

Objective Y, at first manning it mostly during daylight. In the bloodiest single day of fighting since the capture of the Punchbowl, the Marines suffered seven killed and 66 wounded, perhaps one-fourth the number of the Chinese casualties.

The fighting now shifted eastward. After relieving the 5th Marines, the 7th Marines, commanded by Colonel Russell E. Honsowetz, attacked Hill 104 and the adjacent ridgeline, located on the regimental right. Advancing during darkness on the early morn-

ing of 28 May, Companies A and C of Lieutenant Colonel George W. E. Daughtry's 1st Battalion, seized their objectives but could not hold them against fierce Chinese reaction and fell back to the Jamestown Line. The fighting proved costlier than the struggle for Objectives S, T, V, W, and X, with seven Marines killed and 107 wounded. Two of those killed in action were honored posthumously with the Medal of Honor: Corporal David B. Champagne for throwing himself on a grenade to save the lives of other Marines; and

Private First Class John D. Kelly for sacrificing his life while gallantly attacking enemy positions.

Despite the developing stalemate, the Marine division continued probing, sending out patrols as large as a company to raid Chinese positions, killing or wounding the defenders and keeping the enemy off balance. Both American and South Korean Marines conducted these actions, and the Chinese retaliated in kind, as on the night of 24 June, when they cut off the elements of the 5th Marines manning an outpost on Objective Y, now redesignated Hill 159. Hostile mortar and artillery fire prevented the Marines from withdrawing over the trails leading back to the Jamestown Line, but they were able to take cover in their bunkers while fire from the 11th Marines helped frustrate the attack. The Marines could not hold the hill against a determined enemy, and by the end of the month, a Chinese battalion occupied it.

The 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, used its Company G to attack Hill 159, occupying an assault position on the night of 2 July and attacking at dawn of the following morning. The first phase went smoothly, and the assault began at 0630. Deadly fire from the battalion holding Hill 159 stalled the attack until the leader of a Marine machine gun squad, Staff Sergeant William E. Shuck, Jr., took over a rifle squad whose leader had been wounded. Shuck maneuvered the combined squads up the hill and clung to the exposed position until ordered to withdraw. While pulling his Marines back, the sergeant suffered a third and fatal wound. Shuck's daring and initiative earned him a posthumous Medal of Honor, but the hill remained in Chinese hands, even though the defenders may have suffered 200



National Archives Photo (USMC) 127-N-A162789

On the forward slope of Outpost Yoke (Hill 159) exhausted members of the 34-man 5th Marines outpost relax on the morning of 25 June. The night before they withstood an assault on the position by an estimated enemy battalion, killing or wounding more than 100 Chinese soldiers.

casualties compared to four Marines killed and 40 wounded.

On the right of the division's line, the portion now held by the 5th Marines, Company A of the regiment's 1st Battalion overran two unoccupied outposts on the night of 2-3 July before receiving orders to return to the main line of resistance. A patrol from the regiment's 2d Battalion ambushed a Chinese patrol shortly before midnight on 2 July, suffering no casualties while killing six of the enemy and wounding eight. Another patrol from the same battalion set out shortly after dawn on 3 July and engaged in an hour-long fire-fight that killed or wounded an unknown number of Chinese at the cost of one Marine killed and 11 wounded.

Within the next few days, two ambitious operations would involve the 1st Marine Division. The first was Operation Firecracker, a fire mission planned for 4 July when I Corps would mass artillery fire on targets all along the battle line, timing the shoot so that all the shells would detonate within one minute, a

technique known as time on target. The 11th Marines opened fire with its howitzers, and the 4.5-inch rocket battery joined in as did corps artillery, so that 3,202 shells detonated almost simultaneously on Chinese positions in front of the Marine division.

One enemy soldier reached the Marine entrenchment at Yoke before being killed. He was armed with nothing but stick hand grenades carried in a belt under his arm and a gas mask, the first known instance of the enemy being equipped with masks in the division's sector of the line.

Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A162793



Corporal Duane E. Dewey

Born in 1931 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves in 1951. In Korea, he served as a machine gun squad leader with Company E, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, and was critically wounded near Panmunjom on 16 April 1952. His Medal of Honor citation reads, in part:

When an enemy grenade landed close to this position, while he and his assistant gunner were receiving medical attention for their wounds during a fierce night attack by numerically superior hostile forces, Corporal Dewey, although suffering intense pain, immediately pulled the corpsman to the ground and, shouting a warning to the other Marines around him, bravely smothered the deadly missile with his body, personally absorbing the full force of the explosion to save his comrades from possible injury or death.

The survivors of his heroic self-sacrifice never forgot his remarkable shout, as he threw himself on the grenade, "Doc, I got it in my hip pocket!" After presenting the Medal on 12 March 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower told him: "You must have a body of steel."



Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A48747

Corporal David B. Champagne

Born in Wakefield, Rhode Island, in 1932, Corporal Champagne enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1951. Serving as a fire team leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, he was killed on 28 May 1952. His Medal of Honor citation reads, in part:

Corporal Champagne skillfully led his fire team through a veritable hail of intense enemy machine-gun, small-arms and grenade fire, overrunning trenches and a series of almost impregnable bunker positions before reaching the crest of the hill and placing his men in defensive positions. Suffering a painful leg wound while assisting in repelling the ensuing hostile counterattack, which was launched under cover of a murderous hail of mortar and artillery fire, he steadfastly refused evacuation and fearlessly continued to control his fire team. When the enemy counterattack increased in intensity, and a hostile grenade landed in the midst of the fire team, Corporal Champagne unhesitatingly seized the deadly missile and hurled it in the direction of the approaching enemy. As the grenade left his hand, it exploded, blowing off his hand and throwing him out of the trench. [He was] mortally wounded by enemy mortar fire while in this exposed position.

Corporal Champagne's Medal of Honor was presented to his younger brother during ceremonies held in July 1953 at the Old Mountain Baseball Field in Wakefield.



Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A240117

Private First Class John D. Kelly

A 23-year-old native of Youngstown, Ohio, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1951. As a radio operator in Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, he volunteered to join an assault and was killed on 28 May 1952. His Medal of Honor citation reads, in part:

Fearlessly charging forward in the face of a murderous hail of machine-gun fire and hand grenades, he initiated a daring attack against a hostile strongpoint and personally neutralized the position, killing two of the enemy. Unyielding in the face of heavy odds, he continued forward and single-handedly assaulted a machine-gun bunker. Although painfully wounded, he bravely charged the bunker and destroyed it, killing three of the enemy. Courageously continuing his one-man assault, he again stormed forward in a valiant attempt to wipe out a third bunker and boldly delivered point-blank fire into the aperture of the hostile emplacement.

—Captain John C. Chapin, USMCR (Ret)



Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A403015



National Archives Photo (USMC) 127-N-A161138

Marines hug the trench as a Communist mortar lands nearby. Marine Corsairs were often called upon to destroy troublesome enemy mortar positions in support of the division outpost line.

arguments for waiting until his division returned to full numerical strength and in the meantime dispatching smaller patrols did not prevail.

The war on the Jamestown Line became a battle for the combat outposts that provided security for the main line of resistance. These Marines are preparing to join in the fighting on the outpost line.

Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A163311

A tank-infantry team made the Marine division's contribution to large-scale patrolling with Buckshot 2B, an operation launched on 6 July. At 2200, two companies of Lieutenant Colonel Daughtry's 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, supported by elements of the 1st Tank Battalion, advanced against Hill 159. The assault force braved deadly fire to gain a lodgment on the hill. Because they were in danger of encirclement, the Marines had to pull back before daylight. General Selden had been correct; the intelligence gained did not justify the effort and the casualties—12 dead, 85 wounded, and five missing. Until the incorporation of





Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A164200

Marine observers direct an air strike on Hill 122, later called Bunker Hill, a Communist position critical to the fighting.

replacements had restored the strength of the division, emphasis shifted to smaller patrols with less ambitious objectives than raiding a stoutly defended hill.

