

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

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3/SJH/gco
5750
2 November 1968
032-68

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 October 1968 to
31 October 1968.

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2B

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

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

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

2ND BN/5TH MAR

CMD CHRON

5TH MAR S&C FILES

0661-68
COPY NO. 7 OF 7

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 October 1968 to 31 October 1968

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

I. ORGANIZATIONAL DATAA. Location: 1-31 October 1968 An Hoa, RVNB. Commanding Officer, Staff Officers, and Company Commanders.

Commanding Officer	LtCol	J. W. STEMPLE	1-31	October	1968
Executive Officer	Maj	L. A. BEHYMER	1-15	October	1968
	Maj	J. L. OWENS	16-31	October	1968
Adjutant	1stLt	H. NAGAI	1-31	October	1968
S-2	1stLt	G. B. WALKER JR.	1-31	October	1968
S-3	Maj	W. A. TILLEY JR.	1-31	October	1968
S-3A	Capt	R. J. DREZ	1-29	October	1968
S-3B	1stLt	P. PACE	1-29	October	1968
S-4	1stLt	R. L. HORNER	1-31	October	1968
S-5	1stLt	H. NAGAI	1-31	October	1968
CommO	1stLt	R. C. MURPHY	1-31	October	1968
SupplyO	1stLt	D. T. WELSH	1-31	October	1968
MTO	1stLt	G. A. ZURENDA	1-31	October	1968
ALO	1stLt	W. S. LAWRENCE	1-31	October	1968
FAC	1stLt	W. T. WATSON	1-31	October	1968
CO, H&S	1stLt	A. A. DORNBACK	1-10	October	1968
	1stLt	J. J. UNGER	11-29	October	1968
	Capt	E. A. VANDERBERG	30-31	October	1968
CO, CoE	Capt	J. A. WOGGON JR.	1-31	October	1968
CO, CoF	Capt	D. B. BROWN	1-31	October	1968
CO, CoG	Capt	J. J. POOLE	1-31	October	1968
CO, CoH	Capt	P. A. VANDERBERG	1-29	October	1968
	Capt	R. J. DREZ	30-31	October	1968

C. Average Monthly Strength.

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
30	1193	4	56

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II. NARRATIVE SUMMARY.

During the period 1 October to 19 October 1968, the Second Battalion (-)(reinforced) was under the operational control of the 7th Marine Regiment. During the period 6 October to 19 October, the Battalion in coordination and cooperation with ARVN and other Marine units participated in Operation MAUI PEAK. The primary mission of the Battalion was to conduct a diversionary attack by maneuvering west along Route #4 toward the Thuong Duc Special Forces Camp. On 6 October the Battalion made heavy contact as Company G was sweeping the high ground North of Route #4. The Battalion mission was then changed to search and clear. Operation MAUI PEAK terminated on 19 October and on 23 October 1968, the Battalion began participation in Operation HENDERSON HILL.

III. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS.

A. Personnel and Administration.

1. The Battalion joined four officers and 232 enlisted men during this month. The Battalion transferred six officers and 153 enlisted during the same period. Casualties for the month were:

<u>BATTLE</u>		<u>NON-BATTLE</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>		
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WIANE</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>NBD</u>	<u>NBC</u>	
30	108	0	42	1	0	12	193

2. Discipline, Law and Order. During the month, one Summary Court-Martial was convened within the Battalion. Non-judicial punishment was awarded twelve times to Marines, three times by the Battalion Commander and nine times by Company Commanders.

3. Postal. Due to the record breaking rainfall for the first half of this month, the general delivery of mail from Da-Nang to An Hoa was hampered to a great extent and caused some mail to be delivered wet. The latter half of the month saw clearer skies allowing mail to be delivered as often as twice a day. Additional personnel and space are being made available to allow for the up-coming holiday season and the increased amount of mail.

4. Awards. There was one Silver Star medal, four Navy Commendation medals and three awards of the Vietnamese Cross of Galantry received from the Vietnamese government during October. Sixteen U. S. awards for heroism and meritorious service were processed by the Battalion during this period.

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5. Chaplain's Activities. A Protestant service was held at An Hoa with one hundred sixty men in attendance. Three memorial services were held following Operation MAUI PEAK.

The Chaplain visited a total of 53 sick and wounded in the various hospitals located in DaNang. The Chaplain spent 18 days with the Battalion in the field.

B. Intelligence.

1. Sources. The vast majority of the intelligence information for the month came from the S-2, 5th Marines for operation MAUI PEAK. Intelligence was also collected from Duc Duc District Headquarters and local Security Chief for MAMELUKE THRUST II and HENDERSON HILL and Thuong Duc District Headquarters for MAUI PEAK. Aerial observers reports aided the Battalion's ability to respond to immediate changes in enemy troop disposition in all operations.

2. General Situation.

a. MAUI PEAK.

