

# **KOREAN WAR PROJECT**

**ANNEX MAN, REPORT OF DETACHMENT  
RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY,  
1<sup>ST</sup> PROVISIONAL MARINE BRIGADE,  
[REINFORCED], FMF**

ANNEX NA1

Report of  
Det Reconnaissance Company

ANNEX "NAN"

- (1) Introduction - Summarize the actions of the Detachment Reconnaissance Company, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, (Reinforced, FMF. The mission of this organization is to conduct reconnaissance missions as directed by the Brigade.
- (2) Task organization - This organization originally consisted of two (2) officers and thirty-seven (37) enlisted, known as Detachment Reconnaissance Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade (Reinforced), FMF. Captain Kenneth J. Houghton, USMC, 013965, Commanding.
- (3) Preliminary planning - Upon activation, the Detachment immediately proceeded with preparations for overseas assignment, including: Organization of the Detachment, assignment of personnel to billets, packing and crating.
- (4) Training and rehearsals - A very vigorous reconnaissance training schedule was undertaken to ready the unit for duty in Korea. No rehearsals were conducted.
- (5) Loading and embarkation - This unit was loaded aboard the U.S.S. BASS (APD-124). UP&T tables and other loading figures not available to the writer at this time. Embarkation of the troops and gear was completed in four (4) hours.
- (6) Movement to and arrival at objective area - Embarked from San Diego, California, aboard the U.S.S. HORACE A. BASS (APD-124) on 14 July 1950. An intensive reconnaissance training and physical conditioning program was completed enroute. Arrived Pusan, Korea, 2 August 1950.

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(7) This unit was trained to perform normal land and amphibious reconnaissance missions. During the initial phases we were used as a point in the advance of an infantry regiment (5th Marines). Although this is not considered a tactical mission of a reconnaissance unit, it did serve to avert two (2) enemy ambushes by spotting the enemy and reporting same to the advance guard commander. This gave the advance guard commander the opportunity of deploying and destroying the enemy before the trap was sprung. Flank security had to be sacrificed so as not to impede the swift advance of the regiment. Defiles and possible ambush positions were given a little more detailed attention; we reconnoitered up to but never exceeded 150 yards on either side of the road.

Reconnoitering routes of advance, MSR's and alternatives made it necessary to completely motorize the reconnaissance detachment, seven (7) jeeps and four (4) trailers (for organic equipment, kept in rear echelon) were furnished us by the Army. Three .50 caliber machine guns were mounted on the jeeps; a good morale factor but we did not receive an opportunity to employ them against the enemy.

During the period 3-5 September 1950 we were assigned the mission of patrolling the exposed left flank of the 5th Marines, echeloned to the rear of the left flank battalion. Observation Posts were set up as directed. One patrol detected an estimated 1000 enemy and two (2) tanks; artillery fire was called by the patrol leader upon return to the OP. Results considered "good". Nine (9) U. S. Army personnel separated from their units were picked up by patrols and returned to regimental CP.

(8) Higher echelon - Not applicable.

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(9) Estimated results of the operations - This unit made contact four (4) times with the enemy. Situation developed as shown in paragraph (7). Nine casualties were inflicted in this organization as a result of enemy operation. The recommended awards were: Two (2) Silver Star Medals, two (2) Bronze Star Medals.

(10) Comments and recommendations of commander -

a. When the Reconnaissance Company is used as a point for a battalion, an air control officer and/or an artillery forward observer should be attached in order to employ the use of supporting arms as soon as the point makes contact with the enemy.

b. When used as an observation post to protect an exposed flank, camouflage and concealment must be very thorough. At no time should personnel expose themselves to enemy observation.

c. Sand bagging decks of jeeps necessary due to enemy land mines. Splinter shields (3/4") considered necessary to repel enemy small arms fire and give troops an opportunity to deploy.

(11) Higher Echelon - Not applicable.

(12) See Enclosure (1).

for much  
weight for,  
a jeep; 1/4 or  
2/16 might be  
ok

## ENCLOSURE (1) TO ANNEX "NAN"

<u>ROSTER</u>			
<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>MOS</u>
ANDERSON, James E.	1059517	Pfc	0231
ANDRUS, Cowles, Jr.	581490	Cpl	0231
APICELLA, Jack R.	1088950	Pfc	0231
AYER, Willard F.	1073783	Cpl	0231
BACKOVICH, Robert G.	1091435	Pfc	0231
BASS, Wayne A.	1059164	Pfc	0231
BEAGLE, Kenneth R.	668705	Cpl	3011
BLAND, Carrol P.	1083461	Cpl	0231
BOLTON, Richard W.	1103216	Pfc	0231
BILODEAU, Arnold E.	1088280	Cpl	2531
CAMPBELL, William S.	1083784	Cpl	0231
CALLAHAN, William F.	1071015	Pfc	0231
CORNETT, Charles E.	1073096	Pfc	0231
CRITES, William E.	1062583	Cpl	0311
CROPPER, Donald W.	1091327	Cpl	0231
DECKER, David M.	667051	Cpl	2533
DE FAZIO, Ernest L.	284645	TSgt	0319
DEMPSTER, James F.	640117	Sgt	0231
HOOKE, Frankie G.	1099400	Pfc	0231
HOPE, Allen	1087606	Pfc	0143
HOUGHTON, Kenneth J.	013965	Capt	0302
KENDRICK, David A., Jr.	340606	Cpl.	0231
LUKE, Jack L.	1088663	Pfc	0231
MC DONALD, Jack N.	482803	SSgt	0316
MOORE, Dick	1084859	Pfc	0231
MORGAN, James A.	1084863	Pfc	0231
OPSAL, John K.	1090771	Pvt	0200
ORLOWSKI, Richard	1071830	Cpl	0231
PAIGE, Billy J.	1082927	Pfc	0231
ROUNSAVILLE, Richard W.	664184	Cpl	2531
SHARON, Donald W.	049870	2dLt	0302
SLAGLE, John W.	289704	TSgt	0319
TENNEY, James R.	632773	Cpl	2531
THOMPSON, Wayne A.	1070127	Cpl	2531
TOWNSEND, John E.	1083446	Cpl	2531
TRACY, Jackson E.	614782	Sgt	0231
TUCKER, Robert E.	1073290	Pfc	0231
WILSON, Cecil M.	1114376	Pfc	0200
WOLFE, Jack	1118147	Pfc	0800