

FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

(Third Infantry Division)

This celebrated outfit, the "China Regiment" or the "Can Do" of Far East fame, is the fourth to hold the number "15" in the infantry of the Regular Army. Its insignia shows a golden dragon, and the mess table of its noncoms displays a magnificent incense burner presented by the citizens of Tientsin. These are two of many reminders the regiment has retained from the twenty-six consecutive years it spent in China. But these objects tell only a fraction of the long story of the Fifteenth from its activation by order of President Abraham Lincoln to its current service in Korea.

As a volunteer unit in the War of 1812, the 15th participated in the expedition which captured Fort George, Canada. Following the capture of the post, a British counterattack drove the American Force into a nearly disastrous retreat. The movement was covered successfully by the 15th which lost nearly half of its strength in a valiant fight against a much stronger foe. Again as a volunteer unit, the 15th served in the Mexican War as a part of General Winfield Scott's expedition to Vera Cruz. The regiment fought in the battle there as well as in others at Plandol Rio, Cerro Gordo, Curubusco, Las Animas, Jalapa, Chapultepec and Mexico City. When peace came, the 15th again was mustered out.

The 15th Infantry Regiment was created at the start of the Civil War. In the fall of 1861, recruiting headquarters were established for the new regiment in the vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio, but as was the case with all regular regiments during the war-enlistments came slowly. The reason was that men preferred to join volunteer units raised by the states. Since the Fifteenth today stems from the 1st Battalion of the Fifteenth in 1861, this account will consider only that battalion.

It was completely organized in time to serve at Shiloh, 6 and 7 April 1862, where it endured a rough baptism of fire. Four men were killed and fifty-five wounded. The baptism of the battalion set the tenor of its service for the rest of the war. In twenty-two actions it was-in spite of some replacements-cut down, by late 1864, from eight companies to four, having lost 382 men, or 50 percent of its authorized strength.

The conduct of the battalion at Chickamauga, 8 September 1863 typifies the splendid soldiering of the Fifteenth. Behind a low log breastwork, it held the extreme left of the division line without protection for its own flank. Two Confederate regiments turned the exposed flank, and fired down the rank at close range. Unable to return this destructive fire, Albert B. Dodd the captain commanding the battalion, ordered the men up on their feet and marched them across one hundred yards of open ground to a woods "... as steadily and in as good order as if on drill or parade". That in itself was a fine exhibition of disciplined action, but it was not the high point! Once in the shelter of the woods, Dodd learned that the works he had left were to be held at all cost. Without hesitation, he reversed

the battalion and marched it back through the heavy fire. Behind the log breastwork once more, and aided by a regiment from the woods, the battalion fought off four charges until "..... the ground in front [was] literally strewn with [Confederate] dead and wounded ". This was their style of fighting in twenty-two engagements with the United States armies in the West. At the Battle of Chickamauga and during much of its service the regiment was part of the famous XIV Corps, commanded by Major General George H. Thomas. This association produced two symbols which appear on the unit's coat of arms and on its distinctive insignia. The first is the acorn the device of the XIV Corps. It is used four times to represent the four major battles of the Civil War in which the Fifteenth fought. The second is the mountain of stone that is placed at the top as a symbol of the nickname "Rock of Chickamauga" earned by the corps for its firm stand. When the war was over, the 15th Infantry was sent to Alabama to serve as occupation troops. Late in 1866, each of the three battalions of eight companies was directed to be made into a full regiment of ten companies. This is the point at which the 1st Battalion became the 15th Regiment, and at which the history of the three battalions separates. The 2nd Battalion became the 24th Infantry and the 3rd, the 33rd. Headquarters was at Mobile, but the companies were scattered in other towns throughout Alabama. The regiment remained in Alabama until August 1868 when it was transferred to northeastern Texas for occupation duty. Headquarters was at Marshall, Texas, and the companies were stationed in county seats in the same vicinity. Reconstruction duty, like most occupation service, was a boring, disconsolate business. Because many of the officers and men had joined since the war and were not well disciplined, Major General John Pope, commander of the district, had to report in 1867 that his troops were not adequate either in discipline or efficiency. He was, of course, referring to his whole command not just to the Fifteenth. Sometimes the troops had to use their arms, as in a riot in Mobile in June 1868 ; but most of the time they went through a training schedule, the prime purpose of which was to keep them out of trouble. It was no pleasure to the soldiers of the Fifteenth to arrest ragged ex-rebels because of rusty Confederate buttons on their jackets, but they did their duty as Congress had defined it. During the summer of 1869, the 35th Infantry was merged with the Fifteenth. It was shortly after the merger that the consolidated regiment turned its back, with relief, on occupation duty and took the old Butterfield Trail, 19 August, toward the Territory of New Mexico. The march of 1 500 miles came off in good order and at a reasonable pace, so that the unit reached its new station tough and in good health. The companies were immediately scattered throughout New Mexico and Arizona Territories, where for twelve years they endured the usual hot and dusty routine of service in the Southwest. There were a few fights, and the regiment earned the right to wear two more campaign streamers, one for action against the Utes, the other against the Mescalero Apaches in 1880.

In 1881 the regiment was transferred to Colorado, except one company which remained in

Santa Fe. Here it was joined for a short time by Second Lieutenant Andrew S. Rowan who became famous seventeen years later for " carrying the message to Garcia " during the Spanish- American War. The stay in Colorado lasted only to October, 1882, when the unit took up a new station, this time in Dakota Territory, where it served for eight years. After the service in Dakota, a worse-than-usual split occurred. A few companies went to the South Atlantic states, while five companies and Headquarters remained in the Dakotas. The split was not healed until early 1891 when all elements were directed to go to Fort Sheridan, Illinois. Here, in a memorable ceremony on 29 May, Colonel John N. Whistler announced the first reunion of all the companies in twenty-two years; that is, since 29 September 1869.

During July 1894, while at Fort Sheridan, the entire regiment except the band was called on to perform a service as nasty as occupation duty. Violence flared up in one of the severest of American strikes at the Pullman works, and the regiment was required to help keep order. Whatever the soldiers thought of the rights of the strikers, or of the management, once again they did their duty and kept their mouths shut. As a result, they received a standard from the "Sons of the Revolution of the State of Illinois" for gallant and meritorious service during the riots.

Two years later, 15 October 1896, the Fifteenth left Fort Sheridan to return to its old stamping grounds in the Southwest. There it was stationed, with its companies scattered as they had been before, when the war with Spain came in 1898. Like the other infantry regiments, it was reorganized at the start of that war from one battalion of ten companies to three battalions of four companies each.

By the time the regiment was collected at Huntsville, Alabama-where some of its companies had been stationed thirty years before-for combat service, the shooting war was over. When the companies had been recruited up to 109 enlisted men, the outfit left the country to do occupation duty once more, this time in Cuba. It arrived on the island in December 1898 and was scattered by companies through the province of Puerto Principe. Here it settled into the well-known role of being available in case there was trouble. All threats of violence were settled by persuasion, but the worst enemies were not reasonable. They were boredom and yellow fever, both of which the unit had fought three decades before in Alabama. The 2nd Battalion was relieved from occupation duty in October 1899 and sent to New York to become the depot element for the regiment, but the rest finished out a full year before they left Cuba. In January 1900, they were lifted out of the tropics of Puerto Principe and were put down in the mid-winter weather of upper New York State and of Vermont. Such an abrupt change could have been expected to cause sickness, but Colonel Eduard Meale proudly reported that his command stood it without severe dislocations.

