

KOREAN WAR PROJECT

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS PERIOD 8-28 AUGUST 1952

Summary of Operations Period 8-28 Aug 1952 - 1st Marine Regiment

Prior to 8 August, Hill 58A (Siberia) was occupied by a one squad combat outpost. It was dominated on three sides by strong enemy outposts within small arms range which could make the hill untenable to friendly forces whenever the enemy chose to do.

In enemy hands the hill would pose a threat to the MLR in that sector since it would permit the enemy to move his 60mm mortars into positions from which he could deliver fire upon the MLR.

On the night of 8 August, the enemy launched a determined attack upon the hill and the defending squad was forced to withdraw. The following day, the hill was retaken with a reinforced platoon which received automatic weapons fire from three sides in addition to artillery and mortar fire and was forced to withdraw.

On the night of 9 August, a company seized the hill again but was unable to hold it.

At this point, on 10 August when plans were being made for an additional assault on Hill 58A, it was decided to shift the battleground to terrain of our own choosing rather than that of the enemy's selection.

The battleground selected was Hill 122 (Bunker Hill) which offered many advantages over Hill 58A:

- a. It offered an excellent opportunity to surprise the enemy.
- b. It afforded excellent observation into the rear of the enemy's outpost positions;
- c. It would greatly strengthen the MLR in that sector;

d. It would effectively neutralize Hill 58A.

e. It would deny the hill to the enemy from which he had delivered harassing small arms and mortar fire.

f. It would provide more defensible terrain than 58A.

The plan called for preparatory fires on Hill 58A and surrounding enemy positions all during the day of the attack. After darkness a tank-infantry raiding party would make an attack on Hill 58A, sweep the enemy off the hill, police the battlefield, burn the objective with flame thrower tanks, and withdraw on order.

While the enemy's attention was drawn to Hill 58A and the assault which they had anticipated and were prepared for, a company sized assault would be launched from the left with the mission of seizing Hill 122, occupying and organizing it as a permanent outpost. This assault would be unsupported initially and maximum stealth employed to insure surprise.

It was hoped that the plan would effect complete tactical surprise.

On the night of 11-12 August this Plan was executed and achieved the surprise element that was desired. Hill 122 was taken with a minimum number of casualties.

Although the enemy was able to shift his artillery and mortar fires to the new objective after the hill was taken, he was not able to make a counterattack until late in the afternoon when he made a determined counterattack in daylight (1600) in battalion strength - a hitherto unheard of procedure since the enemy had previously attacked only during darkness.

Chronological Sequence of Events During
Battle for Bunker Hill and Siberia Hill (58A)

8 August - 0100I - CT 025044 (Hill 58) Estimated 4 enemy squads attacked outpost manned by 1 squad reinforced. Friendly forced to withdraw. 0400I - Friendly platoon size counterattack forced back by heavy mortar, artillery and small arms. 1103I - Platoon reinforced followed air strike and artillery preparation and took hill. 1115I - Before reorganization possible enemy counter-attack retook position.

9 August - 0116I - CT 023048 (Hill 58A) C company retook "Siberia". 0335I - Estimated enemy company counterattacked and between 0500I and 0600I friendly withdrew.

11 August - 2130I - Friendly Flame tanks worked over 58A. 2200I - D Company Platoon Reinforced departed - 2323I on 58A - Negative contact - 2335I engaged estimated enemy platoon reinforced - brief fire fight - enemy forced to withdraw - 5 counted KIA - estimated 5 KIA and 20 WIA. 2345I objective was secured and platoon executed planned withdrawal. 2305 I - B Company departed to seize 122 (CT 016045). 2336I 1st and 2nd platoons were advancing along ridge to objective receiving sporadic small arms from front.

12 August - 0010I - B received heavy artillery, mortar and grenade from estimated 2 platoons. 0120I - B assault drove major elements from 122. 0228I objective was secured and organized. 7 counted KIA. Estimated 10 KIA and 20 WIA. 0453I - unknown number enemy engaged forward of 122. 0525I enemy forced to withdraw. 1600I - CT 020050 - estimated 400 enemy attacked 122 from North, East and West. 1615I - Item 3/1 moved forward to assist Baker. 1800I - enemy forced to withdraw.

