bank of the Taedong in the general vicinity of P'yongyang's port of Chinnamp'o, the 1st Cavalry and ROK 1st Divisions centered their attack on the capital city itself.

Exhorting his troops to defend P'yongyang to the last man, communist premier Kim Il Sung fled from the city and established a temporary capital at Sinuiju on the Yalu River. On 19 October the 1st Cavalry and ROK 1st Divisions entered the sprawling city of P'yongyang and found it lightly defended. Antisniper operations continued for a few days, but within forty-eight hours the second largest city of Korea was relatively secure and most of the enemy's prepared positions had been deserted or overrun. Communist troops streamed out of the city to the north. Soviet advisers and diplomats had fled, too, abandoning in their haste quantities of Russian food and wine, as well as a significant accumulation of posters, pictures, and busts of Stalin. American and ROK units crossed the Taedong River to bring the northern half of P'yongyang under U.N. control. The 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, complete with vehicles and howitzers, was flown north from Kimpo airfield and dropped on Sukch'on and Sunch'on, about thirty miles beyond the former communist capital, to snap tight the trap on the North Koreans who were pulling back from P'yongyang. By the last week in October the North Korean Army, for all practical purposes, had dissolved and its remnants had melted away toward the mountainous borderlands adjacent to Manchuria and the Soviet Union. The United Nations army moved forward virtually at will.

After landing at Inch'on and capturing Seoul and Suwon, the X Corps, which had been withdrawn from combat, was prepared for a second amphibious landing behind enemy lines at Wonsan, on the east coast of the peninsula. The ROK I Corps with its KMAG complement had made such rapid progress up the east coast, however, that Wonsan had fallen before the X Corps arrived at the port. The 1st Marine Division began an administrative landing at Wonsan on 26 October after waiting in the offshore waters for six days while U.N. naval forces cleared a channel through thousands of Russian mines which had been planted in the approaches to the harbor. Three days later, the U.S. 7th Division with attached ROK Army units made an unopposed landing on the beaches at Iwon, 178 road miles north of Wonsan. While the ROK I Corps, now under X Corps direction, followed the coast line toward the great ironworks at Ch'ongjin, the 1st Marine Division advanced toward industrial Hamhung and the Changjin Reservoir. Elements of the 7th Division pushed inland toward the Pujon Reservoir and the Yalu River.

The last week of October had begun on a note of cheerful optimism. Although the U.S. IX Corps and the ROK III Corps were held below the 38th parallel to clear out bands of bypassed North Korean troops, General Almond's X Corps seemed certain to effect the early capture of the iron and steel mills, communications network, port installations, and power and irrigation plants of northeast Korea. In the northwest the Eighth Army, which by now included a Turkish brigade, fanned out above P'yongyang. Leading the advance in this area was the ROK 6th Division whose 7th Regiment reached the Yalu River at Ch'osan on 26 October. Farther to the south additional thousands of ROK, British, and American forces crossed the Ch'ongch'on River in a push toward the temporary North Korean capital, Sinuiju, and the strategic Suiho Reservoir. It had been hoped that the swift advances of the Eighth Army and the X Corps would restore peace to all Korea before

winter set in, and that the North Korean communists would agree to the release of captured soldiers and interned political prisoners.

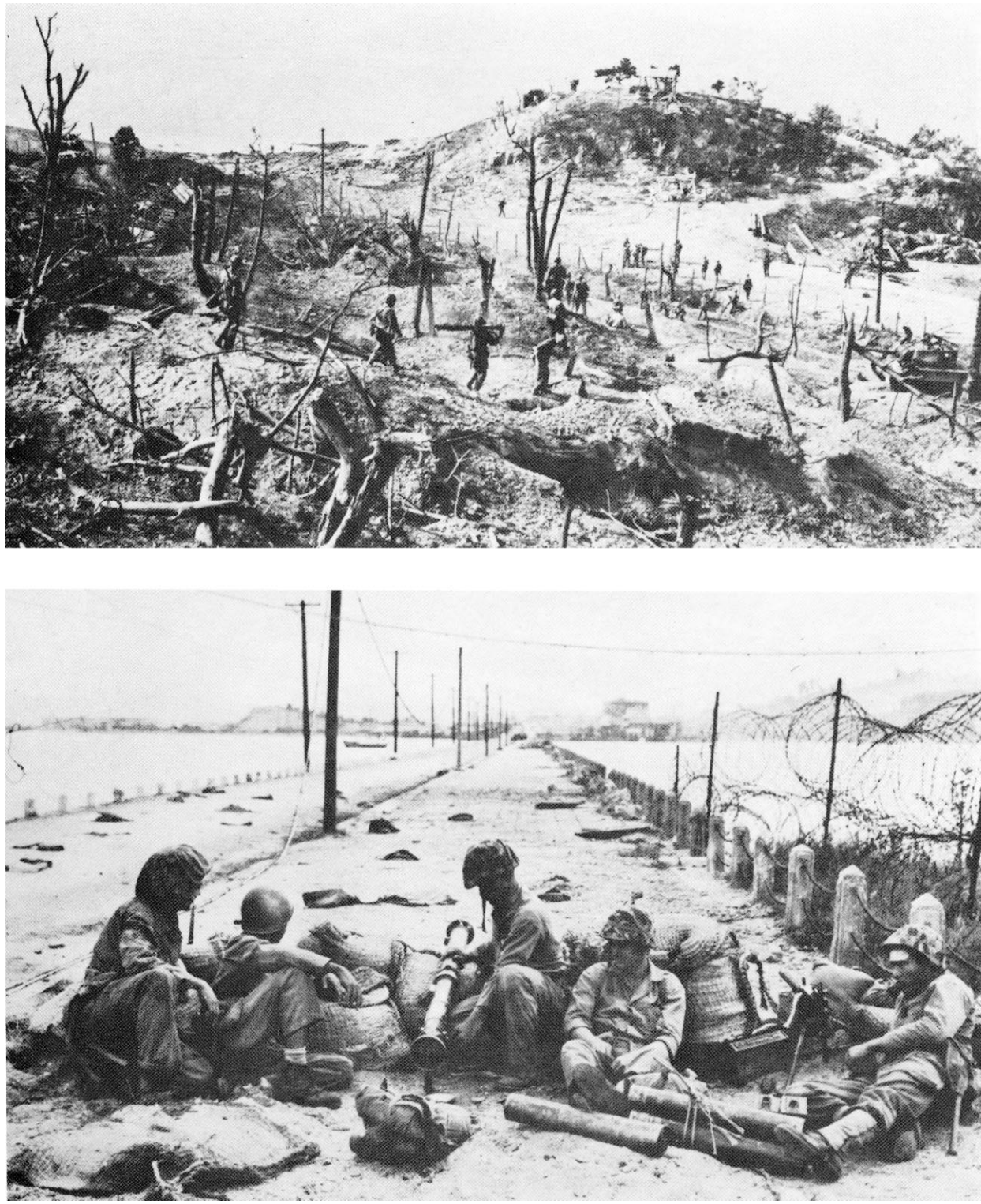
One of the most significant reports of the first four months of the conflict was the October-end warning by the U.N. field commanders that Chinese soldiers were now appearing in combat. Allegedly, the Chinese wore North Korean uniforms and there was at first no positive proof that Chinese communist units as such had entered the conflict. The presence of the Chinese seemed to stiffen enemy morale, however, for early November was a period of strong enemy counterattacks. On 31 October the remnants of the North Korean Army appeared to be making a last stand against the ROK 1st Division in the Unsan area, but on 1 November part of a Chinese division was identified south of the Changjin Reservoir. Within ten days elements of eleven more Chinese communist divisions were identified in the forward areas, but at this time it was not clear whether they were volunteers augmenting the North Korean forces or whether communist China had entered the conflict just when final victory for the U.N. army was in sight. In the northwest, strong enemy attacks particularly crippled the ROK divisions, which had become overextended in the pursuit. There was very heavy fighting near Ch'osan, Unsan, and Tokch'on. While the U.S. 24th Division pulled back to Chongju on the west coast and the 1st Cavalry and 2d Divisions fought along the Ch'ongch'on River, the enemy, both North Korean and Chinese, cut in behind forward elements of the X Corps in the northeast. U.N. units fought to eliminate road blocks and to establish firm defensive positions. At Unsan the 1st Cavalry Division suffered severe casualties when surprised by a strong contingent of Chinese horsemen. In the air, U.N. pilots were opposed for the first time by speedy Russian MIG–15 jets which appeared briefly and then flashed away toward Manchurian airfields. In the Eighth Army sector, U.N. units made their way back to the Ch'ongch'on River. Veteran Chinese forces launched heavy attacks against the U.N. positions in the Sinanju and Kunu-ri areas. Meanwhile, hundreds of U.N. planes showered bombs upon points near the Manchurian border. The extensive and destructive air operations were designed to weaken enemy means of communication and reduce the flow of aid pouring in from Manchuria.

The November days were becoming shorter and colder with U.N. movements confined more and more to patrolling and skirmishing, as attacks by the fast-moving, lightly equipped Chinese slowed down. Again the U.N. forces moved forward, this time more cautiously. Enemy units which had counterattacked the Eighth Army and X Corps withdrew to the bleak mountain wastes from which they had sprung in early November. The X Corps, again approaching the Yalu River, was reinforced at its Wonsan base by the U.S. 3d Division. As an additional reinforcement for the U.N. command, a South African Air Force unit arrived in Korea during this period, as did the 29th British Infantry Brigade and a Thailand infantry battalion. The U.N. army at this time included ground troops from seven nations—the Republic of Korea, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, the Philippines, Turkey, and Thailand.

By 10 November the front generally was quiet and for the next two weeks the Eighth Army and X Corps advanced slowly against moderate resistance and rear guard actions. With temperatures dipping below the freezing mark, infantry operations were conducted on a modest scale and a comparative lull hung over much of the front. An exception was the ROK 8th Division's struggle for Tokch'on on the Eighth Army's right flank. In other areas U.N. units reduced pockets of bypassed North Koreans, endeavored to keep contact with the withdrawing Chinese, and prepared for the all-out U.N. offensive which was to have as its goal the defeat of all North Korean troops on the peninsula.

WOLMI ISLAND burning as a result of the preinvasion bombardment, 15 September (top left); aerial view of Wolmi Island in Inch'on harbor showing the causeway to the mainland (bottom). Before the invading units landed on Wolmi, the island was subjected to an intensive and effective naval and aerial bombardment.

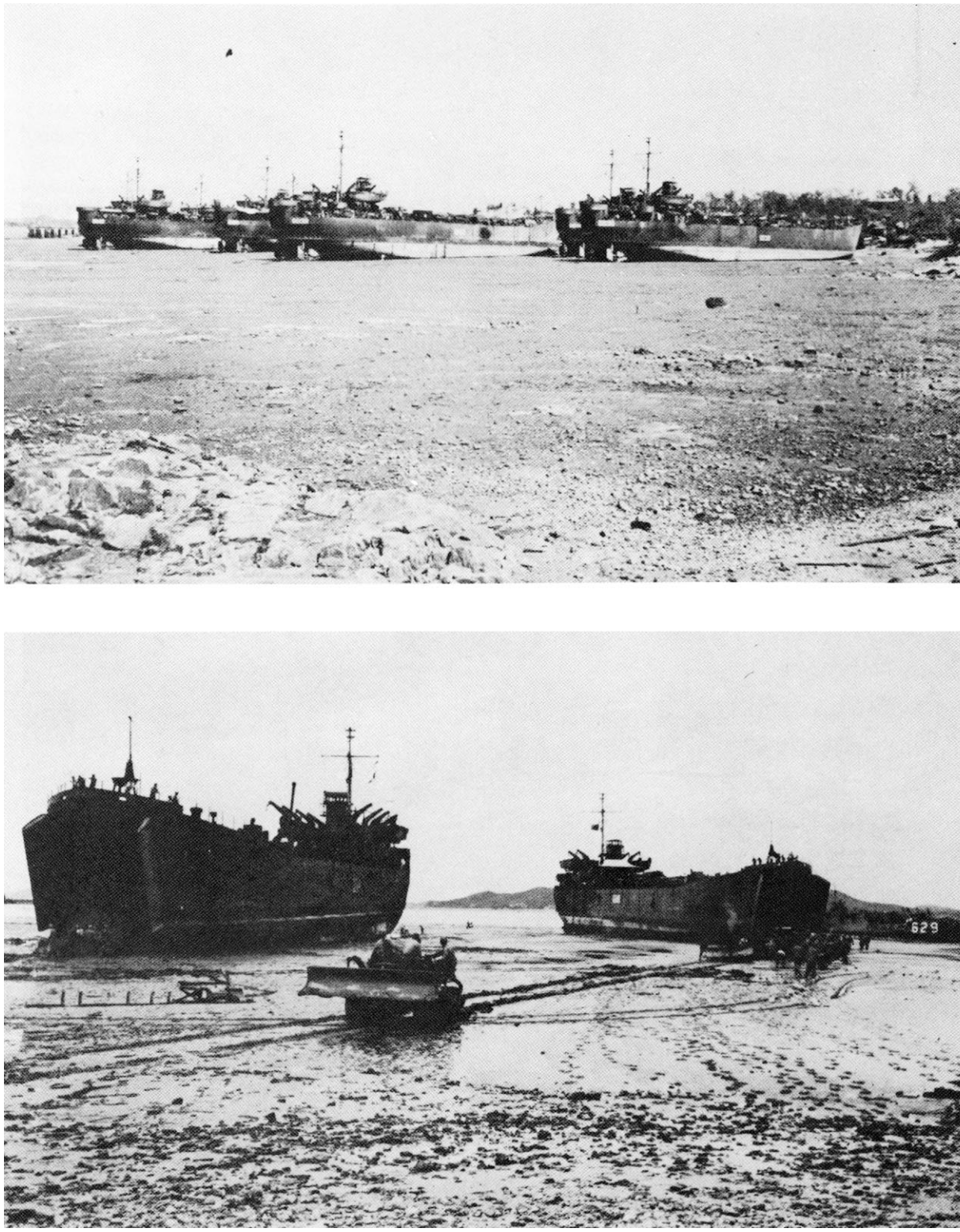
U.S. MARINES HEADING FOR THE BEACHES IN AMTRACKS during the Inch'on landings. In the background, bottom picture, is an LST with sectional ponton extensions attached to the sides of the ship. These extensions are used when the ship cannot get close enough to the shore to discharge its vehicles. The first units landed on Wolmi Island at 0630 and by 0807 had overcome the light resistance.



MARINES MOPPING UP ON WOLMI ISLAND (top) and guarding the causeway to the mainland (bottom). During the night of 15–16 September positions were consolidated against sporadic resistance. The landing operation was well coordinated, and a minimum of casualties was sustained by the assaulting U.N. forces, who landed late in the afternoon, when the tide at Inch'on permitted.

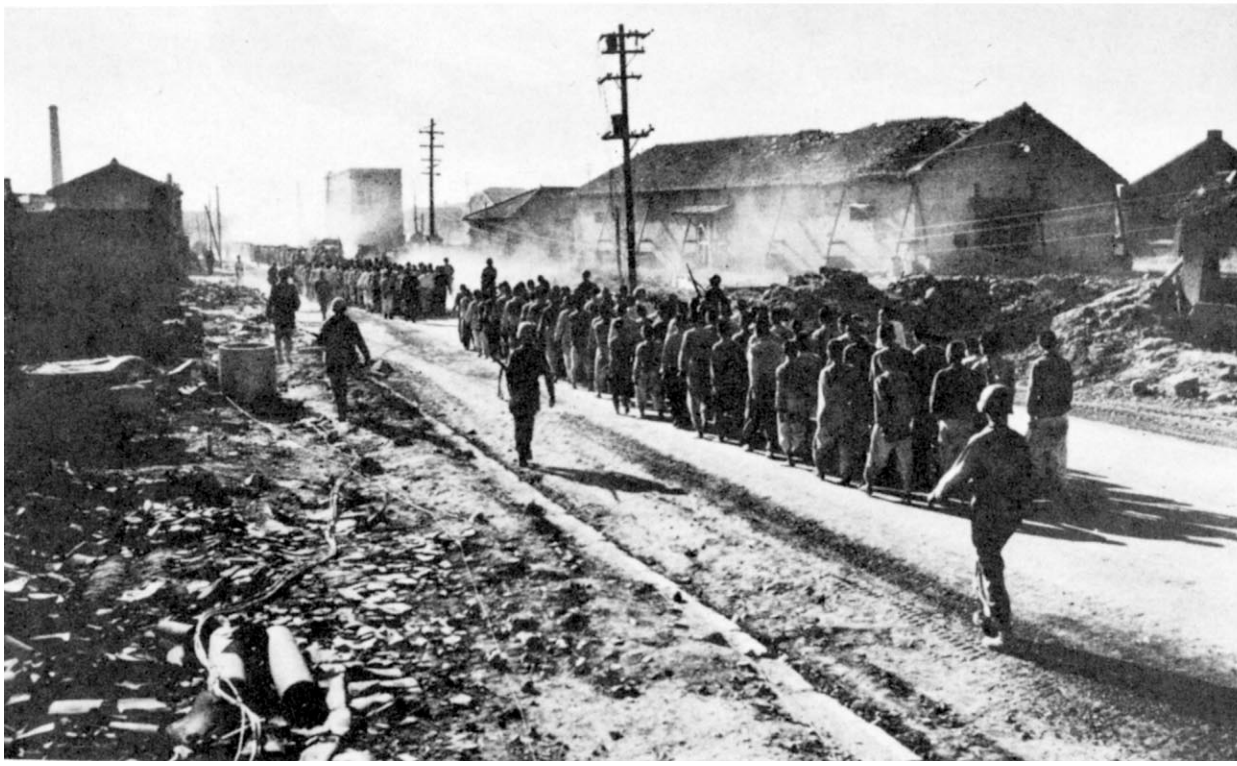
MEN AND EQUIPMENT BEING UNLOADED on the beach during the invasion at Inch'on. The morning tide of 16 September gave U.N. forces their first opportunity to use the inner harbor at Inch'on for unloading heavy equipment and sup-

plies. Meanwhile, the units holding beachheads at and near Inch'on met after making co-ordinated attacks, and then systematically began clearing the city of enemy forces.



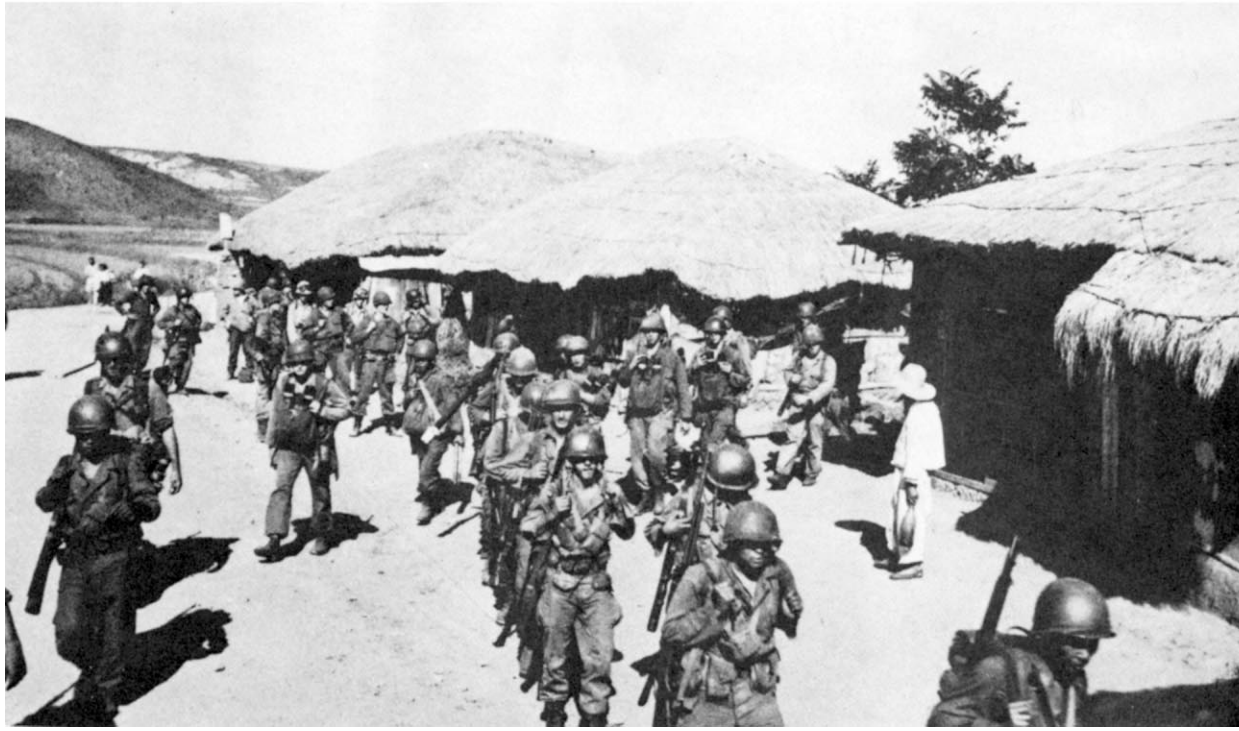
LST'S AGROUND ON THE MUD FLATS, Inch'on harbor. The rivers in this area empty into flat basins, the seaward ends of which open upon broad estuaries where, at low tide, one to five miles of slimy mud flats are exposed. The abnormal tide conditions make the approach from the Yellow Sea exceedingly difficult.

ROK UNITS ON A BEACH north of P'ohang-dong, 15 September. These commando units were rescued from the beach after their LST ran aground in a storm. Smoke in the background is from U.N. naval guns which silenced enemy fire on the ROK units on the beach.



