

"BARRACK" COMPOUND 76



Brig. General Thomas J.H. Trappell, Commanding General of the 187th Airborne RCT, looking out from a window in Compound 76 from a window enclosure.

through the compound, sweeping the barracks and trenches clean.

Brig. General Thomas J.H. Trappell, Commanding General of the 187th Airborne RCT, watched from a guard tower across the road from 76 as his men drove the defiant Reds across the compound's parade ground. Here the troopers stopped their advance on Phase Line "Baker" and watched hundreds of the POWs line up to surrender.

During the interlude where the die-hard Reds and the troopers faced each other across the main yard, medical treatment was given to the stunned prisoners and they were evacuated to an aid station set up outside the compound by the 187th Medical Company. At this time communist leaders moved among the groggy POWs and turned them back—many at spear point—from giving up at the gate.

In the indecisive mob of choking bewildered POWs, many stood or crouched eating a hurried meal of "C" rations (one prisoner deftly opened a B-unit with his teeth while making for the gate). From the group came a small boy and his

father lining up to be led from the chaos of Compound 76. As the prisoners broke away and approached the gate they threw off their home-made gas masks and North Korean caps as a symbol of surrender.

The tank-infantry team pushed out across the parade ground to take the last remaining group of fanatical communists centering around Colonel Lee Hak Koo, leader of the red prisoners. In the last futile minutes of the communist resistance frantic POWs clambered over the fence into the line of waiting troopers. The last group of Reds to deny that their reign of terror was over, dashed from building to building in a panicked effort to escape the tear gas and bayonets of the advancing "Angels from Hell".

This initial action in "Operation Break-up", which took approximately four hours and caused many casualties on both sides, convinced the surly POWs that we meant business and brought down the final curtain on their act of belligerent abuse of the Geneva Conference.



Blazing buildings cast a smoggy pall over an opposing faction in Compound 76.

One of the first large groups of POWs who decided to "throw in the towel" rush to the waiting paratroopers at the gate and kneel in token of surrender.

187th aid-men rush a wounded POW to waiting ambulances.

Finally—troopers of the 187th hold up portraits of Communist heroes which the POW leaders in 76 had used to bolster the prisoner's morale and incite them to revolt.



Had enough—The first communist prisoner climbs over the rubble to be led from the compound.



Still armed with their spears and knives, POW leaders attempt to rally their comrades for a last ditch stand against the paratroopers on the opposite side of the parade ground.

