

HEADQUARTERS
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FPF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

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3/SJH/gco
5750
2 December 1968
034-68

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 November 1968 to 30
November 1968

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: (1) 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), enclosure
(1) is submitted.

J. L. Owens
J. L. OWENS
By direction

5TH MAR S&G FILES

0772-68
COPY NO. 1 OF 8

2nd BN 5th MAR
SEC # 0693-68
COPY 3 OF 10

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2ND BN/5TH MAR

5TH MAR S&G FILES

Nov 1968

HEADQUARTERS
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 November 1968 to 30 November 1968

INDEX

PART I	ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
PART II	NARRATIVE SUMMARY ✓
PART III	SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF ✓ SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
PART IV	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓ Tab A - S-3 Journal
✓ Tab B - Combat After Action Report (Operation Mameluke Thrust)
28 July - 23 Oct 1968

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines November 1968

I. ORGANIZATIONAL DATAA. Location: 1-30 November 1968 An Hoa, RVNB. Commanding Officer, Staff Officers, and Company Commanders

Commanding Officer	LtCol J. W. STEMPLE	1-30 November 1968
Executive Officer	Maj J. L. OWENS	1-30 November 1968
Adjutant	1stLt H. NAGAI	1-30 November 1968
S-2	1stLt C. B. M. WALKER Jr	1-30 November 1968
S-3	Maj W. A. TILLEY Jr	1-30 November 1968
S-3A	1stLt P. PACE	1-30 November 1968
S-4	1stLt R. L. HORNBER	1-30 November 1968
S-5	1stLt H. NAGAI	1-30 November 1968
CommO	1stLt R. C. MURPHY	1-30 November 1968
SupplyO	1stLT D. T. WELSH	1-30 November 1968
MTO	Capt G. A. ZURENDA	1-30 November 1968
ALO	Capt W. S. LAWRENCE	1-30 November 1968
FAC	1stLt W. D. WATSON	1-17 November 1968
	1stLt R. S. DAVIS	27-30 November 1968
CO, H&S Co	Capt P. A. VANDERBERG	1-30 November 1968
CO, Co E	Capt J. A. WOGGON Jr	1-30 November 1968
CO, Co F	Capt D. B. BROWN	1-30 November 1968
CO, Co G	Capt H. J. POOLE	1-30 November 1968
CO, Co H	Capt R. J. DREZ	1-30 November 1968

C. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH.

<u>USMC</u>	
<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
31	1142

<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
4	53

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 II. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the period 1 November to 13 November 1968, the Battalion continued its participation in Operation HENDERSON HILL. Alternately establishing blocking positions for sweeps by ARVN, ROKMC and other Marine units, the Battalion attacked to seize and search pockets of enemy resistance uncovering large caches of rice and capturing 11 prisoners.

On 20 November the Battalion under operational control of the First Marines began participation in Operation MEADE RIVER.

III. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS.

A. Personnel and Administration.

1. The Battalion joined 87 enlisted men during the month. The Battalion transferred 1 officer and 162 enlisted during the same period. Casualties sustained for the month were:

<u>BATTLE</u>				<u>NON-BATTLE</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>MIANE</u>	<u>NBD</u>	<u>NBC</u>	
15	57	2	42		39	155

2. Discipline, Law and Order.

a. During the month, one Special Court Martial and one Summary Court Martial were convened within the Battalion.

b. Legal Assistance/Personnel Affairs. Most of the problems of individuals were handled at the Battalion level. Three cases were referred to the Division Legal Assistance Office in DaNang.

3. Postal. Due to the upcoming holidays, the amount of incoming mail has steadily increased to double the usual load. All letter mail is sent out on the first available transportation. The normal delivery of letter mail to the field is one day. Outgoing mail is airlifted daily, weather permitting.

4. Awards. There were one Silver Star medal, two Bronze Star medals and one Navy Commendation medal received during the month. Fifty-seven U. S. awards for heroism and meritorious service were processed by the Battalion during this period.

5. Chaplain's Activities. A Protestant service was held at An Hoa with over two hundred men in attendance. Four memorial services were held while the Battalion was in Regimental Reserve from 14 through 19 November 1968. The Chaplain visited sick and wounded Marines at various military hospitals in DaNang three times during the month.

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b. Intelligence.

1. Operation HENDERSON HULL moved to the Northeast part of the 5th Marines TAOR in the opening days of November when Intelligence from S-2, 5th Marines reported elements of the 36th NVA Infantry Regiment working from the west end of Go Noi Island. Light to heavy contact was maintained throughout the period 1 to 12 November. The 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines used as a blocking force, took fourteen detainees, seven of whom under interrogation, established that they were from the 1st Battalion, 36th Regiment, 308 Division (NVA) or support units and had been part of the rice gathering efforts in the area. Intelligence taken in the first days of the sweep of the area indicated that the 2nd Battalion, 36th Regiment was in the east end of Go Noi Island. Flooding of the Go Noi area by monsoon rains reduced the effectiveness of friendly sweeps in the Island. The 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines sweep back to An Hoa Combat Base netted a large amount of rice and assorted documents.

2. Sources. All normal sources of Intelligence available to an Infantry Battalion have been used in the month of November.

3. Statistics of Casualties and Equipment.

<u>KIA</u>		<u>DETAINEES</u>	<u>NVA RETURNEE</u>
<u>NVA</u>	<u>VC</u>		
3	21	14	1

a. Weapons.

S&S Rifles	6
AK-47 Rifles	8
RPG-2	1
RPD	3
Carbine, M-1, U. S.	1
M-14	1
SK-44 Rifle	1

b. Ordnance.

ChiCom Grenades	120
M-33 Grenade	1
M-26 Grenade	1
Blasting Caps	100
Illumination Grenade, U. S.	1
12.7mm rounds	150
7.62mm rounds	150
RPG-2 rounds	3
AK-47 magazines	5

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c. Field Equipment.

NVA Uniforms	4
Gas Masks	2
Binoculars, pair	1
Soviet Compass	1
Assorted Civilian Clothing	

d. Communications Equipment.

Wire, Communication, feet	1,000
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e. Food and Miscellaneous Items.

Rice, pounds	103,600
Beer, cases	3
Canned food, pounds	500
Milk, canned, pints	50
Cigarettes, Cartons	30

C. Training.

1. Ninety seven Marines were processed through indoctrination training prior to their deployment to the field.

2. Division and higher level formal school training was as follows:

a. Division Leadership Schools	12
b. Basic Infantry Weapons Repair	1
c. Basic Ammunition Tech	1
d. Kit Carson Orientation Course	1

3. During the period 14 through 19 November, the Battalion was in Regimental Reserve. Classes were conducted on tactics and general military subjects. Familiarization firing was conducted with all individual and crew-served weapons with emphasis on weapons safety.

D. Close Combat.

The 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines continued participation in Operation HENDERSON HILL. On 20 November, the Battalion under the operational control of First Marines began participation in Operation MEADE RIVER.

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E. Fire Support.

1. Four firing batteries provided direct support for the Battalion. Battery D and Mortar Battery 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines were in support from 1 November to 13 November 1968. Battery B 1st Battalion, 11th Marines and Battery H 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines provided direct support from 20 November to 30 November 1968.

