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GENERAL

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NOTE DATED 4 APRIL 1952 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING FIVE COMMUNIQUEs ISSUED BY THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN KOREA

The Representative of the United States of America 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:

Far East Air Forces summary of operations Wednesday, April 2, 1952

Eighth Army tactical summary 19, as of 6:00 P.M. Thursday, April 3, 1952

General Headquarters communique 1,209, for operations Thursday, April 3, 1952

Eighth Army communique 937, covering operations Thursday, April 3, 1952

United Nations Naval Forces summary of operations Thursday, April 3, 1952

FAR EAST AIR FORCES SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1952

As clear skies opened up targets over North Korea (Wednesday), Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers lashed out against the Communist rail transportation system and recorded a record daily high in rail cuttings for the Korean conflict by slashing tracks in 211 places. Warplanes of the Far East Air Forces mounted 1,245 sorties.

The Far East Air Forces sortie total was the third highest daily number since the beginning of the war. The total was topped only by 1,277 sorties on April 30, 1951, and 1,254 on March 23, 1951.

Fighter-bombers, in setting a new high in rail cuts, cratered trackage between Kunu and Singhung in 155 places. This line is approximately twenty-five miles long. Eighty-five cuts were effected in an eight-mile stretch of the road.

Fifth Air Force and attached Royal Australian, South African, Republic of Korea and shorebased Marine pilots flew 1,048 of the total Far East Air Forces sorties. This continued a record-shattering day as Fifth set a new mark for total sorties mounted. It far outdistanced the old mark of 969, made March 20, of this year.

Flying under the protective screen of F-86 Sabre jets, F-84 Thunderjets led the attack against Red rails in the Kunu-Singhung attacks. They also chopped the line between Huichon and Sinanju in twenty places. Other F-84's on rail interdiction strikes in the area spotted twenty supply buildings and destroyed all of them.

Working over the same stretch of rails from Kunu to Huichon, F-80 Shooting Stars ripped the tracks in twenty places. The Shooting Stars started a landslide in one area, covering more than 100 yards of track with a mountain of earth and rocks.

Marine fighter-bombers marooned five boxcars by cutting rails at either end of them, and then demolished the cars with bombs. The Marine pilots, flying Corsairs and jet fighters, effected cuts in fifteen spots on the line between Sunchon and Pyongyang.

Along the battlefield, Thunderjets flew in close air support of United Nations Ground forces. In the western sector the Thunderjets silenced four field artillery pieces, caved in a troop revetment and inflicted at least twenty Red troop casualties.

Meteor jets of the Royal Australian Air Force fired napalm rockets into five large supply buildings near Haoju, leaving the storage structures covered with flames.

/Total

Total destruction inflicted on the Communists during the period included forty-five troop casualties inflicted, ninety supply buildings destroyed or damaged, 100 vehicles destroyed, twenty-five gun positions silenced, three rail and one highway bridge damaged, seven rail cars destroyed and thirty-five damaged, one locomotive destroyed and fifteen troop bunkers blasted.

In two afternoon aerial battles, F-86's accounted for the destruction of three Russian-built MIG-15's and the damage of one enemy jet. The Sabre jets had damaged one other MIG earlier in the day. Two possible damage claims are being withheld pending evaluation of gun-camera film.

Two MIG's were knocked out of the air over Northwest Korea in an engagement north of the Chongchong River. On almost even terms, twenty-four Sabre jets turned into elements of a twenty-six-MIG formation, following their prey in racing clashes between 25,000 and above 30,000 feet altitude. Another MIG was damaged in this battle.

One other MIG was destroyed when thirty-three Sabres engaged elements of a formation of thirty enemy jets in a fifteen-minute battle during late afternoon. The aerial clashes ranged between 15,000 and 40,000 feet over MIG Alley.

Three other encounters were reported between Sabre jets and MIG's earlier with one MIG being damaged in a mid-morning clash north of the Chongchong between twenty-three F-86's and elements of an eighty-MIG formation between 20,000 and 35,000 feet.

Fifth Air Force announced the damage of two additional MIG's in the aerial battles April 1. These, which were previously unannounced, bring that day's total to ten MIG's destroyed, three probably destroyed and twelve damaged.

Three medium bombers of Far East Air Forces Bomber Command's Japan-based Ninety-eighth Bomb Wing, using radar-aiming techniques, on Wednesday night dropped thirty tons of air-bursting explosives on enemy troop and supply concentrations immediately behind the battle line.

B-26 night intruders and shore-based Marine aircraft in the night mounted 100 sorties to continue interdiction attacks against the Communists in around-the-clock activities. They destroyed seventy-five supply vehicles attempting to move toward front lines.

Cargo transports of Far East Air Force's 315th Air Division flew 195 sorties, airlifting 535 tons of personnel, equipment and supplies in continued support of United Nations combat operations.

