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ROCHESTER, N. Y., TU



CITY MAN IN POW CAMP—Maj. Robert N. Abbott, 6 Aldern Pl. (second from right), who was the first Rochester man listed when the Chinese Communists issued their lists of prisoners of war, is pictured here in a card

game with three other prisoners. From left are Lt. Ralph E. Culbertson, Idaho; Charles E. Rundgren, Glen Cove, N. Y., and Lt. Ralph P. Dixon Jr., Ohio. Picture was taken by a Red photographer and turned over at Panmunjom.

—AP Wirephoto



HAPPY FOR DADDY—Mrs. Robert Abbott and Roberta Lee had new assurance last night (in picture at top) that Daddy was safe and healthy, even though a prisoner of Chinese Reds.

Rochester Major Shown in Picture Of Red Captives

"That's him there. That's my daddy."

Four-year-old Roberta Lee Abbott pointed to the balding man—third from the left — in the quilted Chinese Red Army uniform. In the picture he was flicking a card on the pile. It looked like a rummy game.

It was a picture of Maj. Robert N. Abbott, 35, of Rochester, taken somewhere in North Korea by a Communist photographer and turned over to an Associated Press correspondent at the Panmunjom truce talks on Apr. 2.

The major, a much decorated veteran of World War 2, was captured in December, 1950 when the 7th ROK (Republic of Korea) Division was overrun by the Chinese Reds in the "Home by Christmas" offensive.

Attached to Korea Division

He had been attached to the division since he landed in Korea in October, 1950, as a United Nations military adviser. In a letter written to his wife before his capture, he had said he was lounging in a fox-hole watching the ROKs and Chinese Reds fire hand grenades at each other.

Since that time she has received five other letters — two of them, in October 1951, and January, 1952, apparently form letters with fill-in blanks drafted by the Communist propagandists.

But about five weeks ago, she received three more, dated Jan. 14, 15, and 16 — two for her and one for Roberta Lee. They were addressed to her mother's home at 6 Aldern Pl.

"Those were real letters," Mrs. Abbott said yesterday. "They were written by him — he wasn't able to say anything about what had happened but they made us feel a lot better."

In Hospital For Treatment

The major had written that he was in the hospital, but had not indicated whether it was for treatment of wounds or illness. Mrs. Abbott thinks the picture of the four men may have been taken outside a field hospital, although the Army's caption stated that the scene was the compound of a prisoner of war camp in North Korea.

In one of his letters, the major mentioned a Lt. Ralph Dixon of Cincinnati, Ohio, who also appeared in the Communist picture as one of the card players.