

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

15 March 1951

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 for month of February, 1951

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

SUMMARY:

1. This summary cover the activities of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during the period 1-28 February. On 1 February the battalion, less "C" Company which was located at the village of CHACHON-DONG, was in an assembly area at YONGCHON with the mission of protecting the MSR and ASR to UISONG. From 1-16 February the battalion was engaged in active patrolling and combat against guerilla elements of the 26th and 27th Regiments of the 10th NKPA Division. the battalion, as part of the 5th Marine convoy, commenced movement to CHUNGJU on 17 February. On 18 February the battalion opened its new CP in the 5th Marines assembly area in the vicinity of CHUNGJU. Lieutenant Colonel John W. Stevens II, at 2400, 20 February, was relieved as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines by Lieutenant Colonel John L. Hopkins. Shortly after midnight the battalion departed for WONJU, arriving there after daylight. The 5th Marines ordered the 1st Battalion as the lead battalion of a column of battalions to move out from WONJU, pass through elements of the 187th Airborne Regiment, cross LD at 1000, 21 February and attack to seize that portion of Division Objective One in zone and be prepared to seize portion of Division Objective Two in zone on order. In spite of numerous difficulties the battalion passed through the 187th Airborne Regiment, crossed the line of departure at 1000 and commenced operations to seize that portion of the Division Objective One and Two in the 5th Marines zone. Action against the Chinese Communist Forces continued with success until 27 February when the 5th Marines Operation Order #13-51 directed the battalion to move to an assembly area in the vicinity of TA 0841-0. the battalion was relieved by elements of the 23rd ROK Regiment and on 28 February the battalion was in a regimental assembly area at TA 0841-0.

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CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE:

1. On this day the battalion was in an assembly area billeted in tents at YONGCHON, with the mission of protecting the Division MSR (Main Supply Route) and ASR (Alternate Supply Route) against guerrilla activity in its assigned sector. The battalion conducted a daily motorized patrol of two sections, one traveling to UISONG on the MSR and the second by the ASR. The first section of the daily motorized patrol traveling the ASR to UISONG returned at 1540 without enemy contact. At 1640 the second section of the motorized patrol returned from UISONG via the MSR. No enemy contact was made. Seven foot patrols were patrolling in five assigned sectors along the MSR and the PANGGA-SAN mountains. A listening post on "A" Company' perimeter at 2030 upon hearing some noise to its front, threw illuminating grenade and observed two Koreans, apparently enemy. One (1) sick evacuated, one (1) replacement joined and one (1) returned to duty. Weather was sunny and warm.

2. The battalion reinforced with "A" Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, one platoon of "A" Company Engineers and platoon of "D" Company, 1st Tank Battalion moved to CHACHON-DONG at 0830 to conduct combat patrols in the PANG-SAN mountains. "A" and "B" Companies were moved from the MSR at HAHOE-DONG through the valleys and high ground of the PANGGA-SAN mountains to CHACHON-DONG destroying any enemy detected. At 0830 an advance party departed from the battalion area at YONGCHON for CHACHON-DONG, and arrived there at 1000. "A" Battery, 11th Marines arrived at CHACHON-DONG at 1015. "B" Company departed from the YONGCHON assembly area at 1000 by truck with the mission of clearing the enemy from the high ground at TA 7894 and the high ground extending eastward to CHACHON-DONG. Attached engineers and Weapons Company arrived at CHACHON-DONG at 1500 by truck. "A" Company at 1445 departed from YONGCHON by truck to destroy any enemy in the area at HAHOE-DONG at TA 7897 and move eastward to CHACHON-DONG, via the road axis through TAPP-YONG. elements of H&S Company stayed at YONGCHON for the night. Three (3) sick evacuated. Weather continued sunny and warm.

3. The new CP opened at CHACHON-DONG at 1015 upon the arrival of the Commanding Officer and the remainder of H&S Company. A rear echelon remained behind. At 1030 a platoon from "C" Company reinforced with two tanks and engineer personnel was ordered to conduct a combat patrol to TAPP-YONG and it departed at 1115. "A" Company reported its location at TA 8298-T and that an enemy outpost consisting of one (1) automatic rifleman and five (5) were