Elements of the 21st Regiment, Battalions of the 141st Regiment, one Battalion of the 368B Regiment (NVA Artillery), one Battalion 68B Regiment and 31st Regiment QuanDa were reported in position to interdict Route #4 (Dien Ban to Thuong Duc) and harass friendly units in the area. POW's and documents taken after ground contact indicated that the 1st Battalion 141st Regiment (Artillery) was reported to have 140mm rocket capability. This unit is believed to have fired two of the 140mm rockets on the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post on 6 October 1968. (For enemy personnel and equipment losses see MAUI PEAK after action report.)

b. MAMELUKE THRUST II.

Main force Viet Cong units continued attempts to interdict the Main Supply Route from Liberty Bridge to the An Hoa Combat Base. NVA units believed to be in the area are the 3rd Sapper Battalion, elements of the R-20 Battalion which avoided any contact with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines.

c. HENDERSON HILL.

Units of the NVA reported in the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR are the 2nd Battalion 368B Regiment (Artillery), the 80th Battalion 21st Regiment and Main Force Viet Cong units. On 22 October 1968 a large number of both VC and NVA were seen in the TAOR (Total sighting 447 people); Marine artillery missions and fixed-wing air accounted for 157 VC/NVA KIA.

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C. Training.

1. Two hundred sixty three 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	11
b. Basic Organic Supply Accounting	1
c. Division Embarkation School	1
d. Vietnamese Language School	1
e. Fiscal Clerk School	1
f. Embarkation School (Okinawa)	1

3. Five hundred twenty Marines attended gas chamber exercises.

D. Close Combat.

1. See Part IV, Combat After Action, MAUI PEAK.

E. Fire Support.

1. Three firing batteries provided direct support for the Battalion; Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines from 1 October to 5 October 1968. Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines (reinforced by "C" platoon, 1st Armored Amphibian Company) 5 October to 19 October 1968. Mortar Battery 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines from 10 October to 16 October 1968.

2. General support was provided by Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines and a platoon of 8 inch self-propelled guns from the 11th Marines.

F. Air Support.

1. Tactical Air Support. A total of 120 tactical air support missions were flown in support of the Battalion consisting of 290 sorties.

a. Close Air Support. The Battalion requested and controlled 25 missions consisting of 50 sorties. Of these missions, 15 were controlled by AIO/FAC (Ground) and 10 missions by TACA/FAC (Airborne).

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b. Assault Helicopter Operations. The Battalion requested and executed two helicopter assaults consisting of ten sorties. Of these sorties, two were CH-53's utilized as a part of operation MAUI PEAK and eight were CH-46's utilized as a part of operation HENDERSON HILL.

G. Logistics.

1. For the greater part of October the Battalion was under the operational control of the 7th Marine Regiment. During that period the Battalion was required to coordinate all resupply requests with the LSU located at the 7th Marines Command Post at Hill 55.

2. 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.

3. Helicopter resupply from Hill 55 was supplemented by motor vehicle convoy and use of two LVT's attached to the Battalion. Four trucks from the 11th Motor Transport Battalion were TAD to the Battalion for this period of time. The two LVT's were utilized to transport and store supplies.

4. All resupply in the field was coordinated by Helicopter Support Teams attached to each company and the Battalion Command Group. When the Battalion moved back to the An Hoa area, all resupply was coordinated through the LSU at the An Hoa Combat Base.

5. Engineering support consisted of a three man team attached to each company and four attached to the Battalion Command Group. In addition to their normal duties, they were tasked with sweeping various sections of the road between Hill 65 and the vicinity of Hill 52 when the Battalion was operating in that area.

6. A contact team from FLC made a limited technical inspection of all the Battalion's crew-served weapons and M-79 grenade launchers.

7. The embarkation part of the Command and Material Inspection was completed with the Battalion receiving a satisfactory with minor discrepancies.

a. Supply.

(1) Receipt of 600 M17 gas masks late in the month brought the Battalion up to authorized T/E level. Distribution is currently underway to insure that all personnel are equipped with subject item.

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(2) An inspection of all rifles M16A1 revealed that this Battalion had a total of 26 which do not have the chrome chamber. These are being exchanged for the chrome chambered weapon.

(3) During Operation MAUI PEAK, the Battalion armory supplied one armorer to the field who performed small arms repair on individual and crew-served weapons.

(4) A quantity of 850 Camouflage Rain Hats were received and issued to the field personnel of this command.

(5) All monsoon requirements with the exception of rainsuits, wool shirts and sleeping shirts have been received and issued.

b. Motor Transport.

(1) Schools were held on the various vehicles organic to the Battalion. Fifteen personnel attended.

(2) With the coming monsoons instruction was given to all drivers on proper fording.

(3) In complying with DivO. 4000.16 additional requirements of spare parts and POL have been requested.

(4) On October 21, 1968 an accident occurred involving two M151 and two M37 vehicles. Two Marines were drowned as a result. Damage to the vehicles was approximately \$100.

c. Medical.

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

(2) There were six cases of malaria during October.

(3) There were fourteen cases of venereal disease this month. Contacts were mostly returnees from R&R and transients from CONUS with two cases from DaNang.