For two of the battalions, service in the United States was short lived. The 1st, with Headquarters and the band, left the country in July and August 1900, for duty in the Far East. It reached China too late to take part in the fighting, but found constant vigilance necessary. The Boxers, as the insurgent Chinese were called, wished to expel all foreigners from China

and were quick to kill any soldiers they found strayed from their comrades. The China service of the 1st Battalion was the prelude to a long tour of duty, twelve years later, which was to give the regiment its nickname, the "China Regiment".

The 3rd Battalion went to the Philippines (instead of China) where it arrived just in time for Company " L " to take part in the sharpest fight any part of the regiment had since the scrap against the Apaches in 1880. One hundred thirty men, most of them from the 15th Regiment, attacked eight hundred Philippine insurgents in Laguna Province on 17 September. Because the area was flooded, they fought for an hour and twenty minutes waist-deep in water. Captain David Mitchell, 2nd Lt George A. Cooper, three noncoms and eleven privates were killed, thirteen men wounded. After this, there were other brisk fights, and in them the "Can Do" Regiment carried itself well.

The 2nd Battalion, which had remained in New York, did not appear in the Philippines until February 1902, just in time to turn around and return with its outfit in September to the United States. Permanent station was set up at Monterey, California, where the regiment built the present post.

The record of the next three years is uneventful, but it shows that the Fifteenth kept itself in good shape. The unit was outstanding in the Army's rifle competition, placing seven men on the team of ten men from the Pacific Division in the annual competition in 1905. In November of that year, the regiment once again left the country and took station in Mindanao, PI. Two years later, it was back again, this time with Headquarters at Fort Douglas, Utah.

After 1907 the next change of station did not come for four years, but when it did come the 15th Infantry left the United States for twenty-six years. Before this removal, the regiment distinguished itself further in rifle competition. Its entrants won first, second and fourth honors in the individual competition, and five of its six contestants made the ten-man Army Rifle Team. This showing seems all the finer when it is known that the hitches of 500 men had expired during 1908, and that green recruits had filled the regiment at its home station in Utah and took part in a banquet given in their honor by the officers.

Elements of the Fifteenth began to move to the Far East in November 1911. By mid 1912, Headquarters, the Band, and the 1st and 3rd Battalions were established at Tientsin in China; the 2nd in the Philippines. The latter never joined the rest, for the men were transferred from it to the 1st Battalion of the 31st Infantry in August 1916. The Battalion was reorganized in Tientsin by transfer of personnel from the other two battalions.

The outfit went to China as a result of the revolution which overthrew the ancient empire and established a republic. The United States agreed with the great powers of Europe that the new government might not be able to keep order for a while, so the Fifteenth joined an international force which had been in China since the Boxer Rebellion. At first the force was supposed to keep the railroad from Peking open, even after the capital had been moved to Nanking, a long way south. The mission of the regiment became difficult to define, and in the course of time the unit itself was transferred to the control of the State Department.

There was much pleasure in the China duty but also much tension. For twenty-six years the regiment had to cope with as delicate a diplomatic situation as any American troops were ever obliged to face. It was stationed in a sovereign nation, with which the United States was not at war, to protect citizens and their property from violence if there should be any. This was touchy enough, but not, by any means all, for the regiment was a part of an international force. This then, was the problem: the soldiers had to avoid ruffling the Chinese-who did not like the foreigners in their country anyway-and also sidestep brawls with the troops of Germany, Japan, Great Britain, Italy and France. It is to the credit of the "Can Do's" that they were able to do what the situation required.

In line with new doctrine on organization, three provisional companies, Headquarters, Supply, and Machine Gun, were formed during August 1914, and in 1916 they were made permanent. That same year, World War I broke out in Europe, and most of the European nations withdrew their troops from China. Dutifully, the old "China Regiment" took over their patrolling. As a result, the regiment missed the fight in Europe, but it was often close to conflict in China. Armies of war lords roamed the land and sometimes threatened the American quarter. Christmas Day, 1925 was very tense, for 5,000 troops belonging to Feng, a war lord from the north, entered the area. Captain Tuttle with nine men went out to warn off this horde. As the tiny detachment approached, the advanced guard of the mass deployed and came on with fixed bayonets. Not flinching, the nine doughboys blocked the road while Tuttle proceeded alone toward the invaders. He ordered them to make a detour, and marvelous to say, they finally did.

For reasons of state, the 1st Battalion went to the Philippines in August 1921, where eight years later, it was inactivated. In 1932, Companies "G" and "L" were also inactivated. This left six companies at their stations in Tientsin. Much of the tradition of the regiment comes from its twenty-six years' stay in China. George C. Marshall, later General of the Armies, commanded it from 1924 to 1927. The dragon on its distinctive insignia and the motto in pidgin English "Can Do" symbolize the China service. Also the ceremonial properties of the 15th are mostly from China, for example, the grand silver punch bowl with accessories.

The regiment left China in March 1938 and took station at Fort Lewis, Washington. Even as it moved, world affairs were developing toward the terrible crisis that was to cut the Fifteenth's time in the United States to four years. There were two memorable connections made in 1940: Dwight D. Eisenhower came to the regiment where he served for a time as Executive Officer. More lasting was the relationship of the regiment to the 3rd Infantry Division to which it was assigned in January 1940. One month before the nation entered World War II, the division and the Fifteenth with it, began to specialize on assault landings. This specialization led it into fighting as hard and as continuous as any unit endured. The "China Regiment", bearing its share of the fight, was conspicuous on many fronts. It took part in the first assault landing on North Africa in November 1942. Less than a year later the doughfoots of the Fifteenth struck Sicily in July 1943. In August the regiment made the hop from the island to the mainland of Italy, and the fight for "Fortress Europe" was on. The Fifteenth hammered on toward Rome and was in the midst of the landing at Anzio. Once

Italy was in the bag, the outfit helped land on the southern coast of France. There followed a fight through the Vosges Mountains, across the Rhine and into Germany. When the war ended in Europe, the ubiquitous "Can Do" was near Berchtesgaden, Hitler's hideout.

No regiment made a more distinguished record in the Second World War. The ten campaign streamers (four with arrowhead), the Distinguished Unit Streamer, the French Croix de Guerre, and the French fourragere on its colors; the numerous streamers on company guidons; and the list of fifteen Medal of Honor winners all attest to gallantry far beyond the usual.

The 15th remained in Europe for a year after the war was over; then, in September 1946 it reached the United States. Here it located at Camp Campbell, Kentucky, until December 1949 to organize the 3rd Battalion with Negro personnel. This order was rescinded after operating twenty-one months. The nation was once again in danger, and as was to be expected, the "Can Do" was ready to fill the breach. Thus, late in 1950 it found itself in Korea, assigned to the X Corps. Here was a new enemy with very old tactics. In the course of time, the 15th Regiment learned to cope with the tactics; but it did not need to learn the will to do its duty. They had been learning since 1861.

On 17 November 1950, the 15th Infantry Regiment, as part of its parent unit, was engaged in the HAMHUNG-HUNGNAM area just above WONSAN. The 15th Regimental Combat Team, as it was then known, was comprised of the 15th Infantry with the following attachments: 39th Field Artillery Battalion; 3rd Anti-aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion(-); Company B, 64th Heavy Tank Battalion; Company B 10th Engineer (C) Battalion; Detachment, 3rd Signal Company; the 3rd Battalion of the Korean Marine Corps, and the 5th Battalion of the Korean Marine Corps less the 23rd Company.

