

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force
c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California

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CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps

Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 5th Marines
(2) Commanding General, 1st Marine Division
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Historical Diary for month of March, 1951

Ref: (a) Paragraph 11401, Marine Corps Manual
(b) 1st Marine Division General Order 16-50
(c) 1st Marine Division Memorandum 66-51

Map: AMS L751 KOREA, 1:50,000, sheets 6726 II, 2826 III, 6726 I and 6727 II

SUMMARY:

The month of March began with the 1st Battalion in the Division reserve at an assembly area about halfway between WONJU and HOENSONG, conducting patrols and training exercises. Supplies depleted during the previous seven days in the attack, were also replenished during these first three days. On the 4th of the month the battalion displaced forward to one mile south of HOENSONG. in this new area a defense perimeter set up, patrols were conducted and the training of the men continued. on the 8th, 121 men were attached from the 6th replacement draft; 95 of these men were ordered returned to Division a few days ;later. The new Commanding Officer of the 5th Marines visited the battalion on the 12th. Another displacement, this time a point six miles north of HOENSONG, took place on the 14th, and on the 17th the battalion

moved into an assembly area prior to passing through the 7th Marines. The attack on the 18th to Hill 442 met no opposition. The attack was continued on the 19th as soon as the 2nd Battalion was in position. On the 20th the attack was continued to Objective JIG from ridge to ridge alongside shoulders of the valley. The rifle platoons met considerable resistance, and mortar platoon of "B" was at one point brought under intense small arms fires. The total casualties for the day were one killed and 13 wounded. By the 22nd the last elements of the battalion were in position and the CP was established at TA 9886-P. On the 23rd "A" went into established defense at Objective PETER. From the 24th to 31st positions remained essentially unchanged, but patrol activity was maintained over extremely difficult terrain. "I": Company was attached to the battalion the 29th to aid in the defense plan of the CP and to act as battalion reserve. A patrol from "A" was hit by small arms fire on the 29th. Plans were made immediately to trap this enemy force, estimated at seventy (70) men and in the action six (6) enemy were killed in action and fourteen (14) were wounded in action. An air strike later in the day claimed one hundred twenty-five (125) enemy killed in action, fleeing north from the bridge at TA 0098-J-L-O. The month closed with the battalion still in the lines conducting extensive patrols from its positions forward into enemy territory.

CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE:

DATE

1. a. After seven days in the attack, the 1st Battalion, with the rest of the 5th Marines, was placed in Division reserve; on March 1st was moved to the regimental assembly area at TA 0841-N-5. Plans were made immediately to use all available time for training and conditioning while the battalion assumed its responsibilities in the defense of the area.

b. The men had long awaited chance to shave and to change and wash clothes, and the battalion mess, although working with short supplies, quickly served up unusually good hot meals. At noon the men ate fresh eggs and potatoes with hot coffee, and at supper, ham and beef steaks served with more coffee and with hot biscuits to take place of bread, which was not available.

c. The battalion area was made more comfortable, despite the penetrating damp cold, by the receipt of warm-up tents and stoves to provide a minimum of five (5) per company. One (1) candy bar was distributed to each man, and one hundred twenty (120) PX rations and six (6) Coleman stoves were passed out to each company. Twenty (20) bags of first and second class mail with letters and packages were passed out to the troops. Five (5) men were evacuated to the 1st Division hospital at WONJU.

d. During the day the commanding officer ordered school held for all troops in the care and cleaning of individual weapons. Additional training was also given in the tactical

employment of weapons with special emphasis on their use in this area to make favorable use of the rugged terrain.

e. The companies were assigned zones of responsibility for security and defense sectors were established. At 1130 orders from the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines were received and accordingly at 1500 a patrol of squad strength from "A" Company left the battalion area. "B" Company patrol departed at 2000 and returned at 0115 reporting no enemy contact. "C" Company patrol was dispatched at 2330.

2. a. On the second day of March the battalion continued to strengthen and improve its defensive sector and area of responsibility. The patrols from "A" and "C" Companies, sent out the night before, reported negative enemy contact. Another "B" Company patrol departed at 0800 and "C" Company patrol left the area at 0930. Both of these patrols also reported negative enemy contact; however, the patrol from "B" Company did note approximately fifty round of 105 mm ammunition scattered throughout the vicinity of TA 0642-0.

b. At 1800 operation order #14-51 was received from the Commanding Officer of the 5th Marines assigning definite battalion areas of patrol responsibility and directing that day and night patrols be sent out and that small unit training and combat conditioning exercises be conducted with emphasis on night operations.

c. During this second day in the regimental assembly area three (3) meals of "A" rations were served to the troops and two (2) squad tents were erected to shelter the men while eating. Three (3) barber kits were issued to the battalion and were immediately put to use.

d. A letter recommending the substitution in the TO/TE of the U.S. Pistol, cal. 45 M1911A1 for the U.S. Carbine, cal. 30 M1 and M2 for all corpsmen was written by the battalion commanding officer to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

e. One (1) Medical Officer, Lt. Jg Robert C. Hagstrom, was added to the staff and four (4) patients were evacuated to the 1st Division hospital.

3. a. On the third of March, the battalion's last day in this area, two (2) reconnaissance patrols were ordered out of by the battalion commanding officer and both returned with negative enemy contact. Six (6) night patrols were conducted also and they reported no enemy activities.

b. Meanwhile at a ceremony in the battalion area, the commanding officer presented Purple Heart Medals to four (4) members of the battalion.

c. Five (5) squad tents were issued to the battalion, and twelve hundred (1,200) pairs of badly needed ski socks were received for distribution to the men. The ordnance contact team arrived from division and made repairs on three (3) 81 mm mortars, one (1) 60 mm mortar, three (3) light machine guns several pieces of small arms.

d. During the day two (2) patients were evacuated to the 1st Division hospital.

4. a. Orders were received at 0730, March 4, to displace forward and plans were put into effect to move the battalion. At 1230 the advance party departed and at 1415 the new CP was closed at TA 0947-002. "A" Company led the march followed by "C", Weapons, H&S, and "B" Companies. The men marched in column and twenty (20) trucks were attached to aid in the movement. A defense perimeter was set in the new battalion area; no enemy contact was reported during the day.

b. The men had fried eggs for breakfast and hot chow was also served at noon and evening meals. One (1) bag of first class mail and two hundred (200) PX rations were distributed to the troops.

c. At 2130 the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines, ordered security provided for the bridge at DS 1048-V. Two (2) rifle teams from H&S Company were dispatched at 2215 with orders to place one (1) fire team at each end of the bridge - each fire team to patrol to the river.

d. One hundred and eighty-three (183) men attended the Protestant service conducted by the Chaplin. The mess tent where service was held was completely filled and fifty to sixty (50-60) men heard the service from outside the tent. In addition there were one hundred and sixty four (164) men at the Catholic mass for a total of three hundred and forty seven (347) men in attendance at divine services this Sunday.