NORTH KOREAN PRISONERS, on their way to a PW camp, pass a knocked-out enemy T34 tank (top); approximately 700 prisoners being marched to a compound in Inch'on (bottom). On 17 September Kimpo airfield was captured by units of the U.N. army as the advance continued inland.

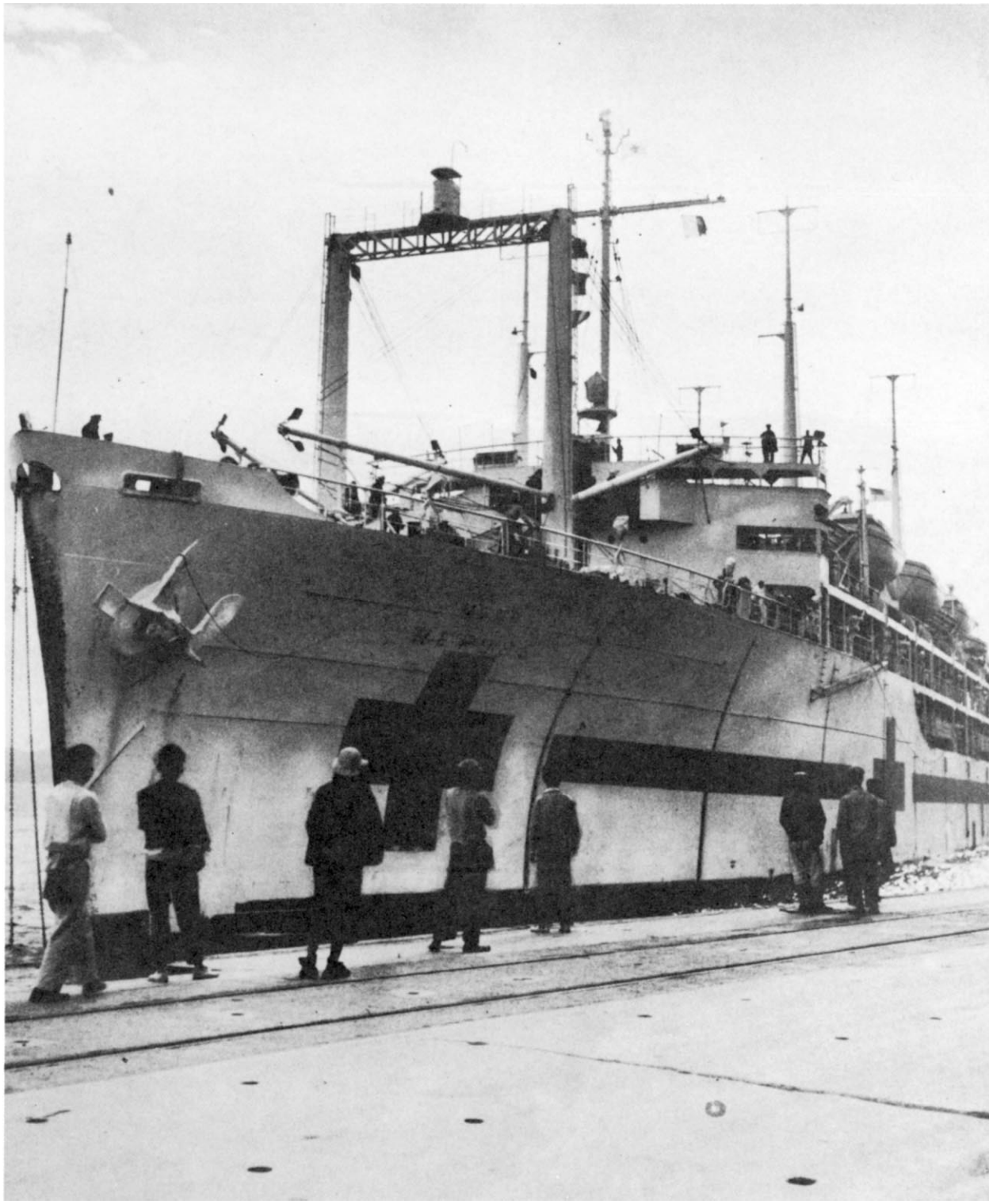
ENEMY PRISONERS CAPTURED IN THE INCH'ON AREA waiting to be given medical treatment and clothing. The tags around their necks contain pertinent information.



MARINES gather at the burned-out railway station in Inch'on in preparation for their next drive against the enemy (top); Army units advancing through a Korean village six miles southeast of Inch'on, after landing over the beaches (bottom). By 20 September the U.N. forces were advancing against the enemy in all areas of South Korea.

M45 MEDIUM TANK, with 105-mm. howitzer, crossing the Kumho River en route to the Naktong River. After breaking out of the Pusan beachhead, U.N. forces advanced to the Naktong River. On 18 September elements of the advancing forces crossed the Naktong but the enemy still held the high ground five miles northwest of Yongsan.

STORES OF SUPPLIES in the open near the docks at Pusan (top); rations piled high on a pier after being unloaded at Pusan (bottom). Supplies of all kinds were unloaded and awaited issue to units beginning to push north.



THE HOSPITAL SHIP USNS *REPOSE*, arriving in Pusan. Soldiers wounded during the fighting were evacuated by air and sea to hospitals in Japan and the United States. While the forces from the Inch'on beachhead advanced toward the Han River line, those advancing from the south took the high ground northwest of Yongsan and drove toward a junction with the units in the north.

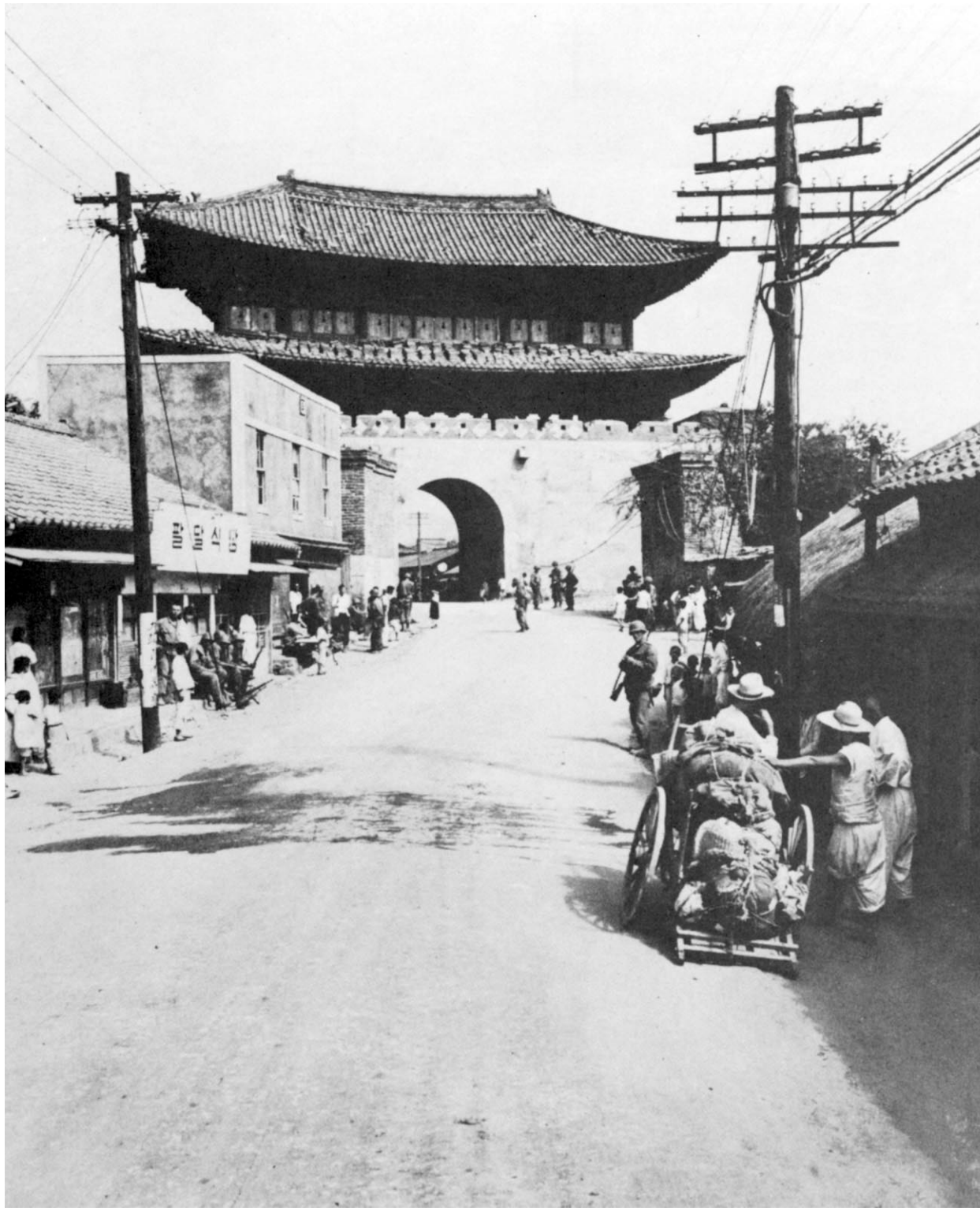
A CONVOY OF US. AND ROK MARINES during an advance on Seoul. U.N. forces to the south recaptured P'ohang-dong on 20 September and advanced to the north. Light bombers and fighters continued close support of the ground forces all along the Pusan perimeter, while B–29's operating in small groups bombed targets in North Korea. Kimpo airfield, captured on 17 September, became operational.

U.N. FORCES IN LVT (Amtrac) pass through a burning village after crossing the Han River. The advancing units from the Inch'on beachhead crossed the Han River and on 20 September entered a suburb of Seoul. The battleship USS *Missouri* arrived off the east coast on 15 September to blast installations in the Samch'ok area with her 16-inch guns.

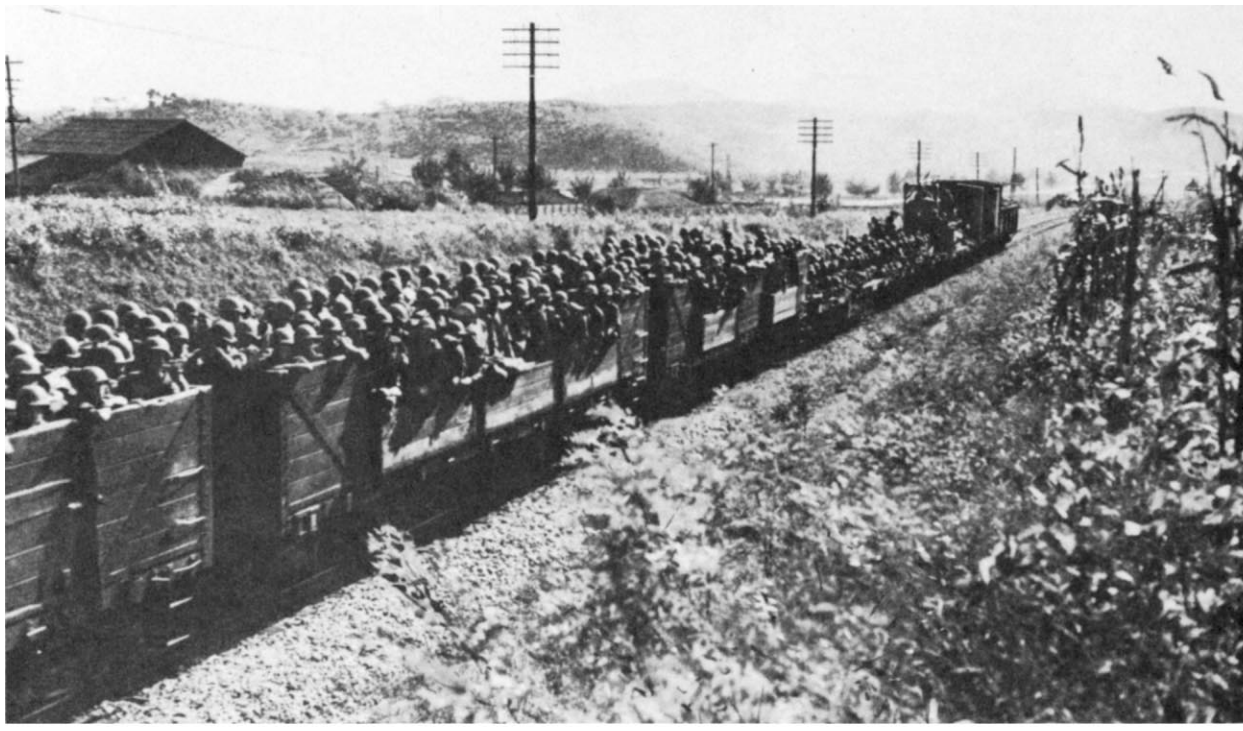
U.S. SOLDIERS SEARCHING FOR MINES along a riverbank near Chinju. The mine detector is an SCR 625.

U.N. INFANTRYMEN using a cow as a pack animal as they move through Waegwan. In the background is a Sherman M4A3 medium tank (modified).

INFANTRYMEN OVERLOOKING ENEMY POSITIONS along the Naktong River during the drive toward Taejon. In one area units advanced twenty miles through Tabu-dong to the Naktong, two miles east of Sonsan. To the north U.N. forces were advancing into the outskirts of Seoul.



SOUTH GATE OF SUWON, after the capture of the city. U.N. army units pushing rapidly along the Toksan–Anyang highway toward the southeast captured Suwon on 22 September. U.S. warships and carrier-based planes supported the ground forces in the Seoul–Suwon area.



TRAINLOAD OF ROK TROOPS arriving at Yongdungp'o from Inch'on to take part in the attack on Seoul, the capital of South Korea (top). Infantrymen passing a U.S. Sherman medium tank of the M4 series near Kumch'on (bottom).

ADVANCING U.S. TROOPS AND TANKS detour around a damaged bridge and past wrecked vehicles (top); U.N. soldiers, approaching the outskirts of Kumch'on, take cover at the bottom of an embankment (bottom).

MARINE FIRING A U.S. SNIPER'S RIFLE, .30-caliber M1903A4; in the background are damaged bridges and Han River. The attacking U.N. forces continued to fight along the Han River against stiffening resistance.

ENLISTED MEN TYING TWO BLOCKS OF TNT ONTO A HAND GRENADE. On 24 September Sangju was captured and advances were made to within seven miles of Yongdok. North Koreans put up strong resistance to prevent the capture of Kumch'on and Songju.

U.S. TROOPS ADVANCING along the north side of the Han River on their way to Seoul. On 25 September Seoul was the scene of fierce battles, and the attacking

forces broke through the defenses of the city. To the south Kumch'on was cleared, Andong was taken, and Army units entered Chinju.

MARINE FIRES ON ENEMY in Seoul while two other men remain partially concealed by a building.

MARINE FIRING A SUBMACHINE GUN during street fighting in Seoul. (.45-caliber submachine gun M3.)

MEN AND TANKS MOVE THROUGH A STREET OF SEOUL during the battle for the city. On 26 and 27 September U.N. forces cleared the enemy pockets of resistance in Seoul. Shortly after 1100 on 26 September, units from the Inch'on

beachhead and those from Pusan linked up, trapping the enemy remaining in southwest Korea. Osan, the first city lost by the U.S. forces to the North Koreans, was recaptured during the advance toward a link-up.

ENGINEERS WORKING ON AN IMPROVISED BRIDGE next to one which was knocked out in the Chinju area (top); a Bailey bridge being constructed over one destroyed near the Naktong River (bottom). Note damaged T34 tank beneath a knocked-out span of the former bridge. During the advances of the U.N. army many bridges, destroyed while the units were pulling back into the Pusan beachhead, had to be repaired or reconstructed to permit the rapid movement of men and supplies.

A DESTROYED BRIDGE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF YONGJU in use after being repaired with sand bags (top); vehicles leaving a ponton bridge across the Han River near Seoul (bottom). U.N. forces continued to clean out stubborn pockets of resistance in the Seoul–Suwon–Osan region, while to the south advances were made toward Taejon. Other U.N. forces reached Anui and Samga, and the units driving toward the 38th parallel captured Ulchin, Yech'on, and Ch'unyang.

INFANTRYMEN HUNTING OUT NORTH KOREANS (top). Gun motor carriages (bottom); at left is an M19 with twin 40-mm. guns, at right is an M16 with four .50-caliber machine guns. In the southwest the enemy retreat became a rout as the U.N. forces neared the Yellow Sea. Taejon was entered after considerable resistance, Ch'unju captured, and Kwangju approached.

U.N. TROOPS AT THE 38TH PARALLEL (top); North Korean officers and men who surrendered to U.N. forces (bottom). The Commander in Chief, United Nations Command, restored Seoul to the President of the Republic of Korea on 29 September. While the west coast seaport of Kunsan was threatened, the advance in the north had almost reached the 38th parallel.

RAILROAD YARDS AND DOCKS AT PUSAN. The docks and port in Pusan are well developed, with railroad tracks extending onto the docks. By 30 September

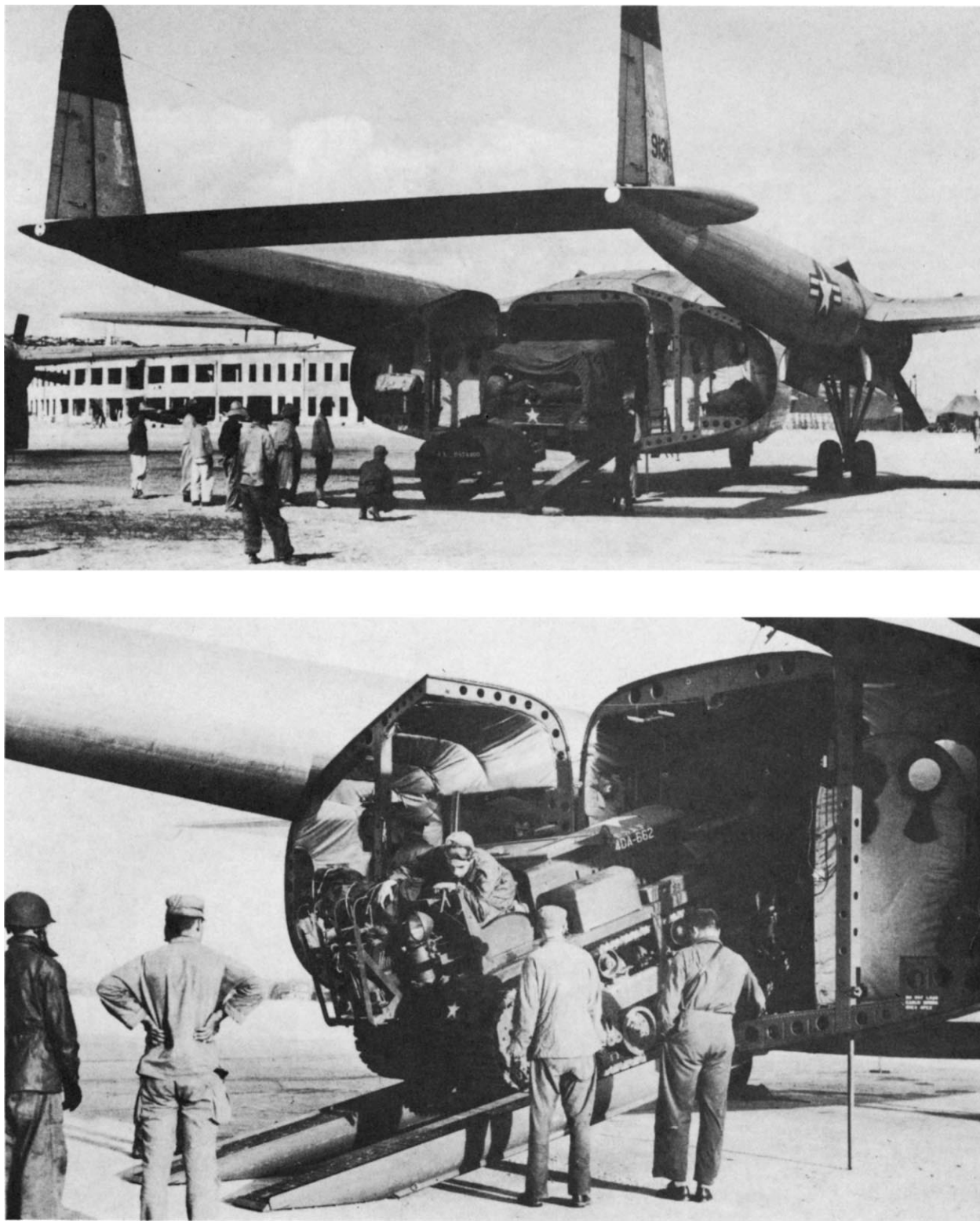
all organized resistance in South Korea had virtually ceased. The port of Kunsan was taken and the only effective enemy resistance was north of Chech'on.

SOME OF THE FIRST CHINESE COMMUNISTS CAPTURED by U.N. troops. The quilted cotton uniforms were typical of the winter uniforms worn by these troops. Some Chinese entered the conflict in North Korea against the U.N. army in October 1950.

SHERMAN MEDIUM TANK M4A3 passing a disabled Russian-made T34 tank. While the majority of the U.N. units were preparing for action north of the 38th parallel, the first ROK units to cross into North Korea met rear guard enemy action while moving toward Wonsan.

SOLDIERS DISPERSED ALONG A ROAD take time out for a quick meal of C rations. On 9 October U.S. units crossed the 38th parallel north of Kaesong and met strong enemy resistance. Mopping up in South Korea continued with a total of more than 55,000 of the enemy captured by this time.

LST'S BEING LOADED AT INCH'ON (top); supplies and equipment waiting for truck transportation to Army and Air Force units (bottom). On 9 October the North Koreans ignored a surrender ultimatum. On the 10th Wonsan, an important seaport and airfield on the east coast, was captured by the ROK I Corps.