The 15th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) was assigned the mission of securing WONSAN and the area south and west of the city with the main effort to be made westward on the WONSAN-ONJONG-NI axis.

This mission turned out to be quite a bite and require some studied chewing. The 3rd Korean Marine Corps (KMC) was cut off and it took nearly the whole 1st Battalion to get them out. Then, one bright morning, the 65th Infantry Regiment captured some prisoners, and the Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) became known to all. In actuality, two Chinese armies had crossed the YALU in October 1950. The Commanding General, Major General Soule, was ordered to cover the withdrawal of X Corps into the HAMHUNG PERIMETER.

The three RCT'S were broken up and the 15th Infantry was taken into X Corps reserve, while the 65th and 7th Regiments were placed in blocking positions 5 to 7 miles from HAMHUNG with orders to give ground only on division orders. While the two sister regiments were fighting every inch of ground in a major delaying action, the 15th Infantry was preparing for the last ditch stand to be made on FOX LINE. The regiment subsequently was attached to the 7th Division, to Outpost ABLE LINE, to cover the withdrawal of that division. The relief and outloading of the 7th Division was successfully made, and elements of the 3rd Division began to outload. On the 24th of December, the 7th Infantry

Regiment cleared the beach at 1230, the 65th Infantry at 1237, and the 15th cleared at 1400 hours. The 15TH had covered the withdrawal of 17,500 vehicles, 350,000 tons of bulk cargo, 105,000 troops and over 100,000 civilians from HUNGMAN.

By New Year's Day all division troops were ashore at Pusan. By the 4th of January the 15th Infantry, again an RCT, moved north to SANGJI-RI, about six miles southwest of ANSONG. They were joined on the 6th and 7th of January 1951 by the 65th Infantry Regiment. All units dug in to hold. By 15-25 January it was clear the Chinese advance had been halted.

From this position the division lashed out toward SUWON, and continued to drive north toward SEOUL. On 11 February, the end of enemy resistance south of the HAN RIVER was in view. Tank-infantry patrols from the 15th Infantry Regiment and the 7th Infantry Regiment had reached the river. LINE BOSTON was occupied, which ran generally parallel to the river.

By 4 March the 15th conducted a demonstration on the south bank of the river to annoy and deceive the Reds, and on the morning of the 7th of March the crossing of the HAN RIVER began. The Chinese fought savagely at first, but by 4 March they gave up SEOUL without a fight. A bridge was placed across the river and the attack continued toward UIJONGBU. A task force from the 64th Tank Battalion entered UIJONGBU with light resistance, but the 1.5th Infantry with the 65th Infantry Regiment met heavy resistance on Hill 337 about 2 miles northeast of the town.

By 24 March the Battalion, 15th Infantry, had taken Hill 337, Company "A" and Company "C" bearing the brunt of the assault. On 26 March the First Battalion linked up with the 187 RCT which had made a drop at MUNSAN-NI on 23 March. By 30 March the 15th was withdrawn from line and put into an assembly area, near SEOUL, to act as corps reserve. By 31 March elements of the division had recrossed the 38th Parallel. By 22 April the division had occupied a line which was known as the KANSAS LINE, some 12 to 18 miles generally south of LINE MISSOURI. On 22 April also, the Chinese drive out of the "IRON TRIANGLE" began.

The 15th Infantry was at this time on special duty with I Corps. The Chinese smashed against the UN line, losing thousands of troops but forcing the line slowly back. In these actions the Gloucesters of the 29th British Independent Brigade and the Belgian United Nations Command were surrounded and suffered heavy casualties. The division commander requested the 15th Infantry to return and relinquish the 29th BIB and the BUNC'S to I Corps. Corps directed a withdrawal to LINE DELTA. The 15th went on line and relieved the 7th Infantry Regiment in the line. OPERATION GOLDEN was put into effect and a withdrawal to a perimeter around SEOUL was initiated on 25 April.

By 27 April positions on LINE GOLDEN were stabilized. In early May the 64th Tank Battalion ran into UIJONGBU and accounted for over 300 Chinese dead. On 10 May the 15th Infantry was again constituted an RCT and placed in Eighth Army reserve with its parent unit, to be employed anywhere on call.

By 18 May the Regimental Combat Team was employed behind the crumbling 7th ROK Division in the vicinity of HOENGSONG to protect the right flank of the 2nd Division. The line was forced back and forth until operation PILEDRIIVER stabilized the position along what was to become LINE MISSOURI.

The regiment remained on line with its parent unit until the truce talks started at PANMUNJOM. The line was comparatively stable through June 1951 until the end of hostilities.

The 15th Infantry was in reserve and training with one battalion, the 1st, guarding prisoners on KOJE-DO for a short period.

The year 1952 was filled with patrol and outpost actions, in which the 15th Infantry Regiment continued to distinguish itself in the "new" type of settled war. By mid-December 1952 the 3rd Division, with the 15th Infantry was again off line and entered into an intense training period.

As the year 1953 began, the 15th Infantry Regiment made preparations for a nine-week training program. Colonel Richard G. Stilwell, commanding, expressed a desire that the training be conducted in the same indomitable spirit as the defense of LINE MISSOURI had been in the previous three months.

The regiment reorganized to accomplish its training mission with great success. Special regimental schools were initiated and put into operation during the first week of training, to include radio, wire, driver's and mechanic's schools. A forward observer school was initiated by the 39th Field Artillery Battalion, which was in direct support of the regiment, and trained approximately sixty observers from subordinate units.

Training continued until 28 January when the Third Infantry Division was ordered to relieve the Twenty-Fifth Infantry Division on LINE MISSOURI. The order directed the Fifteenth Infantry with attachments: GEF Battalion (Greek Expeditionary Force), Heavy Mortar Company (minus one platoon) of the 7th Infantry Regiment, and the 3rd Reconnaissance Company to relieve elements of the Thirty-Fifth and Fourteenth Infantry Regiments. Heavy Mortar Company and Tank Company of the 15th were positioned to support the various battalions on line. By 0500 hours*, 29 January 1953, Colonel Stilwell accepted responsibility for the regimental sector of LINE MISSOURI. This sector included the new famous trio of outposts: TOM, DICK, and HARRY, and extended right (east) from the vicinity of Chorwon, Korea, at the base of the strategic "IRON TRIANGLE" in the east-central portion of the 155 mile Eighth Army line across Korea.

The regiment then occupied a four battalion sector** with the 1st Battalion occupying the left sector with responsibility for Outpost TOM (sometimes called Hill 270), the 3rd Battalion occupying the left-central sector with responsibility for Outpost DICK, the 2nd Battalion occupying the right-central sector with responsibility for Outpost HARRY, and the GEF Battalion occupying the right sector with no outpost as such, but with an extremely rugged section of the Main Line

*0500 hours: The Army 24 hour time system is used throughout the narrative- 12:00 midnight is 2400 hours; 12:00 noon is 1200 hours.

**Four Battalion Sector: See inside front cover.

of Resistance, including the " EAGLE'S NEST ", to defend. Third Reconnaissance Company, attached to the 1st Battalion, occupied the right portion of the CHORWON VALLEY and the 1st Battalion was then given the mission of regimental reserve, utilizing one rifle company. In accordance with the regimental policy of rotating companies on forward outposts, Company " A " relieved Company " C " on Outpost TOM, and Company " E " relieved Company " F " on Outpost HARRY on 12 February, and this policy of rotating the companies continued, to include Outpost DICK and the Main Line of Resistance positions.