5. a. During the morning of the 5th of March, "C" Company sent one squad to relieve the two (2) fire teams as bridge security for the next twentyfour (24) hours. There was no contact with the enemy on this day. At 1820 a patrol of a squad strength from "A" Company was sent out, and at 2230 this patrol returned without enemy contact.

b. In the battalion area the commanding officer ordered continued training while the battalion was in this more stable situation.

c. Hot baker rations were served at all three (3) meals, Bible study class attended by twenty eight (28) men was conducted by the Chaplin. The Chaplin visited the men and interviewed several of them. Magazines were distributed to the troops and Red Cross messages were delivered. One half (½) bag of first class mail was passed out.

6. a. From 1000 to 1130 the TACP team attached to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines have a lecture to officers and selected NCO's of "A" Company on the use and control of aircraft for close air support.

b. At a battalion ceremony the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines presented the following awards: one gold star in lieu of a second Bronze Star to Lt. Poul Pederson; Bronze Stars to Major M.E. Olson, SSgt Grant, SSgt Gunning, and Sgt LeGrand; and one Letter of Commendation to MSgt Tobin.

c. The following articles were also received for distribution to the battalion: eighty (80) cans of flea powder and twenty two (22) cartons of PX rations. Four (4) patients were evacuated to the 1st Division Hospital.

d. Three (3) patrols were sent out on the 6th March and all three reported no enemy contact. The morning patrols from "B" and "C" Companies were dispatched at 0900. At 1525 the "C" Company patrol returned and the "B" Company patrol made its report at 1600. Third patrol was taken from "C" Company. It left the battalion area at 1845 and returned at 2250.

e. Hot "B" rations were again served to the troops at all meals, and twenty five (25) more cartons of PX rations were received for distribution.

f. In the evening forty to fifty (40-50) gathered in the mess tent for an interesting Bible study class conducted by the Chaplain.

g. One (1) of the battalion's medical officers was detached and two (2) patients were evacuated to the 1st Division Hospital.

7. a. March 7th was marked by increased patrol activity. Patrols of platoon strength were dispatched from "A" and "B" Companies during the morning. Both patrols returning in mid-afternoon without having contacted the enemy. Another "A" Company patrol left the area at 1800, but it returned at 1945 with its mission not accomplished because it was unable to cross the river at the designated point.

b. A patrol from "C" Company departed at 1050 to reconnoiter the area in the vicinity of Hill 270 TA 0466-L and remain through the night.

c. At a ceremony in the battalion area at 1000, the commanding officer awarded 4 Purple Hearts Medals to men of the battalion. Following the presentations, the commanding officer made an inspection of the personnel of the H&S Company. The regimental commanding officer also visited the area at 1730.

d. Battalion Memorandum 1-51 was promulgated by the commanding officer to establish the position of the Battalion Officer of the Day and set forth his duties.

e. One (1) bag of first class mail and twenty five (25) cases of PX rations were distributed in the battalion. A long awaited shower unit was set up in the vicinity of the battalion area on this date and was quickly put into service by the men. A new ambulance was also received and delivered to the medical section. The critical shortage in both fuel and underwear continued.

f. Three (3) patients were evacuated to the 1st Division Hospital.

8. a. On the 8th of March one hundred and twenty one (121) men from the sixth replacement draft reported and were attached to the battalion.

b. Patrol activity continued. The "C" Company patrol which had spent the previous night on Hill 270 returned to the battalion shortly after noon without having contacted the enemy.

Patrols from "A" and "B" Companies of platoon strength were sent out at 0900. Later in the afternoon both patrols returned with negative enemy contact. The night patrol was taken from "B" Company; it left the area at 1800 and returned at 2140 to report no enemy contact.

c. In the battalion area the commanding officer conducted a personnel inspection of "A" Company. "B" rations were served to the troops at all three (3) meals, and one hundred and ten (110) who were on patrol the previous day received showers at the regimental shower unit.

d. One hundred (100) candles, eight (8) drums of gas and twenty three (23) "50 in 1" PX rations were issued to the battalion. Forty (40) pairs of water proof trousers were issued to the men and twelve (12) cases of "C" rations were distributed to the patrols.

e. Another well attended Bible class was conducted by the Chaplin today and some books were distributed to the men. One (1) man of the battalion was baptized by the Chaplin.

9. a. The 9th of March was fair and warmer and temperatures averaged about 55°F. The replacements from the sixth replacement draft which arrived yesterday were interviewed in order to utilize the skills of the men as classified by the FMF at Camp Pendleton. All of the replacements received were basic infantry MOS 0300.

b. Platoon size patrols from "A" and "C" Companies were sent out in the morning. "A" Company covered the area at TA 0846 while "C" Company patrolled TA 0946 and 1046. Both patrols reported in early in the afternoon, without enemy contact. Later in the day another "C" Company patrol left the battalion area to reconnoiter the region around TA 0745 and 0746. AT 2125 this patrol too returned without having contacted the enemy.

c. The commanding officer conducted a personnel inspection of Weapons Company at 1000. At 1400 the two (2) officers of the TACP presented a lecture to all company officers on the organization of the TACP and its tactical uses in combat. After the lecture a question and answer discussion period was conducted by the officers. "C" rations were issued to those men assigned to patrols and four hundred (400) gallons of gas and thirty eight (38) "50 in 1" rations were distributed. Motor transport today received two hundred (200) sandbags for use in vehicles. Two (2) complete clothing issues were put out to "A" Company to replace clothing burned by lice-ridden men. The battalion fuel supply continues to be critical.

d. The Chaplin conducted evening Bible study hour and thirty five (35) men from the battalion attended. Two (2) patients were evacuated to "C" Medical Battalion.

10. a. Ordnance personnel conducted school on the sniper scope on March 10 for selected men from the rifle companies, Weapons Company and H&S Company. The lecture was devoted to a discussion of the weapon; and a member of the Intelligence section gave a lecture on its tactical utilization. A separate night class on the sniper scope was conducted for selected men of the battalion.

