

The World War II Diaries of Ernest F. Easterbrook (1944–45)

Introduction

The Hoover Institution Archives is pleased to make the World War II diaries of Major General Ernest F. Easterbrook available online.

Ernest F. Easterbrook was born August 6, 1908, the youngest son of an army chaplain who rose to become Chief of Chaplains of the Army (1928–29). Easterbrook graduated from West Point in 1931 and was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry. In 1938 he married Nancy Stilwell, the eldest daughter of Colonel Joseph W. Stilwell. He had a distinguished army career lasting thirty-six years, retiring with the rank of major general.

These diaries cover a significant period of his service during World War II. In 1942 he was assigned to the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater (then commanded by Lieutenant General Joseph W. Stilwell); initially he was an instructor and head of department at Ramgarh, India, instructing Chinese soldiers and officers in military tactics and associated subjects. In early 1944, when these diaries begin, he was assigned to be General Stilwell's executive assistant in Burma. He continued in that position through the capture of Myitkyina; in late 1944 he was assigned to command the 475th Infantry Regiment, a component of the MARS Task Force, at that time the only US ground combat unit in the CBI Theater. In that capacity he led the regiment behind Japanese lines to cut the Burma Road in support of Chinese troops from Burma linking up with the Chinese Y-Force. The Y-Force was a 72,000-man force based in China's Yunnan Province that was forcing the Japanese out of southwestern China so that a land supply route—the soon to be named Stilwell Road from Ledo in India to Kunming in China—could be reopened.

The diaries are significant for their detailed recording of the activity of Chinese units in northern Burma, including hand-drawn maps; as such, they are a companion to the Stilwell Diaries of the same period. In addition, during his command of the 475th Infantry Regiment, the diaries provide visibility to activities and personnel during that little-known part of the campaign in Burma.

In the diaries, references to “dad” or “pop” are to General Stilwell. He also refers to General Stilwell at times as “Q.B.,” short for Quarterback, Stilwell's code name.

Also in the Easterbrook collection are two diaries covering the same period (early to mid-1944). One of those diaries, labeled “Supplemental Diary,” seems to have been written when he had time to gather his thoughts and write in a more complete manner. Those entries are designated by a box drawn around them.

Easterbrook originally drew the military unit symbols used in these diaries. Entries contained within brackets ([]) indicate editorial comments or spelling corrections. The software used to reproduce the military unit symbols uses a font from Tom Mouat's MapSymb website (www.mapsymb.com). The software is Mouat's intellectual property but can be copied freely. Tom was most gracious and generous with his time to ensure that the symbols worked properly.

Easterbrook's son, John, transcribed the diaries. Linda Bernard championed the putting the diaries on line and provided the initiative to accomplish it. Lisa Miller provided the overall management and pulled all the areas of expertise together. Russell Rader scanned and integrated the hand-drawn maps into the diaries' digitized version.

-John Easterbrook

Select Bibliography

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1945

MON. JAN 1. 9 miles

Up and over the first hill (2550) and down again to SHWELI River – hard pull – failed to rest animals, end of col. not in until 1700

3 page “master” intelligence summary by air-drop

Brig.	Rec.	6	289
	Sent	2	<u>107</u>

396

Reg.	Rec.	1	189
	Sent	3	174

TUE. JAN 2. 4 miles

Bridge over SHWELI went out with lead element (score again against 3rd Bn) – lost two loads and one mule. Spent until noon getting repaired – no organization. Liaison plane put message and bag of mail into river, both salvaged. (four letters)

Moved up and over the first ridge with three companies.

Brig. changed route of 124th to cross SHWELI on bridge and thence thru MONG HKAK

Brig.	Rec.	7	354
	Sent	4	<u>185</u>

539

WED. JAN 3. 7 miles

Early to MONG HKAK to check with Col. Wong (148th) and to meet Ray Peers (on my request). Bachelor aching and complaining – actually I arrived before they did (they took 3 days just as we did)

Peers and Raiss arrived 1130 – had a good talk and got squared away to work direct with Joost instead of messing around thru Brig.

From all indications Lawrence has had us well screwed.

Lost another mule today— over the cliff.

Some fine air-drop into the bivouac – one Chinese bashed but not killed. Air-liaison didn't do too well in selecting panel site. Planes dropping up til 1700 hours.

Brig changed order for 124th to cross SHWELI over bridge used by 148th

Brig.	Rec.	1	72
	Sent	7	<u>560</u>

632

Reg.	Rec.	3	61
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THURS. JAN 4. 10 miles –

Long hard pull past TUNPOK (3000 feet) part of column pushed on across mountain (LUNGSONG) (4254) others in place along a mountain side trickle of water about 1000 feet short of the crest. Last element in about 1700 hours.

Another order from Brig concerning 124th (make recon. and report on SHWELI river bridge—and now I'm one day beyond.

17 men from 1st serial remained to be evacuated.

Reg. Strength –

	O (as.)	165	/	O (att.)	9	/	W.O.	2	/	EM (as.)	2966	/	EM (att.)	37
Brig.	Rec.	5			307									
	Sent	4			<u>199</u>									
													506	
Reg.	Rec	2			28									
	Sent	1			45									

FRI. JAN 5. 9 miles.

