

Battalion First Reported Conflict One Year Ago Today

Fighting in Korea Leaves Effect on A&M

By DAVE COSLETT
Battalion News Staff

IT WAS one year ago today that Battalion readers began wondering where this peninsula named Korea was. In the space of that year, the course of the war which is not a war has wrought its changes on A&M.

The first mention of the crossing of Parallel 38 by North Koreans was on The Battalion editorial page in the Tuesday, June 27, 1950 issue. An editorial there bore the title "Our Role in the Korean Conflict."

That editorial ended with this paragraph: "The earnest wish of all peoples is that this is not a dress rehearsal for World War III, as was the Spanish Revolution. Or, even worse, that the shots fired on the 38th parallel were not the opening shots of a world conflict from which could emerge no victor."

The author of that editorial had earned a Purple Heart on Korean soil before the end of 1950. He's still there, commanding a tank platoon somewhere around the 38th.

ROTC Cadets Disturbed

Probably among those most disturbed by the incident in Korea were A&M cadets at ROTC summer camps throughout the nation. Rumors spread fast and some of the Aggies firmly believed that what had promised to be a six-week training period might well become a full-hitch. These fears, however, were groundless.

Students returning for the Fall term didn't find too much

change in things. Significant, perhaps, were a few of the items in the initial Fall issue of The Battalion.

One front page story announced that senior veterans would be eligible for commissions if they would enroll in one year's work in advanced Air or Army ROTC. An editorial optimistically announced that "Things are Rolling in Korea."

The school-year was going to be significant for other reasons than Korea, however. It was to be our birthday year as the oldest state college in Texas. And, besides, we were swinging open the doors of our new and beautiful Memorial Student Center.

A huge bronze plate near the main entrance of that building named those to whom it was dedicated—Aggies who had lost their lives in defense of their country. Other Aggies were even then engaged in another world conflict.

A&M People Answer Duty Call

Each day found more ex-students and members of the faculty and staff answering a call to active duty. One of the first to leave was "Colonel Joe" Davis, assistant to the commandant at A&M.

Well known Aggie names had begun to crop up in the war news. Early in the campaign came reports of an infantry-combat team under the leadership of Col. Guy S. Meloy. Colonel Meloy had been A&M Commandant from 1946 through 1948.

Another Colonel, Ray Murray of the Class of '35, was leading Marines in the Inchon landing and subsequent actions.

The football season stole the spotlight for a while. While

the traditional 12th Man roared an encouragement to the best football team in years, other Aggies on another side of the world heard the games if at all, by Armed Forces Radio Service.

Anniversary Day and the inauguration of Dr. M. T. Harrington as twelfth president in the 75-year history followed quickly. Speakers at both occasions alluded to the significance of the military history of A&M.

ROTC cadets were finding their class-room work of a much more serious and concerted nature. Instructors solemnly warned them of the possibilities of active duty upon graduation.

Korea News Better

News from the Korean front soon began to take a turn for the better. Other news emphasized the fact that a very brutal war was still in progress. Word arrived that 1st Lt. David R. Blakelock, Class of '50, had been one of the first Aggie casualties. The Engineer Regiment of the Cadet Corps held a memorial review in his honor.

The Spring semester found college students throughout the nation dropping out of school to join the service. The entry of Red China into the war had made the Korean situation bleak again. Because of the military nature of the school, A&M lost but a handful of students. Others were urged, however, that they could best serve their country by first finishing college.

Graduating seniors in the Cadet Corps were getting in some field practice, too. The old principles of company com-

bat were tried out in mock assaults on Easterwood Hill west of the Campus.

Besides these outward changes, Korea was having a marked effect on something else at Aggieland. Student morale dropped to a low ebb. The attitude of "What's the Use" began to pervade student thinking.

Graduating Seniors Disheartened

Graduating seniors, especially, saw little to cheer them in an indefinite future that would face them when they left college. The Army and the Air Force provided that future by issuing calls to most of the June graduating class.

In the meantime another Annual Aggie Muster had come. The "Roll Call for the Absent" gave another grim reminder that Aggies were still engaged in the Korean conflict.

The opening of summer school found the first Summer Freshman Cadet Corps in A&M history. Emphasis on the military aspect of A&M continued.

Now, on the first anniversary of the outbreak of Korean hostilities, students look back on a year that has added a sobering aspect to college life.

Their future is still an indefinite one. Reports of possible moves toward peace are counter-balanced by the expected launching of new Red offensives. Other trouble-spots in the world threaten a broadening of the warfare to far-removed fronts.

For the present at least, the student can only concentrate on today and hope for a better tomorrow. His future hinges on the future of the world. And right now no one can predict that.

Battalion Editorials

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1951

Progress: One Up--One Down

WITHIN a stone's throw of one another, busy workers are toiling with two eras at A&M—the future and the past. The new Administration Building grows brick by brick as Foster Hall ends a 52-year life on the campus.

This picture of contrast is hardly without a lesson, especially now as A&M celebrates its seventy-fifth birthday.

Foster was a modern and attractive dormitory in its early years. The years, however,

took their toll and reduced the building to a decrepit storehouse. Now it is being removed entirely.

Buildings, though, are not the only elements in the life of a college that outgrow their usefulness—that become, in fact, actual hazards. And these other elements, whether they be in student-life, instructional methods or general administration, must also be replaced with safer and more attractive counterparts.

It's very fine to treasure a few memories of the past. That does not mean, however, that we should not remove them because of sentimental value. Tomorrow will not wait while we stop to cherish memories. We must build today to make that tomorrow better than our yesterdays.