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seen at 8398-I. 1130 "B" Company observed forty (40) enemy moving south from TA 8297-R, and fired on them with unknown results, as the enemy withdrew. "B" Company planned to remain at 8795-K for the night of 3-4 February and requested an airdrop of 215 rations at TA 8794-K at 1600. The airdrop was requested from the 5th Marines and resupply effected by helicopter. At 1200 this reinforced platoon reported its position at TA 9100-M. The "C" Company patrol at 1320 reported a road block defended by one squad of enemy with a machine gun from which they were receiving small arms fire. The patrol deployed on both sides of the road and moved against the enemy. The enemy withdrew after a short exchange of fire. It was impossible to proceed further along the road with vehicles because of the road block, so the patrol continued forward on the high ground for two thousand (2,000) yards on both sides of the road without further enemy contact. "A" Company moved out at 0830 with its first platoon on the high ground on the right, the third on the high ground on the left, and the second on the low ground on the road. The second squad, including two (2) jeeps was pinned down by enemy fire consisting of machine guns, rifles, mortars, and mountain guns at approximately 1100. One (1) man was killed and one (1) critically injured. The enemy, and undetermined number, was immediately taken under fire. As darkness came, the company made vigorous attempts to save the two (2) jeeps and the dead man, but they were unsuccessful due to the heavy enemy fire covering the vehicles. The company received five (5) casualties in this action and retired to the previous night's bivouac area. Harassing fires during the night was delivered by "A" Battery on the following TA's: TA 9000-I, 8802-O, 8702-A, 8505-D, and 8401-A-1. At 1700 "A" Company now several miles east of HAHOE-DONG, received a platoon of 4.2" mortars to support his attack the following morning. The combat patrol from "C" The patrol returned at 1725 to the battalion area. At 1800, "A" Company reported its position at TA 8398-N. The enemy had disengaged prior to darkness. The enemy suffered numerous but undetermined number of casualties. At 1840 "B" Company reported its position at TA 8795-A to 8598-Y. Both companies remained in these positions throughout the night with no enemy contact being made. The remainder of the battalion with attached units, remained at CHACHON-DONG for the night. Two (2) sick evacuated. Weather sunny and moderately cold.

4. A combat patrol from "C" Company of one (1) platoon reinforced with two (2) tanks, one (1) section 81mm mortars and engineers departed the battalion area at 0940 with the mission of clearing the road block at TA 9000-I-2 and the remainder of the road to TAPP-YONG. The remainder of "C" Company was ordered into a standby status to move out in support of this patrol if it became necessary. The 81mm mortar platoon and Weapons Company fired registration fires from their positions in CHACHON-DONG during the period 0900-0950. An air

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strike was made at 0955 on the village at TA 8009 against a reported enemy concentration and Division Headquarters. Although this strike was directed by TACP, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, it was unobserved and the results were unknown. "B" Company, which had jumped off at 0930, was moving slowly eastward over the high ground, reported the position of their forward elements at TA 0797-M at 1015. An airdrop of 215 rations, radio batteries and gasoline was requested to be made at TA8798-V at 1530. At this time the Commanding Officer of "B: Company stated that he expected "B" Company's positions for the night of 4-5 February 51 to be located on the trail junction, TA 8298-H, northeast of the drop line. "A" Company departed its area at 0930 and met no enemy opposition until noon when an estimated 35-40 enemy fired on the company. An air strike was called and it immediately dispersed the enemy. The company objectives was then seized without further resistance. Between 1500 and 1600 the company was fired on by an 82mm mortar and between ten (10) and fifteen (15) riflemen from another ridge line. The company retired to TA 8398-N because of the inability to spot the mortar and placed a squad to secure the hill for the evening. "C" patrol reported their forward elements in TA 9100-H at 1100 and ten (10) tank traps were located between the road block and TAPP-YONG. At 1115 verbal instruction were received that the airdrop was denied and that native labor be used to carry supplies to "B" Company. At 1300, "B" Company was notified that forty (40) laborers with rations would arrive at their drop zone at approximately 1700; these laborers were to approach from the south or east. At 1645 the combat patrol from "C" Company returned with negative enemy contact. The engineers with the patrol spent the day removing the road blocks. The remainder of the battalion occupied positions in CHACHON-DONG. Ten (10) sick evacuated and ten (10) replacements joined. Weather was moderately cool.

5. At 0650 a small enemy force, estimated at ten (10) to twenty (20) men armed with small arms, two (2) automatic weapons and a 60mm mortar attempted to enter the town of CHACHON-DONG. The enemy force fired on the village from the high ground west of the town. They were immediately taken under small arms fire. Mortar fire was placed in the area from which an enemy machine gun was firing. The enemy withdrew at 0710. No casualties were suffered by the battalion. Enemy casualties were unknown. At 0835 a combat patrol from "C" Company consisting of one (1) platoon reinforced departed the battalion area to patrol in the vicinity of TA's 9001, 8902, 8903, and 8803. Two guns from "A" Battery and two tanks departed for the vicinity of TA 9205 in order to fire into vicinity of TA 8304, a reported enemy regimental headquarters, and to support "C" Company combat patrol if it became necessary. "A" Company at 0930, still moving slowly eastward, from HAHOE-DONG, requested an air strike at TA 9500-C and 8200-K, stating there was an estimated three (3) enemy battalions to their front and 150 to