Up and over LUNGSONG (4254) then down and up thru LOI-HAWM (4605) and down to MONG WI (2480) one day ahead of schedule.

Air Corps had succeeded in burning down some 20 bashas in the village about two days ago.

Big argument – Pamplin and Capt Liu of 7th An. Tran. Co. – started over Chinese beating up and otherwise conscripting Chinese muleteer under contract to O.S.S. in this area.

Brig.	Rec.	3		172
	Sent	2		<u>68</u>
				240
Reg.	Rec	1		20
	Sent	1		17
	Rec	1		28
	Sent	2		54

	Week 30 Dec – 5 Jan.		
	1 st Bn.	2 nd	3 rd
Disease	25	23	52
FUO	3	8	39
Dysentery		3	5
Typhus		1	
Jaundice		1	
Malaria		1	
Injuries	3	3	5

(Disease	102
Injuries	<u>12</u>
	114

SAT. JAN 6. Rain – started at 0530 just to make things nice.

Patrols out to contact Chinese, 148th to S.W. and elements scheduled to cross SHWELI to N.E.

Contact made with 2nd Bn 89th at MAN HKEP

Weather socked in – one plane from 9th Com. Car. (445) made it thru – just in time for one meal around.

No orders from Brig.

Thraikill in 1600 – Bn (less 1 Btry FA) to close in valley (closed 2100)

Brig.	Rec.	8	435
	Sent	8	<u>423</u>
			858
Reg.	Rec.	2	105

SUN. JAN 7. Move to south end of valley – still closed in with intermittent rains
Orders in at 1300 hours to fix two battalion patrol bases, one at NAMMA (SO 5038)
other at MAN HKEP (SO 4046)

Suggested change on latter since two Chinese regiments moving thru there. (“Patrol
actively and vigorously to determine the location and intentions of the enemy”)

Three companies of 1st Bn closed in on old biv. of 2nd Bn.

Only two planes able to squeeze in and drop.

Brig.	Rec.	5	579
	Sent	7	<u>523</u>
			1102

MON. JAN 8. All squared away in bivouacs south end of valley. Clear most of day – 34
plane loads of supplies received. One plane to north crashed – received 3 different
coordinates. Finally (1700) sent out I&R with Flight Surg. who arrived by L-1. Crash up
near 89th Reg.

Major Joost in from 101 to set up

I Co. out at 1300 for MAN HSA TAN.

Brig.	Rec.	5	348
	Sent	13	<u>2004</u>
			2352

	O (as.)	O (at.)	EM (as.)	EM (at.)
Hq. Co	18	5	100	8
1 st Bn.	47	3	919	14
2 nd Bn.	48	3	917	9
3 rd Bn	<u>42</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>869</u>	<u>9</u>
	155	10	2805	40

31 st Q.M	2	76
33 rd Q.M.	2	87
35 th “	3	76
44 th P.S.H	4	33
7 th An. Tr.	1	53

Animals	Hq. Co.	17
	1 st Bn.	288
	2 nd “	286
	3 rd “	<u>288</u>
		879

TUE. JAN 9. 2nd Bn. out at 1000 hours to NAMMA (G Co out 0700).

3rd Bn. out at 1300 for MAN HSA TAN.

Col. Tack, Lt. Col. Lawrence, Maj. Mitchell in at noon – lead element of Brig.

WED. JAN 10. Brig. now has 7 off., 1 W.O., 3 EM eating off us with quiet indifference. Gen. Davidson in – not too much on his mind apparently, if there was he didn't express it.

Letters arrived.

Maj. Joost in to MONG WI to set up business.

Got together in good shape

Leading Squadron 124th arrived.

THURS. JAN 11. A plan comes by radio – Gen Willey at noon. Counter proposal back to Myitkyina – didn't get to go (let-down and sore disappointed)

Heavy relieved – Osborne to 124th as C.O.

Letter of commendation from Willey

FRI. JAN 12. Proposal to hit south of MONG YU not accepted.

Up and over tallest peaks and into ??

Willey back by Myitch.

Another Squadron 124th arrived.

Leonard and Wheeling over to 124th

Capt. McLaughlin to 1st Bn.

SAT. JAN 13. 10 miles

Last serial out from MONG WI (1st Bn, 612th, Reg Hq., 44th P.S.H, 33rd Q.M.)

Moved out ahead of column with Johnson to NAMMA.

Conference Johnson, Thrailkill and Harrold – plans set

SUN. JAN 14. 1st serial closed in on 2nd Bn.

Drops for 2nd and 3rd Bns. completed.

Leonard up with I&R 124th to get last detail –

Special radio for automatic Air Drop.

Code words.

Reg.	TEXACO – ready to move to objective next daylight LITTLE JOE on objective.
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Brig for	BANANA FRITTER 24 hrs.
Supply	PORK LOAF 12 hrs. SUNNY SIDE UP

BRONX CHEER (air support)

MON. JAN 15. 2nd Bn & 3rd Bn. on the way. 0700 hrs.

2 companies of 1st at 1230 (delayed by very poor air drop, req. to be comp. by noon – dribbled until sun down.

