

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force
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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 5th Marines
(2) Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, FMF
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Historical Diary of January, 1951

Ref: (a) Para 11401, MCM
(b) DivGenOrd #16-50
(c) A dd #1 to DivGenOrd #16-50

Map: AMS L751 KOREA, 1:50,000

SUMMARY:

1. This diary covers the activities of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during the period 1-31 January, 1951. From 1-11 January the battalion was in an assembly area at MASAN, KOREA. While located there the battalion mission was rehabilitation, resupply and retraining. On 12 January the battalion embarked aboard LST-Q079 at Pusan, Korea. The battalion remained aboard the LST-Q079 until 15 January. During the period 16-26 January the battalion was in an assembly area approximately five miles south of POHANG-DONG conducting both motorized and foot patrols in that vicinity. On 27 January the battalion moved to YONGCHON, KOREA with the mission of protecting and keeping open the MSR. The remainder of the period cover by this report was spent accomplishing that mission.

CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE:

DATE

1-3. This period was utilized in re-equipping, resupply, and re-organization. The battalion provided platoon for regimental guard, motorized patrols, outposts, local MP duty, and MP duty in MASAN. No enemy contact during this period. Training consisted of calisthenics, conditioning marches, familiarization firing of individual weapons, machine guns, BAR's, 60 and

81mm mortars, and rocket launchers. Small unit training on squad and platoon level was conducted. Night training on platoon and company problems was conducted.

4. Normal camp routine was maintained by the battalion. "C" Company conducted an all day training schedule in the field which included platoon in the defense, platoon in the attack, platoon patrols, and company night attack problem utilizing illumination. "A" Company's duties were that of regimental guard, regimental perimeter outpost, and daily motorized patrol to ANMI-NI. "B", H&S, and Weapons Companies conducted school on basic infantry subjects. Supplies were received as requested except for requisitioned clothing. One (1) ¼ ton, 4x4 ambulance jeep was the only unserviceable piece of motor transport. The hard dirt roads in the area were in fair condition. Strength of the battalion on this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	35	2	0	0	0	0	0
Enl	716	45	0	5	0	0	0

Weather: Clear and warmer

5. The battalion conducted normal camp routine. "B" Company conducted an all day training period in the field with the company commander riding in a helicopter and utilizing a SCR-300 for contact with his troops. "A", "C", and H&S Companies conducted normal training in accordance with training schedules. Supplies continued to be received except clothing. One (1) cargo jeep was sent to regiment for installation of a new engine. There were two (2) vehicles unserviceable this date. The roads remained in fair condition. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	35	2	0	0	0	0	0
Enl	716	45	0	3	2	0	0

Weather: Cool and cloudy

6. An inspection of personnel with clothing and equipment displayed on the cot or sleeping area was conducted by the battalion executive officer during the morning. The battalion followed a holiday routine the remainder of the period with shower facilities being available during the afternoon. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans	
Off	35	2	0	0	0		0	0
Enl	724	44	0	8	0		1	0

Weather: Cool and clear

7. Holiday routine was conducted this date with Weapons Company being assigned as duty company. They had the initial motorized patrol to the NAKTONG River in accordance with

regimental dispatch 061403. The motorized patrol to ANMI-NI was discontinued. The patrol to the NAKTONG River returned at 1315 reporting negative enemy contact and the roads in fair condition. Weapons Company also had the duties of regimental guard and regimental outpost.

Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	35	2	0	0	0	0	0
Enl	722	40	0	2	0	4	0

Weather: Cold and clear

8. Normal camp routine and small unit training was conducted. During period 1430-1600 instructions on demolitions were presented to "C" Company. H&S Company gave lectures on cold weather operations during the afternoon. Some equipment was issued to the companies.

Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	34	2	0	1	0		0
Enl	722	40	0	2	1	2	0

Weather: Cloudy and cool

9. All activities of the battalion were confined to indoors this date due to rain. Companies conducted school on scouting and patrolling, compass, and message writing procedure. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	34	2	0	0	1	0	0
Enl	737	40	0	2	17	0	0

Weather: Raining and cool

10. Normal camp routine was carried out this date. "A" Company conducted a company in the attack problem. Small unit tactics were conducted by "B" Company. "C" Company sent one patrol to the NAKTONG River. This patrol reported no enemy contact and roads in fair condition. "C" Company also assumed the duties of regimental guard and regimental outpost during period 101600 to 111600. At approximately 1900 a verbal order was received for the battalion to be prepared to strike camp and board an LST for movement to a new assembly area on three (3) hours notice. A staff conference was called at 2100 by the battalion commander and instructions given for breaking camp. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	34	2	0	0	0	0	0
Enl	736	40	0	1	0	0	0