Siberia

The bunker symbolized the fighting along the Jamestown Line and its combat outposts like Siberia. To build bunkers for future fighting, Marine engineers and truck drivers, and some 500 members of the Korean Service Corps, cut trees, shaped timbers, and hauled the rough-hewn beams some 50 miles to the sector held by the 1st Marine Division. When some 35,000 timbers proved insufficient, the Eighth Army made up the difference, and work went ahead on the Jamestown Line, its combat outposts, and the two back-up lines, Wyoming and Kansas. Although a company of Marine engineers, assisted as necessary by members of the 1st Shore Party Battalion, provided supervision, infantrymen did most of the work, following plans prepared by

the Army for the assembly of the ready-cut timbers. The Marines set up each standard bunker in a hole 12-foot square and seven-foot

PFC James McIntosh of Company H, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, aims a .50-caliber machine gun with mounted scope at Communist positions from Hill 229. The 750-foot-high Paekhak Hill, a mile east of the road leading to Panmunjom and Kaesong, was the goal of Communist forces who hoped to acquire the dominant terrain necessary for controlling access to Seoul.

National Archives Photo (USA) 111-SC411556



deep, excavated using shovels, without the aid of earth-moving machinery. Once the timbers were in place, some of them shaped from tree trunks eight inches in diameter, and the basic structure finished, the Marines covered the roof, some four feet of timbers, with another three or four feet of earth, rock, and sandbags. If carefully built, the structure could withstand a direct hit from a 105mm shell, besides affording protection against shrapnel from time-fused shells exploding overhead. The living bunker provided sleeping quarters and the fighting bunker featured firing ports for machine guns and rifles.

Bunker construction failed, however, to keep pace with plans or achieve the desired degree of protection. Fatigue contributed to the shortcomings, since the infantrymen who by day dug holes and manhandled timbers into

Rotation

Even as the 1st Marine Division became more heavily engaged along the Jamestown Line, replacements had to be absorbed, not only for the growing number of killed and wounded, but also for those whose tours of duty in Korea were ending. In the spring of 1952, for example, the division transferred elsewhere 433 officers and 6,280 enlisted Marines, while adding 506 officers and 7,359 men. The greater number of replacements kept the division slightly above authorized strength.

At this time, a normal tour of duty in Korea encompassed about 10 and one-half months. Infantry lieutenants and captains arrived in such large numbers, however, that a six-month tour became common for these officers, although those in other grades and specialties might continue to serve from nine to twelve months. The turnover among officers, plus reassignments within the division, had mixed results. Although changing assignments every three to five months reduced the effectiveness of the division, the policy broadened the experience of officers, individually and as a group. In the summer of 1952, how-