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b. Test firing of M-1s, Carbines, and BARS was conducted from 1330 to 1600 at TA 0947-F-2 on orders of the commanding officer.

c. The battalion defense perimeter was strengthened and improved throughout the day. Patrols continued to cover the area assigned to the battalion. One patrol of platoon strength left the battalion at 0815, followed by another of the same strength from "B" Company at 0915. "A" Company patrolled the area TA 0644 and "B" Company covered the area near TA 0647 and 0747. At 1800 a squad from "A" Company went out on a night patrol. At 2115 the patrol returned from the vicinity of TA 0747 with no information concerning enemy activities. First class mail, one thousand and fifty (1050) towels, and more PX rations were distributed to the men of the battalion. Six (6) 55 gallon drums of gasoline, fifteen (15) sleeping bag covers, fifty (50) pairs of trousers, and ten (10) utility jackets were received by the supply section.

d. Religious services were conducted for members of the Jewish faith at 2000 following a Bible class conducted by the Chaplin. The regimental and battalion galleys combined to supply coffee and doughnuts to the men attending the meetings. The weather throughout the day was warm but overcast.

11. a. The Protestant Chaplin estimated that four hundred and fifty (450) men from the battalion attended the services for all faiths conducted in the area on this Sunday, March 11th. Hot showers were again available to the men of the battalion and after the showers arrangements were made to exchange soiled clothes for clean ones. Books, stationary and Red Cross ditty bags containing toilet articles were passed out to the troops.

b. Two (2) day patrols and one (1) evening patrol were sent out on this date. At 0740 patrols of two (2) squad strength left the battalion from "B" and "C" Companies. The patrol from "C" Company returned at 1100 and that from "B" Company at 1400. Both patrols reported negative enemy contact, but "B" patrol did return with five (5) rounds of 3.5" rocket ammunition which was found in the trail. The evening patrol of squad strength was taken from "B" Company. It left the battalion area at 1800 to reconnoiter in the vicinity of TA 0946 and returned at 2020 without having contacted the enemy.

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c. Each man received two (2) candy bars from the thirteen (13) boxes of "100 in 1" rations received on this date. Seven (7) drums of gasoline were also received and issued as needed.

d. Captain G. A. Rheman was detached on this date and 2ndLt. R.H. Corbet succeeded him as Commanding Officer of H&S Company.

12. a. The new Commanding Officer of the 5th Marines, Colonel Richard Hayward, USMC and the departing Commanding Officer, Colonel Raymond Murray, visited the battalion area today, Monday the 12th of March. Colonel Murray spoke briefly to the battalion thanking the men for their cooperation and expressing his appreciation for the fine showing of the battalion during his period of his command. Colonel Hayward spoke of his pride at becoming commander of the 5th Marines and stated his desire to emulate the accomplishments of Colonel Murray.

b. The battalion continued its patrol activity on this date with full company patrols. "A" and "C" Companies left the area at 0830 and "B" Company in their absence took over the perimeter defense of the battalion. The "A" Company patrol covered the area at TA 0648 and returned to the battalion area at 1400 without enemy contact, but with reports through interpreters that several natives in the village of MOPYONG-NI, TA 0845-S were sick with Typhus fever. "C" Company reported in at 1430 without contact with enemy.

c. Two (2) patrols from "B" Company left the area at 2100. Number one was to cover TA 0747 and number two to the vicinity of TA 0744. Both patrols were to return early the next morning.

d. Seven (7) more drums of fuel oil were received and distributed and PX rations, including five (5) candy bars per man were passed out. One (1) bag of first class mail and twenty six (26) bags of packages were received for distribution. The medical section vaccinated six hundred (600) men of the battalion against Small Pox. There were no evacuations.

e. A warning order was received at 2130 this date to displace the battalion to the vicinity of TA 0853 and 0953 on March 14.

13. a. At 1500 on the 13th of March a meeting was held staff, special staff, and company commanders concerning the displacement of the battalion on March 14th to TA 0753 and 0855.

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b. Meanwhile, patrol activity continued. Two patrols from "B" Company sent out the evening of the 12th returned to the battalion area at 0205 and 0225 to report no enemy contact. While these patrols were out "C" Company assumed the responsibility for the defense of "B" Company's portion of the battalion perimeter. Two (2) patrols of platoon strength from "A" Company and similar patrol from "B" Company went out to &A 0546, 0645, and 0545-46. Both of "A" Company's patrols returned at 1400 and "B"'s patrol arrived at 1602. All three reported no enemy contact. At 1830 two (2) patrols were sent out from "C" Company to TA 0745. They returned at 2225 again without having contacted enemy.

c. Bacon and fresh eggs were served to the troops at breakfast and hot "B" rations were served up at the noon and evening meals. Thirty (30) bags of packages were passed out by the battalion mail clerk.

d. Seven (7) drums of fuel were received and distributed and thirteen (13) cases of "100 in 1" rations were passed out. The medical section vaccinated two hundred (200) more men against Small Pox, and evacuated two (2) men to "E" Medical Company. A one (1) hour Bible study conducted in the evening by the Chaplain was well attended.

14. a. At 0730 on the 14th of March the advance party left the area as the battalion began to displace in accordance with Regimental Operations Order #14A-51. "C" Company the first element of the main body moved out at 0740 followed in order Weapons, "B", H&S and "A" Companies. The battalion moved in column formation with tentage and heavy equipment hauled by fifteen (15) trucks.

b. The advance CP was opened at 0815 at TA 0853-H-5. The old area was cleared by 0900 and the new area closed at 1105. At 1635 the new battalion CP was established at TA 0754-A-4.

c. Verbal instructions were received at 2230 from the Commanding Officer of the 5th Marines for the battalion to conduct extensive day and night patrols in the battalion's assigned sector.

d. The morning and evening meals hot "B" rations were served, and the evening meal "A" rations, including steak were offered to the troops.

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e. On this date, March 14, ninety five (95) men were transferred from the battalion. Ninety four went to the 7th Marines and one (1) to the 1st Marines.

f. A large supply of clothing was received by the battalion. one hundred (100) pairs of utility trousers, thirty five (35) utility coats, thirty seven (37) pairs of shoe packs, and six hundred and sixty six (666) pairs of ski socks were issued to "A", "B", and "C" Companies. Weapons Company received two hundred (200) pair of cushion sole socks and H&S received two hundred and ninety (290).

g. One (1) patient was evacuated by medical section to "E" Medical Company.

