THE BATTLE OF CHIPYONG-NI STAFF RIDE (KOREA, 1951)

STUDY INSTRUCTIONS & READINGS

(Exportable)



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THE BATTLE OF CHIPYONG-NI Staff Ride

STUDY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CHIPYONG-NI STAFF RIDE (KOREAN WAR)

CORE READINGS:

- 1. The Korean Peninsula
- 2. Operation Thunderbolt, January to February 1951
- 3. Ambush at the Twin Tunnels
- 4. The Battle of the Twin Tunnels, 31 January to 1 February 1951
 - a. The Return to the Twin Tunnels
 - b. General Almond's Visit and General Steward's Foray
 - c. The Night Battle at the Twin Tunnels
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 - b. The Easy Company Patrol
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 - e. The Battle of Hoengsong
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- 7. The Battle of Chipyong-ni, 13 to 15 February 1951
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 - c. The First Night of the Siege
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 - f. Task Force Crombez and the Relief of Chipyong-ni
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- Annex C: US Weapons at Chipyong -ni
- Annex D: The French Battalion and General de Corps d'Armee Ralph Monclar
- Annex E: Lieutenant General Matthew B. Ridgway, Command US 8th Army
- Annex F: Major General Edward M. (Ned) Almond. Commander X US Corps.
- Annex G: The Chinese Communist Forces- CCF

Study instructions for the Chipyong-ni Staff Ride (Korean War)

1. Overview:

- a. This Army University Press-Combat Studies Institute virtual staff ride examines the actions of US 23d Regimental Combat Team (RCT) in the Korean War. The staff ride provides a brief overview of the Korean War prior to the combat at Chipyong-ni and then focuses specifically on the combat actions of the 23d Infantry Regiment from 27 January 15 February 1951. These actions included the combat reconnaissance patrol (27 -29 January 1951); the Battle of the Twin Tunnels (31 January 1 February 1951); the company and battalion level patrols near Chipyong-ni (3-11 February 1951); and the siege of Chipyong-ni (12-15 February 1951).
- b. The material in this packet is designed to assist in preparing for the virtual staff ride and consists of core readings for all the staff ride participants and specific readings (annexes) for key historical characters in the Chip'yong-ni story. The readings provide context for the operations of the 23d RCT in early 1951 and give the participants the details of the operations that will be covered during the virtual staff ride. It is highly recommended that participants read all of the material and take notes for use during the staff ride.
- c. The staff ride is not a lecture; it will be a facilitated discussion. The better prepared the participants are, the better the staff ride will go.

2. Divide the staff ride participants into 5 groups:

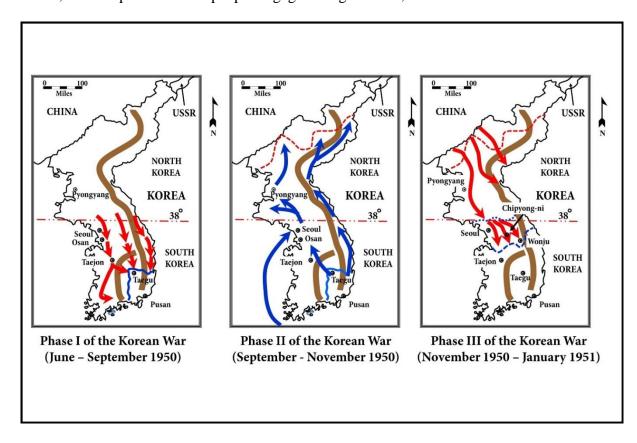
- Group 1: The Chinese Communist Forces (this should be a small group). This group will have significant participation during the entire staff ride.
 - o Read all the core readings.
 - o Read Annex G: The Chinese Communist Forces- CCF
- Group 2: Lieutenant General Matthew Ridgway, Commander US 8th Army, United Nations Forces (also be a small group). Although LTG Ridgway is not physically present at any of the combat actions, his leadership and decisions had a significant impact on the tactical actions.
 - Read all the core readings.
 - Read Annex E: Lieutenant General Matthew B. Ridgway, Command US 8th Army

- Group 3: Major General Edward M. (Ned) Almond. Commander X US Corps (also a small group). Although MG Almond is not physically present at any of the combat actions, his leadership and decisions had a significant impact on the tactical actions.
 - o Read all the core readings.
 - o Annex F: Major General Edward M. (Ned) Almond. Commander X US Corps.
- Group 4: Colonel Paul Freeman and the 23d Infantry Regiment (this should be the majority of the participants in the staff ride).
 - Read all the core readings.
 - o Read Annex A: The 23d Infantry Regiment.
 - Read Annex B: Colonel Paul LaMarch Freeman Jr., Commander 23d Infantry Regiment
 - o Read Annex C: US Weapons at Chip' yong -ni
- Group 5: Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Monclar and the French Battalion (also a small group).
 - Read all the core readings.
 - Read Annex D: The French Battalion and General de Corps d'Armee Ralph Monclar
 - Read Annex C: US Weapons at Chip' yong -ni

THE BATTLE OF CHIPYONG-NI Staff Ride

The Korean Peninsula: Excerpt from CMH Pub 19-6, *The Korean War – The Outbreak* (Center of Military History), 1-5

Korea is a mountainous peninsula jutting from the central Asian mainland with a shape that resembles the state of Florida. Water outlines most of this small country, which has more than 5,400 miles of coastline. The Yalu and Tumen Rivers define much of its northern boundary, while major bodies of water are located on its other sides: the Sea of Japan on the east, the Korea Strait on the south, and the Yellow Sea on the west. China lies above the Yalu and Tumen Rivers for 500 miles of Korea's northern boundary as does the former Soviet Union for some eleven miles along the lower Tumen River. Korea varies between 90 and 200 miles in width and 525 to 600 miles in length. High mountains drop down abruptly to deep water on the east where there are few harbors, but a heavily indented shoreline on the south and west provides many harbors. Summers are hot and humid, with a monsoon season that lasts from June to September, but in the winter cold winds roar down from the Asian interior. A rugged landscape, a lack of adequate roads and rail lines, and climatic extremes make large-scale modern military operations in Korea difficult. In 1950 the country's population totaled about 30 million: 21 million south of the 38th Parallel, with 70 percent of the people engaged in agriculture, and 9 million north.



Operation Thunderbolt: Excerpt from *CMH Pub 19-9, The Korean War – Restoring the Balance* (Center of Military History), 5-7.

By January 1951 the Korean War was six months old. The invasion by North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) in June 1950 had driven the UN forces into a headlong retreat to the Pusan Perimeter. In a spectacular reversal of fortune, the amphibious landing of UN forces at Inch'on in mid-September triggered a collapse of the North Korean People's Army that was only stopped by the enormity of the Chinese intervention in October and November.

The U.S. 2d Infantry Division

On 23 July. Lead elements of the division arrived in Pusan, becoming the first unit to reach Korea directly from the United States. The division was initially employed piecemeal as units arrived. On 24 Aug 1950, the entire division was committed along the Naktong River Line. In the 16-day battle that followed, the division's clerks, bandsmen, technical and supply personnel joined in the desperate fight to hold the perimeter.

From 16-31 Oct, the division participated in the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter and moved north toward Seoul. In the drive north (The Race to the Yalu), the division organized a mechanized task force (TF Indianhead). The TF was the first US unit to enter the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. On 25 Oct, the division assumed the mission of I Corps reserve. (The remainder of the 8th Army continued to drive north toward the Chinese border). The 23d RCT garrisoned a deep water port near Pyongyang, the 9th RCT garrisoned Pyongyang, the attached 187th Airborne RCT garrisoned just to the east of Pyongyang, and the 38th RCT remained near Seoul. The division anxiously awaited the end of the war and being shipped home.

The entry into the war of major Chinese military forces rocked the overextended UN troops and sent them reeling back into South Korea. Eighth Army's withdrawal from the Chinese border led to one of the greatest ordeals ever suffered by the U.S. Army.

The U.S. 2d Infantry Division

Chinese forces established a strong roadblock below the town of Kunu-ri and took positions on the hills along the road on which the 2d Infantry Division was moving. On November 30, already weakened by several days of combat in bitter cold weather, most of the division literally had to run a gauntlet of fire that tore units apart. Emerging from the gauntlet with about one-third of its men dead, wounded, or missing and most of its equipment lost, the division staggered back into South Korea to refit.

For a time it seemed that the UN forces might have to abandon the peninsula, resulting in a complete Communist victory. Only by trading space for time and by pummeling the advancing Chinese with artillery fire and air strikes did the new UN commander, Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, halt the enemy. Operations on the eve of the renewal of full-scale UN offensive

operations, the Eighth Army consisted of 178,464 American soldiers and marines, 223,950 ROK Army troops, and UN ground contingents from Australia, France, India, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. These forces were organized into five corps, from west to east: I, IX, and X and the ROK III and I. In general, ROK forces held the more easily defended, rugged terrain in the east, while U.S. forces were positioned on the lower, flatter areas in the west, where their greater mobility and firepower were more decisive.

Arrayed against the UN forces were some 290,000 Chinese and North Korean soldiers. The Chinese were organized into seven corps size armies and twenty-two divisions, 204,000 strong, primarily holding the western and central portions of the front. About 52,000 North Korean soldiers, in turn, organized into three corps and fourteen understrength divisions, held the eastern sector. In addition, an estimated 30,000 North Korean guerrillas were still behind UN lines in the mountainous areas of eastern South Korea. Although the Chinese had halted their offensive after heavy casualties, they had no shortage of manpower. Supply difficulties, rather than casualties, had stopped the Chinese Communists' drive south, encouraging American commanders, in turn, to resume their own offensive north.

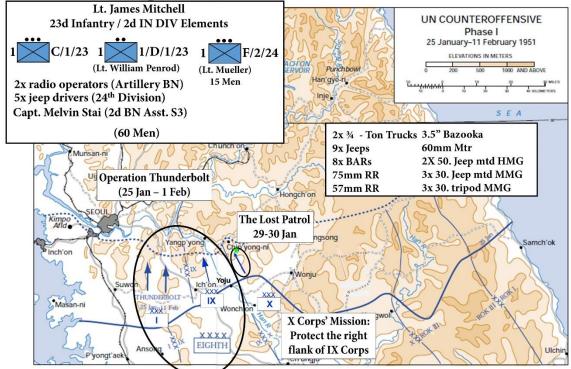
On 20 January 1951, General Ridgway, Eighth Army commander, issued a directive designed to convert his current reconnaissance operations into a deliberate counterattack. Since the enemy situation was still unclear, the action, codenamed Operation THUNDERBOLT, was designed to discover enemy dispositions and intentions with a show of force. The operation had the additional objective of dislodging any enemy forces south of the Han River, the major estuary running southeast from the Yellow Sea through Seoul and beyond. The projected attacks did not represent a full-scale offensive. Phase lines—lines drawn on maps with specific reporting and crossing instructions—would be used to control tightly the advance of the I and IX Corps. The units were to avoid becoming heavily engaged. To accomplish this, each corps would commit only a single U.S. division and ROK regiment. This use of terrain-based phase lines and of limited advances with large forces in reserve was to become the standard procedure for UN offensive operations for the rest of the war.

The first, or western, phase of Operation THUNDERBOLT lasted from 25 to 31 January. The I and IX Corps moved up to twenty miles Corps sector, and on the twenty-ninth Ridgway converted THUNDERBOLT into a full-scale offensive with X Corps joining the offensive on its eastern flank. The I and IX Corps continued a steady, if slow, advance to the Han River against increasingly more vigorous enemy defenses.



General Ridgway (National Archives), CMH 19-8

2A: Operation Thunderbolt and the Lost Patrol



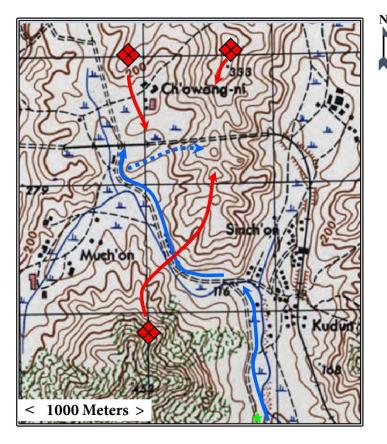


2B Ambush at the Twin Tunnels (29 January 1951)

• 1215: Initial Contact

Lt. Mitchell's Decision

• 1300: Lt. Mueller's Decision



Ambush at the Twin Tunnels (The Lost Patrol): Excerpt from: Billy Mossman, Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951, (Washington, D.C., Center of Military History, 1990), 248.

When General Almond received General Ridgway's 30 January question on an X Corps-ROK III Corps operation similar to THUNDERBOLT, he was in the process of extending the X Corps' diversionary effort ordered earlier by Ridgway. Having achieved the Yoju-Wonju-Yongwol line against little opposition, Almond was planning a strong combat reconnaissance fifteen miles above this line. Searching that deep at corps center and right could apply pressure on the North Korean V and II Corps concentrated above Hoengsong and P'yongch'ang. At the same time, the 2d Division, due to move north along the corps left boundary as far as Chip'yong-ni, eight miles east of Yangp'yong, could protect the right flank of the IX Corps as the THUNDERBOLT operation continued.

In the recent course of protecting the IX Corps right, a joint motorized patrol from the 2d and 24th Divisions on 29 January had moved north out of the Yoju area on the east side of the Han to a pair of railroad tunnels and a connecting bridge standing east and west athwart a narrow valley four miles south of Chip'yong-ni. Chinese in the high ground overlooking the tunnels quickly cut the patrol's route of withdrawal, forced the group into hasty defenses on the nearest rises of ground, and opened a series of assaults. The Chinese finally backed away after air strikes were called in by the pilot of an observation plane who spotted the ambush and after a motorized company of infantry reinforced the group about 0330 on the 30th. The waylaid patrol had suffered 13 dead, 30 wounded, and five missing out of a total strength of sixty.

The Battle of the Twin Tunnels, 31 January to 1 February 1951

The Return to the Twin Tunnels: Excerpt from: Billy Mossman, Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951, (Washington, D.C., Center of Military History, 1990), 248 – 249.

At the discovery of Chinese at the twin tunnels General Almond ordered the 2d Division to identify and destroy all enemy units in that area. The 23d Infantry received the assignment. On 31 January Colonel Freeman sent his 3d Battalion and the attached French battalion to the tunnels. Freeman also had two platoons of the regimental tank company, an attached medical company and elements of Baker Battery/82d Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion at the tunnels. Freeman positioned the 37th Field Artillery Battalion three miles south of the tunnel area along with most of the regiments vehicles (the drivers augmented the defense of the artillery position). The 1st Battalion held key positions along the road from the artillery position to the rear to key open the LOC. The Regiment's 2d Battalion served as the 2d Division reserve.

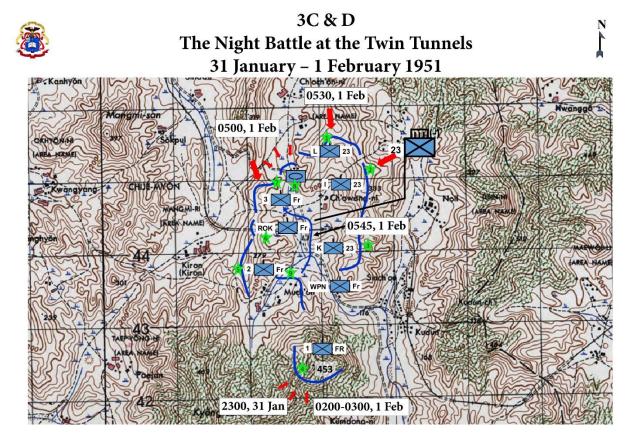
Brigadier General George Stewart, the 2d Infantry Division's assistant commander, accompanied the regiment. He was a 1923 West Point graduate and saw considerable combat in World War II. Stewart considered himself the "eyes and ears" of the division commander. He possibly saw himself as a buffer between the regiment and corps commander. General Almond frequently bypassed the division and issued orders directly to the regiments. Stewart considered Freeman "one of the best fighting commanders you ever saw, but kind of temperamental." Freeman was not comfortable with the mission and stated, "They're going to murder my regiment."

