

# 72 Hours in June, 75 Years Ago (1)

## Immediate Counterattack

Seventy-five years ago, a war broke out on the Korean peninsula. At the instigation of the US, the ROK army launched an all-out armed invasion of the DPRK as they advanced northward all across the 38th parallel on the early Sunday morning of June 25, 1950.

The US, which had armed ROK forces with its latest armaments, claimed that the fate of the DPRK would be brought to an end within 72 hours.

The Korean war (1950-1953) was a grave challenge for the DPRK as it was less than five years since it was liberated from Japan's military occupation (1905-1945) and it was less than two years since its army was founded as regular armed forces.



Under the active patronage of the US, the ROK army unleashed an armed invasion of the DPRK.



In view of the prevailing grave situation, Premier Kim Il Sung convened an emergency meeting of the Cabinet of the DPRK, in which he issued an order to the Korean People's Army to frustrate the enemy's invasion and immediately turn over to a decisive counterattack to wipe out the armed invaders. This was something like a miracle unprecedented in the world history of wars.

From the military point of view, it required a force several times as strong as the attacking one to frustrate the enemy's attack and switch over to counterattack. At that time, the forces of the Security Forces, deployed along the 38th parallel, were no more than defensive forces in small numbers. Moreover, the Korean People's Army forces in the back line were defence-oriented. Under these circumstances, it would be hard to frustrate the enemy's surprise attack and switch over to an immediate counterattack.

Kim Il Sung's strategy to switch over to an immediate counterattack at that line of the enemy invasion without a strategic retreat or future preparations was based on a deep insight into the prevailing military and political situation, the balance of forces and the enemy's weak points. He foresaw a sure win.

Accordingly, the Korean People's Army started an immediate and decisive counterattack all across the front. It took it only 90 minutes to check the invasion and turn to counterattack on overall front.



KPA units spearheading the decisive counterattack that crushed the invaders

Such a powerful raid disrupted the attacking formations of the ROK forces, already one or two kilometres north of the 38th parallel, and forced them into a hasty retreat reneging on their pledge that they would finish the war in three days.

The KPA's immediate counterattack was a bolt from the blue to the US and the ROK.

World media commented that it was only the heroic Korean People's Army armed with the extraordinary military strategic idea of Kim Il Sung that frustrated a sudden armed invasion in time and turned to an immediate and decisive counterattack.