15. a. At 0530 on the 15th of March verbal orders were received that the 4.2" mortar forward observers would be detached and that liaison would be maintained with the company. The FO's left as scheduled at 0730.

b. Two (2) radios operators and one (1) SCR 300 radio were sent to the battalion CP at 0800 to facilitate patrol communications.

c. Operations Order #15-51 was received at 0820 confirming the previous night's verbal instructions on patrols. A day patrol of squad strength from "C" Company left the battalion area at 0950 to reconnoiter TA 0856, followed at 1030 by a similar patrol from "B" Company to cover TA 0745. "C" Company patrol returned at 1350 and "B" Company came in at 1430. Neither reported any enemy contact. An evening patrol from "A" Company departed the area at 1820 to reconnoiter the area TA 0653-4; the patrol reported at 1845 that it had discovered and removed twelve land mines in the village of TABONG; and at 2320 the patrol returned to the battalion area without further incident. "C" Company evening patrol left the battalion area at 1900, reconnoitered the area at TA 0956 and returned at 2255 without enemy contact.

d. The remainder of the personnel of the battalion were given training and schooling in individual protection in the CP area. At an awards ceremony at 1000 the commanding officer awarded four (4) Purple Hearts Medals to men of the battalion.

e. "A" rations consisting of bacon, eggs, and potatoes were served for breakfast and for lunch and supper the men had hot "B" rations.

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f. Two (2) bags of first class mail were distributed to the troops. Twelve (12) cases of "C" rations were issued to the patrols and one (1) can of free beer was distributed to each man. PX rations were received for distribution on March 16.

g. One (1) patient was evacuated to "A" Medical Company and two (2) patients were evacuated to "E" Medical Company.

16. a. On the 16th of March the Commanding Officer of the 5th Marines directed the battalion to move at 0800 the next morning into a new assembly area at TA 0172. The battalion is to pass through the 7th Marines and to attack and seize its portion of Regimental Objectives #1 and #3. The battalion is then to be prepared on further order to attack and seize Division Objectives FOX.

b. The battalion commander called an executive and special staff conference at 2330 to formulate plans for the movement of the battalion on the following morning.

c. Meanwhile, in the battalion area schooling and terrain exercises were continued and patrol activity was kept up. A patrol of two (2) squad strength from "B" Company was sent out at 0630 to reconnoiter TA 0655 and a "C" Company patrol of similar size left at 1100 to cover TA 0756. "B" patrol returned to CP area at 1500 and "C" came in at 1520. Both reported negative enemy contact. During the evening each rifle company sent a patrol into battalion sector, but no contact with the enemy was reported.

d. Fried eggs were served to the men for breakfast in the battalion area and hot "B" rations were put out for lunch and dinner. Holsters, carbines, magazine carriers and five (5) illuminating rifle grenades were also received by the S-4.

e. The Chaplain conducted another in his series of Bible study hours for the troops. One (1) patient was evacuated to "A" Medical Company.

17. a. During the morning of March 17th the movement of the battalion was accomplished in accordance with orders received on the previous day from the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines. Seventy six (76) regimental vehicles and three (3) battalion vehicles were used for the convoy. The advance party left at 0710 and the first element, "B" Company, followed at 0830. "C", Weapons, H&S and "A" Companies, in order, made up the rest of the column.

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b. The movement was marked by numerous traffic difficulties caused largely by narrow one-way roads along the route.

c. The old area was cleared by 0905 and the new CP was opened at 1200 at TA 0172-B. At 1300 the new area was closed. The rest of the day was utilized by the battalion in organizing defense positions for the night and in making final preparations for the attack the next day.

d. The commanding officer held a conference of his executive and special staff to formulate plans for the attack on the following morning.

e. Verbal orders from Commanding officer, 5th Marines directed the battalion to attack at 0700, 18 March, and to seize that portion of Regimental Objectives #1 and #2 and Division Objective FOX within our zone.

f. The battalion commander then issued orders to "B" Company to attack at 0700 and seize Hills 396 and 412, for "C" Company to seize 442 after "B" Company had secured its objective, and for "A" Company to remain in its position until ordered to seize Hill 426.

18. a. At 0700 on March 18th, as ordered, "B" Company passed through "C" Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines and at 0732 secured Hill 396 without contacting the enemy. "C" Company attacked Hill 442, Regimental Objective #1 at 1200 supported by fire by "B" Company and HMG attached to "B" Company. One platoon from "B" Company fired on the enemy from the high ground north of Hill 314. "C" Company's objective was secured at 1235 without further enemy contact. "B" and "C" Company immediately established defense positions on Hill 442. meanwhile Hill 423 was placed under 81mm mortar and artillery fire preparatory to the continuance of the attack.

b. "A" Company minus one (1) platoon, made contact with two (2) tanks from the 1st Cavalry Division at 1600 at TA 0278-F-1.

c. H&S Company arrived in the area TA 0375 at 1730 and the new CP was established at TA 0376-A-1.

d. Because of the failure of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines to move into its position in time, it was necessary that the continuation of the attack be delayed. Accordingly, new orders were received from the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines for the battalion to consolidate it

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positions and to be prepared to continue the attack at 0700 on 19 March to seize its portion of the Division Objective FOX.

e. There was no enemy contact during the night, but "B" Company received twelve (12) and "C" Company received six (6) rounds of mortar fire. There were no casualties. "A" Company's position for the night was TA 0277-S; "B" and "C" Companies remained on Hill 442. Hot "B" rations were served to H&S and Weapons Companies while the rest of the battalion had "C" rations. One hundred and ten (110) laborers were secured from the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines for use in hauling supplies.

f. Five (5) patients were evacuated to the Regimental Aid Station.

19. a. The attack was continued as ordered at 0700, 19 March when "A" and "C" Companies jumped off. "A" Company seized its objective, Hill 428, at 0945 and "C" Company's forward elements went through to reach objective FOX at 1010; neither company met enemy opposition. Weapons Company displaced at 0840 to TA 0077-L.

b. The platoon of tanks moved out at 0800 and proceeded up the valley toward the village of MUSUMAK, TA 0176-H. "B" Company moved out at 0945 to contact the tanks at 1005. At 1015 forward progress was stopped because the lead tank was disabled by a mine. The column was delayed while the mine area was cleared.

c. The battalion commander reported to the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines at 1330 for a conference of battalion commanding officers. Orders were left for the companies to organize for defense at their present positions, which were: for "A" TA 9984-I; for "B" TA 9984-A; and for "C" TA 9985.

d. Regimental operations order #18-51 was received at 1300, confirming verbal instructions received earlier.

e. At 2000 verbal orders were issued directing the continuation of the attack the following morning.

f. native laborers were used to replenish the "C" rations and ammunition supply for all companies.

g. Eight (8) patients were evacuated to the Regimental Aid Station.

