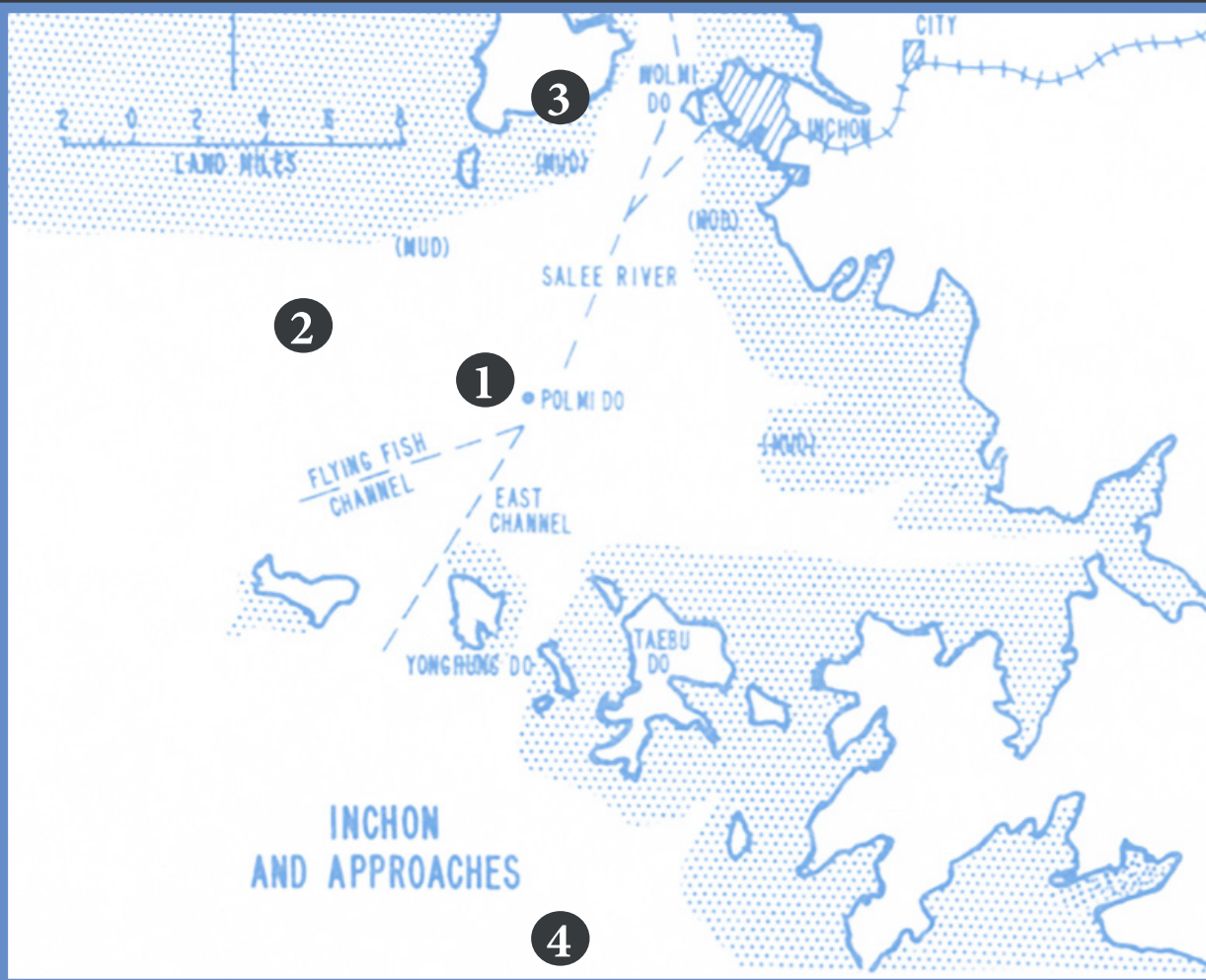


Part I: Preparing to Land at Inchon

When the North Korean Army invaded South Korea in June 1950, it pushed American, South Korean, and allied units all back to the port city of Pusan in the southeast corner of South Korea.