Weather: Raining and cool

Date

11. At 0300 this date advance warning order from Commanding Officer, 5th Marines was received confirming verbal instructions received the previous day. No training was conducted as the companies prepared for movement on order. Supplies and equipment were being crated throughout the day. "C" Company was relieved of regimental outpost at 1445 and regimental guard at 1600. Roads remained in fair condition. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	34	2	7	0	0	0	0
Enl	770	40	51	4	38	0	0

Weather: Cloudy and cold

12. Preparation for movement was continued throughout the early morning. At 1000 a dispatch order was received from Commanding Officer, 5th Marines for the battalion to move out immediately and board LST-Q079, which was tied up at the dock in MASAN, for further movement to new assembly area. Tents were struck, stoves dismantled, and all preparations made to depart. At 1130 loading of supplies commenced and continued throughout the day. At 1635, the battalion, (less motor vehicle convoy), began march to MASAN. Order of march was "A", "B", "C", Weapons, and H&S companies. The last element arrived on the dock at 2015 and boarded the LST immediately thereafter. Because elements of 5th Marines Headquarters and 1st Marine Division were also embarked on LST-Q079 the ship was over crowded and living conditions were poor. There was a total of one thousand, two hundred and twenty-three (1223) men embarked plus tanks, supplies, and equipment. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	34	2	7	1	0	0	0
Enl	770	40	51	4	10	1	0

Weather: Cold and clear

13. The motor vehicle convoy moved out at 0750 and at 1600 arrived at the new assembly area located at TA 3781-H, approximately five (5) miles south of POHANG-DONG. There were no difficulties during the trip and convoy commander reported the roads in fair condition. The remainder of the battalion remained embarked aboard LST-Q079. Loading was continued. At 1330 all loading was completed and the ship got underway for POHANG-DONG. There were

Date

no special activities conducted while the ship was underway. Strength of the battalion this date was unchanged.

Weather: Cold and clear

14. The battalion remained embarked aboard LST-Q079 throughout the day. At 1000 the ship arrived at POHANG-DONG but due to inadequate unloading facilities, orders were received for the ship to proceed to KURYONG-PO. At 1030 the ship again got underway and arrived at KURYONG-PO at 1330. Movement of supplies and equipment was started to new assembly area and continued throughout the day. No troops of the battalion were debarked. The road from debarkation point to new assembly area was reported to be in fair condition. Strength of the battalion this date remained unchanged.

Weather: Cold and clear

15. The unloading of supplies was continuous throughout the night. At 0430 the cable raising the lift from the tank deck to the main deck broke and unloading was held up until 0800 at which time supplies commenced being unloaded by hand. This was accomplished by lowering the supplies from the main deck to truck on the tank deck. At 0735 the battalion advance party debarked and arrived at 0915 at the new assembly area. H&S Company commenced debarking at 1200. At 1330 the lift was back in operation and unloading of supplies and equipment was resumed at a more rapid speed. All of H&S Company had arrived at the new assembly area at 1500 with the exception of personnel required to unload the ship. At 1800 one (1) platoon of "C" Company arrived at the assembly area followed by a platoon from "A" Company at 2000. At 2200 all supplies and equipment were unloaded from the ship. Strength of the battalion this date remained unchanged.

Weather: Cold and clear

16. During the early morning of this date companies of the battalion arrived at the new assembly area in the following order: 0300 Weapons Company, 0400 "B" Company, 0500 "C" Company, 0700 "A" Company. Organizing and building up of the assembly area continued throughout the day. Roads were built in the battalion area but were of a poor nature due to freezing and thawing of soil. One electrical generator was received and lights provided for necessary tents. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C Navy SuptArms Att Evac Joined RTD Trans

Copy of Historical War Diary for January, 1951

Date

Off	34	2	7	0	0	0	0	0
Enl	836	40	51	2	64	4	0	0

Weather: Cold and clear

17. Normal camp routine began this date with improvement of the assembly area being continued. All companies cleaned and inspected weapons and equipment. One (1) man of "B" Company, while cleaning his BAR had an accidental discharge which wounded two (2) men. Supplies were received as requested. A motion picture projector was obtained and men off watch attended movies at 1840. At 2330 a dispatch order was received from Commanding Officer, 5th Marines directing this battalion to provide one reinforced platoon the following day to patrol the area north and northwest of the assembly area and return. "A" Company was designated and notified they would provide this platoon. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	34	2	7	0	0	0	0
Enl	835	39	51	3	0	1	0

Weather: Clear and warmer

18. One (1) patrol consisting of a reinforced rifle platoon was conducted this date with negative enemy contact. The patrol was a combined motorized and foot patrol. The patrol returned to the battalion area at 2035. Small unit training was conducted and a lecture given by the supporting arms section on the organization, mission, and capabilities of supporting arms to selected personnel of the battalion. Improvement of the battalion area continued with additional roads being constructed and more electrical facilities being installed. Normal supply was maintained. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	34	2	7	0	1	0	0
Enl	855	39	51	2	20	0	0