13 August - 0105I - estimated enemy battalion reinforced attacked outpost. 4 hour and 10 minute fire fight. En forced to withdraw. 0005I - CT 045059 - estimated enemy company reinforced attacked and surrounded outpost (48) and probed F company MLR. 5 hour 10 minute fire fight. En withdrew. ^{0530I} Estimated 10 KIA and 50 WIA. 2100I - Estimated enemy battalion probed 122. Enemy was forced to withdraw at 2215I. Estimated 7 KIA and 8 WIA. 3 counted KIA.

14 August - 0225I - Unknown number enemy attacked 122. Brief fire fight. En withdrew.

15 August - 0118I - With no preparatory fire estimated 2 companies attacked 122. 3rd company taken under fire in valley between 122 and 58A by tanks, artillery and mortar. By 0335I small arms fire had stopped and enemy forced to withdraw. 40 counted KIA. Estimated 60 KIA and 250 WIA. 1640I - Estimated enemy company probed 122. Sporadic fire fight until 1735I. Enemy withdrew. 35 counted KIA, estimated 15 KIA and 30 WIA - all from small arms.

16 August - 0030I - Estimated enemy battalion probed 122. Heavy fire fight until 0225. Fire fight slackened and enemy withdrew 0315I. Estimated 40 KIA and 30 WIA - all from small arms. 0520I - Unknown number enemy fired small arms, automatic weapons and mortar on 122. Sporadic fire fight. En withdrew 0530I.

17 - 18 August - No activity.

19 August - 0245I - CT 016045 Probe on Hill 122 by unknown number of enemy. No estimate enemy casualties.

20 August - 0145 - CT 016045 Probe on Hill 122 by enemy squad. No estimate enemy casualties.

Summary of Operations 20 - 29 August 1952
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20 August - 2215I CT 105105 - Enemy squad probed friendly outpost. Fire fight until 0030I. Enemy withdrew. No estimate enemy casualties. 2225I CT 105108 - 2 squads engaged friendly patrol. 1 hour 20 minute fire fight. Enemy withdrew. 1 enemy KIA.

21 August - 0305I CT 097101 - 1 enemy engaged friendly patrol. 1 enemy KIA.

22 August - 2130I CT 012018 - 2 enemy platoons engaged by friendly ambush. 10 minute fire fight. Enemy withdrew. 2 enemy KIA, 15 enemy estimated KIA. 20 enemy estimated WIA.

23 - 27 August - Negative Contact.

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20 - 29 August - Only minor contact.

22 August - 0030I - CT 016045 20 Minute probe on Hill 122 by enemy squad. No estimate enemy casualties. 2045 - CT 016045 Probe on Hill 122. Unknown enemy casualties.

23 August - 0410I - CT 016045 - Brief probe on Hill 122 by estimated enemy squad. No estimate casualties. 2145 - 20 Minute probe on Hill 122 by estimated enemy platoon. No estimate casualties.

24 August - 2320I - 15 Minute probe on Hill 122 by estimated enemy platoon. No estimate casualties.

25 August - 2040I - Brief probe on Hill 122 by 2 enemy squads. 2140I - 20 Minute probe on Hill 122 by estimated enemy company. 2230I - Estimated 2 enemy companies attacked Hill 122. Withdrew at 2400I.

26 August - 0315I - Friendly patrols on Hill 122 (Forward slope) engaged in hand to hand combat. Enemy withdrew at 0355I. 0410I - Unknown number enemy assaulted Hill 122 for 25 minutes. Estimated 100 KIA, 170 WIA during nights activities.

Artillery Support for Hill 122 operation
 11-16 Aug. Includes missions fired indi-
 rectly supporting the operation.