A $^{3}/_{4}$-TON TRUCK AND WATER TRAILER being loaded into a Fairchild C–119 cargo plane at Kimpo airfield for the airlift to Wonsan (top). A tractor being unloaded at Kimpo airfield after the plane arrived from Japan (bottom). By 12 October, 189 tons had been air-transported to the airfield at Wonsan.

A NURSE ABOARD A PLANE checks her patients during a flight from Korea to southern Japan.

THE USS *MISSOURI* BOMBARDING CH'ONGJIN with her 16-inch guns. On 12 October a powerful naval task force moved far north along the east coast of

Korea and under the protection of carrier-based planes delivered a shattering blow to the Ch'ongjin area.

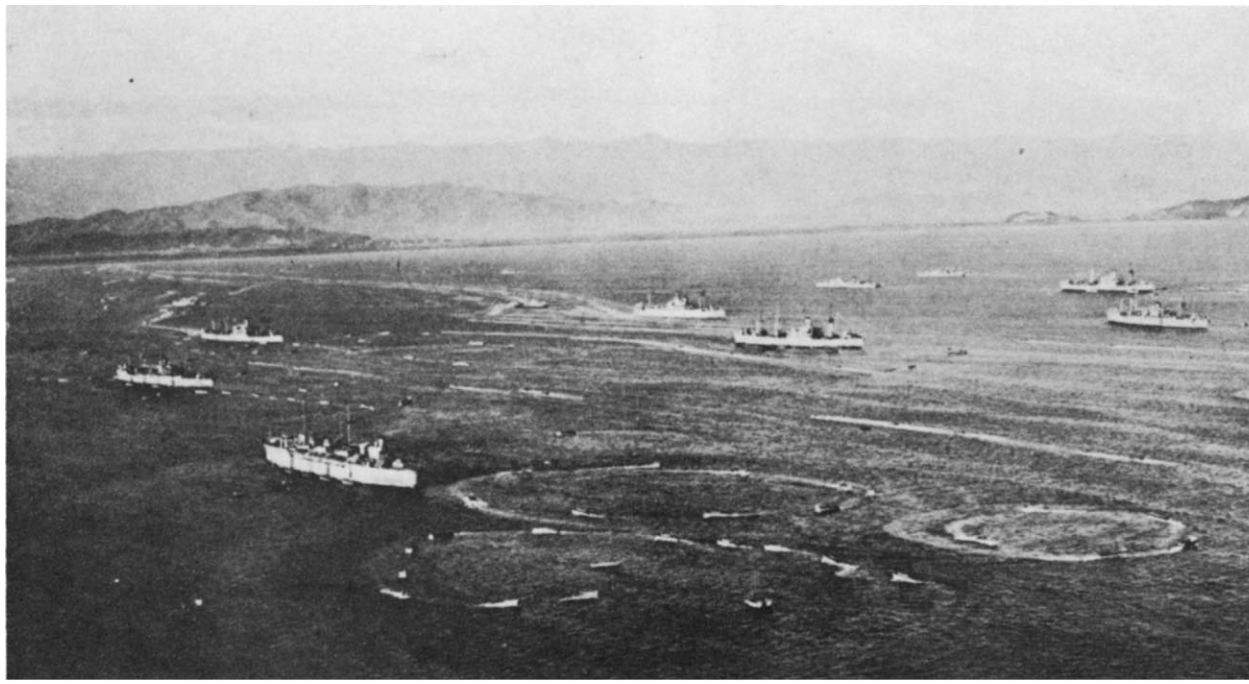
A STREET IN P'OHANG-DONG, after it had been captured by the U.N. forces, showing part of the damage done during the shelling and bombing of the city.

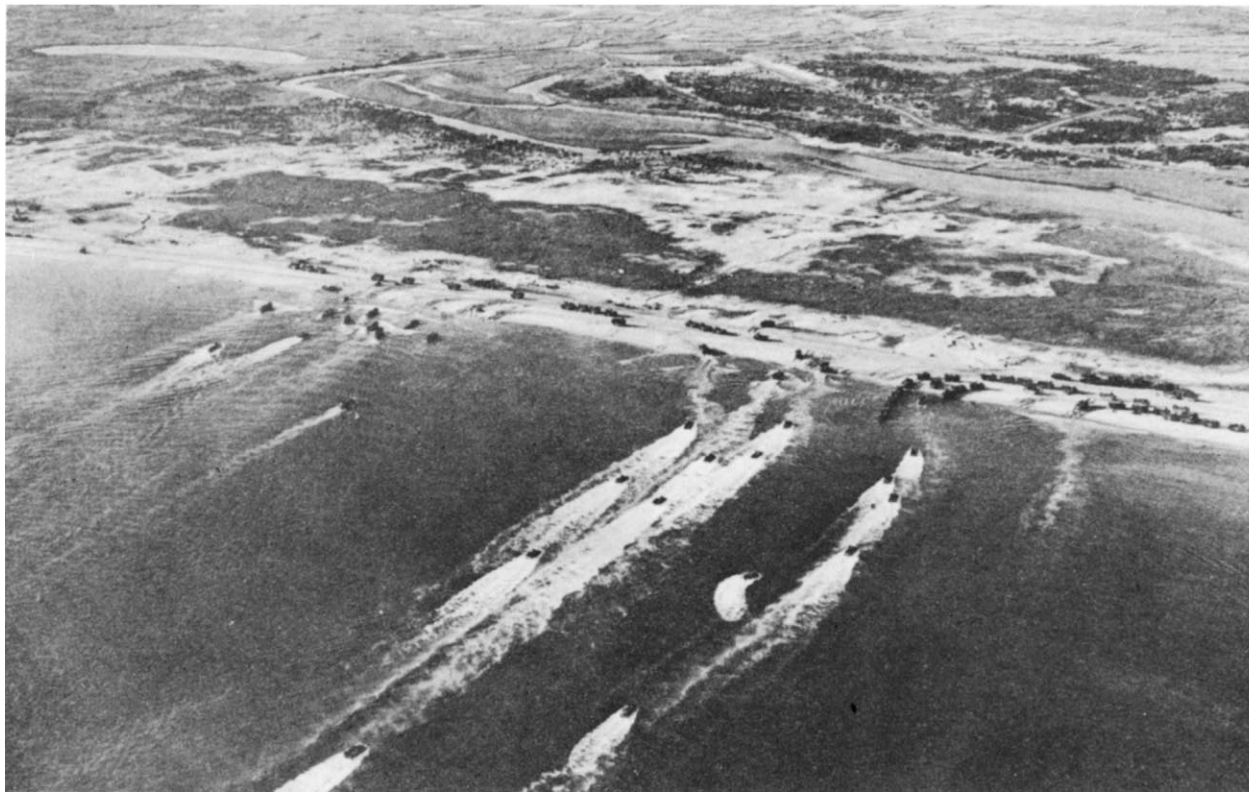
U.N. SOLDIERS FIGHTING IN A RAILROAD YARD in P'yongyang. On 19 October U.N. forces entered P'yongyang, the capital of North Korea.

AIRBORNE TROOPS RELAX BEFORE BOARDING PLANES for a drop north of P'yong-yang (top). A 105-mm. howitzer ready to be loaded into a plane which will drop it to the airborne force in the Sukch'on drop zone (bottom).

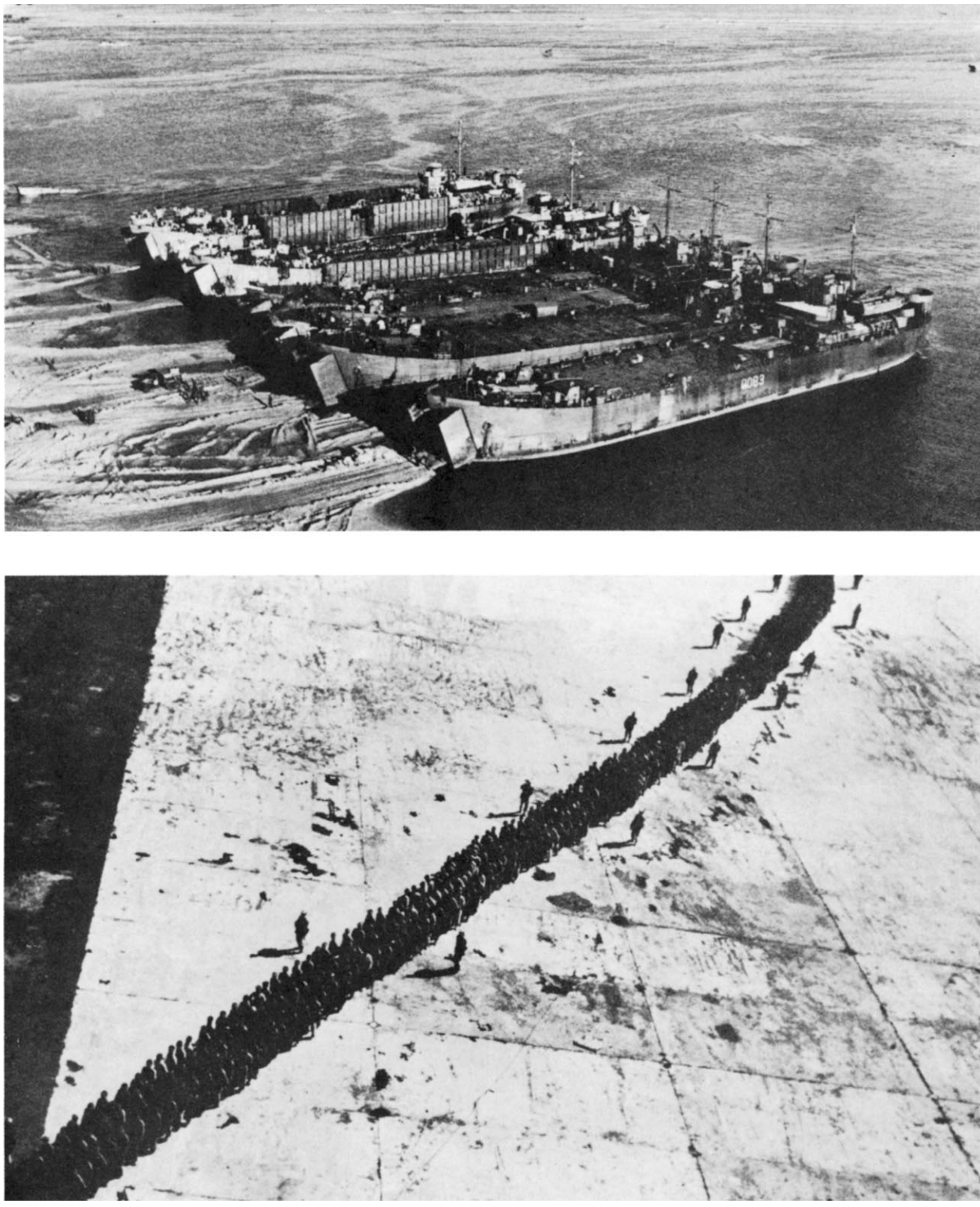
LOADING INTO A C–119 AT KIMPO AIRFIELD for the combat jump north of P'yongyang. Getting into the plane was a difficult task for a fully equipped paratrooper.

AIR DROP over the Sukch'on–Sunch'on area, 20 October. Six C–119 Packets, arriving in the drop area, fly over men and equipment dropped by an earlier flight. Single-column picture shows 105-mm. howitzers being dropped to paratroopers, some of whom can be seen in the foreground. The drop was successfully executed and the paratroopers moved quickly to their assigned objectives. On the same day P'yongyang was captured and the mopping up of scattered enemy troops began.





LANDING CRAFT CIRCLING AROUND THE MOTHER SHIPS and heading for the beach during the landing at Wonsan (top); LCVP's, LVT's, and DUKW's approaching the beach while vehicles assemble there (bottom) . After waiting for six days for mine sweepers to clear the channel at Wonsan, units began unloading on the beach on 26 October.

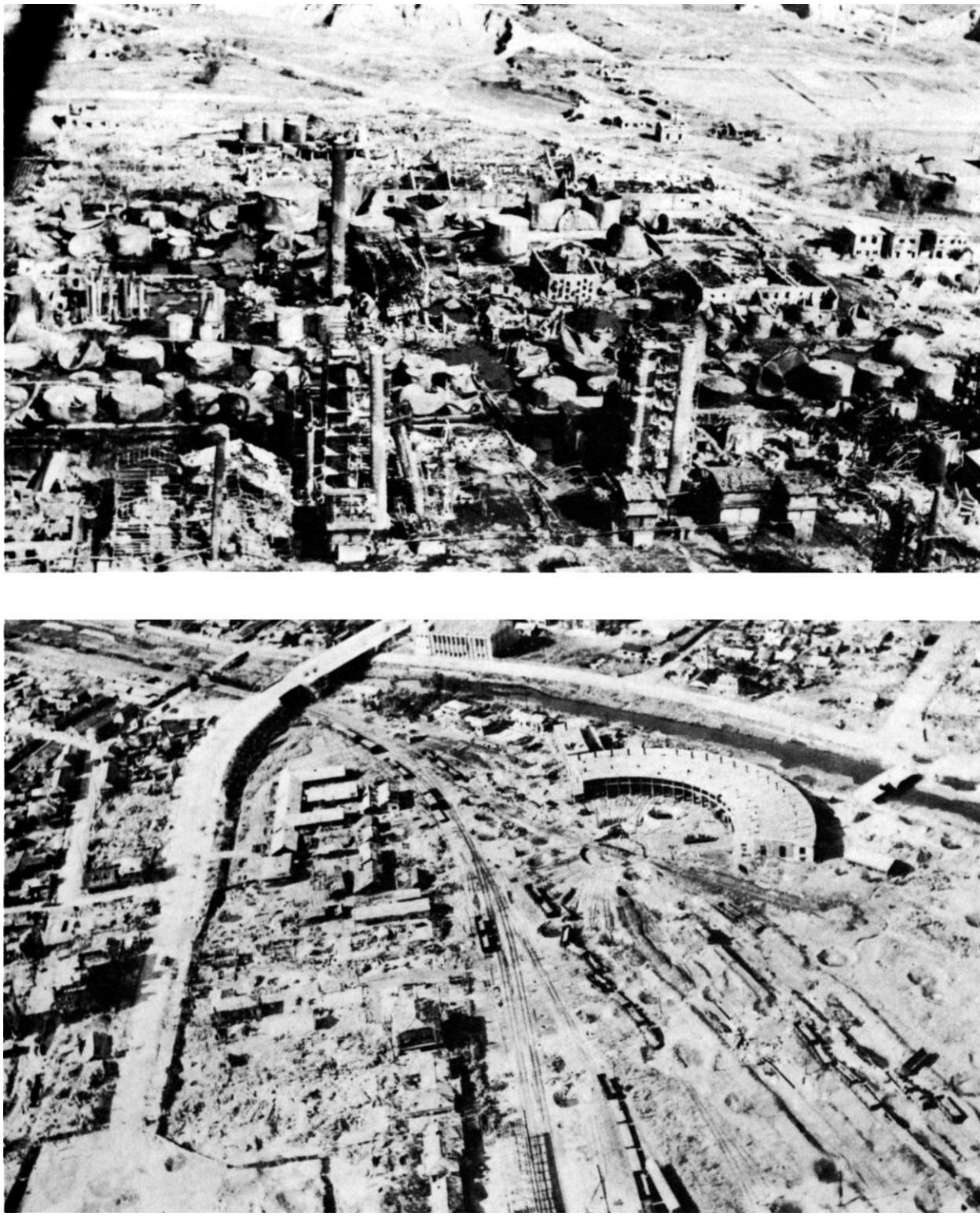


LST'S DISCHARGING CARGO on the beach at Wonsan during the landing (top). North Korean prisoners of war, guarded by ROK soldiers, waiting at Wonsan airfield to be evacuated from the battle area (bottom). After the U.N. forces landed, 26 October, they quickly deployed and began hunting out the enemy. ROK units were the first to reach the Yalu River and the Manchurian border.

AN LVT COMING ASHORE at the beach at Wonsan. Immediately behind the LVT is an LCV, while overhead a C–54 prepares to land on the airfield.

SOUTH KOREAN MINE SWEEPER EXPLODING in Wonsan harbor after hitting an enemy mine. The Wonsan area was heavily mined and several U.S. and Korean mine sweepers were lost while clearing the harbor and channel.

U.S. ENLISTED MEN, in a marshalling yard in North Korea, looking at damaged rail equipment caused by bombing attacks which were made while the ground forces were still engaged south of the 38th parallel.



RUINS OF THE LARGE OIL REFINERY AT WONSAN (top); destroyed marshalling yards and roundhouse at Wonsan (bottom). The destruction of these and other important military objectives by Air Force bombers did much to cripple the transportation facilities of the North Korean forces.

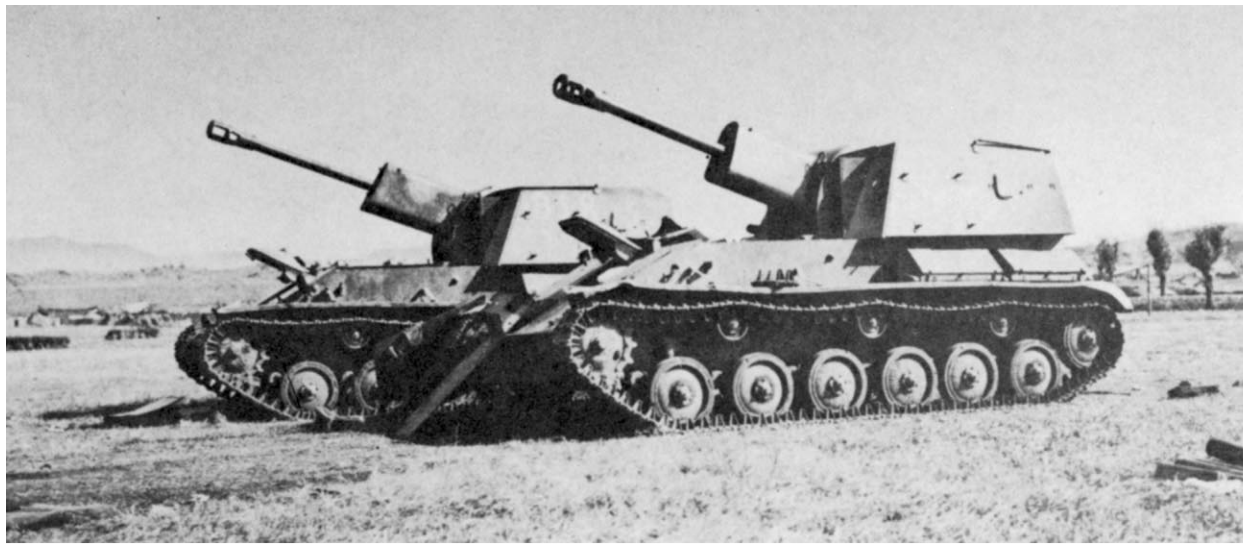
MEN OF U.S. INFANTRY DIVISION ASSEMBLE on the beach at Iwon as vehicles and equipment are being unloaded from an LST. During the last few days of October while the landing operations were continued in the Wonsan area, another amphibious operation was taking place at Iwon, about 180 miles to the north.

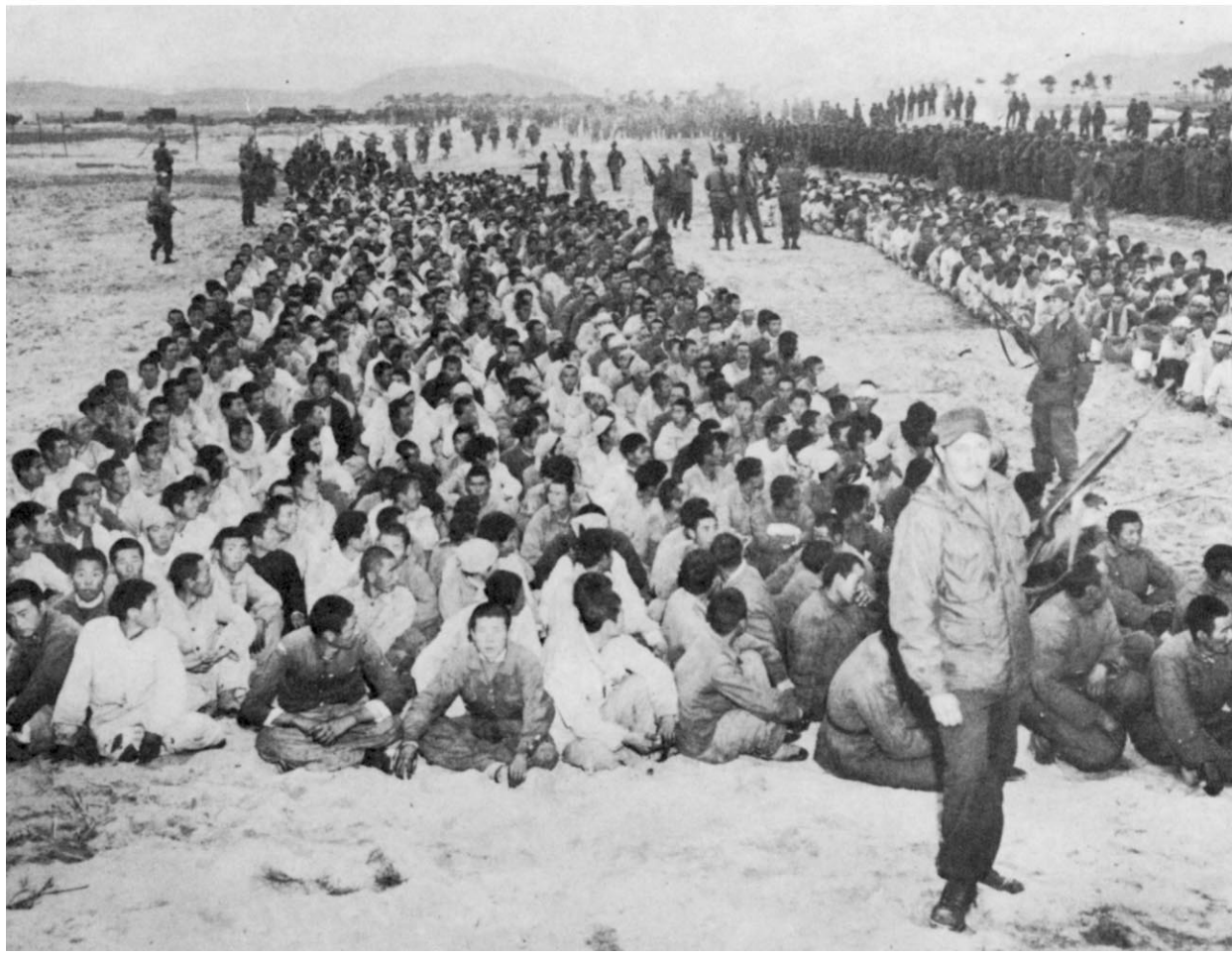
SHERMAN MEDIUM TANK M4A3 moving down a hillside after helping to cover an attack. Toward the end of October the North Korean Army, reinforced by Chinese communists units, was making a firm stand. One source at the time stated that some 40,000 Chinese had crossed the Yalu River and were fighting with the North Koreans.