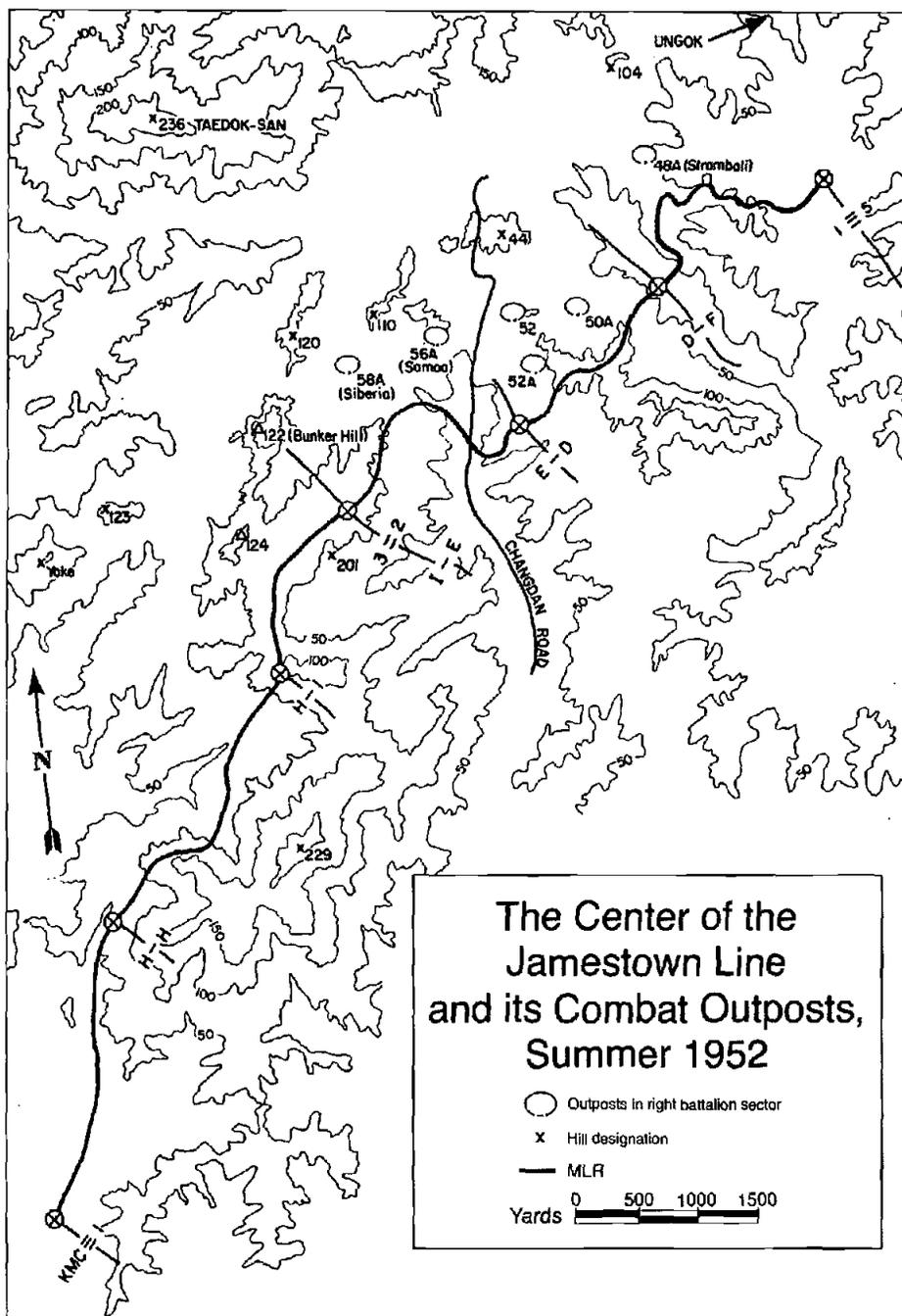
ever, the division chose efficiency over experience and reduced the frequency of reassignments among its officers.

Replacement drafts did not always fill existing vacancies. Indeed, for a time in 1952 the 11th Marines had to retrain infantry officers for artillery duty. Moreover, skilled drivers and gunners for the M-46 tank proved scarce until the training programs at Camp Pendleton, California, could be expanded.

Similar problems affected the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing where tours of duty averaged six to nine months for pilots and 10 to 12 months for non-fliers. As in the division, rotation between Korea and the United States and reassignment within the wing affected efficiency. The turnover in pilots got the blame for a series of accidents on the escort carrier *Bataan*, even though the new arrivals had requalified to fly from a carrier. Moreover, the wing's Marine Air Control Group 2 operated a formal course to train forward air controllers, and recently arrived pilots with rusty skills underwent informal refresher training. A scarcity of aircraft mechanics and electronics technicians persisted.

Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A170762





The Center of the Jamestown Line and its Combat Outposts, Summer 1952

- Outposts in right battalion sector
 - x Hill designation
 - MLR
- Yards 0 500 1000 1500

place had to guard against attack at any time and patrol aggressively by night. Another explanation of the lagging program of bunker construction blamed the training received by the Marines, who learned to emphasize the attack at the expense, perhaps, of defensive preparations. Whatever the reasons, Marine bunkers, as well as those manned by American soldiers, did not measure up to the standards of the Chinese, who provided as much as 35 feet of over-

head cover for frontline positions, which usually were linked by tunnels rather than trenches.

The fighting along the Jamestown Line grew even deadlier. Shortly after midnight on 9 August, the Chinese seized Siberia (Hill 58A), the site of a squad-size outpost, and also probed the positions of the 1st Marines. Siberia lay midway between the Marine main line of resistance and the line of Chinese outposts. The enemy's possession of Siberia would pro-

vide observation posts to adjust artillery and mortar fire against the nearest segment of the Jamestown Line. As a result, Colonel Walter F. Layer's 1st Marines, on the right of the division's line, counterattacked at once, using the same unit, Company E, 2d Battalion, that had dispatched the squad driven from Siberia. Chinese artillery and mortar fire, directed from Hills 110 and 120, stopped the counterattack short of its objective.