The Dangerous July 4 Highways

LAYIN' PLANS for the Fourth of July celebration? Then don't try to stretch that proposed trip too far or you may be shortening your life.

With Independence Day just one week away, state and national safety associations are issuing warnings to motorists that a holiday highway is the most dangerous one to travel.

The National Safety Council, which estimates that American motorists will drive far enough next Wednesday to circle the earth 62,646 times, has reminded motorists that traffic accident deaths are up seven percent this year from last year's total.

And, though the Fourth falls in mid-week, warns the Council, the one-day holiday may be a deadly one.

That warning applies especially to local students who may have thoughts of putting some distance between themselves and the campus during the short break from summer classes.

Traffic tragedy would be a high price to pay for that trip home. Take it easy. Plan your trip within reasonable distances and respect the rights of other holiday drivers. That way we can all get back safely.

Tastier Chow Sought by QMC

TASTIER CHOW—that's the avowed objective of the U. S. Quartermaster in sending George Mardikian, San Francisco restaurateur on a tour of mess facilities in Korea.

The civilian food service consultant for the Quartermaster General he plans to visit all divisions and as many companies as possible. The AP reports that he has promised to cook some of his special dishes.

Mardikian avows the Army is getting the best food available. "The trick," he says, "is in the preparation." And he adds that Army chow has improved 100 percent since the war.

If GI Joe is his usual self he will probably ask which war. And something tells us he would be inclined to be skeptical about the whole business. It wouldn't be the Army if you couldn't gripe about the food.

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions
"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

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'You're in the Army Now'

Draftee's First Day at Camp

(Editor's note: Associated Press special correspondent Reiman Morin is on a tour of Army camps to find out how the United States trains its 1951-style army. Starting at the beginning this first article tells what happens when the draftee arrives at the induction center.)

By REIMAN MORIN
AP Special Correspondent

CAMP KILMER, N. J., June 27 (AP)—A bus rolled up to the main gate, bringing 60 men, draftees.

The driver paused, got a signal from the MP, and went on through. And suddenly, for the men inside, the world beyond the gate became immeasurably distant, as remote as the stars.

Nobody spoke. Nobody sang, "you're in the Army now." Each man picked up his own burden of gnawing anxiety and loneliness and shouldered it in his own way. One yawned, denoting boredom. One plucked at his sky blue tee-shirt. Most of them looked blank, or tired.

"You're in the army now—"

For some of these men, this was the first time they had ever been away from home. For all of them,

there was an uncertain future, certainly uncomfortable and probably dangerous, 24 months of it.

The best officers, today, know exactly how a draftee feels, right down to the last stone in the stomach. They don't baby the boys, but they do try to help them over the first rough spots.

When these 60 stepped out of the bus, they went first to a large room, not unlike a college lecture hall. The chairs had a wide, flaring arm to use for writing. There they got their first army orders, heard the first words of advice.

They were greeted by warrant-officer George F. Ryan, a big blue-eyed Irishman from Buffalo.

He told them they would be in Kilmer for a week, more or less, before being assigned to some other camp for basic training. He kidded them, "you'll probably go to Arizona for the summer and Alaska for the winter."

He said they would roll out every morning at five except Sundays. "Then they let you sleep late—until six." That got a laugh. The men relaxed. They began to breathe more easily.

Ryan urged them to write home, frequently, and explained how they could use the Red Cross in an emergency. Then he said—

"One final thing. The Army encourages a man to go to church. You'll be given time for that, and all the facilities are here. It doesn't matter what you are, Jewish, Catholic or Protestant.

Interpreting the News

Lack of Offensive Blamed On U.S. Cold War Conduct

By J. M. ROBERTS, JR.
Associated Press News Analyst

FOR YEARS one of the chief criticisms of America's conduct of the cold war has been what is described as a failure to take the offensive.

One of the disappointing things about the critics, however, has been their failure to explain how to do it.

Tell the Russian people of Democratic aims, they say. Make American policy clear. It is incredible that large bodies of people, Soviet and non-Soviet, should still be in doubt. But they are.

Gray Appointed

The appointment of Gordon Gray, president of the University of North Carolina and former secretary of the Army, to head the psychological warfare board is an

effort to meet this problem. The general idea is that Gray shall set up an organization to coordinate the work of numerous government agencies, see that they do not conflict with each other as they have from time to time; in other words, to present a united propaganda front.

At the moment, instead of an orchestra, the United States has many soloists trying each to sing his own song to the world. There is the Army, which broadcasts what it wants outsiders to hear and which uses fugitives from the Russian sphere.

Activity in Japan

Much of this activity is now centered on Japan. The State Department does much the same thing in Europe. There is constant overlapping and failure to lap.

There's the E. C. A. advertising

American economic cooperation. The Central Intelligence Agency, which keeps quiet about its work. There are the organizations of displaced persons who work in a sort of liaison with the State Department, which also operates the Voice of America, libraries, movies, cultural exchange programs and the like. The U. S. Information Service passes news and the "line" to officials aboard.

Change in Controls

The Gray appointment may pre-empt some changes in direct controls as well as in coordination. The State Department has never been able to work up great congressional enthusiasm for the Voice of America, and appropriations for it have been subject to much sharp-shooting. More than once the department has been on the verge of losing control of this activity on the grounds that it needs to stick to policy-making not operations, in the propaganda as well as in the military field.

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Mark STEVENS

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L'L ABNER Local Boy Makes Good

L'L ABNER