<u>Date</u>	<u>105mm How</u>		<u>155mm How</u>		<u>155mm Gun</u>		<u>8 in Gun</u>	
	<u>Missions</u>	<u>No.Rds.</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>No.Rds.</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>No.Rds.</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>No.Rds.</u>
11 Aug 52	145	1485	15	289	4	65	2	22
12 Aug 52	170	4360	54	711	9	113	9	170
13 Aug 52	313	15018	66	1176	5	24	11	173
14 Aug 52	136	5860	40	589	6	59	5	42
15 Aug 52	185	3654	17	199	3	81	6	114
16 Aug 52	122	2666	22	188	1	8	3	26
<u>Total</u>	<u>1071</u>	<u>33043</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>3152</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>547</u>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rockets</u>		<u>*Counter Battery Missions</u>	<u>155 How Illuminating</u>	
	<u>Missions</u>	<u>No.Rds.</u>		<u>Missions</u>	<u>No.Rds.</u>
11 Aug 52	--	--	3		
12 Aug 52	1	138	33		
13 Aug 52	8	1041	37	6	57
14 Aug 52	2	198	40	2	31
15 Aug 52	2	236	15		
16 Aug 52	4	528	17		
<u>Total</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2141</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>88</u>

*Counter Battery are included in missions fired each day.

Air Support Bunker and Siberia Hills 11-16 August 1952.

11 Aug - 18 missions, 72 sorties
Ordnance: 15 napalm; 89-1000 lb; 52-500 lb;
78-250 lb; 6-100 lb; 110 rockets

12 Aug - 16 missions, 71 sorties
Ordnance: 16-napalm; 68-1000 lb; 50-500 lb;
94-250 lb; 64-rockets

13 Aug - 30 missions, 117 sorties
Ordnance: 64-napalm; 124-1000 lb; 47-500 lb;
232-250 lb; 48-100 lb; 214-rockets

14 Aug - 5 missions, 20 sorties
Ordnance: 6-napalm; 21-1000 lb; 24-500 lb;
54-250 lb; 18-100 lb.

15 Aug - 4 missions, 16 sorties
Ordnance: 12-napalm; 37-500 lb.

16 Aug - 6 missions, 23 sorties
Ordnance: 17-napalm; 14-1000 lb; 50-500 lb;
94-250 lb; 32-100 lb.
2 Flare planes - 125 plus flares.

11-16 Aug TOTAL
79 missions, 319 sorties
Ordnance: 130 napalm; 316-1000 lb; 260-500 lb;
552-250 lb; 104-100 lb; 388-Rkts; 125 plus flares.

Enemy Incoming Arty and Mortar on Hill 122 area 11-15 Aug 52

111800 - 121800 Aug - 640 mixed
121800 - 131800 Aug - 5000 - 10000 mixed
131800 - 141800 Aug - 2975 mixed
141800 - 151800 Aug - 120mm - 75 Rds
82mm - 60 Rds
mixed - 3000 Rds

11-15 Aug Total - Approx 11800 - 16800 mixed

Bunker Hill

The loss of Hill 122 was apparently a great blow to the enemy since he has reacted so vigorously since losing it - and suffered heavy casualties in the process.

1. Right Flank Division

a. Right Flank Regt.

- (1) Two Bns on line
- (2) Thailand Bn in Blocking Positions
- (3) One Bn in Regt Res.
- (4) Six Combat Outposts

b. Left Flank Regt

- (1) Three Bns on line
- (2) One Bn in Regt Res
- (3) Four Combat Outposts

c. Division Reserve

2d Infantry Division

9th Infantry Regt

Atchd -- Thailand Bn

38th Infantry Regt

Atchd -- Netherlands Bn

23rd Infantry Regiment

Atchd -- French Bn

2. Right Center Division

a. Right Flank Regt

- (1) Three Bns on Line
- (2) One Bn in Regt Res.
- (3) three Combat outposts

b. Left Flank Regt

- (1) Bns on line 2 plus 1 company from Greeks
- (2) Bns in Res 2 less 1 company from Greeks

c. Division reserve

- (1) To be committed only on Corps Authority
- (2) One Bn attached to KPR, 1st Mar Div

3d Infantry Division

7th Infantry Regt

Atchd -- Belgian Bn

15th Infantry Regt.

Atchd -- Greek Bn

65th Infantry (less 1 Bn)

3. Left Center Division

a. Right Flank

- (1) Bns on line -- 3

b. Left Flank

- (1) Bns on line -- 3
- (2) Bns in res -- 1

c. Division Reserve

- (1) Three Bns

1st British Commonwealth Division

25th Brigade

28th Brigade

29th Brigade

2d Infantry frontage ---- 15,900 meters

3d Infantry frontage ---- 14,000 meters

1st Br, Comwel Frontage -- 14,400 meters

Disposition as of 0800 27 August 1952