

AREA ONE HEADQUARTERS
WEEKLY REPORT
(February 15 to 21, Inc.)

22 February 1945

AREA HEADQUARTERS

Area Headquarters is still at Mongwi SO 3836. Major Sherman B. Joost, jr., is area commander but is currently with the 1st Battalion. He flew into its strip at Loiman on the 21st.

Major Joost will coordinate the operations of the 1st, 2nd and 6th Battalions in the campaign around Lashio. Similarly Major Newell Brown will go to the 5th Strips at ST 5353 and coordinate its activities with the 3rd Battalion. He will leave on the 22nd.

At the first of the week (February 15) Major Joost went to Bhamo and discussed the plans for the attack on Lashio by the American Kachin Rangers. He conferred with General Cannon who dissuaded him from a too bold attack by the Rangers.

General Cannon explained that the AKR had had a brilliant record to date and that such an attack by the Kachins might be disastrous and result in many unnecessary casualties. He also pointed out that 40,000 Chinese soldiers would be ready to attack Lashio within three weeks. However, he informed Major Joost that if the opportunity presented itself that it was all right for the AKR to launch an all out attack. Harrassing of the Japs in the area was still the major assignment for the Kachins at present, Gen. Cannon explained.

Inter-battalion communication has now been established so that the battalions can contact each other without delay and coordinate their activities. Every member of the AKR has had one goal since enlisting and that is to take Lashio. This will be done if Major Joost feels that a minimum amount of lives will be lost. The Kachins have all been promised discharges

after Lashio has fallen. A very few only are expected to remain in the service for the push south.

During the absence of Majors Joost and Brown, affairs at Mongwi will be handled by Major John Raiss and 1st Lt. Robert R. Rodenberg. 2nd Lt Archie L. Denham will be in charge of the radio net at headquarters.

The drop situation has not shown much improvement during the week. Required amounts of rice were not received by most battalions. Drops also failed to come through on schedule. (See Individual Battalions) Captain Bogdan, Dinjan supply officer is scheduled to come to Mongwi tomorrow (22nd). It is hoped that solution will be worked out once and for all as the supplying of the battalions at this critical juncture in the campaign is most imperative.

There was a mix-up in mail on the 19th when letters written to the United States by men in the 1st, 2nd and 5th Battalions were returned to Mongwi from Bhamo. There were also letters addressed to base personnel and departments. Fortunately the letters were sent out by light planes the same afternoon. Cpl. Reeves, a British enlisted man of the 1st Battalion, complained that his mail to England was going astray as his family had not heard from him in over three months.

Mr. Zao Lawn, who has been in charge of AKR affairs in Sinlunkaba since the moving of headquarters to Mongwi, arrived here on the 19th. He brought with him a portable printing press and will publish a miniature newspaper for the Kachin soldiers and their families. He left on the 20th with Major Joost for the 1st Battalion and will visit the 5th before returning here.

As yet no salt has been dropped to Sinlunkaba since January 16. A total of 30,000 pounds a month to the inhabitants of the area had been previously arranged. Arrangements are currently underway to drop in 36,000 pounds by the end of the month as only 24,000 were dropped during January.

GI Personnel Roster

Major Newell Brown, Area Exec. and Int. Off. - to leave for 5th Bn. on 22nd.
1st Lt. Robert R. Rodenberg, Area Supply and Reports Off.
2nd Lt. Archie L. Denham, Area Commo Off.
T/Sgt. Robert DeWeese, Medic
T/Sgt. John Karsen, Pigeon NCO
S/Sgt. Robert B. Cate, Crypt, NCO
T/4 Melbourne Rackett, Radio NCO
T/4 Roger Campbell, Pigeoner
Cpl. Lyle Estelle, Radio Oper.
T/5 Jerry Genaw, Radio Oper.
T/5 John Bezverkov, Radio Oper.
Pfc. Larrabee Johnson, Crypt
Pfc. Raymond Loraski, Crypt
Pfc. George Fornes, Radio Oper.
Pfc. Albert Wagner, Radio Oper.
Sp.2/c John Conley, Crypt
Mike (Soares), Radio Oper.