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20. a. The plan for the 20th of March was for "C" Company to begin the attack north along the ridge line at 0700, and for "B" Company commencing at 0800. The battalion commander staggered the jump off times deliberately so that the ridge on the right side of the valley could be cleared before "B" Company and its four (4) supporting tanks preceded forward, "A" Company was to follow "B" Company by several hundred yards, prepared to scout out the high ridge to the left of the valley. Weapons Company was ordered to displace forward as necessary to be in position at all times to support the attack. The battalion's Objective: JIG, was a ridge line, approximately seven (700) meters high, about one thousand one hundred (1100) meters to the front. This ridge could be reached only by traversing very steep, rugged hills. Although the valley was the best avenue of approach, it was necessary to clear out any enemy that might be located in the battalion zone of action.

b. The attack progresses favorably although the tanks accompanying the platoon from "B" Company on the valley were hindered by rice paddies, large boulders and steep slopes adjacent to the stream. The tanks were preceded by an engineer mine removal team, which later in the day detected and removed eleven (11) mines. Ten (10) of these mines were 81mm mortar shell placed into the ground with the fuze up; the other was a U.S. M-26 mine.

c. At 0935 "B" Company received small arms and automatic fire from high ground on the right side of the valley. While a base of fire was being built up, "B" Company's right platoon moved up the high ground to attempt an envelopment of the enemy position.

d. Shortly after resistance developed "A" Company was committed with the mission to seizing, clearing and advancing on the high ground to the left of the valley in the battalion zone of action. "B" Company's advance was slow, but steady, with the enemy falling back from ridge line to ridge line as "B" Company gained fire superiority over them.

e. At one phase of the attack, "B" Company's 60mm mortar section, as it displaced forward, was brought under intense small arms fire, which killed one man, seriously wounded the platoon leader (who died of wound several days later), and wounded several others less seriously. Because of the severity of the platoon leader's wound prevented his being moved, a helicopter was called by radio to come down into the scene of action to evacuate the wounded men.

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f. The enemy positions along the route of attack was not hastily dug in foxholes, but were rather well prepared and concealed bunkers and trenches. Numerous small forest fires starting by our WP and HE shells hindered maneuvers, and the smoke from these fires limited visibility. In the early afternoon the elements of "B" Company accompanying the tanks were subjected to enemy mortar fire, presumably 81 or 82mm.

g. "C" Company reached its first intermediate objective by mid-afternoon and was then ordered to continue forward and seize a trail at pass (313) meeting which crossed the ridge as well as the first high ground to the north. In their advance they received intermittent small arms fire - not in sufficient volume to seriously hamper their progress.

h. A combat CP was established at 1300 at the village of SOJAE and at 1730 the CP was set up at TA 9885-M.

i. "B" Company sent reinforced platoon to reconnoiter in the vicinity of Objective JIG, and it returned at 1930 without enemy contact. At the same time, "A", "B" and "C" Companies were ordered to consolidate and organize their defense positions which were: "A" TA 9885-L; "B" TA 9885-C, "C" TA 0086-U. There was no enemy contact during the night.

j. Verbal orders were issued to "A" and "C" Company's at 2005 for them to continue the attack at 0800 on 21 March with "B" Company in reserve.

k. Ammunition, supplies and "C" rations were distributed to the companies over rugged terrain by native laborers. The laborers were also utilized in conjunction with engineers to rebuild two (2) bridges and repair the narrow dirt road over which the battalion traveled.

l. The weather was cloudy and warm, cooler at night. Ten (10) POW's were taken and sent to Regiment. One (1) man killed in action. Thirteen (13) were wounded in action. Three (3) were evacuated to regimental aid.

21. a. At 0023, 21 March enemy mortar and mountain gun fire began falling on the battalion's positions, continuing intermittently during the night. No casualties resulted from the fire, estimated at fifty (50) rounds.

b. "A" and "C" Companies jumped off in the attack at 0800 with tanks and HMG supporting. "C" Company secured Division Objective JIG at 0945 without contacting the enemy. However, the company received thirteen (13) round of WP mortar fire, without any casualties.

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"A" Company advanced and seized the high ground at TA 9887-A-B at 1145, still without enemy contact.

c. H&S Company moved out to a new location at 1205 at TA 9886-P and "B" Company moved to TA 9886-P-Y. during the afternoon, the battalion commander made an inspection of "A" and "C" Companies perimeters and discussed plans with the company commanders for the following day's operation. Because of the nature of the terrain, it took the commanding officer five (5) hours to accomplish this inspection.

d. A patrol sent by "C" Company to reconnoiter TA 9798-R left 1040 and returned at 1430 without enemy contact. "A" Company dispatched two (2) patrols, one (1), a combat patrol, to Hill 507 and the other to Hill 899 to contact elements of the 1st Cavalry Division; the contact was made as prescribed. None of the patrols reported any enemy contact.

e. The patrol also attempted to find a supply route suitable for vehicles but the patrol leader reported that the terrain in the area patrolled was impassable to vehicles.

f. The battalion commander held a conference with the executive and special staffs to discuss the problem of supplying the battalion in the rugged terrain in which it is operating. Plans were made by using native labor and beasts of burden in further operations, to supply forward units.

g. During the night "C" Company reported that approximately twenty (20) rounds of unidentified mortar and artillery fire were heard in the vicinity. There was no other enemy contact during the night.

h. The engineers and members of H&S Company built three (3) bridges and continued to work on the poor road leading up to our present position.

i. Two (2) bags of 1st class mail was received and delivered to the troops today. Six (6) POWs were taken and returned to regiment. The weather during the day was clear and cool with snow flurries in the morning, clearing up later. Three (3) patients were evacuated to regimental aid.

22. a. Although the morning of March 22nd was clear and sunny, the night just passed had been very cold, causing a thin layer of ice to form on the slow moving stream nearby and a heavy

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layer of frost on the Marines' shelters. Later in the day the temperature climbed to fifty giving the battalion its first taste of spring.

b. In compliance with Operation Order #19-51 the battalion sent reinforced platoon from "A" Company to Hill #663 TA 9691-H with two missions; first to seek out the enemy personnel reported to be infiltrating back to our lines and the stragglers who because of wounds, disease or fatigue might still be in the area; and second, to contact elements of the 1st Cavalry Division on our left. The patrol succeeded in establishing contact with "L" Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Regiment at hill 663 but was unable to make contact with the enemy. The ruggedness of the terrain is illustrated by the fact that it took this lightly loaded patrol more than three hours to cover approximately 3500 yards.

c. A reinforced platoon from "C" Company was sent forward of its position to the valley floor to determine the availability of native carriers, carts and oxen to help transport the battalion gear down the mountain in the event the attack was continued.

