

BEHIND THE TIMES

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YESTERYEAR TODAY

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WAR REPORT: THE BATTLE OF THE HOOK – TERRAIN DECIDES THE FIGHT

Reports from the Korean Peninsula confirm that United Nations forces have successfully repelled another major Chinese offensive at The Hook, a critical defensive position west of the Samichon River. The battle, fought between May 28 and May 29, saw British forces of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, supported by New Zealand artillery and American airpower, withstand repeated Chinese assaults.

The terrain of The Hook played a decisive role in this engagement. A steep ridgeline with commanding views over the valley, this position has long been a natural defensive bastion. The Chinese held the high ground to the north, giving them an advantage in staging mass infantry waves. Yet the British, dug deep into fortified bunkers, utilized Vickers machine guns, mortars, and Centurion tank support to break the advance. Artillery fire from New Zealand's 16th Field Regiment blanketed enemy assembly points, while U.S. F-86 Sabres conducted air strikes on supply lines.

Despite heavy bombardment and relentless infantry attacks, the UN forces held firm. The victory secures vital defensive lines near Panmunjom, maintaining pressure as ceasefire negotiations continue. The Korean terrain continues to dictate the war's outcome, proving once again that ground held is victory earned.



U.S. soldiers capturing North Korean prisoners of war in JUN 1953.

Jacob Boyce

KOREAN WAR: FRIGHTFUL PRELUDE TO SOMETHING FAR WORSE FOR ALLIES

The guns have not yet fallen silent in Korea, yet already, talk of peace circulates. But let us not deceive ourselves—this is not merely a struggle between North and South. Korea has become the first true test between the free world and the communist war machine, and if we have learned anything, it is that this war is only the beginning.

We were not prepared for Korea. When North Korean forces stormed across the 38th parallel in June 1950, they came armed with Soviet T-34 tanks and Soviet-trained officers. Seoul fell in days. Our forces, hastily deployed, were outgunned and outmaneuvered. At Pusan Perimeter, we barely held the line. Then came our brilliant counterstroke—Inchon Landing, a bold amphibious assault that shattered North Korean supply lines. For a moment, it seemed victory was near.

But just as the world dared to believe Korea could be won, the communist horde struck again—this time from China. Hundreds of thousands poured across the Yalu River in November 1950. Our forces, caught unprepared, were driven into retreat. The battle of Chosin Reservoir, where Marines fought through encirclement in frozen hell, was proof that we were now at war with more than just North Korea. This was China's war too.

The entrance of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army in late 1950 sent shockwaves through our command. Entire UN divisions were forced into retreat as human wave assaults poured across the frozen Yalu River, driving us back below the 38th parallel.

Since then, Korea has been a grinding war of attrition—Heartbreak Ridge, the Hook, Pork Chop Hill—names now soaked in blood. This is no longer about movement, but about holding the line. American firepower meets communist manpower in brutal stalemates where hills are won and lost, bodies stacked high for yards of ground.

And in the shadows, the Soviets watch. They provide the weapons, they train the pilots flying MiG-15s against our F-86 Sabres. They learn from this war, adapting their tactics. Make no mistake: they are preparing for something greater.

If peace comes, it will be because the communists have gained time, not lost will. Time to rearm, time to plan for the next confrontation. The war in Korea has taught us one thing: the next war will not just be against China, but against the Soviets as well.

A cold peace may come to Korea, but the Cold War is far from over..



Meeting between allied forces underway in Potsdam, Germany