Most of the time spent during daylight and darkness was utilized to rebuild and strengthen the front-line positions and the outposts. For the front-line trooper this meant dig, dig, dig. All of the outposts were reconstructed and strengthened by deepening the trenches and improving the fighting positions with overhead cover and larger structural supports. Company " B " 10th Engineer (C) Battalion, in direct support of the 15th Infantry, aided materially with trained demolition teams and prefabricated bunkers, while a 24-hour construction program maintained by the line battalions, moved the Main Line of Resistance out of the swampy ground onto more tenable hill masses, requiring the construction of thousands of yards of trench and hundreds of new automatic weapons positions.

Patrol contacts during this period were limited to small skirmishes between small bands of CCF (Chinese Communist Forces) marauders and friendly ambush and reconnaissance patrols.

During the month of February, an intensive program of harassing and interdicting fires, coordinating all of the weapons available in the regimental sector, was successfully employed to inflict extensive damage on the enemy. This program was built-up until it reached proportions unheard of in previous conflicts.

On 20 February 1953, General Maxwell D. Taylor, Commanding General of the Eighth Army, visited the 15th Infantry Regiment. After a briefing by the regimental commander, General Taylor inspected Company "G" at its front-line position on LINE MISSOURI. Accompanying General Taylor on his visit were Lieutenant General Reuben E. Jenkins, Commanding General, IX Corps, and Major General George W. Smythe, Commanding General, 3d Infantry Division.

The regiment was opposed at this time by elements of the 211th and 212th Regiments, 71st CCF Division, 24th CCF Army. The 211th Regiment occupied positions on a hill mass known as CAMEL'S BACK and Hill 391, and a hill mass known as JACKSON HEIGHTS. The 212th Regiment had one battalion on line from Hill 472 to the STAR masses, with the other battalion on Hill 716. The enemy had dug extensive communications trenches on all key terrain, forward to the two main outposts in the area, DICK and HARRY. The majority of the enemy artillery fire fell on the three outposts, TOM, DICK, and HARRY and consisted of 76 mm, 105 mm, 120 mm and 82 mm rounds. Some harassing fire fell on front-line positions and important road junctions.

On 6 March 1953, the regimental CP and the GEF Battalion were visited by General Mark Clark, Lieutenant General Maxwell D. Taylor, Lieutenant General Reuben E Jenkins, and Major General George W. Smythe. The visiting generals were briefed on the local tactical situation by the commanding officer, GEF Battalion.

On March 10, 1953 Company " E " was relieved on Outpost HARRY by Company " G " and on 14 March Company " I " relieved Company " K " on Outpost DICK.

On 21 March, Colonel Russell P. Akers Jr. assumed command of the 15th Infantry Regiment, replacing Colonel Richard G. Stilwell, who had been regimental commander since 4 November 1952. Between 21 March and 24 March, a total of 3157 rounds of mixed mortar and artillery fell in the regimental sector. This marked a very definite increase in the enemy shelling which had been averaging 50 rounds per day during the month. Enemy shelling was concentrated on Outposts TOM and DICK.

During the month of March the Regimental Battle Patrol was organized as a volunteer force composed of 2 officers and 48 enlisted men. The mission of this special unit was to provide the regiment with a specially trained and equipped volunteer force capable of effective destruction of the enemy and for gaining vital enemy information. During the month, the battle patrol was organized, trained, and employed with success on tactical missions.

During the month of March inclement weather provided an obstacle to movement and transportation in the regimental sector. Also, rain and melting snows took their toll of defensive works along the MLR, causing both trench-work and bunkers to collapse. Colonel Akers, the regimental commander instituted a rigorous reconstruction schedule in his area with particular emphasis upon offsetting natural and enemy destruction. On 20 March, the high water on Hant'an-Ch'on River caused the bridge to be closed to vehicular traffic. On the same day, the 6th Cargo Helicopter Company transported loads of material and supplies to the forward areas. This was the first use of a cargo helicopter company by the Army in Korea to supply a front-line regiment.

On 23 March at 0500 hours, preceded by 86 rounds of 76 mm and 60 mm, a CCF platoon probed Outpost DICK, held by Company I. An intense firefight ensued which lasted 15 minutes. The results were 7 CCF counted dead and 1 prisoner taken. This was the first prisoner of war taken by the division since the previous summer.

April opened with elements of the 1st Battalion the left, commanded by Maj. Avery; 3rd Battalion on the left center, commanded by Lt Col L.W. Shropshire; 2nd Battalion on the right center, commanded by Maj. J.K. Singlaub; and the GEF Battalion on the right, commanded by Lt Col Koumanakis. The 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment was made available as a regimental reserve force. On 1 April, Company "C", 10th Engineer (C) Battalion, relieved Company " B " 10th Engineer (C) Battalion, as the direct support engineer company.

On 3 April at about 0100 hours, intensive enemy artillery and mortar barrages began falling on Company " G ", then occupying Outpost HARRY, the 2nd Battalion sector of the MLR. At 0105 hours, a strong enemy force assaulted Outpost HARRY; after a 3-hour-and-40-minute firefight, the enemy was forced to withdraw. Enemy casualties known and estimated were as follows: 95 KIA (Killed in Action), and 83 WIA (Wounded in Action). Two prisoners were taken. Between 1800 hours 2 April and 1800 hours 3 April, a total of 3329 rounds of mixed mortar and artillery fell across the regimental front. At 1905 hours the same day,

Company " F " relieved Company " G " on Outpost HARRY and assumed responsibility for the outpost mission, with Company " G " assuming responsibility for the 2nd Battalion right company sector of the MLR.

On 10 April at 0501 hours, Company " A " relieved Company " C " and assumed responsibility for Outpost TOM and MLR positions of the right company sector of the 1st Battalion. At 0900 hours the same day, Company " C " became regimental reserve.

Enemy activity become much more pronounced after the first enemy attempt on Outpost HARRY, and it became obvious that the enemy was about to make a concerted effort to improve his positions along the " IRON TRIANGLE " with the aim of making the present positions along LINE MISSOURI held by UN Forces untenable. Outposts TOM and HARRY were declared major outposts by Eighth US Army to be held at all costs, for both of these hills commanded approach routes to the southern accesses to Seoul and southern Korea.

On 16 April at 2185 hours, a reconnaissance patrol from Company " C " made contact with an estimated reinforced enemy company. During the resulting 7-hour-and-14-minute fire fight, the friendly force inflicted the following casualties on the enemy: One KIA, twenty-five estimated KIA, and forty-five estimated WIA. On the same night, just after midnight, an estimated reinforced enemy platoon engaged two listening posts near Outpost TOM in a small arms and automatic weapons firefight. After a 1-hour-and-5 minute firefight the enemy withdrew, leaving 2 KIA and 11 WIA.

On 20 April Company " C " relieved Company " B " on the MLR with Company " B " relieving Company " A " on Outpost TOM, and Company " A " assuming responsibility for the regimental reserve.

The second attempt against Outpost HARRY came at 2300 hours on 24 April when an estimated 800 round TOT* hit the outpost then occupied by Company " F ". At 2304 hours an estimated CCF battalion engaged friendly forces in an intense small arms, automatic weapons and hand grenade firefight on the outpost. At 0100 hours on 25 April, a composite platoon from Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, and one platoon of Company " F " designated counterattacking force, closed Outpost HARRY. At 0130 hours the 2nd Platoon, Company " A " closed Outpost HARRY to assist in ejecting the enemy from the outpost. At 0215 hours the enemy disengaged and the firefight ceased. Immediately prior to and during the action, approximately 2000 rounds of mixed mortar and artillery were received on Outpost HARRY. A total of 4000 rounds of mixed mortar and artillery were received during the period. Enemy casualties were as follows: 35 counted KIA; 40 estimated KIA; 125 estimated WIA.