1st Bn. Hq. and Reg. Hq. out at 1530 hours.

A Co, 612th (-B Btry), P.S.H. delayed overnight because of air Drop.
 Thrailkill lost – cut across to north trail and moved to NGAWNGA
 Into MAN UNG with Johnson
 1st Serial 124th left MONG-WI only made 1st hump about 1/3 way up.
 Air Support Team arrived MONG WI
 13th still not in.

TUE. JAN 16. Off at 0700 – arrived NGAWNGA 1130 – 2nd Bn cleared no message.
 Head of 3rd in from N.W. after getting screwed up and failing to cut across country.
 Contacted 2nd Bn by 300 radio.
 Moved 3rd Bn. through to clear HO PONG – 1st Bn. following to HO PONG.
 Cleared NGAWNGA 1630.
 Very rough trail along side of mountain – some 25 animals over the side.
 reached HO PONG at 0430 on 17th

[The following figures appear on a page facing the January 16th entries.]

134 O
 4 W.O.
 2895 EM

Reg. Hq. Co.	20 O
	1 W.O.
	90 EM
Battalion	38 O
	1 W.O.
	935 EM
Bn Hq. Co.	16 O
	221 EM
Rifle Co	6 O
	227 EM

15th Army

<u>15 Div.</u>	<u>31st D.</u>	<u>33rd D</u>
51	58	213
60	124	214
67	138	215

28th Army

<u>49 D.</u>	<u>54 D</u>	<u>55 D</u>
106	111	112
153	154	143
168	121	144

<u>33rd Army</u>				
<u>2nd D.</u>	<u>18th D.</u>	<u>53rd D.</u>	<u>56th D.</u>	
4	55	119	113	
16	56	128	146	
29	114	151	148	

WED. JAN 17. Closed into HO-PONG 0430 A.M. less Artillery and Pack Trp. 3rd Bn. failed to clear HO-PONG and messed up 1st Bn. in rear. Couldn't contact 2nd Bn. on radio – even left a set in position until 0800 hrs. Passed 1st thru 3rd, personally followed 1st at 0630 hrs.

I Co. plus 2 plat. 101 Kachin moved north from HO-PONG on MAN NING (Lt. R.W. Fitzhugh) then east to north end of valley. No contact – fixed block & anchor 1st Bn (I&R with Proper in lead) hit 2 squads of Japs in NAWHKAM; beat the Japs to the draw, knocked six down and had the town complete by 1130 hours.

O'Brien and one man killed trying to get to HO-NAW – one other critically wounded Lovejoy moved on over the ridge to south and stirred up another pocket of Japs.

3rd Bn passed through and moved east over the hill to join up with I Co.

Contacted (finally) the 2nd Bn. on ANTRC.

To stay in position until 1st Bn cleared HO-NAW and the Nips in front of A Co.

Air Drop taken on the hill – from one gulley to the next – even to scatter blocks holding around HO-NAW

THURS. JAN 18. HO-NAW well blasted and burned out (Nips in the neck – 40 in there on 16th from native report.) 5th Co. 55th Reg.

Lovejoy pushed through to base of hill to contact Dumshaw [Dumsha] coming from HO-NAW.

3rd Bn. jumped across the paddy and took their objective – minor opposition perhaps 2 squads.

Artillery had some beautiful targets and kept scattering Japs from one place to another.

One Air Support flight came in during morning and hit NAMHPAKKA

Great secrecy again from 2nd Bn. – finally heard at 1300 – coming in from west after say route not practicable. Pushed them on through and up the northern slope – hit by Japs just at the first saddle – had difficult time getting an anchor.

I&R from 3rd Sq. arrived – Mahoney and Air Support Team arrived (Lt. Wischer [Wisher])

Air Drop on flats – plenty of Jap artillery but the work goes on. Nelson nearly hit, then had a mule fall on the ditch where he was – another round right on the bank was a dud.

Every cartridge of 4.2 ammo wet – no one round to be fired.

FRI. JAN 19. Osborne arrived 0730 ahead of 3rd Squadron. (sick with fever)

Hazletine in about 0900, continued coordination to move thru the saddle to NE then strike for objective. Mike Pegg in by early afternoon.

2nd Bn had to carry crest by assault

Two attacks on 3rd Bn. at daylight from North and N.E. decidedly repulsed.

Adkins and Ryan went out to make a check – Ryan hit in leg – Adkins lost

B Co. well fixed in block at south end.

No air support in – Wisher finally called one down and sent them on the stores under the abutments of suspension bridge.

More nice targets for artillery – believed to have knocked out four tankettes – two on road, two north of 3rd Bn.

3rd Squadron got an anchor on their objective and 613th moved into firing position in the saddle.

3rd Bn. Patrol with Sgt. Martin got out to road and blew a crater

SAT. JAN 20. 2nd Bn. continued to consolidate and bumped into well dug in Japs with nambus and heavy mortars right on the razor back. Very difficult positions – hill sides so steep that troops have to hold on to trees or use all fours. – water has to be hauled up from the valley.

Conference with Harrold, Thraikill and Johnson at 3rd Bn. C.P.

14 mules killed by Jap artillery (105's)

Adkins' body found – through the head with 31 about 15 yds from position.