A 60-MM. MORTAR SECTION STANDING BY for firing orders near Kusong, as U.S. medium tanks M4A3 move along a road. By the end of October enemy pressure prevented the U.N. army from making important gains except in the extreme west where Kusong and Sonch'on were taken, and on the east coast where units were reported to have reached Kilchu.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WAFARE LEAFLETS being loaded into a bomb-type cluster M16M1 at an air base in Japan, 1 November. The adapter holds 22,500 five-inch by eight-inch leaflets. After crossing the 38th parallel, U.N. forces dropped leaflets and broadcast from aircraft in an effort to induce the North Koreans to surrender. Humane treatment was promised to those who did surrender.

A 3.5-INCH LAUNCHER M20 BEING FIRED against enemy units dug in on the hills, 3 November. Note speeding projectile trailing smoke on left. On this date U.N. forces held positions from the west to east coast from Taech'on, Unsan, Tokch'on, Won, and P'ungsan to Kilchu. Enemy guerrilla forces harassed U.S. units to the rear of these positions in the Wonsan area.

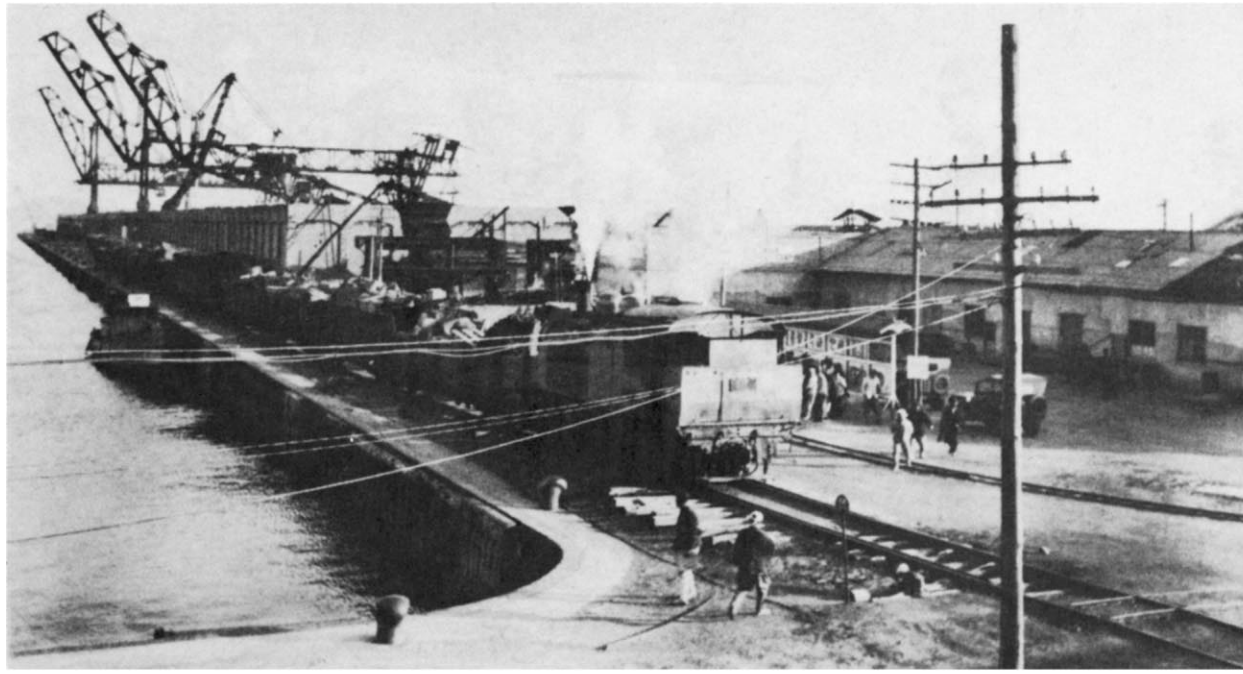


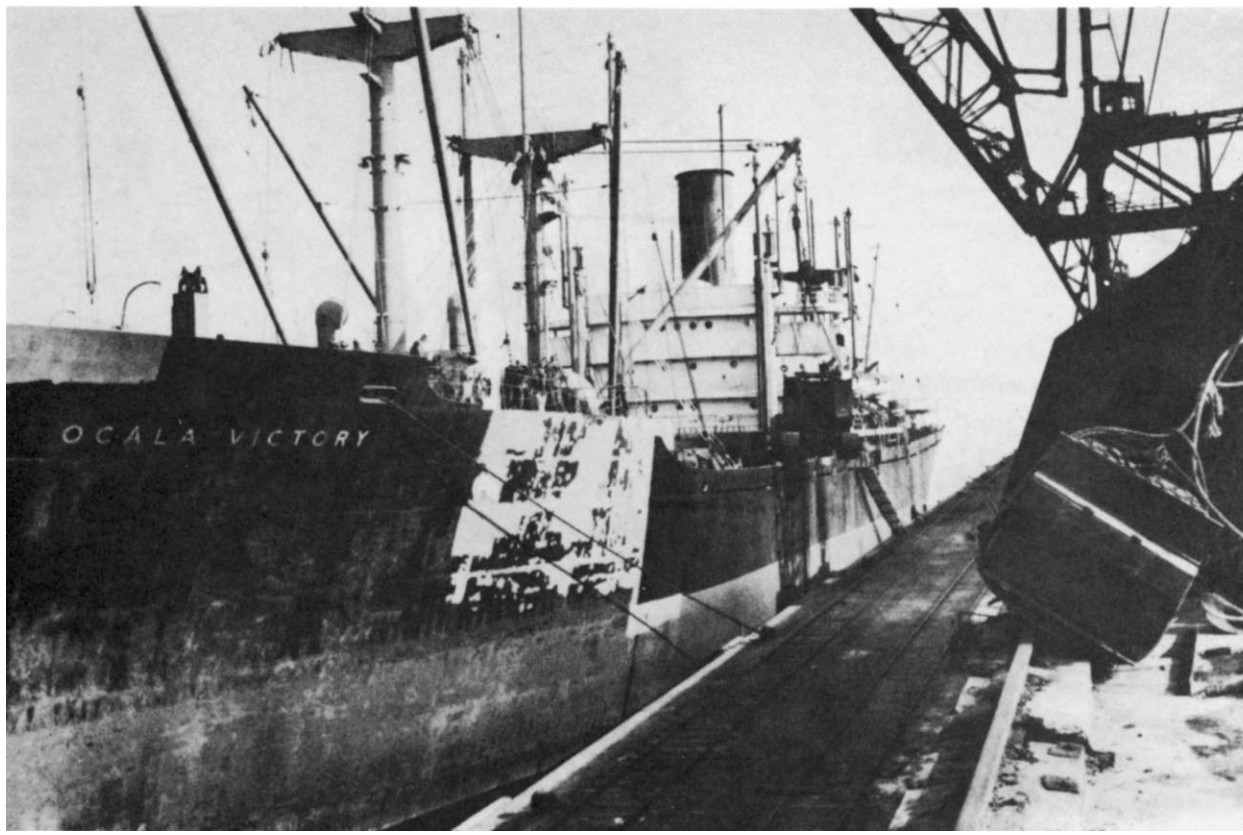


TWO CAPTURED RUSSIAN-MADE 76-MM SELF-PROPELLED GUNS (top). North Korean prisoners of war, under guard on the beach at Wonsan, wait for shipment to Pusan (bottom). As of 3 November, the total number of enemy prisoners was reported as being 135,000.

CHINESE COMMUNIST PRISONERS OF WAR, taken by U.N. forces in North Korea, wearing the quilted cotton winter uniform and fleece-lined caps (left-hand page). On 9 November it was estimated that 60,000 Chinese communists were in North Korea opposing the U.N. troops. 155-mm. howitzer motor carriage M41 being fired at enemy units bearing down in the Pukch'on area, northeast of Hungnam near the east coast of North Korea (top). A lull, which existed in the bitter fighting from 7 through 10 November, was believed to be caused by enemy reorganization.

MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN NEAR KAESONG. The communications equipment in the foreground was carried up the mountain by troops. By the 15th of November guerrillas were cleared from P'yongyang; strong opposition was encountered in the vicinity of Tokch'on, forcing ROK units to draw back a few miles.

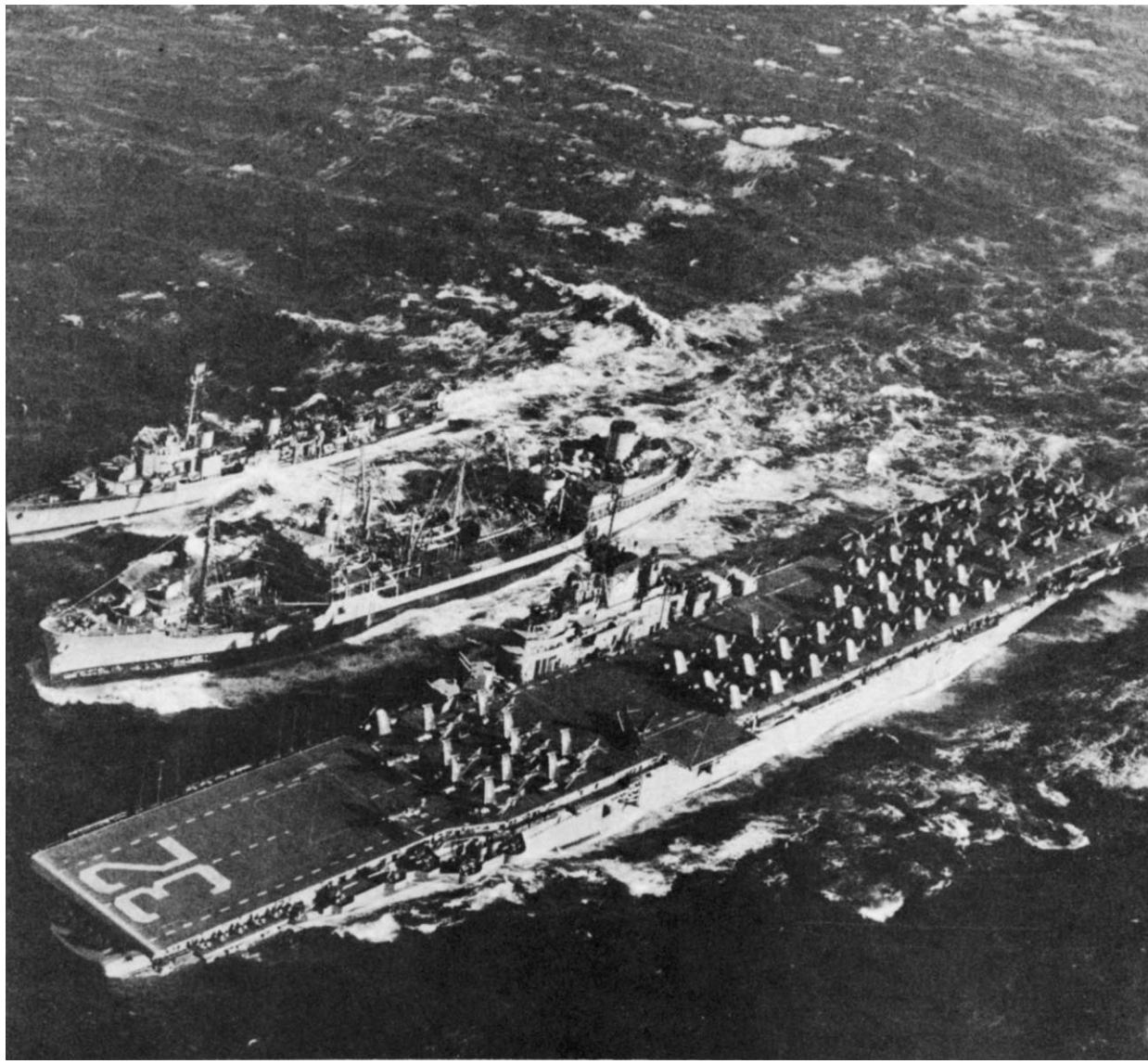




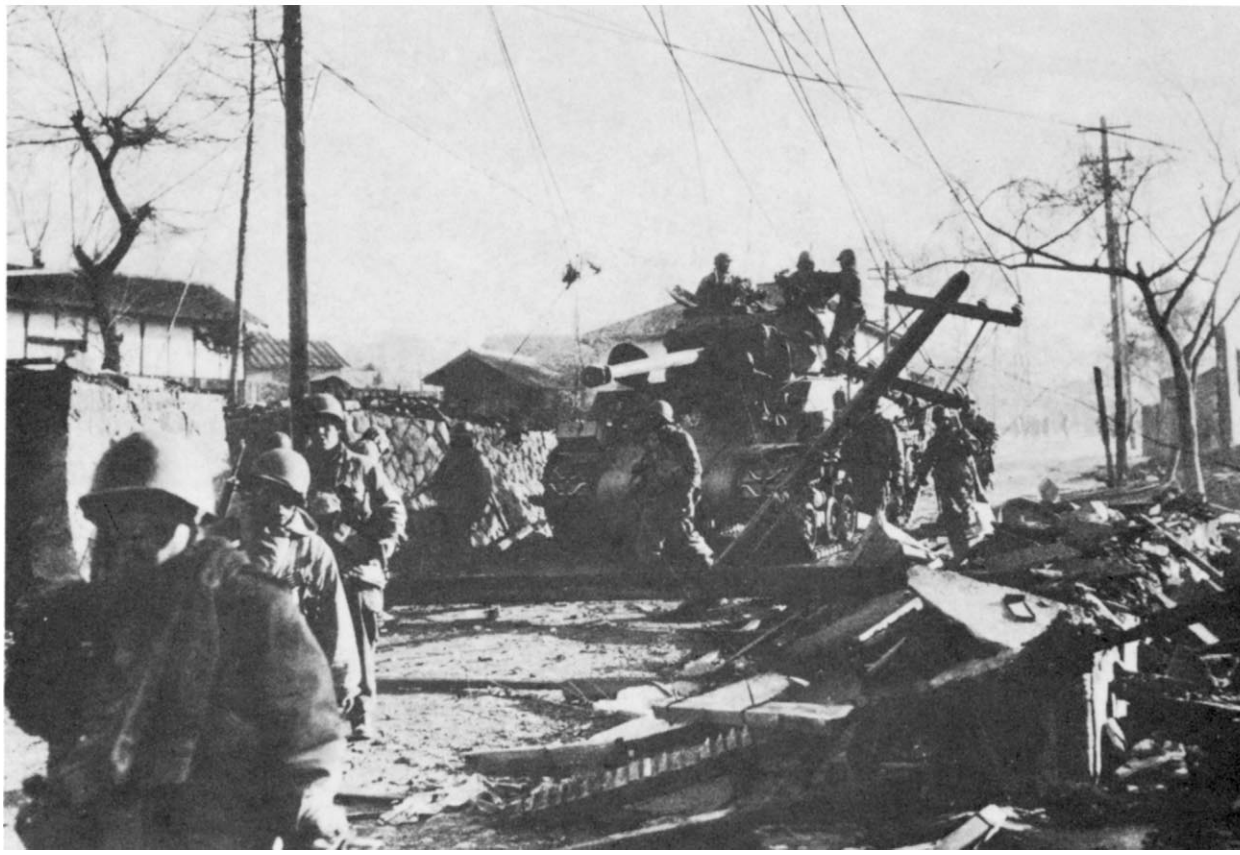
SUPPLIES ARRIVING AT HUNGNAM, 13 November (top); a 45-ton crawler crane being unloaded from the *Ocala Victory* at Hungnam, 15 November (bottom). On the 15th, in the X Corps zone, U.S. marines entered Hagaru-ri at the Changjin Reservoir; advances were made toward Pujon Reservoir by the 7th Division.

INSPECTION OF A THAI BATTALION, at Taegu, being conducted by a Thai and a U.S. officer, 17 November (top); Thai soldier sights a .30-caliber Browning automatic rifle M1918A2 (bottom). At this time the men began to feel the winter weather which was setting in, and air operations were handicapped because of low clouds and the cold.

NARROW ROAD about three miles south of Sunch'on, North Korea. On 18 November in the western area near the coast, U.N. forces drove north of Pakch'on and Yongbyon. Several miles were gained on each side of the Changjin Reservoir and enemy forces were held off just south of Kapsan in the central area. Near the east coast ROK units again advanced north of Myongch'on.

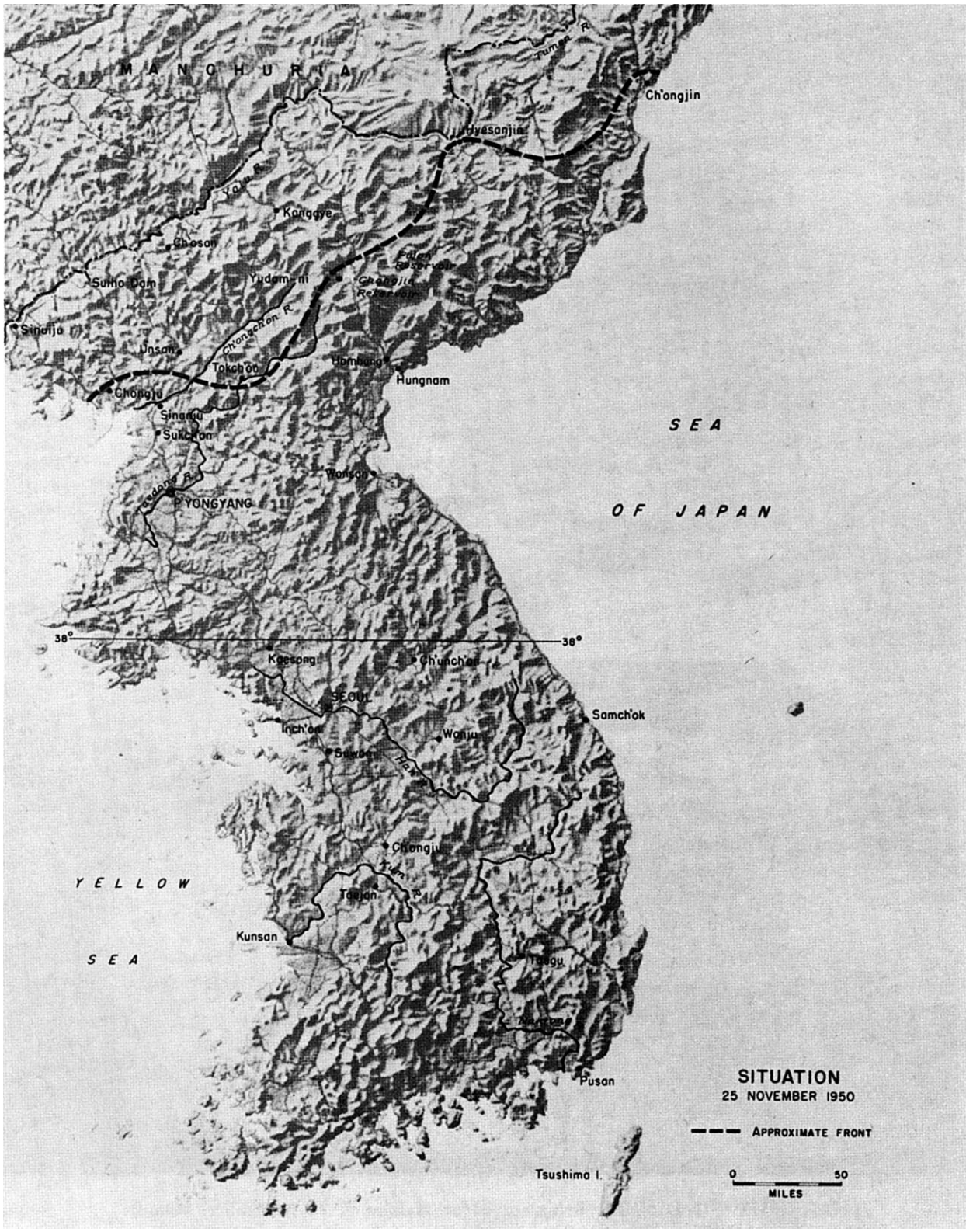


PROPELLER OF A F4U CORSAIR FIGHTER being pulled before the take-off from the snow-covered deck of the 27,000-ton carrier, USS *Philippine Sea* (left page). The USS *Leyte* being refueled at sea by the USS *Cimarron* as the USS *Henderson* stands fire watch off the coast of Korea (top). Continued support was given by jet fighters, fighter bombers, and dive bombers from the carriers off the coast of North Korea, sending down tons of bombs and rockets on military targets in support of the rapidly advancing U.N. units.