2. General Support was provided by one platoon of 8 inch self-propelled guns and two platoons of 155 howitzers.

F. Air Support.

1. Tactical Air Support. A total of 48 tactical air support missions were flown in support of the Battalion consisting of 96 sorties.

2. Assault Helicopter Operations. The Battalion requested and executed 5 helicopter assaults consisting of 134 sorties.

3. Aerial Observation and Visual Reconnaissance. The Battalion utilized 28 aerial observation missions consisting of 28 sorties and 9 visual reconnaissance missions.

4. Flare Ships. The Battalion requested and received 5 missions consisting of 5 sorties.

5. Medical Evacuations. The Battalion requested and received 47 missions (104 sorties), consisting of 15 emergency, 12 priority and 20 routine medical evacuations.

G. Logistics.

(1) The Battalion operated in the An Hoa area during most of the month of November. During that time all resupply was made by helicopter from the LSA at An Hoa.

(2) Operation NEADE RIVER commenced on 20 November 1968. The Battalion was placed under the operational control of the 1st Marine Regiment. All resupply requests during that operation were coordinated through the LSA at Hill 55.

(3) Personnel from Battalion Supply and S-4 were sent to Hill 55 with the necessary gear and vehicles to support the Battalion from that location. All personnel and gear being sent between An Hoa and the Battalion had to be routed through Hill 55.

(4) Helicopter resupply from Hill 55 was supplemented by motor vehicle convoy and use of two Osters attached to the Battalion.

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(5) All resupply in the field was coordinated by Helicopter Support Teams attached to each company and the Battalion Command Group.

(6) Engineering support consisted of a team attached to each company and four attached to the Battalion Command Group. In addition to their normal duties, they were provided with sweep equipment during Operation MEADE RIVER.

(7) The Ordnance part of the Command and Material Inspection was reinspected and the Battalion received a satisfactory rating.

a. Supply.

(1) Early in this reporting period the Battalion Armory presented a class to all Companies on preventive maintenance of the M-79 Grenade Launcher and the M-60 Machine Gun.

(2) An IPI of all individual and crew-served weapons was performed at the Battalion Armory. IPI cards were up-dated and minor repairs were made.

(3) A quantity of 800 raincoats were received and issued.

(4) During the month, one new Eleven inch typewriter was received and three Manual Imprinters and two embossing machines were repaired, greatly reducing the office machinery problem of this Battalion.

(5) Critical items received during the month included one M151 jeep, one M37 PC, one 60mm Mortar, one 81mm Mortar, one M-60 Machine Gun, three AN/PRC 25 Radios and 2,000 sets of camouflage utilities.

b. Motor Transport.

(1) Schools were conducted on the various vehicles organic to the Battalion. Twelve Marines attended.

c. Medical.

(1) The Battalion Aid Station consisted of two Medical Officers, one Chief Petty Officer and fourteen Hospital Corpsmen. The letter companies were maintained at seven-eight Corpsmen per company with temporary lows of five-six Corpsmen. One Medical Officer and three Hospital Corpsmen have been with the Command Group in the field.

(2) There were three cases of Malaria from the Battalion during November.

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(3) There were ten cases of Venereal Disease from the Battalion seen this month.

(4) There were two patients seen for animal bites from the Battalion and these were treated for rabies.

(5) First Dental Company is maintaining a Dental Unit in the An Hoa area.

(6) On 19 November an Administrative Inspection was conducted by the Division Surgeon's Office. The inspection team inspected Medical Records, Administrative Procedures, Training and Medical Supply.

(7) Statistics.

Total number of patients seen.....1116
Average number of patients seen per day..44.

(8) Routine Medical Complaints.

Gastrointestinal Complaints.....19
Dermatological Complaints.....78
Venereal Disease.....10
Ear Disorders.....10
Orthopedics.....84
Malaria.....3
Rabies.....8

H. Communications.

No significant communication problems were encountered during this reporting period.

I. Civic Action.

During this reporting period efforts to rebuild homes in the hamlet of Phu Da 1, are continuing. Of the 376 families living in Phu Da 1, 56 have been provided with materials to rebuild their homes. Additionally, six farm tool kits and one sewing machine were donated to the hamlets of Phu Da 1 and 2. A mid-wife kit was presented to the Phu Da hospital.

Sanitation standards continue to improve with periodic classes being conducted in the proper disposal of waste material.

Due to Operational commitments, Psychological Operations were limited to distribution of hand leaflets, posters and use of Helicopter Broadcast teams.

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2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 1 November 1968

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal Opened
0500H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1100H	3	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1430H	4	CoE	CoE in contact (Ref spot Report)
1700H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2026H	6	S-3	D-20 received incoming grenade and
Ø	Ø	Ø	small arms fire
2030H	7	CoG	Recieved seven 60mm HE from vicinity
Ø	Ø	Ø	AT971517
2300H	8	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	9	S-3	Journal closed

Tab A

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 2 November 1968

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0500H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
0600H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
∅	∅	∅	resumed day activities
1050H	4	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1229H	5	BnCP	Found seven tons of rice and an NVA
∅	∅	∅	SP pack
1445H	6	CoF	Found one RPD and various gear at
∅	∅	∅	AT984516
1651H	7	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1800H	8	S-3	Units secured day activities and
∅	∅	∅	set in night defensive positions
2243H	9	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	10	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 3 November 1968

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal Opened
0547H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
0615H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
1054H	4	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1650H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1800H	6	S-3	Units secured day activities and com-
Ø	Ø	Ø	menced night activities
2301H	7	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	8	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 4 November 1968

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0540H-	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
0600H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
1000H	4	S-3	H3 patrol leaves friendly lines
1050H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1147H	6	S-3	H3 patrol returns to friendly lines
1245H	7	S-3	G patrol leaving friendly lines
1520H	8	S-3	G patrol leaving friendly lines
1647H	9	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1800H	10	S-3	Units secured day activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced night activities
2300H	11	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	12	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 5 November 1968

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0550H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit ⁿ ep sent
0610H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities
∅	∅	∅	and commenced day activities
1020H	4	S-3	All E OP's set in
1100H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1300H	6	CoF	Found 4 weapons after firefight at
∅	∅ ∅	∅	vicinity AT995542
1639H	7	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1800H	8	S-3	Units secured day activities and
∅	∅	∅	commenced night activities
2230H	9	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	10	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 6 November 1968

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0455H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
0600H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
∅	∅	∅	commenced day activities
1047H	4	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1135H	5	CoE	Patrols leaving friendly lines
1550H	6	H&S	Found one booby trapped M-26 at
∅	∅	∅	AT987506
1650H	7	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1800H	8	S-3	Units secured day activities and
∅	∅	∅	commenced night activities
2248H	9	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	10	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 7 November 1968

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0500H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
0600H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
1051H	4	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1700H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1800H	6	S-3	Units secured day activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced night activities
2245H	7	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	8	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 9 November 1968

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0514H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
0600H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
∅	∅	∅	commenced day activities
1100H	4	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1445H	5	CoE	Marine detonated a booby trapped
∅	∅	∅	M-26 grenade w/trip wire; Non-Evac
1705H	6	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1800H	7	S-3	Units secured day activities and
∅	∅	∅	commenced night activities
2245H	8	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	9	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 10 November 1968

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0500H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
0600H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
∅	∅	∅	commenced day activities
0730H	4	CoG	Patrol now leaving friendly lines
1050H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1700H	6	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1800H	7	S-3	Units secured day activities and
∅	∅	∅	commenced night activities
2300H	8	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	9	S-3	Journal closed

