West Coast Island Defense Element - Command Diary - January 1953

Korean War

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FIR 1 ENDORSEMENT on Cdr W V Isd Def Element ltr ser 001 of 4 Feb 1953

From: Commanding Officer, 1st Provisional Casual Company, Fleet Marine Force, c/o FPO, San Francisco, California
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps
Via: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, c/o FPO, San Francisco, California

Subj: Command Diary, Submission of

1. Forwarded.

H. R. HUSBAND
SECOND ENDORSEMENT on Cdr WC1sIDef Element ltr ser 001 of 4
Feb 1953

From: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps

Subj: Command Diary, submission of

1. Forwarded.

2. This endorsement is downgraded to unclassified upon
detachment from the enclosure.

ROBERT H. VENN
By direction

Copy to:
CO, 1stProvCasCo
From: Commander, West Coast Island Defense Unit  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 1st Provisional Casual Company, FMF  
     (2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  

Subj: Command Diary, submission of  

Ref: (a) CC, FMFPac ltr ser 12874 of 22 May 1952  
     (b) Advanced change ltr #1 to change #14, MCM  
     (c) CG, FMFPac GenO #21 of 11 Mar 1952  

Incl: (1) Command Diary of West Coast Island Defense Unit, (Task Unit 95.1.3),  
      for period 1 - 31 January 1953  

1. Reference (a), received at this Headquarters on 30 June 1952, directed this  
   Command to submit a monthly Command Diary to Commandant of the Marine Corps ef-  
   fective upon receipt of reference (a).  

2. Enclosure (1) is the Command Diary for the period 1 January 1953 to 31  
   January 1953, both dates inclusive.  

3. This letter may be downgraded to "RESTRICTED" upon removal of enclosure (1).  

4. Transmission by United States registered mail or registered guard mail is  
   authorized in accordance with Article 1513, U. S. Navy Regulations, 1948.  

   [Signature]

   C. O. TOTMAN
COMMAND AND DIARY

1-31 January 1953

1. This Command was activated by CTF 95 message 101010Z of January 1952. Present command relationships are as indicated below:

   a. Military command

      (1) Operational control

         (a) Superior commands

            1. Commander Naval Forces, Far East
            2. Commander Seventh Fleet
            3. Commander United Nations Blockading and Escort Force (CTF 95)
            4. Commander West Coast Blockading and Patrol Group (CTG 95.1)

         (b) Subordinate commands

            1. Island Commander SOK-TO Garrison
            2. Island Commander CHO-DO Garrison
            3. Island Commander NAENGYONG-DO Garrison
            4. Island Commander KUNYOUNGJONG-DO Garrison

      (2) Administrative control

         (a) Superior commands

            1. Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps
            2. Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
            3. Commanding Officer, 1st Provisional Casual Company, FILF

         (b) Subordinate commands: Same as subparagraph 1, a, (1), (b) above

         Note: Logistical support is in accordance with CTF 95 OP-ORDER 2-52, CG, 1stMarDiv, CO, 1stCombSerGrp, CO, 1stProvCasCo, and CG, 1stMarAirmg provide limited logistic support.

      (3) Coordination control: Same as subparagraph 1, a, (1), (a), above.

      (4) Management and technical control: Not applicable.

1

SECRET
2. The mission of the Unit is the occupational control, and defense of the islands of SOK-TO, CHO-DO, PAENGYONG-DO, TAECHONG-DO, NAMNYONGPYONG-DO, and TOKCHOK-TO. TAECHONG-DO due to its small size and position on the seaward side of the main island of PAENGYONG-DO is garrisoned by a small force of ROK Marine Corps troops from the West Coast Island Security Forces. TOKCHOK-TO, located South of the port of INCHON, is not garrisoned due to its relatively safe position. This Island is the site of Marine Landing Exercises conducted by the First Marine Division (Reinf), FMF. Since the principle defense force of the islands consists of the West Coast Island Security Forces, our implied secondary mission is the training of the unit.

3. This Unit operates in close liaison with Commander, West Coast Carrier Unit (CTU 95.1.1) and Commander, West Coast Surface Blockade and Patrol Unit (CTU 95.1.2).

