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GENERAL

S/2537  
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NOTE DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1952 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING SIX COMMUNIQUE ISSUED  
BY THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN KOREA

The Representative of the United States to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the Security Council, the following communiques issued by the Headquarters of the United Nations Command, as indicated below:

Air operational summary 603, issued Monday, February 18, 1952

Eighth Army communique 865, for the twelve-hour period ended at noon  
Monday, February 18, 1952

Far East Naval Forces summary of operations for Monday, February 18, 1952.

Far East Air Forces operational summary for Monday, February 18, 1952

Eighth Army communique 866, for Monday, February 18, 1952.

General Headquarters communique 1,164, for the twenty-four hours ended  
6:00 A.M., Tuesday, February 19, 1952 (4:00 P.M., Monday,  
Eastern standard time)

52-2895

/AIR  
S/2537

AIR OPERATIONAL SUMMARY 603, ISSUED MONDAY  
FEBRUARY 18, 1952

Completing six months of "Operation Strangle", warplanes of the Far East Air Forces Sunday mounted 870 sorties to inflict destruction on Communist targets in the air and on the ground during widespread attacks over northern Korea.

Flying protective cover for fighter-bombers on interdiction missions, F-86 Sabre jets destroyed three enemy MIG-15's, probably destroyed another and damaged one as the Red fighters attempted to interfere with the strikes on their transportation network. Of the total Far East Air Forces sorties, 695 were flown by pilots of the Fifth Air Force and attached Royal Australian, South African and land-based Marine units.

Fighter-bombers ranged over the enemy's main rail routes during the day to rip rails in more than 105 places. From Pamsi to Sinanju, F-84 Thunderjets cratered tracks in fifty places and, north of Huichon, damaged a locomotive and fifteen rail cars in low-level attacks. Near Sinanju a flight of F-84's bombed and strafed a convoy of Communist trucks, with two of the vehicles exploding upon being hit. Rail cars were successfully attacked east of Pyongyang.

Marine aircraft cratered runways and a taxiway in an attack on the Sariwon airfield, and splintered rails in strikes between Sariwon and Namchonjom. F-51 Mustangs used napalm and rockets to inflict flaming destruction on fifteen enemy-held supply buildings and a supply dump in strikes north of Kumsong and south of Sibyon. F-80 Shooting Stars scored multiple rail cuts in the Huichon area.

The Communist MIG-15's were blasted in two separate air battles over northwest Korea yesterday morning. In one engagement, fifty-three Sabre jets flying as screening force for fighter-bombers tangled with an estimated 100 enemy jets near Sinuiju. During the thirty-minute clash, two MIG's were destroyed. In the other encounter, which ranged from "MIG Alley" to Pyongyang between twenty-six F-86's and thirty MIG's at altitudes ranging from 32,000 to 27,000 feet, one enemy jet was destroyed, one probably destroyed and one damaged.

Total destruction for the period includes over forty enemy-held supply buildings destroyed or damaged, one locomotive destroyed and three damaged, eight rail cars destroyed and over thirty damaged, and eleven bunkers blasted.

Contributing their support to "Operation Strangle" as attacks against enemy targets continued around the clock, B-29 Superforts of the Far East Air Forces Bomber Command last night blasted the Communists' transportation system in northwest Korea. Ten medium bombers of the Okinawa-based 307th Bomb Wing dropped 100 tons of 500-pound high explosives on the Chongju rail bridge complex. They encountered meager ground fire over the target, but were not challenged by enemy fighters. Three other Superforts flew in close air support of United Nations front-line forces, dropping 500-pound air-bursting bombs on enemy troop positions immediately behind the battleline.

/B-26 light

B-26 light bombers and Marine aircraft last night mounted eighty sorties. The largest sighting of Red roadway traffic in the past month was reported, with 165 supply vehicles destroyed. Eight B-26's bombed a rail and road by-pass bridge west of Yangdok.

Cargo transports of the Far East Air Forces 315th Air Division yesterday flew 160 sorties to airlift 580 tons of supplies and personnel in continued support of United Nations operations.

EIGHTH ARMY COMMUNIQUE 865, FOR THE TWELVE-HOUR  
PERIOD ENDED AT NOON MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 18, 1952

United Nations raiding units in operation west-northwest of Chorwon, south of Pyonggang and east of Kumsong. Enemy platoon attacks twice northwest of "Punchbowl". United Nations patrol pinned down south of Mundung.

1. A United Nations raiding party drew heavy small-arms and automatic-weapons fire from an enemy group of undetermined strength between 7:35 A.M. and 8:10 A.M. west-northwest of Chorwon. Light contact with enemy units up to a platoon in strength, including a probe by an enemy platoon which United Nations troops repulsed in a brief firefight west-northwest of Chorwon at 12:15 A.M., developed elsewhere along the western Korean battlefield during the period.