PAGE NO. 1

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 11 November 1968

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0455H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
0600H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
0920H	4	CoG	Found four booby trapped M-26 gre-
Ø	Ø	Ø	nades at AT975503
1015H	5	CoG	Found 6,600 lbs of rice at AT971516
1100H	6	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1300H	7	CoG	Found a total of 7,400 lbs of rice
Ø	Ø	Ø	at various locations
1600H	8	CoG	Found a total of 30,100 lbs of rice
Ø	Ø	Ø	at AT971516
1645H	9	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1800H	10	S-3	Units secured day activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced night activities
2030H	11	CoH	Ambushes set in all secure
2235H	12	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	13	S-3	Journal closed

PAGE NO. 1

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 12 November 1968

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0435H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
0600H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
0850H	4	CoF	F3 approaching obj 22
0930H	5	CoF	OP's set in
0945H	6	CoF	Marine tripped booby trap at AT952483
1045H	7	CoG	Found 4,000 lbs of rice
1100H	8	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1645H	9	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1800H	10	S-3	Units secured day activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
2300H	11	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	12	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 20 November 68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0800H	2	S-3	Companies started Operation Meade River
0955H	3	S-3	CP has completed helolift to objective
1215H	4	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1745H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1800H	6	S-3	Units secured day activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced night activities
2345H	7	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
2400H	8	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 21 Nov 68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0600H	2	S-3	Units secured night activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
0601H	3	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
0850H	4	S-3	Spot Report DTG 210830H sent
1030H	5	S-3	Follow up sent on Spot Report 210830H
1125H	6	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1745H	7	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1803H	8	CoF	Reports 1500 civilians gathered today
1810H	9	S-3	Units secured day activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced night activities
1930H	10	CoE	Ambushes set into positions
2010H	11	S-3	Spot Report DTG 212000H sent
2245H	12	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
2400H	13	S-3	Journal closed

PAGE NO. 1

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 22Nov68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0530H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
0600H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
1130H	4	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1730H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1800H	6	S-3	Units secured day activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced night activities
1950H	7	CoF	Reports 468 civilians collected today
2251H	8	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
2400H	9	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 23Nov68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0600H	2	S-3	Units secured night activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
0601H	3	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
0900H	4	S-3	Spot Report DTG 230830H sent
1010H	5	S-3	Follow Up Spot Report to 230830H sent
1110H	6	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1710H	7	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1800H	8	S-3	Units secured day activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced night activities
1845H	9	CoF	Observed enemy movement at BT049592
1855H	10	CoF	Reports 42 civilians gathered today
1915H	11	CoF	E-2 and E-3 ambushes set in
2025H	12	S-3	Spot Report DTG 232000H sent to rear
2300H	13	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
2400H	14	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 24 Nov 68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0005H	2	CoG	Received 10 incoming 60/81mm. No Casualties
0440H	3	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
0600H	4	S-3	Units secured night activities and commenced day activities
Ø	Ø	Ø	
1115H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1715H	6	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1800H	7	S-3	Units secured day activities and commenced night activities
Ø	Ø	Ø	
2314H	8	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
2315H	9	CoH	Received three incoming grenades. Sustained no casualties.
Ø	Ø	Ø	
2400H	10	S-3	Journal Closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 25Nov68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0230H	2	CoF	Received 10 rounds incoming 82mm
Ø	Ø	Ø	mortars. There were no casualties
0530H	3	S-3	6 hour Sit Represent to 1st Marines
0600H	4	S-3	All units secured night activities
Ø	Ø	Ø	and commenced day activities
1150H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1750H	6	S-3	Spot Report DTG 251720H sent
1755H	7	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1950H	8	S-3	Unit night activities set in
2000H	9	CoH	Has movement in front of perimeter.
Ø	Ø	Ø	Reconning by fire with claymore, .50
Ø	Ø	Ø	cal and small arms.
2250H	10	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	11	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 26Nov68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0620H	2	S-3	Spot Report DTG 260530H sent
0630H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
0	0	0	commenced day activities
0700H	4	S-3	Follow up Spot Report DTG 260530H sent
0820H	5	CoE	E-3 patrol departed
1130H	6	CoE	E-3 patrol back in friendly lines
1140H	7	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1645H	8	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
2248H	9	S-3	BnCP under fire from Vic BT042578
2317H	10	S-3	No casualties taken from incoming fire
2330H	11	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
2400H	12	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 27Nov68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0005H	2	S-3	Spot Report DTG 262230H sent
0530H	3	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
0600H	4	S-3	Units secured night activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
0720H	5	S-3	Follow up Spot Report DTG 262230H sent
1115H	6	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1610H	7	S-3	Spot Report DTG 271610H sent
1740H	8	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1830H	9	S-3	Units secured day activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced night activities
2000H	10	S-3	Spot Report DTG 271800H sent to rear
2333H	11	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
2400H	12	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 28 Nov 68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0536H	2	S-3	Spot Report DTG 280335H sent
0555H	3	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
0600H	4	S-3	Units secured night activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
0845H	5	S-3	Spot Report DTG 280530H sent
1145H	6	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1540H	7	CoH	Found two grenades, one at BT011578
Ø	Ø	Ø	and one at BT011575
1700H	8	S-3	Spot Report DTG 281350H sent
1701H	9	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1750H	10	S-3	Units secured day activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced night activities
1800H	11	CoF	Found one booby trapped 175mm round
Ø	Ø	Ø	at BT024594 and one booby trapped
Ø	Ø	Ø	M-26 in ammo can with spoon attached
Ø	Ø	Ø	to can cover
2000H	12	CoE&F	Have movement to their front across
Ø	Ø	Ø	the river
2305H	13	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
2315H	14	S-3	Spot Report DTG 282000H sent
2400H	15	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 29Nov68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0500H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
0600H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
0900H	4	CoF	Fox reports wounded VC across river
1100H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1215H	6	S-3	Spot Report DTG 291100H sent
1300H	7	S-3	Spot Report DTG 290900H sent
1645H	8	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
2100H	9	CoH	Hotel in contact
2145H	10	S-3	Spot Report DTG 292000H sent
2211H	11	S-3	Spot Report DTG 292100H sent
2310H	12	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
2400H	13	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 30 Nov 68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H to 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0500H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
0550H	3	S-3	Units secured night activities and
∅	∅	∅	commenced day activities
0900H	4	S-3	Spot Report DTG 300600H sent
1005H	5	S-3	Follow up Spot Report DTG 292100H sent
1130H	6	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1653H	7	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
1800H	8	S-3	Units secured day activities and
∅	∅	∅	commenced night activities
1848H	9	S-3	Spot Report DTG 301445H sent
2115H	10	S-3	Spot Report DTG 301630H sent
2125H	11	S-3	Spot Report DTG 301715H sent
2300H	12	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent to 1st Marines
2330H	13	S-3	BnCP LP taking incoming ChiCom
∅	∅	∅	grenades
2400H	14	S-3	Journal closed

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HEADQUARTERS
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/SJH/gco
3480
30 October 1968
033-68

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment
Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report, Operation MAMELUKE THRUST II
Ref: (a) AMS VietNam 1:50,000 series L 7014 sheets 6640 I and 6640 IV