4. The 603th Air Control and Warning Squadron of the United States Air Force has taken over complete operational control of K-53, the air strip on the beach of PAENGYONG-DO. Crash crews from the 1st Marine Air Wing and the Naval Air Repair Section, a British unit at Iwakuni, are still being maintained for damage control and repair of United States Naval and British Naval aircraft landing on the beach due to engine difficulties or enemy action.

5. The training of ROKMC Units within this Command continued in accordance with the annual training schedule. This consisted mainly of lectures, demonstrations, and field problems.

6. 1 January - No significant events to report.

2 January - KUNYONGPYONG-DO received 203 tons relief coke. See appendix (1).

3-4 January - No significant events to report.

5 January - One (1) Sea Fury No. VX640 piloted by Sub-Lieutenant G. S. FOSTER landed wheels up on the beach at PAENGYONG-DO. The pilot was uninjured and stated that his landing was caused by a complete electrical power failure. Damage to the main plane flaps and propellor was sustained on landing. Our mechanics advised against repairing the aircraft at this station. See appendix (1).

6-10 January - No significant events to report.

11 January - One (1) Marine AD-3 No. 121 piloted by Captain Floyd N. FAULT, USMC crashed-landed off the beach of CHO-DO. The pilot was uninjured. The plane sank soon after landing. See appendix (1).

12-14 January - No significant events to report.

15 January - One (1) F-51 No. FF675 from the 67th Fighter Bomber Squadron
stationed at K-55 landed wheels down on the beach at PAENGYONG-DO. The pilot, lst Lieutenant Louis P. ARMSTRONG, stated that his cause for landing was due to a rough engine. A crew chief was sent to K-55 from K-55 and the plane took off 17 January 1953. Because this was an Air Force plane, notification of its home base was taken care of by the 608th AG/S Unit on PAENGYONG-DO.

16-17 January - No significant events to report.

18 January - One (1) Sea Fury No. VX640 embarked in LST 822 for INCHON. See appendix (1).

19 January - HELRON One Unit Four relieved Unit Seven. See appendix (1).

20-21 January - No significant events to report.

22 January - One (1) Firefly No. VT484 piloted by commissioned pilot M. KLINE, RN, landed wheels down on the beach at PAENGYONG-DO. The pilot was uninjured and stated that his cause for landing was due to an unserviceable arrester hook. The propeller was damaged and a suspected shock load was sustained by the engine when the plane nosed up after hitting soft sand and mechanics advised against attempting repairs at this station. See appendix (1). YONGYONG-DO received 181 tons of relief grain for the Korean Refugee population. See appendix (1).

23 January - CHO-DO received seven (7) rounds of 76mm fire from the mainland. No damage or casualties were inflicted. See appendix (1). One (1) F-86 No. 51-2874A piloted by lst Lieutenant W. R. BOWMAN, USAF landed wheels down on the beach at PAENGYONG-DO. The pilot was uninjured and stated the cause of his landing was due to lack of fuel. The plane was undamaged and was able to take off 24 January 1953 after being refueled by this command. The home base of the aircraft was notified by the 608th AGS Unit on PAENGYONG-DO since it was an Air Force plane.

24 January - No significant events to report.

25 January - KUNYONGYONG-DO received 171 tons of relief grain. See appendix (1) dated 30 January.

26-27 January - No significant events to report.

28 January - Received word that due to an urgent need elsewhere our helicopter will be removed temporarily. See appendix (1).

29 January - Helicopter Unit Four relieved this date. See appendix (1) dated 30 January 1953.

30 January - No significant events to report.
31 January - One (1) AU-1 No. 129347 piloted by Lieutenant C. H. BRUGGER, USMC landed wheels up on the beach at PAENGYONG-DO. The pilot was uninjured and claimed insufficient fuel pressure as the cause for his landing. Damage was sustained to all flaps and the propeller was bent. Our mechanics advised that repair here would be unfeasible. See appendix (1). One (1) F4U-4 No. 9723 piloted by Captain Westrick MORRIS, USMC from VHA 312 landed wheels up on the beach at CHO-DO. The pilot was uninjured, the cause for landing was undetermined. Damage was sustained to fuselage and suspected shock load to engine. The plane is now above the high water mark. See appendix (1).