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200 enemy troops moving east from HAKSONG-DONG along the top of the ridge. "A" Company also reported a road block between YONGA-DONG and TAPP-YONG. The Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines held a staff conference at 1200, at which time he issued verbal orders that on the following day that the battalion less "C" Company (reinforced) and "A" Company (reinforced) would move from its present location to the vicinity of HAHOE-DONG under operational control of the 5th Marines. At 1220 the Commanding Officer of "A" Company reported that he was attacking hill 547, TA 8200-A. He reported light enemy resistance although the enemy were armed with machine guns and mortars. The two (2) 105s and two (2) tanks returned to the battalion area from TA 8304 at 1415. The TAO reported that several hit were scored on APKOK TEMPLE in the vicinity of TA 8304. at 1425 an air strike was conducted on the village of YONGI-DONG at TA 8401 occupied by the enemy. It 1500 twelve (12) trucks were dispatched to pick up "B" Company, returning to the area at 1555. The 4.2" mortar platoon to be attached to "C" Company arrived at the battalion area at 1615. At 1640 the patrol returned without enemy contact. "A" Company at 1730 requested an air strike for 0830 on 6 February at TA 8400-M. this area was reported to be an enemy strong point in which automatic weapons were located. At 1900 "A" Company reported their CP location at TA 8396-Y, and there was no enemy activity. Artillery from CHACHON-DONG fired on PAHGHA-K-TONG and HA-RI during the night. Two (2) sick evacuated and one (1) returned to duty. Light snow flurries, but weather generally good with scattered clouds. Temperature approximately 20NF.

6. At 0800 an advance party departed for the new CP location village of YONGA-DONG at TA 8298-K-2. The advance party arrived at the new location at 1000 with the last element of the battalion closing the new area at 1320. The CP was opened at 1015. "B" Company advanced up the valley northeast to TAEIN-DONG, then up the high ground to TA 8501-W and relieved one platoon of "A" Company. From this point "B" Company jumped off in the attack at 1400 to seize the high ground at TA 8602-K. At 1600, "B" Company advanced without opposition and seized the objective one (1) hour later. "A" Battery, 11th Marines went into positions at TA 8298-K. At 1500 "A" Company jumped off in the attack to seize the high ground at TA 8301 and 8302. There was no enemy opposition although one (1) platoon spotted about forty (40) enemy whom they took under long range fire. Enemy casualties were undetermined. "A" Company (reinforced) seized their objective and established defense positions for the night as follows: TA 8301-C to 8301-I-2, with the CP at TA 8300-W. "B" Company (reinforced) was located from TA 8500-J to 8302-L. The 1st Battalion CP and attached units were set up in a perimeter defense at

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TA 8298-K. There was no enemy contact during the night. One (1) sick evacuated. Skies partly cloudy, weather cold and windy.

7. At 0800, "B" Company jumped off in the attack and advanced to TA 8504-L by 0930. Enemy were observed at TA 8504-Y and artillery fire was requested. At 1000 the 4.2" mortar platoon was detached from the 1st Battalion with orders to return to their parent organization. At 1015, "A" Battery, fired 12 rounds of white phosphorous on enemy concentration at TA 8504-W and forced the enemy to disperse. At 1020 "B" Company was on the northeast slope of hill 582, TA 8403-J overlooking their objective. At 1025, "A" Company jumped off in the attack with the 1st platoon attacking northeast toward the southern slope of hill 582 and the 2nd platoon attacking northeast toward the APKOK TEMPLE, TA 8303. An air strike was requested at TA 8403-T where the enemy was observed. "B" Company continued across the northeast slope of 582. One platoon of "A" Company which was advancing up the southern slope of hill 582 reported enemy on the reverse slope of the hill that they were firing into the rear of "B" Company. The air strike was called for could not be conducted on hill 582 due to the short distance between "A" and "B" Companies and at 1215 the air strike was conducted on the village of YUSA, TA 8804-G. At 1310, "B" Company was preparing to move out and envelope the town of CHORAK, TA 8404-F. AT 1230, At 1230, "A" Company reported that it was placing hill 582 under heavy mortar and machine gun fire and that one platoon would assault the hill. "B" Company continued to advance to TA 8404-F. Fire was received on their front and right flank. By 1410, the 1st platoon had advanced against scattered resistance to TA 8302-G overlooking the temple, but was ordered to return to company CP. At 1415 "B" Company Commander was killed and Executive Officer assumed command; the company could not advance due to heavy fire from hill 385 at 1530 and by 1600, "B" Company's advance was still being held up by heavy enemy automatic weapons and small arms fire. At 1630 the battalion commander ordered "B: Company to draw back to the positions they held the previous night. At the same time "A" Company was ordered to attach one (1) platoon to "B" Company and to cover the withdrawal of "B" Company and then return to the battalion area. "B" Company immediately began withdrawing under cover of machine gun and small arms fire from "A" Company. "A" Company's artillery F.O. also directed artillery fire on the enemy holding up "B" Company withdrawal. The 3rd platoon of "A" Company was ordered to move to the position to be occupied by "B" Company for the night. "B: Company's withdrawal was slow because of enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Artillery fire on the enemy allowed the company the company later moving rapidly under the cover of darkness. At 1835, "A" Company, minus the third platoon departed for the battalion area. By 1900 all of "B" Company was on the high

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ground it had held the night before and was consolidating its position. "B" Company Commander reported that his casualties for the day were nine (9) wounded in action, one (1) killed in action and five (5) wounded must be removed as soon as possible. The wounded were brought to battalion area at 2335. Moderately cool and cloudy with light wind blowing. Two (2) sick evacuated.

