

FAR EAST

6. North Koreans apparently expanding their antiaircraft defenses: A series of North Korean messages dated from 3 to 13 October suggest that a further expansion of antiaircraft units is currently under way.

Messages from three antiaircraft regiments in the Wonsan-Hamhung-Tanchon east coast area in the first week in October stated that many persons had gone to Kanggye, in north central Korea on the main supply route. One message suggested that 37mm antiaircraft guns were to be picked up there.

Messages dated from 10 to 13 October detailed the withdrawal of antiaircraft gunners from divisions subordinate to the II and V Corps on the east coast and their subsequent departure for Pyongyang. A message on a net associated with the Antiaircraft Command spoke of the "newly organized regiment" on 13 October and on the same day addressed a message to the "32nd regimental commander" relative to the receipt of ammunition, guns and primer movers. (CANOE IL [ ]/T-1154 3 Oct, IL [ ]/T-1223 5 Oct, RSM/4278 7 Oct, FECOM Special Intelligence Bulletin 596, 11 Oct 52; IL [ ]/T-1342, 11 Oct; IL [ ]/T-1366, 13 Oct; IL [ ]/T-1397, 14 Oct; IL [ ]/T-1401, 14 Oct 52)

Comment: These messages would indicate that the North Koreans may be activating two new antiaircraft regiments.

7. Battered Chinese tank company to withdraw from the front: A Chinese tank company, probably the 2nd, which has been supporting the 38th Army in the battle for White Horse Hill, was instructed by its parent regiment on 16 October that it must remain in position for "a couple of days" and that if "the situation does not change, there will be a (uniform?) withdrawal."

A message from the 2nd company to the regimental headquarters on the previous day detailed the condition of seven tanks under its control. Three were operational, but four had met with a variety of noncombat mishaps and required at least some repairs. (CANOE L [ ]/T-1408, 15 Oct; [ ]/790, 16 Oct 52)

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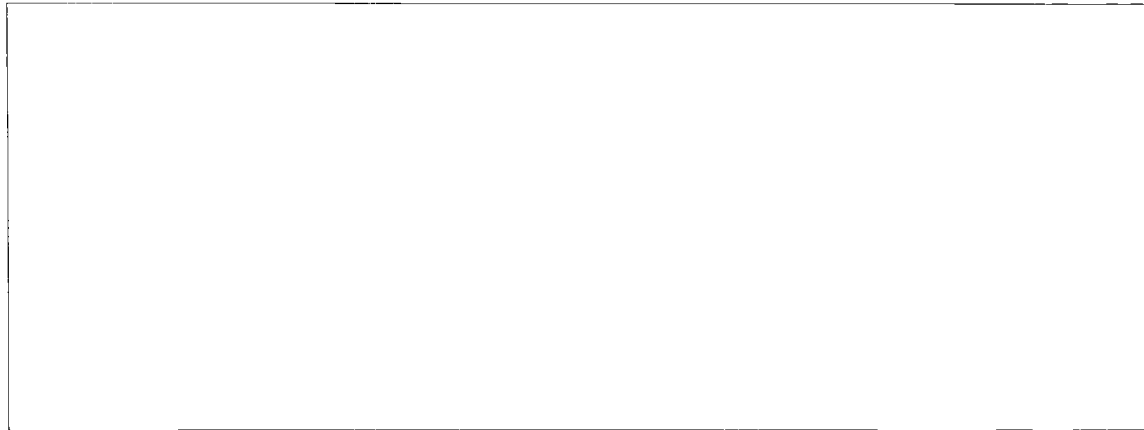
Comment: The standard table of equipment of a Chinese line tank company calls for six T-34 tanks. It is possible, therefore, that the above reporting unit was reinforced for its special support mission.

The reference to a future "withdrawal" is further evidence of the limited nature of present Communist operations.

8. North Korean coastal security unit's strength, equipment and deployment listed: The 2nd battalion of the North Korean 21st Brigade on coastal security in southern Hwanghae province reported that it was defending 131 kilometers of the coast extending inland a depth of 17 kilometers. The unit's strength was given as 415 soldiers. Attached was a 232-man battalion of Chinese light (76mm) artillery and a 113-man Korean 82mm mortar battalion.

Weapons in the possession of the battalion and its supporting unit were 344 rifles, 117 submachine guns, 29 machine guns, 29 mortars, 12 light artillery pieces, and two 107mm coastal defense guns.

The same day the 21st brigade warned the 2nd battalion that a report from the Chinese 63rd Army, also in western Hwanghae, stated that 8,000 UN troops were to stage a practice landing in the area. The battalion was alerted to strengthen the guard and stand by for combat. (CANOE SK-400 and 428, 16 Oct 52)



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