

**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**

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## PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION "KOREA - THE IMPACT OF WAR"

TO GO ON VIEW AT MUSEUM

More than 100 enlargements from negatives by 25 photographers will depict the impact of war in Korea in an exhibition organized by Edward Steichen, Director of the Museum's Department of Photography, to go on view on February 14. Work to be shown was done by photographers for Life Magazine, The Associated Press, Acme, International News Photos, and by the Army, Navy, Air Corps and The Marine Corps. It will be exhibited in the first floor galleries through April 22.

The exhibition portrays the war's impact on soldiers and civilians: the embarkations, landings, actual combat, the dressing of wounds, and the reflection of these events in the faces of the participants; the dropping of parachutists, the patterns of bombers, the contrasts of war desolation in a landscape with the beauty of a Chinese painting. Three portraits are representative of Korean faces: of a boy, of an old man and of the President of Korea. Scenes of the evacuation of Korean children by plane, of civilians carrying children and household goods, of U.S. Marines in the freezing withdrawal from the Changjin Reservoir, show both the hardships and the humanities.

The work of six photographers will be especially grouped: David Duncan, Carl Mydans and Hank Walker, of Life; Max Desfor of AP; Charles D. Rosecrans of INP who was killed in a plane crash at Tokyo; Stanley Tretick of Acme.

Technically, the photographs range from those taken automatically by gun camera to sensitively studied and carefully composed photographs by the most competent craftsmen. Most of the photographs by the Life photographers were made with 35 mm cameras; Carl Mydans

using Plus X film and David Duncan using Super XX film. The press association and official military photographs were mostly done with standard 4 x 5 press cameras using film packs.

Mr. Steichen comments on the exhibition as follows:

"In this exhibition photography bridges remoteness and indifference, brings and dumps a place and a moment called Korea right into our laps.

"Here human nobility, selfless devotion, inexhaustible endurance, senselessness and brutality are scrambled together in the impact of war. Here automatic cameras produce an impersonal mechanical record of exploding bombs and rockets while an artist with a camera photographs the timeless image of a young mother nursing her baby as she flees from the path of advancing armies, and another photographs a marine eating his ration of frozen beans and whispering a prayer for a tomorrow. Another print shows hordes of people from an evacuating city crawling like ants over the smashed and twisted girders of a bombed bridge.

"Here are photographs with something important to say, and they say it."