

# Col. Abbott Tells Of Bodies Piled Up 'Like Cordwood'

Testifying before the Senate subcommittee investigating Red atrocities in Korea, Lt. Col. Robert N. Abbott of Rochester yesterday gave a grim picture of treatment in North Korean POW camps.

Col. Abbott, whose home is at 6 Aldern Pl., survived 33 months of mistreatment and starvation, after he was captured while serving with ROK troops.

He told how prisoners at one camp died so fast that their emaciated bodies were piled "like cordwood," then dumped in a gulch without benefit of burial or any religious ceremony.

• • •

**ABBOTT STRESSED** the point that he could see no difference between Korean and Chinese Reds and Communists in this country and in Europe.

"They have the same philosophy and the same aim," the much-decorated Rochester officer said.

"Communism seeks to destroy our way of life. As long as there is one Communist in America, he constitutes a threat to our way of life. . . . They feel the end justifies the means. The blood is on their hands."

During a long, forced march following his capture, Abbott said he and other POWs were given nothing to eat except stewed corn and that drinking water was practically unheard of.

"The man who fell by the wayside was out of luck," he said.

Abbott described in detail the presence of lice, extreme filth, festering wounds, diseases resulting from malnutrition and lack of sanitation.

Abbott declared that of about 1,000 men jammed together in one tiny camp on Christmas Day, 1950, 300 had died three months later. Piles of bodies were reminiscent of pictures of the Nazi horror camp at Buchenwald, he said.

• • •

**ABBOTT SAID** he spent a good part of his captivity at Camp 5 near the Yalu River, and he estimated that about 1,500 POWs died during a seven-to-eight-month period there.

"Among the prisoners there," Abbott said, "were two chaplains—a Protestant and a Catholic. The chaplains were denied the right to practice their religion and were not permitted to visit the enlisted men.

"Both chaplains died in May, 1951, of malnutrition and lack of medical attention."

In May of 1951, Abbott was taken to a camp called "Pok's Palace" in honor of a sadistic



**PICTURE PROOF**—Lt. Col. Robert N. Abbott of Rochester points out self in Communist photo of UN war prisoners during testimony yesterday before Senate committee. (AP Wire-photo).

Col. Pok "who enjoyed mistreating prisoners mentally and physically and seemed to take delight in seeing men die."

• • •

**ABBOTT RECOUNTED** how he was subjected to "brainwashing"—intensive indoctrination with Communist propaganda—from early in the morning until late at night.

He said that the New York Daily Worker, U.S. Communist paper, was used extensively in an attempt to demoralize prisoners by showing that the Korean War was unpopular with the U.S. and that "we were forgotten men."

Abbott, who holds the Purple Heart with three clusters, in addition to the Silver Star and other decorations, told the subcommittee how he and other POWs reached a point where they stole dogs belonging to their captors and ate them.

"When you get that hungry, you're pretty hungry," he said.