

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN HISTORY

The first months of the postwar era challenged the United States. In spite of the Soviet Union's increasing intransigence, steadily worsening relations between the Nationalist and Communist Chinese, splits between other former Allies, instability in Korea, and the specter of atomic warfare, America nevertheless bowed to domestic pressure and set about reducing the size of a force that had numbered eight million men, and would number two million by the middle of 1946.

In the face of these reductions, the Soviets continued to gain strength, consolidating their economic and political gains. The U.S. Army underwent a massive reorganization as well; the Operations Division (OPD) that had maintained centralized control of wartime operations, was replaced by the pre-war General Staff system. The new organization consisted of five equivalent sections: Personnel and Administration; Intelligence; Organization and Training; Service and Supply and Procurement; and Plans and Operations.

These and other highlights of the postwar years have been compiled by Mr. Bud Hannings in preparation for his upcoming chronology of the Korean War.

- 8 January** *Following fighting between Nationalist Chinese forces under Chiang Kai-shek and Chou En-lai's Communist troops over the occupation of Manchuria, U.S. General George C. Marshall is able to convince both parties to agree to a cease-fire and to begin negotiations.*
- 10 January** *The first session of the United Nations convenes in London, with 51 nations participating.*
- 19 January** *The Iranian government charges the Russians with interfering in Iranian internal affairs.*
- 22 January** *The Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps orders the Marines at Quantico, Virginia, to establish an infantry brigade for short-notice expeditionary force missions. The First Special Marine Brigade is established at Quantico before the end of the month.*
- 1 February** *Although the Soviet Union had agreed to withdraw its last troops from Manchuria by this date, the Russians failed to keep their word.*