- 1. Code Name. Operation MAMELUKE THRUST II
- 2. Dates. 280600H July 1968 to 231200H October 1968
- 3. Location. Quan Duc Duc District, Quang Nam Province, Republic of VietNam

4. Control or Command Headquarters.

2nd Bn (Rein), 5th Marines

	280001H to 312400H Jul68	Maj. O. K. STEELE
	010001HAug68 to 231200Oct68	LtCol. J. W. STEMPLE
CoE 2/5	010001HAug68 to 112400HAug68	2ndLt. P. R. MCCONNELL
	120001HAug68 to 231200Oct68	Capt. J. A. WOODSON JR.
CoF 2/5	280001HJul68 to 292100HJul68	1stLt. T. D. MARTIN
	010001HAug68 to 231200HOct68	Capt. D. B. BROWN
CoG 2/5	280001HJul68 to 231200HOct68	Capt. H. J. POOLE
CoH 2/5	280001HJul68 to 302345HJul68	1stLt. S. R. BROWN
	010001HAug68 to 231200HOct68	Capt. P. A. VANDERBERG

5. Task Organization.

2nd Bn, 5th Marines

- H&S Co
- CoE
- CoF
- CoG
- CoH
- Det, HST, 1st Shore Party Bn
- Det, CoA, 3rd Amtrac Bn
- Det, CoB, 1st Tank Bn

2nd BN 5th MAR
SEC # 0638-68
COPY 3 OF 14

5TH MAR S&C FILES

0662-68
COPY NO 2 OF 13

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200 IC

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6. Supporting Arms.a. Fire Support.

(1) Batteries D, E, and F 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines were in direct support of the Battalion and provided close and continuous fire support for the operation.

(2) The following batteries provided support during the following periods: Battery E, 28 July to 4 August 1968 and 1 September to 10 September 1968; Battery F, 5 to 12 August; Battery D, 12 to 31 August and 22 to 28 September 1968.

(3) Mortar Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines furnished general support for the operation.

b. Air Support.

(1) Air Support was considered outstanding throughout the operation.

(2) Due to the strength of fortifications, Napalm, Snake-eye and small arms were ineffective against all except fleeting targets of opportunity. Five hundred and seven-hundred fifty pound bombs, when used with suitable delay, were very effective as were Zuni and 2.75FFAR.

(3) During a fixed wing strike, 6 August, the wingman of a flight became disoriented and released his cannisters in close proximity to the 3rd platoon of Company F. Twenty-six Marines required evacuation for 2nd and 3rd degree burns. The quick actions of a CH-53 helicopter which evacuated all the casualties within minutes was a saving factor in minimizing the number of fatal casualties from this tragedy.

7. Intelligence.

a. Information received from S-2, 5th Marines indicated that the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the NVA 36th Regiment were within the TAOR as well as small Local Main Force Viet Cong units. Usually reliable sources indicated the presence of the NVA units in Battalion size at Phu Nhuan (8) (vicinity AT888505) Phu Nhuan (3) (vicinity AT900505) and Chau Phong (1) (vicinity AT943502).

b. Consistent with their mission local Main Force Viet Cong units made repeated attempts to interdict the MSR between Liberty Bridge and the An Hoa Combat Base. This was done by mines against vehicular traffic, surprise firing devices against road sweep teams and long distance sniping at motor convoys. A Viet Cong unit also fired on the security for the local populace harvesting rice.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~8. Mission.

To locate and destroy enemy forces, base areas, and caches of materiel and supplies. Secondary missions included providing for the security of Liberty Bridge and protecting the MSR.

9. Concept of Operations.

During the first month the mission was accomplished by maintaining one company in a holding position at Phu Lac (6); one company at An Hoa, and the remainder of the Battalion conducting Search and Clear operations throughout its assigned AO.

The Battalion Command Group and the two companies which operated independently, engaged the NVA/VC in close combat on frequent occasions with the most significant contacts being at the Phu Nhuan and Cu Bon village complexes South of the Song Thu Bon River. Heavy resistance was encountered in the vicinity of La Thap (1).

In conjunction with the primary mission of denying the enemy use of his base areas, considerable time and effort was devoted to destroying defensive positions of uncovered fortified villages.

From 17 August the Second Battalion, in conjunction with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines and the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, participated in a regimental-size cordon and search operation in the vicinity of Chou Phong village. For this operation the company in garrison at An Hoa was released, and for the balance of the month, the Battalion continued to maneuver with three of its companies in the field. The Battalion continued to maneuver Northwest to Go Noi Island and on 29 August commenced Operation SUSSEX BAY. On 11 September the Second Battalion resumed its participation in Operation KAMELUKE THRUST with an additional mission to provide security for the local rice harvest.

10. Execution.

a. July 1968

At 280600H July 1968, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines began participation in Operation KAMELUKE THRUST II.

At 281115H, a Company G out post at AT918524 observed 10 VC crossing the river at AT908538. An artillery mission of 46 rounds VT, 105mm was called. Results: 7 VC KIA.

At 281210E, a Marine from Company H detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade suspended from a tree six feet above the ground, rigged with a trip wire at AT880502. Results: 1 USMC KIA and 1 USMC WIA Evac.

At 281300H, a fireteam from Company G received three sniper rounds at AT915510. The fireteam observed two VC running at AT-911509 and fired small arms. Results: Two VC KIA.

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At 281350H, a Company E platoon at AT890498 received small arms fire and B-40 rockets while destroying bunkers and other fortifications. As sniping continued from vicinity of AT891500, an artillery mission of five WP and 44 HE of 105mm, and an 81mm mission of six WP and 50 HE was called on enemy positions. The platoon then swept the area. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac and four VC KIA.

At 281500H, a Company G fireteam at AT920517 observed one VC with weapon at AT918516. The fireteam fired small arms and two rounds of M-79. Results: One VC KIA.

At 291016H, a Marine from Company E detonated an unknown type explosive device at AT886492. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 292130H, a Company G combat patrol at AT922519 observed three VC planting explosive devices along the road at AT928524. The patrol fired 1,000 rounds of small arms, 500 rounds of automatic weapons, 30 rounds of M-79 and eight rounds of 60mm mortars. The enemy returned fire and other enemy in the treeline, at above grids, fired small arms, automatic weapons and 60mm mortars. A 105mm artillery mission of one WP and 38 HE rounds plus an 81mm mission of 64 rounds of HE and 50 rounds of illumination were called. After the enemy broke contact, the patrol pursued by fire and swept the area. Results: Four VC KIA.

At 300245H, a Company G squad LP at AT920540 observed six figures approaching their position. The squad fired 20 rounds of small arms, one M-33 grenade and one claymore mine. Results: One VC KIA.

At 300645H, a platoon from Company G at AT929514 observed four enemy moving in a treeline at AT934515. While maneuvering toward the treeline, the platoon came under fire from an estimated 50 enemy in the treeline. The platoon fired 1,500 rounds of small arms and 20 rounds of M-79. Another Company G platoon reinforced the platoon and established a base of fire with 500 rounds of automatic weapons, 2,000 rounds of small arms, 24 rounds of M-79 and six M-33 grenades. An artillery mission of two WP and 36 HE of 105mm and 138 HE rounds of 81mm were called. The area was swept after the artillery mission. Results: One USMC KIA, one USMC WIA Non-Evac and four NVA KIA.

