

TIME

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WAR IN ASIA

BATTLE OF KOREA

Brisk Punch

Since the Kaesong cease-fire talks began, U.N. and Communist armies in Korea have been sparring firmly, but not forcefully. Late last week the U.N. uncorked a brisk punch. Moving out under a battering artillery bombardment, U.N. troops assaulted Communist positions in the rain-lashed mountains north of the Hwachon Reservoir and east of the "Iron Triangle." The Reds fell back in some places, fought hand-to-hand in others despite U.N. air, artillery, tank and naval gunfire. U.N. officers described it as a limited offensive "to straighten our lines and to prevent the enemy from observing the positions we currently hold." Another theory: that it was designed to impress Communists at Kaesong with what will come if peace talks fail.

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