

## Chipyong-ni Chronology 22 January – 15 February 1951

### **22 January**

UN Forces begin counteroffensive (Operation Roundup)

### **27 January**

X Corps Commander directs 2ID and 24ID to send patrols to Twin Tunnels

### **28 January**

1st Battalion 23rd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) sends patrols to Twin Tunnels; no contact

3rd Battalion 23rd RCT motorized patrol ambushed at Anchang-ni; rescued by F Company

### **29 January**

C Company platoon (+) departs for Twin Tunnels

1115 C Company patrol links up with 24ID patrol at Iho-ri

1200 Patrol arrives vicinity of Twin Tunnels; 3rd Battalion begins moving to Munmang-ni

1215 Patrol makes contact with enemy and withdrew on foot to east high ground

PM Patrol assaulted approximately 6 times

1300 2nd Battalion ordered to rescue patrol

1515 F Company departed

1720 F Company arrived Twin Tunnels vicinity; engaged by enemy machine gun on Hill 453

1730 F Company begins to secure high ground (Hill 453)

1800 – 2100 4 assaults on patrol perimeter

1930 Top of Hill 453 secured

2100 F Company Commander informed by wounded patrol members that patrol was wiped out

2115 Another patrol member reported patrol still fighting

2215 Chinese assault patrol perimeter

2300 F Company links up with patrol

0330 Evacuation of wounded completed

0630 Column reaches Iho-ri

### **30 January**

23rd RCT (-) [3rd, French Battalions] assembles for attack on Twin Tunnels

### **31 January**

3rd, French Battalions secure objectives approximately 1700 without enemy contact

### **3 February**

23rd RCT occupies Chipyeong-ni, encountering light resistance

1st Ranger Company attached to 23rd RCT

2nd Recon Company attached to 23rd RCT

### **4 February**

1st Battalion squad (+) patrol to Hill 345, contact with enemy company

3rd Battalion platoon patrol to Hill 506, heavy contact

F Company patrol to Hill 397, no contact

G Company patrol to Hill 129, no contact

### **5 February**

X Corps attacks envelop Hongchon

1st Battalion (+) patrol to Hill 345, no contact

French Battalion patrol to Hill 248, no contact

B Company attack on Hill 506, casualties

2nd Reconnaissance Company mounted patrol to Sanggosong; road cratered

F Company Platoon patrol to Hill 397, no contact

G Company Platoon patrol to Hill 129, no contact

### **6 February**

E Company (+) movement to contact to Sanggosong; heavy contact

1st Battalion patrol to Kosan; heavy contact

French Battalion platoon (+) patrols to Changdae; no contact

### **7 February**

2nd Battalion (-) attacks to clear Sanggosong; successful, frequent contact

1st Battalion platoon (+) patrol to Kosan, heavy contact

### **8 February**

Division becomes concerned about obvious enemy build-up between Chipyeong-ni and Hoengson

3rd Battalion (+) attacks to seize Hills 218, 320, 444; heavy contact; RONS in 2 perimeters

1st Battalion platoon (+) patrols north of Kosan; heavy contact, withdraws

G Company platoon (+) patrols to Hills 248, 129; no contact

G Company platoon patrols to Hill 397; no contact

Reports from aerial spotters and civilians: Chinese divisions moving east, division screening movement, concentration northwest Hill 583

### **9 February**

B Battery 503rd Field Artillery Battalion (FAB) (155-mm) attached to 37th FAB; G Company perimeter adjusted; 155s range enemy

B Company attacks Hill 506, RONS 2 days

1st Ranger Company attached to 23rd Regimental Combat Team

21st RCT (24ID) in west begins series of unsuccessful attacks on Hill 583

G Company platoon (+) to Hill 129; no contact  
F Company platoon (+) to Hill 397, no contact; sets mines, trip flares, and booby traps  
3rd Battalion seizes Hill 539, Sanggosong; enemy battalion repulses attack on Hill 444  
3rd Battalion returns to perimeter, leaves one tank stuck west of Sanggosong

### **10 February**

3rd Battalion company unsuccessfully tries to retrieve stuck tank  
French Battalion company patrol to Hill 281 pinned down, extracted by tanks and Close Air Support (CAS), heavy casualties  
Enemy patrol on Hill 506 engaged by 3rd Battalion and artillery  
F Company platoon (+) to Hill 397; no contact  
G Company platoon (+) to Hill 340; enemy squad observed on Hill 583  
Flare ignited on Hill 397 after dark  
Unsuccessful Ranger Company raid vicinity Hill 583; French correspondent killed

### **11 February**

#### **External Events**

Chinese launch major attack toward Hoengsong and Wonju  
ROK III Corps overrun  
15th FAB (detached to 9th RCT) overrun  
38th RCT cut off vicinity Hoengsong  
Netherlands Battalion encircled vicinity Hoengsong