No air support again today.

Much bitching (5 radios) about C-47's getting hit by ground fire (one kicker killed). Air drop field hit hard again by Jap artillery from N.E.

Blew up with stupid Air Corps liaison officer who said that strip was ready at noon yesterday. First L-1 got in alright, but in hurry to get out after some artillery he cracked up. Then a joker with an L-5 cracked up coming in. Very poor strip – poor location – but all hands to work

Some Jap art. from south on 1st Bn. – also few rounds on O.P. to make Art. Obs. scatter and move to new pos.

Art. blew up Jap Ammo. D.P. to N.E. – nice fireworks

Joe Doyer died at hospital.

SUN. JAN 21. 3rd Squadron carried their objective, 1st Squadron backing and blocking.

2nd Bn still probing and pushing without much success except to draw Jap fire. 3rd Bn patrols probed to east and flushed several Japs. got into some nice targets, Japs moving up under ridge to east of 124th

2nd Bn. got patrol to road and set up some mines and high powered booby traps.

No air drop today

No air support planes.

L-1s came in though and got out 44 casualties.

Clearing details of drop field still not organized –

Sent in plan to move 3rd Bn to ridge east of road – if and when we get some supplies.

More squawking on construction of liaison strip – details didn't show up.

Lawrence and Strauss arrived – called for 2 mules to move their gear – new C.P. only some 400 yards away.

Contact with lead elements 114th made by 124th

MON. JAN 22. Up to see 2nd Bn. – hatched plan to send three patrols to ridge east of road – plan to move 3rd Bn. disapproved.

B Battery registered in on NAM NAMMA – good deal of Jap activity out that way.

Checked through with 3rd Bn.

Two trucks headed north blown up by booby traps set by 2nd Bn. – much screaming by Japs.

2nd Bn. patrols again to road and around the ridge – 1 killed 5 wounded in fights with Jap patrols and ambushes.

Eight fighter-bombers finally came in – hit NAN NAMMA and NAMNKOM with good results.

Confirmed identifications – 1st – 5th – 6th/4th and 5th/55th

Jap physical dead – 31

Our casualties 12 KIA 86 wounded.

Two salvos into C.P. one dud (105) 12 yards away.

40 casualties cleared by L-1 planes

TUE. JAN 23. Jap 105's still slapping in on the liaison strip and drop field – couple of men hurt – 100-120 rds.

Checked with Col. Pan 114th on their move – suggested north flank to cover and swing around the Japs rather than straight to NAMHPAKKA thru low ground.

Air Drop fields in a tissey and much squawking – everyone short of rations.

With Johnson to see Osborne. Squared away, 124th to operate 773, we operate 730 – equitable break on everything not marked.

Williams still screwing up on liaison strip – no backbone no common sense. Another L-1 in with stupid landing – busted tail wheel then caught some shell frags. Capt TROTTER Air Corps Lia. arrived.

2nd Bn. killed 3 Japs on patrol near road. Knocked out one tankette on road trap during night – much screaming and jabbering. 4.2's are sweet going out.

Cav. patrol located more Jap. Ammo stores near 3rd Bn – 3rd Bn. out and blew up a part – stockpile 3000 rds 75, 70, & 105 – 400 rds. knee mortar, 18 drums gas & oil – 12 cases small arms.

Blew up on 2nd Bn. jumping the gun on trying to get individual drop and blocking air with 396 group radio.

Still receiving complaints from Rear Ech on transports receiving ground fire.

Ident. on 56 Div. Rcn. and 3rd/4th

Total 130 casualties out by L-1 planes.

WED. JAN 24. Personally oriented Drop Field crew. Holmes in charge of working crews; McLaughlin in charge of dump with unit representations. Macy up to 124th as our rep.

Kicked Williams off the liaison strip and put Harps in charge.

Still a few rounds on drop field and general area from 1st Bn. position down thru our C.P.

3rd Bn. getting some new ones 1 killed, 4 wounded

Patrols operated across road to next ridge east. 2nd Bn. on south flank busted into a pocket, confirmed one but had one man wounded. Found another tankette for their credit on the fire works of last night. Reg. I&R didn't hit. 3rd Bn on north flank squeezed in a Nip patrol with the security ground and confirmed 4 Nips for no casualties.

One Air Corps flight in – hit target to north on smoke from 613th – Nip position supposedly located by 124th patrol.

Up to see Thraikill and vent a little bile – too much rah-rah Thraikill and 2nd Bn. over regiment – damn poor Bn. staff – more complaints and childish squawks from 2nd than all others together, etc. – --

Radio to Tack on N.C.O. block and req to make personal bid.

20 more casualties evacuated – Doc still can't organize –

Casualties to date –

	KIA	WOUNDED
1 st Bn.	2	5
2 nd Bn.	7	71
3 rd Bn.	4	36
612 th	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>
		118

Field promotions on squeeze play for Amen [Ammon], Martin and Murphy – orders not to do it again

THURS. JAN 25. Clearance to go to the rear to carry the torch on a few of the age old G-1 grievances.

Proper by to see me before he checked back on a ticket.

Left strip with Osborne at noon and jumped to PANGHKAM. Found Tommy with the polished jeep waiting for Gen. Willey.

