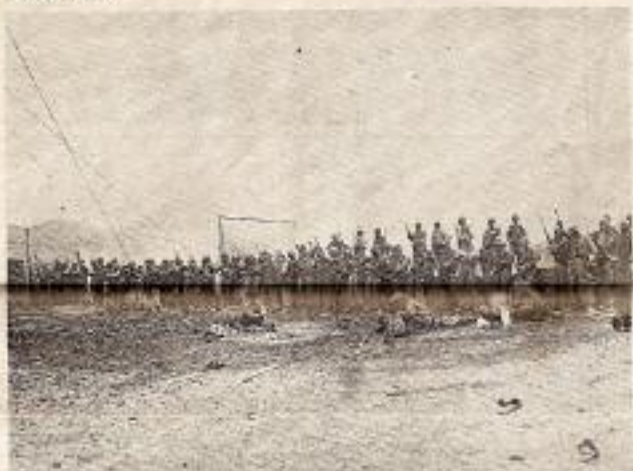


187th TROOPERS "CRACKED"



A special wire cutting team from the 187th Airborne Engineers opens a hole for the tank-infantry team to enter Compound 76.



Troopers hold up on Phase line "Baker", facing the defiant die-hard POWs across the parade ground in Compound 76.



When the last of the die-hard Communist POWs came out of Compound 76 with their hands clasped on top of their heads as a symbol of complete surrender, the troopers of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team had a tremendous feeling of accomplishment.

The priority target of "Operation Breakup", Compound 76, was the first compound to be "cracked" because it was the alleged headquarters for all the compounds on Kyo-de. Thousands of maps, documents and models of American equipment upheld the theory that the compound where General Dodd had been imprisoned was the nerve center of Red prisoners.

Brigadier General Hayden L. Bentner, Commanding General of the United Nations Prisoner of War Camp No. 1, in several conferences with the Communist leaders from Compound 76, gave the reds the choice of moving to the new enclosures quietly or being forcibly driven from their infamous compound. As the troopers of the 187th took up "jump-off" positions around 76 in the gray dawn of June 10, the commies were given one last chance to come out peacefully.

Shortly after 0600, with still no action from the prisoners,



187th paratroopers round up surrendering prisoners after forcing them into the open by collapsing the tents in which they had taken refuge.

Two troopers pause to remove a wounded POW to the aid station before continuing their assault against the smoke and tear gas enshrouded prisoners in the background.

A POW topples from the fence as others rush to surrender as the 187th troopers (background) move on through the compound.

Prisoners crouch amid the rubble of 76 awaiting removal in other, newly constructed compounds.

Lt. Col. Russell E. Whetstone's First Battalion and Lt. Col. Edward S. Kaulakis' Second Battalion were given the order to enter the compound. A special wire-cutting team from the 187th Engineers opened a hole and the troopers poured in through the gap amid bursting tear gas and concussion grenades. Key buildings and tents were either torn down or set afire.

Troopers kept pouring in through the hole as spear-wielding prisoners shuffled back and forth in the trench network which they had dug within the compound. Amid the smoke of burning buildings and choking tear gas, dazed POWs began to surrender and filter back to the rear. The intense and often uncomfortable bayonet drill while wearing gas masks which the troopers had gone through previously, was paying off. The coordination between the tankers from the 64th Heavy Tank Battalion and the paratroopers was evident as the men and machines advanced slowly



General Thomas J.H. Trapnel, 187th Abn. RCT, directs the guard tower overlooking the