#### **Regiment**

B Company attacked on Hill 506 (2 killed, 3 wounded, 2 died of wounds); returns to perimeter  
Enemy patrol on Hill 159 engaged and destroyed by tanks, flak wagons  
E Company (2 platoons, 3 tanks) patrol 583, heavy contact

### **12 February**

#### **External Events**

187th Airborne RCT attached to 2ID  
38th RCT retreats to Wonju  
1st Cavalry Division, 7th Infantry Division, 1st Marine Division, 27th British Brigade ordered to reinforce X Corps

#### **Regiment**

1st Battalion patrol makes contact vicinity Kosan  
3rd Battalion engages enemy groups on Hill 506  
G Company platoon (+) to Hill 248, no contact  
E Company platoon (+) to Hill 397, no contact  
F Company (+) reconnaissance to Hill 583, heavy contact  
Night: perimeter receives enemy indirect fire, probably from abandoned tank  
Night: enemy probes of C Company and 3rd Battalion positions; enemy flares observed  
Night: B-26s bomb suspected enemy locations

## 13 – 14 February

### External Events

38th RCT reaches Wonju, attacked there by 2 Chinese divisions  
L Company, 9th RCT and 2nd Reconnaissance Company heavily engaged  
vicinity Chaum-ni

Chinese focus on destroying 23rd RCT

1200 MacArthur visits Ridgeway; directs him to hold Han River line

“Wonju Shoot” (7,000 rounds) by X Corps Artillery destroys 3 – 4 Chinese  
divisions in open

Lead elements of 1st Cavalry Division arrive at Yoju

27 British Brigade begins advancing to Chaum-ni

### Regiment

1200 Major General Almond (X Corps Commander) visits Chipyeong-ni; Colonel  
Paul Freeman (Regimental Commander) recommends withdrawal  
on 14 February

1330 Colonel Freeman recommends immediate withdrawal

40 CAS strikes against enemy vicinity Chipyeong-ni

Early evening: flares observed, enemy movements heard, digging-in  
sounds heard

2200 Enemy mortar fire lands in perimeter

142400 Colonel Freeman wounded in leg by mortar fragments, Regimental  
S-2 killed

### 1st Battalion

2220 1st attack on C Company

140100 2nd attack on C Company, first attack on A Company

140300 3rd attack on C Company

140545 4th attack on C Company

### 2nd Battalion

AM E Company platoon (+) patrol to Hill 319, no contact

AM C Company platoon (+) to Hill 397, no contact

2220 Enemy platoon probes E Company, followed by Rifle Company

2230 1st attack on G Company

2300 2nd attack on G Company, some reach foxholes, Battery B 503 FA  
provides .50 caliber to line

2320 2nd assault on E Company

2330 E Company squad and tank from Regimental Reserve attempts  
unsuccessfully to get to K Company

140100 3rd assault on E Company

140100 Probe of G Company

140220 4th assault on E Company

140230 3rd attack on G Company

140330 Chinese platoon attacks G Company left flank

140345 Brief penetration of G Company eliminated by reinforcements from  
F and K Companies

140515 Attack on I Company

### **3rd Battalion**

- 2220 1st attack on K Company
- 2300 Jeep, M-16 ambushed; jeep driver captured, M-16 withdraws to E Company
- 140215 2nd attack on K Company
- 140230 K Company penetrated, portion of company cut off
- 140300 tank in K Company knocked out by satchel charge
- 140600 Attack on I Company

### **French Battalion**

- 2230 1st Company conducts spoiling attack on Chinese assembling, seizes 15 prisoners
- 2230 3rd Company repulses attack
- 140100 Attack on 2nd Company
- 140245 2nd attack on 2nd Company
- 140330 Attack on 1st Company repulsed with help by 75-mm recoilless rifles of 2nd Battalion

## **14 – 15 February**

### **External Events**

- L Company 9th RCT and 2nd Reconnaissance Company defeated at Chaum-ni (>50 % casualties)
- 27 British Brigade blocked on Route 24
- 28th RCT assaulted vicinity Wonju, airstrikes and artillery defeat attack

### **Regiment**

- Lieutenant Colonel John Chiles flown in to be new Regimental Commander
- 3 CAS sorties
- 1500 – 1800 Airdrops by 24 C-119 Flying Boxcars
- 2030 Heavy shelling of perimeter begins, including 105 and 155 shells
- C-47 Firefly's provide illumination throughout the night

### **1st Battalion**

- 2200 A and C Companies heavily engaged
- 150130 New assaults begin against A Company
- 150540 Heavy assaults on A and C Companies