Everything rosey – Put up at 18th Vet. Eva. Capt. Scrubbs.

Quiet evening – good food

2nd Bn. patrol crossing road tied into nimbus and jap mortars – three Amer. killed, four wounded.

3rd Bn. and Reg. I&R LOI KONG east of road and ridge – hill to north – no action.

FRI. JAN 26. To NAMKAM by jeep with Willey and Osborne to witness official opening of Burma-Ledo Rd. (announced by Louis The Lord two days ago) but there was no opening. Japs still in the way. 38th blames C.E.F. – and vice versa.

Sun is now supposed to be moving again. Saw Van Natta – Joe Cannon and Gen. Pick.

Stopped by to see Doc Seagrave. Ol' man is back in his old hospital once again – place rather wrecked but he sure is happy.

To Myitch – 1 hr. 10 min – ar. 1400 hours. Warm welcome from Joe and the gang – good drinks, good eats, and a marvelous sleep.

Jap art. back in with force from east and north pounded 2nd Bn. – had 4 men virtually buried alive – 1 died. 2nd Bn. had more action against build up to east and south – 3 Am. killed 7 wounded. 2 m.g. dest. by en. art. fire. More mines and booby traps set on road – netted another truck trying to move north. 3rd Bn. & I&R tied into a nest of Japs near the road – I&R 1 wounded. 3rd Bn. 7 wounded – conf. 11 Japs.

Today 6 KIA
 17 WIA – evac.
 9 WIA – ret. duty.

Up to date 21 KIA
 94 WIA evac.
 53 WIA w/o hosp. or not evac.

Strength Figures. 26 Jan.

	<u>ASG</u>	<u>OFF</u> <u>ATCH</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>ASG</u>	<u>EM</u> <u>ATCH</u>
Hq Co	12	5	0	89	11
1 st Bn	43	2	0	865	12
2 nd “	42	1	0	784	9
3 rd “	<u>39</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>775</u>	<u>7</u>
	136	9	1	2513	39
31 st Q.M.	2	78			
33 rd “	2	78			
35 th “	3	75			
44 PSH	4	32			
Chinese	1	53			
Kachin	1	2 (153 Kachins)			

SAT. JAN 27. Had session with Sultan – he doesn’t seem to register on names places or units.

Presented my cry on N.C.O. block – S. didn’t know that 2nd & 3rd Bns. comp. of men from Myit fighting. Anyway we made the point with a solution that might work. Also talked with Yett and Bray – all in accord. Now if they will just do something.

Had a good talk with Joe. Couple of minutes with Peggy Durdin for background on article.

Left Mitch at noon – can’t get over how easy travel over the hills by plane. 1 hr 10 min to PANGHKAM, 20 min to the war.

Jap art. still coming in

Orders for Lawrence to ret. to Brig. Orders on Wallis and Walker to Z Force.

SUN. JAN 28. Start a good day – end an unhappy day.

Air Corps flight “Ring Up Yellow” from 89th Sq in and laid a beautiful pattern on LOI KANG ridge south of 2nd Bn. Started strafing runs and then 4th plane came in on bomb run. From here it looked as though it was right on our troops – my immediate reaction that strafing had hit a stack of H.E. Mighty tense few minutes until clear.

2nd Mission “Ring Up Red” on hill near 77 mile mark – enemy position located day before yesterday.

Enemy still throwing in 150’s, 105’s and 70’s or 75’s.

Mortar barrage on 77 mile hill then L Co moved in to clear – tenacious Japs still there – four nambus, cut down Pappy Clark and Swartz and 4 EM – 10 others wounded.

F.A. had another gun knocked out – no casualties.

Requested two more air missions last night’s radio and urgent again today – no soap – and two days ago Col. Pinkney was offering by the car load –

S.O.S. Capt Darlington arrived.

Walker and Wallis didn’t get out.

Submitted request for leave.

MON. JAN 29. Early over to 3rd Bn – ducking thru free grain drop.

Funeral services for Clark, Swartz and 4 EM.

Japs bouncing in a nasty one – high vel. like wiz-bang except more punch. Sat on 3rd Bn. per. with Harrold while six of ‘em pop in about 50 yards to our left. never could see the gun.

No air in – radio failure.

Spotted Jap gun later and laid on with artillery.

124th had a good action – laid on heavy on block in front of posit. then went in. took 2 KIA and 10 or so wounded. Counted 34 dead Japs.

Some replacements arrived by trail along with 2nd Squadron. (Applegate, Newman, and med Capt. Meyers)

Gen. Willey arrived in afternoon direct to C.P. near 124th

Wallis and Walker finally out –

Jap 150 still working on us – knocked out another 75 on the crest.

	KIA	WIA (evac.)	WIA (duty)
1 st Bn	2	6	2
2 nd Bn	17	67	42
3 rd Bn	11	45	19
612 th	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>
	32	125	74

TUE. JAN 30. Up to the ears in administration – citations, new efficiency reports etc.

Made visit to cemetery – 31 graves in place – set the wheels to get it fixed a little better and to have a memorial service in a few days.