HYESANJIN, near the Manchurian border, 21 November. Infantrymen advancing through the outskirts of the town (top) and through its rubble-strewn streets (bottom). In a rapid advance north of Kapsan, U.S. units drove to the Manchurian border, reaching Hyesanjin against light enemy resistance on 21 November; ROK forces reached to within fifteen miles of Ch'ongjin on the east coast.

THANKSGIVING DINNER being served at Hamhung, 23 November. On 24 November U.N. forces began an all-out offensive to clear the rest of Korea, meeting with light enemy resistance consisting mostly of small arms and automatic weapons fire. It was announced on this date that more than 140,000 prisoners of war had been taken.


MANCHURIA
Tumen R.
Ch'ongjin
Hyesanjin
Yalu R.
Kanggye
Ch'osan
Sunho Dam
Yudam-ni
Chosin Reservoir
Sinuiju
Chongchon R.
Unsan
Tokch'on
Hamhung
Hungnam
Chongju
Sinanju
Sukch'on
Taedong R.
P'YONGYANG
Wonsan
SEA
OF JAPAN
38°
38°
Kaesong
Ch'unch'on
SEOUL
Inch'on
Wonju
Samch'ok
Suwon
Taejon
Chongju
Kum R.
YELLOW
SEA
Kunsan
Taegu
Pusan
Tsushima I.
SITUATION
25 NOVEMBER 1950
APPROXIMATE FRONT
0
50
MILES

MAP 5

CHAPTER V

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE YALU
25 NOVEMBER–31 DECEMBER

The conflict in Korea entered a new phase during the fourth week of November. Elements of the American 7th Division, after a swift advance through the bitter-cold mountain area of northeast Korea, had reached and occupied the town of Hyesanjin, the most northerly point to be reached by American forces during 1950. Here troops of the 17th Infantry Regiment of the 7th Division could look across the Yalu River at the rugged Manchurian countryside. ROK troops had reached the border of Manchuria at Ch'osan nearly a month earlier, but were forced to retire. Now, for the first time, the U.S. Army stood at the international boundary.

Paralleling the 17th Infantry's success in reaching the Manchurian border, the ROK Capital Division progressed rapidly up the east coast to the Naman–So-dong area. By 24 November the U.N. positions extended from So-dong in the northeast to Hyesanjin on the Yalu, and thence in a southwesterly direction through the areas around Sang-ni, Handae, Yudam-ni, Yongwen, Ipsok, Pakch'on, and south of Chongju to the Yellow Sea. The U.N. forces continued their northward movement, slowly in the west, swiftly in the east. There had been an ominous address over the Moscow radio on 19 November, which asserted that withdrawals by North Korean and Chinese forces were only a prelude to a counteroffensive that would result ultimately in communist victory. General MacArthur, in the meantime, ordered a final offensive designed to defeat the North Koreans south of the Yalu River, end the war, and restore peace and unity to Korea. General MacArthur planned to advance the Eighth Army on a broad front northward through western and central Korea to the Manchurian border regions. At the same time the X Corps was to carry out an enveloping movement to the northwest to cut the supply lines of the remnants of the North Korean Army.

Subfreezing temperatures had already reached Korea. The roads were glazed and the terrain was rugged and barren, but there was an atmosphere of optimism on Friday morning, 24 November, when General MacArthur announced from Korea that a major offensive had been launched. At that time there were two distinct major commands in Korea, separated by the country's mountainous spine. General Walker's Eighth Army, operating in the west, consisted of the U.S. 1st

Cavalry, 2d, 24th, and 25th Infantry Divisions, the ROK lst, 6th, 7th, and 8th Divisions, the British 27th Commonwealth Brigade, and the 29th Independent Infantry Brigade and a Turkish brigade, as well as a battalion each of troops from the Philippines and Thailand. General Almond's X Corps, operating in the east, was composed of the U.S. 7th and 3d Divisions, the 1st Marine Division, the ROK 3d and Capital Divisions, and a commando group of British Royal Marines.

For more than twenty-four hours the offensive to end the conflict did not encounter serious enemy opposition. Troops of the ROK Capital Division fought their way into the steel center of Chongjin, about sixty miles from the Siberian border. This was the northernmost penetration by U.N. forces during the year. Although high mountains prevented physical contact between the Eighth Army and the X Corps, Generals Walker and Almond exercised direct communication by radio, aircraft, and courier. On 25 November, however, in the mountainous territory surrounding the central Korean town of Tokch'on, hostile troops initiated a violent counteroffensive. There, the ROK II Corps, forming the right flank of the Eighth Army, was crushed. Two days later a second enemy force struck along both sides of the Changjin Reservoir at elements of the X Corps' U.S. 1st Marine and 7th Infantry Divisions.

Snatching the initiative from the U.N. command in a space of hours, a new enemy, in the form of two Chinese communist field armies, had driven down from the north. The *4th Field Army* engaged General Walker's Eighth Army, while the *3d Field Army* sought to destroy the X Corps. The objective of the twin Chinese offensive was to pin the U.N. commands against the coasts while advancing additional communist divisions southward where they would be free to contact large concentrations of guerrillas and bypassed North Korean regulars who had remained to the rear of the Eighth Army zone. For a time, there was a definite danger that thousands of U.N. troops would be encircled and annihilated before they were able to protect their main lines of supply and reinforcement. As people in the United States were preparing for the holiday season, the U.N. troops turned their backs to the arctic winds and grimly regrouped for a winter withdrawal. To the accompaniment of exhaustion, heroism, pain, and death, the drama of retreat was played on a double stage of ice and fire. The thrusts by the enemy against the two U.N. forces, necessitated an entirely different plan for the salvation of each. In the west, the Eighth Army elected to retire by land, while the withdrawal of the X Corps from the northeast was accomplished by land and sea with the co-operation of the Navy and Air Force.

It was quickly apparent that the bulk of the enemy forces were organized Chinese communist units. At the same time that the communist authorities in China had ordered the *4th Field Army*, under Gen. Lin Piao, to assist the North Korean regime against the U.S. Eighth Army, they sent Lin's former chief of staff, Gen. Wu Hsiu-chuan, via Moscow to New York. There, he was permitted to appear before the Security Council of the United Nations and complained bitterly of American aggression against China. While the Chinese communists were attacking the army of the United Nations and attempting the invasion of the Republic of Korea on the one hand, their representative was on the other soliciting, indeed demanding, a voice in the world-wide peace organization. The U.N. General Assembly, far from endowing the Peking regime with a cloak of respectability, branded the Chinese communists as aggressors in Korea.

While General Wu was presenting the outrageous demands of the communist Chinese regime at Lake Success, General MacArthur hurriedly summoned his principal field

commanders to a four-hour conference in Tokyo. After discussing the crucial situation with Generals Walker and Almond, he issued a bitter warning that it would be next to impossible to fight a Chinese army which had bases protected by an inviolate frontier. He termed the situation "an entirely new war." The reference plainly pointed to the fact that communist China had not only failed to declare war, but was pretending that its divisions fighting in Korea were doing so without the official sanction of the Peking regime. General MacArthur had hoped that the Chinese encountered earlier in Korea were merely a small volunteer force dispatched as a token gesture to a neighboring communist state. Now it became evident that the Chinese had amassed two large armies in the snow-covered Korean mountains and forests. These forces had marched the short distance from Manchuria into battle positions under cover of darkness, while remaining expertly camouflaged during the day. In the rugged mountains the enemy was comparatively safe from detection by air. Moreover, the U.N. air force had not been permitted to fly reconnaissance missions across the frontier. Thus a nation of 450,000,000 people had entered the conflict surreptitiously and sent a portion of its massive Army into the communist effort to win control of Korea.

The Withdrawal of the Eighth Army

Using human-sea tactics with few if any North Korean units at first, the Chinese swarmed over the forward units of the Eighth Army. The main effort was initially directed at the ROK II Corps, which had suffered heavy casualties and was commanded largely by inexperienced officers and had many comparatively green recruits. With their wild screaming, cymbals, and scratchy bugles, the Chinese swept through the Tokch'on area. General Walker's right flank soon existed only as isolated pockets of South Koreans. The communists strove to extend their break-through of the U.N. forces and to envelop the separated wings. It was to prevent them from successfully exploiting their victory over the ROK II Corps that General Walker immediately ordered the 1st Cavalry Division, the Turkish brigade, and the British 27th Commonwealth Brigade and the 29th Independent Infantry Brigade out of his slender reserves. These forces rushed to the right of the Eighth Army zone and bent every effort to stem the communist advance. The Chinese thrust was so deep and in such strength, however, that the reserves were beaten back. Nor were the Chinese attacks confined to the flank. Wave after wave of the enemy pounded against the entire Eighth Army front. The U.S. 2d and 25th Divisions were assaulted under cover of darkness in the early morning hours of 27 November and, in the west coast area, the U.S. 24th Division, which had advanced without effort into the town of Chongju, was now ordered to pull back across the Ch'ongch'on River to the vicinity of the Sinanju airfield. The withdrawal of forward units was hurried and accompanied by heavy casualties. All along the Ch'ongch'on River, which the 24th, 25th, and 2d Divisions were attempting to cross, the fighting was fierce. There was hand-to-hand fighting at the river banks, and efforts to save vehicles were frequently disastrous. The southbound arteries were choked with traffic. Soldiers, refugees, trucks, and tanks were lined up as far as the eye could see. Roads to the rear were packed so tightly in some places that Chinese mortar and small arms fire could not fail to be effective.

Meanwhile, Headquarters, Eighth Army, was determining the best disposition of its withdrawing divisions for the defense of the rest of the peninsula. While the bulk of the army retired south, the U.S. 2d Division, commanded by General Keiser, fought one of the principal delaying actions. When the Novem-

ber offensive began, the division was in north-central Korea astride the Ch'ongch'on River in the Kujang-dong sector. Its right flank lay exposed by the defeat of the ROK II Corps. To the left was the 25th Division which was drawing back under enemy pressure south of Unsan. General Keiser was assigned the arduous task of trying to hold the Chinese until other units could retire and regroup in defensive positions near the former North Korean capital of P'yongyang. Although attacked day and night from all sides, numbed by the frigid winds, and forced into the hills by ever-present road blocks, the 2d Division withstood the principle fury of the communists. Here, as elsewhere in Korea, Chinese combat tactics were stereotyped, but effective. The Americans were struck by successive waves of direct frontal attacks, as the enemy commanders displayed a calloused indifference to the loss of lives. The Chinese used mortars, automatic weapons, rifles, and hand grenades. The frontal assaults were preceded, or accompanied by, probing actions along the flanks where the enemy sought for weak points in the defenses. When a soft spot on the flank was discovered, hostile Chinese flooded through the area. Enemy road blocks were quickly established in the rear and the American line of retreat was harrased by fire from the front, rear, and, sometimes, from both flanks. As units of the 2d Division withdrew, they encountered these road blocks which had to be eliminated if vehicles, artillery, tanks, and wounded were to be saved. Where they were too strongly defended, mobile equipment was abandoned, and those who were able to do so made their way over the mountains on foot to points of contact with the main bodies of their organization. The 2d Division, as it fought through Won-ni to the south bank of the Ch'ongch'on River and Kunu-ri, constantly encountered this type of tactics. After six critical days, and at the cost of about one fourth of the division's strength, the Chinese drive was blunted and most other units had fought their way to defensible positions. Only then could the 2d Division be moved to the rear for its next assignment.

The retreat of the Eighth Army, although serious, was not catastrophic. The U.N. command had superior weapons and both naval and air power with which the Chinese could not hope to compete. Those with experience in Chinese ways of fighting believed that the communists would commit most of their strength in a desperate endeavor to demoralize and surround the U.N. force ; then would come a lull caused largely by logistical difficulties. The tendency of the Chinese in Korea has been to overextend and then stop for supply and reinforcement. During the waiting period, fresh units are moved up to replace those decimated in combat. Since most supplies are carried to the Chinese in the field by human or animal transport, this pause is also utilized to move essential reserves of food and ammunition to the front. Consequently, if the initial onslaught does not completely destroy the opposing forces, the halt which inevitably follows paves the way for the opposition to retreat, regroup, and take up defensive positions. Taking advantage of the communists' inability to exploit their gains, the Eighth Army preserved the greater part of its personnel while inflicting costly casualties upon the enemy.

In his efforts to protect his flanks and keep his force intact, General Walker authorized his corps commanders, Generals Milburn and Coulter, to withdraw farther south to more defensible positions, since it was deemed impossible to hold at the Ch'ongch'on River. Initially, it was planned that U.N. units would hold a defensive position along the transpeninsula road which crossed Korea between P'yongyang and the eastern port of Wonsan. Elements of the Chinese army cut this road at Songch'on, however, before the U.N. forces had withdrawn as far south as P'yongyang.

The important air bases at Anju and Sinanju below the river therefore were abandoned and left to the enemy.

Within a week after the Chinese initiated their counteroffensive, the center of the U.N. line had been withdrawn fifty miles. The flanks were retreating at a somewhat slower pace because of the reserve strength committed against the communists in these sectors. The Chinese were highly mobile and unencumbered by equipment that they could not carry on their backs. They were also reinforced by two small divisions of fast-moving troops on Mongol ponies. The Eighth Army's right flank continued to be seriously threatened. To cover it and replace the 2d Division, General Walker utilized the 1st Cavalry and the 24th Divisions. These units, plus a number of South Korean organizations, had to contend not only with the Chinese, but with several regiments of bypassed North Koreans which had been operating as guerrillas in central Korea. The U.N. army had one great advantage, however, over the pursuing communists. The advance of the enemy was only as rapid as the bulk of the Chinese Army could walk across the snow-covered mountains and the icy rivers, whereas the motor transport of the U.N. forces facilitated the quick and comparatively orderly withdrawal necessary for the regrouping and defense of the Eighth Army. Accompanying the U.N. retreat, there was a mass migration of nearly three million Korean citizens to the south. By locomotive, oxcart, truck, ship, and on foot, the population of the P'yongyang area shouldered a few possessions and left their devastated villages to the communists.

Earlier plans to stabilize a line of defense north of P'yongyang from coast to coast having been abandoned, the Eighth Army sought to contract its broad front, preserve its troops and equipment, and concentrate on the defense of a front extending along the 38th parallel. The enemy advance lagged as the Chinese experienced difficulty in keeping up with the withdrawing U.N. forces. Their communication and supplies were inadequate and casualties were high. As the Eighth Army pulled south of P'yongyang, tightened its lines, and presented a shorter front, U.N. losses decreased substantially.

The city of P'yongyang was abandoned by the Eighth Army on 5 December. Following the scorched-earth policy which characterized the retreat, warehouses, supply dumps, barracks, and other military installations were demolished before the covering force, now composed of the U.S. 25th Division, the British brigades, and the ROK 1st Division, fell back across the Taedong River. Contact with the Chinese diminished considerably, but there were many skirmishes as ROK, British, and American patrols endeavored to ascertain the precise location of the enemy. The Eighth Army was now twenty-five miles south of P'yongyang, but its right flank was still insecure.

The interservice unity of the U.N. command was demonstrated during the retreat from P'yongyang. As the Chinese streamed toward the former communist capital, nearly 8,700 passengers, including civilians and wounded soldiers, boarded transports in Chinnamp'o harbor. The estuary of the Taedong River down which the ships had to pass in order to reach the Yellow Sea was mined. Sailing to the rescue were two Australian, one American, and three Canadian destroyers from the west coast fleet of Vice Adm. W. G. Andrewes, R.N. Proceeding through the perilous waters of the mined estuary under cover of a snowstorm and darkness, the six destroyers accomplished their escort mission and, in addition, shelled the port installations.

The second week of December found the enemy shifting the mass of his strength from the west to the center of the peninsula. Among other means of transport, camels were used by the communists to move food and am-

munition forward. It seemed evident that the offensive against the U.N. forces would soon be resumed. Pressed between the Chinese from the north and the thousands of guerrillas to the southeast, the Eighth Army might find itself driven into the Yellow Sea. To prevent such a disaster, the guns of the Eighth Army and U.N. navy, and the bombs, napalm, machine guns, and rockets of the air force, pounded enemy concentration points relentlessly. The 5th Air Force, with its pilots and crews from South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and the Republic of Korea, flew hundreds of sorties in a massed attempt to smash enemy reinforcements and supply. Philippine and Thai units fought the North Korean guerrillas as the U.N. forces stabilized their positions.

By the middle of December, the Eighth Army had withdrawn below the 38th parallel and formed a defensive perimeter north and east of Seoul. There had been virtually no large-scale battles with the communists since the first of December, but an uneasy lull was hanging over the entire sector. While Chinese reinforcements and supplies moved forward to the communists just north of the parallel, hard fighting broke out along the right flank of the Eighth Army. Two ROK divisions engaged strong contingents of North Koreans in the frozen Imjin River area between Yonch'on and Kap-yong. ROK troops fought north and south of the parallel to straighten out their positions, but as yet Chinese units were not reported south of the 38th parallel. Farther to the west there was a flood of refugees fleeing from the capital city of Seoul.

It was known that the North Korean Army had been reconstituted, retrained, and reequipped. Some of the North Korean units received training in Manchuria where they were safe from U.N. air power. General MacArthur's headquarters tentatively identified fifteen North Korean divisions, a force roughly estimated at 150,000, in addition to the twenty-eighth Chinese divisions known to be in North Korea. The bulk of North Korean organized strength, located in western and central Korea, participated in probing actions of varying intensity above and below the 38th parallel the week before Christmas.

Reinforcements from the United States were being flown across the Pacific. New arrivals from countries of the United Nations also helped to swell the ranks of the Eighth Army. A Swedish hospital unit and an Indian ambulance group were caring for the sick and wounded evacuated through Pusan. A Dutch battalion had reached Korea in the latter part of November, and December saw artillerymen from New Zealand, and infantry battalions from Greece, Canada, and France take their places in the international army. But the enemy retained a heavy numerical advantage, and by the last week in December there were many signs that another communist assault would soon begin. The Eighth Army braced itself for the blow and rushed preparations to meet the enemy. It was believed, however, that when the enemy resumed its offensive over the 38th parallel, the U.N. force would be in a position to retire intact and without disorder if forced from its positions above Seoul. To defend the Republic of Korea, General Walker had five corps in the line. North and west of Seoul he placed the U.S. I and IX Corps, with attached elements of other U.N. units. Manning the rest of the coast-to-coast front were the ROK I, II, and III Corps. Defensive positions stretched about 140 miles from the Yellow Sea to the Sea of Japan. Behind them was the X Corps which had recently been evacuated from Hungnam and had been assigned to the Eighth Army.

The Evacuation of the X Corps

At the time of the Chinese counteroffensive late in November, General Almond's X Corps had penetrated deep into northeast Korea.

The ROK Capital and 3d Divisions were far up the east coast in the vicinity of Ch'ongjin, and the 17th Regiment of General Barr's 7th U.S. Division stood on the banks of the Yalu River at Hyesanjin. On the left flank of the X Corps, a reinforced company of British Marine commandos, the 5th and 7th Regiments of General Smith's 1st Marines, and a battalion each of the 31st and 32d Regiments of the U.S. 7th Division had advanced to the area of the Changjin Reservoir. In reserve at the port of Wonsan were elements of the U.S. 3d Infantry Division, commanded by General Soule.

The U.N. pursuit action ended, however, in the last week of November with the beginning of the two-pronged Chinese offensive which sought to annihilate General MacArthur's command in Korea. On 25 November the ROK II Corps of the Eighth Army began to crack under the weight of the first phase of the Chinese counteroffensive. On the following day General Almond ordered the 1st Marine Division to ease the pressure on General Walker's right flank by attacking northwest within twenty-four hours to sever the enemy line of communication at Mupyong-ni. The Marine mission was never executed because on 27 November the Chinese set in motion the second phase of their offensive, which was designed to decimate the X Corps. In the snow-covered mountains which surround the Changjin Reservoir the Marine units and near-by battalions of the U.S. 7th Division were confronted by elements of six Chinese communist divisions. This new attack not only eliminated any possibility of relief for the Eighth Army right flank by the X Corps, but threatened the Marine and Army units beyond the dilapidated town of Hagaru-ri with the prospect of isolation and destruction. With the entire U.N. offensive thrown into reverse, forward elements of the X Corps were forced to withdraw nearly sixty miles southward down precipitous mountain trails to the coast through masses of enemy infantry which had cut in behind them. From the Changjin Reservoir, the units from Yudam-ni fought past the hydroelectric plants and through Hagaru-ri, Kot'o-ri, Sudong, Hadae, and Majon, to the industrial city of Hamhung and its port, Hungnam.

Two of the Marine regiments which had been separated in the vicinity of the reservoir joined forces and, under heavy pressure, withdrew to their base at Hagaru-ri. The survivors of two battalions of the 7th Division attached themselves to the Marine forces as these forward units began their fight from Hagaru-ri down the bleak mountains of northeast Korea to the coast. Because of the massiveness of the Chinese attack, General MacArthur directed the commanders of the X Corps and the U.N. naval and air forces to co-ordinate in effecting the evacuation of the X Corps. As there was no tactical advantage to be gained by clinging to a beachhead around Hamhung, General MacArthur had decided to transfer the X Corps to South Korea where its strength could be used to reinforce the Eighth Army in opposing the next Chinese offensive of the winter campaign.

