

SECURITY
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NOTE DATED 20 MAY 1953 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES
ADDRESSED TO THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING TWO COMMUNIQUE
ISSUED BY THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN KOREA

May 20, 1953

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations
presents his compliments to the Acting 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. 1,618, issued Monday, May 18,
and No. 1,619, issued Tuesday, May 19, 1953.

53-14535

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO. 1,618,
ISSUED IN TOKYO 10:00 A.M., MONDAY, MAY 18, 1953
(KOREAN TIME)

Heavy fighting continued all day yesterday in the central sector of the Korean front as United Nations Command troops attempted to wrest positions encircled by the Pukhan River, from enemy hands. Late in the morning, as heavy artillery and mortar fire was employed by both sides, communications with friendly forces were broken and were not regained until late in the afternoon. At 1830 hours friendly forces withdrew and enemy forces remained in control of the contested area.

In the Christmas Hill area of the central sector an unknown number of enemy attacked a friendly outpost shortly before midnight, 16 May. A short time later communications with friendly forces were severed. About five hours later, a friendly patrol attempted to reach the area, but was forced back by heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. Late Sunday morning a friendly platoon reached the outpost to find the embattled forces had disengaged. Later the outpost was reoccupied by friendly elements.

To the east of this action, during darkness Sunday morning, an estimated two platoons of enemy attacked a small friendly temporary outpost, forcing United Nations Command troops from the position to larger outposts near by. The enemy force again attacked but was repulsed after approximately one hour.

In other action about the same time, three enemy probing patrols were repulsed after brief engagements southwest of Old Baldy.

On the east-central front, west of Luke's Castle, an estimated fifteen-man enemy probing patrol was repulsed.

Jet fighters of the United Nations Command registered claims Sunday for the fifth successive day in engagements with enemy fighter-jets as the friendly aircraft were screening assaults by United Nations Command fighter-bombers against hostile troop concentrations, central sector battle positions and rail lines. The fighter-bombers listed more than 100 buildings and 100 personnel shelters as destroyed or damaged.

Attacks Sunday night by medium bombers were directed at supply and troop areas in western North Korea and against battle-line positions. Night intruders reported destruction of more than 100 enemy supply vehicles and damage to hostile combat fortifications across the front.

Carrier-based planes of the United Nations Command Fleet struck positions from the front lines to north of Songjin, destroying bridges and cutting rail lines. In the Wonsan area, numerous buildings, personnel shelters and two anti-aircraft batteries were destroyed.

Surface elements of the fleet bombarded bunkers and coastal gun positions near Kosong. North of Tanchon, a train was shelled and halted by guns of the United Nations Command Fleet.

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO. 1,619,
ISSUED IN TOKYO 10:00 A.M., TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1953
(KOREAN TIME)

Fighting on the Korean battlefront continued at an increased pace yesterday and this morning as the enemy threw two reinforced battalion attacks and a company attack against United Nations Command positions.

On the west-central front, east of Christmas Hill, a reinforced enemy battalion late last night successively attacked and surrounded a chain of United Nations Command outposts. Friendly forces, reinforced by a battalion, were engaged in heavy fighting for approximately seven hours before the enemy broke contact. Patrols dispatched to maintain contact with enemy forces found the outposts had held and were still in friendly hands.

In the same sector early yesterday morning, four enemy probes, three to the east of Christmas Hill and one to the west, were all repulsed. Three of the probes were estimated enemy platoons and the other by two enemy platoons. The longest engagement lasted more than two hours.

Early this morning another reinforced enemy battalion slammed into three friendly outposts in the Sniper Ridge-Rocky Point area. Approximately one enemy company hit each of the outposts. Rocky Point positions were penetrated, but after approximately three hours of bitter fighting enemy forces were ejected by a friendly counter-attack.

In the same area early yesterday morning, an enemy probe of estimated platoon size engaged friendly troops for about a half-hour before being repulsed.

Also on the west-central front, north of Chorwon, an enemy company early yesterday attacked a friendly outpost. Fighting raged for one and one-half hours before the enemy was thrown back.

In other probes on the west-central front early yesterday, an enemy probing platoon was engaged by friendly forces for twenty-five minutes before being repulsed. Another enemy platoon fell back after a very brief encounter.

Despite bad weather yesterday, carrier-based aircraft of the United Nations Command Fleet pounded enemy-held sections of both coasts. On the east coast, fighter-bombers struck targets from Songjin to Wonsan, pounding supply shelters and supply routes at Pukchong, Hungnam, Hongwon and the Chosin Reservoir. On the west coast, planes struck troop concentrations north of Haeju.

Surface elements of the United Nations Command Fleet shelled supply shelters and gun positions at Kosong, on the east coast.

Jet fighters of the United Nations Command scored marked successes for the sixth successive day yesterday in battles with enemy fighter jets. Fighter-bombers hit enemy transportation systems and bridges in western North Korea, bombed a small enemy airfield on the Haeju Peninsula and struck battle-line positions.

Medium bombers attacked a troop center at Yangsi and hit targets on the battlefront, while night intruders destroyed vehicles and pounded battle-line positions.

