

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

13 March 1951

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 December, 1950

Ref: (a) Paragraph 11401, Marine Corps Manual
(b) Division General Order No. 16 with addendum.
(c) Division Memorandum No 66-51

SUMMARY:

1. This diary covers the activities of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during the period 1-31 December, 1950. From 1-11 December this battalion was engaged in combat operations in the rugged mountainous terrain of the CHOSIN Reservoir Area in snow and sub-zero temperatures against Chinese Communist Forces and participated in the 1st Marine Division retrograde movement from that area to HAMHUNG. Shortly after the battalion arrived at HAMHUNG it embarked aboard the USS GENERAL RANDALL on 12 December, departed 13 December and arrived at the port of PUSAN at 1230, 14 December. (For details of this period see Special Action Report covering period 8 October to 15 December, 1950). Battalion motor transport and supply moved to GREEN Beach at HUNGNAM and loaded aboard on AKA. Upon arrival in PUSAN a battalion quartering party proceeded overland to MASAN while the battalion disembarked from the USS GENERAL RANDALL and boarded LST-Q009 for movement to MASAN. The remainder of the month was spent in rehabilitation, retraining of personnel and the re-supplying of the battalion. Motorized patrols were conducted to ANMIN-NI and the NAKTONG-RIVER. Platoons were provided for regimental guard duty, for manning regimental out-posts in CHANG-WON and in the vicinity of the regimental assembly area, and for military police duty in the city of MASAN and local villages near the regimental assembly area.

1-15 See 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, FMF Special Action Report covering the period 8 October to 15 December, 1950.

16. A battalion quartering party departed from PUSAN at 0930, 15 December by rail for a new assembly area in the vicinity of MASAN. The battalion, having boarded LST-Q009 at PUSAN at 1830, 15 December, departed for MASAN at 1025 and arrived at 1799. The first elements debarked and boarded trucks at 1815 for movement to the 1st Marine Division Assembly Area. The weather was clear and cool.

17. By 0300 the movement of personnel to the battalion area in the vicinity of CHANG-WON was completed. The companies established an interior guard for the night in their respective areas. As many tents were pitched as was possible so that all personnel could be placed under cover. All companies conducted weapons and equipment inspections. Re-equipping and re-supplying of the battalion commenced. The battalion was fed hot baker rations by the 2nd Battalion galley. At 1615 the battalion motor transport and supply train arrived from PUSAN after disembarking from the AKA which carried them from HUNGHAM. Thirty-eight (38) sick evacuated; all were frostbite cases. Seventy-two (72) replacements joined. The weather was clear and slightly cooler.

18. Re-equipping and re-supply of clothing, 782 gear, weapons and mess equipment continued throughout the day. The battalion again was fed hot baker rations by the 2nd Battalion galley. More tentage was put up and improvement of the battalion assembly area continued. Fifty-eight (58) sick evacuated, majority of which were frostbite cases. One (1) returned to duty. The weather continued to be clear and cool.

19. Rehabilitating and conducting of individual training continued. Received Regimental Operation Order 45-50 which directed to conduct motorized patrols of not less than forty (4) men from assembly area to ANMIN-NI ON 19, 22, 25, 28, and 31 December. The motorized patrol by "C" Company was conducted to ANMIN-NI from 0800 to 1300 in accordance with the above directive. No enemy contact was made. Roads and bridges in the route covered were reported in good condition. The remainder of the battalion utilized the day for checking clothing and equipment and replacing shortages. The battalion galley began to function and all personnel were fed baker rations. Six (6) sick evacuated. Joined fifty-one (51) replacements.

20. In accordance with verbal orders received the previous day from 5th Marines, a platoon from "B" Company was placed on the high ground (TA 6199-X west of the regimental assembly area as an outpost from 1500, 20 December, 1500, 21 December. The move was effected at 1350 and no enemy activity was reported for the period of outpost duty. Elements of Weapons Company assumed the duty of regimental guard at 1600. Five (5) sick evacuated. Weather clear and cool.

