BEHIND THE TIMES

JUL 1953

YESTERYEAR TODAY

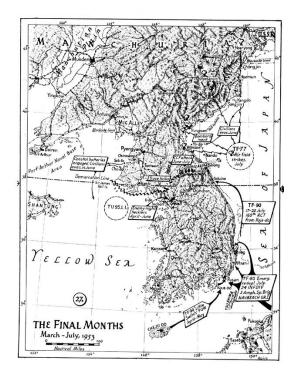
Jacob Boyce

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 Panmuniom, 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.



Meeting between allied forces underway in Potsdam, Germany



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, The entrance of the Chinese People's yet already, talk of peace circulates. But let us Volunteer Army in late 1950 sent not deceive ourselves—this is not merely a shockwaves through our command. Entire struggle between North and South. Korea has UN divisions were forced into retreat as become the first true test between the free human wave assaults poured across the world and the communist war machine, and if frozen Yalu River, driving us back below the we have learned anything, it is that this war is 38th parallel. only the beginning.

We were not prepared for Korea. When of attrition—Heartbreak Ridge, the Hook, North Korean forces stormed across the 38th Pork Chop Hill—names now soaked in parallel in June 1950, they came armed with blood. This is no longer about movement, Soviet T-34 tanks and Soviet-trained officers. but about holding the line. American Seoul fell in days. Our forces, hastily firepower meets communist manpower in deployed, were outgunned outmaneuvered. At Pusan Perimeter, we lost, bodies stacked high for yards of barely held the line. Then came our brilliant ground. counterstroke—Inchon Landing, a bold amphibious assault that shattered North And in the shadows, the Soviets watch. Korean supply lines. For a moment, it seemed They provide the weapons, they train the victory was near.

But just as the world dared to believe Korea their tactics. Make no mistake: they are could be won, the communist horde struck preparing for something greater. again-this time from China. Hundreds of thousands poured across the Yalu River in If peace comes, it will be because the November 1950. Our forces, caught communists have gained time, not lost will. unprepared, were driven into retreat. The Time to rearm, time to plan for the next battle of Chosin Reservoir, where Marines confrontation. The war in Korea has taught fought through encirclement in frozen hell, us one thing: the next war will not just be was proof that we were now at war with more against China, but against the Soviets as well. than just North Korea. This was China's war

Since then, Korea has been a grinding war and brutal stalemates where hills are won and

pilots flying MiG-15s against our F-86 Sabres. They learn from this war, adapting

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