1st Lt. Charles G. Hutter, jr, Medic Off., to 1st Batt. on 22nd.
Major Edward Hamm, MO, on temporary duty here.
Lt. Col. Jack T. Shannon, Observer, to 7th Bn, on 24th.
Pfc. Rudolph Tate, to 7th Bn. on 24th

FIRST BATTALION

First Battalion headquarters is still at Kaunghko ST 5969 with drop field at Man-Kang ST 6067. An airstrip that was previously used at Loiman ST 5165 is now being utilized by the battalion. Captain Joseph La zarsky is battalion commander.

The company under Lt. Mudrinich at Manhtam ST 6874 that was in joint operations with the Fitzhugh company of the 2nd Battalion has been withdrawn together with the other company. The two had considerable contact with the Japanese during the first part of the week and on the 15th were driven out of the village. On the 17th both companies were withdrawn from the area. Both companies moved back into Manham a few hours after they were driven out. The final withdrawal was because of lack of ammunition. This battalion complained strenuously about supply drops either being late or inadequate. On the 17th Captain Lazarsky reported that the company was completely out of food and that drops received on the 12th, 13th and 16th only contained 2,000 pounds of food which, he pointed out, was not sufficient for a single company. Also Lazarsky claimed that base said they had not received previous ammunition requests from him but that

had definitely placed detailed requests three time previously.

Pat (British Captain Pat Quinn) is still at headquarters of 1st Battalion. Kachin Agent Tang and his party reported to Pat on the 19th and will be sent out shortly to establish a radio-intelligence net.

Operational Activity

2/15 - 2 Japs killed at ST 6673 near Manhtam. They were identified as members of the medical unit of the 56th Division.

2/15 - 2 Japs killed at ST 6773 in engagement at Manhtam during which the companies of the 1st and 2nd battalions were driven out but later returned.

(Additional casualties this skirnaish/ in 2nd Battalion Summary.)

2/13 - 4 Japs killed and 1 truck destroyed at Nampaklun SO 7929.

2/21 - 3 Japs killed at Nahoi ST 5962.

Positions of Troops - On 21st.

Bn. Hq. at Kaunghko. 2 coys at headquarters and 1 coy at Inailong ST 5761. Battalion strength 700.

Supply Drops - C-47's

Drops received on 16th, 18th, 19th (2), and 20th (2).

GI Personnel

Captain Joseph Lazarsky, Battalion Commander
Captain Robert B. C. Franklin, Area Surgeon
1st Lt. Ralph Yempuku, Nisei
Lt. Edgar M. Hartman, jr.
2nd Lt. Kenneth Stein
M/Sgt. Eric Eckhart, Combat
1st Sgt. William J. Pettigrew, Medic
S/Sgt. Leander P. Jones, Crypt
Cpl. Bert Reeves, Radio Operator
Pfc. Robert V. Lewis, Combat
Gunner Oliver, Combat

1st Lt. Daniel Mudrinich left the battalion on the 20th to go on leave.

He had been in the field for 11 months without break.

SECOND BATTALION

Second Battalion headquarters was moved to Namtaung ST 7384 on February 21. 1st Lt. Philip Grimwood is battalion commander.

Supplies for this battalion improved slightly at the end of the week. Lt. Grimwood wired congratulations on a drop received on the 21st. Earlier, however, on the 20th, he had complained about receiving one plane of rice and soap with very little else. He also has complained about the lack of GI rations.

Lt. Fitzhugh with a company was in action with the Japanese at Manhtam earlier in the week. (See 1ST BN.)

Nineteen Japs were killed as a result of air action at Loingu on the 12th. This action had previously been requested by Grimwood.

