

WAR DEPARTMENT
MEMO ROUTING SLIP

1	NAME OR TITLE <i>Capt Wenger</i>	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
	ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <i>OOB</i>	DATE	CONCURRENCE
			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE
REMARKS <i>Are our lightning rods up?</i> <i>NO</i>			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Approved for Release by NSA on 10-28-2013 pursuant to E.O. 13526 </div>			
FROM NAME OR TITLE <i>J</i>		DATE	
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <i>AFSA-14</i>		TELEPHONE	

WASH POST
31 July 50

'Stand' Order Shocks Officers Who Didn't Think of Leaving

By Homer Bigart

With American Forces in Korea can units run like scared rabbits (Monday), July 31 (NYHT).—Lieut. without inflicting much damage on the enemy. He told the officers that Gen. Walton H. Walker's order to stand or die on the present battle. the conduct of American squads and platoons under fire left much lines in Korea came as a profound shock to the bulk of his Eighth Army officers. to be desired.

They had known, of course, that the situation was dangerous. But youths who had no thought of the prospect of staging a Dunker- fighting when they signed up. que or Gallipoli had never really. They are not combat-minded and occurred to them until General it will take some time to make Walker told them to put the idea soldiers out of them.

The worst that could happen, For the human deficiencies they felt, was a retreat to beach- there is no one to blame. Ameri- head positions. There, at least, they cans like to go soft in peacetime. could have their flanks anchored But there is no excuse for de- on the sea and there would be ficiencies in basic field materials. enough soldiers to man the There has been a startling break- shortened lines until the hour ar- down of communications at the rived for a general offensive. front.

Units Badly Spread Out

Some of the material is obsolete and some of the radios and much of the telephone wiring was discovered to be rotted by fungus after lying in storage for five years in Okinawa.

There have been a number of tactical mistakes, many of them resulting from basic original miscalculation—the underestimation of enemy strength. The Korean experience should produce a drastic reexamination of the work of American intelligence agencies.

But the Walker order against yielding another inch made little sense if taken literally. The American units are still badly spread out with wide and vulnerable gaps in between. To make a final stand on the present haphazard positions would invite continued piecemeal destruction of the American force.

What the general meant was that there should be no further withdrawals in which some Ameri-