8. At 0700, "B" company fired upon approximately six (6) enemy moving south along the road from CHOPAK killing two (2). At 0900 the planes which had been requested the evening before, arrived on station and by 0930 had conducted air strikes on the town of CHOPAK, KAL-SONG, YUJON and PHEKTEN. after the strike the were from 50% to 100% burned. The planes also conducted strikes on enemy troops moving across the ridge northeast from CHUNGNI. At 0930 three (3) tanks were sent to "B" Company positions. One (1) tank with supplies for the company was to return to the battalion after delivering them, other two (2) to remain in support of "B" Company. During the period 1330-1450 Weapons Company test fired machine guns. "A" Company rested and reorganized throughout the day and the engineer platoon attached to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continued to repair the road to "B" Company position. There was no further enemy contact during this twenty-four (24) hour period. At 1730, the Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines issued a verbal operation order for the following day. This plan called for one (1) platoon of "B" Company to take and hold high ground at TA 8502-L, and other platoon to take the hill at TA 8504-W-2. The remainder of the company was to stay in position. "QA" Company was to pass through "B" Company's outpost TA8502-L and take hill at TA 8505-Q. For the night 9-10 February, "B" Company was to return to the battalion area with "A" Company occupying "B" Company's previous nights position. At approximately 1825, "B": Company OP at TA 8502-M-1 received an attack in estimated enemy strength of one squad. After a short exchange of small arms fire during which several hand grenades were thrown, the enemy withdrew. The next morning one enemy dead was discovered near the OP. During the period 1825 to 1940 "B" Company was in defense position at TA 8502-G to 8602-F-2, 8602-L-2 and 8602-A at 1940. Four (4) rounds of enemy mortar fire fell in the defense position but inflicted no casualties. The attacks were repulsed and the enemy withdrew. The company had no further enemy contact during the night. Light snow at nightfall turned to sleet, then rain. Three (3) sick evacuated and one (1) returned to duty.

9. at 1030, "A" Company departed the battalion area with orders to relieve "B" Company in position and "B" Company to return to the battalion area, and at 1345 this relief had been effected. "A" Company was ordered at 1400 to return to the battalion area prior to darkness. Two

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(2) squads of :A: Company were to remain with the engineers who were placing mines in the area; these squads were to act as security force for the engineers and return with the engineers after they had placed the mines. "A" Company returned to the battalion area at 1800 followed by the mine laying detachment. At 1940 a dispatch order was received from the 5th Marines directing the battalion to move, on the following day, to an area in the vicinity of SINNYONG. There was no enemy contact during the night. Three (3) sick evacuated. One (1) returned to duty. Light, steady rain fell with gusty winds blowing, temperature cool.

10. At 0810 a mine removal detail with a platoon attached for security departed the battalion area Their mission was to remove the mines that were placed the previous evening. At 0815 an advance party departed the battalion area and arrived at SINNYONG at 0930. The 1st serial consisting of "B" Company and Weapons Company departed the area at 0900 and arrived at SINNYONG at 1100. The advance message center at SINNYONG opened at 1130. The rear CP closed at 1250. The second serial consisting of "A" Battery and the platoon of engineers departed the battalion at 1230 followed by H&S and "A" Company ten minutes later. At 1330 a dispatch order from the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines was received stating that "C" Company, which had moved several days before from CHACHON-DONG to SINNYONG, would revert to control of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and in addition, one platoon of 4.2" mortars would be attached to the battalion, effective 1500, 10 February. The battalion remained in assembly area during the night at TA 8185-F with no enemy contact being made. Weather very cold with snow and strong wind. Three (3) sick evacuated.

11. By 0830, three (3) local patrols had been sent out to reconnoiter the country side immediately surrounding the battalion assembly area. The 4.2" mortar platoon joined the battalion at 0930. The battalion improved and strengthened the defense perimeter. By 1520 all patrols had returned to the area and reported negative enemy contact. Three (3) sick evacuated and two (2) returned to duty. Sky overcast and light wind was blowing.

12. Three (3) patrols departed the area prior to 0830 to again reconnoiter that area around the battalion assembly area. All patrols reported negative enemy contact. The battalion continued to improve and strengthen it perimeter. Additional tentage was erected to house the troops of the battalion. Four (4) sick evacuated and two (2) returned to duty.. Modestly cool and sunny.