7. Medical Report. See appendix (2).

INCOMING
ROUTINE CONFIDENTIAL
0302052

PM CHORUS
TO LANGLEWOOD 3

RECEIVED 203 TONS RELIEF COKE TWO JAN X

TOR: 1238 ITEM/JDB/03JAN53

0302052
FM 95.1.3

TO CTG 95.1
CTU 95.1.1
CTU 95.1.2
HMS UNICORN
SENIOR OFFICER NARS XV AMNI

INFO CTU 95.1.5

SEAPURY NO VX640 PILOTED BY SUB-LIEUTENANT G.S. FOSTER R.N. LANDED WHEELS UP
051110 ITEM X PILOT NOT INJURED X PILOT REPORTS COMPLETE ELECTRICAL POWER
FAILURE X DAMAGE TO MAINPLANE FLAPS AND PROPELLOR SUSTAINED ON LANDING X
MECHANICS ADVISE AIRCRAFT CANNOT BE REPAIRED THIS STATION X

TOD/2040 ITEM/CTF 95/DMK/05JAN53
RESTRICTED PRIORITY

110530Z

FM LANCEWOOD THREE

TO MARINE AIR GROUP 12

ABLE DOG THREE NUMBER ONE TWO ONE CRASH LANDED OFF CHODO BEACH X

COMPLETELY SUBMERGED X CAPTAIN FLOYD N PAHETT USMC K-6 UNINJURED X

O & R HOWELL

TOD

1935 ITEM/CTF95/DMK/11JAN53
CONFIDENTIAL ROUTINE

180830Z

FM L'WOOD 3
TO L'WOOD 2

INFO CTG 95.1
L'WOOD 5
H'RS UNICORN
SVC/CR OFFICER NARS IWAKUNI

SEAPURY NUMBER XRAY 640 EMBARKED IN LST 822 X ETA INCHON 191200 ITEM
LST 822 HAS BY OTHER MEANS X

O LONG JOHN R

TOD 2340 ITEM/CTF 95/DMK/18JAN53
PLAIN ROUTINE

190035Z

FM CTU 95.1.3

TO HELRON ONE DET ONE NAF OFFAMA

INFO COMPAIRJAF

HELRON ONE UNIT FOUR RELIEVED UNIT SEVEN

O-D.L.SMITH

R HOWELL

TOD

1225 ITEM/CTF95/DWK/18JAN53
PM LANCEWOOD 3

TO CTG 95.1
CTU 95.1
CTU 95.1.1
CTU 95.1.2
HMS UNICORN
SENGIR OFFICER MARS IWAKUNI

INFO CTU 95.1.5

FIREFLY NO V.T. 484 PILOTED BY COMMISSIONED PILOT M. KENT R.N. LANDED
WHEELS DOWN 221320 ITEM X PILOT NOT REPEAT NOT INJURED X PILOT REPORTS
ARRESTOR HOOK UNSERVICEABLE X PROPELLOR DAMAGED AND SUSPECTED SHOCK LOAD
TO ENGINE ON LANDING WHEN AIRCRAFT NOSED UP X PARA 2 X MECHANICS ADVISE AGAINST
ATTEMPTING REPAIRS THIS STATION X

O LJ
R HOBELL

TOD
2100 ITEM/CTF95/DMK/22JAN53
FM-CTU 95.1.6
TO-CTU 95.1.3

RECEIVED 181 TONS RELIEF GRAIN 18 JAN

TOR/2248/CTU 95.1.6/JM/22JAN53/
INCOMING
PRIORITY RESTRICTED
232315Z

PRIOR: CHARM

TO LANCENWOOD 3

LANCENWOOD 5

RECEIVED 07 ROUNDS 76MM INCOMING FROM X0739695 X NO CASUALTIES NO DAMAGE X

TOR 0105 Itek/LANCEWOOD FIVE/WS/24JAN53
FM CTF 95
TO CTU 95.1.3
INFO COM7HFLT

YOUR 26/70/12 NOTAL X TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL HELO NECESSITATED BY URGENT NEED ELSEWHERE X WILL BE REPLACED WHEN NAVY HELO AVAILABLE X