Colonel Russell F. Akers Jr, the regimental commander, immediately took steps to insure that Outpost HARRY would continue to be held. On 25 April, Company " A " was attached to the 2nd Battalion, and at 1600 hours that day relieved Company " E " on the MLR so that Company " E " could relieve Company " F " on the outpost. Company " E " remained off line until 30 April, assimilating replacements and reorganizing, when they relieved Company " A " on the MLR, assuming responsibility for the left sector in rear of Outpost HARRY.

*TOT-Time on Target; massed artillery fires.

The burden of rebuilding the damaged outpost and sections of the MLR fell mainly on the infantry assisted by engineer specialist teams from Companies " B " and " C " of the 10th Engineer (C) Battalion. Outpost TOM came under major remodeling and rebuilding at this time, and the 3rd Platoon of Company " C ", 10 Engineers assisted the 1st Battalion.

With the continued warm weather, the patrol actions increased in both size and intensity. Approximately at midnight on the 9th of May, a friendly patrol engaged an estimated 30 CCF in 15-minute small arms, automatic weapons, and hand grenade firefight on the right side of Outpost TOM. The friendly patrol was forced to withdraw with two wounded, while the Chinese left four dead and took ten wounded from the field. On 10 May a friendly patrol dispatched to the left of Outpost TOM was engaged by an estimated two platoon CCF force in a 1 hour and 15 minute intense small arms, automatic weapons, and hand grenade firefight. The patrol was reinforced by one squad from the Main Line of Resistance at 2210 hours, and both the patrol and reinforcing group were forced to withdraw to the MLR with the firefight continuing as they withdrew. Friendly casualties were 3 KIA and 5 WIA; enemy casualties were 50 WIA. The same night, after midnight, a 45 man screening force was dispatched to screen the site of the patrol action, and this group engaged an estimated CCF squad in a short firefight, forcing the enemy from the field.

Patrol actions continued in the CHORWON VALLEY and in the valley on the right side of Outpost HARRY. On 16 May a large number of Chinese were sighted moving in the vicinity of STAR HILL. Just after midnight an estimated enemy platoon-to-company-size force was sighted moving from STAR HILL to Outpost HARRY. A friendly artillery TOT was placed and all the defensive fires around Output HARRY were fired. No actual contact was made on HARRY, but approximately 500 rounds of enemy mortar and artillery fell on the outpost. Friendly artillery fires by the 39th Field Artillery Battalion, the 58th FA Battalion, the 9th Medium and 10th FA Battalions, and the 937th FA Battalion consisted of three TOT's on STAR HILL. Total enemy moving toward HARRY were estimated at 250 CCF. As a result of the devastating artillery and accurate small arms fire, the enemy lost 50 dead and 75 wounded, with friendly casualties at 6 dead and 2 wounded. This abortive attempt on the outpost guarding the right of the CHORWON VALLEY proved to the enemy that he must launch a massive attack if he wished to dislodge the 15th United States Infantry from this vital hill.

During the night of 15-16 May, the regiment effected relief of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Infantry, with the 2nd Battalion, 65th Infantry, which was under operational control of the 15th for relief. On the night of 17-18 May the GEF Battalion relieved the 3rd Battalion in sector of Outpost DICK. The 3rd Battalion reverted to regimental reserve for a short training program and work on the LINE WYOMING.

On 21 May a screening patrol accompanied by a war dog team was dispatched to the left side of Outpost TOM. This patrol preceded a company size raid, conducted by Company " B ", which was dispatched from Outpost TOM with the mission of intercepting and destroying the enemy. At 2311 hours the screening patrol became engaged in a long range skirmish with the Chinese in the valley. The enemy withdrew with no one injured on either side. Again,

just after midnight, Company " B " became engaged in a 20-minute firefight with an enemy platoon, forcing the enemy to withdraw, leaving two wounded on the field, who were captured. At the same time, other elements of Company " B " engaged another enemy platoon approaching their position from north and east. The firefight lasted approximately one hour, with the enemy withdrawing to the vicinity of JACKSON HEIGHTS. The enemy stragglers and small groups continued to harass until about 0400 hours. At 0220 hours the screening patrol turned into an ambush patrol and intercepted 40 to 50 CCF, and this firefight continued for an hour and 35 minutes. The total number of Chinese engaged thus amounted to a reinforced Chinese company. All of the separate actions, some proceeding at the same time as others, were supported by both friendly and enemy mortar and artillery fires, with 529 enemy rounds landing in the sector during the engagements. Friendly casualties for the complete action were 3 killed and 39 wounded, while enemy casualties were 14 counted dead, 24 estimated dead, 3 counted wounded and 40 to 50 estimated wounded. Nine CCF bodies were recovered. During this period the GEF Battalion occupied Outpost DICK, completing extensive work on automatic weapons positions, trenchlines, and overhead cover.

Early in the morning of 26 May, a friendly raiding party composed of elements of the 3rd Battalion commanded by Lt. Col. L. W. Shropshire, engaged an estimated 40 CCF on OLD CHARLIE, a Chinese outpost immediately in front of and on the same hill mass as the friendly outpost, DICK. Supported by friendly artillery, mortar, and tank fire, the raiding party withdrew according to plan after twenty-five minutes, having destroyed the ammunition supply point and damaged or destroyed seven bunkers. Enemy casualties were 13 counted killed, 4 estimated killed, and 11 estimated wounded. The raiding party suffered three casualties, all lightly wounded. As this raid was supported by elements of all battalions of the regiment, and required the closest possible coordination, Colonel Akers, regimental commander, and Lt. Col. Shropshire, CO., 3rd Battalion, established forward Cps in a front-line position just opposite the objective and personally supervised this most successful operation.

Many psychological broadcasts were made to the Chinese during the month of May, with friendly artillery, mortar, and tank fire used to supplement and support the broadcasts. The weather continued excellent for operational movement of troops and supplies into the month of June, with occasional heavy rainfalls followed by extremely warm weather. The roads in the regimental area were well maintained by the 10th Engineer (C) Battalion and the status of supply was excellent.

On the evening of the second of June, Company " P " (Greek Expeditionary Force) ambush patrol engaged 30 to 35 CCF in a small arms firefight in the vicinity of OLD CHARLIE. After a 20-minute fight, the enemy withdrew and the friendly withdrew, regrouped, redistributed ammunition and returned. One Greek was wounded, while the Chinese suffered four killed and five wounded. On the same evening and in the early morning hours of 3 June, a listening post from Outpost TOM engaged approximately three enemy squads in a small arms firefight, and the listening post was reinforced to three-squad size. The enemy disengaged and the listening post returned to the outpost. After a short lapse, Outpost TOM was receiving small

arms fire from the left-front, front, and the right-front. Defensive fires were placed around the outpost, and it was estimated that a Chinese company was in the vicinity of TOM. It was estimated that 35 to 40 enemy were killed by these fires. Three prisoners were taken during this action, two being seriously wounded, and one lightly wounded. Nine CCF bodies were recovered. A total of 680 rounds of enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on Outpost TOM during the night's action. During the night of 7 June, the 2nd Battalion, 15th Infantry, relieved the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry, in the CHORWON sector.