Col. Makey Med. Research in on typhus business –

2nd Bn. knocked off two more Japs on patrol near road – one Amer. killed by short round of 60. Had hoped to find Jap tank or gun in our trap but no luck.

Sent piece of Burma Road to Sultan

Jap 150 laid in heavy about 1630 on strip – several L-5’s in – couple took it on the lamb using less than 1/3 field – one L-5 finally set on fire.

A few more 150’s up to 1st Bn. and F.A.

Japs probed and hit 2nd Bn. about 1945 just before moon came up, then something tried to go south on road

“Footsteps on the stairs” radio for Air Corps on lack of air missions – after Col. Pinkney said “we have plenty now – just ask for them”

WED. JAN 31. Jap attack on 2nd Bn. was built up with fair strength – group on north 12 dead that Japs couldn’t recover gave identification of Reg. Gun. Co., 148th R and some from 168 R. (2 Jap off. with ea. a hand cut off, 57 used Jap 1st Aid packets, a Belgium made rifle and 1 nambu. 2 Japs killed (bodies at daylight) on diversionary attack from south and west flank (good deal knee mortar, heavy mortar and automatic fire.

Supplies coming in well – evacuation good L-5’s, 124th and Chinese all using our strip now. 65 evacuations – more Jap artillery starting about 1630 – some smaller guns building up to the east across road – little bastards are really hanging on.

Big one ranging in on 2nd Bn. Hunter and McGuirt both killed direct in their dug-out.

Gen. Willey made visit to C.P. – was out making check on cemetery again – 3 chaplains together.

Total evac. to date from regiment
 747 { currently short
 394 {(strength 2501 EM)
 138 officers.

THURS. FEB 1. With Caifson to see Thrailkill first thing – 2nd does not want to be relieved – sup. plan to use part of 1st in an attack on LOI KANG from south. Spent remainder of morning with 2nd, good spirits but under a strain. Listened too and watched – Berkowitz had a patrol out to road – running into Japs and fire along the way – fire support from ridge – “to hell with ‘em, there’s only a few, I’m going on with my mission.”

Checked back on air strip – going right well (finally). Capt. Trotter and both Lt. Williams there to operate the strip. 81 evacuations today – most from 124 and Chinese. Another Jap truck (U.S. 6x6) knocked out on road last night. Japs also probed 2nd Bn. again early last evening – not in strength as before – no corpses this morning.

Capt. Clark finally in with snoopers scopes – up to 2nd Bn.

Capt. Sanford in to help Lt. Wisher – VHF radio finally working again late this afternoon after missing out on six planes yesterday. (21 planes over) and all possible flights this A.M. Two missions this P.M. but big gun still throwing ‘em. 3 men killed on 2nd Bn ridge.

FA lost another gun complete

Heavy Jap artillery fire starting about 2245 – all sizes – mostly on 2nd Bn.

FRI. FEB 2. Thrailkill killed just before midnight – direct hit on O.P. (7 men there) 2 killed 2 badly wounded. Kornfeld badly torn in leg, Doc Worley made amputation in matter of minutes no time for anesthesia of any kind. Second time Capt Pietch has been caved in on in the day.

Kornfeld	4 units plasma at 2 nd Bn.	} 24 hrs
4 “ “	at 44 th	
3 quarts blood “ “		

Long night – Reg. I&R at daylight to help evac. (5 k. 2 w.)

Up to see Lattin at 0800 – a grim bunch but they try to cover it, no questions about their determination. Amer. Spirit

2nd made attack at 0600 on KAWNGSONG. two Bns. of 89th failed to attack as agreed to take higher ridges to north. 2nd Squadron then pushed on to HPA-PEN Chinese objective. Hobie Kavel with 1 Trp. covered left flank. In afternoon one Chinese Co. arrived.

Back to C.P. 1100 hrs. checked a few details – growled at a few (Trotter) for no force and not accepting mil. resp.

To 44th to see Kornfeld – more guts than most two men.

1200 up to see Johnson – on plans for his attack on LOI KANG.

Artillery registration

25 planes in today 3 were on Jap art., 2 on LOI KANG, 2 on reported  56 C.P.

near MONG-YU

6 letters in the mail.

124th reports they got on one of Jap 150's – direct hits with their art. after Nips opened at 1700 hrs.

(2 men wounded in B Btry 612th

Japs put Wiz Bang near LOI KANG – K-1 W-1 in 1st Bn.

SAT. FEB 3. Up at 0400 to stand by on attack of LOI KANG

C Co. in the lead gained the south peak at 0530, surprised and routed a platoon of Japs – cornered them in a ravine and worked 'em off – and converted about 20 into “good Japs” – Continued to work south with excellent success

Johnson is a real operator. 2nd Bn. carried their end well – bashed the Japs off the first knoll to south with good effect.

Went up to 2nd Bn. at noon. Precision firing by mortars Fussilo and Yukon Jones knocked out several bunkers with direct hits. One BAR man had a perfect deal, about 30 yards from pillbox and Japs started to come out one at a time – four short bursts, four Japs in a pile.

Contact not made by 1600 – troops held in place for the night.

Maxin in a nervous tissy now

Bn. Ex sweating things out in rear.

2nd had 2 KIA and 2 WIA.

