



CANADIAN ARMY COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE

ARMY OPERATIONS COURSE

CASE STUDY

BATTLE SERIES

BATTLE # 4

THE BATTLE OF KAP'YONG

23-25 APRIL 1951



I. GENERAL OUTLINE

In April 1951, the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) was part of the 27th British Infantry Brigade (BIB), itself under the direct command of U.S. IX Corps. At that time the corps was involved in Operation DAUNTLESS, the drive to Phase Line Wyoming north of the 38th Parallel. Following the collapse of the Republic of Korea (ROK) 6th Division on 22 April,

IX Corps pushed 27th BIB forward from corps reserve to establish blocking positions astride the Kap'young River to cover the routes leading south down the important Kap'young-Pukhan River valleys. 2 PPCLI occupied positions on Hill 677 to the west of the Kap'young River with 3 Royal Australian Regiment to the east on Hill 504 and the 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment in reserve. Throughout 24 April the Chinese 118th Division forced the Australians off of Hill 504 and during the night heavily attacked 2 PPCLI positions on Hill 677 from the east and west. Although some forward platoons were partially overrun on both flanks the battalion held its position throughout 25 April under infantry and mortar assault. Chinese manoeuvre succeeded in effectively cutting off 2 PPCLI from the other battalions in the brigade and Lieutenant-Colonel Stone requested resupply by air-drop. The Chinese attack culminated by the end of 25 April and by the next day the battalion prepared to hand over its position to American forces. In recognition of their stand at Kap'young, 2 PPCLI was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

II: DOCTRINE LENS

In order to properly prepare your Service Paper, you need to be familiar with current Canadian Army doctrine listed below. You will achieve the learning objectives of the Service Paper by answering specific questions about the battle of Kap'young in the context of current Canadian Army doctrine.

Concept	Sourcing
Principles of War	B-GL 300-001/FP-01, <i>Land Operations</i> , Chapter 3, Section 1
Mission Command	B-GL 300-003/FP-01, <i>Command in Land Operations</i> , Chapter 2
Manoeuvre Warfare	<i>Land Operations</i> , Chapter 5, Section 10
Adaptive Dispersed Operations	<i>Land Operations 2021: Adaptive Dispersed Operations: The Force Employment Concept for Canada's Army of Tomorrow</i> , 2007

III. LEARNING OBJECTIVES (LOS)

LO	Core Subject	Elaboration
LO # 1	Understand opposing operational techniques and command philosophies	Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the opposing Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) and command philosophies
LO # 2	Understand the factors determining the outcome of the battle	Identify the key factors that shaped decision-making in the battle

IV. QUESTIONS/POINTS TO CONSIDER IN YOUR ASSIGNMENT

You will answer at least one question from each of the two Learning Objectives listed below.

Learning Objective # 1

Understand opposing operational techniques and command philosophies

No.	Question	Elaboration
1	How did Lieutenant-Colonel Stone deploy his battalion to defend Hill 677? <u>Applicable Concepts:</u> Fundamentals of the Defence and ADO	Consider in terms of (1) the need for all-round defence, and (2) his re-organization of the battalion position
2	How did the Chinese 118th Division manoeuvre against 27th BIB?	Consider in terms of (1) infiltration, (2) sequential attacks against 3 RAR and 2 PPCLI, and (3) its ability to achieve numerical superiority
3	What weaknesses do you see in Chinese command and control?	Consider in terms of (1) artillery and mortar C2, and (2) the ability to synchronize attacks against 2 PPLCI
4	How did Lieutenant-Colonel Stone fight the battle? <u>Applicable Concept:</u> Mission Command	Consider the impact of the dispersed nature of the companies

Learning Objective # 2

Understand the factors determining the outcome of the battle

No.	Question	Elaboration
1	What impact did artillery have on the outcome of the battle?	Consider in terms of (1) the volume of artillery available to both sides, (2) the effectiveness of defensive fire, and (3) the Chinese use of mortars to support manoeuvre against 2 PPCLI company positions
2	What impact did the terrain have on the outcome of the battle? <u>Applicable Concepts:</u> Fundamentals of the Defence and ADO.	Consider in terms of (1) the Chinese ability to concentrate against the PPCLI positions, and (2) mutual support between PPCLI companies and platoons
3	What impact did the weather have on the outcome of the battle?	Consider in terms of (1) the ability of both sides to move across country, and (2) registering and adjustment of artillery fire
4	What impact did logistics have on the battle? <u>Applicable Principle of War:</u> Administration	Consider in terms of (1) resupplying PPCLI positions, and (2) the Chinese ability to sustain their assault

Sketches

Feel free to produce sketches to assist you in understanding the battle, but use proper military symbols. You can attach these sketches to your assignment if you choose.

V: SOURCES IN FORT FRONTENAC LIBRARY

KAP'YONG FOLDER

The following documents are available to you in hard copy and pdf. To request pdfs, e-mail Richard Palimaka in the Fort Frontenac Library at:

richard.palimaka@forces.gc.ca

Phone: 613-541-5010 Extension 5815

* French translation available.

Documents

*2 PPCLI Action Kap'young Area – 23 to 26 April 51, Account by Capt A.P. McKenzie (formerly IO, 2 PPCLI).

*Extract from the War Diary of the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade, April 1951.

*2 PPCLI War Diary, April 1951

*Notes on Talk Given by Lt-Col J.R. Stone at AHQ 0900 Hours 5 June 1951.

Books/Studies

Official Histories

Fairlie Wood, Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert. *Strange Battleground: The Operations in Korea and Their Effects on the Defence Policy of Canada*. Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1966.

_____. *Histoire officielle de l'Armée canadienne en Corée: Singulier champ de bataille*. Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1966.

Other

Bercuson, David. *Blood on the Hills: The Canadian Army in the Korean War*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999.

Bjarnson, Dan. *Triumph at Kapyong*. Toronto: Dundurn, 2011.

Bowers, William T., and Greenwood, John T., eds. *Combat in Korea: Passing the Test, April-June 1951*. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2011.

Gray, Hub. *Beyond the Danger Close: The Korean Experience Revealed, 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry*. Calgary: Bunker to Bunker, 2003. **Gray served as 2iC of Battalion mortar platoon**

- Johnston, William. *A War of Patrols: Canadian Army Operations in Korea*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2003.
- Mackenzie, S.P. *The Imjin and Kapyong Battles*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013.
- Watson, Brent B. *Far Eastern Tour: The Canadian Infantry in Korea 1950-1953*. Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2002.
- Stevens, G.R. *Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Volume 3: 1919-1957*. Montreal: Southam Printing, 1958.
- Stone, James R., and Jacques Castonguay. *Korea 1951: Two Canadian Battles*. Ottawa: Canadian War Museum, 1988.

ARTICLES

- *Watson, Brent B. "Recipe for Victory: The Fight for Hill 677 during the Battle of the Kap'yong River, 24-25 April 1951." *Canadian Military History* 9, No. 2 (2000): 7-25.
- Stone, James R. "Kap'yong: A Memoir." *Infantry Journal* 23 (Autumn 1992): 11-15.
- _____. "Réflexions sur Kapyong." *Journal de l'infanterie* 23 (Autumn 1992): 12-17.

Maps

Many of the sources in the bibliography will have maps. However, there are specific maps available in the Kap'yong Folder held in the Fort Frontenac Library.

Note: Ask the Library staff about additions to folder material.