The infantry battalions moved into the twin tunnels area using the high ground to the left and right of the road with the vehicles and support elements keeping pace along the road. It was a long hard march for the infantry over very difficult terrain. The force reached and established a perimeter around the tunnel-bridge complex without sighting enemy forces.

Freeman recognized the importance of using the terrain correctly and the need for tight perimeters on high ground. The 3d Battalion secured the eastern ridge (above the eastern tunnel). Love Company in the north (eleven to two), Item Company in the center (two to three-thirty), and King Company along the southern part of the eastern ridge (three-thirty to five). The majority of the French Battalion occupied the ridge above the western tunnel (Western Ridge). The 3d Company to the north of tunnel (nine-thirty to about eleven), The ROK Company defended a small sector just above the western tunnel (nine to about nine-thirty). The 2d Company occupied the ridge line just to the south of the ROK Company (eight to nine). 1st Company was not tied into the other companies, but instead occupied Hill 453 to the south.

Freeman's perimeter had two significant gaps in the line. To the north, between the French 3d Company and the 23d's Love Company, a tank section covered the gap. To the south, between King Company and the French 2d Company, the French Heavy Weapons Company covered the gap. Also another tank section block the road along King Company's right flank. The large perimeter stretched Freeman's forces into a thin line and left him without a regimental reserve. The battalions did maintain a platoon size reserve.

By late afternoon and early evening, Freeman's men were all in position and digging in and there was no sign of the enemy. However, the 125th Division, 42d Army (CCF) located several miles north of the tunnels was well aware of the 23d Regiment' occupation of the tunnel area and its three regiments (373, 374, and 375th Regiment) moved to occupy attack positions for an early morning assault against Freeman's perimeter.



General Almond's Visit and General Steward's Foray: *Information from Kenneth Hamburger*, Leadership in the Crucible, 105-125.

Late on the afternoon of 31 January, General Almond visited the 23d Regiment's command post. He was surprised that the regiment had not yet made contact with the enemy, and was disappointed that Freeman had not continued north into Chipyong-ni. General Stewart explained that Freeman was operating IAW the division's orders to clear the twin tunnels area and move with caution. He also explained that due to the lateness of the day the regiment needed to occupy a tight defensive perimeter for the night. Nonetheless, General Almond ordered Stewart to "put Chipyong-ni under fire." After Almond left the area, Steward commandeered a tank and moved toward Chipyong-ni. At Chipyong-ni, he saw no sight of the enemy, but stilled fired a burst of machine gun fire over the village. He returned to the regimental perimeter and reported through division to the corps that the regiment had "taken the village under fire."

Freeman voiced his anger at Stewart for Almond's questionable order and for broadcasting the regiment's exposed position to the CCF with machinegun fire. One of his company commanders remembers Freeman saying: "I don't mind the corps commander being around and there's no

problem with him telling me what to do. He should as a courtesy go through the division commander, but that's between those two. What I can't accept is his telling me how to do it, especially if I think his way is dangerous to my command and mission. If Almond wants to be a regimental commander, damn it, let him take a reduction to bird colonel and come down and be one." Stewart admitted the order was "ridiculous," and his action was "unwise." Nonetheless, he probably protected Freeman from Almond's wrath and known penchant for relieving officers who did not precisely carry out his orders.

The Night Battle at the Twin Tunnels: Excerpt from: Billy Mossman, *Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951*, 248 – 249. Additional information from Kenneth Hamburger, *Leadership in the Crucible*, and Leo Barron's, *High Tide in the Korean War*.

Veterans of the fight stated that night (31 Jan 1950 to 1 Feb 1951) was quiet and cold. The initial Chinese efforts were against Captain DeCastries's French company on Hill 453. About 2300, they probed the French outposts and then continued the attacks throughout the night. The Chinese's only good approach into the 1st Company position was along a saddle that ran northeast into the company position. One attack forced the section (platoon) defending the saddle to pull back. Captain DeCastries called in defensive fires from the heavy mortar company in the valley and then counterattacked with bayonets and restored the position. The company's casualties amounted to about ten killed and many more wounded. The Chinese left forty-three corpses in the 1st Company position and thirty-nine more outside the perimeter. By daylight, the fighting on Hill 453 was over for the day. Fortunately for Freeman, the Chinese, with victory almost in their grasp, failed to take Hill 453. The Chinese's failure to take Hill 453 may have been a key factor in delaying the CCF attack against the main perimeter.

About 0440, the Chinese attacked the main perimeter. The CCF first hit the armored roadblock in the north. The Chinese used the fog to close on the tanks and flak wagons. The armored vehicles opened fire at point-blank range and caused serious casualties among the Chinese. Nevertheless, after about 15 mins of fighting, the road block vehicles pulled back toward the Regimental CP with their wounded.

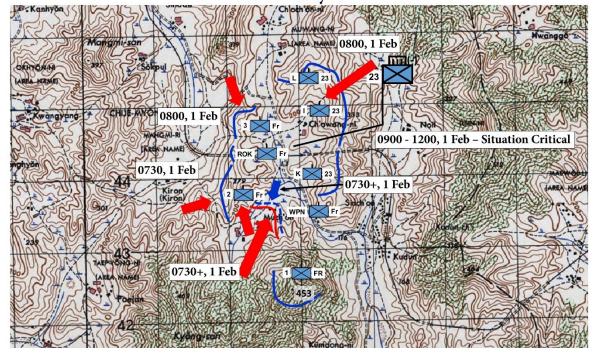
One veteran remembered it was "the oddest infantry battle I ever saw, fighting from before daybreak until after 1600 hours nonstop, just blasting away." Colonel Freeman blamed General Stewart for drawing the Chinese against the regiment with his tank foray into Chipyong-ni. He told Stewart, "I told you this was going to happen. What do you want me to do now?" Stewart replied that their only choice was to stay and fight, and stated, "Let's kill as many Chinese as we can."

Freeman was concerned with the Chinese willingness to attack at such a late hour. Their normal practice was to attack about 0300 hours and then withdraw by daylight. He and his staff concluded that the Chinese were determined to deny the Americans the vital road net at Chipyong-ni.



3E The Daylight Battle at the Twin Tunnels 1 February 1951





The Day Battle at the Twin Tunnels: Excerpt from: Billy Mossman, *Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951*, 248 – 249. Additional information from Kenneth Hamburger, *Leadership in the Crucible*, and Leo Barron's, *High Tide in the Korean War*.

Unfortunately for the defenders, the day dawned with a solid overcast and there was little hope of air support until the weather improved. Nevertheless, Air Force, Navy, and Marine air maintained fighter bombers on station to exploit any break in the weather.

Soon after the fight against the northern roadblock, a battalion of the Chinese 374th Infantry Regiment (125th Division) with bugles and whistles blaring attacked the East Ridge occupied by the 3d BN, 23d Infantry. Some of the Chinese wore bits and pieces of American uniforms. This caused the defenders to hesitate before firing on them until they confirmed their identity. Other elements of the 374th Regiment, on the east side of perimeter, also attacked Item Company's line. For the next hour, both companies battled against the Chinese 374th Regiment. At times the fighting was hand-to-hand and positions changed possession repeatedly throughout the fight.

About the same time, a battalion of the Chinese 375th Regiment attacked the French 3d Company. The Chinese overran the section (French Platoon) to the front of the company's main line of resistance. Lieutenant Ange Nicolai's commanded a small rear-guard that bought time for the section to withdraw. In the fighting, Nicolai was wounded and left behind. The commander of the 3d Company rallied the section and counter-attacked. The French attack pushed the Chinese back and the soldiers recovered Nicolai. Unfortunately his wounds proved to be mortal.

At 0545, Colonel Monclar directed the heavy weapons company to send reinforcements to the 3d Company. Captain Andre LeMaitre, the commander, dispatched twenty-four men, three machine guns and a recoilless rifle to reinforce the embattled 3d Company.

Throughout the fighting, the defenders responded with heavy concentrations of artillery and mortar fire to beat back the Chinese attacks. Sometime that morning the Chinese broke off the attack and there was a lull in the heavy fighting that lasted an hour or so. Freeman's soldiers took this opportunity to consolidate their positions and redistribute ammunition and supplies.

Between 0730 and 0830, the French experienced a major crisis when the Chinese mounted almost simultaneous attacks against the 3d Company and then the 2d Company. The Heavy Weapons Company's reinforcements to the 3d Company prevented a Chinese breakthrough in that sector. However, Captain LeMaitre's Weapons Company had only forty-five men to hold the position on the valley floor. About 0800, the Chinese attacked the weakened position in the valley and overran the French position. In the fighting, LeMaitre was mortally wounded while trying to emplace a machinegun on the flank of his position. The Chinese's success in the valley also threaten the left and rear flank of the French 2d Company. Major Barthelemy, the battalion's third in command, directed Lt. Claude Jaupart to counter-attack with a ROK platoon and the Engineer Platoon. King Company supported the attack with tank and recoilless rifle fire. By about 0800, Juapart had regained the company's original positions.

Soon after 0800, the Chinese renewed their ground attacks against Item and Love Companies, and against the French 2d Company to the southwest. The Chinese pushed into a gap between Item and Love Companies. They then positioned machine guns that could fire on the command posts on the valley floor. Colonel Freeman recognized the seriousness of the situation and ordered the 1st Battalion units guarding the road to the south to move to the tunnels area to assist the regiment in its fight. Baker Company, the company closest to the tunnels, started north immediately. However, when it reached the position occupied by the 37th Field Artillery Battalion, it observed Chinese forces near the guns. Freeman directed Baker Company to remain with the guns. At about the same time, division released his 2d Battalion from its reserve mission and a directed the battalion to move to the tunnels area. Freeman was also worried about his ammunition supply, and he directed the rear CP to send ammunition forward.

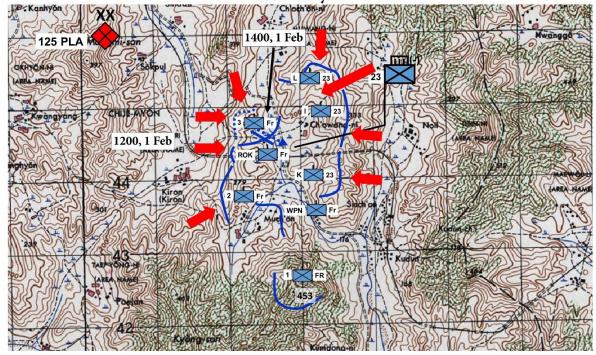
At 0900 hours, Lieutenant Colonel Kane reported that the situation was critical in Item and Love Companies, and that he lacked the forces needed to close the gap between the two companies. Freeman organized an improvised force of regimental personnel to assist the 3d Battalion. He also personally directed the fires of a twin-40-mm cannon against the Chinese in the gap. Kane also ordered a platoon from King Company to support Love Company.

Simultaneously, there was desperate fighting in the French 3d Company's sector. The Chinese killed Captain Leon Serre, the company commander and wounded Major Barthelemy. Nevertheless, the French managed to hold the critical ground.



3F The Afternoon Crisis at the Twin Tunnels 1 February 1951





The Crisis in the Afternoon: Excerpt from: Billy Mossman, *Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951*, 248 – 249. Additional information from Kenneth Hamburger, *Leadership in the Crucible*, and Leo Barron's, *High Tide in the Korean War*.

At about noon, the Chinese attacks intensified against the French 3d Company. About 1400, Major Barthelemy allowed the company to fall back to the south, and the Chinese seized a portion of the critical ridgeline. Freeman and Monclar had no reserves and were critical short of ammunition. Every driver, clerk, cook, and mechanic had been committed to the fight. Freeman moved two tanks and a twin-40-mm flak wagon to support the French. Major Olivier LeMire, the French Battalion's second in command, and Major Barthelemy organized a counterattack force with a platoon from the French ROK Company and the remnants of the 3d Company. The French soldiers fixed bayonets and charge up the hill. The desperate attack seized the ground and reestablished the 3d Company's position.

One observer remembered how General Stewart sat calmly observing the attack and calmly smoking his pipe. Stewart himself remembers being so "calm" that he bit the stems off three pipes that day. General Ruffner, the 2d Division Commander, called Stewart about every half-hour to check the situation. His own experience was that the Chinese did not fight hard during daylight hours to avoid UN airpower, Ruffner wanted to know if things were really as bad as the reports sounded. Stewart recognized a note of skepticism in the division commander's voice, and Stewart replied that he was standing in the blood of his dead radio operator and then held the handset so the general could hear the firing.

By early afternoon, the entire perimeter was under severe pressure. The Chinese pushed the French 2d Company from its position. On the east side of the valley, Lieutenant Colonel Kane reinforced Love Company with a platoon from King Company. However, Item Company was fighting desperately to hold their ridge, and Kane had no help to send them. One Item Company platoon was down to eighteen men, Chinese soldiers again occupied the gap between Item and Love and for a second time were in position to fire directly into the valley. Item Company's M.Sgt. Hubert L. Lee received the Medal of Honor for rallying his platoon and leading an attack to retake their position. In the attack, Lee was wounded multiple times, but continued to lead his men in the counter-attack.

By midafternoon, it appeared that the Chinese were preparing to push the remnants of the two UN battalions back into the valley and annihilate them. Freeman order Monclar to be prepared to withdraw to Item Company's position over the east tunnel as a possible last-stand location. The air liaison officer, remarked to General Stewart: "General, I don't like this. What's going to happen?" Stewart replied that he thought they would all be dead in about twenty minutes. Moments later, a lucky break in the cloud cover allowed USMC fighter-bombers to provide much needed assistance to the beleaguered force.

The Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) directed the first aircraft forward of the Item Company position. The TACP called the next strike against the Chinese attacking the French. Flight after flight came in to support Freeman's battalions and within short time what was left of the Chinese began to "bug out."

Freeman counter-attacked with tanks and flak-wagons along the road to Chipyong-ni. The Chinese 125th Division left twelve hundred corpses around and inside the perimeter. Intelligence estimated total Chinese losses at thirty-six hundred, or almost half the starting strength of the enemy division. Freeman's losses were 45 killed, 207 wounded, and 4 missing.

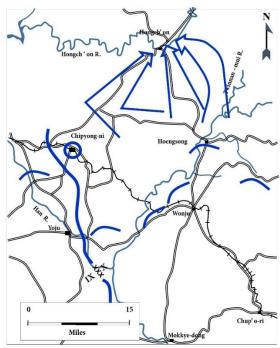
After Twin Tunnels: Excerpt from Billy Mossman's, *Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951*, 249.

Judging from the sharp action at the twin tunnels, the Chinese were determined to retain control of Chip'yong-ni. They had good reason. The town was so situated that the force occupying it could control movements over Route 2 to the west, over Route 24 to the northeast, over Routes 24 and 24A below town, and thus through the Yangp'yong-Ch'ungju segment of the Han valley stretching to the southeast behind it. Eighth Army possession of Chip'yong-ni, furthermore, would pose a threat of envelopment to enemy forces opposing the I and IX Corps below the Han. For these same reasons General Almond planned to seize Chip'yong-ni and incorporated this plan in his overall recommendations for an operation styled after THUNDERBOLT.



