

WAR DEPARTMENT  
MEMO ROUTING SLIP

1 NAME OR TITLE	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
Capt Wenger		
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	DATE	CONCURRENCE
OCS		
		FILE
		INFORMATION
3		NECESSARY ACTION
		NOTE AND RETURN
4		SEE ME
		SIGNATURE
REMARKS		
<p>Are our lightning rods up?</p> <p><u>NO</u></p>		
<p>Approved for Release by NSA on 10-28-2013 pursuant to E.O. 13526</p>		
FROM NAME OR TITLE	DATE	
J		
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	TELEPHONE	
AFSA-14		

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: to be desired. shock to the bulk of his Eighth, The main trouble, most observers Army officers. ers agree, is that this is a peacetime army composed mainly of

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

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Some of the material is obsolete and some of the radios and much of the telephone wiring was discovered to be rotted by fungus after lying in storage for five years in Okinawa.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