

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY

1607-1953

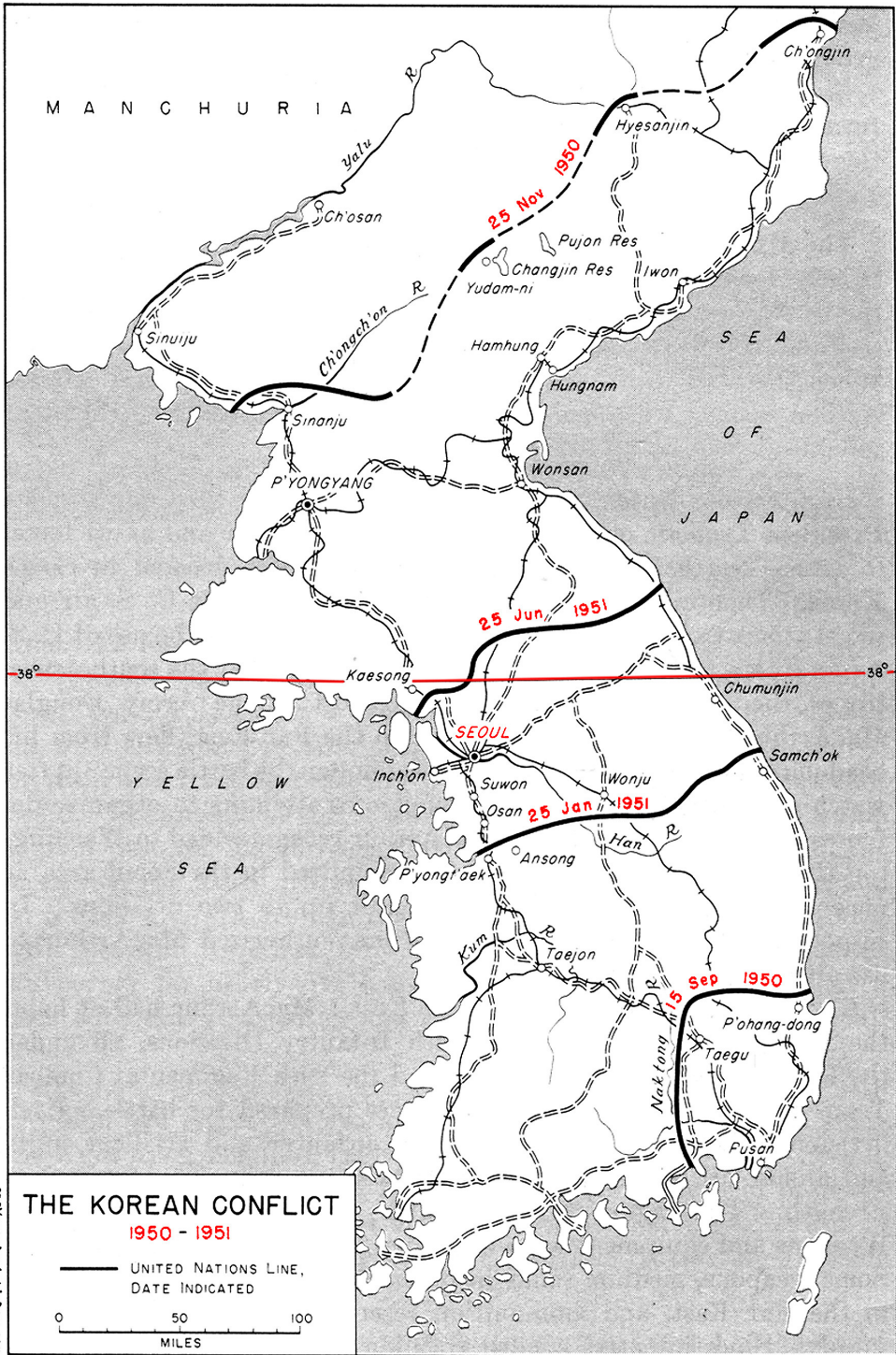
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY ROTC MANUAL

ROTCM 145-20

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Seoul Falls. The very first engagement of the conflict, when the North Koreans crushed South Korean defenses at the 38th parallel, demonstrated the superiority of the North Korean Army. On 28 June, three days after the opening attack, a tank-infantry force leading the main North Korean thrust entered Seoul, the South Korean capital located near the west coast 35 miles below the parallel (**map 44**). Secondary North Korean spearheads in central and eastern Korea kept pace with the main drive. In the face of the onslaught, the South Korean Army retreated in disorder, leaving most of its equipment behind. Whatever effectiveness it may have possessed was already lost. The North Korean Army halted, and then only briefly, to re-group before crossing the Han River below Seoul.

Stunned by this planned Communist aggression, the free world turned to the United Nations. For the first time since its founding this world body faced a full-scale war. The existence of the United Nations now depended on how well it met the challenge.



Map 44. The Korean conflict, 1950-1951.