21. Instruction on small arms was conducted. At 1500 the platoon from "B" Company on outpost duty was relieved by one platoon from 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. Re-supply and re-

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equipping of the battalion continued. Joined one (1) replacement and three (3) returned to duty. Weather clear and cool.

22. Continued individual instruction on small arms. The battalion dispatched a motor patrol to ANMIN-NI in accordance with Regimental Operation Order 45-50. The patrol of platoon strength departed at 0800 and returned at 1035 with negative report of enemy contact. At 1300, H&S Company and Weapons Company conducted a five (5) mile conditioning hike. Three (3) sick evacuated. the weather was clear and the temperature rose several degrees.

23. As directed by dispatch order #211422I the battalion sent one (1) platoon to the high ground west of the regimental assembly area for outpost duty from 1500, 23 December to 1500, 24 December. There was no enemy activity during the time the platoon was on outpost duty. Five (5) sick evacuated. Weather remained the same.

24. Holiday routine. One platoon from Weapons Company returned to the battalion area after being relieved by the 2nd Battalion from outpost duty west of the regimental assembly area (TA 6199-X). The galley made preparations to serve a turkey dinner the following day. Various decorations were placed in the company area in order to have a Christmas atmosphere prevailing over the holidays. Assumed the regimental guard at 1600. Protestant and Catholic services were held during the day. One (1) sick evacuated. Weather sunny and mild.

25. Holiday routine. Midnight mass was held for Catholic men. Protestant and Catholic Services were held periodically throughout the Christmas Day. The morale of the officers and men was given a definite boost by the serving of a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Weather sunny and warm. One (1) sick evacuated. Four (4) returned to duty. Sixty-five (65) replacements joined this date.

26. Continued training on company level. At 1300 a platoon from "A" Company departed the battalion area to man the outpost north of the regimental area, effecting relief at 1400. The weather was sunny and clear. One (1) sick evacuated. Two (2) returned to duty. Joined twelve (12) replacements.

27. From 0900 to 1100 training was conducted on a company level to include conditioning hikes, crew served weapons and enemy tactics. Instruction on individual arms was also held. At 1245 one (1) platoon of "B" Company departed to CHANG-WON to man an outpost in the vicinity of the 7th Motor Transport Battalion assembly area. At 1400 the platoon of "A"

Company on outpost duty was relieved and returned to the battalion area. The weather was sunny and cool. Five (5) sick evacuated.

28. From 0700 to 1200 the battalion conducted test familiarization firing of individual weapons on a small arms range near the regimental assembly area. At 0830 a motorized patrol of one (1) officer and forty (40) men departed for ANMIN-NI and returned at 1330 with a report of negative enemy contact. At 1515 a detachment from "C" Company conducted informal guard mount on regimental parade ground and assumed regimental guard at 1600. The platoon outpost from "B" Company was relieved at 1600 and returned to the battalion area. The weather sunny and clear. Two (2) sick evacuated. One (1) returned to duty.

29. Live firing of mortars and rocket launchers was held at the mortar range for crew members from 0800 to 1200. At 1300 a platoon from Weapons Company departed to man the outpost west of the regimental assembly area. One (1) officer and thirty-one (31) men from "A" Company assumed the provost duty during liberty hours in MASAN. At 1600 "C" Company was relieved as regimental guard. The weather was sunny and cool. Two (2) replacements joined this date.

30. From 0900 to 1100 rehabilitation and retraining continued on a company level. Holiday routine was observed from 1300 to 1600. At 1400 Weapons Company was relieved of outpost duty. The detail from "A" Company was relieved of provost duty at 1600. The weather was sunny and cool.

31. Holiday routine was observed. Church services were held for all faiths. Two (2) sick evacuated.

NOTE: During the periods 16-31 December recreational equipment was received and set up with the battalion participating in a volley ball tournament. Movies were shown nightly at the regimental area and the regimental post exchange was opened. Clothing and post exchange supplies were receive and issued.

/s/ **John L. Hopkins**

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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.