d. Upon questioning, civilians reported that the Chinese on moving northward the past few days had taken most of their carts and oxen to transport their wounded and sick. At 1530 after the patrol had returned to its company's defense perimeter a group of forty (40) carriers volunteered their services to the battalion. These were joined to the battalion's labor party after being thoroughly searched and interrogated. In compliance with Operation Order #20-51 from the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines, plans were laid for operations the next day which called for a company to displace to Objective Peter TA 9794-M the following night and to send a patrol to UMU-DONG approximately 9,000 meters to the battalion's front.

e. In preparation for the continuation of the attack it was decided to build a base of supplies at the top of a mountain pass in the battalion defense sector. In addition to approximately one hundred and thirty (130) native carriers, all hands turned to early in the day and worked until after dark carrying ammunition, for a distance of over two (2) miles up grades so steep that they could be negotiated only by hanging onto trees and bushes. In spite of the rugged terrain and the narrowness of the route traveled, over twenty (20) tons of supplies were moved to the advance supply dump - enough to sustain the entire battalion for a two days operation. In addition, the front line companies were supplied with water and "C" rations,

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augmented by fresh bread, a half a loaf per man, and doughnuts contributing to the high morale of the battalion.

f. Three (3) ¼ ton vehicles were repaired and the battalion's Wessel's tracks replaced under field conditions by the battalion's Motor Transportation Section.

g. Three (3) patients were evacuated to the Regimental Aid Station.

23. a. Marines of the 1st Battalion shivered through another night with temperatures dropping well below the freezing mark; however the day turned out to be comfortably warm in spite of the overcast sky.

b. In accordance with the Operation Plan #20-51, "A" Company, artillery and air defense teams, and a squad of Korean national Police, left its defense perimeter before 0300 and headed for the Regimental Objective peter TA 9794-M which lay approximately six thousand (6,000) meters to the north. Elements of the 5th Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division in defense positions were passed at several points enroute to Objective Peter. Because of the ruggedness of the terrain, it took the company well over eight (8) hours to cover the distance; this despite the fact that a maximum effort was made by all members of the company. The route followed was generally along the ridge lines which by their narrowness stretched the column to approximately three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of a mile making control an ever present problem. The men of "A" Company, though heavily laden with their weapons, ammunition, field marching packs and two days rations, traversed grades so steep that by only using their hands to hang on to nearby trees and bushes and rocks were they able to continue the march. Upon arriving at their objective they organized a tight perimeter defense on the high ground for the night and maintained a 50 percent security watch although there had been no enemy contact through the day's patrol.

c. In filling the battalion's commitments, "C" Company dispatched a reinforced platoon to patrol the valley directly north of the battalion's zone to seek information from the civilians about any enemy infiltrators or stragglers in the battalion zone of action. This patrol reached UMUDONG, KOREA, its objective, so early in the day that it was decided to have them continue to ANHYON-RI, KOREA, about two thousand (2,000) meters further north, the limit of patrols in the regimental zone of action. The patrol completed its mission in mid-afternoon without incident and returned to the company defense positions just prior to dusk, The patrol found the

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civilians most cooperative and learned that the enemy had been through the area heading north, the past few days, carrying men wounded, sick and dead. During "A" Company absence "B" Company, less one platoon left for security around the battalion CP, displace forward to occupy "A" Company's positions.

d. The battalion continued to supply the companies with water, ammunition and rations through the use of about one hundred and eighty (180) native carriers. The men received fruit juice, fresh bread and raspberry tarts to augment their "C" rations. Today every man received one pair of cushion sole socks which were sorely needed after the rough wear of the past week. H&S and Weapons Company were issued "5 in 1" rations and hot coffee.

e. Twelve (12) bags of 2nd class mail was distributed to the men, and two (2) patients were evacuated to the Regimental Aid Station.

24. a. In accordance with Regimental Operation Order #21-51 received at 0210, 24 March confirming previous verbal orders, "A" Company left its positions on Objective Peter at 0830 to conduct a combat reconnaissance patrol and to establish contact with the 2nd Battalion at ANHYON-RI. The company had reported previously that one man, believed to be a straggler, was still missing from the company despite intensive search.

b. Three (3) other patrols were dispatched to the area around TA 9985-K-5, after a report was received that a jeep returning to the battalion CP from the south received three (3) rounds of small arms fire from the general vicinity. One of the patrols, from "C" Company, was to reconnoiter the ridge line dominating the valley as draw 613, TA 6085-A; another patrol, from "B" Company was to search out the valley, draws, and houses south to SARANGCHIN; and the 3rd patrol, from Weapons Company, scouted through the general area in question. All three patrols returned with negative results.

c. "B" Company patrol was also to cover the return of "A" a combat reconnaissance patrol from Hill 507 at TA 9798-E. This covering group reached its objective at 1230. As added security for the "A" patrol, the F.A.C. had an OY search out the area from SINKE-RI to SANGO-RI. The OY reported no contact with enemy. Meanwhile, "A" Company had made its contact with a patrol from "D" Company, 2nd Battalion at 1400 at TA 0095-K as ordered and it began its return to the CP.

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d. Much of the route of this patrol was over virtually unmapped territory, marked by almost vertical descents and ridge lines which could be navigated only on all fours. In spite of the difficulty of the terrain, the dense vegetation and the fact that all the men carried full packs, the patrol made remarkably good progress and at 1900 the last elements closed the battalion CP. and a defense perimeter was established around the CP by the company. No enemy contact was made during the patrol and the supposed straggler, reported earlier, was still missing.

e. Verbal orders were received from the Regimental S-3 at 2030 ordering a combat reconnaissance patrol to go to the next day to contact the 5th Cavalry Regiment at Hill 663 and to reconnoiter SUCHON-DONG; Regimental Operation Order #21-51 was received at 2320 confirming the verbal instructions.

f. Twelve (12) bags of fourth class mail received today; and the news, copied from the Armed Forces Radio Service and disseminated to the men, proved an additional boost to morale. Three (3) days stock level rations, ammunition, and gas were established despite the fact the roads behind us were nearly impassable because of the heavy traffic over the mud. Two native laborers hired two days previously were sent back to regiment for interrogation. One patient with measles was evacuated to the Regimental Aid Station.

