

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

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

Subj: Historical Diary of November, 1950

Ref: (a) Paragraph 11401, Marine Corps Manual
(b) Division General Order #16 with addendum

Map: AMS L751 KOREA, 1:50,000

SUMMARY

1. This diary covers the activities of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during the period 1-30 November, 1950. At the beginning of this period this battalion was set in defense positions at YONGHUNG, KOREA but under orders to move to the CHIGYONG, KOREA area. On 3 November this battalion moved approximately twelve (12) miles northwest of CHIGYONG and set up blocking positions to protect the Division Main Supply Route from WONSAN to HAMHUNG, KOREA. While in these blocking positions, active patrolling was conducted. On 7, 8, and 9 November a reconnaissance in force to the HUKSU-RI, KOREA area was conducted as ordered by 1st Marine Division. This battalion moved on 12 November to MAJON-DONG, KOREA. Upon arrival at MAJON-DONG, road blocks were established and aggressive patrolling conducted. This battalion moved by truck convoy on 21 November to new defensive positions at SINHUNG-NI, KOREA on the east side of the CHOSIN Reservoir. At SINHUNG-NI road blocks were established and active patrolling conducted. On 27 November this battalion moved by truck to YUDAM-NI, KOREA where it was engaged with the enemy the remainder of the period. This entire period is covered by a Special Action Report.

CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE:

Date:

1. This battalion departed from YONGHUNG, KOREA this date for the new assembly area at CHIGYONG, KOREA where the new CP was opened at TA 8412-F-1. The main body moved via train from YONGHUNG to CHIGYONG. Front line positions as of 2030 were as follows: "A" Company TA 6211-I-1 to 6211-E-2 to 6312-U-1, "B" Company TA 63113-N-2 to 62134-A-1. Weapons and "C" Company at railroad station at TA 6611-R-3. "C" Company, less one (1) platoon remaining at CHIGYONG railroad station, departed to YONPO airfield as a security force. Weather partly cloudy and cool.
2. A patrol of platoon strength was dispatched from "B" Company to designated area with negative enemy action. A warning order was received at 1345 to be prepared to move on 3 November. The official map for all operations and reporting is now, KOREA AMSL 551, Scale 1:250,000. Some cold weather gear was issued, this date. Weather cloudy and slightly cooler.
3. The battalion moved this date to new defense positions twelve miles northwest of CHIGYONG. New CP opened at 1430 at TA 3541-G-4. "C" Company relieved as security force for YONPO airfield and rejoined the battalion. All units were in position by 1630. Regiment requested information on combat effectiveness of anti-tank rifle grenade in 1/5. Weather sunny and cool.
4. Patrols from the battalion departed to designated areas. All convoys and motorized patrols carried radios capable of contacting the battalion net whenever such radios were available for this use. The battalion became under control of CG, 1st Marine Division at 1240. At 2045 a truck load of ROK soldiers were challenged by our road block and upon failure to halt they were fired upon. One informer was killed and after confirmation of the personnel was made, the truck was allowed to proceed. All patrols returned prior to darkness with negative enemy contacts. Weather was cloudy and cool. Joined two (2) replacements.
5. Two patrols departed the area for their assigned sectors. Both patrols returned with a report of negative enemy action. A report was received from the Mayor of CHIGYONG that 2,000 North Koreans and Chinese had attacked the village of HUNGBONG-NI some 4,000 meters to the front of our positions, such report later to be proven false. Weather cloudy and cold. Terrain mountainous with scrub pine vegetation. One (1) officer and one (1) enlisted man returned to duty.

6. Enemy activity throughout the night was negative. At 0800 patrol #1 departed for TA 4628, patrol #2 departed to village of HUNGBONG-NI and patrol #3 to TA 5011. All patrols returned by 1855 with report of negative enemy contact. Weather sunny and slightly warmer. Joined two (2) replacements.

