

## **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

### **30 January**

0330 Evacuation of wounded completed

0630 Column reaches Iho-ri

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 Chipyong-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 Chipyong-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

TIME	REGIMENT	1ST BATTALION	2ND BATTALION	3RD BATTALION	FRENCH BATTALION
AM			E Company platoon (+) patrol to Hill 319, no contact C Company platoon (+) to Hill 397, no contact		
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				
After dark	Flares observed, enemy movements heard, digging-in sounds heard				
2200	Enemy mortar fire lands in perimeter				
2220		1st attack on C Company	Enemy platoon probes E Company, followed by Rifle Company	1st attack on K Company	
2230			1st attack on G Company		1st Company conducts spoiling attack on Chinese assembling, seizes 15 prisoners 3rd Company repulses attack
2300			2nd attack on G Company, some reach foxholes, Battery B 503 FA	Jeep, M-16 ambushed; jeep driver captured, M-16 withdraws	

			provides .50 caliber to line	to E Company	
2330			E Company squad 7 tank from Regimental Reserve attempts unsuccessfully to get to K Company		
142400	Colonel Freeman wounded in leg by mortar fragments, Regimental S-2 killed				
140100		2nd attack on C Company, first attack on A Company	3rd assault on E Company Probe of G Company		Attack on 2nd Company
140215				2nd attack on K Company	
140220			4th assault on E Company		
140230			3rd attack on G Company	K Company penetrated, portion of company cut off	
140245					2nd attack on 2nd Company
140300		3rd attack on C Company		Tank in K Company knocked out by satchel charge	
140330			Chinese platoon attacks G Company left flank		Attack on 1st Company repulsed with help of 75- mm recoilless rifles of 2nd Battalion
140345			Brief penetration of G Company eliminated by reinforcements from F and K Companies		
140515			Attack on I Company		
140545		4th attack on C Company			
140600				Attack on I Company	

## 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

TIME	REGIMENT	1ST BATTALION	2ND BATTALION	3RD BATTALION	FRENCH BATTALION	TASK FORCE CROMBEZ
	Lieutenant Colonel John Chiles flown in to be new Regimental Commander 3 CAS sorties					
0900			G Company patrol captures 12 prisoners			
1400						Colonel Marcel Crombez (Yoju vicinity) alerted to move to Chipyong-ni
1500 - 1800	Airdrops by 24 C-119 Flying Boxcars					
1700						D Company 6th Tank Battalion ordered to link up with 5th RCT in 30 minutes
1800						Column moves out
1930			1st attack on G Company			
2000 - 150300			Series of attacks on G Company by total of nearly 3 regiments			
2025				Probe against K Company		
2030	Heavy shelling of perimeter					

	begins, including 105 and 155 shells C-47 Fireflies provide illumination throughout the night					
2100			Attack on E Company with Bangalore Torpedoes, enemy destroyed in breach			
2200		A and C Companies heavily engaged	2nd attack on E Company			
2230			Light attack on F Company Fougasse bomb in tunnel detonates 3rd attack on E Company Chinese begin clearing G Company foxholes with pole charges			
2400					Attack on 1st Company	Column halted at destroyed bridge at Chupo-ri, engineers prepare bypass
150100			Counterattack by Captain Elledge and 10 artillerymen			
150130		New assaults begin against A Company	Probes against E and F Companies	I Company penetrated, restored with platoon from L Company Heavy attack on K Company		
150200			Corporal Otteson (3rd			

			Platoon machine gunner) killed F Company squad reinforces G Company, destroyed in counterattack			
150230				K Company lines penetrated		
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			
150330			155-mm direct fire and Battery B 503rd FA perimeter defense force Chinese to reverse slope			
150340					1st Company pulls back to tie into 2nd Battalion's new line	
150400			Ranger Platoon, 1 tank committed from Regimental Reserve; 2 tanks and M-16 attached			
150415			M-16 stuck and abandoned			
150500				K Company perimeter restored with reinforcement from L Company	Cease fire as Chinese observed evacuating casualties	

150540		Heavy assaults on A and C Companies	Counterattack by Ranger Platoon, F Company platoon, G Company remnants, Rangers shot at by French Battalion and tanks; 2 squads reach hill			
150550			Counterattack remnants forced off hill			

## 15 February

TIME	23RD RCT	TASK FORCE CROMBEZ
0600		Engineers complete bypass
0700	Captain Elledge mans abandoned M-16 and engages enemy on G Company hill	
0830	Additional M-16 and tank attached	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
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	Colonel Crombez decides to conduct mounted advance; argument with Lieutenant Colonel Treacy
1130	B Company platoon attack on McGee Hill fails	
1300	B Company attack fails; company withdraws to northern base of hills	Major General Clark Ruffner, 2ID Commander, visits
1330		Major General Charles Palmer, 1st Cavalry Division Commander, visits
1415 - 1450	Air strikes conducted against penetration	
1430		Hills cleared by 1st and 2nd Battalions
1500	B Company counterattack fails to take hills	

1515		Lieutenant General Matthew B. Ridgeway, 8th Army Commander, visits
1530	"Task Force S" (tank platoon, P & A squad, Ranger Company) attempts to flank enemy	
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
1630	TF Crombez in view; Chinese withdraw Ranger Company and B Company secure perimeter positions	
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