TOR/118ITEM/CTF95/DMK/29JAN53
PLAIN PRIORITY
380116Z

FROM CTU 95.1.3
TO HELRON ONE DET ONE NAF OPPAMA
INFO COMFAIR JAP

UNIT FOUR RELIEVED 29TH X

O MAC
R HOWELL

TOD 1302 ITEM/CTF95/DMK/38JAN53
PLAIN ROUTINE

FM CHORUS
TO LANCEWOOD 3

RECEIVED 198 TONS RELIEF GRAIN UNHUSKED 25 JANUARY X

TOR: 1320ITEM/LANCEWOOD2/WS/30JAN53

30033032
RESTRICTED PRIORITY
310530Z

FM CTU 95.1.3
TO MAG 12 VNA 212
INFOR CTU 95.1.2
CTU 95.1.5

YOUR AU-1 129347 PILOTTED BY LT C. H. DRUGGERER 050189 USMC LANDED
A-53 WHEELS UP X PILOT UNINJURED X ALL FLAPS DAMAGED AND BENT PROPS X
PILOT CLAIMS INSUFFICIENT FUEL PRESSURE X MAG 12 MECHANIC STATES REPAIR
HERE UNFEASIBLE X

O&R -EHG

TOD
1905 INTR/CTU 95.1.2/JN/31JAN53
2330 INTR/CTF 95/DNK/31JAN53

DECLASSIFIED
FM  CHARM

TO    LANGLEWOOD 3

CAPTAIN WESTRICK NORRIS USMC VMA 312 CRASH LANDED FAU-4 NUMBER 9723 WHEELS UP
C47 BEACH APPROXIMATELY 150M TODAY X PILOT UNINJURED AND EVACUATED X DAMAGE
TO FUSELAGE, SUDDEN STOPAGE OF ENGINE X WHEELS NOW DOWN PLANE ABOVE HIGH WATER
X PARTY REMOVED AT TADC-CHODO

TOR: 9241/BOOZE/NFS/01FEB53
HU-1 Unit 7 1 - 18 January 1953

Total number of hours 7.5
Total number of flights 16
Number of personnel transported 19
Pounds of mail transported 0
Pounds of cargo transported 0

HU-1 Unit 4 19 - 30 January 1953

Total number of hours 10.1
Total number of flights 18
Number of personnel transported 31
Pounds of mail transported 360
Pounds of cargo transported 835
1 February 1953

MEDICAL

1. Patient census in Sick Bay:
   (a) U. N. Partisan Forces in Korea (Donkeys) 54
   (b) Civilians 109
   (c) U. S. Personnel 163
   Total 326

2. Sanitary inspection of all islands:
   Overall sanitary facilities have been satisfactory.

3. Contagious diseases:
   The Republic of Korea Navy Medical Corps report the following
diseases:
   (a) Malaria 2
   (b) Syphilis 4
   (c) Gonorrhea 14
   (d) Chancroid 1

4. Republic of Korea Navy Medical Corps:
   Ward inspections are being continued twice a week in the ROK Navy
   Medical Corps Hospital. The Hospital has been improved by the
   addition of wooden floors to both the main tent and the isolation
   tent. There has also been an increase in the allotment of fuel
   to the Hospital.

5. Facilities:
   No new facilities have been added.

6. Note:
   Complete inventory has been taken of the narcotics and antibiotics
   and a log of their use has been started.
SECRET

SECOND ENDORSEMENT on Cdr WCIalDer Element ltr ser 001 of 4
Feb 1953

From: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps

Subj: Command Diary, submission of

1. Forwarded.

2. This endorsement is downgraded to unclassified upon detachment from the enclosure.

ROBERT H. VENN
By direction

Copy to:
CO, 1stProvCasCo
SECRET
SECURITy INFORMATION

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on Cdr WO/TolDef Element ltr ser 001 of 4 Feb 1953

From: Commanding Officer, 1st Provisional Casual Company, Fleet Marine
       Force, c/o FFO, San Francisco, California

To: Commandant of the Marine Corps

Via: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, c/o FFO,
      San Francisco, California

Subj: Command Diary, Submission of

1. Forwarded.

H. R. NIMBAUM