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HEADQUARTERS,  
FIRST PROVISIONAL ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY GROUP,  
FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC.

58263

Serial: 00301  
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1 March, 1945.

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To : ~~SECRET~~ Commandant of the Marine Corps.  
Via : ~~SECRET~~ The Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

Subject: War Diary.

Reference: (a) CMC, Ltr serial 1975-50 over AO-96-nsh, dtd 10 May 43.

Enclosure: (A) War Diary for the period 1 February, 1945 to 28 February, 1945.

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (A) is submitted herewith.

*K. W. Benner*  
K. W. BENNER.

Copy to: CG, III Amphibious Corps.  
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HEADQUARTERS,  
FIRST PROVISIONAL ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY GROUP,  
FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC.

SECRET

1 March, 1945.

WAR DIARY1 to 28 February, 1945.

The First Provisional Antiaircraft Artillery Group, consisting of Group Headquarters Battery and the Second, Fifth, Eighth and Sixteenth Antiaircraft Artillery Battalions, is attached to the III Amphibious Corps for the operation now scheduled. All units of this Group were continuing intensive training and making final preparations for the operation throughout the month at their respective locations. The locations are as follows: Second Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion, Guam; Fifth and Eighth Antiaircraft Artillery Battalions, Marine Camp, Kauai, T. H.; Sixteenth Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion, Tinian; Group Headquarters Battery, Saipan.

1 February, 1945.

Group Headquarters Battery was at sea aboard the S. S. TYPHOON, enroute to Saipan from Honolulu. One (1) officer, three (3) enlisted and major portion of equipment were aboard the S. S. DONALD M. DICKINSON, in same convoy.

3 February, 1945.

At sea. Crossed International Date Line at 1000, east longitude date.

4 - 5 February, 1945.

At sea.

6 February, 1945.

Arrived Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands, at 1130.

7 - 11 February, 1945.

Aboard S. S. TYPHOON at anchor in Eniwetok lagoon. Held school for all personnel daily.

11 February, 1945.

Major Joseph F. INGRAHAM, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, 06868, departed via air for Saipan, on orders to detached duty with island command there in connection with Group Headquarters administrative matters.

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War Diary (Cont'd)  
-----12 February, 1945.

Departed Eniwetok Atoll aboard S. S. TYPHOON at 1315.

13 - 15 February, 1945.

At sea.

16 February, 1945.

S. S. TYPHOON and S. S. DONALD M. DICKINSON arrived Saipan Island, Marianas Islands, at 1100 and docked in TANAPAG Harbor at 1600.

At 1630, disembarked three (3) officers and forty (40) enlisted who established Battery camp in Second Marine Division Area.

Started unloading S. S. TYPHOON and S. S. DONALD M. DICKINSON at 1800.

17 February, 1945.

Rejoined Colonel Kenneth W. BENNER, U. S. Marine Corps, 04068, Group Commander, from temporary duty with Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. Rejoined Lieutenant Colonel, John F. DUNLAP, U. S. Marine Corps, 05619, Group-3, from temporary duty with III Amphibious Corps. Also rejoined Major Joseph F. INGRAHAM, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, 06868, Group-4, from temporary duty with Island Command, Saipan.

Disembarked remaining officers and men from S. S. TYPHOON at 1500.

18 February, 1945.

Completed unloading S. S. TYPHOON at 0430.

Received III Amphibious Corps Development Plan, for theater of operations.

19 February, 1945.

Completed unloading of S. S. DONALD M. DICKINSON at 0630 and disembarked one (1) officer and three (3) enlisted.

19 - 28 February, 1945.

During this period every effort was made to obtain all shortages of equipment and to complete final preparations of material and plans for the scheduled operation.

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 War Diary (Cont'd)  
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19 February, 1945.

Submitted combat readiness report to III Amphibious Corps, showing readiness of Group Headquarters at 70%.

22 February, 1945.

Received SOI of III Amphibious Corps.

24 - 25 February, 1945.

Lieutenant Colonel Max C. CHAPMAN, U. S. Marine Corps, 05325, and Lieutenant Colonel August F. PENZOLD, U. S. Marine Corps, 05399, Commanding Officers of the Second and Sixteenth Antiaircraft Artillery Battalions, respectively, visited this headquarters for a conference on plans for the scheduled operation.

Published Group Operations Memorandum Number 1-45 giving details of JAN Grid to be used in operation.

25 February, 1945.

Published Group Operations Order Number 1-45, Top Secret.

26 February, 1945.

Received III Amphibious Corps Administrative Plan 1-45 and Operations Plan 1-45.

27 February, 1945.

Published Group Administrative Plans Numbers 2-45 and 3-45.

Distributed copies of the III Amphibious Corps Administrative and Operations Plans to all units.

Received SOI and SOP of 53rd Brigade, U. S. Army.

28 February, 1945.

Lieutenant Colonel John F. DUNLAP, U. S. Marine Corps, 05619, Group-3, departed via air on temporary duty with the Second Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion in connection with operations plans.

Strength as of 28 February, 1945.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Group Headquarters Battery	19	154	173
Second AAA Battalion )	See Battalion Reports.		
Fifth AAA Battalion )			
Eighth AAA Battalion )			
Sixteenth AAA Battalion )			
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Serial 000256

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First Provisional Antiaircraft  
 Artillery Group,  
 In the Field.  
 24 February, 1945.

Operation Order

First Prov. AAA Group No. 1-45

Maps: 1:25,000 RYUKYU - RETTO A.M.S. L891  
 1:100,000 RYUKYU - RETTO 1945 Edition.

TASK ORGANIZATIONFirst Provisional Antiaircraft Artillery Group - Col. Benner

- (a) Second Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion - LtCol. Chapman
- (b) Fifth Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion - LtCol. Smith
- (c) Eighth Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion - LtCol. O'Halloran
- (d) Sixteenth Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion - LtCol. Penzold

1. (a) The enemy has numerous land and sea-plane bases within light, medium and heavy bomber range of OKINAWA JIMA. The enemy is capable of attempting:
  - (1) Day and night bombing attacks by land and carrier based planes.
  - (2) Bombardment by surface craft and submarines.
  - (3) Counter landings and raids by enemy troops landed from surface craft and aircraft.
  - (4) Raids by fighter planes equipped to be used as dive bombers and rocket launchers.
  - (5) Attacks by suicide planes.
- (b) (1) All active means of air defense including anti-aircraft artillery, smoke, and fighter planes will be employed in a coordinated and complementary defense under the command of Commander Joint Expeditionary Forces until passed to the control of the ADCC ashore.
- (2) Fighter plane and antiaircraft support will be provided by Naval forces. Long range bombing will be provided by Army aviation.

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