

Pathfinder

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Stalemate in Korea may come next

Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, Eighth Army commander in Korea, took a trip to the front early this week to see how the new offensive was going. Although he saw the enemy retreating all along the 70-mile front, he cautioned newsmen not to be overoptimistic. "We let a lot of air out of the inflated balloon of Red China's military might," he said, "but I do not believe the enemy has been routed."



Spring comes to Korea. General Mud takes it out on American foot soldiers and on supply trucks.

Intelligence officers at Eighth Army headquarters backed up his statement, reported that the Communists still have 200,000 men in the line, another 100,000 in reserve south of the Yalu River and possibly 200,000 across the river.

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Stalemate in Korea

But the Reds seemed to be avoiding a scrap. "The Communists are no longer standing and dying the way they once did," said 1st Cavalry Commander Maj. Gen. Charles Palmer. "They once had a taste for this war but it has begun to sour on them."

The heavy Communist casualties were enough to sour any soldier. The three-pronged U.N. offensive jumped off Wednesday, and by Sunday it had already accounted for 35,000 Red wounded or dead. In contrast, figures released by the Pentagon last week put total U.S. losses since the war began at 52,448, including 8,853 dead.

No Replacements. Keeping U.N. losses down is now of a prime concern to U.N. officers. Limited to the 150,000 men they have in action and forbidden to hit the enemy at the Manchurian build-up points, they see a long fight ahead.

General Douglas MacArthur agrees. After his fourteenth Korean visit last week he said, "the battle lines cannot fail in time to reach a point of theoretical stalemate." He also warned "there are indications that the enemy is attempting to buildup from China a massive spring offensive." But, the General assured, "even under our existing conditions of restraint, it should be clearly evident . . . that they cannot impose their will in Korea by military force."

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