At 301000H, a platoon combat patrol from Company G at AT924518 detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade and 60mm round. Results: Two USMC KIA and three USMC WIA Evac.

At 301230H, a Company G combat patrol at AT909515 received 10 rounds of sniper fire from a treeline at AT909516. The patrol fired 500 rounds of small arms and swept the treeline. Results: One USMC KIA and one NVA KIA.

At 311647H, Company E, while crossing a rice paddy at AT879501, received small arms and automatic weapons fire from an estimated reinforced squad of enemy at AT888502. The company called a 105mm mission of 120 rounds of HE and a fixed wing air strike on the enemy position. The company swept the area. Results: One USMC KIA, 12 USMC WIA Evac and four NVA KIA.

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b. August 1968

At 010630H, Company H at AT901512, received several fragmentation grenades from the vicinity of AT901516. The treelines were reconned by fire and swept with negative results. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 010720H, a Marine detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade at AT891508. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 010915H, a Company F platoon searching in the vicinity of AT888502 to AT890508, found various documents and weapons which were sent to Battalion S-2. Results: Capture of one K-44, One RPB, and various documents.

At 010930H, a Marine from Company H detonated a booby trapped 60mm round with trip wire at AT901518. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 011030H, Company E found a weapon, a body, and various fortifications at AT890508. The weapon was sent to Battalion S-2 and the fortifications were destroyed. Results: One VC KIA, capture of one M-1 rifle, and enemy fortifications destroyed.

At 011730H, Company E moving to a village at AT889500 made contact with five NVA in black clothing. The company fired small arms and automatic weapons and swept the village. Results: One USMC WIA Evac, one USMC WIA NonEvac, three NVA KIA, and recapture of one M-16 rifle, one M-26 and two ChiCom grenades.

At 020917H, a platoon from Company G at AT915528, observed an enemy out post at AT915527. The platoon fired small arms automatic weapons and searched the area. Results: One NVA KIA.

At 021115H, a Marine from Company F detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade at AT880503. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 021230H, a "6x6" USMC truck carrying members of Company H detonated an explosive device at AT910504. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 031015H, a Marine from Company E detonated a booby trapped 155 round suspended from a tree in a treeline at AT890490. Results: Three USMC KIA, Five USMC WIA Evac, and one USMC WIA Non-Evac.

At 031040H, Marines from Company F detonated two booby trapped M-26 grenades with trip wires at AT891492. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 031738H, a Marine from the Battalion Command Group detonated a booby trapped 15 pound box mine with pressure detonation device at AT898488. Results: One USMC KIA, Two USMC WIA Evac, and one USMC WIA Non-Evac.

At 041445H, a Marine from Company F detonated a booby trapped 105mm round with trip wire at AT910505. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 041450H, a Marine from Company F detonated another booby trapped 105mm round with pressure detonated device at AT901505. Results: One USMC KIA and one USMC WIA Evac.

At 051041H, a Marine from Company E detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with pressure detonation device at AT919519. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

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At 051050H, a Marine from Company E detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with pressure detonation device at AT928516. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 051551H, a Marine from Company F detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire at AT930513. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 060915H, the Battalion (-) at AT937518, initiated contact with an estimated company (+) of the enemy. The enemy fired small arms, automatic weapons, rifle grenades, nine 60mm HE rounds, and six rounds of 75mm recoilless rifle. The Battalion returned small arms and automatic weapons fire and fixed wing air strikes plus a total of three WP, 16 VT, and 54 HE 105mm rounds on enemy positions in the vicinity of AT948528 and AT902-508. The Battalion swept the area after the enemy broke contact. Results: One USMC KIA, 17 USMC WIA Evac, one USN WIA Evac, four USMC WIA Non-Evac, 23 NVA KIA, and capture of one AK-47 and one 75mm recoilless rifle.

At 061045H, the Battalion Command Group at AT936514, received one 60mm HE round from an unknown enemy position. Results: One USMC WIA Non-Evac and one USN WIA Evac.

At 061515H, a Marine from Company E detonated an M-26 grenade with unknown type detonation device at AT912512. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 071110H, a Marine from Company H detonated an M-26 grenade with unknown type detonation device in water at AT910489. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 111715H, an H&S Company fireteam outpost at AT907494 received three 60mm rounds and 50 rounds of small arms fire from six to eight enemy in the vicinity of AT912494. The OP returned small arms fire and the enemy fled. Results: One USMC WIA Evac, and one USMC WIA Non-Evac.

At 120855H, a Marine from Company F detonated an unknown type of booby trapped grenade with trip wire at AT925518. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 120900H, a Marine from Company G detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire at AT904416. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 121600H, during a helolift into a landing zone at AT897523, Company H received sniper fire from the vicinity of AT904521. Results: One USMC WIA Evac, and one USMC WIA Non-Evac.

At 140945H, while on a road sweep, a security platoon provided by Company F detonated a booby trapped 60mm round and booby trapped M-26 grenade, both with trip wires, at AT914509. Results: Three USMC WIA Evacs.

At 141115H, Company H observed two VC in a treeline at AT906505. The company fired small arms and 90mm fire from tanks supporting them, and swept thru the treeline. Results: Two VC KIA.

At 151045H, a Company F squad, while setting in an OP at AT925518, detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

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At 152005H, a Marine from Company G detonated a booby trapped 82mm round with unknown type detonator at AT896505. Results: Three USMC WIA Evac.

At 161600H, Company G, at AT897513, received small arms fire from a village at AT890510. The company called a 105mm mission of 30 rounds HE, but the small arms fire continued. Three fixed wing air strikes were called, and the company assaulted thru the village. Results: Five VC KIA.

At 172050H, a Marine from Company F detonated a booby trapped explosive device with trip wire while setting in an ambush at AT918513. Results: Four USMC WIA Evac.

At 181500H, Company G, at AT945517, received small arms and automatic weapons fire from the vicinity of AT946517. The company returned 150 rounds of small arms fire, 23 rounds of M-79 and 10 rounds of automatic weapons fire. As the company continued to advance, it received a heavier volume of fire from an estimated platoon of NVA. Company G fired 250 rounds of small arms, 300 rounds of automatic weapons, 50 rounds of M-79 and 35 handgrenades. A 105mm mission of 60 rounds HE and six fixed wing air strikes were called, then Company G swept the enemy position. Results: Seven USMC KIA, 13 USMC WIA Evac, seven USMC WIA Non-Evac, and 27 NVA KIA.

At 181650H, Company H at AT944515, acting as a base of fire for Company G, received small arms and automatic weapons fire from AT943517. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 190630H, a Marine from Company G was maneuvering thru a village at AT945517 when he was shot in the chest by a sniper at AT946517. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

Between 191148H and 191901H, Companies G and H found various rice caches and enemy weapons in the area of AT940510 to AT950520. Results: Capture of 33 tons of rice, five SKS rifles, two BAR's, one M-1, one M14-4.9 and one heavy machinegun.

At 201800H, Company H searching in the vicinity of AT953-505 found an enemy weapons and ordnance cache. Results: Capture of 34 SKS rifles, one AK-47, one 82mm mortar with sight and bipod, one M-16, one 7.62 Russian machinegun, with spare barrels, one 75mm RR sight, 120 rounds 82mm, two rounds RPG, 1,500 blasting caps, 30 B-40 rocket rounds with booster charges, 19,800 rounds of AK-47, 11 rounds of 75mm RR, 60 ChiCom grenades and four tons of rice.