2. Two United Nations tank-infantry raiding units were in operation along the central front during the period. One reached its objective south of Pyonggang at 7:22 A.M., with no enemy contact. The other advanced northward east of Kumsong in two elements. The westernmost element reached its objective with no contact, while the element to the east, at 7:45 A.M., engaged an enemy group of undetermined strength which employed hand-grenades and an intense concentration of small-arms, automatic-weapons fire. The United Nations troops withdrew to the west, and between 8 A.M. and 8:30 A.M., United Nations tank, artillery and mortar fire was directed on the enemy.

East of the Pukhan River, an enemy platoon attacked a small United Nations advance position. Light contact with small enemy groups developed elsewhere along the central front.

3. A platoon-sized enemy group twice attacked a United Nations position northwest of the "Punchbowl". The first group, which had infiltrated into the position, was driven back after a twenty-minute fight. The position was hit again at 4:45 A.M., and the enemy was driven off at 5:35 A.M. South of Mundung, a United Nations patrol at 3:30 A.M. moderately engaged an enemy group of undetermined strength and was pinned down. The patrol was ordered to withdraw at 4:45 A.M., and with reinforcements and tank-fire assisting, was able to disengage at 7 A.M. Light probes and patrol contacts with small enemy groups developed elsewhere along the eastern front during the period.

/FAR EAST

FAR EAST NAVAL FORCES SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS  
FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1952

Skyraider "Able Dogs" from the carrier U.S.S. Philippine Sea destroyed ten enemy trucks, damaged nine others and demolished two buildings near Wonsan as the weather turned friendly to naval air operations. Near Tanchon, Corsair pilots eliminated a Red anti-aircraft position as Panther jets from the carrier Philippine Sea ranged the enemy area to Pukchong, where they inflicted rail cuts.

In their second day of attacks from the deck of the escort-carrier U.S.S. Bairoko, Marine Corps fliers hit targets in western Korea with 50,000 pounds of high explosives and 40,000 rounds of machine-gun ammunition. A total of seventy-three buildings was destroyed or heavily damaged.

Twenty-four enemy positions fronting United Nations troops at the battle line were bombarded in the pre-dawn hours by the cruiser U.S.S. Manchester, which, replenishing food, stores and ammunition at sea in the midmorning, returned to the Kaesong area to shell Red troops during the day. The Manchester dropped a span in an important bridge south of Kosong with main-battery 6-inch naval fire accurately zeroed in on the target.

The Australian destroyer Bataan bombarded Red gun positions in the west at Chingangpo as the United States destroyer Gurke shelled mortar positions in the same area. Near Sunwido, the New Zealand patrol frigate Rotoiti bombarded troops and sampans in company with Rocket Ship LSMR 404. The British light cruiser H.M.S. Ceylon shelled mortar positions on the west coast near Ulllyul.

The destroyers U.S.S. Twining and Towan were on bombardment station at Wonsan, while the destroyer U.S.S. Henderson worked 5-inch gunfire on rail and road targets at Hungnam. Other naval elements enforced the blockade of the Korean peninsula on both coasts and protected minesweepers clearing channels for inshore bombardment by larger ships.

FAR EAST AIR FORCES OPERATIONAL SUMMARY FOR MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 18, 1952

Enemy MIG-15's, seeking to interfere with the slashing interdiction attacks by fighter-bombers, dotted the skies of northern Korea and two of the Red jet fighters were damaged by F-86 Sabre jets as warplanes of the Far East Air Forces Monday mounted 800 sorties.

More than 280 sightings of enemy jets were reported during the day, and in one engagement over the Chongchon River between twenty-seven F-86's and elements of a sixty-MIG formation, two of the Red fighters were damaged. Three other engagements resulted in negative claims.

Fifth Air Force and attached Royal Australian, South African and land-based Marine pilots flew 640 of the total Far East Air Forces sorties. Continuing the relentless attack on Communist transportation routes, fighter-bombers scored 110 rail cuts during widespread strikes in Northwest Korea.

F-84 Thunderjets etched a fiery trail between Sunchon and Sinanju, cratering tracks in thirty places. An additional thirty-five cuts were inflicted on the main line from Sinanju to Pyongyang.

F-80 Shooting Stars teamed with F-51 Mustangs and Marine aircraft to ripple rails in numerous locations. More than twenty cuts were effected from Huichon to Kunu, and over fifteen other craters were left in the main line from Sariwon to Namchonjom. One rail tunnel was damaged near Huichon and another in the vicinity of Schung. The attacks destroyed twenty enemy-held buildings and damaged ten others in the Ibyon sector.

Total destruction for the period includes more than forty buildings destroyed or damaged, one rail bridge knocked out and four gun positions silenced.