13. At 0835 a two (2) platoon reinforced combat patrol from "A" Company departed the battalion area for the village of KOEJONG-DONG at TA 8588 to seek out and destroy enemy

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reported by civilians to be in that vicinity. Throughout the morning test firing of weapons was conducted in the battalion area. At 1425, "A" Company patrol reported their position at TA 84488-E and that they had reached their objective and were returning, no enemy contact having been made. At 1855 a dispatch was received from the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines directing the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines to send a combat patrol to the vicinity of TA 8592. "C" Company was notified that they would conduct this patrol and at 1930, the company commander was briefed on the details of the patrol. Three (3) sick evacuated and three (3) returned to duty. Cool weather prevailed with some wind and scattered clouds.

14. At 0800, two (2) platoons of "C" Company reinforced with two (2) sections 60mm mortars, two (2) sections machine guns, artillery F.O. party, TACP team, and rocket section departed from the battalion area. "A" Battery, 11th Marines fired registration fires at 0945 to establish base points in TA 8290-I in order to assist "C" Company on their patrol should supporting fires be needed. The patrol continued throughout the afternoon without enemy contact. A report was received at 1530 that the patrol was at TA 8388-M-1 and was returning to the battalion area. Test firing of small arms was conducted from 1300 to 1530. "C" Company returned to the battalion area at 1620 without making enemy contact. At 1930 a warning order was received from the 5th Marines that the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines would conduct three (3) motorized patrols the following day. The first would proceed to UISONG (TA 7323) at 0800 and 30 minutes later the second would leave for HAHOE-DONG (TA 7897-P). On return of patrol #1 to HAHOE-DONG (TA 7897-P) patrol #2 would proceed to UISONG (TA 7323), 30 minutes after patrol #1 returned to battalion CP, patrol #3 would proceed to HAHOE-DONG to return with patrol #2 to the battalion CP prior to 1800. This order was verified by a written order received at 2130. Joined one (1) and two returned to duty. One (1) officer and fifty- nine (59) men departed this date for the United States on the newly activated rotation plan. Some snow fell, but melted later in the day.

15. Verbal orders were received permitting the first two patrols to leave together. Patrol #1 and #2 left battalion area at 0805. They continued along the MSR until 1020 when the patrols were hit by small arms fire at TA 7896-B. Two (2) vehicles, one (1) ¼ ton 4X4 and one (1) 2½ ton 6X6 were damaged but there were no personnel casualties suffered by the patrol. Patrol #1 proceeded on to UISONG and #2 remained at HAHOE-DONG. At 1150 an order was received from the 5th Marines that, on the return of patrol #1 to HAHOE-DONG, combine patrols #1 and #2 and reconnoiter the hills and valleys east of that location. The remainder of "B" Company at SINNYONG, reinforced with two (2) tanks, two (2) sections of 81mm mortars, a section of 4.2"

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mortars and an artillery F.O. party was to move to HAHOE-DONG to set up defense positions for the night in that vicinity and prevent the guerrillas from cutting the MSR. At dawn the following day the company was to patrol to TA 8196-K, search out the hills and valleys in that area, and locate and destroy the enemy. At 1400 elements of "B" Company reinforced departed the battalion area for TA 7996-E. At the same time "A" Battery displaced from the battalion area for TA 7990-P in order to support "B" Company at its defense positions. Two (2) tanks and two (2) platoons from "A" Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, departed with "A" Battery to act as a security force. At 1600 one section of the 4.2" mortar platoon reverted to control of its parent organization. At 2300, an order was received from the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines to dispatch a motorized patrol at 0645 the following day, to travel the MSR to TA 7700-W and return via the same route. A second patrol was to be dispatched after the return of patrol #1 with the mission of patrolling the same position of the MSR and to return prior to 1700. Weather cold and windy. One (1) sick evacuated and two (2) men returned to duty.

16. At approximately 2400, "B" Company which was in defense positions at HAHOE-DONG, received a probing attack of approximately squad strength. The enemy continued to make contact at the same position until approximately 0200. During this time eight (8) probing attacks were made by the enemy and "B" Company received two (2) casualties. Casualties inflicted on the enemy were unknown. At 0705 patrol #1 from "C" Company departed the battalion area and patrolling the MSR to TA 7700-W. It returned at 0935 with negative enemy contact. At 0945 and artillery concentration was delivered on the village of HWABUCK- TONG (TA 7997-N). at 1120 "B" Company sent a patrol reinforced with tanks to that area with out making contact. The patrol continued up the draw to the village of PUBU-DONG. No enemy contact was made and the patrol returned by the same route to HAHOE-DONG. At 1530, Patrol #2 departed the battalion area to patrol the MSR and returned at 1530 with negative enemy contact. Throughout the period weapons were test fired and some clothing and equipment was issued. At 1642, a message was received from the 5th Marines that the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, was relieved of the mission of protecting the MSR in its sector by the 17th ROK Regiment. That night the 1st Battalion was to provide local security and assist in defense of SINNYONG if necessary. "B" Company arrived at the battalion area at 1815 and set up inside the perimeter for the night. A staff and company commanders meeting was held to make plans for movement the following day to CHUNGJU. Four (4) men returned to duty. Weather cold and clear throughout the day.

