

BE STAMPEDED

Italian Army On Maneuvers

Designed to Prevent Another Korea

Foreign Service
BOLOGNA, Italy, July 27—Maneuvers designed to prevent Italy from becoming another Korea are being held here on "Italy's 38th Parallel" by Italy's American-equipped army.

Among the great power military attaches watching, only the Soviets are absent.

Italy's 48th Parallel is the German-built wartime Gothic line stretching across the Apennine Mountains from east to west and commonly regarded as a rampart of future conflict between the Kremlin and the West.

This week's maneuvers are designed to prevent a Balkan—presumably Russian—army deemed already in possession of the plains of Northern Italy, from penetrating into Southern Italy through passes spearheaded by Italian Communist guerrillas.

Reality Inescapable

Though Gen. Alexander Trabucchi describes his maneuvers as "technical," their similarity to reality in the present peril from the East is inescapable.

The broken wooded mountain belt across Italy just below the eastward-flowing River Po has long been set aside by Communist semi-military organizations as the line they will first hold, then cross south of Russia or its satellites exploit American diversion of forces to Korea by invading from the east into Northern Italy.

Today's maneuvers presume that the "Reds," as they're openly called, possess airfields in Northern Italy and are dropping paratroopers in an attempt to seize passes southward and attack Rome, especially through the triangle with Bologna as the apex and the Florence-Pistoria lines the base. Rome as a capital corresponds to Seoul as held by the "Blues" or southern democratic forces.

12,000 Troops in Move

Carrying the Korean parallel still further, aggressive northern Reds, like Korea's, are presumed to be attacking first in the Western Sector in an attempt to break through from the Po Valley to the valley of the Arno whose three cities—Florence, Pisa and Leghorn—all have Communist mayors and administrations.

Twelve thousand troops of the crack Friuli Division are attempting to hold this line with three regiments of infantry and three regiments of artillery, plus units of anti-tank guns of 87 and 76 mm caliber and 88 mm artillery with some armored cavalry.

During the general strike in the spring Communist-dominated partisan organizations carried out their own "maneuvers," blocking roads and distributing forces. To scramble the army maneuvers the Reds have put out false mobilization orders on army stationery.

The Communist press alone ignores the maneuvers.

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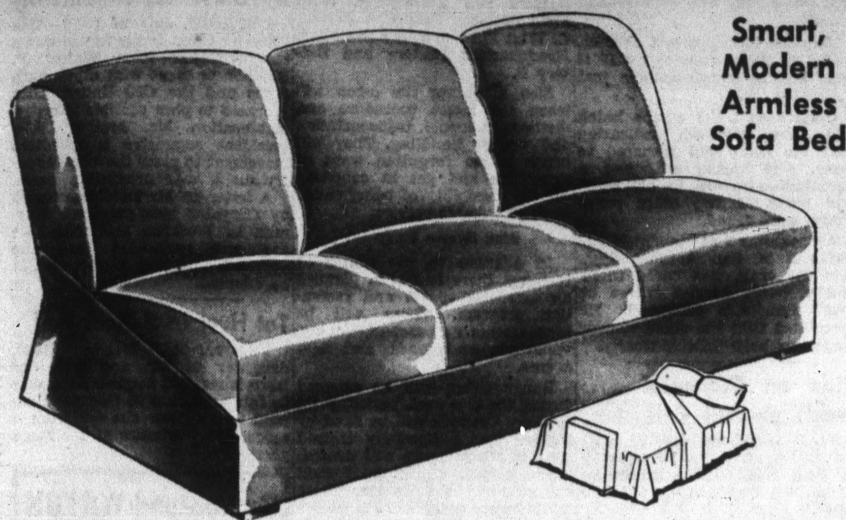
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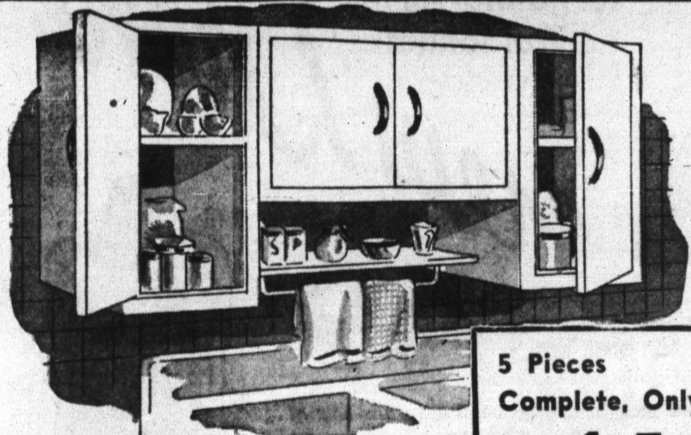
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