During the period 16 May to 5 June, the 15th Infantry had been relieved of responsibility for the Outpost HARRY sector by the reappearance of the 65th Infantry in the center of the 3rd Division sector. When reports from various higher staff sections had been correlated and evaluated, and the higher commanders were assured beyond any reasonable doubt that Outpost HARRY was to be attacked by numerically superior Chinese force, it was ordered that the 15th Infantry Regiment, a more experienced and battletried unit, be made responsible for the Outpost HARRY sector no later than the 6th of June. This was accomplished by relieving the 2nd Battalion, 65th Infantry, with the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry. The regiment prepared to meet the onslaught of the Chinese.

Following is a physical description of Outpost HARRY, for most of the action from 10-18 June centered around this vital hill. Outpost HARRY is situated some 425 yards northeast of the friendly MLR which is on a general southeast-northwest line from the CHORWON VALLEY to the KUMWHA VALLEY. The hill is approximately 1280 feet high and is located about 320 yards south, and part of a larger hill mass occupied by the enemy, referred to as STAR HILL. The outpost commands a good view of the enemy terrain and his avenues of approach to the MLR position. Since the elevation of the outpost is greater than that of any friendly-held terrain within an area of a mile, the position affords early warning of enemy approach to the main battle line.

The road approach to the outpost from the MLR runs north along an intermittent stream to the rear of the outpost, where the supply point is located. From here, movements to the position must be accomplished dismounted.

The position itself contains a communication trench which runs from the supply point forward some 315 yards to the forward observer bunker on the northernmost slope. Here this trench joins another trench which makes a complete circle around the forward position of the outpost; this portion of the outpost is usually referred to as The Loop. Approximately 80 yards to the rear of The Loop, along a finger of the ridge running to the right side of the outpost, an additional trench extends for approximately 110 yards. This finger is mutually supporting with The Loop position and helps protect the probable avenues of enemy approach into position. The left side of the outpost is steep enough to afford a natural barrier to the attacking enemy force.

Aerial reconnaissance from 1 June to 8 June showed much increased enemy activity. This activity included construction of new anti-aircraft artillery positions, self-propelled gun revetments, artillery positions, supply bunkers, personnel bunkers, a new bridge and road improvements along the enemy main supply route. An enemy offensive was obvious.

During the same period prior to the attack of 10 June, increased personnel sightings were reported during daylight hours. During periods of darkness, an increasing number of vehicle lights were reported, generally in the rear areas moving south and southwest toward the enemy's main battle positions. Prior to the attack CCF artillery battalions positioned to fire into the 3rd Infantry Division sector increased from an estimated 13½ battalions with 108 pieces, to an estimated 15 battalions with 126 pieces; of these, 126 pieces were capable of firing into the division sector; 117 were either in position or were displaced forward so as to be in position to fire into the sector of the 15th Infantry Regiment. In addition, shell fragments picked up in the 15th Infantry sector disclosed the enemy to be employing the 102 mm rocket for the first time in this area.

Also evident during the period was increased enemy counterbattery fire on friendly artillery positions. Prior to this time, the enemy had concentrated on harassing and interdicting fire on the main supply routes, friendly positions on the outpost line of resistance and on the main line of resistance. Incoming artillery and mortar rounds reported in the regimental sector increased from an average of 275 per day to 670 per day, during the 4 to 5 days prior to the initial attack on the outpost. During the attacks on HARRY, a tremendous volume of rounds fell in all of the regimental sector, including service units and regimental headquarters.

The enemy dispositions at this time were not pinpointed; however, it was well known that there were in contact two unidentified battalions of the 222nd Regiment, 74th Division, in the left sector, and two unidentified battalions of the 221st Regiment, 74th Division, in the right portion of the 15th regimental sector. The 221st Regiment, 74th Division was located in the sector immediately opposite Outpost HARRY. Reserves capable of intervention in the Outpost HARRY action were the two reserve battalions of regiments in contact with the 15th Infantry in the left sector, as well as three battalions of the 220th Regiment, unlocated, which were the 74th Division reserve.

Then began the concerted enemy drive which was to last for a week and was to cost the Chinese dearly for every engaged minute. At 1950 hours on the night of 10 June the first CCF sightings were reported, and each sighting was engaged by mortar and artillery fire. At 2130 hours an ambush patrol west of Outpost DICK in the sector of the GEF Battalion reported Chinese numbering approximately 250 coming off JACKSON HEIGHTS (in front of Outpost TOM). Mortar and artillery began failing on the 15th Infantry MLR as well as Outposts DICK and HARRY. After a short but intense firefight in the vicinity of Outpost DICK, including 2,000 rounds of enemy artillery and mortar fire, the enemy withdrew. This was recognized as a probable enemy feint, and all units were alerted. At 2245, while attention was still focused on Outpost DICK, word came that the CCF were in the trenches on Outpost HARRY. Bitter hand to hand fighting was engaged in by members of Company " K ", 15th Infantry, and the Chinese were killed or driven from the trenches. The Chinese reinforced their attack four more times during the early morning hours, and as late as 0430 hours, 11 June, were in the trench on the northern side of the outpost. In addition to a composite local reserve committed by the 3rd Battalion commander, Companies " I " and " C " 15th Infantry, were

committed to reinforce. One platoon of tanks from Heavy Tank Company, 15th Infantry, and one platoon of infantry were committed to the valley east of Outpost HARRY as a diversionary force. This tank-infantry team proved to be of great value in channelizing the enemy attack.

About 0530 the morning of the 11th, a daylight CCF attack in battalion strength was repulsed by elements of the outpost. An hour later, evacuation of wounded and dead began. This continued through the daylight hours. Colonel Russell F. Akers Jr, regimental commander, reorganized, placing Company " B ", 15th Infantry, on the outpost, and placing responsibility for defense of this section on the 1st Battalion. The day continued with intermittent shelling of the outpost.

On 12 June at 0005 hours, intense mortar and artillery fire started along the MLR and on Outpost HARRY. At 0015 hours the Chinese moving through their own and friendly artillery gained the trenches on the rear of the outpost; hand to hand fighting followed. At 0032 hours the CCF gained the trench on the northern slope of the outpost while friendly forces held the southern trench. Bitter fighting ensued and the CCF made numerous attempts to reinforce through the protective artillery ring. Company " B ", 5th Regimental Combat Team, was used to reinforce. One platoon of tanks from Heavy Tank Company, 15th Infantry, and one rifle platoon were dispatched to the valley east of Outpost HARRY as a diversionary force, and again this team was highly successful in channelizing the enemy attack.

At daybreak, about 0545, the enemy withdrew and all action ceased. Evacuation of the wounded and dead was begun and Colonel Akers took immediate steps to reorganize for renewed attacks, placing Company " A ", 5th Regimental Combat Team on the outpost.

On the night of 12 June at 2200 hours, enemy artillery and mortar fire preceded a CCF attack on the outpost which was broken up by friendly defensive fires. CCF were in the trench for a short time but were forced to withdraw. Fighting ceased at 2247. However, at 0208 the CCF attacked from the north, northeast, and northwest of the outpost. Bitter hand to hand fighting ensued as the enemy gained the trench on the northern slope of the outpost. Company " L ", 15th Infantry, reinforced and by 0450 hours the enemy was driven from the trenches and was forced to withdraw. A platoon of tanks from the 64th Tank Battalion plus one platoon of infantry were dispatched to the valley east of Outpost HARRY and operated successfully as a diversionary force. All action ceased with the exception of friendly counter battery and counter mortar fire. Evacuation of wounded and dead was begun, and the regimental commander took immediate steps to reorganize for renewed attacks, placing Company " C " 15th Infantry, on the outpost.

