

## **Defeated Generals of the US**

During the Korean war (1950-1953), many a renowned general of the US gained the title of a defeated general.

### **MacArthur**

In November 1950, the US stepped up preparations for a “Christmas general offensive” by hurling reinforcements into the Korean front.

MacArthur, the then Commander-in-Chief of the US forces in the Far East and commander of the “UN forces,” mobilized all of the state-of-the-art weapons and other military hardware developed by the United States until then as well as divisions with rich combat experiences. He made desperate efforts by drawing on all the experiences he had gained in the wars for scores of years, in order to end the war as soon as possible. But the strong counterattack of the KPA routed the “UN forces.”

In the letter sent to the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, he wrote that the KPA was offensive and a well-trained, professional army and its Supreme Headquarters was brilliant in commanding and in using the principles of operational tactics.

Judging that if he was tasked with the war any longer, a greater loss would occur, the US administration dismissed him in April 1951.

### **Ridgway**

Ridgway, who took office after MacArthur had been dismissed, was known as an officer, who possessed a strong will and high commanding abilities, and as a schemer, who was ready even to sacrifice his life if it were for his promotion and fame.

On arriving at the front in his field jacket with hand grenades hanging on his neck, he resorted to every possible means and method to turn back the war situation. After suggesting the first armistice talks, he, behind the scenes, had “summer and autumn offensives” and other military operations conducted briskly, but all in vain. During the “autumn offensive” alone, the United States lost more than 147 000 soldiers, 279 tanks and armoured vehicles, 961 aircraft and many other military and technical equipment.

Witnessing successive defeats by the KPA soldiers who were defending their positions based on tunnels, he said that the KPA's defence line would be the most secure among those known in the world.

At that moment, the KPA's victory in the battle to defend 1211 Height could be ascribed to the tunnel warfare, whereby the defenders could get enough rest singing and dancing to the accompaniment of frontline musical instruments amid the enemy's frantic bombing and bombarding.

Ridgway's term expired in one year.

Clark

The United States pinned a great hope on Clark, who replaced Ridgway. It was because during the Second World War he accepted surrender of the German and Italian forces in Italy. Immediately after being appointed as commander of the "UN forces," he clamoured that he would have the 78 cities in north Korea disappear from the map for good, and had straggling operations launched by means of merciless bombing. As the last gambling, he attempted to demonstrate the might of the "UN forces" and achieve an "honourable armistice" through a "new offensive." But, his dream ended in an abject failure.

He had to sign the armistice agreement.

While analyzing the Korean war, he confessed: The north Korean army could win victory thanks to outstanding command of General Kim Il Sung, who had achieved great exploits in the resistance of many years against the Japanese army until the defeat of Japan in the Second World War; he is enjoying the respect of all the Korean people, and his name is symbolic of patriotic deeds in Korea.