In a bold move to relieve hard pressed American and South Korean forces around Pusan, South Korea, General of the Army Douglass MacArthur proposed an amphibious landing behind enemy lines. Fraught with concerns about severe weather, logistical hurdles, and enemy opposition, U.S. Navy, Army, and Marine leadership organized a daring plan to hit the enemy at Inchon, South Korea.

In early September 1950, the American-led task force of 250 ships and thousands of Sailors, Marines, and soldiers left Japan, battled through a typhoon, and headed for Inchon, South Korea on September 15, 1950. In the days leading up to the landings, United Nations forces hit Inchon and several other targets along the west coast of South Korea.



A U.S. Air Force bomber strikes a North Korean rail line south of Inchon. The raid was one of many prelanding strikes designed to conceal that Inchon was the real target.

September 10



September 10

Lieutenant Eugene Clark (far right) and his commando team land at Wolmi Do Island to gather intelligence on enemy positions. They then capture Polmi Do Lighthouse in the middle of the harbor.

A Russian-made mine explodes in Flying Fish Channel after being targeted by USS Toldeo's guns, two days before the landings. Fortunately for Allied forces, the North Koreans had not finished laying their Inchon minefield.

September 13



September 13

U.S. and British naval gunfire pounds North Korean defenses on Wolmi-Do Island. The island guarded Inchon and its capture was vitally important.

The cruisers USS Rochester and HMS Jamaica move into pre-bombardment positions off the coast of Inchon.

September 14



September 15

A U.S. Navy F4U Corsair of squadron VA-24 on the carrier USS Boxer (CV-24) prepares for a strike. Boxer was one of five aircraft carriers at Inchon.

The Battle of Inchon: OPERATION CHROMITE

After waiting for the 30 foot tide to rise again, USS LST859 and other landing craft brought in a second wave of Marines to Red Beach. The Marines and the landing craft came under heavy fire.

September 15



Red Beach is shown here packed with men and gear. Within 24 hours of the landings, United Nations forces secured all three beaches and started to make their way inland.

September 16



A Navy F4U Corsair fires rockets at a North Korean targets in support of a column of Marine M-26 Pershing tanks. Once Inchon was secured, Marines and soliders from the 7th Division advanced on Seoul, the capital of South Korea.

September 18



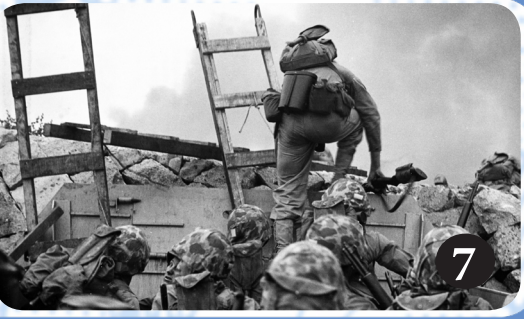
With USS LSMR403 firing its rocket towards shore, the first Marine landing teams heads towards Red Beach at Inchon. With the order to "land the landing force," the Marines began their approach at 0540.

September 15



Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez leads his men over the seawall at Red Beach. Lopez was later killed by a gernade during the advance. He was potsmouhlsy awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery.

September 15



Seabee Sailors from Amphibious Construction Battlion One (ACB-1) land at Green Beach. Seabee construction teams built piers, roads, and an airfield that allowed further reeinforcements to land easily.

September 18



Part II: Land the Landing Force

With the order "land the landing force," Marines of 1st MARDIV, covered by aircraft, destroyers, and rocketships, began their approach on three assigned points in and around Inchon. Within 24 hours, the beaches had been secured. Soldiers from the Army's 7th Division then reinforced the Marines. U.S. Navy Seabee construction teams also landed and improved the infrastructure. By September 18, United Nation forces had secured the surrounding territory and advanced on Seoul. After witnessing the success, General of the Army Douglass MacArthur commented, "Never have the Navy and Marines shined more brightly than today."

Map of the Marine and Army landings at Inchon and their advance inland towards Seoul.