At 211040H, a Marine from H&S Company on a road sweep at AT910495 detonated an enemy concussion type explosive device filled with black gun powder. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 211520H, a Marine from Company G detonated a booby trapped B-40 rocket round with trip wire, hung between two trees, at AT954512. Results: Three USMC WIA Evac.

At 211600H, Company H at AT952503 found six freshly dug graves containing six bodies in NVA uniforms. Results: Six NVA KIA.

At 211850H, Company H at AT952503 found a large cache of enemy ordnance and rice. Results: Capture of 16 tons of rice and large amounts of ordnance.

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At 211905H, The Battalion Command Post searching in vicinity of AT953505 found four bodies in NVA uniforms in undergrowth. All bodies showed that death was caused by shrapnel as result of preparatory fire by Marine air and artillery. Results: Four NVA KIA.

At 221400H, a platoon from Company H acting as security for amtracks was at AT918496 when they received small arms fire and one grenade from six to ten enemy. The platoon returned 30 rounds small arms fire and swept the area. Results: Three USMC WIA Evac.

At 221455H, Company G, searching at AT953508 found a large enemy supply cache. Results: Two NVA KIA and capture of 900 pounds of rice, ordnance assorted military equipment and one AR-15.

At 221800H, Company G searching at AT957508, found an enemy aid station and mess hall equipped with various items. Results: Capture of 25 tons of rice, assorted military equipment and medicines.

At 222230H, Company E, in defensive position at AT945519 received 50 to 75 rounds of small arms fire and four 60mm rounds from vicinity of AT944513. The company returned 100 to 150 rounds small arms fire and called an 81mm mission of 10 HE rounds. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 230845H, a Marine from Company H detonated a booby trapped fragmentation grenade with trip wire at AT949499. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 230956H, Company G searching at AT957508, found one weapon and a quantity of rice. Results: Capture of one SKS and two tons of rice.

At 231000H, a Marine from Company H detonated two booby trapped unknown type explosive devices at AT949499. Results: Seven USMC WIA Evac and two USMC WIA Non-Evac.

At 231150H, a Marine from Company H detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire at AT949499. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 231845H, Company E searching at AT946520 found one body in NVA uniform partially covered with dirt. Results: One NVA KIA.

At 241630H, Company G arrived at the site of a downed C-46 helicopter at AT950517. The Company searched the wreckage and found bodies and weapons. All important items were removed before destroying the entire aircraft. All bodies and equipment were evaced to An Hoa by 251425H. Results: Three USMC KIA, One USMC WIA Evac and salvage of the following equipment: two M-14 rifles, two 50 caliber machineguns, two .38 caliber pistols, one .45 caliber pistol, three "93" radios, five flight helmets, 300 rounds of 50 caliber ammunition and various maps and documents.

At 250850H, a sniper team with Company E at AT943513, observed three enemy crossing a rice paddy at AT947507. The sniper team fired small arms at the enemy. Results: One VC KIA.

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At 251133H, a Marine from Company F detonated a booby trapped explosive device made from a soda can filled with explosives at AT915503. Results: One USMC WIA Evac and one USMC WIA Non-Evac.

At 251830H, an out post manned by snipers attached to Company H at AT943513, observed three enemy moving across a rice paddy at AT948512. The snipers fired small arms at the enemy. Results: One VC KIA.

At 261705H, a Marine from Company F detonated a booby trapped M-26 with trip wire at AT912505. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 271217H, a Marine from Company F, setting in an out post at AT913504, detonated an unknown type explosive device. Results: one USMC KIA and five USMC WIA Evac.

At 290930H, Company G, on a Search and Clear mission at BT013547 found an enemy supply cache and one enemy body. Results: One NVA KIA and capture of 1,000 pounds of rice and 1,000 pounds of corn.

At 300005H, a Company H blocking force at BT018556 observed approximately 30 enemy fording the river at BT021556. The blocking force fired 500 rounds of small arms, 700 rounds of automatic weapons and called on 81mm and 60mm HE mission of a total of 33 rounds. A search of the area revealed enemy bodies in the water and along the river bank. Results: 29 NVA KIA.

At 311040H, a Marine from Company F on road sweep security detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade at AT919513. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 311430H, a Marine from Company F detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire at AT927514. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 311614H, a platoon from Company H at BT048550 observed five enemy moving in the tall grass at BT018550. The platoon fired 40 rounds of small arms and swept the area. Results: Capture of one M-1 and one unknown type Russian rifle.

At 312000H, a platoon from Company H, set in a blocking position at BT033557, observed approximately 30 NVA gathered near two boats at BT033560. The boats were boarded and began to cross the river. The platoon fired 1,000 rounds of small arms, 1,200 automatic weapons, 40 rounds of M-79 and 24 rounds HE and six illumination rounds of 81mm mortars. Utilizing the 81mm illumination, both boats were sunk and movement in the water and on shore ceased. A search revealed several enemy bodies both in the water and on the shore. Results: 17 NVA KIA.

c. September 1968

At 011003H, a Marine from Company F acting as road sweep security at AT921512, detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 011105H, another Marine from Company F, on the same road sweep security mission detonated another booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire at AT921512. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

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At 021105H, a Marine from Company F on road sweep security detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire at AT919512. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 022140H, Marines from Company F, at AT910513, were moving into an ambush site when a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire was detonated. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 030325H, a platoon from Company H in an ambush at BT035553 observed two enemy crossing a river at BT035556. The platoon fired 300 rounds of 30 caliber machinegun and searched the area. Results: Two VC KIA.

At 041132H, a Marine from H&S Company detonated a booby trapped ChiCom grenade with trip wire at AT912487, while moving into an out post site. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 062025H, while en route to an ambush site, a squad from Company F detonated a five pound box explosive device with pressure detonating device at AT920515. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 072332H, a platoon ambush from Company F, at AT908508, opened fire with 50 rounds of small arms and 100 rounds of automatic weapons fire on four enemy. The enemy returned 10 rounds of small arms fire and fled. A search of the area revealed two bodies and various military equipment. Results: Three USMC WIA Non-Evac, two NVA KIA and five ChiCom grenades and assorted military equipment captured.

At 080925H, a combat patrol from Company F at AT925527 observed eight enemy crossing a river at AT915534. The patrol called an 81mm mission of 12 rounds HE on the enemy. Results: Two NVA KIA.

At 081830H, two trucks returning with H&S Company troops from day time out posts were at AT909482 when ambushed by an estimated platoon of enemy at AT916482. The enemy fired small arms, automatic weapons and grenades while the Marines returned small arms fire. A reaction platoon from Company G arrived at the scene and began to sweep the area to establish contact with the enemy. The enemy had fled. Results: One USMC KIA, Two USMC WIA Evac, and three USMC WIA Non-Evac.

At 081930H, a squad ambush from Company H, at AT001533, observed six to eight enemy crossing West to East around the river at AT001534. The squad fired small arms, automatic weapons and six M-79 rounds at the enemy and searched the area. Results: Three VC KIA.