Daylight hours were utilized to clean the trenches and refurbish the weapons' positions in anticipation of another attack during the hours of darkness. On the night of 13-14 June, at approximately 0255, enemy artillery and mortar fire preceded a CCF screening action against the outpost from the east and west for the purpose of protecting recovery of their dead. This screening force was broken up by friendly defensive fires. Action became sporadic, with light enemy artillery and mortar fire failing on the outpost and the MLR. By 0440 the enemy withdrew and all action ceased. The regimental commander took immediate steps to reorganize for

renewed attacks, placing Company " G " 15th Infantry, on the outpost.

During the night of 14-15 June, at about 0125, the Chinese moving through friendly artillery and defensive fires, gained the trenches on the rear of the outpost, and intense hand to hand fighting followed. At 0222 hours, friendly forces held the Outpost with the enemy reinforcing in the bitter hand to hand action. Company " E " 15th Infantry, was committed to reinforce. One platoon of tanks from Heavy Tank Company and one platoon of infantry were again dispatched as a diversionary force. At 0345 the enemy withdrew and all action ceased; the regimental commander again reorganizing for new attacks, placed Company " A " 15th Infantry, on the outpost.

The night of 15-16 June was a quiet night on the outpost, and on the following morning the regimental commander placed the GEF Battalion (which had been relieved by elements of the 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division, in the DICK sector) in the Outpost HARRY sector in order that his US battalions, all of which had suffered heavy casualties, could refit and reorganize. During the night of 16-17 June, there was no significant action, permitting much needed engineer work on the outpost to be accomplished by Company "P", GEF Battalion, and elements of Company "B". 10th Engineer (C) Battalion.

On the night of 17-18 June, the Chinese returned at about 0032 hours, moving through their own and friendly artillery and mortar fire to attack Outpost HARRY from the northeast and northwest. The enemy was repelled and was forced to withdraw, but stayed in the area. At 0240 the enemy attacked from the north under intense artillery and mortar fire. The CCF gained the trenches of the outpost on the northern slope at 0313. Bitter hand to hand fighting ensued with the enemy making numerous attempts to reinforce through the protective artillery ring. Company " N ", GEF Battalion was committed to reinforce. One platoon of tanks from Heavy Tank Company, 15th Infantry Regiment, and one platoon of Greek Infantry were dispatched to the valley east of Outpost HARRY as a diversionary force. By 0402 hours the enemy was forced out of the trenches on the outpost, and all action ceased with the enemy withdrawing, having fired 22,000 rounds in support of his attack. Evacuation of the wounded and dead was begun and the regimental commander took immediate steps to reorganize for renewed attacks, which did not materialize.

The enemy forces employed against Outpost HARRY during the period 10-18 June were tabulated by Intelligence Sections to be substantially as shown in the following table:

10-11 June	A reinforced CCF regiment (Approx. 3,600 CCF)
11-12 June	A CCF regiment (Approx. 2,850 CCF)
12-13 June	A reinforced CCF regiment
13-14 June	An estimated 100 CCF
14-15 June	An estimated 120 CCF
15-16 June	Negative
16-17 June	Negative
17-18 June	A CCF regiment

During this period the entire 74th CCF Division was utilized against the position on and around Outpost HARRY; and at the end of the engagements, the 74th CCF: Division was considered to be combat ineffective. Enemy casualties for the period were 223 counted dead, 1,450 estimated dead, and 3,800 estimated wounded ; while friendly casualties for the same action were 102 dead, 533 wounded, and 44 missing in action. Enemy rounds fired in support of their attack during the period 10-18 June amounted to 88,810 rounds over 81 mm size; friendly mortar and artillery units, in conjunction with friendly tank fires were 368,185 rounds over 81 mm size.

Due to the fact every line company of the 15th Infantry Regiment plus 3 line companies of the operationally attached 1st Battalion, 5th Regimental Combat Team, were utilized in the defense of Outpost HARRY, evacuation and casualty reporting was a major problem. With the large number of units involved and the necessity for rapid evacuation of the seriously wounded, the casualty reporting teams, in addition to gathering casualty information on the spot, covered every medical evacuation station as well as the helicopter evacuation service, which evacuated over 50 percent of the wounded the first day. By staying abreast of the medical evacuation information, and comparing these figures by name with casualty reports of engaged units, maximum possible accuracy in reporting was achieved. In addition, clerical personnel were stationed at the Graves' Registration Section throughout this action to further assist in casualty reporting.

The action ended with Company " N ", GEF Battalion, on Outpost HARRY, and at 1730 hours on the 18th of June, the 2nd Battalion was moved into a reserve area. From this time until the Greek Battalion was relieved, they carried on an intense construction program on the outpost, which made it an almost impregnable bastion. During this period the 2nd Division was moved into the CHORWON area and assumed responsibility for what had been the two left battalion sectors of the 15th Infantry. The 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, moved into a blocking position behind the 65th Infantry. On 21 June, Company " O ", GEF Battalion, relieved Company " N " on Outpost HARRY and assumed responsibility for the outpost mission. On 22 June, Company " K ", 15th Infantry, relieved Company "F" 15th Infantry, in the left company sector behind HARRY on the MLR. Upon completion of the relief, Company "K" passed to operational control of the commanding officer, GEF Battalion, and Company "F" reverted to operational control of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment.

At 0140, 25 June, the 2nd Battalion, 15th Infantry, relieved the 3rd Battalion, 65th Infantry, and assumed responsibility for the assigned sector of the MLR (the sector to the immediate right or east of Outpost HARRY) with the 3rd Reconnaissance Company reverting to operational control of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Infantry. At 1200 hours on 25 June, the 3rd Battalion (-), 15th Infantry, closed into a new area and assumed responsibility for a blocking mission in the sector. At 2310 hours, 26 June, Company " F ", 15th Infantry, relieved 3rd Reconnaissance Company and assumed responsibility for the sector mission.

On 3 July, the GEF Battalion which still had the responsibility for the Outpost HARRY sector, changed companies on the outpost, with Company " N " relieving Company " O " on the hill. On 8 July the process was reversed and Company " O " returned to the outpost. The

night of 10 July had four CCF engaging Company " G " Listening Post Number Two in a three-minute small arms, automatic weapons and hand grenade firefight. The enemy withdrew, and there were no friendly or enemy casualties. At 2340 hours on 13 July, the Netherlands Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd US Division, relieved the 3rd Battalion(-), 15th Infantry Regiment, and assumed responsibility for the blocking mission. At the same time Company " K ", 15th Infantry, was released from control of Commanding Officer GEF Battalion and returned to control of its parent unit. At 0244 hours on 14 July, the 2nd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment relieved the 2nd Battalion, 15 Infantry Regiment, and assumed responsibility for the sector mission. At 0845 hours, on 14 July, Co " C ", 23rd INF relieved Company " O ", GEF Battalion and assumed responsibility for the outpost mission. At 0928 the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry, relieved the GEF Battalion and assumed responsibility for the sector mission. At the same time the Commanding Officer, 23rd Infantry, assumed responsibility for the GEF portion of the regimental sector, relieving the 15th Infantry.

