

HEADQUARTERS 31ST REGT
APO 7

30 October 1950

SUBJECT: Narrative Report for Period
1 September 1950 to 30 September 1950

TO : Commanding General
7th Infantry Division
APO 7

Attn: Historian

1. The major operation of the command for this period was its employment as a combat unit with United Nation forces in Korea. A major problem encountered was the entergration of Republic of Korea troops with United States forces. This was done on an individual basis, each Korean becoming part of a team. The important elements of this problem were:

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a. Language barrier:

1. U.S. personnel were unable to speak or understand Korean.

2. An insufficient number of interpreters were available to overcome this deficiency.

b. Training:

ROK personnel without any military training whatsoever were assigned to the unit (approximately 1800) two weeks prior to debarkation from Japan. Their inability to understand language, equipment, habits, culture and personalities of United States personnel retarded assimilation of essential training subjects;

c. Feeding:

The extreme change in diet as well as eating habits initially contributed to various minor illness among the ROK soldiers.

d. Sanitation:

Health and efficiency of a fighting unit reflect sanitary measures enforced. The ROK personnel required continuous supervision of their sanitary practices. Their immunity to disease, built up after long years of exposure,

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made it difficult for them to realize the relative importance of sanitation. Violations of prescribed rules were, numerous, thus endangering the health of the command. This condition was expediently remedied and no serious medical problem resulted.

2. The 31st RCT (consisting of the 31st Infantry Regiment, 57th FA Battalion, and Company C, 13th Combat Engineers) after completion of final training exercises in Japan embarked at Yokohama on 7 September 1950. While enroute, proposed tactical missions were outlined and staff sections prepared necessary plans to accomplish them. An intensive training program, made difficult by crowded troop ship conditions, was carried out daily.

3. The RCT landed amphibiously at Inchon, Korea, 19 September 1950. The leading elements of the RCT immediately proceeded in a southeasterly direction towards Suwon area. The objective was a large enemy held air base south of Suwon. The Combat Team was preceded by the 7th Reconnaissance Company and the 73rd Heavy Tank Battalion, which encountered only scattered enemy resistance enroute to the airfield. These leading elements secured the objective while elements of the RCT secured the high ground south of Suwon airfield. Elements of the RCT immediately conducted reconnaissance in force to the east, south and west. Initially only light, scattered enemy resistance was encountered though shortly intelligence reports indicated a build up of strong enemy force to the south on Hills 113 and 92. The city of Suwon was entered the morning of 23 September 1950 by Task Force Witte and placed under United Nation control by proclamation.

Task Force Rubottom, made up of Company G reinforced, proceeded south along the Suwon-Osan-ni road on a reconnaissance mission. The task force initially hit heavy resistance in the vicinity of P'yongjam-ni. The resistance consisted of heavy small arms fire, heavy machine-gun fire, mortars, and tank fire. The fire was intense and the unit suffered heavy casualties. Task Force Rubottom was held at the town and Task Force Able was formed. Task Force Able consisted of the remainder of the 2nd Battalion and Company A. Task Force Able executed a wide envelopment to the east and south to the town of Ssan-ni, and north to the vicinity of Hill 113. Task Force Able reached the south end of Hill 113 sector at daylight on 27 September 1950. At that time an attack was launched on Hill 113 by Task Force Able, and on the high ground north of Hill 113 by Task Force Rubottom. Task Force Rubottom secured the high ground north of Hill 113 suffering very heavy losses from enemy arms, mortar and machine-gun fire. The enemy was well dug in and expertly camouflaged; snipers were used extensively.

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The enemy's resistance was fanatical. By nightfall Task Force Able had reached the south west slope of Hill 113, with the enemy occupying the reverse slope of the hill. At this time Companies K and L relieved Companies E and F on position. The following morning, the front line units were withdrawn approximately 1500 yards to allow for an air strike on the final objective. At noon the air strike was called in followed by an artillery and mortar preparation and the final assault on the objective. Very little resistance was encountered on this assault. Intelligence reports indicated that the enemy had withdrawn by infiltration to the northeast the night prior to the final attack. Our forces captured or destroyed 14 enemy tanks, 6 anti-tank guns, several mortars and large quantities of small arms and ammunition.