23d RCT Mission: "Dominate the road center of Chipyong and occupy the high ground in the vicinity so as to protect the right flank of the IX Corps and establish the western anchor of a X Corps line of departure for the offensive."

- o The 23d Infantry holding the corps' left flank
- o The 38th Regiment held Hoengsong.
- The 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment would protect the division's right flank.
- The corps' right-flank unit was the 7th Infantry Division, at Pyongchang, forty miles east of Chipyong-ni.
- 5th and 8th ROK Divisions attack north and take Hongchon.
- · 4 February LD.



Operation Roundup

Operation Roundup: Excerpt from *CMH Pub 19-9, The Korean War – Restoring the Balance* (Center of Military History), 8-9.

The I and IX Corps continued a steady, if slow, advance to the Han River against increasingly more vigorous enemy defenses. On 2 February armored elements of the X Corps reached Wonju, located in the central section fifty miles southeast of Seoul. Other elements of the X Corps recaptured Hoengsong, ten miles north of Wonju, the same day.

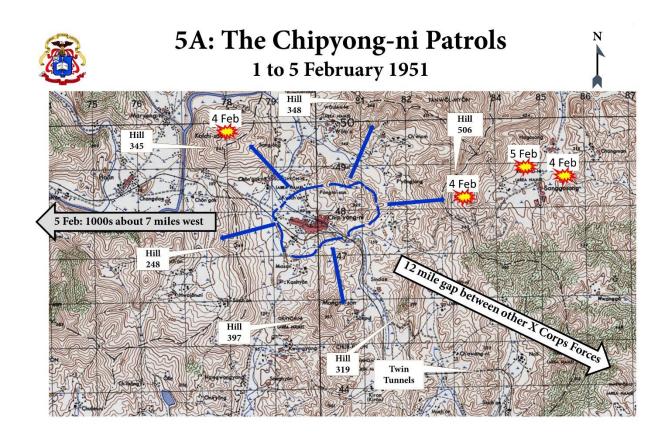
As part of the I Corps attack, the U.S. 25th Infantry Division advanced against stiff enemy resistance in high ground south of Seoul. On 9 February the enemy defense opposite I and IX

Corps gave way. Soon UN units in the west were racing northward. The U.S. 25th Infantry Division retook Inch'on and Kimpo Airfield as elements of I Corps closed on the south bank of the Han opposite Seoul.

While the three U.S. corps advanced west and into the center, General Ridgway decided to expand the offensive to the east by committing additional elements of the X Corps and the ROK III Corps (under X Corps control) in an operation code-named ROUNDUP. ROUNDUP's object was the expansion of the offensive to the central sector of the front. The X Corps' ROK 5th and 8th Divisions were to retake Hongch'on, fifteen miles north of Hoengsong, and in the process destroy the North Korean forces in that vicinity. U.S. forces supporting the movement included the 2d and 7th Infantry Divisions and the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team (RCT). ROUNDUP would also protect the right flank of THUNDERBOLT. Farther east, the ROK III Corps, on X Corps' right flank and still under its control, would also advance north. The operation commenced on 5 February, with both the X and the ROK III Corps attacking steadily, but against increasing enemy resistance.

Into Chipyong-ni

Patrols at Chipyong-ni: Information from Kenneth Hamburger, *Leadership in the Crucible*. 138-148



While MG Almond X US Corps and ROK III Corps advanced toward Hoengsong, the 23d RCT consolidated in position at Chipyong-ni. The town was a key road junction surrounded by a ring of hills. Col Freeman recognized that his Regimental Combat Team (RCT) was operating outside the range of artillery and beyond the supporting distance of other X Corps units. The RCT was isolated with an almost 12 mile gap between him and the next X Corps unit to the east. Freeman believed the isolated American regimental combat team "was simply too ripe a plum for the Chinese to resist." (Crucible, 138) He decided that aggressive patrolling was essential element of protecting the force. He wanted to know where the enemy was and what they planned to do. The first patrols moved out on 1 Feb (the morning after the regiment arrived). Freeman's established four goals for the patrols. Number 1, explore the hills and look for signs of enemy activity. The patrolling provided Freeman with the good intelligence on the whereabouts of Chinese forces near Chipyong-ni. His #2 goal was that he wanted to retain the initiative by expanding the perimeter during the day to push the enemy forces away from the village. His third goal was to destroy enemy supplies and delay the enemy' ability to close the ring around Chipyong-ni. Last (#4) he wanted to engage any enemy in the area with superior firepower (indirect fire and air strikes) to inflict casualties. Accordingly, Freeman ordered each of his battalions to send a platoon-sized patrol to the high ground forward of their position and develop the situation.

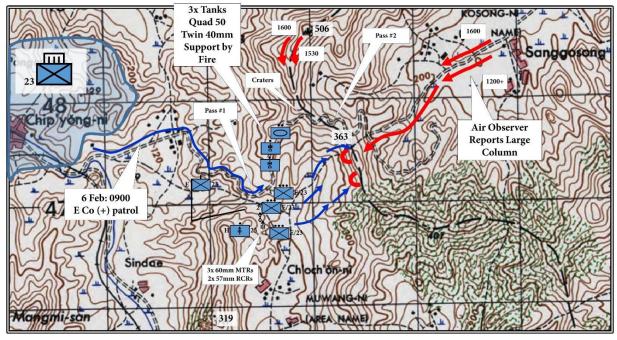
On the 4th, a 2d Battalion patrol to Hill 345 made contact with a platoon size element on Hill 345. That same day, a 3d Battalion patrol had a firefight with an enemy force on Hill 506. Another patrol reported it had observed a hundred soldiers marching in a column about six miles east of Chipyong-ni. At the same time, civilians reported approximately three hundred enemy troops in the valleys east of Chipyong-ni.

On the 5th, patrols reported twenty-five contacts with enemy forces within five miles (8046 meters) of Chipyong-ni; several resulted in friendly casualties. A patrol sent out to contact a patrol from the nearest infantry unit to the southwest relayed a report from that unit of enemy forces estimated in the thousands about seven miles (11265 meters) to the west. Additionally, an air observer reported the largest concentration of forces, estimated at five hundred to six hundred, in and around the village of Sanggosong just two and a half miles to the east. The regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance (l&R) Platoon tried to recon Sanggosong but was stopped by road craters several miles short of the objective.



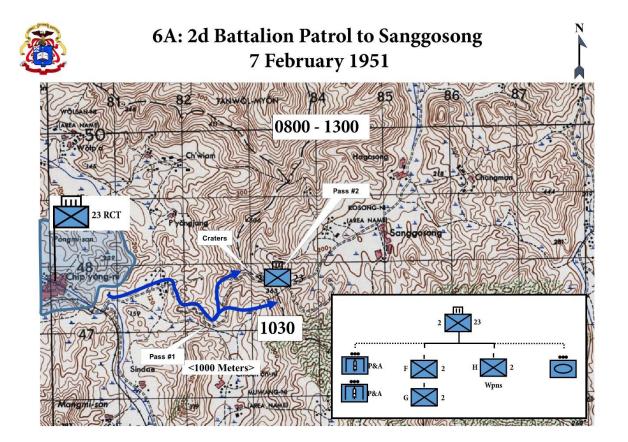
5B: Easy Company Patrol 6 February 1951





The Easy Company Patrol (6 Feb): Information from Kenneth Hamburger, *Leadership in the Crucible*.

On the 5th, Freeman ordered the 2d Battalion to send a reinforced rifle company into Sanggosong the next day. As the crow flies, the village is less than 2.5 miles east of Chipyong-ni. However, the road distance is about 5 miles and includes a tortuous climb over Hill 363. The 2d Battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel James Edwards, assigned the mission to his Easy Company and reinforced the patrol with tanks and a flak wagon. Easy Company had to fight its way up the west slope of Hill 363. The over watching liaison plane reported hundreds of enemy troops moving west out of Sanggosong and more CCF troops maneuvering against the company from the high ground to the north. Lieutenant Colonel Edwards not wanting the company to become decisively engaged, directed them to withdraw. The patrol lost three dead and eleven wounded. The same day, the other regimental patrols found other enemy units to the north, west and south of Chipyong-ni.

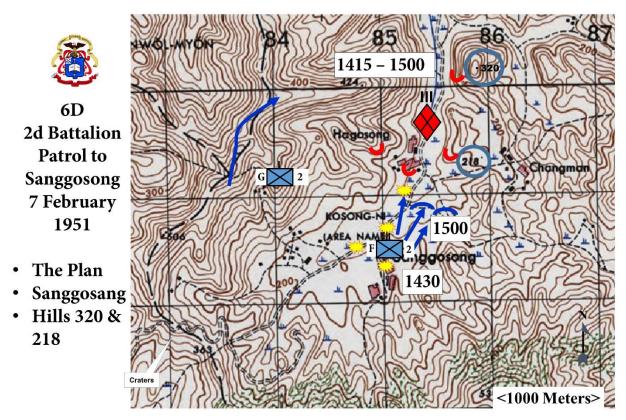


2d Battalion Patrol (7 Feb): Information from Kenneth Hamburger, *Leadership in the Crucible*, 141-144.

The night of 6 Feb, Freeman ordered the 2d Battalion (-) to clear Sanggosong the next day and return to perimeter by dark. The battalion seized Hill 363 by 1030 hours without a fight. Around 1310 the BN advanced toward Sanggosong with G Company along the high ground and F Company into the valley. At about 1400, the battalion seized Sanggosong without opposition. Then at 1430 hours, the unit advanced toward Hagosong with G Co. along the high ground to the north and F Co. in the valley. Around 1500, heavy fire from the CCF in Hagosong and on Hills

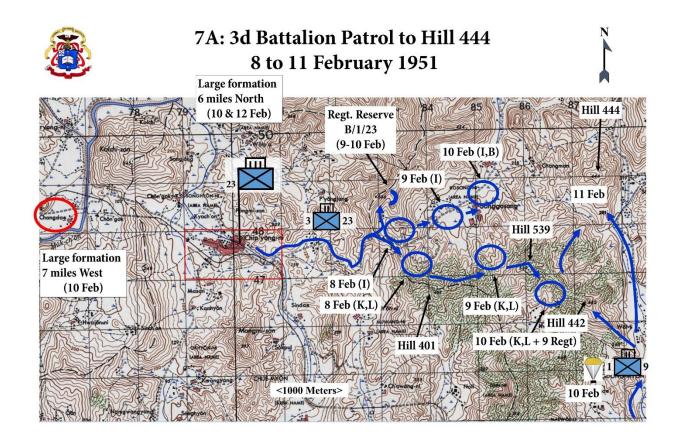
320 and 218 stopped the BN's advance. LTC Edwards decided he had accomplished the mission and ordered his unit to withdraw to the perimeter. In the fighting, enemy mortar fire wounded four soldiers.

That same day, the 1st Battalion sent a patrol to the north. The patrol was not able to go beyond



Kosan, but it did observe 100s of enemy about two miles farther north. Other patrols made contact with the enemy only a few miles to the west and northwest of the perimeter.

The regimental estimate was that CCF had one infantry regiment northeast of the Sanggosong village. Additional CCF forces seemed to be determined to force the 23d Infantry back into its perimeter. Freeman directed all battalion commanders to be prepared for an attack that night or the next.



The 3d Battalion Patrol to Hill 444 (8 -11 Feb): Information from Kenneth Hamburger, *Leadership in the Crucible*, 144-148.

Colonel Freeman believed an attack against Chipyong-ni was imminent and only intended to send out local patrols the next day. However, the night of 7 February, division headquarters ordered the regiment to conduct another battalion size patrol to clear the Sanggosong valley and contact a patrol from the 9th Regiment in the vicinity of Hill 444 (Hill 444 is 2500 meters east of Sanggosong). Lt. Col. Charles Kane's 3d Battalion received the mission. Freeman told Kane to return by 1600 hours.

On 8 Feb, Kane's BN moved out at daylight. Regiment reinforced the BN with a platoon of tanks and a section of antiaircraft artillery, The 3d Battalion moved out equipped for a one-day patrol. About 1015, heavy enemy fire stopped the BN about 1 miles short of Sanggosong.

LTC Kane estimated he would need to fight through to Sanggosong. The 9th Regiment patrol was behind schedule and was reporting that they could not link up until after dark. Kane reasoned that he could not accomplish the mission and return before dark. Additionally he did not have the supplies (food and sleeping bags) to stay out the night. Kane contacted Freeman and asked for instructions on how fully he should commit his forces. Freeman's reply was simple and to the point, "continue to develop the situation." In other words, continue with the mission to take Hill 444 and link up with the 9th Infantry Regiment.

At 1310, Regiment ordered Kane to stay in position and continue the attack the next morning. On the 9th, after a miserably cold but quiet night the 3d Battalion again moved east with one company in the valley, and two companies moving along the high ground south of Sanggosong toward Hill 444.

The two converging battalions coordinated their plans through both regimental headquarters. Love Company moved onto Hill 401 about mid-morning and observed enemy positions on Hill 539. They could also hear firing to the east and assumed that the 9th Infantry was fighting its way to the north. Meanwhile, King Company (in the valley), had significant contact south of Sanggosong and had taken casualties. Throughout the afternoon, the 3d Battalion battled its way toward Hill 539 against an entrenched enemy. To the east, the 9th Infantry patrol also made slow progress.

Late afternoon on the 9th, LTC Kane decided to hold his position for another night. Love and King Companies bivouacked to the west of Hill 539. The other company remained near Sanggosong. At 1930 hours, the 2d Division gave operational control of the 3d battalion to the 9th RCT for the duration of the operation. About midnight, the 9th RCT ordered Kane to seize Hill 539 and on-order continue to Hill 442

On 10 February, Love and King Companies seized Hill 539 without opposition. The night before, Kane requested an airdrop of supplies, but unfortunately the airdrop fell into the 9th Infantry positions. The night of the 10th, the BN established a two-company perimeter on Hill 442.

The morning of 11February, the 9th Infantry BN attacked Hill 444, and King and Love Companies supported by fire from Hill 442. At 1530, the 9th RCT released the 3d BN to return to Chipyong-ni. The one-day patrol had turned into a four-day ordeal.

The same day, Baker Battery, 503d Field Artillery Battalion (African American Unit with six towed 155-mm howitzers) entered the perimeter and joined the RCT. By the evening of The evening of 11 Feb, the entire 23d RCT was inside the Chipyong-ni perimeter. Local patrols identified that the CCF was closing the ring around Chipyong-ni. Air and ground patrols reported a large enemy formation with 1200 hundred horses only six miles north of Chipyong-ni, and division reported several thousand CCF with pack animals and howitzers seven miles west of the perimeter.

The Battle of Hoengsong: Excerpt from *CMH Pub 19-9, The Korean War – Restoring the Balance* (Center of Military History), 8-10.

While UN forces in Operation THUNDERBOLT advanced to an area just south of the Han against only minor resistance, Chinese and North Korean forces were massing in the central sector north of Hoengsong seeking to renew their offensive south. On the night of 11–12 February the enemy struck with five Chinese *People's Liberation Army (PLA)* armies and two North Korean corps, totaling approximately 135,000 soldiers. The main effort was against X Corps' ROK divisions north of Hoengsong. The Chinese attack penetrated the ROK line and

forced the South Koreans into a ragged withdrawal to the southeast via snow-covered passes in the rugged mountains. The ROK units, particularly the 8th Division, were badly battered in the process, creating large holes in the UN defenses. Accordingly, UN forces were soon in a general withdrawal to the south in the central section, giving up most of the terrain recently regained.