Weather: Fair and warmer

19. The battalion maintained normal camp routine and conducted training throughout the period. Another lecture was given by the supporting arms section. Roads in the camp area

Date

continued to improve as weather remained warm. Normal supply routine was maintained. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	35	2	7	0	0	0	0
Enl	855	39	51	1	0	1	0

Weather: Fair and mild

20. During the period 0900-1100 the company commanders inspected their respective companies. All companies had organized athletics during the afternoon. Normal supply routine was maintained. At 1830, orders were received from Commanding Officer, 5th Marines directing the battalion to provide a security force for supplies and equipment going to 2/5's position at YONGCHON. "B" Company was notified they would provide the security elements. At 1900 the regimental commander and the battalion commander gave a talk on forthcoming operations and methods to be employed in accomplishing these operations to Company Commanders and the battalion staff. Major Doherty of CIC gave a short talk on guerrilla activities and scouting and patrolling. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	38	2	7	0	2	0	0
Enl	855	39	51	0	0	0	0

Weather: Cold and windy

21. At 0855 the security element provided by "B" Company and the 2/5 supply train departed the battalion area. At 1000 this battalion received 5th Marines Operation Order #1-51 concerning patrolling in assigned sectors. In accordance with this order the battalion Commander directed "C" Company to move to YONGCHON the following day and become attached to 2/5. At 1345 the advance party from "C" Company departed for 2/5's positions at YONGCHON. At 1615, "B" Company security elements for 2/5's supply train returned and reported negative enemy action and that the roads were in good condition. The remainder of 1/5 carried out holiday routine. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	38	2	7	1	1	0	0
Enl	855	39	51	0	0	0	0

Date

Weather: Cold and clear

22. The motorized patrol to YONGCHON was conducted this date with negative enemy contact. At 0830 the battalion commander departed for 2/5's position at YONGCHON. At 1120, "C" Company departed for YONGCHON to become attached to 2/5. At 1330, school was conducted by supporting arms for selected personnel of the battalion and also personnel from the 1st Engineer Battalion. A normal camp routine was carried out this date with companies conducting school on scouting and patrolling. Supplies were received as requested. "C" Company reported at 2/5's assembly area at 1400 and immediately dispatched foot patrols from that position in conjunction with 2/5. The battalion commander, who had arrived at 2/5's assembly area at 1100, remained there overnight. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	38	2	7	0	0	0	0
Enl	854	39	51	1	0	0	0

Weather: Cold and clear

23. A motorized patrol was conducted to YONGCHON this date with negative enemy contact. At 0830, foot patrols departed the battalion area via truck convoy to be dropped off at predesignated points along the MSR. These patrols to remain out overnight and reconnoiter of their assigned routes and to be picked up the following day at predesignated point along the MSR. At 1700 the battalion commander returned from 2/5's CP. Supporting arms continued to hold school for selected personnel. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	38	2	7	0	0	0	0
Enl	859	40	51	4	6	4	0

Weather: Clear and warmer

24. A motorized patrol was conducted to YONGCHON this date with negative enemy contact. At 1220, foot patrols from "A" Company embarked aboard vehicles for movement to predesignated drop-off points along the MSR. These vehicles to pick up the foot patrols sent from "B" Company the previous day and return them to the battalion area. The battalion commander and assistant S-3 departed for 2/5 at 1300. The vehicles picked up "B" Company's foot patrols as scheduled and returned to the battalion area at 1800. The patrols reported

Date

negative enemy contact. Payday was held for all personnel. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	38	2	7	0	0	0	0
Enl	856	40	51	0	0	1	0

Weather: Cold and clear

25. The battalion conducted daily motorized patrol to YONGCHON with negative enemy contact. The advance party consisting of two (2) officers and four (4) enlisted men departed for 2/5's assembly area at YONGCHON. At 1315 verbal orders were received from 5th Marines that movement of 1/5 to new assembly area at YONGCHON, would be delayed twenty-four (24) hours. At 1700 written orders were received confirming this message. At 1455 the battalion commander returned to the battalion area. At 1500 a ceremony was held for presentation of awards by the regimental commander to personnel of 1/5. At 185 vehicles returned with "A" Company's foot patrols embarked. Negative enemy contact was reported by the patrols. Throughout the day companies made preparations for movement to YONGCHON. Personnel were briefed on the type of patrolling to be conducted. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	39	2	7	0	0	1	0
Enl	851	40	51	0	0	0	0

Weather: Cold and clear

26. A motorized patrol was conducted to YONGCHON with negative enemy contact. At 1330 the battalion commander, S-2, and representatives from the S-3 departed for YONGCHON. The combat efficiency of the command continued to be excellent. Roads remained in fair condition. Supplies were received as requested. An enlisted representative from the 4.2" Mortar Company was attached to the battalion this date for liaison purposes.