Before the regiment was completely off line, and while some elements were still on the road to the new bivouac area, orders came to Colonel Russell F. Akers Jr. to move his "Can Do" Regiment again. A massive Chinese attack (estimated initial Chinese force committed : seven CCF Divisions) smashed against the front of the Capitol ROK (Republic of Korea) Division which was holding the right flank of the IX Corps in the KUMSONG sector. The attack started on the night of 13-14 July. By the morning of 14 July, the Capitol ROK Division had suffered heavy casualties and complete disruption of communication. The IX Corps Commander, Lieutenant General Reuben P. Jenkins, decided to commit elements of the 3rd US Division in order to hold his right flank. At 0830 on 14 July the 15th Infantry Regiment was ordered to occupy blocking positions in the sector of the Capital ROK Division generally south of highway 117A* establish contact with II ROK Corps units on the right, and protect the IX Corps' right (east) flank. By 1150, leading elements of the 15th Infantry Regiment crossed their initial point of movement on the way to the blocking positions on LINE WYOMING (a supplemental line, giving depth to the position and a secondary line of defense.)

The area occupied by the Capitol ROK, later to be known as the Kumsong Salient, was approximately 16 to 18 road miles east of the area from which the regiment had just been relieved. The last three to four miles of this road was being interdicted by the enemy, and the incoming artillery was taking a toll of ROK vehicles moving in the area.

Despite the hazards and difficulties encountered, the tactical Command Post was operating by 1500 hours the same afternoon. The battalions were quickly positioned on the unfamiliar terrain, with many of the units having no knowledge of the situation on the right or left flanks or to their front. However, after the 3rd Battalion closed their sector at 1645, 1st Battalion closed at 2100 hours, and the GEF was in position by 2400 hours, with 2d Battalion in a blocking position by 1700 hours, 14 July, the right flank of the IX Corps sector had been anchored and secured. In order to obtain more information of the enemy, many patrols were dispatched from the position occupied by the battalions.

On

* See inside back cover.

16 July, a friendly patrol engaged 6 CCF in a 5-minute small arms firefight. The enemy withdrew. There were no friendly or enemy casualties. Early on the morning of the 17th of July, Companies " B " and " C " were attacked on the MLR by estimated 2 CCF reinforced companies. After a 1-hour-and-35-minute small arms and automatic weapons firefight, the enemy withdrew. Enemy casualties were: 40 counted killed. There was one prisoner taken. About 1505 the afternoon of the same day, 200 CCF were sighted about 500 yards to the front of Companies "E" and "F". Artillery and mortar fire was placed. One platoon of Company "P", GEP Battalion, was dispatched to the vicinity of the Chinese. A sporadic firefight followed which lasted until 1730, when all action ceased. Enemy casualties resulting from artillery and mortar fire and the GEF contact were 95 counted dead. There were 14 prisoners taken by the GEF Battalion in the action.

On 18 July Company " I " was placed under operational control of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry, and on 19 July, Company " G " relieved Company " E " on the MLR and assumed responsibility for the sector mission. On 19 July also, the Capitol ROK Division came under control of the commanding officer, 15th Infantry Regiment, for the purpose of relief of a portion of the 15th Regimental sector. On the morning of 20 July, the 2nd Battalion was relieved by elements of the Cavalry Regiment, Capitol ROK Division, and responsibility for the sector mission passed to the relieving unit. A few minutes later, the GEF Battalion was relieved by elements of Cavalry Regiment and responsibility for the sector mission passed to the relieving unit.

Early on the morning of the 22nd July, the 1st Battalion MLR positions were engaged in a long-range small arms firefight with an estimated CCF Company. By 0242 the CCF were attempting to disengage and the firing became sporadic. By 0320 the enemy disengaged and all firing ceased. At 1545, 22 July, the 2nd Battalion closed into a blocking position south of KUMWHA, and came under the operational control of the commanding general, 3rd US Division.

At 1930 hours on 22 July, the GEF Battalion began relief of the 1st Battalion, and at 2323 hours, Company "P" GEP Battalion, patrol was engaged by an unknown number of CCF in a long-range small arms firefight, in which both friendly and enemy employed artillery and mortar fire. After a 1 hour and 2 minute firefight, the enemy withdrew. The Greek patrol screened the area with negative results. At 0150, 23 July, the GEF Battalion completed relief of the 1st Battalion and assumed responsibility for the sector mission, and the 1st Battalion moved into a blocking position.

On the afternoon of 24 July, Company " K " reconnaissance patrol engaged 9 CCF in a 3 minute firefight. The patrol withdrew and called in friendly artillery fires. Enemy casualties were: 1 killed and 1 wounded. At 2250 hours on 25 July, an estimated Chinese battalion engaged Companies "K" and "I" 15th Infantry, on their MLR positions in a small arms, automatic weapons and hand grenade firefight with both sides employing artillery and mortar fire. An hour later the enemy withdrew and all friendly positions were secure. The enemy attack was launched simultaneously from the front, left and right. Friendly casualties were 1

killed, and 23 wounded. Enemy casualties were 20 counted dead, 40 estimated dead, and 100 estimated wounded. This was the most significant action in the 15th Infantry sector immediately preceding the effective date of the armistice.

At 0047 hours on 26 July, an estimated 20 CCF engaged 40 from Company " I " 15th Infantry, in a 3 minute firefight. Friendly troops were supported by artillery and mortar fire. At 0050 the enemy withdrew. Friendly casualties were one wounded, while the enemy left one dead and fifteen wounded. This was the last action involving enemy contact in the 15th Infantry Regimental sector prior to the effective date of the armistice.

Four hours before the end of hostilities the 2nd Battalion reverted to control of the commanding officer, 15th Infantry, having been released by the commanding general, 3rd Division. Two hours later, the 2nd Battalion assumed responsibility for a sector mission.

At 2145 hours, 15 minutes before the effective time of the ceasefire, all of the 15th Infantry Regiment ceased firing. Heavy incoming artillery and mortar fire continued until 2150 hours on 27 July. The regiment then relieved elements of the Capitol ROK Division and again assumed responsibility for the sector between the Mule Trail, and Goat Trail including responsibility for the mission of construction of the new line, clearing the buffer zone of all military installations and equipment, and operating checkpoints on the edge of the demilitarized zone. This mission continued until 5 August when the regiment was relieved on the new line by the 160th Regiment, 40th US Division; and then the 15th Infantry Regiment, less Heavy Tank Company, which stayed until 12 August in support of the 160th Regiment, moved into a reserve area with its parent unit, for rehabilitation and training.

The infantryman may never relax his vigil nor his state of preparedness. In full realization of this fact, Colonel Russell P. Akers, commanding officer of the 15th Infantry Regiment instituted an intensive and rigorous training program designed to maintain the unit at the peak of combat readiness. The 15th United States Infantry Regiment has been called on many times in the past to defend our way of life against those who thought they could override and crush our institutions. Since it entered Canada in 1812 until its present tour in Korea as part of the United Nations' effort, the 15th Regiment has typified the pride of American manhood and the American Army. Young men from every state in the nation, its territories and possessions have joined together in this great fighting outfit to give their all and share their common burden as defenders of their individual liberty. There is in the world today a force of such magnitude and power that it threatens the very existence of the Free World. That force made a bid for the country of Korea, and was frustrated in the attempt. That force, beyond a doubt will try again to engulf and destroy another sovereign nations, to enslave more millions to a false god and ideology, and will destroy individual freedoms so that the peoples may be subjugated to the State. When the attempt is made, the peoples of the Free World will again rise to defend their rights.