17. At 1040, 17 February the battalion departed from SINNYONG by truck. The battalion consisted of five (5) march units which made up the 5th serial of the 5th Marine convoy. the last

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march unit departed the area at 1130 and the battalion continued the motor march throughout the afternoon. At 1705 the battalion arrived at the village of NAKTONG-NI and bivouacked for the night. The battalion joined two-hundred forty three (243) replacements and had nine return to duty. The weather was cold and clear throughout the day.

18. The battalion departed from NAKTONG-NI at 0830 and was enroute until 1800 at which time they went into the 5th Marines assembly area at CHUNGJU. The new CP was opened at 2000 at TA 0293-P-4. Snow fell throughout the day.

19. The battalion remained in the assembly area at TA 0293, conducting local patrols and strengthening the battalion sector of the defense perimeter. A meeting of company commanders, staff and special staff officers was held at 1945 for general briefing on the forthcoming movement to WONJU . At 2400, Lieutenant Colonel John W. Stevens II was relieved as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and Lieutenant Colonel John L. Hopkins assumed command. Weather fair and warmer. Two (2) sick evacuated.

20. The battalion commenced preparation at 0800 for the trip to WONJU. At 1430, a meeting was held with company commanders, company executive officers, executive and special staff officers for detailed instructions concerning the movement. Five (5) sick evacuated and one (1) returned to duty. The skies were clear and the maximum temperature during the day was approximately 45NF.

21. The first serial was scheduled to depart at 2230, 20 February, but as the trucks were late, the first serial departure time was 0120 and the fourth serial departed at 0215. The first serial arrived at the assembly area at the city of WONJU at 0620. The last serial, "B" Company, arrived at about 0720, less one (1) overturned truck and seven (7) other trucks delayed by the accident. Two (2) men were killed and eleven (11) injured in the overturned truck. The 5th Marines in their operation order 5-51 ordered the 1st Battalion to move out from WONJOU, pass through elements of the 187th Airborne Regiment, cross the line of departure at 1000 to seize that portion of Division Objective One in the 5th Marines zone. In spite of the all night truck movement from CHUNGJU, lack of sleep by the men and the fact that elements of "B" Company had not arrived, the battalion executed orders as scheduled. "A" and "C" Companies departed from WONJU in route column at 0835 followed by Weapons Company, Engineer Platoon, H&S Company and "B" Company to march the distance of three (3) miles from the assembly point to L.D. "C" Company in the lead crossed the line of departure at 1000 and secured the high ground at TA

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1038-S-X to 1137-S-H-M and 1038-K-L at approximately 1345. "C" Company sent a patrol to the village of SUGOL in the valley to the east. "C" Company then moved one platoon forward to take hill 177 and sent a squad along the high ground at TA 1237-C-4. "A" Company then passed through "C" Company and seized the high ground at TA 1039-H-2, 1039-E-3 and 1139-F-3 to 1239-P-3. The bridge at TA 1038-I was discovered impassable and at 1410 the attached engineer platoon immediately began to repair it with trees cut from a hillside nearby. A new CP was established at TA 1139-L-4 at 1545. The battalion set up a defense perimeter for the night. An attack order for the following morning was received from the Commanding Officer 5th Marines at 2110 and a fragmentary order was issued. The battalion had two (2) killed accidentally and nine (9) injured and evacuated. Rain began about noon and continued all night.

22. The commanding officer gave his complete attack order at 0630. "A" Company was ordered to seize and hold high ground at TA 1240-K-L-T and send patrol through the village TUDOK. "B" Company was ordered to seize and hold the high ground at TA 1040-J. "C" Company was in reserve. Both companies jumped off in the attack at 0700. "B" Company occupied the high ground at TA 1040-J without enemy contact. Immediately thereafter attached engineers began repairing the bridge at TA 1140-N. Visibility was poor and movement of troops forward was slow due to the muddy ground and the wet packs the men were carrying. By 0920, "A" Company occupied the high ground at TA 1240-T and sent patrols through the village of TUDOCK. There was no enemy opposition. "A" Company then placed a platoon at TA 1240-K-L. During this time "C" Company remained in reserve at TA 1139-B and took advantage of the situation by having his men eat warm chow and dry their wet clothing. The regimental portion of Division Objective One was now occupied and at 1025 the battalion was directed to attack and seize hill at TA 1142-V-1, hill 254 at TA 1241-E and hill at TA 1441-F. Upon seizure of these hills the battalion was to conduct patrolling to the front. At 1145, "C" Company passed through "A" Company and began to move to the high ground in TA 1241 and moved forward occupying hill 254. A platoon was dispatched along the high ground to the east and the area at TA 1441-F was secured. During this movement a patrol from "C" Company moving forward along the road received small arms fire from the vicinity of TA 1242-R. The number of enemy was undetermined and fire ceased as elements of "C" Company moved forward and by 1430 had secured the high ground at TA 1142-Y without opposition. "C" Company at its position began receiving small arms fire from its immediate front from an estimated enemy of one (1) platoon. Fifteen (15) enemy troops were observed moving over the hill at TA 1342-B at 1535. At 1620 an air strike was delivered at TA 1242-M. The strike eliminated automatic weapons fire coming from the wooded knoll. At approximately 1630 H&S Company, "A" Company and supply train