7. A three day patrol left at 0900 for HUKSU-RI to make a reconnaissance in force. The patrol consisted of two (2) rifle companies ("A" and "B"), one (1) 81mm mortar section, also representatives of the battalion CP. The patrol leader was Major Olson, the battalion executive officer. Aircraft were to be on station at all times. The patrol moved out by truck in two (2) echelons. "B" Company, with the Command Group moving out first, was followed by "A" Company, on the second trip of the truck convoy. At 1120, the advance elements encountered 10 North Koreans along the road and were fired upon. At this point "B" Company detrucked because of the presence of enemy in the area and the fact that the trucks had arrived at a burned out bridge which could not be crossed by the 2½ ton, 6x6 trucks. From this point "B" Company proceeded by foot to an assembly area at TOKHUNG-NI. At this assembly area "B" Company was disposed in a perimeter defense. At 1530, "A" Company arrived and was set up inside the perimeter so they would be afforded as much rest as possible for their twelve (12) mile push to HUKSU-RI the following day. Local patrols were sent out by "B" Company until dark. During the night there was no enemy activity. Weather clear and cold.

8. At 0715, "A" Company (Reinforced) with forward air controller and an AT section moved out in an approach march northward towards HUKSU-RI. At 0800, 2 rifle platoons of "B" Company, in command of the company commander, moved out in trace of "A" Company as a covering force. At 0830, "A" Company observed eight (8) to ten (10) North Koreans in the valley on the right and that they appeared to be a foraging party. This party was taken under long range small arms fire with unknown results. At this time, one (1) North Korean straggler was picked up along the road. At 0900, attached Korean National Police returned to the patrol assembly area with four (4) North Korean prisoners. At 0945, an outpost to the rear of the assembly area fired on three (3) North Koreans, two (2) of them were armed, and succeeded in capturing the unarmed North Korean. The other two (2) made their way back to the hills. At 1020, the OY on station reported an enemy concentration at KOMSAN-NYONG which appeared to be of company strength and was in position astraddle the road leading to HUKSU-RI. An air strike was immediately called for and "A" Company notified of the enemy's position. "A" Company proceeded to scout up the road to a point abreast of hill 1347 and at which time they swung to the left to and secured the top of hill 1347. From this point "A" Company was above and to the right flank of the enemy. At 1220, four (4) Marine Aircraft conducted an air strike on the enemy's position using napalm and strafing runs causing the enemy to flee from their positions to the northwest. This air strike was uncontrolled due to the lack of communication and an observer who could see the enemy's position. The OY led the

aircraft into the target and marked it with a red smoke grenade. At 1430, "A" Company deployed with two (2) platoons forward and one (1) back, swept down the right flank of the enemy's position and overran those positions at 1416 with no enemy opposition. From that point "A" Company could observe a group of twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) enemy retreating down the road to HUKSU-RI whom they immediately took under long range small arms fire. As the right platoon of "A" Company swung down the ridge, they surprised and succeeded in capturing one (1) North Korean lieutenant and two (2) men. Up to the enemy position, now occupied by "A" Company, were a series of road blocks. During this period "B" Company's two (2) rifle platoons had set up positions and sent out local patrols in their area. "B" Company was to remain in this position as reserve of "A" Company in its advance from KOMSAN-HYONG. From "A" Company's position groups of enemy were observed moving north and northwest into the direction of CHUNG-HUNG-NI. "A" Company moved forward with one (1) platoon deployed on each side of the road and continued the attack northwest through the village of YONG-NIN. Just north of this village "A" Company began to receive automatic and small arms fire from the hill mass directly to their front and from the right flank of the road. As "A" Company took up firing positions to deliver fire on the objective in the front, it began receiving heavy automatic fire from the hill mass to their left flank. Both enemy positions were taken under fire by "A" Company's mortars, machine guns, and small arms, with an air strike immediately being requested. At 1700, this air strike was conducted with the aircraft using rockets, napalm, and strafing runs with the aircraft being controlled by the forward air controller with "A" Company. The enemy strength was estimated as being approximately one (1) battalion on the basis of the number of machine guns. "A" Company remained in these positions engaging the enemy in a fire fight until after dark at which time, they were ordered to return to the assembly area. "B" Company was ordered to return after "A" Company had disengaged itself from the enemy. A truck convoy which had been dispatched by the battalion was waiting in the patrol assembly area. The presence of the truck convoy at this location was possible due to work done by the attached engineer platoon in repairing the burned out bridges up to that point. "B" Company's two (2) platoons arrived at the assembly area at 1930. Joined one (1) replacement this date.

