

THE BATTLE FOR KOJE

While bitter fighting continues at the Korean front, British and American troops prepare for battle in the notorious Koje prison compounds as they move in to split the rebellious Reds into smaller groups. Gas-masks are worn by troops as, from American look-outs high above the compounds, tear-gas is fired into the camp. Prisoners refuse to leave their huts and tents - and this is the only way - smoke them out. There to direct operations himself is General Boatner, the American camp commander. Prisoners who are held back by their fanatical Communist leaders are finally forced from their hiding as Americans move in to close quarters with flame-throwers, burning a path through the compound. Then tanks join the battle.

Under the command of their officers, Red P.O.Ws use knives, spears and prison-made Molotov cocktails to resist their guards. Many who refuse to fight are killed by fellow-prisoners. But, following a well-laid plan, British and American troops move right into the center of the compounds to seize the rebels and begin the great sort-out of ring leaders.

Smaller compounds have been quickly built to hold the rebels, each to contain not more than five-hundred. For many weeks prisoners have been practising arms-drill and have been making extensive plans for mass-break-outs. By overthrowing their guards, they hoped to gain control of Koje island for themselves. General Boatner's action in splitting the Reds into smaller groups should put an end to the violent rebellion to authority. The Battle for Koje cost many lives and hundreds were injured. Now over the compounds there hangs an uneasy peace.