The Marines called for air strikes and additional artillery fire before renewing the counterattack on Siberia. At 0650, four Grumman F9F jets from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing struck, dropping napalm and 500-pound bombs. Shortly before 1000, Air Force F-80 jets dropped 1,000-pounders, and a platoon from Company A, 1st Battalion, the regimental reserve of the 1st Marines, immediately stormed the hill, with the support of a platoon from the 2d Battalion's Company E. The Chinese again cut loose with mortars and artillery but could not stop the assault, which seized the crest. The supporting platoon from Company E joined in organizing the defense of the recaptured outpost, which came under a deadly torrent of accurate fire that forced the Marines to seek the protection of the reverse slope, nearer their main line of resistance, where they held out until mid-afternoon before falling back. The enemy's artillery and mortars had fired an estimated 5,000 rounds, wounding or killing perhaps three-fourths of the Marines who had attacked Siberia on the morning of 9 August.

While Companies E and A reorganized, the task of recapturing Siberia fell to Company C, commanded by Captain Casimir C. Ksyczewski, who attacked with two platoons starting uphill at 0116. A firefight erupted, lasting four



Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A164331
Col Walter F. Layer, a veteran of the battles for Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa, assumed command of the 1st Marines in July. He would later serve as the senior advisor to the Korean Marine Corps.

hours, but the Marines gained the crest and held it until dawn, when driven from Siberia by a Chinese counterattack.

The losses suffered by the 1st Marines, 17 killed and 243 wounded within 30 hours, convinced Colonel Layer that his regiment could not hold Siberia if Hill 122, nicknamed Bunker Hill, remained in Chinese hands. He and his staff planned a sudden thrust at Bunker Hill, possession of which would enable his command to dominate Siberia and observe movement beyond the Chinese outpost line.

Fight for Bunker Hill

To disguise the true objective, Lieutenant Colonel Roy J. Batterton attacked Siberia at dusk on 11 August with one company from his 2d Battalion. The 1st Tank Battalion supported the maneuver with four M-46 tanks (M-26 tank with a new engine and transmission), each mounting a 90mm gun

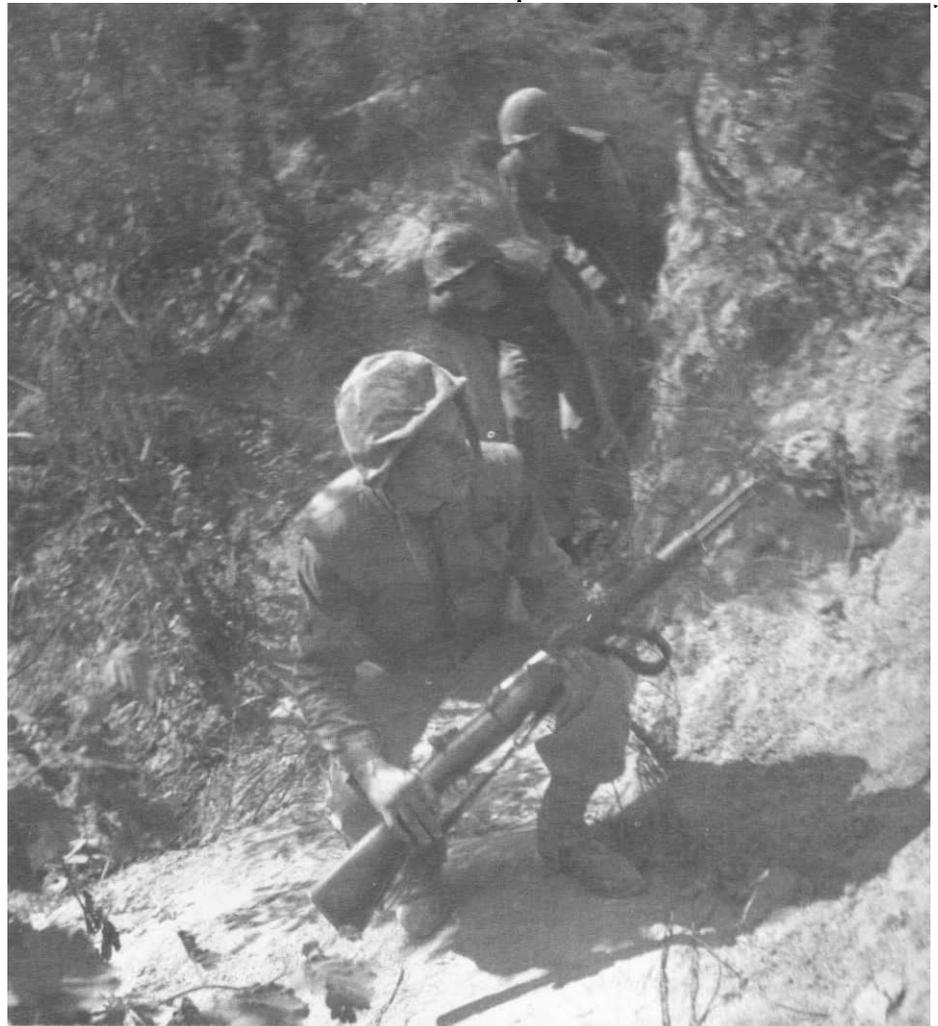
and an 18-inch searchlight fitted with shutter to highlight a target in a brief burst of illumination, and four M-4A3E8 tanks, each carrying both a flamethrower and a 105mm howitzer. While the 90mm weapons hammered Hill 110, the flame-throwing tanks climbed Siberia, using bursts of flame to light their way while demoralizing the defenders, and gained the crest before doubling back toward Marine lines. As the flame-throwing M-4s withdrew, the M-46s opened fire on both Siberia and Hill 110, illuminating targets with five-second bursts of light from their shuttered searchlights, and Captain George W. Campbell's