4. a. Prisoners of war captured during the week approximated 500. At the outset of the engagement enemy morale was good.

b. Intelligence gained from POW's disclosed the the main enemy element consisted of remnants of the 105 Mechanized Division. It was further indicated by these reports that the enemy strength in this area was 2500 to 3000 troops, equipped with small arms, 17 tanks, 25 anti-tank guns and several mortars. Motorized equipment consisted of an unknown but small number of trucks and jeeps plus 25 to 50 motorcycles.

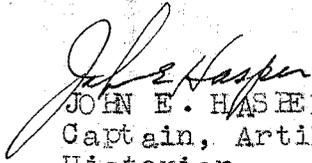
c. During the period covered by this report enemy casualties are estimated as 300 killed and an unknown number wounded; our losses were 25 killed and 75 wounded.

5. Subsequent to the completion of mopping up operations against the enemy in the Suwon area, the RCT on 1 October 1950 moved to an area in the vicinity of Sangchon, Korea to mop up isolated groups, maintain equipment, and rehabilitate the men. The primary mission of the RCT was to thoroughly screen the terrain within this sector. The front of the sector screened was roughly 40 miles. The screening of this area was accomplished by motorized and foot patrols and road blocks. Tanks were used in support of most motorized patrols. No major enemy resistance was encountered during this period. Training continued, including Battalion in Attack field exercise, supported by the 57th Field Artillery and the U.S. Naval Air Force. These exercises provided an opportunity to continue the training of ROK personnel and contributed to their increased efficiency.

Authority 785101
By CEL NARA Date 5/18/10

Ltr, Hq 31st RCT, dtd 30 Oct 50, Subj: Narrative report for
period 1 Sep 50 to 30 Sep 50, Con't

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:


JOHN E. HASLER
Captain, Artillery
Historian

Authority 785101
By CEL NARA Date 5/18/10

NUMBER 1

HEADQUARTERS 31ST INFANTRY
APO 7

13 September 1950

SUBJECT: War Diary and Historical Report (Essentially Narrative)
31st Inf Regt Covering Period 6 Sep to 9 Sep 1950

THRU : Commanding General
7th Division, APO 7

Attn: G-3, Section Historian

TO : Adjutant General
Department of the Army

Attn: Chief Historical Records Section
Departmental Records Branch
Washington 25, D. C.

DAILY CHRONOLOGY

6 Sep 1950

1. On this date all units of this command, having been alerted for a move by rail from Camp Fuji, Japan to Yokohama, Japan for purposes of embarkation, engaged in full scale preparations for move and proper policing of area evacuated.

2. In accordance with pre-arranged plans, motor vehicles of this Regiment were dispatched by road from Camp Fuji to Yokohama for purposes of loading aboard transports. This mission was accomplished without mishap under the supervision of the Regimental S-3 and motor officer.

7 Sep 1950

The Regiment, less an advance detachment, was moved by rail from Camp Fuji (Gotemba Station) Japan to the Port of Yokohama, Japan. The move was made by serial with the last serial reaching the port at 1830 hours this date. All personnel were immediately loaded on previously assigned (by higher Headquarters) transports. Quarters were assigned and necessary guard and work details established. The loading was orderly and with a minimum delay.

8 Sep 1950

Transports assigned to this Regiment included the General H. W. Butner (TAP 113) the ship assigned for the transportation of the Commanding Officer, 31st Infantry Regiment. This transport and all other transports assigned for the transportation of this Regiment sailed from the

Authority 785101
By CEL NARA Date 5/18/10

Port of Yokohama, Japan at about 1130 hours this date. The assembly and grouping of the many ships engaged in this task force necessitated a delay at anchorage in Yokohama harbor for the remainder of the day.