At 091905H, a Marine from Company F detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire at AT917510 while inspecting a proposed ambush site. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 101500H, a squad combat patrol from Company G was searching living structures at AT896504 when three Vietnamese males were observed. Upon seeing the Marines, the Vietnamese ran and refused to halt as instructed. The patrol fired small arms and automatic weapons killing one VC. The remaining enemy fled the area. Results: One VC KIA.

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At 101850H, a Company G out post, at AT910485, received 150 rounds of small arms and automatic weapons fire from an estimated five enemy at AT915492. Another Company G unit maneuvered to aid the out post, and a Marine detonated a booby trapped 60mm mortar round with trip wire. The enemy, seeing the reinforcements, broke contact. Results: Three USMC WIA Evac.

At 110900H, a squad from Company G found several fresh graves at AT900508. The graves contained eight VC bodies dressed in black pajamas, killed by fragmentation. Results: Eight VC KIA.

At 112130H, a squad from Company F moving into an ambush site at AT912507 received small arms, automatic weapons and M-79 fire from AT913507 and AT911507. The enemy assaulted the squad. The squad returned fire while additional forces from Company F and two tanks rushed to their aid. The enemy broke contact and the reinforcements pursued the enemy and searched the area. Results: Seven USMC KIA, four USMC WIA Evac and five VC KIA.

At 112150H, a platoon from Company E at AT901519 observed three VC with weapons at AT905527 through a Starlight device. The platoon fired 160 rounds of small arms. Results: Three VC KIA.

At 130710H, a platoon from Company G searching a village at AT895500 observed 20 VC fleeing the area in all directions. The platoon fired small arms and automatic weapons and searched the area. While searching, a Marine detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac and five VC KIA.

At 130930H, a platoon escorting two VC bodies and several detainees detonated a booby trapped 60mm round with trip wire at AT895500. Results: One USMC KIA and two USMC WIA.

At 131800H, a platoon from Company G, searching in the area of AT895500 after an artillery mission had been fired, found three Vietnamese males, one wounded by shrapnel. The wounded man died of wounds. Interrogation revealed that all three were rice carriers for the NVA. Results: One VC KIA and two VC POW.

At 140730H, a platoon from Company G at AT897503 observed seven VC, some with weapons, carrying the bodies of four VC at AT895500. The platoon fired small arms and the enemy dispersed. Results: Four VC KIA.

At 141015H, a platoon from Company G on a search and clear mission found one VC body, dressed in black shirt and brown pants at AT895500. Results: One VC KIA.

At 141015H, a platoon from Company E, searching at AT911526 discovered a tunnel containing five males, one of which refused to come out. The fifth male was killed by a grenade which he attempted to throw out of the tunnel. Interrogation of the four males by ITT determined that they were VC who wished to surrender, while the fifth male, their leader, refused to surrender. Results: One VC KIA and four VC POW.

At 141050H, a Marine from Company G was wounded at AT894500 by a sniper round from the vicinity of AT895500. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

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At 141100H, a Marine from Company F was wounded at AT922512 from a sniper round fired from a treeline at AT927513. A fixed wing air strike was called on the treeline. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 141200H, Company F, at AT925515, received harassing fire from a treeline at AT930513. Fixed wing air strikes were called on the treeline but some ordnance fell short wounding two Marines. Results: One USMC WIA Evac and two USMC NBC Evac.

At 150900H, a Marine from Company G on road sweep security detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with friction pull device at AT910486. Results: One USMC KIA.

At 151100H, a platoon from Company G, at AT899501, observed three VC at AT890495. Tanks attached to the platoon fired two rounds HE of 90mm. Search of the area produced one body. Results: One VC KIA.

At 151645H, a Marine from Company G detonated a booby trapped fragmentation grenade, with unknown type detonation device, at AT898499. Results: Four USMC WIA Evac.

At 151745H, while clearing area for a night defensive position, a Marine from Company F detonated a booby trapped 81mm round with pressure detonation device at AT889505. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 160900H, while searching a trail, a Marine from Company F detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with pressure detonator at AT887513. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 161630H, a Marine from Company E detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with friction detonation device at AT911529. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 162000H, a Marine from Company G detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire at AT904516. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 171000H, while moving into out post #4, at AT910496, a Marine from Company G detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 171655H, a Marine from Company F detonated a booby trapped 81mm round with pressure detonation device at AT881511. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac and one USMC WIA Non-Evac.

At 180200H, a squad ambush from Company G found one SKS near their ambush site at AT891515. Results: One SKS rifle captured.

At 181540H, a Marine from Company E detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with plunger detonator at AT930530. Results: Two USMC WIA Evac.

At 181600H, Company E observed one VC at AT944509. The Company fired one round of small arms. Results: One VC KIA.

At 181700H, a Marine from Company E detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with plunger detonator at AT930520. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 192235H, a Company F platoon defensive position at AT927491 received one hand grenade. The platoon returned grenades and small arms fire and searched the area with negative results. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

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At 220635H, a Marine from Company F detonated a booby trapped "tomato can" explosive device with trip wire at AT922499. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 270930H, a Marine from Company E detonated a booby trapped 82mm round with trip wire, set in a tree line at AT897486. Results: Four USMC WIA Evac.

At 281645H, a Marine from Company E detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire at AT888491. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 282115H, Company E, in a defensive position at AT888491, observed through a Starlight scope, six enemy moving from West to East at AT888488. The Company fired 15 rounds of M-79 and searched the area finding one body in black pajamas. Results: One VC KIA.

At 291205H, a Marine from the Command Group detonated a booby trapped 60mm round with trip wire set in a bush at AT887504. Results: One USMC WIA Evac.

At 291300H, Company G on a Search and Clear mission at AT875509, observed 15 enemy at AT874505. The Company fired 150 automatic weapons and called a 30 round EE 4.2 mortar mission. Results: Two VC KIA.

At 291715H, Company E searching at AT890509, found one Chinese SKS in a 60mm crater wrapped in plastic and covered with dirt. Results: One SKS captured.

At 300702H, the Chaplain assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines detonated a booby trapped 60mm round with bamboo trip stick at AT887504. Results: One USN WIA Evac.

At 301245H, a platoon from Company E received sniper fire while at AT895510. The platoon then observed three VC at AT892-516. The platoon fired 15 rounds of automatic weapons and three M-79 rounds, killing the VC. Results: Three USMC WIA Evac and three VC KIA.

At 301945H, while setting in an ambush a Marine from Company E detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire at AT897515. Results: Three USMC WIA Evac.

At 010900H October 1968 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines came under the operational control of the 7th Marines and terminated participation in Operation MAMLUKE THRUST II.

11. Results.

a. Enemy Personnel.

KIA DETAINÉES

175 231

b. Friendly Personnel.

<u>BATTLE</u>				<u>NON-BATTLE</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>MIANE</u>	<u>NBD</u>	<u>NBC</u>	
35	183	5	61	5	34	323

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c. Captured Weapons and Equipment.(1) Crew-Served Weapons.

RPD (Machine Gun)	1
Soviet Machine Gun (unknown type)	1
M-60 Machine Gun, United States	1
*75mm Recoiless Rifle	1
RPG-2, B-40 rocket launcher	2
**82mm Mortar	1

*Complete with tripod and sight

**Complete with Bipod and sight

(2) Individual Weapons.