Most of the X Corps withdrew to Hungnam without serious incident, but for the large group in the Hagaru-ri–Kot'o-ri area the greatest courage was required to effect the retreat to the coast. Communist rifle and machine gun fire came from every side and the narrow escape route was rendered the more dangerous by road blocks which the enemy had thrown in front of General Smith's division and attached units, numbering approximately 20,000, which sought to reach the harbor of Hungnam where a great evacuation fleet was beginning to gather. As the Chinese endeavored to maintain their encirclement, Task Force Dog, commanded by Brig. Gen. Armistead Mead of the 3d Infantry Division, fought inland from the coast to Chinhung-ni to assist

in clearing a passage for the retiring troops. Always under fire from Chinese on the mountain sides, General Smith's command inched its way to safety down steep slopes and through open gorges. The dead and badly wounded were placed on vehicles, nearly everyone else walked. Day and night thousands of Chinese showered death on the corkscrew corridor through which the tortuous withdrawal was made.

It is most unlikely that the encircled U.N. force ever could have completed its difficult withdrawal had it not been for the tireless assistance it received from the U.N. air force. As General Chen Yi's *3d Chinese Field Army* hammered at the dogged force with artillery, mortars, and lighter weapons, the U.N. units were supplied from the air by the FEAF Combat Cargo Command, since the supply route from the port area had been cut in several places by Chinese road blocks and blown bridges. The running battle with the communists necessitated daily airdrops of ammunition, food, and medicines, as well as air evacuation for the battle and weather casualties. Air Force and Marine transports and Navy torpedo bombers parachuted tons of supplies to the troops on the ground or landed at makeshift airstrips, such as those at Hagaru-ri and Kot'o-ri, to evacuate over 5,000 severely injured men. Marine, Navy, Bomber Command, and Fifth Air Force fighters and bombers struck at the enemy in the hills and bombed communist troop concentrations as the retreating column pushed down the fireswept road.

The retreat from Yudam-ni through Hagaru-ri and Kot'ri to Chinhung-ni was the most difficult portion of the retreat since the enemy attempted to trap the withdrawing troops at a point where the only road was built along sheer precipices. A short distance south of Kot'o-ri, the Chinese blew a bridge over which the U.N. forces had to pass if they hoped to salvage their mechanized equipment. Without the bridge, the units would have had to abandon their transport and wounded and cut across enemy-held mountains. The Combat Cargo Command, however, dispatched eight C–119's, each with a two-ton bridge span, to Kot'o-ri. The flying boxcars dropped the spans which were later assembled and moved into place across narrow ravines by engineers who were under heavy fire. The convoy moved forward once again, and on 9 December a juncture was effected with a special relief force composed of a battalion of the 1st Marine Regiment and attached Army engineers who had been assigned the mission of cutting through the enemy and opening the road above Chinhung-ni to which Task Force Dog had driven. The two forces met in the mountains a few miles south of Kot'o-ri, although the escape route remained under fierce enemy pressure. After thirteen days of constant exposure to enemy fire on the freezing mountain roadway, the bearded survivors moved on to the plains and toward the city of Hamhung. The 3d Division's 65th Regiment from Puerto Rico fought a rear guard action covering the withdrawal and was among the last elements to pull back to the Hungnam perimeter.

While the break-through from the reservoirs southeast to the coast was in the process of completion, the X Corps commander had ordered his forces to concentrate in the coastal sector around the war-ravaged port of Hungnam. From the far north city of Ch'ongjin the ROK 3d and Capital Divisions withdrew to Songjin and were evacuated by rail, water, and motor. Elements of the U.S. 7th Division that had not been involved in the withdrawal from the Changjin–Pujon Reservoir area, were directed into the coastal perimeter by General Barr, and deployed for the defense of the sector. General Soule's U.S. 3d Division which had moved by land and sea from Wonsan to Hungnam was also in defensive positions along the perimeter. Under cover of U.N. fleet units, the ports of Iwon and Wonsan were cleared of all U.N. forces.

Into the concentration of U.N. forces around Hungnam poured the exhausted men who had fought their way through from Yudam-ni and Hagaru-ri. With them came their prisoners, captured equipment, the wounded, and all the mobile conveyances which had remained operable during the retreat. While they were fed and rested and their wounded evacuated by air and hospital ship, sectors of the protective perimeter around the port were defended by the U.S. 3d and 7th Divisions and elements of the ROK 3d and Capital Divisions. Having failed to stop the brilliant withdrawal, the communists continued to commit their troops piecemeal against the U.N. forces guarding the perimeter. General MacArthur, flying into the Hungnam beachhead on 11 December, observed, "The United Nations Command, in spite of its recent heavy fighting, is in excellent shape with high morale and conspicuous self-confidence. Although heavily outnumbered, it has come through in a superior manner." He praised the skill of the U.N. field commanders and observed that all the forces concerned had fought with gallantry.

To evacuate the X Corps from North Korea, an amphibious fleet, commanded by Admiral Doyle, was dispatched to Hungnam harbor. The operation, which required the utilization of 193 vessels, worked smoothly. All equipment and supplies of value were loaded aboard ship from the half-destroyed port. About 350,000 tons of cargo were salvaged, including 17,500 vehicles. Even a number of Russian-made self-propelled 76-mm. guns with which the North Koreans had been equipped were hoisted aboard the waiting craft. About 105,000 troops were evacuated from Hungnam, Songjin, and Wonsan, and space was also found for over 98,000 Korean civilians.

Beginning on 11 December, the evacuation took two weeks. During the whole operation the enemy launched attacks against the X Corps perimeter. To defend the port area, protect the embarking troops, and permit the Navy to carry out its formidable task, General Almond directed an active defensive. The front line followed an arc of about twenty-two miles radius centering on Hungnam harbor. The Chinese already had suffered extremely high casualties but with a strong mass attack, supported by artillery, they might have broken through to the beach. The enemy, however, lacked artillery in appreciable quantities and refrained from using his reserves to press home a major attack in any one sector. As troops and supplies were evacuated and the harassing assaults by the enemy continued, the Hamhung–Hungnam perimeter gradually contracted and tightened about the port.

After the middle of December, two North Korean divisions joined the assault, but were less successful than the Chinese, and the evacuation operation progressed within the arc of a daily shrinking perimeter. While Army, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel worked day and night in freezing temperatures to load cargo and troops aboard the waiting ships, every artillery unit in the sector fired concentrations upon the enemy. During the two weeks of the evacuation, an offshore naval fire support force, commanded by Rear Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, fired 34,000 rounds from 16-, 8-, and 5-inch guns and 5-inch rocket launchers against communist positions. To permit spotters to select targets after dark and to prevent the communists from staging surprise night attacks, thousands of illuminating projectiles and star shells were fired. Operating from icy runways, the Navy and Marine planes from Rear Adm. E. C. Ewen's Fast Carrier Task Force 77 and Rear Adm. Richard W. Ruble's escort carrier group provided additional support to the beachhead defenses, About one fourth of the total sortie capability of the 5th Air Force and the entire 1st Marine Air Wing co-operated to provide air cover for the X Corps sector during this period.

Army engineer units destroyed buildings, bridges, rail lines, and railroad equipment which could have been used by the enemy after the departure of the X Corps. The 3d Division pulled back from Hamhung on 16 December 1950 amid a pyramiding series of explosions. The perimeter was thus reduced to the vicinity of Hungnam proper, seven miles to the southeast.

Large forces of the enemy renewed their persistent attempts to penetrate the Hungnam defense perimeter. The volume of heavy mortar and small arms fire indicated the presence of strong hostile forces just beyond the perimeter. There was considerable danger that an all-out communist offensive would be mounted before the evacuation was completed, but close air support and naval and artillery fire continued to break up enemy concentrations in the surrounding areas. As U.N. troops pulled back toward the beach, an airstrip was scraped from the frozen dirt within the perimeter, so that Yonpo airfield, which was three miles south of Hungnam, could be evacuated.

By Christmas week the perimeter enclosed a small beachhead filled with dust-caked soldiers and civilians. Field artillery vied with naval guns to maintain continuous supporting fire. Coal dust, smoke, and sediment from demolition blasts thickened the air as files of civilians awaited a chance to enter cargo vessels.

The harbor of Hungnam once had had excellent port facilities, but they had been partially wrecked in earlier phases of the hostilities. Before the engineers were finished, virtually nothing was left standing in the port. Clouds of smoke billowed from the blasted and smouldering town as the last of the X Corps prepared to leave the beachhead. The 7th Division was already at sea, and only the rear guard of the 3d Division, numbering 9,000, held the perimeter. On the day before Christmas, General Soule's units shot their final rounds of the year at the communist enemy. While carrier-based planes showered the hostile areas beyond the tiny perimeter with rockets, bombs, jellied gasoline, and machine gun fire, the warships of the Seventh Fleet executed harassing, interdiction, and call fire over the heads of the withdrawing units of the U.S. 3d Division which climbed into the waiting landing craft and amphibian tractors. From the carrier *Philippine Sea* a message relayed the information that at 1436 on 24 December 1950, the last soldier of the U.N. forces in northeast Korea was safely on board ship.

The commander of U.N. naval forces, Vice Adm. C. Turner Joy, complementing the men who made possible the greatest sea evacuation in American history, stated that the X Corps was being moved from a poor tactical position to a better one. The divisions were transported to ports south of the parallel where they went into Eighth Army reserve.

All of North Korea was once again in the hands of the communists. Before the enemy renewed his attacks, however, the Eighth Army lost its distinguished commanding general. On 23 December Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker, while traveling north of Seoul to present citations to the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade and the U.S. 24th Division, was killed when the jeep in which he was riding collided with a ROK Army truck.

Immediately after the accident, Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, Deputy Chief of Staff for Administration, U.S. Army, was selected to command the Eighth Army. In World War II General Ridgway had been commander of the 82d Airborne Division, and later of the 18th Airborne Corps. General Ridgway flew to Japan to report to General MacArthur and took command of all the U.N. ground forces in Korea on 26 December. Upon his arrival in South Korea, the new commanding general said :

I have complete confidence in our ultimate success-confidence born of your achievements and the

splendid spirit everywhere in evidence throughout this great interservice allied team.

Having performed with great gallantry and skill under conditions as adverse as any United States forces have encountered since Valley Forge, there is no shadow of doubt of the character of this Army's future conduct, teamed as it is with our own great services and our allies.

We face severe trials. We shall need dogged determination in attack and utmost tenacity in defense. We shall need resourcefulness.

The action of one single platoon or squad may virtually affect the whole command.

Never before have leaders-both command and staff-had a greater challenge or a finer opportunity to show America at its best.

May God be with you in the coming year.

Although General Ridgway's troops were outnumbered two to one, they were battlewise and prepared when the enemy offensive jumped off on the last day of December 1950.

MARINE UNITS ASSEMBLE ALONG A ROAD in the vicinity of Yudam-ni, just west of the Changjin Reservoir, to begin evacuating the area. During the first days of December, the weather became bitterly cold, temperatures dropped to twenty-five degrees below zero, and the movement over the roads was greatly hindered by snow and ice.

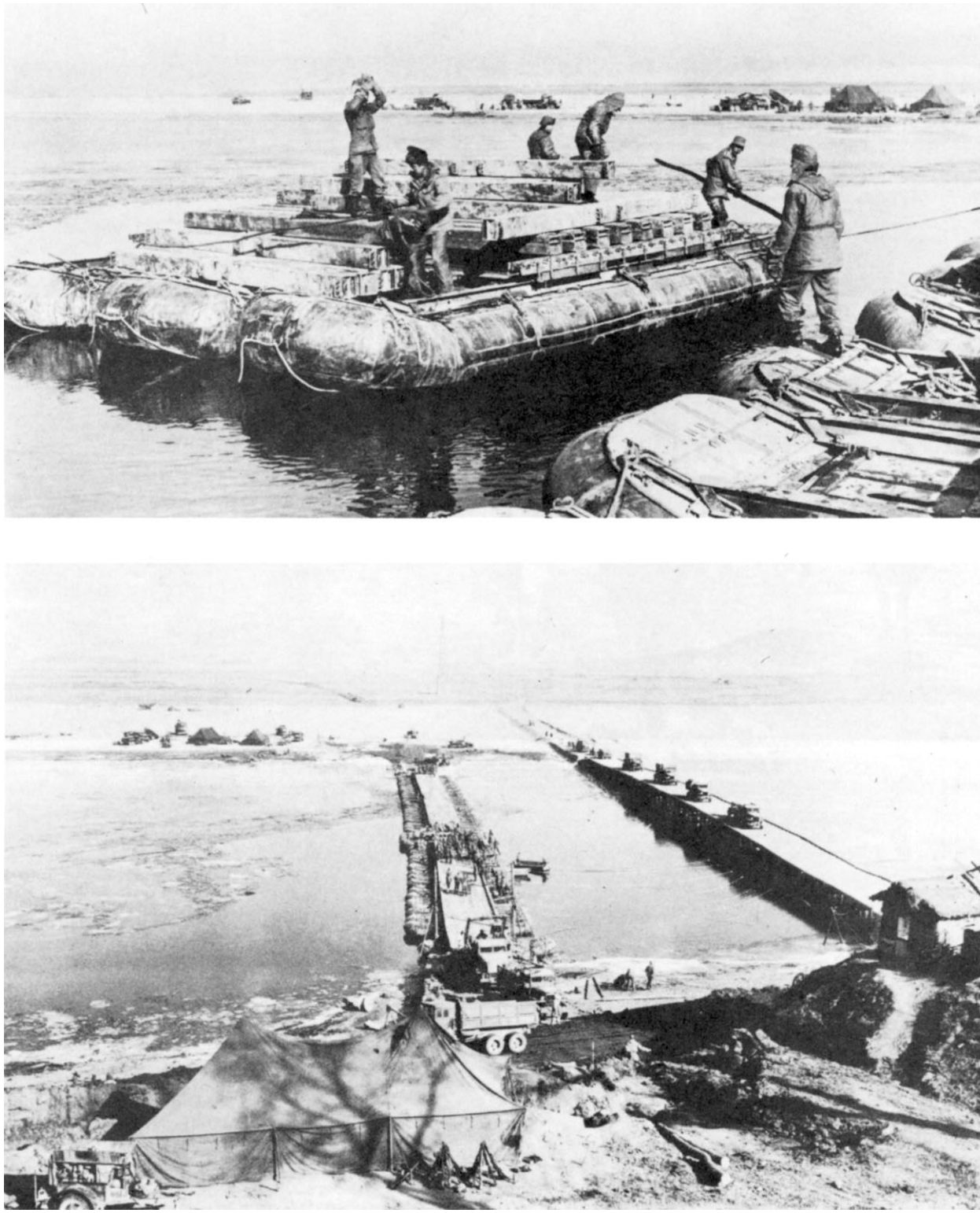
MARINES BEGIN TO MOVE OUT OF THE YUDAM-NI AREA. The U.N. forces beat off strong Chinese communist attacks near Yudam-ni and Hagaru-ri, but the enemy set up road blocks south of Hagaru-ri and Kot'o-ri which blocked the shipment of supplies from Hamhung. U.N. units in the Sunch'on area were holding off the enemy forces.

SUPPLIES PACKED AND READY TO BE LOADED into planes in Japan for an airdrop to U.N. troops in North Korea (top); C–119's dropping supplies to encircled U.N. units in North Korea (bottom).

SUPPLIES BEING DROPPED TO MARINES in the Changjin Reservoir area. In early December, C–119's of the Combat Cargo Command dropped about 110 tons of supplies and ammunition on the east and west sides of the Changjin Reservoir.

COMBAT ENGINEERS PLACING SATCHEL CHARGES on a railroad bridge near P'yongyang preparatory to destroying it to slow the communist advance. U.N. forces began evacuating their positions on the Manchurian border at Hyesanjin.

KOREAN CIVILIANS crossing the icy waters of the Taedong River near P'yongyang to escape the advancing communist troops (top and center); U.S. Army units moving south from Sunch'on to P'yongyang as the U.N. forces were pulled back (bottom).

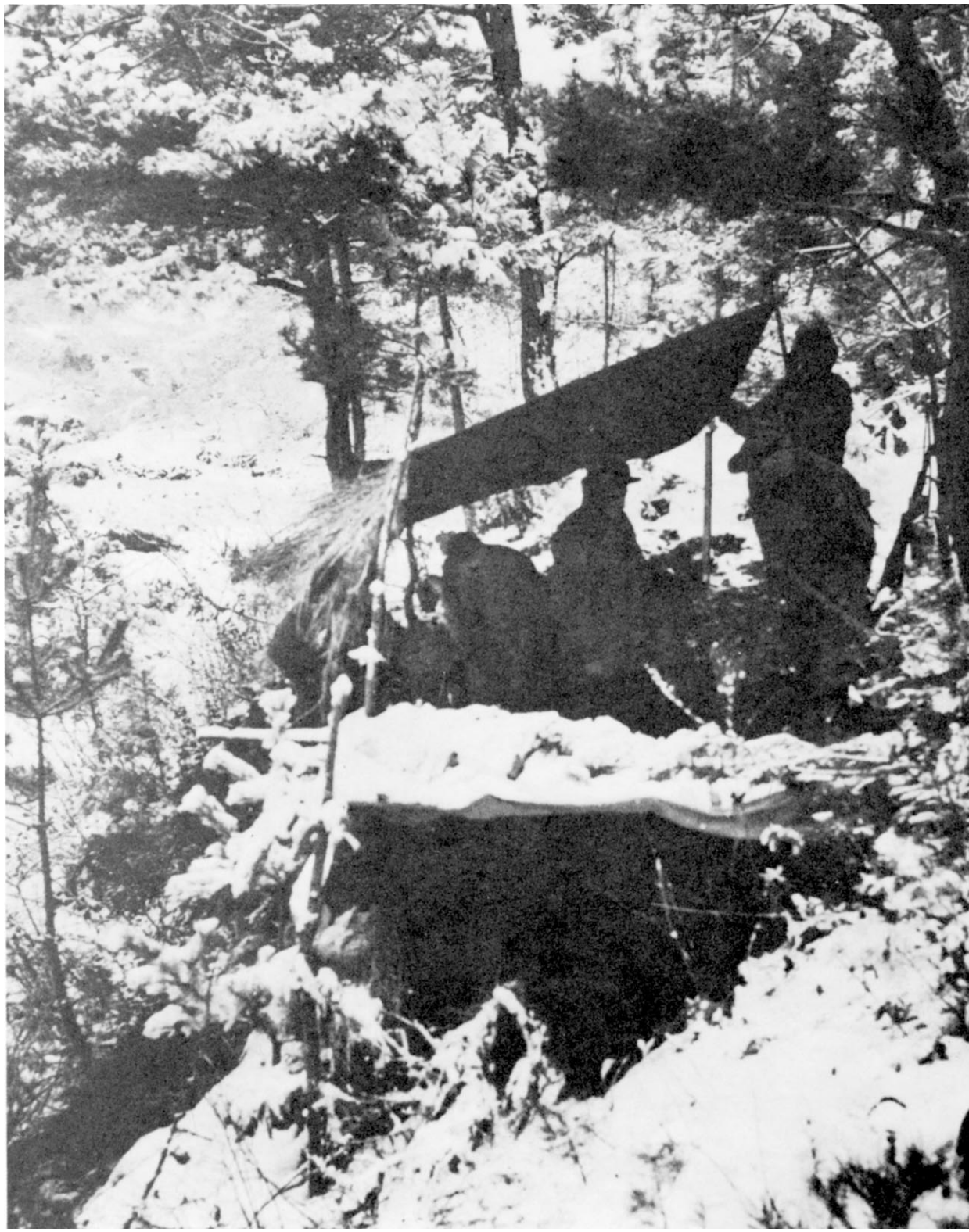


ENGINEERS FLOATING A SECTION OF TREADWAY BRIDGE into place over the Taedong River (top); engineers working on a treadway bridge as vehicles cross the Taedong River over another bridge (bottom). These bridges were destroyed after the last of the U.N. forces had moved out of the area.

MEN OF AN ARTILLERY BATTERY preparing to put their 155-mm. howitzer motor carriages M41 into action against the enemy north of Hamhung (top); an infantry patrol advancing to relieve a convoy pinned down by enemy fire (bottom). Communist forces swept into P'yongyang on 5 December.

U.N. TROOPS ASSEMBLED ON SNOW-COVERED GROUND before beginning another withdrawal toward Hungnam. The U.N. forces in the Changjin Reservoir area were trapped by the communists who kept the Hagaru-ri sector under fire.

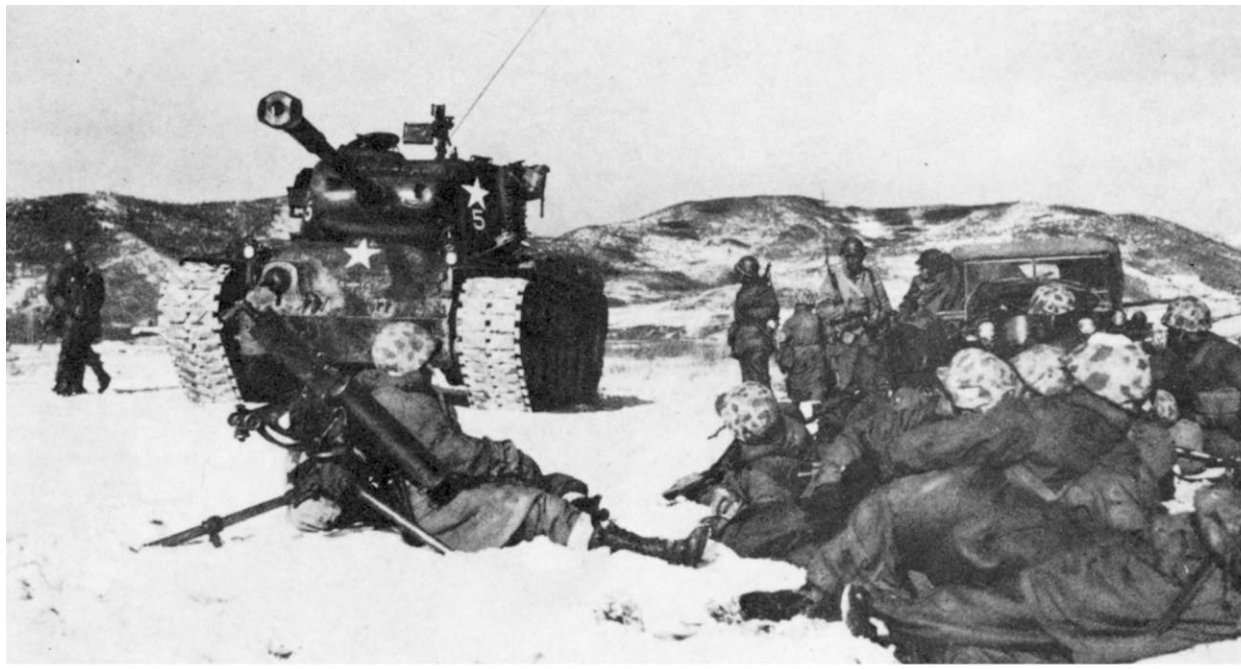
A MARINE TRANSPORT PLANE BURNING (foreground) after crashing on a makeshift airstrip, while another transport takes off, loaded with wounded (top); 105-mm howitzer firing at the enemy surrounding the airstrip at Hagaru-ri (bottom).