7B Communist Counter-Attack Against

Operation Roundup

Operation Roundup: X Corps attacked north toward Hoengsong with the 23d IN protecting the Corps left flank at Chipyong-ni

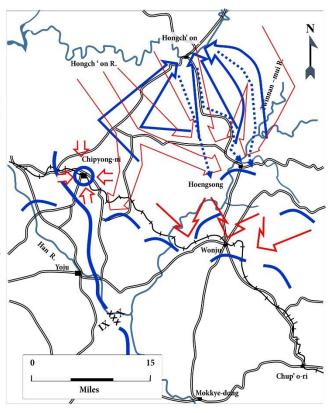
- 4-11 Feb: 23d Infantry conducted aggressive patrolling around Chipyong-ni
- 4 -11 Feb: X Corps
 - 5th and 8th ROK Divisions attacked north and seized the outskirts of Hongch' on.
 - o 2d US Division at Hoengsong.

11-13 Feb: Battle of Hoensong

- Communist Offensive pushed the ROK Divisions back to Hoensong
- · Communist set the conditions to isolate Chipyong-ni
- 23d IN transitioned from aggressive patrolling to deliberate defense.

13-18 Feb: Defending the Wonju Line

- · 2d US Div withdrew to Wonju and defended
- Permission requested to withdraw 23d IN from Chipyong-ni
- LTG Ridgeway denied the request.
- · 23d US IN besieged at Chipyong-ni



Ridgway's Decision to hold Chipyong-ni: Excerpt from *CMH Pub 19-9, The Korean War – Restoring the Balance* (Center of Military History), 8-10.

Early morning 12 February (0215), the 23d RCT received word that CCF and NKPA units had initiated a massive counter attack near Hongch' on (approximately 20 miles NE of Chipyong-ni) and that the X Corps and ROK III had been hard hit.

Actual message: From Div: 3d Bn 38th Inf being attacked from North & West. 21st ROK coming down to the South hit a roadblock and are in a mess. Don't know results. They have wounded. 21st ROK is falling back 2000 yds. 23d ROK Regt also falling back thru 187 RCT. Higher HQ putting out the order to 9th Inf to be prepared on 3 hrs notice to assemble at YOJU. A similar order is given to the 38th Inf to assemble at WONJU. They might be two reason for this order, to support us or to establish blocking psn along line MUNMANG-NI to HUNGHO-RI. This is a warning order (from the 23d Regiment AAR in CSI files).

The WO was very significant. 1/9th IN was currently on Hill 444 and if they pulled back the gap between 23d RCT and X Corps could be as much as 12 miles. COL Freeman canceled all major patrols scheduled for 12 Feb, and made preparations to withdraw to the south. General Almond (X Corps), General Ruffner (2d Division), and Colonel Freeman (23d RCT) all wanted the 23d RCT to withdraw from Chipyong-ni. However, General Ridgway directed that the position be held to block or delay Chinese access to the nearby Han River Valley. An enemy advance down the east bank of the Han would threaten the positions of the IX and I Corps west of the river. Ridgway believed, the 5,000 defenders of Chip'yong-ni would quickly become the focus of Chinese attention and allow the X Coprs to stabilize the defensive line at Wonju.

The Battle of Chipyong-ni

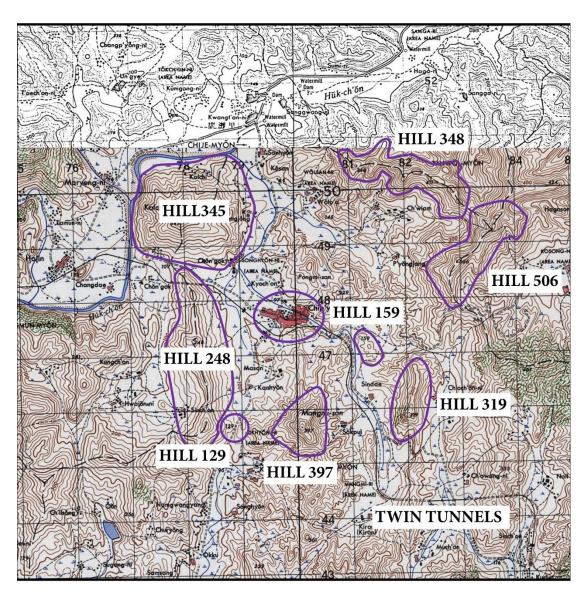
The Chipyong-ni Perimeter: Excerpt from Billy Mossman's, *Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951*, 285 -295.

Chip'yong-ni straddles a stream in the lower end of a small valley hugged on the northeast by a low mountain mass, Pongmi-san, and by the foothills of Mangmi-san, a higher ridge to the south. From a mile out, the peak of Mangmi-san, Hill 397, dominates Chip'yong-ni from the south. Elsewhere, from one to two miles out, Hill 248 dominates from the southwest, 345 from the northwest, 348 from the north, 506 from the northeast, and 319 from the southeast. Colonel Freeman considered the terrain well suited for defense by a force the size of the 23d Regimental Combat Team, which was made up of the 23d Infantry; French battalion; 1st Ranger Company; 37th Field Artillery Battalion; Battery B, 503d Field Artillery Battalion; Battery B, 82d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion; and Company B, 2d Engineer Combat Battalion. He developed a perimeter based on the Pongmi mass and Mangmi foothills and otherwise tracing lower hills inside the dominating heights. So locating his main position facilitated the organization of defensive fires, construction of obstacles, and resupply. Furthermore, Chinese occupying the distant higher ground around the position would not be able to deliver effective small arms fire on the perimeter but would themselves be vulnerable to the combat team's supporting fires.

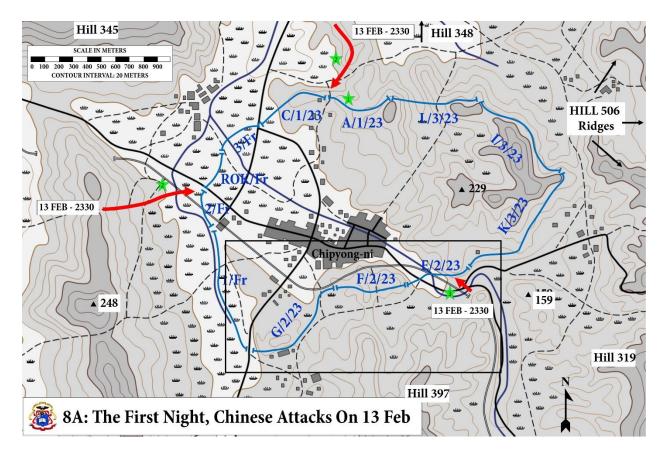


Chipyong-ni 1951





Freeman deployed the bulk of the 1st Battalion on the northern arc of the perimeter, the 3d on the east, the 2d on the south, and the French battalion on the west. Company B and the Ranger Company were in reserve close behind the 1st Battalion line. Gaps in the perimeter were mined, blocked by barbed wire, or covered by fire. Twin 40s, quad 50s and regimental tanks were in position to add their direct fire to the defense, prearranged artillery and mortar concentrations ringed the perimeter to the maximum range of the weapons, and a tactical air control party was present to direct air strikes.



The 2d Battalion Perimeter at Chipyong-ni Perimeter: This portion of the discussion is from LTC Edwards unpublished narrative Edwards, *The Siege of Chipyong-ni*. The narrative is found in The Staff Ride Read Ahead Packet, Battle of Chipyong-ni, by U.S/ Eighth Army Staff, Seoul: 2d Infantry Division, 1990).

LTC James W. Edward's Battalion occupied 0500 to 0700 in the regimental perimeter. He wrote a detailed description of his battalion' perimeter. The other battalion perimeters would have been very similar.

"Each platoon defensive area was dug-in for all-around defense in case of a break-through. It was almost a perfect Fort Benning solution. The primary positions of the machine guns were on low ground so that they could fire FPL fires along the wire or, where there was no wire, along the front of the positons. Tank and Anti-aircraft Vehicle machineguns covered some sections of the Battalion MLR. Alternate positions, high up on the hills: were occupied by the machineguns during the daytime so that long-range fire could be placed on Chinese groups on the high, distant peaks which could not be seen from the MLR. All foxholes along the MIR and most of the alternate foxholes were of the two-man standing type foxholes. Two-man foxholes were SOP in the Battalion. Men fought better when they were not alone... On the MRL all foxholes had overhead cover. The 2d Platoon of Company E and the 2d Platoon of Company G were both in rice paddies and they both struck sub-surface water after digging

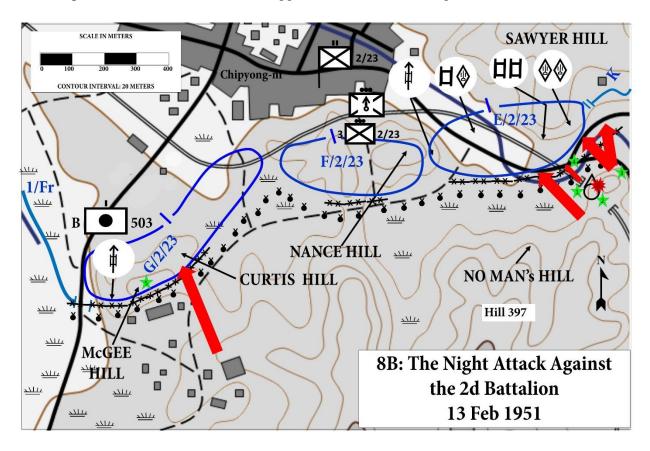
down about two and one-half feet. These two platoons built two- man breastwork, with overhead cover behind the rice paddy dykes. Strange as it may seem it was always difficult to get grazing fields of fire in the rice Paddies. This was due to the fact that each rice paddy was sub-divided into numerous little plots, each of which was terraced a few feet above or below the adjoining plots... Therefore, the machinegun bullets were able to sweep one plot of about 50 or 75 feet before hitting the dyke of the next terraced plot....

Trip-flares, antipersonnel mines, and booby-traps had been sown copiously in front of all positions and in the draws leading down from HILL 397 towards the Battalion MLR. They were also placed in the double-apron, barbed wire fence that had been erected in front of Companies F and E and the extreme right (West) flank of Company G. Extensive use was made of booby-traps manufactured from C-ration cans and hand grenades... At night, each company sent out 2 or 3 two-,man groups about 50 to 75 yards in front of the MLR to act as listening posts. Company E had no [extra] support except a small group of 28 men recruited from Company Headquarters and drivers. Company G had no support at all as its support platoon was now on the MLR and all the extra Company Headquarters personnel and drivers had already been used to reinforce the depleted rifle platoons. Company F had the 3d Platoon in support but could not employ it without permission of the Battalion Commander as it was the only rifle reserve the Battalion had.

The Battalion had the P and A Platoon, the Intelligence Section, Company Headquarters Group and a few soldiers from Battalion Headquarters, which could be used as a reserve in case of emergency; however, all of these units were at about 60% T/0 strength. The Machinegun Platoon of Company H was attached to the companies as follows: 1st Section to Company G, 2d. Section to Company E and a section of light machine guns, manned by men from both of the other two sections, to Company F... The 75mm recoilless rifle Platoon was also attached to the companies as follows: 1st Section to Company E; and 2d Section to Company G. Each of the sections manned two 75mm Recoilless Rifles. In addition, in accordance with Battalion SOP, each section carried two 50 caliber machinegun with it. After dark the 50 caliber machineguns were set up and manned, as no accurate shooting could be done with the 75mm recoilless rifles at night... Because of the shortage of personnel all three rifle companies could only man two of their three T/0 57mm recoilless rifles. All six of these RRs were close to the MLR. The recoilless rifles were excellent weapons for shooting at distant enemy groups. Therefore, alternate positions high up on the hills were occupied by some of these rifles during the daytime...

The 81mm Mortar Platoon was in G/S. It had dug in its weapons in the Railroad Cut on Waggoner Hill... Due to the shortage of personnel the 81mm Mortar Platoon was only able to man 5 mortars and two Forward Observer groups. One FO Group was sent to Company G and other too Company E... The 37th Field Artillery Battalion furnished 3 FO parties to the Battalion and one of

these was sent to each one of the rifle companies...The vehicles of the Battalion Headquarters Company and Company H were in the Battalion Motor Pool which was established in the rubble between the Battalion CP and Company H CP... All vehicles were well dispersed. The four wheels of each vehicle were protected by sandbags or piled up rubble... The Battalion CP was located in a three-room Korean Mud house. The room on the East end of the house was used as an operations Room and was sandbagged on the outside to height of six feet."



The First Night of the Siege: Excerpt from Billy Mossman's, *Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951*, 285 -295. Additional details from Kenneth Hamburger, *Leadership in the Crucible*.

The morning of 13 February 1951, Colonel Freeman held a meeting with his key leaders. He told them, "The regiment was probably surrounded but that he intended to stay and fight it out." Captain Bickford Sawyer, Easy Company's commander, remembered, "When Colonel Freeman said at Chipyong, 'We're surrounded, but we'll stay here and fight it out,' we supported him with enthusiasm. There was never a doubt in our minds. We knew we were going to succeed."

All day on the 13th Freeman kept enemy formations approaching his position under artillery fire and air attacks. Against the probability that the Chinese would attack after dark and the possibility that they would penetrate his position, he meanwhile marked out a second ring of defenses inside his perimeter to be manned at nightfall by Company B of the 2d Engineers and by battalion and regimental headquarters troops. Since his main supply route appeared about to

be cut, he requested that a resupply of food, ammunition, and signal and medical items be airdropped on the 14th.

Distance signal flares went up around Chip'yong-ni late in the afternoon and in the evening. After dark, men of the 1st Battalion on the north sighted a line of torches about two miles out and watched the bearers maintain their line despite artillery and mortar fire as they brought the torches south within a half mile of the perimeter. Just after 2200 machine gun and mortar fire struck Company C astride Route 24 in the valley and on the western nose of Pongmisan. Enemy artillery fire joined the bombardment, striking Freeman's heavy mortars, artillery, and regimental command post as well as the outer perimeter. A cacophony of whistle, horn, and bugle blasts preceded an attack on Company C about 2330. The discordant signals later sounded all around the perimeter and were followed by attacks on Company G in the south, at two points in the French sector on the west, and near the center of the 3d Battalion position on the east.

About 2230, the Chinese attacked Easy Company. The battalion had heavily reinforced Easy Company with battalion and regimental assets. These included heavy machineguns, 75mm recoilless Rifles, tanks and flak wagons. At Easy Company's position a platoon-sized enemy force emerged from the railroad tunnel, followed by a company-sized force. The Chinese crashed into the barbed wire in front of Easy Company. Easy Company's relentless fire from mortars and crew-served weapons, and ant-personnel mines, trip flares, and booby traps inflicted grievous casualties upon the Chinese, and forced the Chinese to retreat. The Chinese regrouped and attacked again. Captain Sawyer, the Easy Company commander, detonated a fougasse booby trap in front of the tunnel opening, and again the Chinese retreated. Douglas Graney, a radio operator in Easy Company, stated, "Dead and wounded Chinese were everywhere in front of our lines (Barron, *High Tide*, 152). The Chinese never attempted to use the tunnel again to attack Easy Company.