Company D overran Siberia, holding the crest until midnight when the diversionary attack ended.

The Bunker Hill assault force, Company B, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines—commanded by Captain Sereno S. Scranton, Jr., and under the operational control of Batterton's 2d Battalion—reached the crest by 2230 and began driving the enemy from the slope nearest the division's main line of resistance. The defenders recovered from their initial surprise, but the bypassed pockets of Chinese soldiers, though they tried to resist, could not check the Marine advance. In the wake of the assault force, other Marines and members

Marines crouch in a trench during the fighting for Siberia and other nearby hills. The struggle was fierce; some Chinese refused to yield and fought to their death. Most briefly held their defensive positions before retiring.

Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A165154





Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A165106

Navy Corpsmen administer blood plasma to a Marine wounded in the fight for Siberia. Intense enemy mortar and artillery fire during the seesaw battle caused most of the casualties.

of the Korean Service Corps man-handled sandbags, wire, and shovels up the hill to help Company B organize the defenses of the objective against the counterattack that was certain to come.

Chinese mortars and artillery harassed the Marines on Bunker Hill until dawn on 12 August, but the counterattack did not come until mid-afternoon, after Company B passed under the operational control of 3d Battalion, 1st Marines. The defense of Bunker Hill became the responsibility of the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Gerard T. Armitage, whose Marines faced a demanding test. The volume and accuracy of the shelling increased at about 1500, a barrage that lasted an hour and forced the Marines to seek the protection from direct fire afforded by the reverse slope. Company I, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, commanded by Captain Howard J. Connolly, reinforced Scranton's embattled Company B

in time to help break up an attack by some 350 Chinese and hold the southern slope of Bunker Hill.

While the battle raged on Bunker Hill, General Selden

moved his reserves closer to the fighting. Company I, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, took the place of Connolly's company on the main line of resistance, and by the end of the day, all of the 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, had come under the operational control of the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines. Selden attached the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, to Layer's command to strengthen the reserve of the 1st Marines. Meanwhile, Layer moved two provisional platoons from his reserve, the 1st Battalion, to reinforce the 3d Battalion, and the 3d Battalion's reconnaissance platoon established an outpost on Hill 124, linking Bunker Hill with the main line of resistance. This shuffling of units proved necessary because the 1st Marine Division was so thinly spread over an extended front. During the realignment, supporting weapons, ranging from machine guns through mortars and artillery to rocket batteries, prepared to box in the Marines holding the near slope of Bunker Hill, hammer the Chinese at the crest

Marines take a much-needed break on the reverse slope of the main line of resistance during a lull in the fight for Siberia.

Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A165132





Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A164530

On the night of 11-12 August, the 1st Tank Battalion made effective use of the 18-inch searchlight mounted on its M-46 tanks by temporarily blinding the enemy with dazzling beams of light. Behind the "cloak of darkness," elements of the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, were able to overrun Siberia.

and beyond, protect the flanks, and harass movement on the routes enemy reinforcements would have to use.

As daylight faded into dusk on 12 August, the Marines defending the reverse slope of Bunker Hill struggled to improve their hurriedly prepared fortifications, for the Chinese preferred to counterattack under cover of darkness. Fortunately, the comparatively gentle incline of the reverse slope of the ridge that culminated in Bunker Hill reduced the amount of dead space that could not be covered by grazing fire from the Marine position. Moreover, weapons on the Jamestown Line could fire directly onto the crest, when the expected attack began. By 2000, all the supporting weapons had registered to help the two companies hold the position.

Just as the Marines had attacked Siberia on the evening of 11 August to divert attention from Bunker Hill, the Chinese sought to conceal the timing of their

inevitable counterthrust. Shortly before midnight on the night of 12 August, the enemy probed the division's sector at three points. While one Chinese patrol was stumbling into an ambush set by Korean Marines, another harried a Marine outpost east of Bunker Hill. The third and strongest blow, however, landed after midnight at Stromboli, a Marine outpost on Hill 48A at the far right of the sector held by Layer's regiment, near the boundary with the 5th Marines.

In conjunction with the attack on Stromboli, launched in the early hours of August 13, the Chinese hit Company F on the right of the line held by the 1st Marines. The Chinese failed to crack the Jamestown defenses, but they inflicted so many casualties at Stromboli that reinforcements had to be sent. The reinforcing unit, a squad from Company F, came under mortar and machine gun fire from the Chinese probing Company F's defenses and had to return to the main line of resis-

tance. Pressure against Stromboli and its defenders continued until the commander of Company F, Captain Clarence G. Moody, Jr., sent a stronger force that fought its way to the outpost, breaking the Chinese encirclement. The 5th Marines moved one company into a blocking position behind the Jamestown Line near Stromboli in case the fighting again flared at that outpost.

Some 4,500 yards to the southwest, the Chinese attempted to seize Bunker Hill. At about 0100 on the morning of 13 August, savage Chinese artillery and mortar fire persuaded Captain Connolly of Company I to request box-me-in fires, which the 11th Marines provided immediately. Enemy infantry, supported by machine gun fire, advanced behind bursting shells, but the Marines fought back with every weapon they could bring to bear—artillery, mortars, tank guns, rockets, rifles, and automatic weapons. After almost four hours, the violence abated as the enemy relaxed his pressure on Bunker Hill.

Company G, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, under Captain William M. Vanzuyen, joined Connolly's men before the Chinese broke off the action and withdrew behind a screen of artillery and mortar fire. Except for a determined few, whom the Marines killed, the enemy abandoned Bunker Hill. Colonel Layer took advantage of the lull to send Company H, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, to relieve the Marines holding the hill. He afterward withdrew all the other elements of the 7th Marines that had reinforced his regiment, but not until a patrol from Company I had reconnoitered the far slope of the hill.

In keeping with their usual tactics, the Chinese tried to divert attention from Bunker Hill before

Staff Sergeant William E. Shuck, Jr.

Born in 1926 in Cumberland, Maryland, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1947. Serving as a machine gun squad leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, he was killed near Panmunjom on 3 July 1952. His Medal of Honor award bore a citation which reads, in part:

When his platoon was subjected to a devastating barrage of enemy small-arms, grenade, artillery, and mortar fire during an assault against strongly fortified hill positions well forward to the main line of resistance, Staff Sergeant Shuck, although painfully wounded, refused medical attention and continued to lead his machine-gun squad in the attack. Unhesitatingly assuming command of a rifle squad when the leader became a casualty, he skillfully organized the two squads into an attacking force and led two more daring assaults upon the hostile positions. Wounded a second time, he steadfastly refused evacuation and remained in the foremost position under heavy fire until assured that all dead and wounded were evacuated. [He was] mortally wounded by an enemy sniper bullet while voluntarily assisting in the removal of the last casualty.