INFANTRYMEN WORKING ON A FOXHOLE in the Kogaedong area. South of Kot'o-ri, the communists were repelled near Majon-dong while other enemy forces were engaged near Hamhung. The enemy was building up his forces in all areas.

U.N. SOLDIERS COOKING RICE in their foxhole in the Kogaedong area.

MARINES PREPARE TO MOVE SOUTHWARD from the Kot'o-ri area. Tank in foreground is a Pershing M26; the others are Sherman M4's (top); snow falling on a Marine camp in the Kot'o-ri area (bottom).



U.N. TROOPS RESTING after overcoming an enemy ambush. Patton M46 medium tank (top); fighter plane of a Marine air wing attacking enemy positions as Marine ground troops look on (bottom).

MARINES MOVE TOWARD HUNGNAM from the Kot'o-ri area, taking most of their equipment with them. During the trip through the mountains to the sea, the icy gales and frozen ground added to the difficulties. A relief column was pushing northward to help combat the communists.

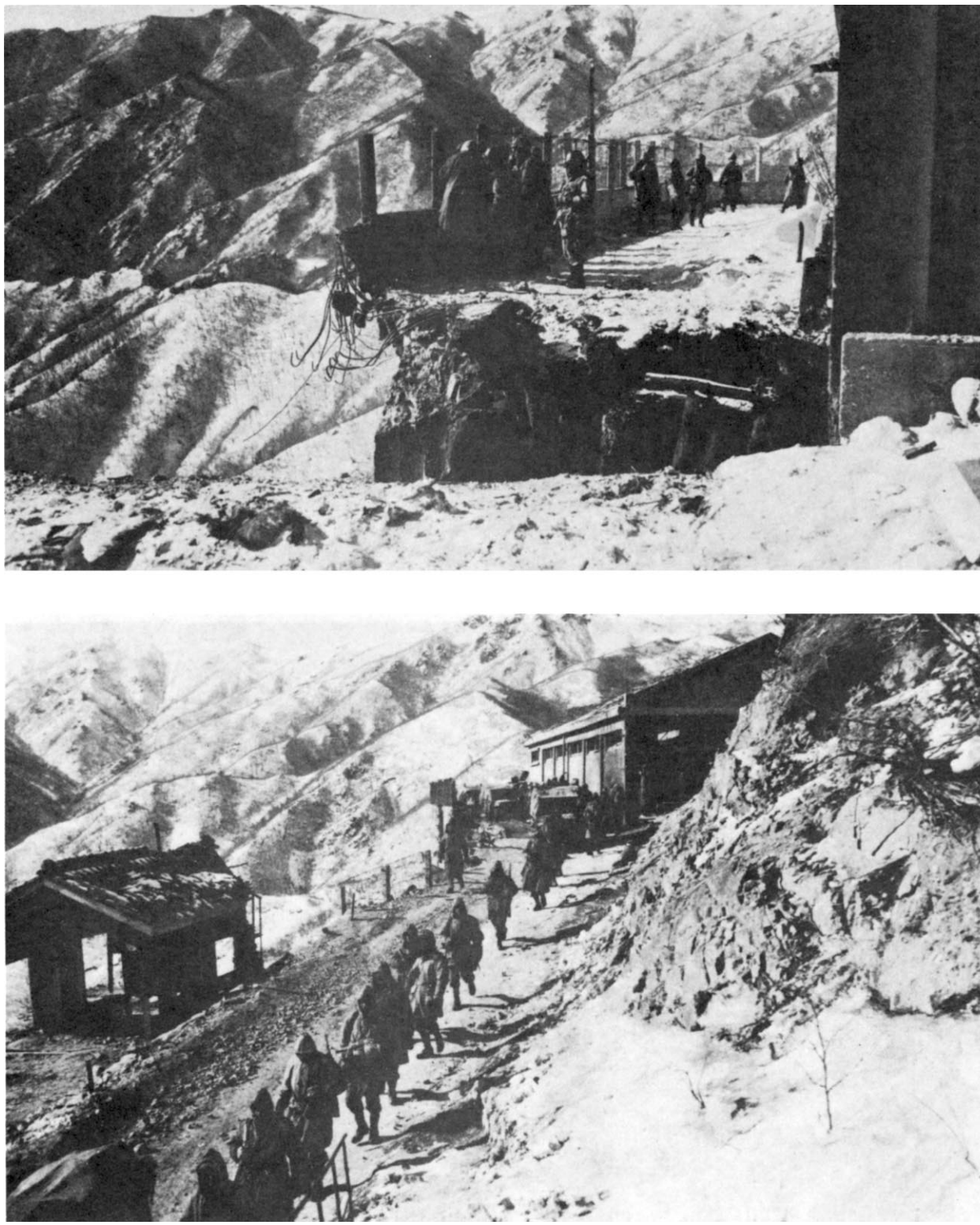
MARINES GUARD A ROAD against an enemy attack as others of the unit prepare to evacuate the area. While the Kot'o-ri area was being evacuated, ROK units fought the North Koreans north and south of the 38th parallel. On the east coast U.N. forces held Wonsan until ordered to proceed to Hungnam.

MARINES LINE BOTH SIDES OF A ROAD during the withdrawal from the Kot'o-ri area (top); Patton M46 tanks help form a defense perimeter in the Kogae-dong area (bottom).

WET, STINGING SNOW AND ICE add to the problems of a soldier as he carries as much equipment as he can manage during the withdrawal from Kot'o-ri to the sea.

MARINES CARRYING A WOUNDED MAN on a litter to an improvised airstrip for evacuation (top); frostbite casualties waiting for a plane which will carry them to a hospital (bottom).

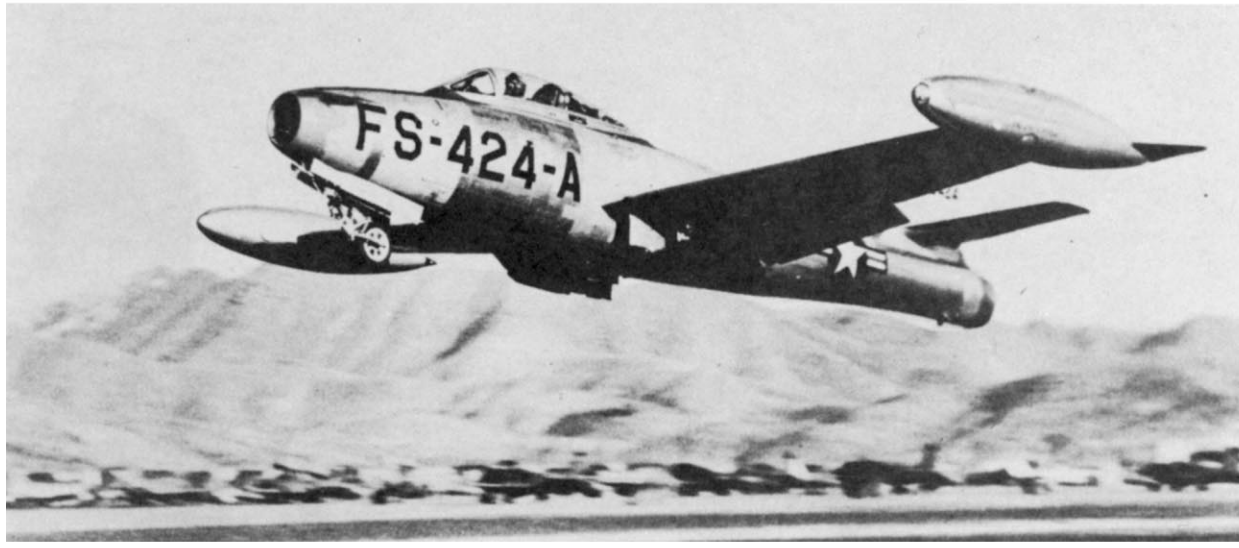
CASUALTIES of the fighting and weather in the Changjin Reservoir area waiting to be evacuated by air to a hospital in Japan (top); a wounded man being placed aboard a liaison plane which will fly him to a rear area hospital (bottom).

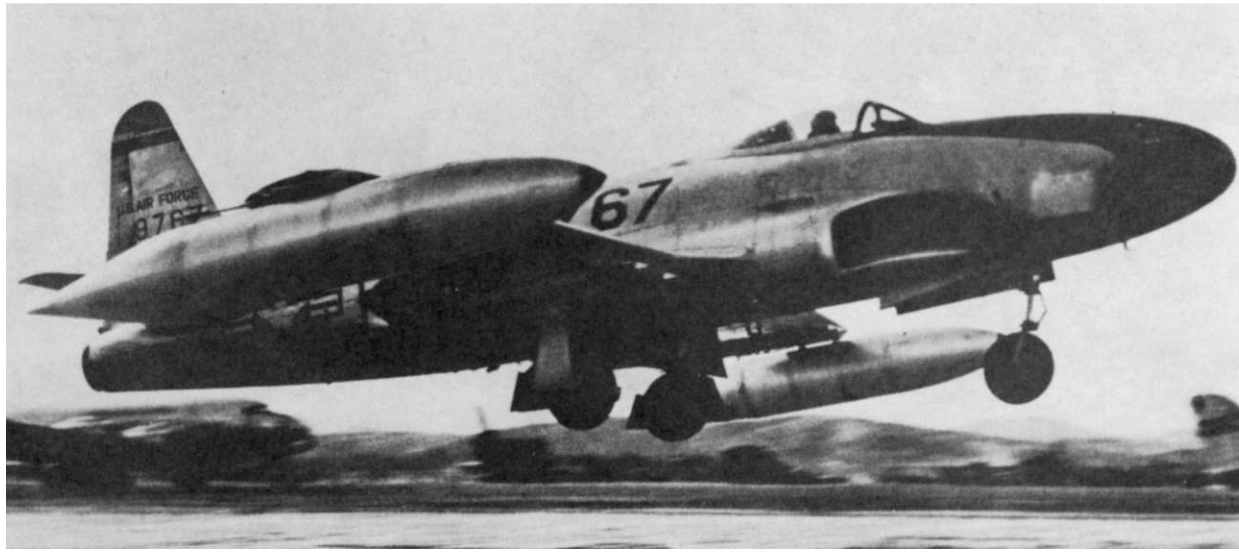


MARINES ON THEIR WAY TO HAMHUNG are stopped by a blown bridge at one of the electric power stations (top); after bridge sections were flown from Japan, parachuted to the waiting units, and installed, the troops continued on their march to Hamhung (bottom).

TYPICAL TERRAIN of the area near the reservoir, showing the narrow winding road, and electric power station where the U.N. forces were delayed until the parachuted bridge was assembled and put in place. On 11 December, after a thirteen-day fight, the U.N. forces broke out of the communist trap and emerged from the hills of northeast Korea onto the plains of Hamhung.

CHINESE COMMUNISTS PRISONERS CAPTURED during the fighting withdrawal from Hamhung. Some of the captured communists are wearing U.S. shoes, while others wear light canvas shoes or rags. All are wearing the cotton quilted uniform. On 11 December the withdrawal from Hungnam began, members of a Marine division embarking first.

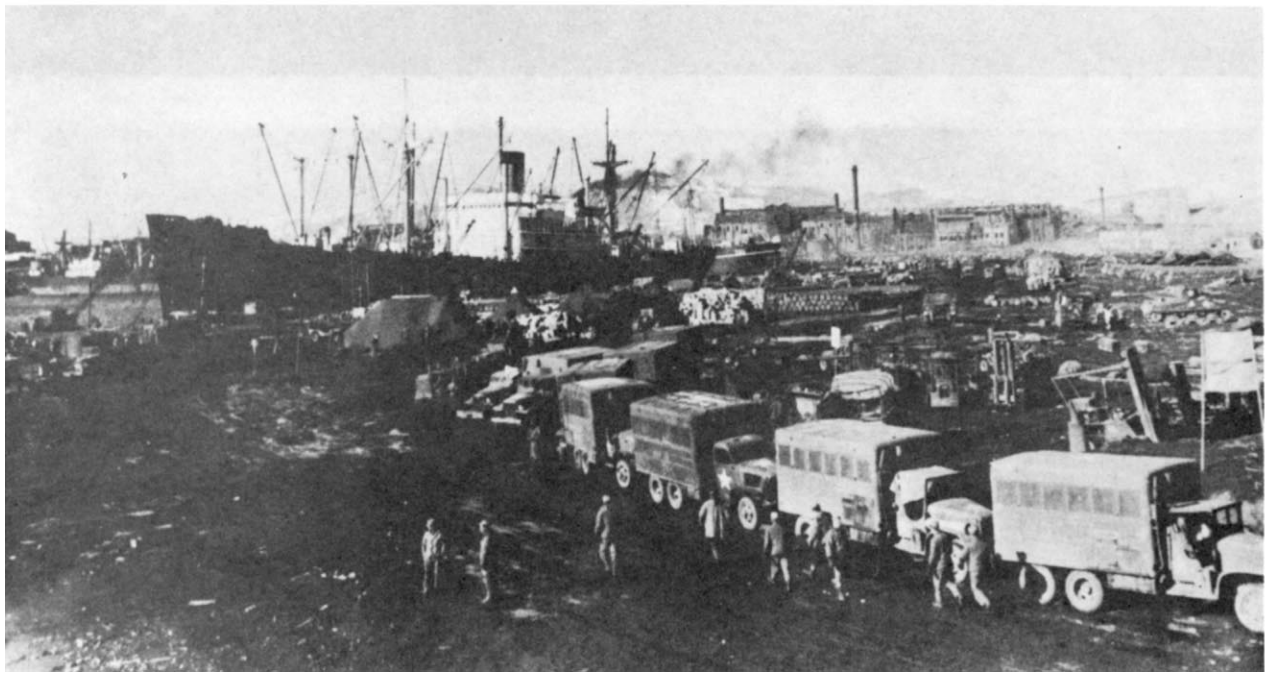




JET PLANES. Three types of U.S. Air Force jet planes used in Korea. The F–86 Sabre, which first appeared in combat in Korea on 18 December (top); the F–84 Thunderjet (center); and the F–80 Shooting Star (bottom).

155-MM. HOWITZER BEING FIRED by members of a field artillery battalion at enemy positions in the Sibyon-ni area. This area north of the 38th parallel was between P'yongyang and Seoul.

TANKS ENTERING A VILLAGE near Kaesong during the withdrawal toward Seoul (top); houses burning near Sibyon-ni as U.N. forces evacuate the area (center); soldiers watching for enemy activity during the withdrawal (bottom).

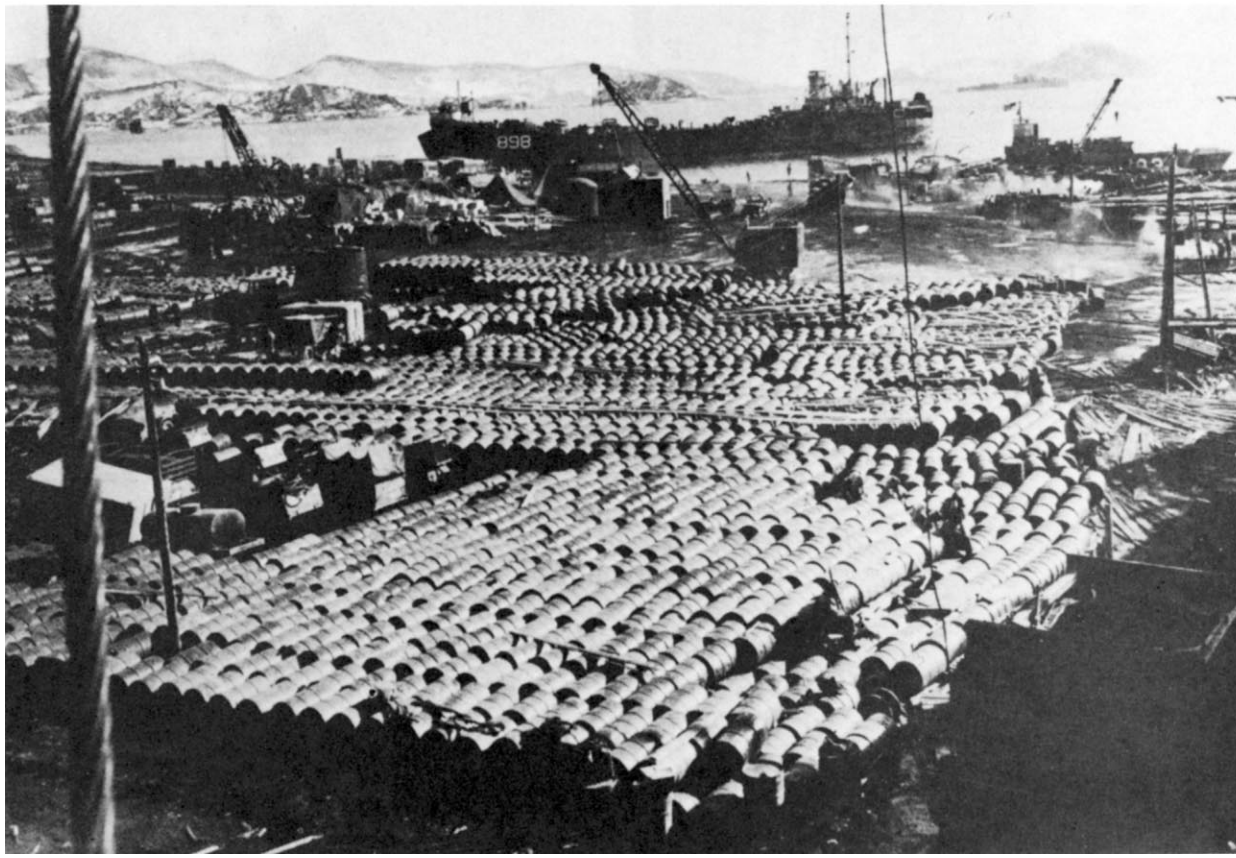


U.N. UNITS EVACUATING HUNGNAM. As enemy forces were striking at the withdrawing X Corps, the evacuation of the Hamhung–Hungnam area went on in

an orderly manner. Along the 38th parallel, U.N. units still engaged the enemy while a general withdrawal in that sector continued.

AN INFANTRYMAN GUARDING A PASS about twelve miles north of Hamhung, during the evacuation of the area. His weapon is a 75-mm. recoilless rifle which, because of its relatively light weight (approximately 114 pounds) and the ease with which it could be emplaced (approximately one and a half minutes), was a valuable weapon for use in the rough mountainous terrain.

MARINES CLIMBING ABOARD A TRANSPORT from an LCM which brought them from the beach, during the evacuation from the Hamhung–Hungnam area. By the middle of December the marines had been withdrawn from the Hungnam sector by sea. Communist troops continued to press around the defense perimeter of the Hungnam–Hamhung area.