9. At 0145, "A" Company arrived at the assembly area and during its movement to the rear, rear guard action was employed. All units entrucked at 0315 and arrived at the battalion area at 0600. During the return trip, under the cover of darkness, one (1) truck over turned, slightly injuring three (3) men. At 1030, Patrol #1, from "C" Company, departed battalion area for HONGANP-YONG and was followed by Patrol #2 from "C" Company, at 1045 to TA 4528-W and return in vehicles. At 1205, Patrol #1 reported they were receiving small arms fire with the estimated enemy strength being thirty (30) to fifty (50) enemy with one (1) .50 caliber machine gun. At 1215, Patrol #2 being in a fire fight with forty (40) to fifty (50) enemy. At 1220, Patrol #1 reported their position at TA 5218-O-4 and the enemy located at TA 5118-C & F. At 1255,

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Patrol #2 reported they were placing mortar fire on the enemy's position on the hill the enemy had occupied and the enemy dispersed. At 1530, Patrol #1 returned with 1 WIA. Patrol #2 returned at 1815 with casualties of 2 KIA and 3 WIA. Estimated casualties suffered by the enemy were 24 KIA and 2 POW. Weather warm and cloudy.

10. At 0730, Patrol #2, sent by "A" Company, departed followed by Patrol #1 sent by "C" Company at 0830. At 1130 Patrol #1 reported engaging enemy at TA 5117-X and estimated enemy strength to be fifty (50) to seventy (70). Artillery fire was immediately placed on the enemy. At 1400 Patrol #2 returned to the battalion area with negative enemy contact. At 1500, Patrol #1 still engaged with the enemy was ordered to return but because they were receiving fire from three (3) sides they were unable to do so. At 1600, 26th Regiment of ROK's were put into position while waiting to relieve this battalion. At 1645 patrol #2 from "A" Company was diverted to the relief of Patrol #1, but failed to make contact because of darkness and were ordered to return. At 1750 Patrol #1 reported their position being overrun. At 2045, permission was requested from Division to attack and seize the ground that Patrol #1 had been occupying. This request was granted. At 2200 a patrol was sent out by ROK's with negative results. During the night 19 men of Patrol #1 returned to the battalion perimeter. Casualties for the period were 2 WIA. One (1) man returned to duty. Weather was sunny and cool.

11. At 0745 the battalion jumped off in attack. Complete combing of the village and area was done with negative enemy contact. The remaining elements of the patrol were contacted and all wounded recovered. At 1345 movement was started to an assembly area at CHIGYONG while waiting for transportation to new positions. At 1930 the last elements arrived at CHIGYONG and at 2130 movement of this battalion, minus "C" Company, to new positions at MAJON-DONG commenced. The battalion arrived there at 2400. "C" Company was detached to X Corps for use as headquarters security at HAMHUNG. Casualties suffered by Patrol #1 the previous day were 3 KIA and 9 WIA. Weather was clear and cold.

12. During the day, four (4) local and two (2) motorized patrols were conducted with no enemy activity. Five (5) outposts were established. Eighty-one (81) replacements and ten (10) men returned to duty during the day. Weather was cloudy and cold.