EIGHTH ARMY TACTICAL SUMMARY 19, AS OF 6:00 P.M.,  
THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1952

Two light enemy probes west of Munsan, a succession of light patrol contacts and several minor actions northeast of the Punchbowl in which small enemy groups approached, but did not engage United Nations positions, marked the action reported so far from the Eighth Army front Thursday.

Reported earlier were two enemy probes west of Munsan, where two nights ago elements of two enemy battalions probed United Nations positions, and, in one two-company attack, temporarily penetrated a United Nations position. One probe by an enemy squad was repulsed after a fifty-minute fire fight ended at 1:30 A.M., while two enemy squads probing near by at 2 A.M. were driven back after an hour of fighting.

Patrol contacts were generally light and were most frequent along the east-central sector of the front. One patrol operating west of Yonchon, however, clashed at 8:30 A.M. with an enemy platoon in a small-arms and hand-grenade fight. The patrol and reinforcements received enemy mortar and artillery fire before disengaging.

Northeast of the Punchbowl between 1:55 A.M. and 3 A.M., several small enemy groups approached United Nations positions, but withdrew without returning fire, except at one point where a five-minute fire fight developed. All groups were dispersed.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNIQUE 1,209, FOR OPERATIONS  
THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1952

Two small enemy probes were repulsed and light patrol contact was reported Thursday along the Korean battlefront.

United Nations surface elements on the Korean East Coast shelled enemy positions and ships on the West Coast hit gun positions and boat concentrations. Carrier-based aircraft hit enemy transportation and supply targets in Northeastern Korea and in the area southwest of Chinnampo on the West Coast.

Fighter-bombers cut rail lines, concentrating on the Sinanju-Sukchon line, and destroyed enemy-held buildings, silenced gun positions and inflicted troop casualties. Protective cover fighters registered kills on enemy fighters. Medium bombers struck the Sinanju rail complex and flew in close support of ground efforts. Light bombers destroyed enemy supply vehicles and damaged two locomotives.

EIGHTH ARMY COMMUNIQUE 937, COVERING OPERATIONS  
THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1952

Enemy probes twice west of Munsan. Small enemy groups approach United Nations positions northeast of Punchbowl.

1. United Nations units west of Munsan repulsed two minor probes, one by an enemy squad after a fifty-minute firefight ended at 030130 (1:30 A.M., April 3), the second by two enemy squads after a one hour action ended at 030300. A United Nations patrol which had engaged an enemy patrol in a small arms and hand grenade fight west of Yonchon and its reinforcements drew enemy mortar and artillery fire before they were ordered to disengage, shortly after 030830. No other significant enemy contact was reported during the period from the Western Korean battlefield.

2. United Nations forces along the central front reported light patrol engagements with enemy units up to a platoon in strength, with most contacts developing along the eastern sector of the front.

3. United Nations patrols along the eastern front fought light engagements with enemy units up to two squads in strength, with most contacts developing west of the Mundung Valley. Several small enemy groups approached United Nations northeast of the Punchbowl between 030155 and 030300, were fired on by United Nations troops, but returned fire briefly at only one point.

UNITED NATIONS NAVAL FORCES SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS  
THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1952

Enemy positions on both coasts of Korea were hammered Thursday by United Nations aircraft and surface ships.

The methodical program of destruction against Communist supply lines throughout northeastern Korea was continued by the planes of Task Force 77 as Rear Admiral Apollo Soucek, U.S.N., took command of the Task Force.

Skyraiders, Corsairs and Panther jets from the carriers U.S.S. Boxer and U.S.S. Philippine Sea ranged the coastal strip from Wonsan north to Sonjin to slash rails in sixty-one places. They also covered key supply routes, leaving loaded trucks in flames and knocking out bridges. Three warehouses, five oil storage buildings, three trucks and seventeen supply buildings were destroyed.

Marine planes of the First Marine Air Wing hurled tons of explosives at supply lines as pilots cut rails in twenty-eight places near Pyongyang. Corsairs struck near the west coast city of Yonan, destroying at least six troop barracks, striking a village, several groups of supply buildings and knocking out a gun emplacement.

The big guns of the heavy cruiser U.S.S. St. Paul fired on Red supply dumps and mortar positions behind the front lines on the east coast. Her 5-inch and 8-inch guns destroyed two camouflaged stacks of supplies and made ten direct hits on buildings. Afternoon firing damaged three mortar positions and five buildings and destroyed eleven other buildings.

British pilots from the carrier H.M.S. Glory made direct hits on gun positions and underground shelters southwest of Chinnampo on the west coast. A factory was severely damaged, a span of a rail bridge dropped, and boxcars and storage dumps destroyed in the same area.

Also on the West Coast the destroyers U.S.S. Chevalier and H.M.A.S. Warramunga harassed gun positions and boat concentrations.