27. At 0745 the battalion began movement to new assembly area at YONGCHON to assume duties of Unit "A" as set forth in Regimental Operations Order #1-51. The battalion completed the movement at 1230. The new CP was established at TA 9580-Q-4 at 1130. At 1200, "G" Company, 3/5, who had moved up during the morning, became attached to 1/5 for use as set forth in Regimental Operational Order #1-51. Other units became attached to 1/5 this date were

Date

"B" Battery, 11th Marines, one (1) platoon of "A" Company, 1st Engineers and a detachment of three (3) tanks from the 1st Tank Battalion. At 1400 patrol leaders for both motorized and foot patrols were briefed by the assistant S-3 and Battalion Executive Officer. At 1800 the motorized patrol with foot patrols embarked departed for UISONG, This patrol was divided into two (2) sections with one (1) traveling the main MSR and the other traveling the alternate MSR. The foot patrols embarked were to be dropped off at predesignated points along both routes. There was a total of seven (7) patrols embarked. The battalion S-3 departed the battalion area via helicopter at 1445 for 1st Battalion, 1st Marines CP and 7th Marines CP to establish liaison. Overlays for this battalion's patrols for 27 to 29 January were submitted to both units who in turn submitted patrol overlays and enemy situation information to this battalion. The S-3 returned at 1820. The companies were set in a defense perimeter around the CP with a check point being established at TA 9580-N. A ten per cent (10%) watch of the perimeter was maintained at all times. At 1900 the motorized patrol arrived at the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines area located at UISONG and reported the patrols had been dropped off at designated points and no enemy contact encountered. Supplies were received as requested. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans	
Off	38	2	7	0	0	1	0	0
Enl	853	40	52	1	0	0	0	0

Weather: Clear and warmer

28. The motorized patrol to UISONG the previous day returned at 1205 and reported negative enemy contact. Captain Jones, "C" Company Commander, departed via helicopter for 1st Battalion, 1st Marines CP and 7th Marines CP at 1400. Information was exchanged concerning both friendly and enemy situation and he returned at 1800. Improvement on the battalion perimeter defense was continued throughout the day. Liberty was granted to twenty-five (25) per-cent of the personnel between the hours of 1230 and 1730. This liberty not to exceed the boundaries of YONGCHON, KOREA. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans	
Off	39	2	7	0	0	1	0	0
Enl	994	40	52	1	0	137	5	0

Weather: Clear and warmer

Date

29. One motorized and seven (7) foot patrols were sent out in assigned sectors. The foot patrols were to remain out until 31 January. At 1730 the Regimental Commander arrived at the battalion CP and issued oral orders to send one (1) company (rein) to town of CHACHON-DONG. This move was to be made under cover of darkness. "C" Company was ordered to undertake this mission. At 1900, "A" and "B" Companies assumed "C" Company's portion of the perimeter and at 2100 "C" Company started marching for CHACHON-DONG. A written order from Command Officer, 5th Marines was received at 2140 confirming the oral orders for this move. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	39	2	7	0	0	0	0
Enl	994	40	52	0	0	0	0

30. At 0130, "C" Company reported they had reached there destination, town of CHACHON-DONG, and were preparing defense positions that would keep them under concealment during hours of daylight. At 1730 the daily motorized patrol departed for UISONG. The battalion commander departed via helicopter at 1010 to make an aerial reconnaissance. He returned at 1145 and reported all roads clear to UISONG. At 1730 the motorized patrol returned from UISONG. Supplies were carried to "C" Company by the motorized traveling the alternate MSR. This was done in order to avoid giving away "C" Company's presence in CHACHON-DON. All roads remained in fair condition. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
Off	39	2	7	0	0	0	0
Enl	994	40	52	0	0	0	0

31. The daily motorized patrol with seven (7) foot patrols embarked departed at 0730. The foot patrols were dropped off in designated sectors. 81mm mortars were teat fired during the period 0930-1030. "C" Company maintained their defense positions in CHACHON-DONG with no enemy activity being reported. The motorized patrol returned at 1730 after picking up the foot patrols that had been sent out the 29th. These foot patrols made reports of enemy in the area, mostly consisting of raiding parties on small villages and information of a general enemy movement southwest with the mission of cutting supply lines. Strength of the battalion this date as follows:

M/C	Navy	SuptArms	Att	Evac	Joined	RTD	Trans
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Copy of Historical War Diary for January, 1951

Date

Off	39	2	7	0	0	0	0	0
Enl	994	40	52	0	0	0	0	0

/s/ **John L. Hopkins**

John L. Hopkins

All diaries were copied exactly from photo copies received from the Historical Section, Headquarters, Marine Corps. Only change made was the addition of a header to maintain page placement.