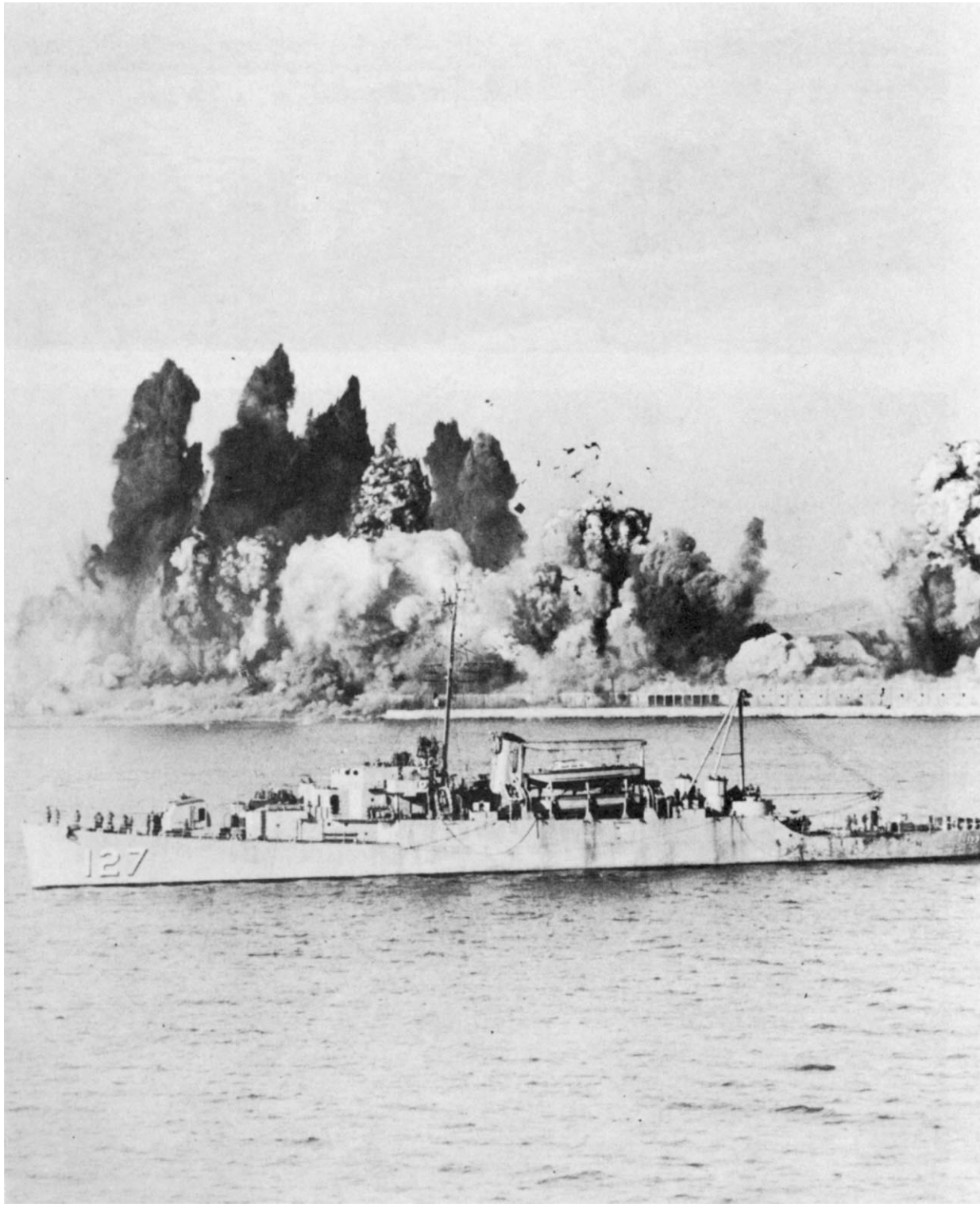
U.S. AND SOUTH KOREAN INFANTRYMEN boarding LCVP's at Hungnam (top); barrels of aviation gasoline lined up on the beach at Hungnam (bottom). While the units defending the port area held off the communist forces, the evacuation of men and supplies continued.

ENLISTED MEN USING KOREAN A-FRAMES carry mats, stovepipes, and other equipment during the withdrawal from the P'yongyang area to the 38th parallel. On 16 December Hamhung was abandoned and the bridges leading out of the city were destroyed. In northeast Korea the ROK I Corps was being withdrawn and by mid-December this movement was completed.

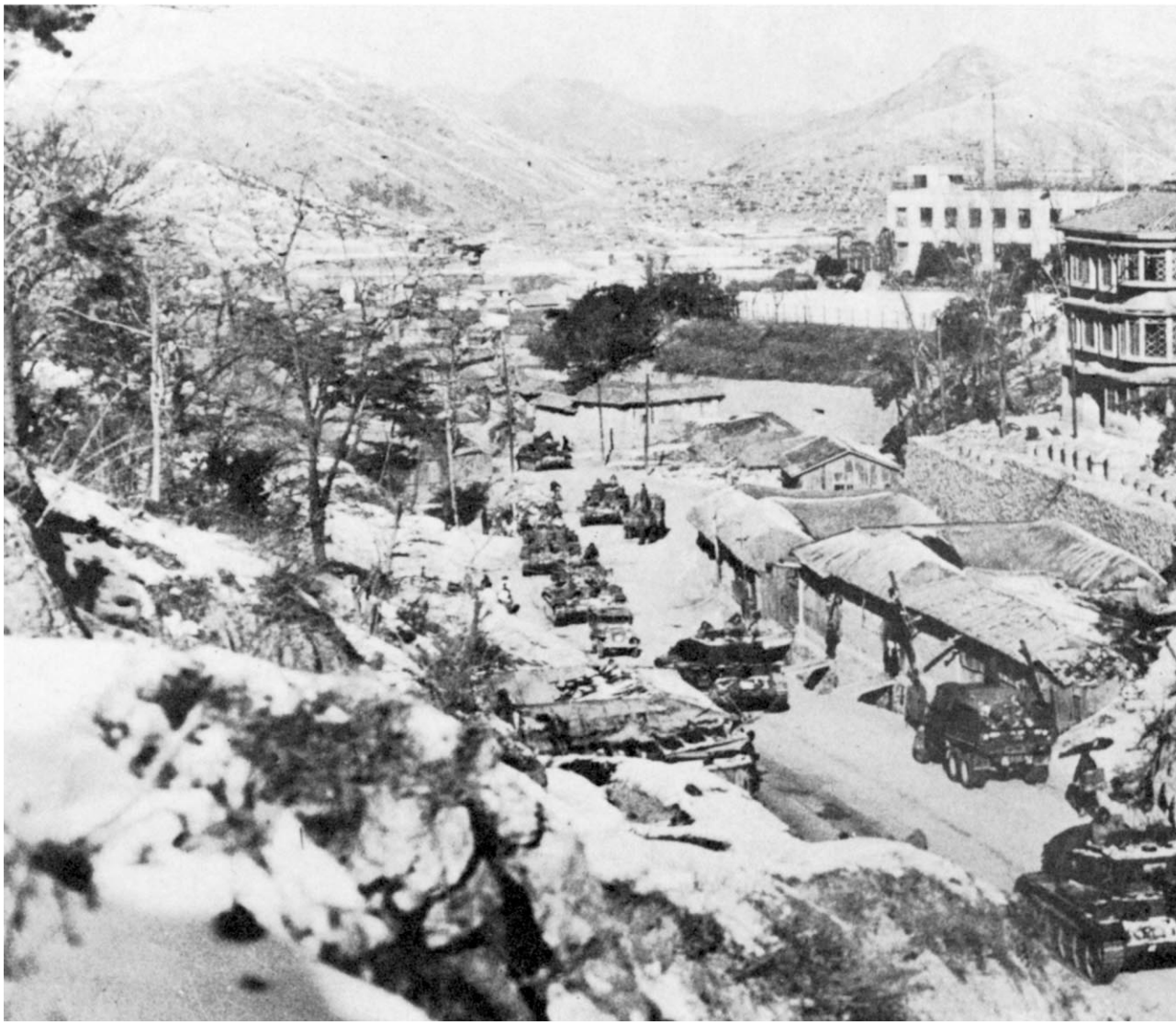
HAIRCUT DURING A SNOWSTORM.

A COMPANY AREA (top); eating dinner in front of a Christmas tree (bottom).

EXPLOSIVES BEING PLACED ON A PIER at Hungnam as the evacuation of the port nears completion. On Christmas Eve the last of the U.N. units were taken aboard ships at Hungnam. During this evacuation, over 105,000 soldiers and 98,000 civilians were removed from the area.



A U.S. WARSHIP lying off the port of Hungnam as the docks are being destroyed. With the successful withdrawal of all the U.N. units in the area, all dock and other facilities were destroyed to deny their use to the communist forces. Most of the evacuated units were landed in the Pusan area.

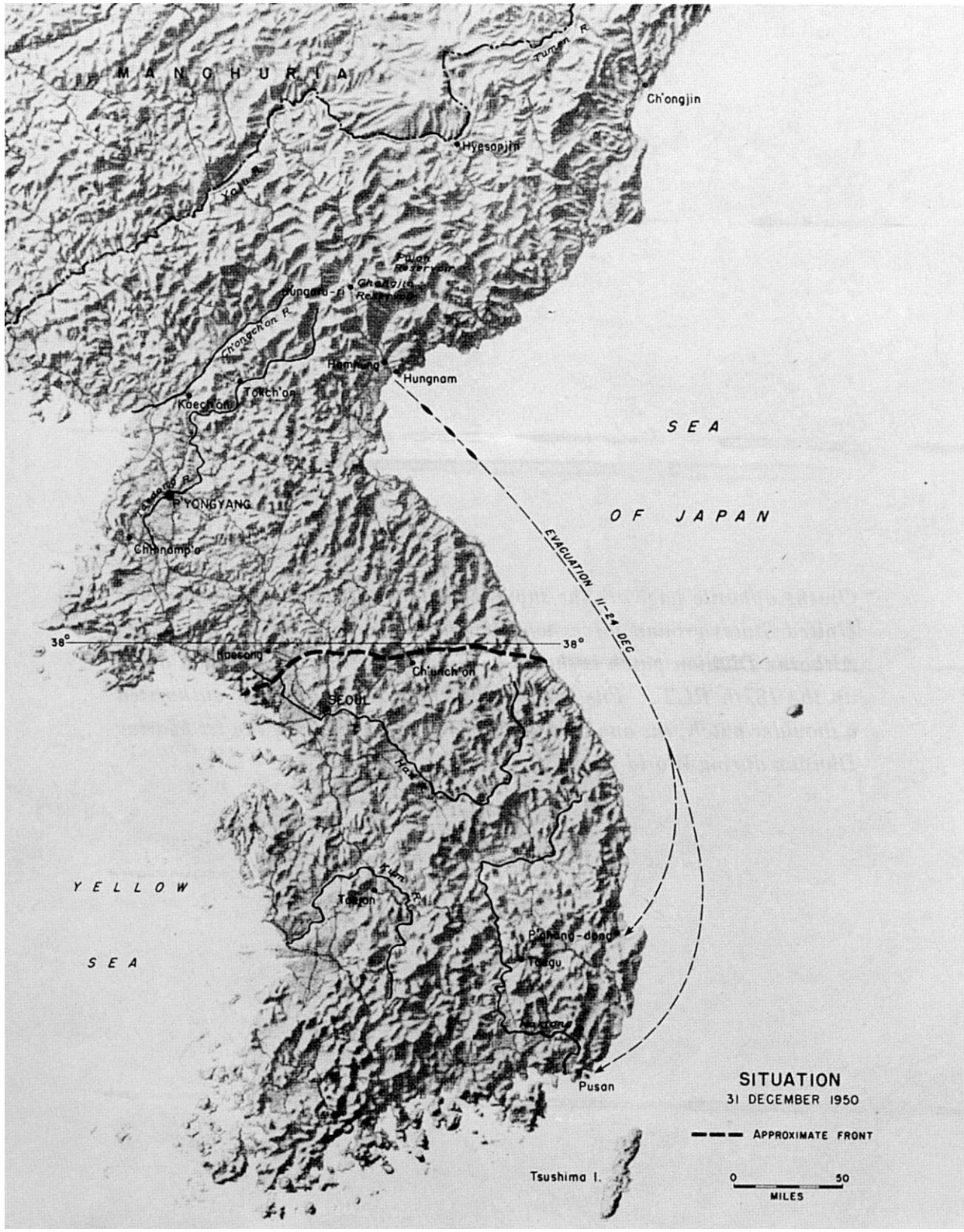


KOREAN CIVILIANS CROSSING THE HAN RIVER, again moving away from their homes (top left); military traffic crossing the Han River (top right); British

Crusader tanks entering Seoul as they are pulled back from the 38th parallel (bottom). By the end of 1950, the Eighth Army was forming new lines along the 38th parallel.

U.N. SOLDIERS RIDING ON A SHERMAN MEDIUM TANK on their way to establish a new defense line. South Korean civilians who were evacuating the area look on from the sides of the road. At the end of the year the U.N. forces had successfully completed their withdrawal from North Korea.

INFANTRYMEN CONSTRUCTING A BARBED-WIRE FENCE north of Seoul as new defense lines are established (top); soldiers digging foxholes as a tank stands ready to fire on any enemy troops (bottom). The withdrawal from North Korea by the U.N. forces did not mean the end of the operations against the enemy. The U.N. army was soon opposing the communist forces again near the 38th parallel. More units were arriving in Korea with every intention of staying.


MANCHURIA
Tumen R.
Ch'ongjin
Hyesanjin
Yalu R.
Fusen Reservoir
Pungsan-ni
Chosin Reservoir
Chongchon R.
Hamhung
Hungnam
Kaech'on
Tokch'on
SEA
OF JAPAN
Taedong R.
P'YONGYANG
Chinnamp'o
EVACUATION 11-24 DEC
38°
38°
Kaesong
Ch'unch'on
SEOUL
Han R.
YELLOW
SEA
Kum R.
Taejon
P'ohang-dong
Taegu
Pusan
Tsushima I.
SITUATION
31 DECEMBER 1950
APPROXIMATE FRONT
0
50
MILES

MAP 6

On the opposite page are the shoulder patches of the major units of the United States ground forces who fought in Korea in 1950. The 11th Airborne Division patch is shown because men from that division made up the 187th RCT. The 1st Marine Division is no longer authorized a shoulder patch; the one shown was worn by members of the 1st Marine Division during World War II.

EIGHTH ARMY

I CORPS

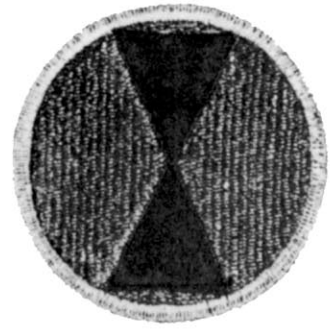
IX Corps

X CORPS

1st CAVALRY DIVISION

2d INFANTRY DIVISION

3d INFANTRY DIVISION



7th INFANTRY DIVISION

11th AIRBORNE DIVISION

24th INFANTRY DIVISION

25th INFANTRY DIVISION

1st MARINE DIVISION

List of Pictorial Sources

The following list gives the origin of all photographs that appear in this book. The photographs come from the files of the Army Signal Corps (SC),* the Air Force (USAF), the Navy (USN), and the Marine Corps (USMC). Further information concerning photographs may be secured from the agency of origin.

* This collection is now in the possession of the National Archives and Records Administration.

Page	*Source*	*Number*	*Page*	*Source*	*Number*
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219 (top)	SC	SC 352775	254 (bottom)	SC	SC 354096
219 (bottom)	SC	SC 352798	255	USAF	78460 AC
220 (top)	SC	SC 354726	256 (top)	USAF	78464 AC
220 (bottom)	SC	SC 352725	256 (bottom)	USAF	78466 AC
221	SC	SC 352854	257 (top)	USMC	MC A-4858
222	USN	707999	257 (bottom)	SC	SC 353558
223	USN	423473	258 (top)	USMC	MC A-5375
224 (top)	SC	SC 354199	258 (bottom)	USMC	MC A-5408
224 (bottom)	SC	SC 354200	259	USMC	MC A-130504
225	SC	SC 353313	260 (top)	USMC	MC A-5388
238 (top)	USMC	MC A-4854	260 (bottom)	USMC	MC A-5377
238 (bottom)	USMC	MC A-4857	261 (top)	USAF	78563
239 (top)	USMC	MC A-4863	261 (center)	USAF	78419
239 (bottom)	USMC	MC A-4855	261 (bottom)	USAF	78461
240 (top)	USAF	78462 AC	262	SC	SC 354765
240 (bottom)	USMC	MC A-4857	263 (top)	SC	SC 354751
241	USAF	40314 AC	263 (center)	SC	SC 354767
242	SC	SC 355302	263 (bottom)	SC	SC 354762
243 (top)	SC	SC 355227	264-265 (top)	SC	SC 354784
243 (center)	SC	SC 355229	264 (bottom)	USN	423919
243 (bottom)	SC	SC 353855	265 (bottom)	Unknown	Unknown
244 (top)	SC	FEC-50-22292	266	SC	SC 354466
244 (bottom)	SC	SC 354078	267	SC	SC 355243
245 (top)	SC	SC 354246	268 (top)	SC	SC 354817
245 (bottom)	SC	SC 354259	268 (bottom)	USN	423913
246	USMC	MC A-130517	269	SC	SC 354835
247 (top)	USMC	MC A-130228	270	SC	SC 355109
247 (bottom)	USMC	MC A-130286	271 (top)	SC	SC 355108
248	SC	SC 354104	271 (bottom)	SC	SC 354891
249	SC	SC 354103	272	SC	SC 354898
250 (top)	USMC	MC A-5395	273	USN	424297
250 (bottom)	USMC	MC A-5367	274 (top)	SC	SC 355286
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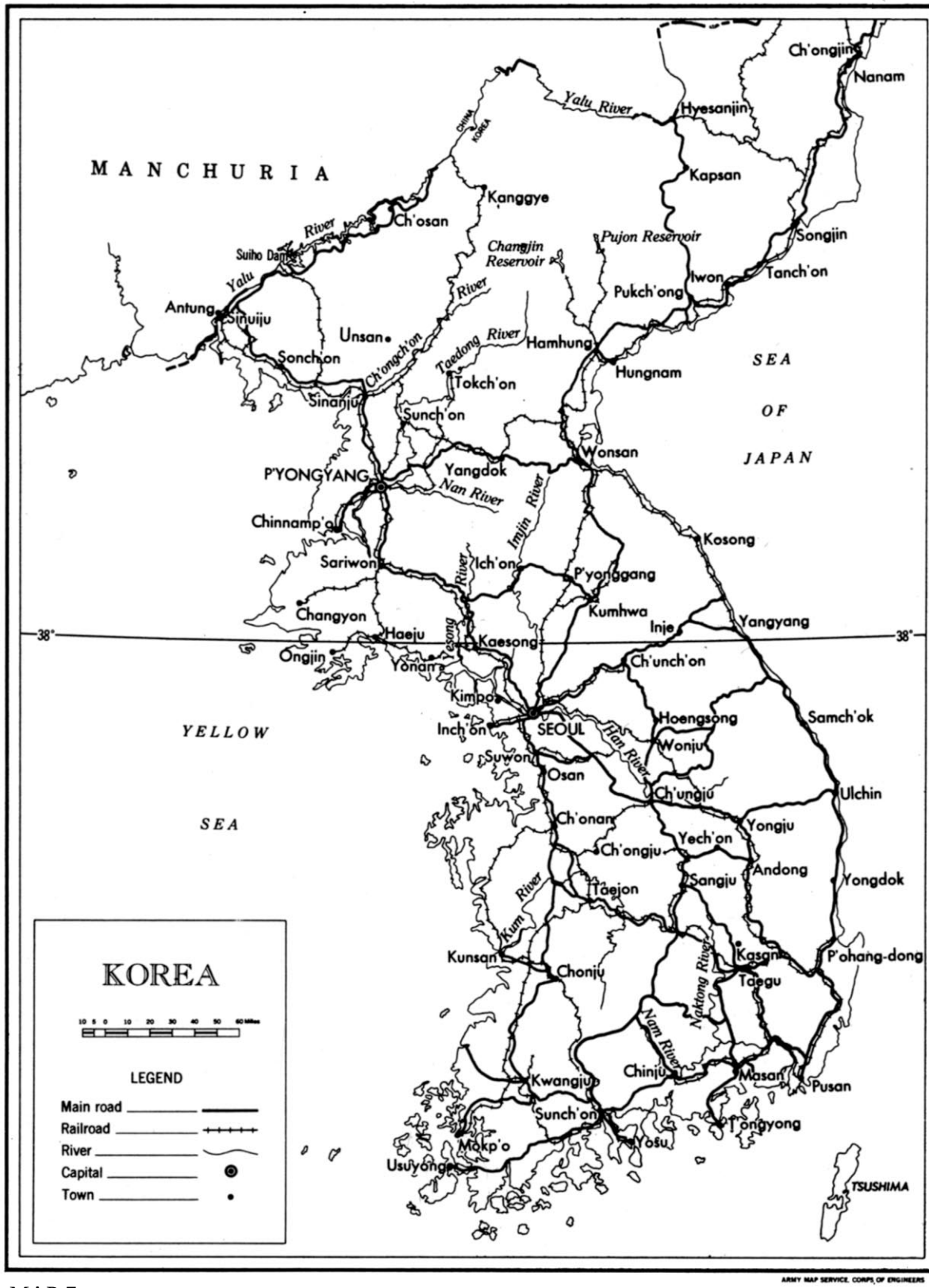
251 (bottom)	USMC	MC A-5464	275 (top)	SC	SC 355136
252 (top)	USMC	MC A-5400	276	SC	SC 355570
252 (bottom)	USMC	MC A-5370	277 (top)	SC	SC 355508
253	USMC	MC A-4846	277 (bottom)	SC	SC 355899
254 (top)	USMC	MC A-5358			


MANCHURIA
Ch'ongjin
Nanam
Yalu River
Hyesanjin
CHINA
KOREA
Kapsan
Kanggye
Ch'osan
Changjin Reservoir
Pujon Reservoir
Songjin
Suiho Dam
Yalu River
Iwon
Tanch'on
Pukch'ong
Antung
Sinuiju
Unsan
Ch'ongch'on River
Taedong River
Hamhung
SEA OF JAPAN
Sonch'on
Hungnam
Tokch'on
Sinanju
Sunch'on
Wonsan
P'YONGYANG
Yangdok
Nan River
Imjin River
Chinnamp'o
Kosong
Sariwon
Ich'on
P'yonggang
Changyon
Kumhwa
Inje
Yangyang
38°
Haeju
Kaesong
Yesong River
38°
Ongjin
Yonan
Ch'unch'on
Kimpo
Hoengsong
Samch'ok
YELLOW SEA
Inch'on
SEOUL
Han River
Wonju
Suwon
Osan
Ch'ungju
Ulchin
Ch'onan
Yongju
Yech'on
Ch'ongju
Andong
Sangju
Yongdok
Taejon
Kum River
Kunsan
Chonju
Kasgn
P'ohang-dong
Taegu
Naktong River
Nam River
Chinju
Masan
Pusan
Kwangju
Sunch'on
T'ongyong
Mokp'o
Yosu
Usuyongge
TSUSHIMA
KOREA
10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 Miles
LEGEND
Main road
Railroad
River
Capital
Town
ARMY MAP SERVICE, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MAP 7