SKS Rifles	41
AK Rifles	4
MMT 49 (Sub-Machinegun)	1
KMk Rifles	1
PPSh (Czechoslovakian)	1
Zip Gun (Bamboo)	1
AR-15, United States	1
M-16, United States	2
BAR, United States	1
M-1, United States	1
Soviet Rifle (Unknown caliber)	1

(3) Ammunition.

M26 grenades, United States	6
Grenades, Chinese Communist	102
RPG-2 (B-40) rounds, no boosters	22
RPG-2 (B-40) rounds, Complete	67
RPG-2 Boosters	2
7.62mm rounds (M43)	37,880
7.62mm rounds (Long)	8,990
7.62mm rounds (Linked)	324
4.2mm Mortar rounds	64
7.62mm rounds (Tracer)	300
60mm Mortar rounds (With Fuse)	21
81mm Mortar rounds (With Fuse)	51
82mm Mortar rounds (With Fuse)	183
75mm Recoiless Rifle rounds	15
2.75 Rockets	14
50 Caliber rounds, United States	148
12.7mm rounds	114
LAAW	2
60mm Mortar fuses	6
82mm Mortar fuses	5
Time fuses	17
Blasting Caps	15,027
Plastic Explosives (pounds)	167

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Cluster Bombs	6
Pressure Friction Devices	8,900
AK-47 Magazines	8
7.62mm rounds, United States	300
Primers	10
Gun Powder (Pounds)	10
Grenade Fuses, Chinese Communist	3
Warhead, Unknown type	12

(4) Medical Supplies.

Penecillin, Vials	364
Streptomycin, Vials	150
Morphine, Vials	1
Darvon, Bottles	3
Ether, Bottles	3
Cholera Serum, Bottles	21
Phenobarbatol, Bottles	27
Vitamins, Bottles	1
Sulfa Drug, Capsules	20
Surgical Set	1
Instrument Sterilizer	1
Bandages, Rolls (3" width)	3
Bandages, 4"x4"	10
Battle Dressings (Large)	2
Battle Dressings (Small)	2

(5) Field Equipment.

Uniforms, NVA	26
Gas Mask, NVA	12
Cloth Mask	1
Packs, NVA	2
Entrenching Tool	1
12.7 Ammo Box, NVA	1
Flags, NVA	6
Cartridge Belt, NVA	3
Canteens, United States	4
Helmets, Pith	1
Helmets, Steel	2
Assorted Civilian Clothing	

(6) Communications Equipment.

Communications Wire (feet)	4,800
Land Line Telephone	1
Olympia Typewriter	1
Transistor Radio	1
Short-wave Radio	1
Batteries, BA-30	57
Tape Recorders	2
Wire cutters (pairs)	1
Flashlight	1

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Rice, pounds	219,770
Peanuts, pounds	2,000
Mixed rice, corn, peanuts, pounds	700
Corn, pounds	1,200
Potatoes, pounds	100
Milk, Cans	50
Fish, Cans	50
Salt, pounds	25
Tobacco, pounds	230

(8) Miscellaneous Equipment.

Motor Oil, Cans	40
Porcelain Plates	600
Porcelain Bowls	600
Rope, Nylon, feet	12
Kerosene, gallons	30
Boats	5
Plastic Sheets (5'x5')	100

(9) Documents.

Numerous Assorted Documents

12. Administration and Logistics.a. Supply.

(1) Helicopter support teams attached to each rifle Company and the Battalion Command Group coordinated all resupply for operation MARELUKE THRUST II. Classes I, and V resupply was made by helicopter from LSA at An Hoa with no significant problems.

(2) LVT's loaded with classes I, II and V supplies were attached to the Companies thus increasing their capabilities to be self sustained for a longer period, in case of helicopter non-availability.

(3) When the tactical situation permitted the Battalion Command Group and Companies were resupplied by truck convoys along Liberty Road.

(4) Two armorers accompanied the Battalion Command Group to save time by repairing weapons in the field rather than evacuating all weapons to the rear for repair.

b. Communications.

(1) The versatile PRC-77/KY-38 voice ciphering unit was continually employed with great success with no maintenance or operational problems.

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(2) During September the Battalion received and employed the newly introduced Log Periodic Antenna (AS-2236/GRC). This new antenna increased the VHF operating ranges.

c. Treatment of Casualties and Hospitalization.

On 6 August 1968, three canisters of napalm were dropped on a platoon of Company F. This action resulted in 26 men being severely burned. There were a significant number, approximately 14, who had extensive 2nd and 3rd degree burns.

Both Battalion Surgeons were with the Command Group about 75 meters from the impact area. Although a large amount of medical equipment was available on an LVT, there was not a sufficient supply of Vaseline gauze to cope with a disaster of this magnitude. A large supply of this item is not carried as it is usually of use only in closing sucking chest wounds.

The major problem at the time of this disaster was the hysteria of the burned men. The calmness and maturity of the Navy Corpsmen and the Marine command in controlling this excitement was most commendable.

Fortunately a CH-53 in the area responded rapidly to a Medevac call and within 15 minutes all but two of the burned men were evacuated. Consequently the stress on the medical supplies on hand was not great, and a larger than usual amount of medical supplies was hand, the only item required on emergency resupply was Vaseline gauze.

13. Commander's Analysis.

Contacts with the enemy in the area of operation indicate he uses the area for rice collection and rest as well as a staging area. Normally he does not contest control of the area with Marine units larger than company size. The typical contact was with a platoon sized NVA or VC unit. Some of these probably were moving through the area and inadvertently made contact. Others were certainly outposts and screens for larger sized units in the area.

The major contacts during the period, occurred on 6 August 1968 and again on 18 August 1968 in the vicinity of Chau Phong (2) (AT 9449). Enemy units involved were probably elements of the 36th NVA Regiment.

On 30 and 31 August 1968 elements from Company H ambushed two large groups of enemy along the Song Ky Lam near BT 0155. These forces were attempting to flee from the 7th Marines and ARVN operations to the north of the river.

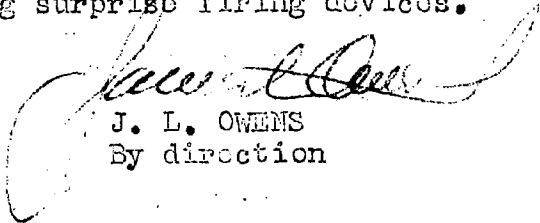
Although the enemy continued to saturate approach routes to his base areas with mines and surprise firing devices, the effectiveness of this tactic was greatly reduced whenever the situation allowed a slow, systematic, deliberate sweep. This was evident from 14 to 16 August when Companies G and H swept through Phu Nhuan (5) and (3) and succeeded in uncovering and destroying over 60 surprise firing devices while only four were inadvertently detonated by personnel or tracked vehicles.

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It is believed the enemy will attempt to engage friendly units up to company size at selected points within the area. It is recommended that operations conducted in the area consist of either baiting the enemy with platoon size units capable of rapid reinforcement or conducting cordon and search operations of selected areas, insuring the blocking forces completely isolate the objective.

The great majority of enemy surprise firing devices are constructed from U. S. munitions, or from explosives taken from U. S. munitions. The VC/NVA recover not only dropped and lost munitions but also duds. If all filler were mixed with a small amount of radioactive material there would be a simple, nearly foolproof method of detecting surprise firing devices.



J. L. OWENS
By direction

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