After war, a mess hall at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia, was named in his honor.

Hospital Corpsman John E. Kilmer

A native of Highland Park, Illinois, 22-year-old Kilmer enlisted in the Navy from Texas in 1947. He was assigned to duty with 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, in Korea and was killed on 13 August 1952. His Medal of Honor citation reads, in part:

With his company engaged in defending a vitally important hill position, well forward of the main line of resistance, during an assault by large concentrations of hostile troops, HC Kilmer repeatedly braved intense enemy mortar, artillery, and sniper fire to move from one position to another, administering aid to the wounded and expediting their evacuation. Painfully wounded himself when struck by mortar fragments, while moving to the aid of a casualty, he persisted in his efforts and inched his way to the side of the stricken Marine through a hail of enemy shells falling around him. Undaunted by the devastating hostile fire, he skillfully administered first aid to his comrade and, as another mounting barrage of enemy fire shattered the immediate area, unhesitatingly shielded the wounded man with his body.

Private First Class Robert E. Simanek

Born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1930, he was inducted into the Marine Corps in 1951. For his bravery in Korea on 17 August 1952, while serving with Company F, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, he was awarded a Medal of Honor with a citation which reads, in part:

While accompanying a patrol en route to occupy a combat outpost forward of friendly lines, Private Class Simanek exhibited a high degree of courage and resolute spirit of self-sacrifice in protecting the lives of his fellow Marines. With his unit ambushed by an intense concentration of enemy mortar and small-arms fire, and suffering heavy casualties, he was forced to seek cover with the remaining members of the patrol in the near-by trench line. Determined to save his comrades when a hostile grenade was hurled into their midst, he unhesitatingly threw himself on the deadly missile, absorbing the shattering violence of the exploding charge in his own body and shielding his fellow Marines from serious injury or death.

He miraculously survived the explosion and was retired on disability in 1953. —Captain John C. Chapin, USMCR (Ret)



Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A403016



National Archives (USN) 80-G-708891



Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A49769

attacking again. Mortars and artillery shelled Combat Outpost 2, overlooking the Panmunjom corridor on the left of the sector held by the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, and also harassed the main line of resistance nearby. The main Chinese thrust, directed as expected against Bunker Hill, began at about 2100 on the night of August 13. While shells still exploded on Combat Outpost 2, the enemy intensified his bombardment of Bunker Hill, which had been under sporadic fire throughout the afternoon. Chinese troops hit Company H, commanded by Captain John G. Demas, attacking simultaneously near the center of the position and on the right flank. (His was the only element of the 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, not yet pulled back to the Jamestown Line.) High explosive shells boxed in the Marines, and illuminating rounds helped them isolate and kill the few Chinese who had penetrated the position.

The Chinese battalion that attacked Bunker Hill on the night of August 13 again tested the Marine defenses at 0225 on the fol-



Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A161025

Two Marine machine gunners wait for another Chinese onslaught after beating back an attack that seemed to last for hours.

lowing morning. Before this unit's second attack, a Chinese machine gun on Siberia began firing onto Bunker Hill. Marine M-46s stabbed Siberia with brief shafts of illumination from their searchlights and silenced the weapon with 90mm

fire, thus revealing the position of the tanks and enabling Chinese artillery fire to wound a crewman of one of them. The enemy may have initiated this flurry of action, which lasted only about four minutes, to protect the recovery of his soldiers wounded or killed in the earlier fighting rather than to challenge the hill's defenses.

The 1st Marines responded to the fighting of 13 and 14 August by reinforcing both Bunker Hill and the nearest segment of the Jamestown Line, the so-called Siberia Sector, in anticipation of further Chinese attacks. As part of the preparation, Captain Demas, whose Company H, 7th Marines, still held Bunker Hill, patrolled the slopes where the enemy had launched several attacks but found no Chinese, a situation that rapidly changed. At 0118 on 15 August, a deluge of hostile artillery began pummeling the Marine position, while Chinese infantry jabbed at the defenses. Once again, Marine-