Operational Activities

2/15 - 2 Japs killed at Manhtam. (The 1st got 3 at the same time.)

2/16 - 1 Jap killed in attempt to dislodge Japs from well dug-in positions around Manhtam from ST 6571 to the railroad track at ST 6872.

2/17 - 1 Jap killed near Kongmupak ST 7389.

Battalion Locations - February 21

Bn. Hq. at Namtaung, 2 coys at Kunkong ST 7283, 1 coy at Kongmupak ST 7389.

Supply Drops

Drops received on 15th, 16th, 19th, 20th and 21st(2).

GI Personnel

1st Lt. Phillip Grimwood, Battalion Commander
Captain Daniel Barnwell, CO Coy
1st Lt. Norman R. Larum, CO Coy
2nd Lt. Robert Fitzhugh, CO Coy
S/Sgt. J. B. Pruett, Crypt
Sgt. Richard Hamada, Nisei
Sgt. Lawrence Gale
Sgt. Gustave Gersbeck
Sp. 2/c Christopher Rubio, Radio Oper.
Hans, Radio Oper.
CPL CARL WARD S15C12

THIRD BATTALION

Third Battalion headquarters is currently at Namyau ST 5354 adjoining 5th Battalion headquarters. 1st Lt. Thomas T. Chamales is battalion commander.

The Third Battalion is now combining operations with the Fifth and both will coordinate their approach on Lashio.

Throughout the week the battalion has been on the move and Chamales had an opportunity to see Lt. Grimwood, Dennis (British Captain Quinn) and Captain Lazarsky enroute.

One hyphenla was wounded by an accidental misfire on the 15th. Plans to blast a strip there for his evacuation were made and base was asked to standby with a demolition load. However, the soldier died from his wounds.

Operational Activities

Patrolling and local activity only. No casualties inflicted or received.

Battalion Position - Feb. 21

Entire battalion in an around Namyau.

Supply Drops - C-47's

Drops received on 16th, 17th (2), and 20th.

One plane that attempted to drop ammunition on the 16th to the Battalion was shot at from the ground by Japanese. This plane then dropped from an altitude of 5000 feet and the supplies were scattered all over the ground and away from the drop grounds. The supply load contained ammunition.

GI Personnel Roster

1st Lt. Thomas T. Chamales, Battalion Commander
Captain Alvin Freudenberg
1st Lt. Sam S. Woolington, Medical Officer
~~Sgt.~~ Sgt. Quentin Enos
Cpl. Robert Laurel
T/5 Heath Edwards
Pfc. Al Dobberstein
Pvt. Ernest Bochea
Peter Garstin, Radio Oper.

S?Sgt. Shigeto Nazawa returned to base on the 20th.

FIFTH BATTALION

Fifth Battalion headquarters is still at Panghpyet ST 5353 with Captain Lazum Tang commanding.

Its operations will be combined with the 3rd Battalion. Major Newell Brown will join both battalions on the 22nd as coordinator.

Supply has been strained as 160 villagers from the area near Lashio which is being heavily bombed by the Air Corps reported to Battalion Hq. for shelter and food. An additional supply/drop has been requested for their feeding.

An airstrip is being constructed there for the evacuation of wounded and landing of new personnel. By working all night of the 21st the strip is due to be completed on the 22nd. A special drop of demolitions was made on the 20th.

On the 16th an emergency blood plasma drop by light plane was made to the battalion in an effort to save the life of a wounded hypenla. He died later in the day.

Intelligens on the 15th revealed that 5 Japs dressed in Chinese uniforms had captured two villagers and 1 homeguard soldier at Manping ST 5359. This has not been definitely confirmed in its entirety.

Battalion Location

At Panghpyet throughout week with local activity only.

Supply Drops - C-47's

Drops were received on the 19th, and included supplies, demolitions, ammunition and food. 4 planes.

