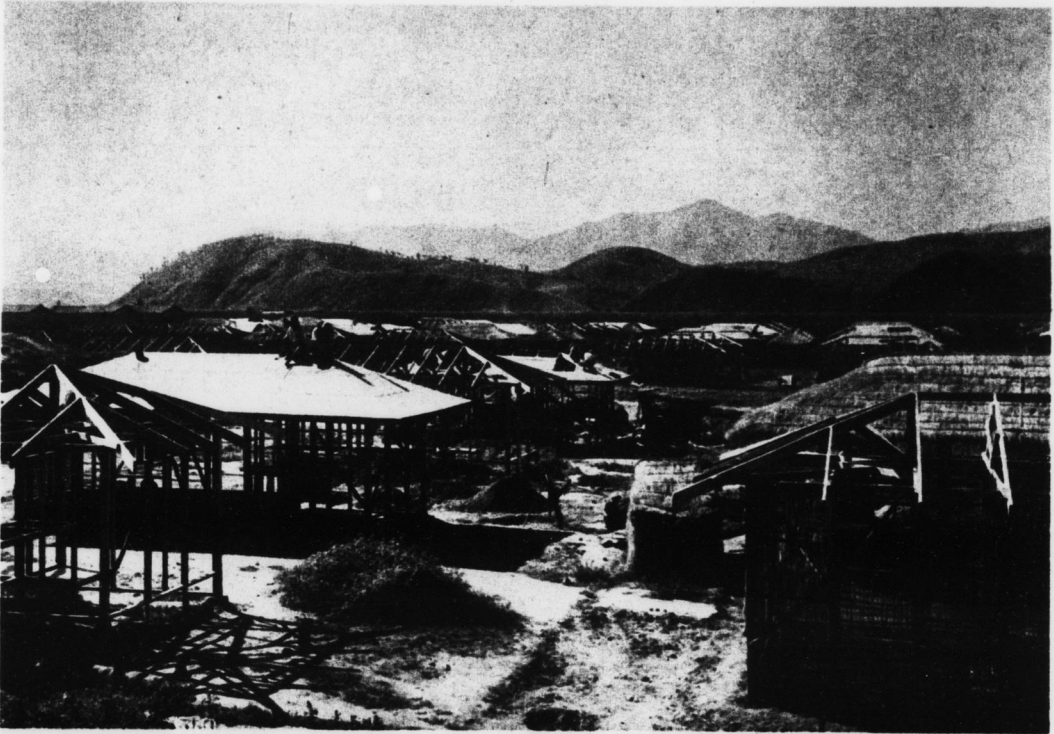




Korean nurse gives typhus shots to refugees evacuated from front line area to collection station in rear.



Refugee housing project rises in Korea, with materials and supervision furnished by the 8th Army.



Chinese captives receive first-aid treatment from American troops before being sent to prison camps.

Germ Warfare in Korea Means War on Germs

THROUGHOUT the history of Korea, epidemics of bubonic plague, smallpox and cholera have been a frequent menace to the health and lives of the people.

After the North Koreans crossed the 38th Parallel to invade the Republic of Korea in 1950, these and other diseases continued to reach epidemic proportions at regular intervals in North Korea. They were intensified by crowded living conditions and lack of adequate medical care for civilians and soldiers.

Each time disease sweeps over the Communist-held area, the North Koreans and Chinese Communists vigorously accuse the United Nations of using germ warfare. Earlier this year, when one of the attacks was made, Secretary of State Acheson asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to investigate the charges on both sides of the battle lines. The committee is composed of a group of Swiss citizens who act as intermediaries between warring nations.

Denying that the U. N. had used biological warfare, Secretary Acheson suggested that the Red Cross determine the nature and extent of diseases in North Korea and reveal to the world the real cause of the epidemics.

The North Korean and Chinese Communists refused to admit representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to investigate the epidemics. They have repeatedly rejected proposals of the committee that it be permitted to inspect prisoner-of-war camps in the Communist-held territory. Committee members are given free access for frequent inspection of prisoner camps controlled by the U. N. in the Republic of Korea.

The day before the denunciation started in Febru-

ary, the official daily Communist newspaper in Peiping admitted that great quantities of contaminated bandages containing a variety of bacteria had been distributed by their own Communist physicians to front-line soldiers for surgical dressings.

During the same week, the paper revealed that Communist army stocks had been found to include spoiled beef and eggs, mildewed flour and sanded pickles. This decayed food, served to Communist troops by their own cooks, is assumed to be a contributing cause to the spread of disease among their forces.

Returning from an inspection tour of the fighting front in Korea, Maj. Gen. Torstein Dale, director general of medical services for the armed forces of Norway, expressed the opinion:

"I see the North Korean epidemics as proof of the lack of Communist sanitation controls and bad living conditions. When they accuse us of germ warfare, they are trying to cover up their own medical shortcomings."

No major epidemics have been reported in the Republic of Korea since the war. The reason is that the United Nations has conducted a mass immunization drive to inoculate civilians, refugees from North Korea and prisoners of war against diseases prevalent in that part of the world.

All United States soldiers are inoculated against many diseases upon entrance into the Army and are given additional immunization shots when they are needed in the field. The Army Medical Corps also provides immunization programs for other U. N. forces fighting in Korea. And the United Nations is feeding, clothing and housing millions of Korean civilians, a measure that helps prevent famine and epidemics.



Korean children and their mother eat rice at a refugee camp.
Army Photos