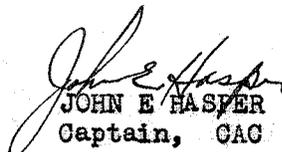
9 Sep 1950

Under Navy control all transports remained at anchorage in or near Yokohama Harbor. Necessary guard and work details were maintained, routine administrative duties were carried out. Several shifts of personnel were made between various transports and training Memo No. 24, this Headquarters, dated 9 September 1950 (attached) was issued to insure a complete program of training while enroute to objective.

a. It must be noted that prior to the inauguration of this diary soldiers of the Republic of Korea, 1857, in number, were attached to this organization for assignments to each unit, in that they have been made an integral part of all combat units, this diary includes their activities as essentially those of the Regiment.

b. During the period covered by this diary, there have been no contacts with the enemy.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:


JOHN E. HASPER
Captain, CAC
Historian

Authority 785101
By CEL NARA Date 5/18/10

Port of Yokohama 30 hours this date. The assembly and grouping of the many ships engaged in this task force necessitated a delay at anchorage in Yokohama harbor for the remainder of the day.

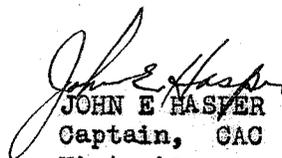
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FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:


JOHN E. HASPER
Captain, CAC
Historian

HEADQUARTERS 31ST INFANTRY
APO 7

19 September 1950

SUBJECT: War Diary and Historial Report
31st Inf Regt Covering Period 10 Sept to 16 Sept 1950

THRU : Commanding General
7th Division , APO 7

Attn: G-3, Section Historian

TO : Adjutant General
Department of the Army

Attn: Chief Historical Records Section
Departmental Records Branch
Washington 25, D. C.

DAILY CHRONOLOGY

10 Sept 1950

1. Transport General H. W. Butner, Headquarters for this Regiment sailed from anchorage in Yokohama bay at 0515 hours and headed to sea. At 1000 hours in accordance with prior instructions from higher headquarters, top secret documents were opened by Colonel R. P. Ovenshine, Regimental Commander. The documents revealed the destination of the 31st Infantry as In-chon, Korea and assigned the mission of the Regiment plus attached units which include the 57th F. A. Battalion and "C" Company 13th Engineers (combat) all of which form the 31st Infantry R.C.T. The documents further outlined alternate plans to be used as the situation might require.

2. The General Butner, now assigned a position number 21 in a large convoy is underway. Training programs are in effect for all officers and enlisted men. Staff members are engaged in comprehensive study of maps, G-2 reports and plans incidental to the regimental military mission as part of the U. N. forces in Korea. Republic of Korea troops were presented with breast patches in appropriate ceremony. (see letter attached)

11 Sept 1950

1. Routine training, guard and work details are carried out. Officers schools organized.

2. Regimental Staff members are disseminating information regarding regimental mission and alternate plans to lower level commanders. Debarkation plans are being prepared.

12 Sept 1950

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By CEL NARA Date 5/18/10

No change from program of 11 September 1950.

13 Sept 1950

No change from program of 12 September 1950.

14 Sept 1950

No change from program of 13 September 1950.

15 Sept 1950

No change from program of 14 September 1950.

16 Sept 1950

Arrived In-chon harbor-dropped anchor 1130 hours approximately 10 miles off shore. ^{no} LST or other landing craft available for unloading this date.

Note: There has been no contact with the enemy by any units of the R.C.T.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

John E. Hasper
JOHN E HASPER
Captain, CAC
Ass't Adjutant
Historian

Authority 785101
 By CEL NARA Date 5/18/10

NUMBER 3

HEADQUARTERS 31ST INFANTRY
 APO 7

24 September 1950

SUBJECT: War Diary and Historial Report (Essentially Narrative)
 31st Inf Regt Covering Period 17 Sep to 23 Sep 1950.

