

OFFICE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
503D PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

APO 73
7 March 45

Subject: Historical Report of Communications, 503d Preht RCT on
Corregidor Island APO 73.

To: Commanding Officer, 503d Preht RCT APO 73.

1. Communications on Corregidor Island were very satisfactory with the following notations being made.
2. Radio: Radio personnel dropped 0840 hr on Corregidor Island. The first half hour was spent in assembling personnel and radio equipment to the Regimental C. P. Personnel arrived with radios 0915 hr and set up to work Radio SCR-694 and SCR-300 contact made with 38th Division Headquarters and 149th Inf Regt on mainland at 0920 hr. Reception good at both ends - traffic being transmitted. Radio SCR-300 net established with 3rd Bn 503d Preht RCT at 0940 hr. This Bn at that time was the only tactical unit on the ground with exception of 462nd FA Bn who had assembled at Reg'tl CP and did not require radio or wire communications. Radio SCR-694 communications established with rear base at Mindoro, 1000 hr. Perfect reception at both ends. Beach landing made by 3rd Bn 34th Inf at 1030 hr. Radio SCR-300 communication established. Upon landing XI Corps radio SCR 399, brought in to work back to Corps by Rock Force, contacted land mine and was damaged beyond repair. Established radio communications continued until 1415 hr, when 2nd Bn with remainder of Reg'tl Comm Section and Engineer Company jumped on Corregidor. Upon landing, 2nd Bn entered established SCR-300 net. Engineer Company assembled vicinity of Reg'tl CP., therefore no need for radio or wire communication. Remainder of Reg'tl Comm Section assembled at Reg'tl CP with Message Center and Wire equipment. Message Center established and plans made for wire communication. More radio bundles recovered at 1500 hr, and radio SCR-284 voice communicator established with Naval Support Party afloat by JASCO Officers attached to Regt for mission. Beach landing by 1st Bn 503d Preht RCT at 1645 hr 17 Feb 45. Radio SCR-300 communication established. Established radio communication continued until 19 February 45 when radio team from XI Corps arrived to replace SCR-399 lost upon beach landing. Radio brought in was TW-12m but was damaged upon arrival and communication to Corps unsuccessful. SCR-694 radio communication to 38th Division HQ continued. 2nd Bn 151st Inf arrived 1100 hr 24 Feb 45 to replace 3rd Bn 34th Inf. Radio communication closed with 34th and established with 151st. Need presented for radio communication to Marivelles so radio communication continued. Commander-in-Chief General MacArthur arrived for flag raising ceremony 2 March 45 and inspected installations. Radio TW-12 arrived from XI Corps 3 March 45. Radio net SCR-694 with 38th Div Hq closed out. Established communication continued as outlined above for remainder of operation. For radio nets, see attached diagrams.

3. Wire: No wire laid initially because shortage of plane space did not permit wire teams and equipment to be dropped. Radio communication very satisfactory so no need for wire. Wire team with equipment dropped on Corregidor Island 1415 hr 16 Feb 1945. After dropping, wire team assembled at Regimental CP to execute plans for wire communication. First wire line established at 14 Feb 1945 with 3rd Bn 34th Inf Regiment. Wire laid to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Battalions, 503d Precht RCT and switchboard installed 18 Feb 1945. Wire installations of 3rd Bn 34th Infantry Regt taken over by 2nd Bn of the 151st 1100 hr 24 Feb 45. Normal wire maintenance and operation for remainder of mission. For wire installations see attached diagram.

4. Message Center: Message Center personnel dropped on Corregidor Island 1415 hr 16 February 1945. Section then assembled at Regimental CP and set up message center. Normal procedure for duration of mission.

5. Personnel responsible for successful communications on Corregidor:

Capt Charles R. Rambo	Regtl Comm O
Capt Donald D. Burke	FA Comm O
1st Lt Glen D. Mook	1st Bn Comm O
1st Lt Joseph Bitala	2nd Bn Comm O
1st Lt Joseph K. Naftel	3rd Bn Comm O
2nd Lt William J. Dunklin	Plat Ldr Regtl Sec
WOJG Ray Brarum	Asst Comm O Regt
RCT Comm Sections	503d Precht RCT
1st Lt William J. Bernardo	JASCO
1st Lt Robert T. Evans	JASCO
Capt Henry L. Gire	5th USAAF
Capt Maynard P. Davis	98th Sig Bn

6. Radio communications in the Corregidor area were excellent. This can be attributed to the fact of dry climate and proximity of units. Radio SCR-300 and SCR-536 proved to be excellent voice sets and at no time caused failure of voice communications. Radio SCR-694 proved to be the ideal CW and voice radio for parachute use due to its size, weight and excellent dependable operation.

7. Recommendations: Recommend this unit be issued all SCR-694 radios in lieu of SCR-284 radios because of their suitability for parachute use.

CHARLES R. RAMBO
Capt, 503d Precht RCT
Communications Officer