13. At 0745 local patrols were dispatched from the battalion area. All patrols with exception of one motorized patrol from "B" Company patrolled their assigned areas and returned, reporting negative enemy contact. The motorized patrol from "B" Company, consisting of six

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(6) jeeps and twenty (20) men departed the battalion area with orders to make a reconnaissance patrol west to the village of SINPUNG-NI. The patrol departed at 0745 and proceeded to the village of UNBONG-NI, establishing a radio relay station on hill 688, one prisoner was taken at this village who stated there were enemy in that vicinity. The patrol, minus two (2) jeeps which remained at the radio relay station, proceeded on to the village of SINPUNG-NI. As they approached the village the men in the lead jeeps disembarked and proceeded on foot. The patrol leader, with an interpreter, moved up the hill on the right to make a reconnaissance. At this time the enemy, estimated to be between fifty (50 to one-hundred fifty (150) opened fire on the patrol from three (3) sides. The patrol became disorganized and tried to disengage itself from the enemy. This enemy contact was first reported to the battalion by the OY which was on station in that area. Later, a few men who had succeeded in returning to the radio relay station reported the action to battalion. At 1200 a reinforced platoon from "B" Company was dispatched to the relief of the patrol. Upon reaching the area they discovered the enemy had withdrawn. They recovered all the casualties, 3 jeeps and one SCR-300. Most of the weapons and arms were taken by the enemy. At 1810, the relief platoon returned to the battalion area. Casualties were & KIA, 3 WIA, and 1 MIA. Weather was clear and cold.

14. Local and motorized patrols were conducted with negative enemy contact. Patrol sent to SINPUNG-NI recovered the man who was missing from the patrol the day before. He was suffering from exposure, but otherwise in good condition. One (1) man returned to duty. Weather was cold and cloudy.

15. Local and motorized patrols were conducted with negative enemy contact. Three (3) POW's taken by road block. Weather was cool and clear. Four (4) replacements and two (2) men returned to duty this date.

16. Local and motorized patrols were conducted with negative enemy contact. One-hundred and forty-three (143) replacements and eight (8) men returned to duty this date. Weather was cool and clear.

17. Local and motorized patrols were conducted with negative enemy contact. At 1930 an outpost was fired on and one (1) man wounded. The fire was not returned because no target could be observed in the darkness. Weather was cold and clear.

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18. Local and motorized patrols were conducted with negative enemy contact. At 0730 a reconnaissance party from the CP departed for HAGARU-RI, but returned at 0930 because the mountain pass road northward was blocked. At 1640, "C" Company rejoined this battalion. Weather was cold and cloudy.

19. Local and motorized patrols were conducted with negative enemy contact. During the afternoon ceremonies were held for presentation of medals by the Regimental Commander. Three (3) men returned to duty this date. Weather was sunny and mild.

20. Local and motorized patrols were conducted with negative enemy contact. At 0815 the reconnaissance party from the CP departed for HAGARU-RI and SINHUNG-NI. At 0930 cold weather indoctrination was given by representatives from the X Corps to selected personnel of the battalion. Weather was clear and cool. Two (2) replacements and three (3) men returned to duty this date.

21. At 0835 this battalion departed for new positions at TA 5380-O (SINHUNG-NI) on the east side of CHOSIN Reservoir and arrived there at 1300 and set up defense positions with one (1) road block being established. Weather was clear and cold.

22. At 0200, the road block encountered approximately 20 enemy. Fire was exchanged with no known casualties suffered. Local patrols were conducted with negative enemy contact except for Patrol #2 which encountered an estimated one (1) squad of enemy, killing one (1) and wounding one (1), the latter being taken prisoner. Four (4) outposts were established. Weather was clear and cold.

23. Patrols were conducted with negative enemy contact. Combat outpost established at TA 5880-H. Thanksgiving Day was a definite boost to the morale of the men of 1/5. A hot meal of turkey with all the trimmings was served in the field at SINHUNG-NI. Weather was cloudy and cold. One (1) man returned to duty this date.

24. Patrols were conducted with two (2) patrols making contact with enemy of approximately one (1) squad each. These enemy were taken under fire and routed with three (3) POW's being taken and no casualties suffered by this battalion. Weather was clear and cold. One (1) replacement and three (3) men returned to duty this date.