TO : Commanding General
 7th Division, APO 7
 Attn: G-3, Section Historian

DAILY CHRONOLOGY

17 Sep 1950

1. RCT aboard transports lying off shore Inch'on Harbor, routine training and debarkation drill continued.
2. Change in RCT mission received from Commanding General 7th Division studied by staff.

18 Sep 1950

1. RCT aboard transports off shore Inch'on.
2. All details of revised mission disseminated to lower echelons. Troops and officer training continued.

19 Sep 1950

1. Training continued.
2. Orders received for debarkation via L.S.T.s. Maximum load of vehicles and personnel off ship at 2045 arrived landing beach Inch'on City Area 2250 hours, all units off marched to High school ball park for overnight bivouac. No contact with enemy troops.

20 Sep 1950

1. Regimental C.P. area designatd by higher headquarters. Point of C.P. selected by Regimental Commander at co-ordinates 301.4 - 146.5. Opened C.P. 1245 hours.
2. 3rd Battalion 31st Infantry Regiment ordered to Division Reserve. Headquarters of all other units of RCT established in areas designated by Colonel Ovenshine. Proper protective measures taken.

Authority 785101
 By CEL NARA Date 5/8/10

3. No units of RCT have been in contact with the enemy.

4. Private Paul H. Nielson, K Company 31st Infantry, 1st Korean Zone casualty, killed in action after failing to halt when ordered by sentry to do so. Enemy were known to be in area and shooting was accidental but justified.

21 Sep 1950

1. 1. Command Post functioning normally, proper communications having been established since establishment.

2. S-2 section received information as to location of enemy particularly guerrilla troops operating in general area of units location.

3. Command Post closed station and moved at 1800 to Unyon-ni, Co-ordinates 302.6 - 145.6. No enemy action involved in move. No elements of the RCT have engaged the enemy.

22 Sep 1950

1. At 0630 one platoon 1st Battalion (reinforced) proceeded south toward Suwon - mission to reconnoiter Inch'on-Suwon west road and join elements of 32nd Infantry at Suwon.

2. Orders changed while enroute mission now to proceed south of Suwon air strip with all units of 31st RCT less 3rd Battalion 31st Infantry which is now X Corp reserve.

3. No contact with enemy enroute except sporadic sniper fire causing injuries to two enlisted men of 31st Infantry Regiment. Approximately 20 P.O.W.s captured and 5 killed by 1st Battalion units.

4. C. P. closed 302.6-145.6 1530 hours opened 324.2 - 123.1 (Suwon airstrip) 2310 hours.

23 Sep 1950

1. By direction of Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion reinforced have been committed to take and hold high ground south of Suwon airstrip. One company reinforced of the 1st Battalion were dispatched for "mopping up" operation in Suwon-ni both units departed respective C. P. area at 0730 hours.

2. 57th F.A. Battalion remained at 302.6 -145.6 to await guns. "B" Battery 48th F.A. now in support of RCT. "B" Company 73rd Tank Battalion attached to 31st RCT for support of mission south of Suwon.

3. Due to length of supply line airborne supplies in excess

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By CEL NARA Date 5/18/10

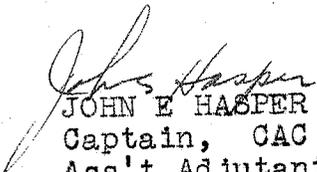
of 60 ton consigned for landing on Suwon airbase. First plane arrived at 1440 hours.

4. First Battalion group "mopping" up Suwon met no enemy resistance. Regimental S-2 contacted city officials and issued an edict demanding that all communists be turned over to U. N. forces by 1700 hours. Approximately 240 P.O.W.s captured and large quantities of enemy arms and ammunition taken.

5. S-2 received report from civilian source that 14th Infantry Division (Enemy) at 20.0 - 27.0. No estimate of number of troops or armament indicated.

