

Commanding Officer,
CG LORSTA, APO 815
San Francisco, California

9 March 1955
AL6-1
Serial 087

From: Commanding Officer, CG LORSTA, Iwo Jima
To: Commander, 14th Coast Guard District (o)
Via: Commander, Marianas Section, U.S.C.G.

Subj: War Game Exercise, U. S. Marine Corps Mock Raid on Iwo Jima, effect upon and action taken by Coast Guard Loran Station Personnel.

1. On the morning of 8 March 1955, at 0250 hours, the night security watch of this station noticed three unidentified persons running from the Generator Hut into the undergrowth that surrounds the station. He immediately called the Commanding Officer by telephone and upon his order awoke the men in the barracks. While the men in the barracks were being roused the Commanding Officer dressed and strapped on a .45 cal. service automatic. It was at this time the opinion of the Commanding Officer that the persons in question were either Air Force or Army enlisted men, or Japanese from the camp here on the island and that these persons were probably drunk and amusing themselves by causing some mischievous commotion at this station. Equipped only with flashlights eight of the crew were posted along the station road while the Commanding Officer, Chief ET, and the Seaman entered the undergrowth from the opposite side in an effort to flush whoever may still have been there. One man was sent to the galley to call the Loran Watchstander to ascertain that all was secure at the Loran Hut that is about 150 yards remote from the station.

2. The man designated to call the Loran Hut rang the phone five separate times before receiving an answer, and when the Watchstander finally answered his words were "This is GRISS, I'm on watch and everything is O.K." This put doubt in the mind of the man phoning and he raced back to the crew saying the watchstander was in trouble. The senior man of the group posted around the undergrowth broke off his group and had them run down the hill to the Loran Hut to determine the trouble. Upon arriving at the lower comb, they saw four persons in dark clothing dragging GRISS, the watchstander toward the brush. They called halt or we'll shoot twice and the four figures dropped their captive and broke into a dead run. The senior man then called out for one of our men to fire, although none possessed fire arms of any nature, and one of the figures stopped with his hands in the air. Two continued to run down a dirt road and the fourth ran off a twenty foot cliff at the end of the combs. A subsequent search failed to locate him and it is assumed he escaped.

3. What had occurred at the Loran Hut is this: The watchstander was filling out his 0300 log entry when he heard the front door of the Loran Hut open. He looked up and in the dark it looked as if it were the Chief ET down for a routine check on the gear as it is his habit to do late at night. The watchstander went back to his log and when next he looked up there were four men standing over him. They grabbed his arms and tied them behind his back and after searching the drawers of the Timer Room proceeded to drag him out with them. He protested violently, trying to explain the seriousness of his being absent from the Timer Room for even a short period of time. The men were not impressed however and they continued to drag him from the building.

When about half way to the brush the Loran Hut phone rang, and the watchstander informed his captors that he must answer it or there may be trouble up above. By the time the captors got the watchstander back into the Loran Hut the phone had rang five times, this being much too long a period considering the proximity of the phone to the Timer Room. The watchstander spoke into the phone while one of his captors held it. Upon completion of the call the captors again dragged GRISS from the building. This is shortly before arrival upon the scene by the station crew, resulting in the freeing of the Coast Guard man and ultimate capture of the raider.

4. Leaving one man below to aid the watchstander in case of a repeat incident, the remaining Coast Guardsman brought their prisoner back up the hill to the station upper level and turned him over to the Commanding Officer who was just emerging from the undergrowth after an unsuccessful attempt to locate the remainder of the party. The prisoner was taken under guard to the C.O.'s Hut, where he was interrogated in order to get to the bottom of the case. The prisoner taken was SGT. ROBERT DODGE (1250431) U.S. MARINE CORPS. He was in charge of a group of seven other marines whose job it was to destroy the Loran Station with simulated time bombs, and to take prisoner the Loran Watchstander. He was one of a group of 51 marines that had landed by rubber boat from a U.S. Submarine Saturday night, and had been concealed on the island since then. His identity was determined by his dog tags. Not knowing anything about the scheduled raid left the Commanding Officer at a loss as to what to do with the prisoner so after determining positively he was an American Marine there for a Mock Raid, the prisoner was released to join his party that was scheduled to rendezvous on the beach for withdrawal to the Submarine. Immediately after he left one of the Station crew members brought up to the quarters a brown canvas knapsack that he found under one of the generators. It is assumed that this was to represent the time bomb, but the sack was filled with blocks of wood. During the remainder of the night the crew stayed awake, and were armed with M-1 Garands, without ammunition, in case of a return by the raiders. No further incident occurred and it was assumed that the MARINES had had enough of the COAST GUARD for one night.

5. Later the same morning the Commanding Officer drove up to the Air Force Base to report the actior to the Air Base Commander, LtCol. KINGHAM. After making his report he learned the following incidents had occurred at the Air Base the same night. Simultaneously dummy smoke bombs were exploded at the central communications site, the GCA site, the fire house, the Mess Hall, and many other important buildings at the Air Base. The Colonel was surprised in his sleep by six (6) Marines and trussed up and gagged and taken prisoner in a stolen jeep. The officer whose jeep was stolen called the Staff Duty N.C.O. and sent him after it. The Staff Duty N.C.O. was also taken prisoner at a road block. All the Officers of the 808th Army Engineer Battalion Detachment were bound and gagged and left in their bunks. The total number of Air Force and Army prisoners had as yet not been determined, but all those taken were removed to a temporary compound on the beach that the Marines had set up and there spent the night. No Marines were captured at the Air Base, and all the missions were successfully completed.

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6. This Commanding Officer extended to the station crew his compliments and admiration for the part each of them played in foiling an otherwise successful raid on the Coast Guard Loran Station. The prompt action of the security watch, and the presence of the mind of the Loran Watchstander were most commendable. Also the courage displayed by the group of men who went to the aid of the Loran Watchstander when he was being taken prisoner was in the best tradition of the Coast Guard. These men were unarmed and had no way to determine if their enemy was armed or not but they nonetheless pursued them with intent to capture.

7. It is hereby requested that the District Commander take some written note of this incident that the crew may know their efforts were appreciated by higher authority than their Commanding Officer. ~~also~~. It is felt that some notification will lead toward higher morale and more pride of service.

HAROLD W. PARKER

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