Operational Activities

2/14 - 3 trucks destroyed at Mehan ST 6448.

2/14 - Estimated (but unchecked) 10 to 50 Jap casualties at Manhpai ST 6351. 1 hypenla killed, 2 wounded. Villager also killed. 1 more hypenla who was wounded during engagement died.

2/15 - 1 Jap killed near railway at ST 5753. Others believed killed or wounded by mortar action.

2/21 - 6 Japs killed at Nanyao ST 5249. In action in surrounding area
3 hyphenias, 2 villagers were killed and 5 hyphenias wounded.

GI Personnel Roster

Captain Lazum Tang, Battalion Commander
Captain Arthur Brunstad
1st Lt. Walter A. O'Brien
2nd Lt. John E. Pangborn, jr.
S/Sgt. William Brough
Sgt. James McKinlet, Medic
T/4 Sheichi Kurashi, Nisei
Cpl. Floyd Maves
Pfc. Theodore Chadsey, Radio and Crypt
Pfc. Warren Goodenight

SIXTH BATTALION

Sixth Battalion headquarters is currently at Mankwe ST 6878.

Major Robert Delaney and Major Kyaw Thu are joint commanders.

The Sixth Battalion has been on the move recently but was ordered
to hold up at Mankwe on the 18th awaiting further orders from ~~simstz~~ Major
Joost after he arrived at 1st Battalion headquarters/ on the 20th.

Operational Activities

Minor patrol action only.

Battalion Position - Feb. 21

Bn. Hq. at Mankwe. Platoons at Loingu ST 7577, Wengthe ST 7374 and
Loiship ST 7070 to feel out strength of Japs along the road.

GI Personnel

Major Robert Delaney, Battalion Co-commander
Major Kyaw Thu, Battalion Co-commander
1st Lt. Douglas B. Martin, Coy CO
2nd Lt. Palmer L. Hanson, Coy CO
2nd Lt. Leroy J. Wright, Coy CO
2nd Lt. Pierre D. Mead
Sgt. Paul Froberg
Alley (Schiller), Radio and Crypt

Supply Drops - C-47's Drops received 15th, 19th. The Sixth also
was short of rice during the drops.

SEVENTH BATTALION

Seventh Battalion headquarters is currently at Longtawkno ST 1653 with Major Lutken as battalion commander. A small detail was left to guard the airstrip near Hungwe at 0973 (ST).

British Agent Tin Fax (also known as Taiktsu), Nr. 96B. reported to Lutken's headquarters on the 15th. He walked to Mongwi and was flown out to Shamo on the 19th.

The assistant superintendent of Tawngpeng State was taken into custody on the 16th and is being held there pending further questioning. The Namhsan Sawbwa who has been cooperating with Lutken is also still there. He will be flown out shortly.

Pvt (?) McLeod, a medical enlisted man was flown into the 7th Bn. on the 16th. Lt. Col. Jack T. Shannon is scheduled to go in as an observer within the next few days.

Operational Activities

2/14 - 8 Japs killed, many wounded in jungle near Inspection Bungalow at Mansam ST 3253.

2/15 - 5 Japs killed along trail at ST 307560 by ambush party.

2/17 - 3 trucks damaged or destroyed along road at ST 310554 with bazookas and BAR's. There were four trucks. Jap casualties unknown.

AKR losses during these last two actions are 2 missing.

Battalion Position

Moved during week. Now at Longtawkno ST 1653 with outposts in vicinity.

Supply Drop - C-47

on the 16th, a supply request that had been requested for a later time was dropped in without notice. This postponed the battalion movement for several days.

GI Personnel

Major Peter Lutken, Battalion Commander
Captain Carl E. Roberts
Lt. Gordon E. Totten
Lt. John A. McCargar
Lt. Wesley Richardson, Pfc. Wm. Russell, T/5 Curtis Schults, Pvt. (?) McLeod/

Percy Unger, Sausen and Ernie