25. a. At dawn on Easter Sunday, March 25, the sky was heavily overcast. A steady rainfall began about 0800 and continued throughout the day. The tactical situation had remained unchanged during the night without enemy contact. "B" and "C" Companies were set up in the defense positions at TA 9788-P to TA 9787-B and TA 9887-M to TA 9987-M respectively. "A" Company spent the night within the battalion perimeter.

b. "A" Company began moving into defense positions around the CP area early in the morning and continued to improve its positions throughout the day. Within the CP area personnel not on watch kept somewhat dry, improvising shelters out of ponchos, shelter halves, straw, logs and bunkers dug into the side of the hills. The Chaplain had arranged to conduct Easter services for all men desiring to attend them. The Protestant services, held at 1100 on a hillside overlooking the CP area, were well attended considering the heavy rain. Catholic confessions was held at 1400 and mass at 1500, but this time a native hut was utilized to protect the

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worshippers. The Catholic service was marked by the attendance of several natives and the christening of a Korean baby.

c. The first rifle platoon of "B" Company, reinforces with a LMG section, set out at 0815 on the combat reconnaissance patrol ordered by the regimental commander yesterday. The patrol was to reconnoiter the village of SUCHONG-DONG, TA 9892-P, and to make contact with elements of the 1st Cavalry Division. The patrol carried out both of its missions successfully. Contact was made with "L" Company, 5th Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division at 1010 at TA 9691-H and the village of SUCHON-DONG was reached at 1205. The platoon had difficulty in moving because of sleet and rain which reduced visibility to fifty to one hundred (50-100) yards. The platoon leader reported upon his return to "B" Company at 1725 that there had been no enemy contact nor any information about the enemy.

d. The S-4 requested from regiment only supplies needed for immediate operations in order to cut down the burden on the road. This trail which had been bulldozed into a barely passable jeep road was made nearly useless by the continued rain. Native bearers were still being used to carry supplies to the forward dump in the vicinity of "C" Company positions.

e. Four (4) new Marine officers, all MOS 0301, joined the battalion on this date and two (2) Navy Corpsman were evacuated to the Regimental Sick Bay.

f. The MP Battalion reported to us that it had apprehended the man reported missing from Weapons Company, since 1400, 23 march 1951. he had been picked up in the village of HONGCHON.

26. a. The 26th of March dawned clear with a few scattered clouds, giving the men opportunity to dry out clothes and equipment soaked during the previous day and to clean and oil all weapons.

b. Regimental Operations Order #23-51 received the night before required the battalion to patrol forward of its present front lines positions to Hill 507, and from position on this hill to observe to the front for a period of time before returning. "C" Company was ordered to provide this patrol, and at 0910 one reinforced platoon left the company area to do the job. This patrol returned at 1540 to report that it had reached Hill 507 at 1205, and had remained on the hill for two hours as ordered without observing any signs of the enemy. There was no change in the

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battalion tactical situation during the day, but all companies continued to improve and strengthen their defense positions.

c. At 0930, "A" Company was formed on the flat ground near the supply dump on preparation for an awards ceremony. The Regimental Commander arrived in the area by helicopter at 1000 to decorate nine (9) men of the battalion. Silver Stars were awarded to two (2) men of the battalion; two (2) men received Bronze Stars and Letters of Commendation were presented to five (5) men.

d. Representatives from the regimental disbursing office set up in the battalion area from 1500 until dark so that all men in H&S, Weapons, and "A" Company could draw money if they wished to do so. Personnel from the post office were also available to men who wanted to purchase money orders. Darkness set in before these two (2) groups could visit "B" and "C" Companies in their positions, so arrangements were made to billet the personnel in the CP area for the night.

e. A roster of the men to be sent home in the third rotation draft was submitted to the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines this afternoon. One (1) officer joined the battalion and was assigned as Communication Officer and head of the Battalion's Communication Section. Two (2) men were transferred to the rear administrative echelon: one (1) to receive a dependency discharge, and the other to leave the combat zone because he had already received two Purple Hearts.

f. The medical section inoculated sixty-three (63) men from the 5th Marines, 4.2" Mortar Company against Typhus.

g. Eight hundred and sixty-seven (867) doughnuts and one hundred and eight (108) loaves of bread were received from the Division bakery during the day. The doughnuts were divided among H&S, "B", and "C" Companies, and the bread went to "B" and "C" Companies by way of native laborers.

h. Some improvement was made in the road in the area by using native laborers, Meanwhile, the basic load of ammunition for the battalion was increased from one (1) to two (2).

27. a. There was no enemy contact made by the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during the early morning hours on 27 March. At dawn visibility was restricted by mist and clouds that threatened

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rain. A security guard was provided for the pay and postal personnel who departed for "B" and "C" Companies immediately after breakfast.

b. The battalion conducted two (2) patrols during the day. One (1) patrol, a platoon reinforced from "B" Company was sent to Hill 669 to establish contact with elements of the 1st Cavalry Division and to scout the village of HAMSAN-TONG, TA 9791-I. "C" Company patrolled to the village of SINNI-RI, TA 9992-A, where they established contact with elements of "F" Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. Neither patrol made enemy contact.

c. There was a mobile PX in the battalion area from 1100-1800. Their supplies were limited to cigars, one (1) bar of candy per customer, cookies, potato chips, shaving gear, and three (3) watches per company. All companies were canvassed to discover which men needed the watches most, and they were sold to the men selected. There were two (2) bags of mail distributed at mail call. The battalion Chaplain conducted Protestant services at 1600. The rain which began at about 1500, reduced the attendance. "B" and "C" Companies continued to be supplied by native laborers, four hundred forty (440) loaves of bread and nine hundred (900) doughnuts were received from the Division bakery and distributed by the supply officer. All companies were issued "C" rations. A battalion medical officer also gave inoculations to about twelve (12) natives. One (1) Korean child was treated for small pox. Four (4) men were evacuated to the Regimental Sick Bay.

d. The rain continued during the evening. Regimental Operation Order #25-51 was received and plans formed for the coming day's movements. There was no enemy contact reported in the battalion during the day.

28. a. At sunrise on the 28th of March the sky was overcast and visibility poor, though the rain had stopped. By this time all roads to the battalion were almost impassable. The battalion tactical situation was changed as follows: "C" Company, less one platoon displaced to Hill 663, TA 9691, with orders to establish a defense perimeter and to patrol to the front. "A" Company moved from its positions around the battalion CP and occupied "C" Company's old positions. One company ("I" Company) was placed under operational control of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. There was no enemy contact made by the battalion, 5th Marines, the rest of the day.

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b. Bread continued to be received from the Division bakery. "B?" and "C" Companies were supplied by native laborers. "A" Company had one (1) day's ration and "C" Company took two (2) day's rations along to "B" new positions. Six (6) cans of beer per man were purchased with money collected from the personnel, to be issued two (2) cans per man each day. Fresh fruit was also received during the day to the total on one (1) apple and one (1) orange per man.

c. Twenty (20) bags of 2nd class mail were distributed at mail call. The S-1 section continued to work on MOS changes and alteration. The commanding officer and S-3 made inspections of the front line defense during the afternoon. Regimental Operation Order #26-51 was received during the evening and plans were made for operations the following day.