Excerpt from LTC Edwards' *The Siege of Chipyong-ni* about the major attack against E Company: "At about 2200, 13 February... The listening post in front of all companies came in and reported hearing many enemy massing in front of all units... At 2215 hour, two white flares went up in front of Company E's 1st Platoon and in front of Company G's 3d Platoon. Under a very heavy mortar barrage the Chinese attacked at about 2230... The night was very dark.

A Chinese assault force of about one platoon came through the railroad tunnel in front of the right of the 1st Platoon... They were followed through the tunnel and over the tunnel hill by a reinforced rifle company. The entire force advanced down the slope toward the unnamed, four-hut village along the road in front of the 2d Platoon area. FPL artillery, mortar and machine gun fires were brought down and illuminating flares were fired. More Chinese forces appeared on the tunnel hill and fired small-arms at the 2d Platoon and thus gave the attack Chinese force covering fire. One machinegun was set up in the mouth of the Railroad tunnel and it swept the 2d Platoon area. Heavy mortar fire continue to fall on all three of Company E's platoons during the attack. The Chinese first wave assaulted right through the antipersonnel mines, trip flares and booby traps,

taking heavy casualties. This wave was mowed down by the U.S. small-arms and machine gun fire. The tank[s] and M-16[s] (quad 50s] laid down a curtain of 50 caliber slugs in front of the 2d Platoon. The Chinese continued to come on in waves until they were all killed or wounded... One of the 75mm Recoilless Rifles of the 1st Section on NANCE HILL attempted to knock out the enemy machinegun and fired two rounds of 75mm at the entrance to the railroad tunnel in the light of illuminating flares. This brought down such a heavy concentration of enemy mortar fire upon the rifle, that its crew was forced to move down the hill into their Primary Positions on the MLR. Here they manned their 50 caliber machinegun; both 50 caliber machineguns of this section expended three boxes of ammunition in helping the 2d Platoon to stop the Chinese assault waves.... At 2240 hour, after the Chinese machinegun in the mouth of the Railroad tunnel had been in action about ten minutes, the 3.5" Rocket Launcher team of the 2d Platoon scored a direct hit on it... The light machine gun of the 3d platoon on NANCE HILL helped the 2d platoon to cut down the Chinese waves...

At 2230 hours the Fougasse, gasoline mine, in the railroad tunnel went off with a bang. Flames spurted from both ends of the long tunnel... A Chinese patrol had tried to sneak through the tunnel again and had set off the Fougasse. The Chinese made no further attempts to use the tunnel for the remainder of the night... [About 2320] hour a second assault was launched [against the 2d platoon]. The waves of this assaulting force were cut down just as efficiently as the waves of the first assault had been.

Meanwhile, at 2230 hours, 13 February 1951, about a reinforced company of Chinese hit the 1st Platoon... Preceded by an intense mortar barrage and supported by a machinegun oh HILL 159..., the shrieking waves came up the road and creek bed... FPL artillery, mortar and machinegun fires were brought down in front of the 1st Platoon. Here as everywhere else around the perimeter, the first waves rushed right through the AP mines, trip-flares and booby-traps, taking heavy casualties. The veteran riflemen with the tremendous fire support of the 50 caliber machineguns of the two tanks and the two antiaircraft vehicles stopped each assault without any difficulty."

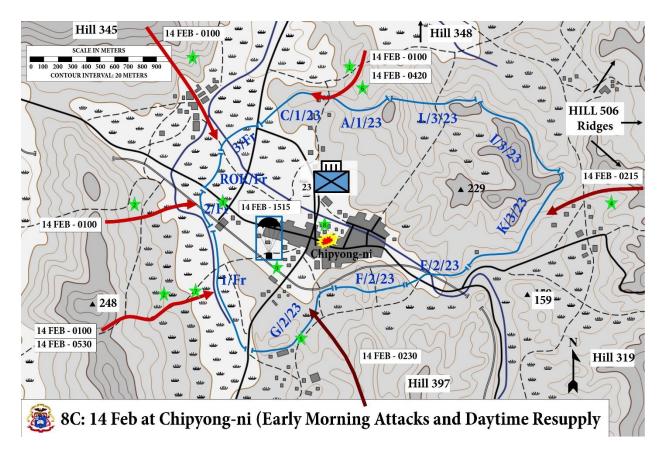
Excerpt from 23d Infantry Regiment Command Report: Between 2200-2300 hours, enemy small arms and mortar fire began to fall on the perimeter from the Northwest, North and Southeast. Shortly thereafter, enemy troops attacked the 1st Battalion which was occupying the Northern sector of the perimeter. Heavy mortar and artillery fire preceded this attack. As midnight approached, activity spread in other directions until the 3d Battalion on the Southwest was the only unit not in contact with the enemy. Mortar and artillery also fell in the Regimental Command Post, Field Artillery and Heavy Mortar Company areas... As the activity subsided somewhat after midnight, a quick check revealed that a portion of the 1st Battalion CP was burning and an M-16 half-track on the Southeast part of the perimeter had been damaged.

Freeman's tight perimeter prevented the Chinese from fixing a position and flowing around its flanks. Pushing frontal assaults against the wire and through heavy defensive fires, they managed one penetration in the Company G sector but were blunted by reinforcements from Company F and help from the regimental tank company.

The French 1st Company also beat off a major attack at the railroad station. The Chinese were probably hoping to overrun the artillery positions behind the company. Approximately two Chinese companies attacked the French from the west and southwest and penetrated the line in spite of concentrated automatic weapons fire. Captain Francois DeCastries requested reinforcements for a counter-attack. Two squads from the reserve company reinforced him. Additionally, George Company's machine guns and 4 tanks supported the counter-attack that restored the French line.

Following a strong but failing effort against the 3d Battalion and the attack against the French, the Chinese withdrew into the dominating heights around Chip'yong-ni.

Excerpt from 23d Infantry Regiment Command Report: At 0100 hours of 14 February, the enemy launched another strong attack from the North and then from the Northwest. The defending troops of the perimeter repulsed these attacks but the enemy could be heard digging in. Observers noted much activity to the North where they also detected enemy mortar positions. At about 0215 hours, the enemy launched new attacks from the Southwest and Southeast, with the enemy force making a desperate frontal assault against the positions of "K" Company. At 0245 hours friendly troops were still holding both areas, therefore the enemy attacked from the Northwest against the positions held by the French Battalion. Fifteen (15) minutes later, the enemy hit "C" Company again but the defending troops repulsed all efforts. By 0530 hours, most of the pressure was off the troops in the perimeter, except for the French who were still receiving attacks from the Northwest, which they repulsed. "G" Company had regained its positions but "K" Company was fighting fiercely to hold their sector. The stubborn enemy launched another attack from the North against "C" Company's positions at 0545 hours but was repulsed. In the South, the enemy had made unsuccessful attempts to infiltrate through the lines.



The First Day of the Siege: Excerpt from Billy Mossman's, *Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951*, 285 -295. Additional details from Kenneth Hamburger, *Leadership in the Crucible*.

By daybreak on the 14th Colonel Freeman's casualties numbered about a hundred. Freeman himself had suffered a leg wound from a mortar fragment. General Almond had X Corps G-3 Col. John H. Chiles flown into Chip'yong-ni during the morning to take command, but Freeman, though he required hospitalization, refused immediate evacuation and remained in command.

Excerpt from 23d Infantry Regiment Command Report: At 0630 hours the fighting flared up again... The enemy attacked the perimeter from the Southeast again, but was driven off by "K" and "I" Companies. Elsewhere on the perimeter, the enemy was feinting at the lines and withdrawing. At 0730 hours, "K" Company on the southeast was still fighting and the French Battalion on the Northwest was hit again, but shortly after, the enemy broke physical contact on the entire perimeter. Observers reported occasional enemy activity during the rest of the morning and intermittently, mortar rounds fell inside the perimeter.

High winds and enemy mortar and artillery fire striking the perimeter intermittently through the day inhibited and finally stopped the helicopter evacuation of other casualties. The poor flying weather also delayed close air support. Three flights of fighters eventually arrived after 1430 and in combination with the combat team's mortars and artillery kept Chinese troops digging in on the surrounding high ground under fire. Over a three-hour period starting around 1500, two

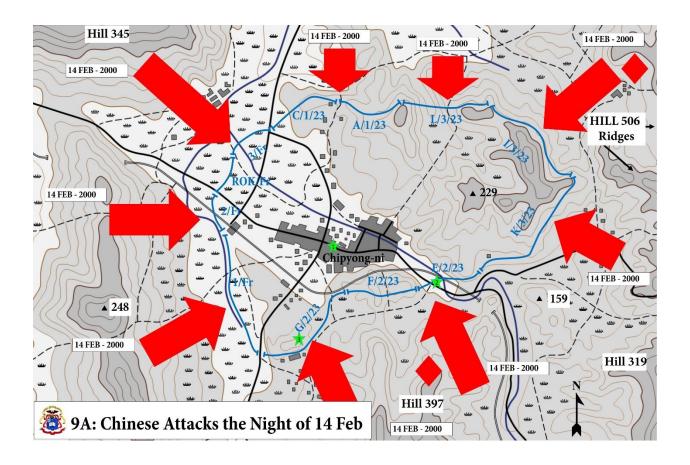
dozen C-119s of the Far East Air Forces' Combat Cargo Command flying out of Japan dropped the supplies requested by Freeman the day before. The Chinese meanwhile opened no daylight assaults, but captives taken the previous night claimed the attack would be renewed after dark. Four regiments appeared to have sent assault forces against the perimeter during the initial attack. Since these regiments represented four different divisions, the 115th, 119th, 120th, and 126th, and, in turn, three different armies, the 39th, 40th, and 42d, the renewal predicted by the prisoners might be considerably stronger than the first attack.

Excerpt from 23d Infantry Regiment Command Report: During the afternoon of 14 February, the TACP brought in. three (3) air strikes to the South and the 23d RCT received twenty-four (24) air drops of ammunition. Also the enemy increased his activity to the South.

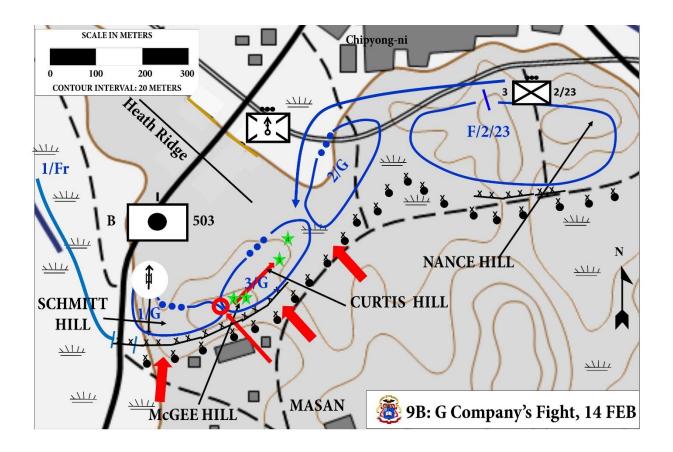
Unfortunately the air re-supply was somewhat bungled. The regiment had critical shortages of mortar and small arms ammunition. The village had numerous wells and there was no shortage of water. The regiment's vehicles were not moving much, so there was no shortage of fuel. The artillery had pre-stocked so much ammunition that the supplies were still adequate. The air resupply contained no mortar ammunition, and all the small arms ammunition was delivered loose, not packed in clips needed for their M1 Garand Rifles. The air-drop also included the not needed water, gasoline, and artillery ammunition.

The Second Night of the Siege: Excerpt from Billy Mossman's, *Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951*, 285 -295.

The Chinese forces around the 23d Regimental Combat Team reopened their attack with mortar fire after dark on the 14th. Near midnight both mortars and artillery began an hour-long barrage on the regimental command post and other installations inside the perimeter, and a hard assault off Hill 397 to the south struck Company G. Assaults next hit Companies A and C on the north, then Companies I and K on the east. Sharp, close fighting in the 1st and 3d Battalion sectors abated around 0400 with no more than the temporary loss of one position by Company I and ceased altogether about daylight. But in the south, where the Chinese had decided to make their main effort, persistent pressure slowly carried enemy troops through the Company G area.

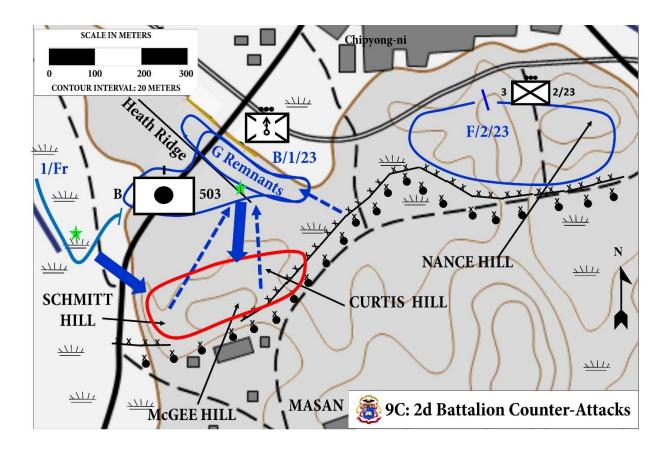


Excerpt from 23d Infantry Regiment Command Report: The first enemy action of the evening occurred at 2030 hours, when "K" Company received a mortar barrage. At 2330 hours, "C" Company reported sounds of the enemy digging in to their front. The Regimental CO ordered conservation of all types of small arms ammunition as the supply was critically short in spite of the air drops. There was no reserve of 8-round clips for the M-1 rifles other than that in the company stocks at this time. Simultaneously with an attack from the South on the 2d Battalion area, the enemy brought the 23d CP under heavy Self-propelled Gun, Mortar and small arms fire. This continued for approximately an hour and the impact area spread out to include Mortar Company and the French Battalion trains area. Fighting increased around the perimeter until the 2d and 3d Battalions to the South and Southeast were engaged in fierce close combat. Bugles sounded on the hills to the North and 120mm heavy mortar rounds began to fall in the Regimental CP area. The fighting abated for a short period but at 0130 hours, the 15th of February "K" Company repulsed two (2) attacks, while pressure increased on the South and Southwest against "G" Company.



Weak counterattacks by artillerymen from Battery B, 503d Field Artillery Battalion, whose 155-mm. howitzers were in position close behind Company G, and by a squad drawn from Company F on line to the east failed to restore the breaks in the Company G line. Around 0300 the company surrendered the rest of its position and withdrew to a rise just behind the 503d's howitzers. The artillerymen followed suit, as did tankers and antiaircraft gunners, and joined a continuing exchange of fire with Chinese holding the original Company G position. The defensive fire discouraged the Chinese from advancing on the artillery pieces, which rested in a hollow between the two firing lines.

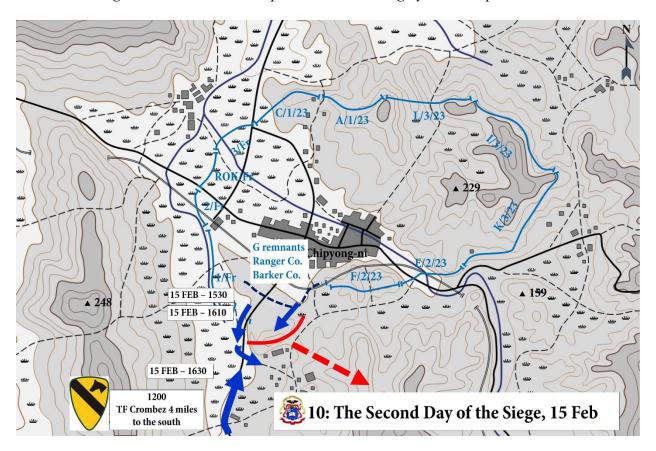
Excerpt from 23d Infantry Regiment Command Report: At 0230 hours, the enemy penetrated "I" Company positions but were driven out with the aid of "L" Company, after vicious, close-in-fighting. The overwhelming number of enemy forced the "G" Company line to withdraw at 0315 hours with heavy losses.... Ammunition stocks in the companies had become so low that commanders ordered their men not to fire unless they could actually see and hit the enemy. At this time, the supply trains contained less the 140 rounds of 4.2 mortar and 90 rounds of 81 mm mortar ammunition.



