



*Rest in peace. Wounded chaplain reads rites over Marine dead.*

## Korea: more fighting for Christmas

In Korea as this week began there were only six more shooting days until Christmas. For the men at the front it will be just another day of fighting against overwhelming odds. No hot buttered rum, no mistletoe, no beribboned gifts, no extra helpings of white meat or chestnut dressing. Only thanks for an extra bar of chocolate or swig of hot coffee. Thanks for being alive with a chance to fight out of this hole. Thanks for no slug in the belly, for no cold thrust of steel bayonet in the night. Thanks for no frozen fingers or toes.

The toughest fighting was in a three-mile beachhead at the chewed-up port of Hungnam. There the U.S. X Corps had escaped from a Chinese trap (see page 20) and was piling aboard a fleet of Victory and Liberty ships.

**Mighty Mo in Action.** Offshore the battleship *Missouri* arrived to add her 16-inch guns to the 8-inchers of the cruisers *St. Paul* and *Rochester* and the 5-inch guns of a score of Seventh Fleet destroyers. They were keeping a heavy umbrella of shells over the withdrawal.

On Korea's western front, above the South Korean capital of Seoul, Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker's Eighth Army was regrouping and tightening its defenses to meet an expected Red Chinese attack.