29. a. There was nothing of unusual interest during the early morning hours on the 29th March. Rain, snow and sleet which had started during the previous evening, continued intermittently throughout the day. This adverse weather not only made living miserable for all personnel but also further washed out our supply roads. All men not on patrol continued to improve individual positions and gun emplacements. The battalion's mission for the day was to conduct patrols to the front and to the west of the battalion CP. The patrols were dispatched as follows: one (1) platoon, reinforced with one (1) section on LMG's from "A" Company was to patrol the valley northward and contact a patrol from "C" Company at ANHYON-RI, TA 0096-U; one (1) platoon from "C" Company was to patrol to ANHYON-RI and contact the patrol from "A" Company; one (1) squad from "A" Company was to patrol to "C" Company's positions, and one (1) platoon reinforces with an LMG section was to patrol to Hill 783, TA 9686-A. The patrols from "B" and "I?" Companies patrolled their assigned areas with no enemy contact.

b. The patrol from "A" Company was making its way northward down the valley floor when it received four rounds of small arms fire from vicinity TA 9692-N. The patrol continued on without further enemy contact to the high ground to the left of SINNI-RI, TA 9992-H. At this point the patrol was subjected to small arms and automatic weapons fire from an estimated sixty (60) enemy at TA 0993-A. It is believed that the first rounds, fired earlier by the enemy, were a warning to the main body in the town of SINNI-RI.

c. A plan was immediately formed to attempt to trap the enemy. "C" Company patrol which was approaching the high ground above ANHYON-RI was ordered to establish a blocking

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position on this high ground. One (1) platoon from the 2nd Battalion which was on Hill 535, TA 0192-E was to attack to the rear of the enemies position. Also, a second platoon (reinforced) with one (1) section machine guns and two squads of 60mm mortars were sent from "A" Company to aid the 1st patrol. "A" Company patrol continued to engage the enemy while an artillery F.O. with "C" Company on Hill 663 called 155mm fire on the positions the enemy was holding as adjusted by the "A" Company patrol leader. Forty (4) rounds were fired by the 155mm battery causing the enemy to scatter. As the enemy attempted to flee, they were brought under small arms and automatic weapons fire from "A" Company's patrol, "C" Company patrol and a patrol of elements from 1st Cavalry Division who were in vicinity of ANHYON-RI. The enemy managed to flee northward across the SOYAND-GANG River. There were approximately six (6) Enemy KIA and fourteen (14) enemy WIA. There were no casualties to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. At 1545 an air strike was directed by an OY on station in vicinity of TA 0098-L-L. As the planes dropped HE bombs on the bridge and napalm in the immediate area a number of enemy were "flushed". The enemy attempted to flee to the high ground to the north, and when they came out into the open the planes held a field day on them, with strafing and rockets causing the most damage. There were an estimated one hundred twenty-five (125) killed by the planes, and one (1) span of the bridge was blown out.

d. All patrols returned to their parent companies prior to darkness and there was no further enemy contact during the period. Supplies were delivered to "A" and "B" Companies by native laborers. The usual amount of bread, one-half (½) loaf per man was received from the Division bakery and distributed. The battalion commander inspected the battalion vehicles at 1000.

e. Regimental Operation Order #27-51 was received during the evening. This order outlined the mission of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines for 30 March 1951.

30. a. Except for the patrols activity, the battalion tactical situation remained unchanged on the 30th of March. At dawn the sky was clear, and the sky remained clear and sunny for the first time in about five days.

b. There were four (4) reconnaissance patrols during the day. "I" Company conducted a patrol of platoon strength to Objective PETER, TA 9794. Two squads of Korean National Police

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attached to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, and one (1) interpreter, an S-2 Agent and a SSgt for liaison departed the Battalion CP at 0815 with the mission of reconnoitering down the valley floor. This patrol was to question natives about enemy movements, to remain over night at "C" Company's position and to continue on the SINNI-RI the following day, returning the battalion CP prior to darkness. Two (2) patrols of squad strength were conducted by "B" Company. One (1) squad patrolled to "C" Company and returned; other searched out the area in vicinity of Hill 735, TA 9683. All patrols carried out their assigned missions with negative contact.

c. All companies were issued "C" rations, "A" and "B" Companies still being supplied by native laborers. Fifty (50) native laborers were taken to the vicinity of the 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, TA 9388, to be used to transport supplies from this vicinity to "C" Company. Fresh fruit was received today and each man was issued a apple. The road from the battalion CP to the rear had deteriorated to the point where it was almost impossible to maintain even essential traffic.

d. Eight (8) bags of assorted 1st and 2nd class mail were sent to "C" Company via the native laborers that had been sent to the 1st Battalion, 11th Marines. Six (6) enlisted men who had previously been recommended for officer screening by letter to the CMC were detached.

e. Three (3) more bags of 1st class and fifteen (15) bags of 2nd class mail was distributed in the battalion area. At Officer Hours two (2) enlisted men from H&S Company were awarded warnings for offenses they had committed. The regimental commanding officer visited the battalion CP by helicopter during the afternoon from 1400-1415.

f. The battalion communications officer conducting school on communications for all officers of H&S Company, Weapons Company and for officer from "I" Company desiring to attend. This school was held at 1100.

g. Regimental Operation Order #28-51 was received during the evening. There was no enemy contact reported the remainder of the day.

31. a. Numerous foot patrols were conducted on the 31st of March; otherwise, the battalion tactical situation remained unchanged throughout the day. The battalion zone was searched out from "A" and "B" Companies positions to as far north as ANHYON-RI. These patrols were of a reconnaissance nature and were conducted during daylight hours. There was no enemy contact

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made. One (1) man from "B" Company patrol stepped off the trail at TA 9590-K and stepped on what is believed to be an AP mine. This man was seriously wounded and was evacuated by helicopter from the vicinity.

b. The rifle companies were again supplied during the day by native laborers; the food supplies consisted of "C" rations, bread, fresh apples and doughnuts. Eighty-seven (87) pairs of field shoes were issued to those men of the battalion who needed them the most. Water continued to be purified at the rate of about five hundred (50) gallons per day, and hot coffee continued to be on hand at all times.

/s/ **John L. Hopkins**

John L. Hopkins
Commanding Officer

APPENDIX (1) Directives issued and received.

Copy completed on January 29, 1996

At the time this document was received it been re-classified to UNCLASSIFIED.

This document was copied exactly as it was on the photo copy I received. This photo copy was sent to me by Gunther Dohse. It is felt that rather than just photo copying the original received this is more readable to you the reader. Nothing had been changed except for the format, all wording is as on the original document

Leo Tucker