1st had 2 KIA and 8 WIA.

one man killed one wounded near the strip by Jap art. fire.

Gen Willey came by in morning – took him over to 44th but no time to go up to 2nd Bn.

SUN. FEB 4. Attack resumed at 0800 after 15 min. of art. and mortar – not many Nips left and contact firmly fixed at 1000 hrs.

Col. Tack visited C.P.

Took Col. T.T. Mackie over to 2nd Bn. – left him with Maj. Stern and then went on through to see Lattin and Johnson at LOI KANG.

1st Bn. out at 1300 with 2nd Bn on the ground. Troops mighty tired but a magnificent job.

1st Bn casualties 2 KIA, 4 wounded (evac.), 11 minor wounds

Saw Joe for an hour or so – he had gone up to LOI KANG thru 2nd while I came down new trail with 1st Bn. He was in a puff when he got back. Deal still the same.

Japs now have one of those darned 150's over the ridge to the east – dropped 6 rounds directly in the C.P. hollow of 3rd Bn. 4 wounded – two of whom died, 1 evac., 1 to duty

2nd Bn. had another man KIA from evening artillery fire.

MON. FEB 5. 2nd Bn. consolidate positions around LOI KANG – no casualties – no Jap 150 fire.

Air mission was placed on probable location as detected from firing night before and from Air observation of tracks. Air mission brought secondary flashes.

Some 75 fire still from east. No activity on road.

Spent entire day in and about C.P. for a change – citations, off. letters, eff. reports, etc. also req for leave.

Packages from Nance & Wif.

94 replacements arrived at dark – on one in charge – a stupid 2nd Lt. M.A.C. had walked along with them over the hill from Namhkan

Capt. Parsons took over from Wisher on the Air-Ground Team.

Tally on Jap dead.

124th 516

475th 157

TUE. FEB 6. Off to see Harrold then with him up to see Lattin. Things sure a lot better – less strain in the eyes in the expressions.

Baird up for a visit – took him back down the hill.

A few last rounds from the 150 – well to south – shots were wild of 2nd Bn. and short of 1st at HO NAW.

A muzzle burst in C Btry killed one man wounded two.

One stray Jap wandered into 2nd Bn. – another patrol tried to probe after dark.

	<u>KIA</u>		<u>WIA evac</u>		<u>WIA not/ev.</u>	
	O	EM	O	EM	O	EM
Hq. Co						
1 st Bn	1	4		11	1	25
2 nd Bn	3	38	3	73	4	55
3 rd Bn	3	9	6	49	2	28
FA		5	2	18	2	17
	<u>7</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>125</u>
	53		162		<u>134</u>	
					349	

WED. FEB 7. Gen Willey in about 1000 – several small things but not much of anything. Interrupted to avoid convers. re. my req. for leave.

Bn. Comdrs. meeting – lot of general items and points for the immediate future.

2nd Bn. into MAN SACK – lots of positions including hospital – no direct contact.

3rd Bn. located new Jap ammo dump 4/5 hundred rds art. and good many cases small arms. Made contact with 89th patrol on the road.

Chinese now in NAMHPAKKA but have not started south

Ackerman came by – gave him about four grips – G-1 and Sp. Serv.

Red Cross Rep (Clayton) here for a visit – also Lt. Col. Disnitioto (Br.) working with Smykal in N.C.A.C. G-4

3rd Bn. still finding more and more small stacks of Jap artillery and small arms ammo.

124th claims 7 Japs killed by their booby traps alone last night (a bit of a stretch I'd say.

They now claim some 480 as to our 160

THURS. FEB 8. Gen. Willey is to the rear for a conference or something.

Once again entire day in the C.P. punching out some administration and trying to think of the things that must be done.

Still trying to get a favorable decision on Combat Infantry Badge for Q.M. and F.A. (much nice talk but no real help or action.)

Lt. King who crashed in a P-51 on 28th near NAM HAI bridge came wandering in to the 3rd Bn – for nine lives he certainly has used them up

89th now in NAMHPAKKA

3rd Bn. still finding more ammo dumps in front of their position.
Lt. Col. Pasco (Asst. G-4 N.C.A.C.) here to see what he could see –
475th

Off. Asgd. 141
Off. Atchd 11
W.O. 2
E.M. asgd 2569
E.M. atchd 47
31st Q.M. 1 – 74
33rd “ 2 – 77
35th “ 2 – 76
44th P.S.H. 4 – 31
7th An. Transp. 1 – 53
612th 29 – 384
Co. B. 101 1 – 2 – 153

Animals

Hq. Co. 17
1st Bn 286
2nd “ 291
3rd “ 280
44th 55
612th 331
1260

FRI. FEB 9. 88th and 89th moving very slowly and with good caution – 1st/89 passing thru 2nd Bn.

88th still in the woods well east of us and the road.

Capt. Snopis (M.C.) and Lt. Andrews back for duty.

Brig, N.C.A.C. and Theater in turn would not accept responsibility of decision on Combat Inf. Badge – must go to W.D. by letter.

Had formal service at cemetery at 1400 hours. Big turnout – men really feel it when the memory is fresh. My 2½ minutes of talk fell flat but it was a nice service just the same.