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moved into the village at TA 1140-E and set up a defense perimeter for the night due to the fact that two (2) bridges were knocked out completely between the village and the forward defense lines of the assaulting companies. To maintain close contact with the front lines, a battalion combat CP was established at TA 1242-W and one (1) platoon from "A" Company went forward with the CP as a reserve for "C" and "B" Companies. At 1955 an order was received that the battalion would continue the attack and seize the hill at TA 1342-A-B-F-G, TA 1343-P-O-V and hill 344 at TA 1442-A-F-R-I-Q. On order they would seize hill 266 at TA 1444-L-M-N-O-Q-R-S-T-U-V-W-X-Y. It was cloudy and cold all day. Seven (7) sick evacuated and one (1) returned to duty.

23. During the night artillery fired harassing mission on assigned targets. The battalion jumped off at H hour, 0800, as scheduled. "B" Company advanced and seized the hill at TA 1342-A-B-F-G to 1343-P-O-V by 0900, "C" Company secured hill 344 at TA 1442-A-F-R-I-Q, by 1010. At 1020, contact was established with "H" Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. At 1030, the 1st Battalion was ordered to seize hill 266. At 1130 "B" Company reported a fire team had contacted enemy outpost located at TA 1244-X. There appeared to be approximately fifty (50) enemy in that area. Small arms fire and heavy machine gun fire was received. At 1200 permission was requested from the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines to fire into their area at the enemy located at TA 1244-X. Eleven (11) enemy were killed by actual count and four (4) more were probably killed. At 1435 "C" Company jumped off from positions on hill 344 to secure the ground to the right and east of hill 266. "A" Company at 1405 reached hill 266 and reported receiving small arms fire. One man was hit by small arms fire. At 1515 "B" Company was ordered to remain for the night on its objective, hill TA 1342-A-B-F-Q to 1343-P-O-V. At approximately 1620 the CP was opened at TA 1443-J. Front line positions were as follows: "B" Company from TA 1342-G-I to TA 1343-A-1, "A" Company 1442-P-2 to 1444-Y-4, "C" Company from 1444-Y-4 to 1543-I-2. "A" Company had an outpost at TA 1443-B-2 and "C" Company established an outpost at TA 1543-D-2. The day was clear with temperatures well above freezing. Two (2) wounded in action. Two (2) sick evacuated.

24. "B" Company was relieved by elements of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines on their position at daylight and returned to reserve for the battalion, At 0800, 4.2" mortars delivered preparation fires on hill 281. "C" Company jumped off at 0800, the advance platoon moving forward on the valley floor began attacking hill 281, at 1000. Its movement was covered by fire of "G" Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines at 1200 on the 24th. "A" Company jumped off at 0915. At 0955 enemy were observed entrenched at TA 1644-G and were taken under fire by "C"

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Company with machine guns. The enemy withdrew beyond the other side of the road to the high ground at hill 358. A patrol of platoon strength from "B" Company moved out at 1000 to contact elements of the 3rd Battalion, 1st marines. At 1025, "A" Company was moving forward along the slopes and high ground to the right of hill 260. "C" Company secured hill 281 at 1030 and sent patrols to the villages of SOEMIK, CHAN-KO-HAE and SUHAEUL to their immediate front. "A" Company sent patrols to the towns of SONGNAE and PUPCHU-RI. AT 1335 "B" Company patrol #1 made physical contact with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines patrol at TA 1345. The CP began at 1215 moving to a new location at TA 1743-K. At approximately 1300 in TA 1746-B-C-E-D, 30 to 40 enemy troops were observed. An air strike at 1320 flushed out approximately 30-40 enemy on the hill in TA 1746-A-B-F-K and 20 to 30 on hill at TA 1746-T-Y. At 1530 H&S Company closed on its new location in TA 1743-F-5. "B" Company was ordered to occupy the ground in TA 1743. Operation Order 11-51 was received at 1745 from the 5th Marines and that portion pertaining to the battalion directed position to be consolidated and security patrols conducted. AT 1905, the 1st Platoon, "A" Company, 1st Engineer Battalion reverted to parent control. Patrols were conducted as directed, Seven (7) sick evacuated. Weather clear and sunny.

