

KOREAN WAR PROJECT

ONE PAGE FROM SOME REPORT

21 Sep 1950

Increasing enemy small arms fire resulted in the abandonment of one OY aircraft when it was hit near the town of Yong Dong Po-re. Both the pilot, 2dLt E. F. GAUDETTE JR., USMC, and observer Capt R. E. MC CLEAN, USMC, parachuted to safety behind friendly lines suffering minor injuries. One HO3S-1 helicopter piloted by 1stLt A. H. BANCROFT, USMC, was destroyed on the ground while attempting a rescue behind enemy lines. Another squadron helicopter piloted by 1stLt L. A. LONGSTAFF, USMC, rescued 1stLt BANCROFT and the downed fighter pilot. Flights conducted were 8 recon, 7 arty spot, 9 utility, 3 rescue and 13 evac.

22 Sep 1950

Because of increasingly heavy AA fire encountered in the Seoul area, arrangements were made with VMF(N) 542 to use high performance F7F type aircraft for missions over that area. Two such flights were made with fair results, however this type of aircraft does not provide the necessary visibility for proper aerial observation. Flights conducted were 3 recon, 9 arty spot, 9 utility, 14 evac and 2 arty spot in F7F type aircraft.

23 Sep 1950

Normal Squadron operations continued, however a noteworthy rescue was made by Capt V. A. ARMSTRONG who flew an HO3S-1 helicopter behind enemy lines and north of the 39th parallel to pick up a downed fighter pilot. Flights conducted were 10 recon, 5 arty spot, 1 utility, 6 evac, and 2 rescue.

24 Sep 1950

One OY aircraft was damaged in landing at Kimpo airfield, which necessitated a wing change. No injury resulted. Flights conducted were 1 recon, 5 arty spot, 7 utility, 19 evac and 1 aerial re-supply.

25 Sep 1950

Although routine missions were continued, a record was believed to have been made when a Marine pilot and aircrew man were rescued by a VM3-6 helicopter in an elapsed time of six minutes from time of notification to rescue. Flights conducted were 8 recon, 2 rescue, 14 evac and 2 utility.

26 Sep 1950

The rear echelon arrived at Kimpo airfield from Inchon uniting the squadron once again. Flights conducted were 6.4 arty spot, 26 utility and 9 evac.

27 Sep 1950

Normal operations continued. Flights conducted were 9 recon, 6 arty spot, 6 utility, 9 evac and 1 rescue.

28 Sep 1950

Normal operations continued. Flights conducted were 5 recon, 7 arty spot, 21 utility, 11 evac and 1 rescue.

29 Sep 1950

Normal flights were continued, however the hard pressed enemy stiffened his air defense with the use of heavier AA which resulted in the destruction of one OY and one HO3S-1 aircraft of this squadron. The OY was shot down five miles north of Seoul bringing death to the aerial observer Capt E. E. RIVES, USMC, and the taking as a POW of the pilot 2dLt T. D. ODENBAUGH, USMC, who had safely parachuted to earth. A helicopter piloted by 1stLt A. R. BANCROFT, USMC, was dispatched as the rescue plane but was destroyed in the air by AA fire, causing the death of the pilot.

On this tragic day, General McARTHUR had entered the city of Seoul by motorized convey led by a VMO-6 OY which acted as an air point to observe for any possible enemy snipers or road blocks. Flights conducted were 6 recon, 2 arty spot, 17 utility, 5 evacuation and 2 rescue.

30 Sep 1950

One OY aircraft was forced to land behind friendly lines due to engine failure. No injuries were suffered by the pilot, Major V. J. GOTTSCHLIK, or observer, Capt H. F. DYER, and no damage was sustained by the aircraft. Other operations were normal. Flights conducted were 2 recon, 6 arty spot, 25 utility, 1 evac and 1 rescue.

1 Oct 1950

Due to the lessening need for observers on station, aerial observation operations shifted from the dawn to dusk flight schedule to an on-call stand-by status at Kimpo airfield. Flights conducted were 1 recon, 5 arty spot, 19 utility and 2 resupply.

2 Oct 1950

Operations were becoming increasingly light for the OY aircraft, however the helicopters continued to be used quite heavily. Flights conducted were 2 recon, 1 arty spot, 1 utility and 4 evac.

3 Oct 1950

In addition to continued support of the division, one search of a downed pilot was made in the vicinity of Chunchon by 1stLt L. J. ENGELHARDT. General G. B. CATES, CMC, was flown on an inspection tour of the area by Capt V. A. ARMSTRONG in an HO3S-1. Flights conducted were 1 recon, 1 arty spot, 29 utility, 1 evac and 1 rescue.