### **2nd Battalion**

- 0900 G Company patrol captures 12 prisoners
- 1930 1st attack on G Company
- 2000 – 0300 Series of attacks on G Company (total of nearly 3 regiments)
- 2100 Attack on E Company with Bangalore Torpedoes, enemy destroyed in breach
- 2200 2nd attack on E Company
- 2230 Light attack on F Company
- 2230 Fougasse bomb in tunnel detonates
- 2230 3rd attack on E Company
- 2230 Chinese begin clearing G Company foxholes with pole charges
- 150130 Probes against E and F Companies

- 150100 Counterattack by Captain Elledge and 10 artillerymen
- 150200 Corporal Otteson (3rd Platoon machine gunner) killed
- 150200 F Company squad reinforces G Company, destroyed in counterattack
- 150300 81-mm mortar position destroyed by indirect fire
- 150315 G Company pushed from positions by 3rd Battalion, 44th Regiment, 115th Division; survivors fall back
- 150315 Ranger Platoon, 1 tank committed from Regimental Reserve; arrive at 0400; 2 tanks and M-16 attached
- 150330 155-mm direct fire and Battery B 503rd FA perimeter defense force Chinese to reverse slope
- 150415 M-16 stuck and abandoned
- 150540 Counterattack by Ranger Platoon, F Company platoon, G Company remnants, Rangers shot by French Battalion and tanks; 2 squads reach hill
- 150550 Counterattack remnants forced off hill

#### **3rd Battalion**

- 2025 Probe against K Company
- 150130 I Company penetrated, restored with platoon from L Company
- 150130 Heavy attack on K Company
- 150230 K Company penetrated, perimeter restored at 0500 with reinforcement from L Company

#### **French Battalion**

- 2400 Attack on 1st Company
- 150340 1st Company pulls back to tie into 2nd Battalion's new line
- 150500 Cease fire as Chinese observed evacuating casualties

#### **Task Force (TF) Crombez**

- 1400 Colonel Marcel Crombez (Yuju vicinity) alerted to move to Chipyong-ni
- 1700 D Company 6th Tank Battalion ordered to link up with 5th RCT in 30 minutes
- 1800 Column moves out
- 2400 Column halted at destroyed bridge at Chupo-ri, engineers prepare bypass

### **15 February**

#### **23rd RCT**

- 0700 Captain Elledge mans abandoned M-16 and engages enemy on G Company hills
- 0830 Additional M-16 and tank attached
- 0845 Battery B 503rd FA withdraws north of rail embankment
- 0930 B Company arrives in 2nd Battalion sector; Ranger Company, tanks attached
- 1015 B Company platoon attack on Schmitt Hill fails
- 1100 Colonel Freeman evacuated under protest  
Air drops by 30 C-119s in late morning (mostly artillery ammunition)  
131 CAS sorties
- 1130 B Company platoon attack on McGee Hill fails

- 1300 B Company attack fails; company withdraws to northern base of hills
- 1415 – 1450 Air strikes conducted against penetration
- 1500 B Company counterattack fails to take hills
- 1530 “Task Force S” (tank platoon, P & A squad, Ranger Company) attempts to flank enemy
- 1630 TF Crombez in view; Chinese withdraw
- 1630 Ranger Company and B Company secure perimeter positions
- 2130 – 2400 Air drops by 19 C-119s (mortar and small arms ammunition); drop zone lit by vehicle headlights

**TF Crombez**

- 0600 Engineers complete bypass
- 0700 1st Battalion conducts dismounted attack on Hill 152 on right; 2nd Battalion attacks Hill 143 on left
- AM Major General Bryant E. Moore IX Corps Commander, visits
- 1100 Colonel Crombez decides to conduct mounted advance; argument with Lieutenant Colonel Treacy
- 1300 Major General Clark Ruffner, 2ID Commander, visits
- 1330 Major General Charles Palmer, 1st Cavalry Division Commander, visits
- 1430 Hills cleared by 1st and 2nd Battalions
- 1515 Lieutenant General Matthew B. Ridgeway, 8th Army Commander, visits
- 1545 TF Crombez moves out; 4 engineers on 2nd tank to clear mines (otherwise 1st 5 tanks unoccupied)—Crombez in 5th tank, M-46s in lead; Treacy rides on 6th tank.  
  - Column halted south of Koksuri; infantry dismounts, tanks buttoned up; 120 infantrymen get back on vehicles
  - Column halted north of Koksuri; 60 infantrymen get back on vehicles; hand-to-hand fighting
- 1615 Column engaged at Chipyong-ni pass, D Company Commander’s M-46 knocked out by bazookas, 2 other tanks damaged
- 1650 Column halts at Masan; fires coaxial machine gun and canon at fleeing enemy; 115th Division surprised by appearance of tanks; link up with TF S
- 1710 TF Crombez enters 23rd RCT perimeter