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25. Patrols were conducted with patrol #1 engaging approximately fifteen (15) enemy with long range fire at TA 6388-D and killing one (1). Remainder of patrols reported negative enemy contact. At 1700 contact was made with the 1st Battalion, 32 Regiment, 7th Division (USA). Official temperature at 0430 was 3 degrees F.

26. At 1000 a reconnaissance party left for new assembly area at YUDAM-NI. Patrols conducted with negative enemy contact. At 1700 outpost #1 reported receiving small arms fire which they returned and the enemy fled. At 1800 orders were received from RCT-5 to prepare to move out at 1300, 27 November to YUDAM-NI.

27. At 0800 the forward elements of the battalion departed for new positions at YUDAM-NI and arrived there at 1200. At 1210 the battalion started movement and the last elements had arrived by 1800. The battalion was set up in the defense perimeter. The weather was clear and very cold. Two (2) replacements and ten (10) men returned for duty this date.

28. At 0050 the battalion was alerted for possible enemy infiltration. At 0100, two (2) platoons of "A" Company were dispatched in support of "E" Company, 7th Marines. At 0400, "C" Company (less) under operational control of the 7th Marines was sent to the rear of 3/5's position. At this time mortar fire was received in "A" and "B" Companies positions causing eight (8) casualties. The 3rd Platoon of "C" Company under the operational control of the 7th Marines, was sent to support "D" Company, 7th Marines. At 0600, "C" Company (less) and the remainder of "A" Company were dispatched to the high ground to the right of our positions to support "E" Company, 7th Marines. "E" Company was so decimated that the Commanding Officer, "C" Company, 1/5 assumed control in that zone of action. Sporadic small arms and mortar fire were received throughout the night in the battalion perimeter. "A" and "C" Companies remained on the high ground on the right flank throughout the remainder of the period. At 1700 "B" Company requested an air strike which was directed at TA 4282-R. The air strike succeeded in driving the enemy from their positions. At 1800, the Commanding Officer, 1/5 received a counter attack plan and the Commanding Officers of "C" and "A" Companies were briefed on the plan. At 1900, the 3rd Platoon, "C" Company rejoined their unit after release by the Commanding Officer, 7th Marines.

29. At 0110 a warning order was received from RCT-5 for one company to be prepared to move to 1/7 by 0900 to aid in the relief of "F" Company 2/7. No enemy activity was reported during the night. At 0915, "A" Company departed for 2/7 CP. At 1300, "B" Company requested 81mm mortar fire on thirty (30) to forty (40) enemy troops to their front. At 1425, one

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platoon of "C" Company was dispatched to tie in with "B" Company, 1/5 and "I" Company 3/5. At 1500 enemy troops were reported coming down the slope in the direction of "B" Company's left flank. "C" Company was alerted. "B" Company requested 4.2" mortar support which was granted and "B" Company later requested an air strike at 1530 which succeeded in breaking up the attack. A direct napalm hit on the enemy OP with excellent strafing runs forced the enemy to flee. The air strike ended at 1550. The following provisional platoons were attached to this battalion for use as a secondary perimeter. Provisional Platoon, AT Company, 5th Marines, Provisional Platoon, H&S Company, 5th Marines, Provisional Platoon, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, Provisional Platoon, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines.

30. Negative enemy action during the night. At 0700, "B" Company observed enemy grouping to their front and placed mortar fire on them resulting in the enemy being dispersed. At 0825, one 75mm recoilless section was sent to "B" Company's to destroy enemy bunkers to "B" Company's front. At 1000 the 75mm recoilless section reported destroying three enemy bunkers at TA 4182-I-2. This battalion began preparation at 1200 for movement of CP to rear to set up a stronger perimeter. At 1430, "B" Company reported enemy troops moving into 4182-I-2. At 1530 movement was begun to new CP location at TA 4179-S. Combat CP established at TA 4181-A at 1530. New CP established at 1630.

/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.