As strikes against Communist targets continued around the clock, B-29 Superforts of Far East Air Forces Bomber Command hit the enemy's transportation system in Northwest Korea last night. Five of the medium bombers radar-aimed fifty tons of high explosives on the Sinanju rail bridge complex. They met meager ground fire, and one of the Superforts was attacked by an enemy fighter that failed to score. Four other Superforts hit the Chinnampo rail marshaling yards, and four flew in close air support of the United Nations front-line forces, dropping 500-pound air-bursting bombs on enemy troop concentrations immediately behind the battleline. All of the bombers, from the Okinawa-based Nineteenth Bomb Group, returned safely to base.

B-26 light bombers and Marine aircraft last night mounted seventy-eight sorties. A moderate sighting of enemy roadway traffic was reported, with 130 supply vehicles destroyed. Four B-26's made a controlled bombing strike on a rail and road bypass west of Yongdok for the second consecutive night.

Cargo transports of the Far East Air Forces 315th Air Division yesterday flew 140 sorties to airlift 640 tons of supplies and personnel in continued support of United Nations operations.

/EIGHTH ARMY COMMUNIQUE

EIGHTH ARMY COMMUNIQUE 866, FOR MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 18, 1952

United Nations units raid west-northwest of Chorwon, south of Pyongyang, east of Kumsong. United Nations advance position recaptured east of Pukhan River. Enemy platoon attacks twice northwest of "Punchbowl". Patrol pinned down south of Mundung.

1. A United Nations raiding party drew heavy small-arms and automatic-weapons fire from an enemy group of unknown size between 6:35 A.M. and 8:10 A.M. west-northwest of Chorwon. Light contact with enemy units up to a platoon in strength, including a probe by an enemy platoon repulsed in a twenty-minute firefight ending at 2 A.M. north of Chorwon, developed elsewhere along the western Korean battlefield during the period.

2. United Nations elements counter-attacking east of the Pukhan River to restore an advance position yielded to the enemy the previous evening, engaged an enemy group of undetermined strength on the position at 7:50 A.M., began to receive heavy enemy automatic weapons and artillery fire at 9:30 A.M., withdrew at 1 P.M. Resumed the attack at 3:12 P.M., forced the enemy to withdraw and secured the position at 4:15 P.M.

A tank-infantry raiding unit reached its objective south of Pyonggang at 7:22 A.M. after a thirteen-minute fight with a reinforced enemy platoon in bunkers. East of Kumsong, elements of another raiding party engaged an enemy group of undetermined strength which employed hand-grenades and intense small-arms and automatic-weapons fire, withdrew to the west and between 8 A.M. and 8:30 A.M., directed United Nations tanks, artillery and mortar fire on the enemy, and was ordered to withdraw at 9:45 A.M. East of the Pukhan River, an enemy platoon attacked a small United Nations advance position at 12:40 A.M. and withdrew at 1:30 A.M. Light contact with small enemy groups developed elsewhere along the central front.

3. A platoon-sized enemy group twice attacked a United Nations position northwest of the "Punchbowl". The first group, which had infiltrated into the position, was driven back at 2:25 A.M. after a twenty-minute firefight. The position was hit again at 4:45 A.M. and the enemy driven off at 5:35 A.M. South of Mundung, a United Nations patrol at 3:30 A.M. moderately engaged an enemy group of undetermined strength and was pinned down. The unit was ordered to withdraw at 4:55 A.M. and, with reinforcements and tank fire assisting, was able to disengage at 7 A.M. Light probes and patrol contacts with small enemy groups developed elsewhere along the eastern front.

/GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNIQUE 1,164, FOR THE  
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS ENDED 6 A.M., TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 19, 1952 (4 P.M., MONDAY,  
EASTERN STANDARD TIME)

There was moderate action along the Korean battlefront yesterday. Several friendly patrols reported light contacts with enemy groups. The enemy made seven separate probing efforts, but all were repulsed by our forces. An outpost position from which friendly elements were forced to withdraw on Feb. 17 in the west-central sector was reoccupied by our forces yesterday.

Enemy troops, bridges, sampans, positions, rail and road targets south of Kosong, near Sunwido, near Ulljul, at Wonsan and Hungnam were bombarded from the sea by vessels of the United Nations naval forces yesterday. Naval planes destroyed enemy trucks, demolished buildings, attacked enemy positions, cut rail lines and struck at other targets of opportunity over a wide area of North Korea during yesterday's operations.

Land-based medium bombers hit a key rail by-pass bridge along the enemy's main north-south rail supply line yesterday. Air-to-air encounters once again resulted in our jets inflicting damage on enemy fighter aircraft. Fighter-bombers bombed railbeds, attacked enemy vehicles, enemy-held supply buildings and warehouses, and gave close air support to friendly frontline troops.

Cargo and personnel continued to be airlifted in a twenty-four-hour schedule of flights by Combat Cargo aircraft.

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