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NOTE DATED 27 MARCH 1953 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED STATES ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
TRANSMITTING TWO COMMUNIQUEs ISSUED BY THE HEADQUARTERS
OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN KOREA

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations
presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and
has the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the Security
Council, United Nations Command communiques No. 1,564, issued Wednesday,
March 25, and No. 1,565, issued Thursday, March 26, 1953.

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO. 1,564, ISSUED
IN TOKYO 10:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1953
(KOREAN TIME)

Heavy fighting continued yesterday and today on Old Baldy, in the western sector of the Korean battlefield, as the enemy endeavored to reinforce and United Nations Command forces sought to drive them from their toe-hold. Following the initial three-battalion assault on three United Nations Command forward positions in this area, action subsided on all but Old Baldy slopes.

Shortly after midnight March 24 United Nations Command troops disengaged slightly, then counterattacked with one company against an unknown number of enemy. A United Nations Command battalion renewed the attack during early daylight hours yesterday. Fierce hand-to-hand fighting ensued in trenches and bunkers as repeated enemy efforts to reinforce were countered by United Nations artillery and mortar fire.

United Nations Command elements withdrew slightly early yesterday afternoon. Later, in spite of heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire, our forces advanced slowly and the battle continued until early last evening, with part of Old Baldy still occupied by hostile forces. United Nations Command troops renewed the attack shortly after six o'clock this morning and the fight was continuing.

In other action along the front, nine forward United Nations Command positions received enemy probes ranging in strength from two squads to a reinforced company. In the far western sector, three advance posts south of Panmunjom were attacked. One attack, by an unknown number of enemy, was repulsed with heavy enemy casualties.

The small United Nations Command groups in the other two were forced to withdraw in the face of a reinforced company attack. Three friendly forward positions further to the east were attacked by another enemy company and withdrew after a fifty-minute battle, but later reoccupied the positions without opposition.

An advance position northeast of the Punchbowl, in the east-central sector, repulsed a two-squad enemy probe early yesterday morning after a fifteen-minute encounter.

Bad weather curtailed daylight flights by carrier-based aircraft of the United Nations Command Fleet, but night hecklers ripped rail routes and scored a number of hits on a locomotive repair building.

Surface craft along both coasts battered enemy supply routes and installations. Between Pukchong and Tanchon, fleet elements pounded the east coast rail line, scoring a number of cuts, destroying several bridges and sealing four tunnels. Other vessels shelled installations near Wonsan and Kosong, with heavy damage to enemy troop concentrations, gun positions and highway traffic. On the west coast, enemy mortar and gun emplacements received heavy shelling from vessels operating near Changyon.

United Nations Command fighter-bombers struck at communications networks, transportation facilities and battle-line positions before afternoon rains halted operations. Night intruders were grounded during the period, but medium bombers hammered a supply area near Hungnam and hit battle-line positions.

Cargo transports continued the airlift of cargo and personnel in support of United Nations Command forces.

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO. 1,565, ISSUED
IN TOKYO 10:00 A.M., TEURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1953
(KOREAN TIME)

United Nations Command troops early yesterday morning renewed their counterattack in the bitter battle for Old Baldy positions in the western sector. The effort to regain positions taken by the enemy the previous day continued throughout the morning as friendly elements, supported by tank fire, advanced slowly. By early afternoon action had subsided and artillery and mortar fire were exchanged through the late afternoon and evening hours.

In other action early yesterday morning, United Nations Command troops in the extreme western area repulsed an enemy probing patrol after a brief engagement. A similar probe was driven off last night in the same area and again the action was of short duration. One enemy platoon was repelled in the west-central sector yesterday morning following an encounter lasting forty-three minutes, while to the east another enemy attack on Rocky Point also was beaten back. The Rocky Point effort was repeated in two small probes late last night, which also were blunted.

Two probes, one in the central sector and one in the east-central sector, were repulsed by United Nations Command forward elements near midnight, March 24, according to delayed reports.

Light bombers of the United Nations Command land-based air forces yesterday provided close air support for ground troops on Old Baldy and continued similar missions last night. Blanketing weather reduced fighter-bomber activity to limited strikes against enemy positions on the western front. Intruders last night smashed enemy supply vehicles and medium bombers attacked hostile supply targets.

United Nations Command Fleet surface elements bombarded east coast enemy shore installations yesterday. Near Kojo they silenced thirteen guns in ten emplacements and destroyed or damaged several buildings. Bunkers, buildings and enemy trenches were targets in the Kosong area, while shore positions and truck convoys were fired upon in the Wonsan area. One vessel reported fourteen rounds of enemy shore battery fire, all of which missed, and the vessel's counter-battery silenced the hostile weapons. A train was fired upon in the Pukchong area, but damage was unobserved. West coast naval units fired on an enemy convoy in the Haeju area. Carrier aircraft were inactive because of poor weather.