Lt. Col. James W. Edwards, the 2d Battalion commander, organized a stronger counterattack, reinforcing Company G with a platoon of Company F, the total of his own reserve, and a platoon of Rangers obtained from regiment. (Note: the Ranger Company commander initially protested that it was not an appropriate mission for the rangers). Attacking around 0400, the composite force regained part of the lost ground but then was driven back and heavy casualties. By daylight Company G occupied positions on a low ridge a quarter mile behind the former Company G position, as did members of Battery B, 503d Field Artillery Battalion. The battery's guns remained near the center of the quarter-mile no man's-land. Immediately west of Company G, French troops, who had attempted unsuccessfully to assist the counterattack, also pulled back to refuse the French battalion's left flank.

Colonel Freeman, who remained at Chip'yong-ni and in command until finally evacuated at midmorning on the 15th, released Company B and the remainder of the Ranger company around 0800 for a stronger effort. This release committed all available troops save the company of engineers, although by that hour action elsewhere on the perimeter had ceased. At 1000, behind a mortar barrage and supported by fire from tanks and antiaircraft weapons, Company B tried to retake the Company G position alone but was kept off the crest by fire from Chinese on the southern slopes where the preliminary and supporting fires had chased them. Air strikes requested by Colonel Edwards during the morning began somewhat tardily at noon. Edwards meanwhile ordered tanks accompanied by Rangers south on Route 24A beyond the attack objective so the tank gunners could fire east onto the southern slopes. After mines previously placed on the road were removed and several Chinese armed with rocket launchers killed or driven off, Edwards' tanks reached a point on the road from where they could hit the Chinese.

About 1630, as the tank fire in combination with artillery fire and air strikes began to break up the Chinese position. A soldier of the 23d Regiment remembered, "One major feeling at Chipyong-ni was the tremendous lift I got from the air force making napalm bombing and strafing runs on the surrounding hillsides. Apparently their method was to have the jets drop the napalm to flush the enemy and then the following plane would be a propeller driven unit for strafing. The jets would merely get a couple of very short bursts off during a run whereas the prop planes could fire nearly continuously and actually chase fleeing enemy. The tremendous lift in spirit mentioned above came when they were finished. They would make a very low-level "barrel-roll" run through the valley. The speed, the noise, the barrel-roll victory symbol all added to waving and indeed there was spontaneous cheering by us in the perimeter."



With the help of the airstrikes, Company B regained the rest of the objective. Almost at the same time, the head of a tank column came into view on Route 24A to the south. After a moment of surprise, Edwards' men realized the tanks were part of the 5th Cavalry relief force which had started toward Chip'yong-ni the day before.

Excerpt from 23d Infantry Regiment Command Report: The Regimental CO ordered counter-attacks to retake the lost ground. A composite force of Rangers, one platoon of "F" Company, and the troops, which remained from "G" Company, was assembled to accomplish this mission. The counter-attack to retake "G" Company positions commenced at 0615 hours. At 0800 hours the enemy repulsed the counter-attacking composite force with heavy losses to the friendly troops. The Regimental CO ordered "B" Company to the "G" Company are to retake the vital

lost ground, and thus secure the integrity of the perimeter. Heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from the reverse slopes of "B" Company objective prevented them from taking and holding the position. Supporting tanks were unable to gain position for assault fire because the roads were heavily mined. At 1400 hours, "B" Company was still unable to move so the TACP brought in air strikes and napalm drops which routed the enemy and enabled "B" Company to proceed to their objective

Task Force Crombez and the Relief of Chipyong-ni: Excerpt from *CMH Pub 19-9, The Korean War – Restoring the Balance* (Center of Military History), 11-12 and

Maj. Gen. Bryant E. Moore, the commander or the IX Corps, initiated the primary effort to relieve Chip'yong-ni on 14 February. That day, the 5th Cavalry, detached from the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division, was taken out of IX Corps reserve and assigned the relief mission. For the task, the three infantry battalions of the 5th Cavalry were reinforced with two field artillery battalions, two tank companies, and a company each of combat engineers and medics. Initially the relief force advanced rapidly, making half the twelve-mile distance to Chip'yong-ni from the main U.S. defensive line on the first day. Damaged bridges and roadblocks then slowed movement. On the morning of the fifteenth, two of the infantry battalions assaulted enemy positions on the high ground north of the secondary road leading to Chip'yong-ni. When the attack stalled against firm Chinese resistance, Col. Marcel Crombez, 5th Cavalry commander. organized a force of twenty-three tanks, with infantry and engineers riding on them, to cut through the final six miles to the 23d Infantry. The tank-infantry force advanced in the late afternoon, using mobility and firepower to run a gauntlet of enemy defenses. Poor coordination between the tanks and supporting artillery made progress slow. Nevertheless, in an hour and fifteen minutes the task force reached the encircled garrison and spent the night there. At daylight the tanks returned to the main body of the relief force unopposed and came back to Chip'yong-ni spearheading a supply column. With the defenders resupplied and linked up with friendly forces, the siege could be considered over.

Casualties at Chipyong-ni: Excerpt from Billy Mossman's, *Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951*, 299.

UN casualties totaled 404, including 52 soldiers killed. Chinese losses were far greater. Casualties inflicted on the Chinese by the 23d Regimental Combat Team, counted and estimated, totaled 4,946 (later confirmed by captured documents). Colonel Crombez judged that his task force inflicted over 500 more. The perimeter troops also captured 79 Chinese who at interrogation identified five divisions from the 39th, 0th, and 42d Armies as having taken part in the attacks. The attack force itself, however, appeared to have been no more than six regiments, one each from the 115th, 116th, 119th, and 120th Divisions and two from the 126th Division. These six had not attacked in concert, nor had any of them thrown a full strength assault against the perimeter. Almost all attacks had been made by company-size forces, some followed by a succession of attacks of the same size in the same or nearby places.

Ridgway's Assessment: Excerpt from Billy Mossman's, *Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951, 300*.

As the battle of Chip'yong-ni climaxed, General Ridgway felt that the Eighth Army had reached a turning point, that it had substantially regained the confidence lost during the distressing withdrawals of December and early January. In his judgment, the successful defense of Chip'yong-ni by an isolated combat team without grievous losses against a force far superior in strength symbolized the revitalization. Task Force Crombez, in its relief role, epitomized the offensive spirit. Although being forced to place infantry aboard the tanks had proved costly, Ridgway judged Colonel Crombez' decision to advance with armor when his infantry moved too slowly to be one of the best local decisions of the war. With renewed spirit, as evidenced at Chip'yong-ni, Ridgway considered his forces quite capable of further offensive operations, which he immediately proceeded to design.

UNC Resumes the Offense and Stalemate on the 38th Parallel

UN Offense (**20 Feb** – **22 April 1951**): Excerpt from *CMH Pub 19-10, The Korean War* – *Years of Stalemate* (Center of Military History), 3-5. Additional information from *Chapter 8, The Korean War 1950-1953 from American Military History, Volume II* (U.S. Army Center of Military History), 241-253.

By mid-February the Chinese offensive had run out of steam, and on the UNC troops resumed the offensive to liberate Seoul. On 14 March 1951, I Corps recaptured Seoul, and by mid-April Ridgway's forces had reached 'Line Utah', just inside North Korea. After a dramatic disagreement over the issue of widening the scope of operations against China, President Truman replaced the legendary Gen. MacArthur with Gen. Ridgway, who in turn passed the US 8th Army Command to LTG. James Van Fleet.

Although the two principal parties to the conflict - the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (ROK or South Korea)—were more than willing to fight to the death, their chief patrons—the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union on the one hand and the United States and the United Nations (UN) on the other—were not. Twelve months of bloody fighting had convinced Mao Tse-tung, Joseph V. Stalin, and Harry S. Truman that it was no longer in their respective national interests to try and win a total victory in Korea. The costs in terms of men and materiel were too great, as were the risks that the conflict might escalate into a wider, global conflagration. Consequently, they compelled their respective Korean allies to accept truce talks as the price for their continued military, economic, and diplomatic support.

For the soldiers at the front and the people back home, the commencement of negotiations raised hopes that the war would soon be over, but such was not to be. While desirous of peace, neither side was willing to sacrifice core principles or objectives to obtain it. The task of finding common ground was further complicated by the Communists' philosophy of regarding negotiations as war by other means. This tactic significantly impeded the negotiations. And while the negotiators engaged in verbal combat around the conference table, the soldiers in the field continued to fight and die—for two more long and tortuous years.

Specific Readings / Annexes

Annex A: The 23d Infantry Regiment

Annex B: Colonel Paul LaMarch Freeman Jr., Commander 23d Infantry Regiment

Annex C: US Army Weapons at Chip' yong -ni

Annex D: The French Battalion and General de Corps d'Armee Ralph Monclar

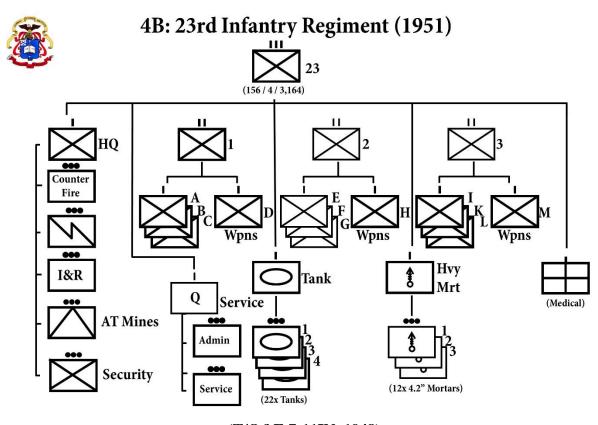
Annex E: Lieutenant General Matthew B. Ridgway, Commander US 8th Army

Annex F: Major General Edward M. (Ned) Almond. Commander X US Corps.

Annex G: The Chinese Communist Forces- CCF

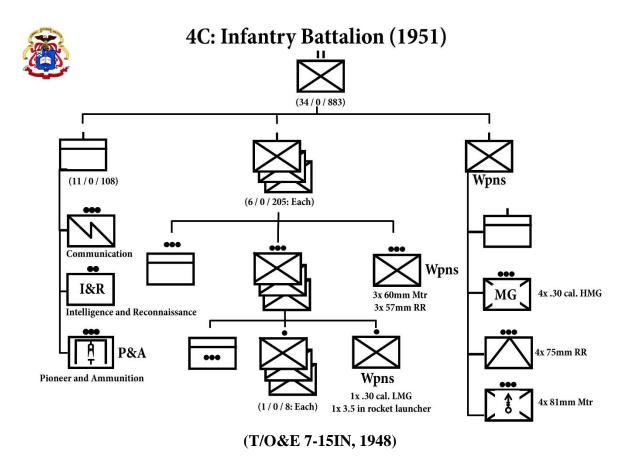
Annex A: The 23d Infantry Regiment/Battalion/Company/Platoon. Details from Donald Boose, *US Army Forces in the Korean War 1950 -53*.

The three infantry regiments (9th, 38th, and 23rd) were the largest maneuver elements of the 2d Infantry Division. Each regiment consisted of a headquarters and headquarters company, a service company, three infantry battalions, a tank company, a heavy mortar company, and a medical company. Below are the details for the 23rd Infantry Regiment.



(T/O&E 7-11IN, 1948)

The infantry battalions (1st, 2d, and 3d) were the largest maneuver element of each regiment. Commanded by a lieutenant colonel, the infantry battalion was composed of a headquarters and Headquarters Company, three rifle companies, and a heavy weapons company. It had a strength of 917 at the beginning of the war.



The rifle companies were the largest maneuver element of the Infantry Battalion. Each battalion contained 3 infantry companies: 1st BN: A, B, and C companies. 2d BN: E, F and G companies. 3d BN: I, K and L companies. (There was no J Company). A Captain normally commanded the company. The company consisted of a headquarters section, three rifle platoons, and a weapons platoon.

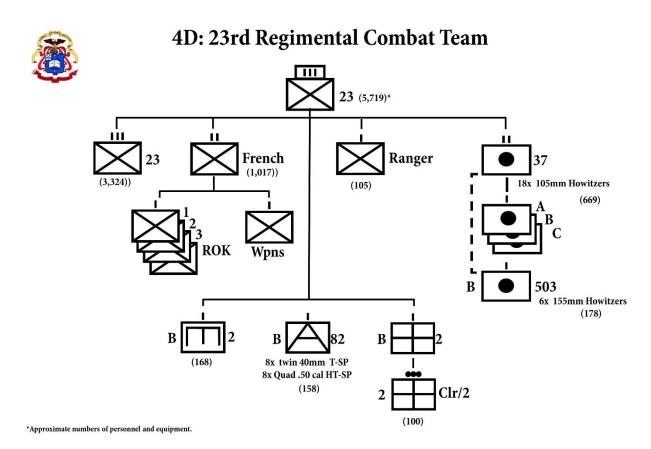
The three rifle platoon were the major combat power of the rifle company. Each platoon had a five-man headquarters consisting of a platoon leader (lieutenant), platoon sergeant (master sergeant), assistant platoon sergeant (sergeant first class), and two messengers (privates first class); three nine-man rifle squads; and a nine-man weapons squad.

Three rifle squads made up a rifle platoon. Each squad consisted of a squad leader (sergeant first class) and assistant squad leader (sergeant), both armed with a .30-cal. Ml Garand rifles; an automatic rifleman (corporal) armed with a .30-cal. Ml918A2 Browning Automatic rifle (BAR). The remainder of the squad consisted of; an assistant automatic rifleman (private first class) and five riflemen (three corporals and two privates first class). All armed with the M1 Garand rifle. One of the riflemen served as ammunition bearer for the BAR, and one carried an M7 grenade launcher. One man in the squad was sometimes designated by the squad leader to by squad sniper and was armed with the MIC sniper rifle.

The platoon weapons squad consisted of a squad leader (sergeant first class), a fourman team with one M20 3.5 in. Rocket/Bazooka launcher and another four-man team with an Ml919A6 light machine gun. Each squad had one corporal and three privates.)

The company weapons platoon contained a headquarters, a mortar section with three 60mm mortars, and a recoilless rifle section with three 57mm recoilless rifles.

The **Regimental Combat Team (RCT)** was how the regiment normally maneuvered with the direct support artillery battalion and other elements, such as a combat engineer company and an antiaircraft artillery automatic weapons battery attached to form a RCT for a particular mission. At Chip'yong-ni, the 23d Regimental Combat Team included: the French Battalion, a ranger company, a combat engineer company, an antiaircraft artillery automatic weapons battery, additional medical assets, and a direct support artillery battalion (105mm) with an attached 155mm howitzer battery.



Annex B: Colonel Paul LaMarch Freeman Jr., Commander 23d Infantry Regiment.