53 graves. (7 officers – Thraikill, Hunter, McGuirt (2nd) – O’Brien (1st) – Clark, Swartz and Adkins (3rd))

Spent a little time with Bn. Comdrs. adm., citations etc.

A new feeling – the weight and turmoil (even adm.) is lifting from me.

Sent Lt. Stein on his way – a malcontent dentist from 2nd Bn.

SAT. FEB 10. Bn’s on way down from positions into valley – outposts remaining on old positions.

Much snorting from Brig on arrival of Gen. Sultan.

Finally caught up on some old letters and otherwise pattered around.

Capt Prevost back in for duty – going in as S-3 over Taylor – (back to 160 now – said he was 121 in hosp – 178 when he came over to this theater)

Christmas letters arrived today.

Current N.C.O. shortage

2 nd Bn.	3 rd Bn.	Total
1 1 st /Sgt	1 1 st /Sgt	2
4 T/Sgt	7 T/Sgt.	11
22 S/Sgt	9 S/Sgt.	31
28 Sgt.	20 Sgt	48
3 T/4	5 T/4	8
4 Corp	6 Corp	10
51 T/5	36 T/5	87

Doc. Mac. Gave me a quick check today – nothing positive – wants to send me out anyway, too much of an “irritable ol’ crab.”

A little rain tonight.

	<u>Corrected Pers. Report</u>					
	KIA		WIA (evac)		WIA w/o evac	
	O	EM	O	EM	O	EM
Hq. Co						
1 st Bn	1	4		11		22
2 nd Bn	3	26	3	69	3	60
3 rd Bn	3	11	2	54	2	29
612 th FA		4	1	17	1	17
44 th PSH						
31 st Q.M.			1			
33 rd “						
35 th “				1		
	7	45	7	152	6	128
plus 2 deaths non combatant						

SUN. FEB 11. A big day on the local ground. Gen. Sultan made the rounds – a little intermittent rain in the morning but cleared before he arrived. In about 1100 – direct to 44th. A little talk before lunch here at C.P. – several interesting points for discussion – put cards on table for my request. After lunch presented medals at each of the Bn’s including 612th. Then went up to top of LOI KANG ridge. Slick trail from rain but with luck none of the mules spilled over. Off by plane 1530.

Gen. W. apparently well pleased even though things were none too smooth or in good shape. A bottle of spirits for each of unit comdrs. Tack present in his meticulous form.

More rain tonight

Doc. McLaughlin to rear to check thru on patients etc.

MON. FEB 12. More of the same and little of nothing – checking up on unfinished business correcting, and redrafting citations – getting out letters (5). All odds and ends of business.

Groundhog day for me – came out of my hole in the ground and slept top surface.

Much to do on action of stripping clothes from four Chinese 30th Div. who were caught stealing from drop field. Have had a lot of trouble even with a guard of an off. and two squads – one mail bag was rifled – Chinese pull the ol’ dumb act and pay no attention to guards. The stripping of clothes has really stirred a tempest.

TUE. FEB 13. Out to check thru Bns.

Last minute burst from Brig – training schedule, police, mil. courtesy etc.

WED. FEB 14.

THURS. FEB 15. Evac. 1-15 Feb. 9 off. 173 EM.

Total evac. 15 Nov. – 15 Feb. 929

Checked around to each of the units

Out from C.P. at 1240 and up to Brig by jeep. Cleared air strip at 1435. To MU-SE, by jeep to Brig Fwd.

Bob Getter only one there. Back the road 26 miles to old C.P. – Tack – Ligon – worked until 2230 on efficiency reports. (2nd Bn. had gone forward by mistake – nice fix)

FRI. FEB 16. Finished up on the line at 1430

Out from LO-WING strip at 1530 and into Bhamo – some fun.

SAT. FEB 17. Finance – hospital (Lt. Col. Geisler) – Doc Grumbie fixed me up – no bugs, barnacles, moss or other forms of parasites – a relief.

Orders in writing.

High tea at Sultans – My Louis the Lord – Lilly Ponds and a few other stray members.

Checked with Dean Rusk for a ride –

SUN. FEB 18. A day of relaxation.

MON. FEB 19. Off with adieus at 0900 – no plane –

To Myitkyina at noon – much fun and hurry like hell to south strip to catch 1500 plane to Calcutta –

Missed Delhi plane and spent the night.

TUE. FEB 20. Off to Delhi 0700 –

Agra for lunch – Delhi at 1430. Dean Rusk met me with auth and inst to continue.

Arrived Karachi 1930.

To Malie for orders – what a place – back to A.T.C. for the night

WED. FEB 21. Clear 1000

Ar Abadan 1800

Last 3 hrs on ship – changed

Pick up 3 hrs on clock

Depart 1800

Arrived Cairo 1240

Pick up 4½ hrs

THURS. FEB 22. Depart 0410

Arrived Tripoli Castel Benito 1152

pick up 1 hour

Depart Castel Benito 1210
Casablanca 1830

FRI. FEB 23. Leave C.B 0305

Ar Azores 0815

Pick up 1 hour

Lea Azores 0850

Ar Bermuda 1905

Pick up 4 hrs

Lv 1955

2106