25 At 0915 an air strike was called on hills 312 and 358 on an estimated fifty (5) enemy. Approximately twenty-five (25) enemy were flushed from each hill by napalm hits. "C" Company observed approximately thirty-five (35) casualties which resulted from a strafing run. At 1200 a thirty (30) man patrol from "C" Company departed from TA 1746-Y. At 1335 an order was received from the 5th Marines stating that primary, alternate and supplementary positions for crew served weapons would be constructed and defense positions consolidated. This order also called for extensive patrolling. At 1430 "C" Company's patrol returned and reported that they received small arms fire from ridges in TA 1746-G-H from an estimated squad of enemy. At 1713, and order was received from the 5th Marines directing that a patrol be sent to TA 1547-N to meet elements of the 1st Marines there at 1300 on 26 February. Three (3) sick evacuated and four (4) returned to duty. The weather was moderately warm.

26 "A" Company reported receiving approximately sixteen (16) rounds of mortar fire during the period 0200-0225. The rounds landed in "A" Company's area at TA 15445-C-5. "A" Company's CP reported seeing flashes of light, apparently mortars, firing during that period at TA 1548-H-E-I and artillery fire was directed on the target. The mortar fire then ceased. The battalion received 5th Regiment Operation Order 12-51 at 0900 ordering a patrol sent to hill 258. A combat patrol of reinforced platoon strength from "C" Company departed at 1000 for hill 258

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moving there via hill TA 1746-T. The patrol worked its way up hill 358 and received small arms fire which appeared to come from hill 312. The patrol proceeded to the top of hill 358 where several enemy dead and some small arms weapons were discovered, evidently the result of the previous day's air strike. As the patrol descended from the hill it again received small arms fire from its right flank and detected enemy activity on hill 312. An air strike was called on hill 312 and "C" Company worked over the forward slopes of the hill with mortars and heavy machine guns from its company position as the patrol moved down the hill. The patrol returned to the company area at 1400. No casualties were received. The air strike worked over the top and slopes of 312 very effectively. Estimated enemy casualties were thirty (30). "A" Company patrol of thirty (30) men departed at 1100 to make contact with the 1st Marines patrol at PANEEOL(?), TA 1547. The patrol contacted the 1st Marines at TA 1547-N at 1205. On its return the patrol moved across the valley floor to investigate the village of ARAEYANGJIGI. The patrol was delayed by the air strike on hill 312 and at 1505 as the patrol approached the village they received light small arms fire from an undetermined number of enemy from the slopes of the hill just above the village. The patrol was covered by heavy and light machine guns from "A" Company positions. The patrol reconnoitered the village and returned to the company area at 1545. At 1800 the battalion commander ordered that patrols of fire team strength be conducted between organic units of the battalion. The Commanding Officer of "C" Company reported seeing two white flares at 1915 at TA 1746-H. The flares rose to a height of 200 feet and burned for one minute and 20 seconds. The battalion received a patrol order from the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines at 1845 directing the battalion to conduct patrols between organic units and to send a patrol to hill 358 on 27 February. A strong wind blew all day and the temperature averaged 29VF. Joined one (1) replacement.

27 The Commanding Officer of "C" Company reported that one of his outposts failed to make a report at 0300 and upon investigation, it was discovered that the man was missing. A BAR, M-1 and sound powered phone were missing. Other men in the immediate vicinity were unable to furnish any further information about the incident, which occurred at TA 1745-Q-5. At 1900 the "C" Company patrol of two (2) rifle squads and one (1) machine gun departed for hill 358. The patrol returned at 1145 after having reached the top of the hill and reported negative enemy contact. At 1530 elements of the 23rd ROK Regiment, which was to relieve the battalion on 27 February, began moving into an assembly area at TA 1642-E. During the night there was no enemy activity, although a few white flares three (3) to four (4) miles to the west were reported throughout the night. Clear and cool. One (1) missing in action, two (2) sick evacuated.

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The missing in action was PFC Robert J. Young 1092372/0300 USMCR. Young is reported to have died of wounds while MIA.

28 At 0235 "C" Company reported flares on the forward slopes of hill 312 and that they appeared to be mortars firing. "A" Company was unable to observe any similar flashes from its position. No mortar rounds were reported falling in any of the company positions at the time. At 0300 it was reported that two (2) trip flares and three (3) AP mines had been detonated in the mine field at TA 1645-R-S; upon investigating blood was discovered around the area of the mine explosion indicating there were casualties, but no bodies were found. The battalion began to displace via route march at 1030 in accordance with regimental operation order #13-51, which directed the movements of the battalion to an assembly area in the vicinity of TA 0841-O, upon being relieved by elements of the 23rd ROK Regiment. The last element "C" Company cleared the old area at 1115. At 1315 the lead element arrived at the new assembly area with the last element closing the new area at 1335. The New CP and defense perimeter were established in TA 0841. Cold and windy all day. Five (5) sick evacuated and one (1) returned to duty.

/s/ **John L. Hopkins**

John L. Hopkins
Commanding Officer

APPENDEX (1) Directives issued and received. *At the time this document was received it been re-classified to UNCLASSIFIED.*

Copy completed on January 25, 1996

Copy of Historical War Diary for February, 1951

Date

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