Only two days prior to its deployment, COL Paul L. Freeman, Jr. took command of the 23rd Infantry Regiment. The new commander did not have much time to evaluate the battle-readiness of his soldiers and equipment before deploying. Freeman, however, proved a wise choice for commander of the 23rd. He had spent most of his youth in East Asia and then, after graduating in the West Point class of 1929, served with the 15th Infantry Regiment at Tientsin [T-en-sin], China. While in China, he attended language school and became the assistant military attaché at Chungking [Chongchim]. During the Second World War, Freeman first served as the supply officer for General Joseph W. Stillwell, commander of the China-India-Burma Theater. He later participated in more covert operations that further put his language skills, regional expertise, and cultural knowledge to good use. Following the war, Freeman was stationed in Brazil, where he first met and worked with General Matthew Ridgway, his future commander in Korea.

Even though Freeman was only with his unit for a short amount of time prior to the deployment, the leadership attributes he exhibited would serve him well once the 23rd reached Korea in the summer of 1950. The Soldiers respected Freeman because he led from the front, sharing the same conditions and dangers as his men. Also known for his calm demeanor, even during combat, Freeman projected confidence when the situation was bleak—which was often the case in Korea.¹

Biography²

- Born on 29 June 1907 in the Philippines where his father, a US Army Colonel, was stationed.
- In 1929, he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, and was commissioned in the infantry.
- Assigned to the 15th Infantry in China (1929-1936).
 - o Served as an observer in the Second Sino-Japanese War, and as a military attaché.
 - o Learned to speak Chinese.
 - o in Chongqing (Chungking), China
- Assigned to Fort Washington, Maryland and served as a company commander in the 12th Infantry Regiment
- Reassigned to Fort Benning for the Tank Course.
 - o Company command again
 - o Battalion Maintenance Officer with the 66th Infantry Regiment.
- WW II:
 - o Assigned to China as Assistant Military Attaché at the American embassy.

¹ Army University Press, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Korean War Documentary Series, Twin Tunnels. Published 7 Jun 2019. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX9G3c6jkROVZ0tXr4gvUKO

² Information from Dr. Spencer Tuckers, *The Encyclopedia of the Korean War*, 280 and Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul L. Freeman Jr)

- o 1942, assigned to the U.S. Military Mission to China
- o 1942, Reassigned to the staff of the China India Burma Theater as an instructor to Chinese and Indian Armies.
- o 1943, staff officer in Washington D.C
- 1944-1947, assigned to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil as Director of Arms Training for the Joint Brazil-United States Military Commission
- 1947, Army General Staff in Washington D.C. (Latin American Branch of the Plans and Operating Division)
- 1948 to 1950, assigned to the Joint Brazil-U.S. Military Commission.
- Korean War:
 - o Commander 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division.
 - Participated in the defense of the Naktong River in the Pusan Perimeter.
 - Participated in the breakout in September and the push northward across the 38th Parallel.
 - Participated in the fighting in the Chongchon River valley north of Kunuri against the Chinese People's Volunteer Army (CPVA).
 - Participated in the rear-guard actions after the Chinese intervention.
 - ➤ Last regiment in the 2nd Division to withdraw from the northernmost positions.
 - ➤ Kunu-ri controversy: Unofficially accused of disobeying orders when he deviated from the division route. 9th and 38th regiments suffered heavy casualties running what was called the gauntlet. Freeman insisted he had permission from the assistant division commander. Nevertheless, his regiment suffered far fewer causalities.
 - Participated in the engagements at the Twin Tunnels and at Chipyong-ni
 - Wounded and evacuated during the fighting at Chipyong-ni.
 - o Returned to the U.S. to recover from his wounds.
- 1952, National War College
- 1955, assumed command of the 2nd Infantry Division
- 1956, assumed of the 4th Infantry Division
- 1960, Deputy Commanding General for Reserve Forces (CONARC)
- 1962-1965, fourth star, and assigned as Commander in Chief, U.S. Army Europe/Commander, Central Army Group (CINCUSAREUR/COMCENTAG), serving in that capacity until 1965.
- 1965-1967, Commanding General, U.S. Continental Army Command (CG CONARC).
- 1975, Senior Army Member to the Weapons System Evaluation Group in Washington D.C.
- Death Date: 17 April 1988

Annex C: US Army Weapons with the patrol (Primary source is:

<u>https://www.nps.gov/spar/index.htm</u> (Springfield Arsenal) for both information and picture. Other sources noted below.



1. M1 "Garand," U.S. Rifle caliber .30: The basic shoulder weapon of the UN Forces. It was the first gas-operated, semi-automatic service rifle adopted by the U.S Army.

First fielded: 1935 (iconic American shoulder arm of WW2)

Weight: 9.5 pounds.

Effective range: 300 yards.

Rate of Fire: 30 rounds per minute. (Fired an 8-round clip)



2. <u>US Carbine Caliber .30</u>: The M1 Carbine was developed as a "light rifle," chambered for .30 pistol weight ammunition. Principal arm for officers and senior NCOs.

First fielded: 1941 **Weight:** 6 pounds.

Effective range: 200 yards.

Rate of Fire: 750 rounds per minute. (15 or 30 round detachable magazine) [Practicable rate of

fire with 30 round magazine was far less]

3. <u>Pistol, Caliber .45 M-1911 A-1</u>: the Colt .45 Automatic (M1911A1), was the primary service pistol of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marines by World War II. B

First fielded: 1911

Weight: Slightly less than 2 pounds.

Effective range: 25 yards.

Rate of Fire: 70-85 rounds per minute. (7 round detachable magazine)



4. <u>Browning Automatic Rifle, or BAR</u>: The U.S. Army's squad level light machinegun in WWII and Korea. (limited use in WWI) Fired the same cartridge as the M-1 Garand.

First fielded: 1918 Weight: 15.98 pounds.

Effective range: 1,500 yards.

Rate of Fire: 500-650 rounds per minute. (20 round detachable magazine) [Practicable rate of

fire with 20 round magazine was far less]



5. <u>US Machine Gun, Caliber .30, M-1919 A-4</u>: The standard U.S. Army Light Machine Gun. In Korean War the standard was 1 per platoon. Fired the same cartridge as the M-1 Garand

First fielded: 1919 Weight: 31 pounds.

Effective range: 1,500 yards.

Rate of Fire: 400-600 rounds per minute. (Belt fed)



6. <u>US Machine Gun, Caliber .30, M-1917 A-1</u> (Heavy/Medium Machine Gun): A heavy/water cooled version of the M1918 LMG. The Infantry Battalion Weapons Company had four of these guns. The mounted element of the patrol had three jeep-mounted 30. Cal machineguns and some of these may have been the M1917.

First fielded: 1917 Weight: 103 pounds.

Effective range: 1,500 yards.

Rate of Fire: 600 rounds per minute. (Belt fed)

7. <u>50 Caliber Air Cooled MG M2HB</u>: A large-caliber machine gun that was usually mounted of vehicles or positioned in fixed positions. The mounted element of the patrol had 2 mounted M2s, but not present in the defense of the hill top.

First fielded: 1933 **Weight:** 83.78 pounds.

Effective range: 2,000 yards. **Rate of Fire:** 400 to 600 rpm.



8. M20 3.5in Super Bazooka: A man portable rocket launchers, developed in WWI. The Super Bazooka replaced the WWI era 2.36 in Bazooka. A rifle platoon had one bazooka. In the Lost Patrol action the mounted element of the patrol had a Supper Bazooka and it may have been present on the hill top.

First fielded: 1950

Weight: 15 pounds (each shell was additional 8.5 pounds)

Effective range: 75 yards.

Rate of Fire: 575 rounds per minute. (Belt fed)

9. Recoilless Rifles: The 57mm, and 75mm recoilless rifles (RR) fire artillery or tank like shells along a flat trajectory – known as "Pocket Artillery." The back-blast escapes from the rear of the weapon so that there is no recoil, as with howitzers or cannon. The 57mm RR could be shoulder fired. The 75mm RR was crew-served and mounted on a tripod. The RR's were effective against infantry and fortifications such as bunkers.



Each infantry company had 3x 57mm M18 RRs. [Note: In the Lost Patrol action the mounted element of the patrol had a M18, but not present in the defense of the hill]

First fielded: Early 1945

Weight: 45 pounds. (Each shell was an

additional 5.3 pounds)

Effective Range: 500 yards (area targets out to 4,340 yards).



Each infantry battalion had 4x 75mm M20 RRs in the battalion weapons company. [Note: In the Lost Patrol action the mounted element of the patrol had a M20, but not present in the defense of the hill]

First fielded: Late 1945

Weight: 103 pounds. (each shell was an

additional 5.3 pounds)

Effective Range: 1000 yards (area targets out to 3.9 miles).

- 10. <u>Infantry mortars</u>: The 60mm, 81mm and 4.2in. Mortars were the infantry's organic artillery. They were primarily anti-personnel weapons. The mortar consisted of a sealed-breach tube with bipod and a base-plate. Mortars threw high explosive shells at high angles and were capable of reaching into trenches and other defilade positions that were impervious to direct fire weapons.
 - a. M2 60mm mortars (3 each in a rifle company) [Note: In the Lost Patrol action the mounted element of the patrol had a 60mm mortar, but not present in the defense of the hill]

(1) **First fielded:** 1940

(2) **Weight:** 42 pounds (each shell is an additional 3 pounds)

(3) **Effective Range:** 1.1 miles

b. M1 81 mm mortars (4 each in the battalion weapons company) [May have been with F Co. 1/23 Infantry in the Lost Patrol Action]

(1) **First fielded:** 1940

(2) **Weight:** 136 pounds (each shell is an additional 6 to 15 pounds)

(3) **Effective Range:** 1.9 miles

c. M2 4.2in mortars (12 in the regimental heavy mortar company) [the 4.2in mortar is similar today's 120mm mortar]

(1) **First fielded:** 1928

(2) **Weight:** 333 pounds (each shell is an additional 24 to 28 pounds)

(3) **Effective Range:** 4.4 miles

Below are other significant U.S. weapons in the Korean War.

• Not present during the Lost Patrol action.

• With the 23d Infantry at the Twin Tunnels and Chipyong-ni.

11. <u>Artillery:</u> During Korean operations, the standard US artillery of WWII was employed: the 105mm, the 155mm, and the 8-in howitzers and rifles. Normally Allied forces enjoyed a significant advantage in artillery.



18x 105mm howitzers in the 23rd RCT 37th Medium Artillery Battalion.

Maximum Range: 7 miles



6x in B Battery, 503d Heavy Artillery Battalion (attached to the 37th Artillery Battalion at Chipyont-ni).

Maximum Range: 9 miles

12. Flak Wagons: Normally anti-aircraft weapons. Employed in Korea as anti-personnel weapons.



M16 MGMC - Quad .50: A half-track mounting four 50 cal. HMGs. It was originally developed as an anti-aircraft weapon in WWII. In Korea, it was primarily used as an antipersonnel weapon. It was capable of hurling an immense amount of fire onto hillsides against infantry. US soldiers referred to them as a "vacuum cleaner" or "ridge sweeper" that was capable of sucking the ridge until it was devoid of life. (8 in the 23rd RCT's B Battery, 503 AAA AW (SP) Battalion).

Maximum Range: 4.6 miles against an area target.



The M19 Multiple Gun Motor Carriage (MGMC) was originally developed as self-propelled anti-aircraft weapon on the M24 light tank chassis. It was equipped with two Bofors 40mmm guns mounted in a revolving turret. (4 in the 23rd RCT's B Battery, 503 AAA AW (SP) Battalion).

Maximum Range: 7.8 miles against an area target.

13. <u>Armor</u>. The US Army operated several different types of tanks in the Korean conflict. These included M-24 light tank (75mm gun), the M26 Pershing Heavy Tank (90mm gun), and the M46 Patton Medium Tank (90mm gun).



However, the most common US Army tank in the Korean conflict was the WWII era M4A3E8 medium tank (76mm gun), also known as the "Easy 8." It had a high silhouette, light armor, and an inadequate gun, but it had an excellent power to weight ration and was more maneuverable in Korean terrain than more modern tanks. The 23d Infantry Regimental tank company

Annex D: The French Battalion and General de Corps d'Armee Ralph Monclar (Information from Leadership in the Crucible and High Tide in the Korean War,64-79)

The French normally referred to it as the Bataillon de Coree, and the Americans called it the French Battalion. It was not an official battalion in the French Order of Battle, but instead a volunteer unit specifically formed to fight in Korea.

The battalion's organization was roughly the same number of men and types of equipment found in a separate U.S. Army infantry battalion (a battalion not part of a regiment). It was authorized somewhat larger numbers of men and a wider range of equipment and had a total of 1,017 men (the 23d Infantry Regiment's Infantry battalions had only 919 men).

The French Battalion had a headquarters company, three rifle companies, and a heavy weapons company. The rifle companies were numbered instead of the U.S. method of lettered companies. The French 1st Company was composed of French Marines. The 2d Company was made up of volunteer soldiers from the regular and reserve French Army. The 3d company was composed of paratroopers and legionnaires from the French Foreign Legion.

Each rifle company had three platoons, each with a light .30-caliber machine gun and three BARs, and a support platoon with two 60-mm mortars and two 57-mm recoilless rifles.

At both the Twin Tunnels and at Chip' yong-ni the battalion had a fourth rifle company composed of South Korean soldiers (the ROK Company). It was organized the same as the other companies.

The heavy weapons company had a machine-gun platoon with eight heavy (water-cooled) .30-caliber machine guns and an antitank platoon with four 75-mm recoilless rifles.

One of the French Battalions greatest assets was it commander – General de Corps d'Armee Ralph Monclar. Ralph Monclar was actually, a *nom de guerre* adopted by General Magrin-Vernery in World War II when he fought with the Free French. In 1950, Monclar was a lieutenant general in the French Army. Although eligible for retirement, he instead requested to lead the French contingent to Korea. To do so he accepted a temporary reduction in rank to Lieutenant Colonel. It was said that he wanted expunge the shame the French Army had suffered at the beginning of World War II.

Monclar had extensive combat experience. He served in World War I and was wounded seven times. In the Great War, he earned eleven citations for valor. In 1924, he served in Morocco with the French Foreign Legion. By 1928, he was a battalion commander in the Legion and continued in that role up to the beginning of WWII. Early in WWII, he commanded a French Brigade in ill-fated invasion of Narvik, Norway. Later in 1940, he joined the Free French forces. In December 1941, he promoted to brigadier general and commanded the Free French land forces in Great Britain. After the war, he was appointed the inspector of the French Foreign Legion and served for at time in French Indochina.

Captain William Guthrie, Dog Company commander in the 23d Infantry Regiment stated, "We all knew his background and felt that he was the titular head of the French contingent, but he provided a backdrop to the Battalion in courage, sacrifice and experience." Guthrie observed, "The French troops were sloppy by US standards, but there was an air of professionalism that stood out - we were glad to have them." Albert C. Metts, another company commander in the 23d, stated, "This brave French General reduced his own rank to Lieutenant Colonel so he could come to Korea and command the French battalion. The unit was comprised of brave men, volunteers who were real fighters." Douglas Graney, a soldier from the 23d"s Easy Company remembered, "Saw enough of him that one had to admire his style... 'Whenever the French were going into the attack he would walk with the attacking column until the attack actually began. His men appeared to admire him as well . . . always cheering and waving whenever he was near them." To the men of the French Battalion he was fearless. Captain Francois DeCastries jokingly remarked to an American officer that it was difficult for Monclar to overcome hiccups, "it is impossible, as no one could ever frighten Colonel Monclar." (Barron, *High Tide in the Korean War*, 34-35)

Annex E: Lieutenant General Matthew Bunker Ridgway, Commander U.S. 8th Army: Excerpt from CMH Pub 19-8, *The Korean War – The Chinese Intervention* (Center of Military History), 27-28.