6. No contact with organized enemy forces. Many unarmed communists surrendering without resistance, sniper fire less frequent, assigned operations successful.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:


JOHN E HASPER
Captain, CAC
Ass't Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 31ST RCT
APO 7

3 October 1950

SUBJECT: War Diary #1
For Period 24 Sep 1950 to 30 Sep 1950

TO : Commanding General
7th Infantry Division
APO 7

Attn: Historian

1. During the period covered by the attached diary, the 31st RCT was assigned to the sector of Suwon, Korea and south to Osan-ni, Korea with necessary flanking positions to properly take and hold that area. Primary objective included the Suwon-air field which with its large 8000 Ft. concrete runway is vital to current supply problems and important as a base of operation for fighter aircraft.

2. The 31st RCT having been preceded by the 7th Recon Company experienced very little enemy resistance on its move south into objective area. Small arms fire was encountered from small groups of unorganized enemy.

3. Suwon air field was taken without opposition and immediate deployment of troops by the Commanding Officer caused a through probe of southern front. Enemy activity was immediately reported and active steps were taken to destroy the enemy. Consistent and well directed artillery fire from supporting units was responsible for effective weakening of enemy defenses, however the enemy was well entrenched and it soon became apparent that close proximity combat was essential to the proper prosecution of the RCT mission.

4. The enemy was engaged in full scale ground operations in the area adjacent (north) of Osan-ni. ~~and~~ Under the personal direction of the Commanding Officer 31st RCT, A 24 hour heavy battle ensued, which ultimately resulted in the complete rout of the enemy. This was the only major engagement for the period covered by this report.

5. The 31st RCT for most of this period consisted of the 31st Inf Regt, 57th FA Bn, Battery "A" 73rd Heavy Tank Bn, Battery "B" 15th AAA Bn, plus supporting units. Fullest cooperation was given by all units concerned in the ground mission and both the Army Air Force and the Navy Air Force gave full support when called upon for air-strikes.

War Diary, Hqs 31st RCT, 24 Sep 50 to 30 Sep 50, Con't

6. The battle north of Osan-ni was fought in hilly terrain. Most intensive action took place on hills 113 and 92. Altho the enemy initially held the high ground RCT troops successfully drove them out and captured or destroyed 14 enemy tanks, 6 anti-tank guns, several mortars and large quantities of ammunition.

7. Prisoners of war captured during the week approximated 500. At the outset of the engagement enemy POW morale seemed high but apprehensive as to their future, the continued defeat ~~of~~ their troops experienced, however, caused morale to become very low.

Intelligence gained from captured enemy disclosed that the main enemy element consisted of remnants of the 105 Mechanized Regiment plus supporting units. It was further estimated by these reports that the enemy strength in this area was approximately 2500 to 3000 troops armanent other than small arms estimated at 17 tanks, 25 anti-tank guns and several mortars, motorized equipment consisted of an unknown but small number of trucks and jeeps plus some 25 to 50 motorcycles.

8. There was no malfunction of RCT arms reported and the results of 3.5 rockets against tanks was extremely effective.

9. During the period covered by this report enemy casualties are estimated at approximately 300 killed (wounded unknown) our losses approximated 25 killed and 75 wounded.

10. Many acts of heroism and meritorious service have been reported and necessary steps for proper awards are being prepared.

11. The weather conditions throughout the week was clear and dry and had no adverse effect on operations.

12. Supply of troops was effected efficiently, available supplies were received promptly. Critical shortages in the theater of operation consisted mainly of motor vehicle parts.

13. It is notable that the civilian population have been very cooperative in their efforts to devulge information helpful to UN forces. Youth groups are being organized and consistently submit information as to communist and/or enemy troop activities in their vicinity.

14. Our troops have maintained a very high morale throughout this period. There have been only minor infraction of military discipline and no reports of looting or other crimes against civilian persons or property.

Authority 785101
By CEL NARA Date 5/18/10

War Diary, Hqs 31st RCT, 24 Sept 50 to 30 Sept 50, Con't

15. It is considered that the assigned mission for the period covered by this report can be considered successful in every way.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

John E. Hasper
JOHN E HASPER
Captain, CAC
Historian