"The job of the commander was to be up where the crisis of action was taking place. In time of battle, I wanted division commanders to be up with their forward battalion, and I wanted corps commanders up with the regiment that was in the hottest action. If they had paper work to do, they could do it at night. By day their place was up there where the shooting was going on. I held to the old-fashioned idea that it helped the spirits of the men to see the Old Man up there, in the snow and sleet and the mud, sharing the same cold, miserable existence they had to endure." - Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway³

The man selected to replace General Walker as Eighth Army commander was Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway. At the time Ridgway was serving on the Army staff in the Pentagon as deputy chief of staff for operations and administration. A famed airborne commander from World War II, Ridgway was knowledgeable about conditions in Korea and the Far East and had a strong and dynamic personality. He would need both for the task ahead. His success in turning Eighth Army's morale around, using little more than a magnetic personality and bold leadership, is still a model for the Army, showing how the power of leadership can dramatically change a situation.

Ridgway landed in Tokyo on Christmas Day 1950 to discuss the situation with MacArthur. The latter assured the new commander of his full support to direct Eighth Army operations as he saw fit. Ridgway was encouraged to retire to successive defensive positions, as currently under way, and hold Seoul as long as he could, but not if it meant that Eighth Army would be isolated in an enclave around the city. In a foreshadowing of his aggressive nature, Ridgway asked specifically that if he found the combat situation "to my liking" whether MacArthur would have any objection to "my attacking"? MacArthur answered, "Eighth Army is yours, Matt. Do what you think best."

General Ridgway knew that one of his first jobs was to restore the Eighth Army soldiers' confidence in themselves. To accomplish this he had to be aggressive, despite the hard knocks of November and December, and find other leaders in Eighth Army who were not defeatist or defensive oriented. In practice he proved quick to reward commanders who shared his sentiments and just as quick to relieve those officers at any level who did not. During one of his first briefings in Korea at I Corps, Ridgway sat through an extensive discussion of various defensive plans and contingencies. At the end he asked the startled staff where their attack plans were. The corps G-3 (operations officer) responded that he had no such plans. Within days I Corps had a new operations officer. The message went out: Ridgway was interested in taking the offensive. To aid in this perception he also established a plan to rotate out those division commanders who had been in action for six difficult months and replace them with fresh leaders who would be more interested in attack and less in retreat. In addition, he sent out guidance to commanders at all levels to spend more time at the front lines and less in their command posts in the rear. The men had to see their commanders if they were to have confidence that they had not been forgotten. All these positive leadership steps would have a dramatic effect almost from the first. Eighth Army was in Korea to stay.

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³ Kenneth Hamburger's "Leadership in the Crucible."

Ridgway, despite his aggressive intent, was also enough of a realist to know that the Chinese were still capable of launching major attacks. He also knew that his Eighth Army still needed time to refit and reorganize. Thus, he immediately began planning to strengthen the defensive lines around Seoul while bringing up X Corps as quickly as possible to strengthen the Wonju sector in the center of the line. Almond's X Corps was no longer independent, but would be just another corps of the Eighth Army, tied into a new defensive line that stretched unbroken from one side of the peninsula to the other.

Ridgway's Guidance for "Meat Grinder Tactics"4

- Units off their vehicles and on the hills.
- Troops to construct tight defensive perimeters for night fighting, while expanding the perimeters during daylight.
- Use the UNC advantage in airpower, artillery, tanks, and flak wagons to grind down the communist forces
 - a. Punish the Chinese by killing as many as possible –not concerned with fighting for real estate.
 - b. No more "bug outs." Units would stay in position and fight surrounded if need be, holding out until a relief force could get to them the next day.
 - c. At night, destroy the enemy with artillery and flak wagons, and using tanks to support the infantry, then call in air strikes during daylight hours.

⁴Kenneth Hamburger's "Leadership in the Crucible."

Annex F: Major General Edward M. (Ned) Almond. Commander X US Corps. Information from Kenneth Hamburger's "Leadership in the Crucible." 89-90.

General Almond had a solid reputation as an aggressive commander. One of his contemporaries noted, "When it pays to be aggressive, Ned's aggressive, and when it pays to be cautious, Ned's aggressive, and he wouldn't step two paces to the rear for the devil himself." He had a good combat record in both World War I, and in World War II. During WWII he commanded the 92d Infantry Division one of only two black divisions committed to combat. However, the division accumulated a questionable combat record in Italy. Many blamed the division's sometimes poor performance on Almond's command style and racist attitudes. As a Corps commander, he maintained a conviction that the black soldier was less capable than the white soldier, and he even directed that a valor award for a black officer be withdrawn.

During the Korean War, Almond initially serve as MacArthur's Chief of Staff. MacArthur then appointed him to command the X Corps. Many historians criticize Almond for dispersing his forces during the pursuit to the Chinese border and his failure to heed local intelligence concerning the Chinese entrance into the war. Historians also believe that it was only Almond's close relationship with MacArthur that prevented LTG Walker from firing Almond after the Chinese intervention. As the X Corps commander he was known for issuing orders directly to regiments and sometimes directly to battalions. His impulsiveness sometimes resulted in unfortunate outcomes because division commanders had no opportunity to coordinate the unit's maneuvers. Nevertheless, he rarely admitted to bad judgment or assumed responsibility for the unfortunate outcomes. Instead, he blamed the subordinate commander for their failure to properly execute his orders. Many veterans believed him to be a martinet who commanded by instilling fear. He was well-known for relieving subordinate commanders and placing his favorites in command positions.

He was a stickler for detail, and sometimes that attention resulted in very favorable outcomes. The best example was, he required the chain of command to submit daily reports that confirmed that the soldiers had changed their socks. The reports were initiated at squad level and then passed up the chain of command to General Almond. The command emphasis dramatically reduced the cases of frostbite in the X Corps.

He maintained and immaculate <u>headquarters</u>, <u>and troops from the field were not welcome there in their dirty vehicles and ragged uniforms</u>. <u>Sergeant Frank Butler</u> remembered visiting the headquarters.

The First Sergeant put me in charge of a quartering partyto go to X Corps Headquarters... We went there in our old, battered, dirty jeeps. We, too, were battered and dirty. Corps Headquarters, far to the rear, was spick-and-span. Tents all aligned in rows, paths and driveways marked with whitewashed rocks, everyone in clean uniforms. Upon our arrival, a Lieutenant rushed out of one of the tents and told us to "get those dirty jeeps out of sight." That did not sit too well with us, but we did as we were told and went about our quartering party business.

Annex G: The Chinese Communist Forces- CCF

Organization of the CCF (details from Nigel Thomas' "The Korean War" pages 33-35.

In 1950 the Chinese People's Liberation Army ground forces were referred to as the CCF (Chinese Communist Forces). There were between two and three million troops in four Field Armies (numbered 1st-4th).

A Field Army was 130,000-160,000 strong and normally contained three group armies. It was equivalent t to a weak US or British Army.

A Group Army was 30,000-80,000 strong and normally contained two to six armies. It was equivalent to a Western 'corps.

The Army was 21,000-30,000 strong and normally contained three or four divisions. It was about the size of a US or British Division. It was a self-sufficient tactical formation with anti-aircraft, artillery, communications, engineer, reconnaissance, special duty, training and transportation troops.

A division was 7,000 - 10,000 strong with three infantry regiments, an artillery regiment, and engineer, transport, medical and signals companies. It was equivalent to a US 'light division.

A regiment was in theory about 3,242 men with three infantry battalions (each with three rifle companies, an artillery battery, and guard, mortar, transport, signals, medical and stretcher companies. In the field the rifle regiments were usually significantly understrength.

The Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) (Details from Kenneth Hamburger's "Leadership in the Crucible," pages 47-49)

1. General:

- a. Possibly some of the finest light infantry in modern history.
- b. Leaders at all levels with the CCF had extensive combat experience.
 - i. Fighting for independence continuously in China since 1927.
 - ii. Against the Japanese in WWII.
- c. The CCF adhered to a sophisticated doctrine of mobile guerrilla warfare. Relied upon:
 - i. Hide during the day and attack between midnight and 0300 –this somewhat negated the UNF superiority in artillery and air.
 - ii. Thorough reconnaissance and superb infiltration tactics.
 - iii. Concentrate forces at a decisive point.
 - iv. Surprise night attack.
 - v. Withdraw quickly after victory to avoid UNF airpower.

2. Equipment and Uniform:

a. The CCF carried a variety of WWII era light infantry weapons.

- b. Limited artillery and no air-support.
- c. The winter uniform was simple, but very effective. It consisted of a heavy quilted uniform, a padded cap with earflaps, and sandals over layered socks.
- d. The soldiers carried their limited rations and ammunition in a cloth tube carried diagonally across the chest.
 - i. One hundred bullets, and three grenades.
 - ii. Two to ten days of food.

3. Tactics and Procedures:

- a. The average CCF was a peasant in his late teens or early twenties.
 - i. The peasant stock was normally robust and hardy, but lacked technical sophistication.
 - ii. Communist ideology instilled discipline and enthusiasm.
 - iii. Very mobile daily marches of ten miles over mountainous terrain were the norm.
- b. UNF soldiers noted that the CCF enthusiasm also had a touch of fanaticism.
 - i. The CCF soldiers apparent indifference toward death unsettled the UNF soldiers.
 - ii. Attacks bordered on the fanatical and at times the men in the first wave attacked without weapons.
- c. The CCF organization relied heavily upon the squad.
 - i. Each squad composed of three teams of three men each, plus a squad leader.
 - ii. Because the squad lived, ate, worked, trained, and fought together they usually became an extremely efficient organization.
 - iii. The individual soldiers looked after one another and checked any tendency a squad member might have to deviate from expected behavior.
- d. The CCF predominant tactic.
 - i. Attack in overwhelming numbers.
 - ii. Look for and exploit any hole in the UNF's defensive line.
 - iii. Pour through the hole to envelope the defensive line and cut supply routes to the rear this normally resulted in the UNF "bugging out" and withdrawing."

4. Communications:

- a. Very limited communication abilities. Normally consisted of noisemakers and light signals-bugles, whistles, shouts, and torches.
- b. Few to no radios and telephones were available only at battalion level.

5. Logistics:

- a. Supplies were normally man-packed.
- b. Resupply columns consisted of coolies bearing loads of seventy to one hundred pounds on A-frame pack- boards.
 - i. A unit's resources allowed it to conduct one or two short attacks without needing resupply.

- ii. Chinese soldier required less than ten pounds of supplies per day (American soldier needed sixty)
- iii. A CCF division required forty tons of supplies per day (US Division needed six hundred tons)

6. Summary:

- a. Historian Kenneth Hamburger stated: "They were serious adversaries, practicing a war of hate, among other motivations. In short, the Chinese infantry were very light, very robust, very aggressive, and very mobile."
- b. The CCF soldiers respected American weapons. After their first encounter with American forces, one wrote: "The coordinated action of mortars and tanks is an important factor. . . . Their firing instruments are highly powerful. . . . Their artillery is very active. . . . Aircraft strafing and bombing of our transportation have become a great hazard to us . . . their transportation system is great. . . . Their infantry rate of fire is great and the long range of fire is still greater."
- c. They had less respect for the fighting skill of the American soldier, for when cut off from the rear: "American soldiers abandon all their heavy weapons, leaving them all over the place, and play opossum. . . . Their infantrymen are so weak, afraid to die, and haven't the courage to attack or defend. They depend on their planes, tanks, and artillery. At the same time, they are afraid of our fire power. They will cringe when, if on the advance, they hear firing. They are afraid to advance father. . . . They specialize in day fighting. They are not familiar with night fighting or hand-to-hand combat. . . . If defeated, they have no orderly formation. Without the use of their mortars, they become completely lost . . . they become dazed and completely demoralized At Unsan they were surrounded for several days yet they did nothing. They are afraid when the rear is cut off. When transportation comes to a standstill, the infantry loses the will to fight."

CCF Weapons: The Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) relied primarily upon WWII era weapons. Most of their weapons and ammunition were provide by the Russians. Even though the equipment was WWII vintage it was generally extremely rugged, and very easy to maintain. Therefore it was very suitable for the equipping of peasant armies of the CCF.

CCF Weapons used in the combat action with the Lost Patrol (Primary source is: https://www.nps.gov/spar/index.htm (Springfield Arsenal) for both information and picture. Additional sources from the internet also used)



Infantry rifles: Communist forces were equipped with a miscellany of shoulder weapons. Two of the most prominent were the Russian 7.62mm carbine and the Japanese 7.7mm Imperial Army Rifle (both WWII era weapons).

In time, the CCF discarded the rifle in favor of the submachine gun. It was less accurate and had less killing power. However, it gave the peasant soldiers the ability to deliver a much higher volume of fire.



The Shpagin PPSH41 submachine gun (burp gun) was the most common submachine gun:

First fielded: 1941

Weight: 8 pounds without the magazine.

Effective range: 140 yards.

Rate of Fire: Up to 1000 rpm(35-round box

magazine or 71-round drum)



The CCF fielded many Japanese and Russian Light Machineguns. One such LMG was the Degtyaryov Light Machine Gun (7.62mm).

First fielded: 1928

Weight: 25 pounds with the magazine.

Effective range: 879 yards.

Rate of Fire: 550 rpm (30 round overhead round-box magazine)



Chinese hand grenades were significantly different in physical appearance to US grenades. The stick fragmentation grenade was less powerful, and their stick concussion grenade more powerful. In the attack, the CCF ordinarily employed one platoon armed only with grenades to lead the attack.



Rate of Fire: 600 rpm (belt fed)

Machine Guns: Several varieties of medium and heavy machine guns were used by the CCF. One of the most common was the wheel-mounted PM M1910 heavy machine gun (7.62mm).

First fielded: 1910 Weight: 140 pounds.

Effective range: 1500 yards.

Mortars: The CCF used a variety of mortars – mostly of Russian. Because of its ease of transport, the mortar was the most common form of indirect fire-support.

- Communist regiments had six 120mm mortars.
- Each infantry battalion had had nine 82mms or sometimes the more portable 61mms.
- Communist mortars could use US 81mm and 60mm ammunition. US 81mm and 60mm mortars could not use the communist ammunition.
- The CCF forces in the combat action against the Lost Patrol did employ mortars —the size and numbers present are not known. This indicates that at least a BN (-) was employed against the Lost Patrol.

Artillery. Theoretically artillery support for a CCF Division closely followed that of WWII Soviet Division. A division contained twelve 122mm howitzers, twenty-four 76mm field guns, twelve 76mm SU-76 self-propelled guns, and twelve 45mm anti-tank guns. In addition, each of a division's three regiments was issued four 76mm howitzers. However, at Chipyong-ni the CCF divisions probably operated with far less artillery than they were authorized. In the action against the Lost Patrol there is no indication that the CCF employed artillery. The CCF had a marked reluctance to fire interdiction missions on targets they could not observe.



122mm howitzer M1938 (M-30)

Maximum Range: 7.3 miles



76-mm divisional gun M1942 (ZiS-3)

Maximum Range: 8.2 miles



76mm regimental gun M1927

Maximum Range: 2.6 miles

¹ Kenneth Hamburger, Leadership in the Crucible." 105?

² Hamburger, ?

³ Hamburger, ?