(4) 1st Dental Company is maintaining a Dental Unit in the An Hoa area.

(5) The Battalion Aid Station has been assigned the responsibility for preventive medicine and disease vector control for the An Hoa area.

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(6) Total number of patients seen.....908
Average number of patients per day.....36

(7) Routine Medical Complaints:

Gastrointestinal Complaints.....	9
Dermatological Complaints.....	74
Venereal Disease.....	14
Ear Disorders.....	24
Orthopedics.....	75
Malaria.....	6

H. Communications.

During this reporting period the Battalion completed two operations and commenced a third. The only communication difficulties encountered were on Operation MAUI PSAR, and this was limited to communicating from Battalion to the headquarters having operational control over the Battalion.

Again the PRC-77/KY-38 was in continuous use with outstanding results. Operational and maintenance problems utilizing this voice ciphering device were non-existent. This new equipment for secure voice transmission is a very great asset to tactical Marine units.

RC-292 antennae have been utilized extensively in the field with success, typical of that equipment.

The Log Periodic Antenna (AS-2236/GRC) has been utilized in the rear area with undetermined results.

A second and limited third echelon LTI was made of all Battalion radios as each company's radios were made available.

Corrective action has been taken on discrepancies noted from the Embarkation inspection.

I. Civic Action.

During this reporting period, the Civic Action Program continued efforts to improve the welfare of the local Vietnamese people. The Regimental Aid Station is training two Vietnamese women in nursing. This program is designed to help care for the local populace, and if successful, additional women will be trained.

Twelve homes destroyed by fire in Phu Da (1) were rebuilt with CAP materials, and the essential farm tools and clothing destroyed by fire were also replaced by the Program.

A children's day mid-autumn festival was held at the So-Gap public school in Phu Da. Toys and candy were distributed.

Indoctrination on psychological operations are given to the hamlet chiefs on a continuing basis. With the rewards program, maximum use of hand leaflets, posters and face to face communication are part of an effort to have the local populace report weapons and surprise firing devices.

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2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 10Oct68

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 commenced
∅	∅	∅	day activities.
0700H	3	CoG	Observed enemy in vic AT885495
0830H	4Co	CoE	Observed VC in vic AT880491
0915H	5	S-3	Command Group received A/W fire at AT901498
1800H	6	S-3	Units secured day activities and commenced
∅	∅	∅	night activities.
1830H	7	CoG	Captured 1 NVA POW at AT793548
2400H	8	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 30Oct68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	Journal opened
0600H	2	S-3	Units secured night acts and commenced day act.
0915H	3	CoE	While sweeping area found 1 Dud 105mm rd.
1800H	4	S-3	Units secured day acts and commenced night act.
2400H	5	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 4 Oct 68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0134H	2	CoE	Squad ambush observed 10 VC at AT807546
0600H	3	S-3	Units secured night acts and commenced day act.
0930H	4	CoG	Received sniper fire from AT207543
1030H	5	CoG	Observed numerous groups of VC/NVA from
Ø	Ø	Ø	AT818542 to AT800535
1242H	6	CoG	Reached bridge at ZC082579
1800H	7	S-3	Units secured day acts and commenced night act.
1845H	8	S-3	Command Group received 2 122mm rockets from
Ø	Ø	Ø	AT788573 while taking resupply
2200H	9	CoG	PSYOPS Team broadcasted at AT805545 and area
Ø	Ø	Ø	NE and NW.
2400	10	S-3	Journal closed

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2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 5 Oct 68

Journal

(DTG) From 0000H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0600H	2	S-3	Units secured night acts and commenced day acts
0630H	3	CoE	Ambush observed 1 VC W/weapons at AT827606
1100H	4	CoG	Received 2 rds incoming, 1 at AT198555 and ∅ ∅ ∅ the other at ZC209553.
1630H	5	CP	Tank moving to CP detonated mine in road at ∅ ∅ ∅ AT825556
1740H	6	CoG	Received enemy fire NW of Hill 52.
1800H	7-	S-3	Units secured day acts and commenced night acts
2400H	8	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 6 Oct 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 acts and commenced day acts
0907H	3	CoA 1/5	Position at River
1045H	4	S-3	CoG departing hill 52.
1100H	5	CoG	CoG is in contact, receiving S/A from ZC200550
1145H	6	S-3	Lead elements at ZC195565
1215H	7	CoG	3 WIA, Med-Evac chopper receiving fire
1230H	8	CoG	While attacking hill, received A/W fire and
Ø	Ø	Ø	B-40 rockets from ZC195561.
1315H	9	CoG	1/2 Fixed wing on station to support Golf
1400H	10	CoG	5 WIA's Med Evac complete
1520H	11	S-3	1/2 Med-Evaced 6 WIA's and 2 KIA's.
1600H	12	CoG	Has 3 Emerg Evac heat casualties
1630H	13	CoA 1/5	Discovered 1 Viet body in grave at ZC197558
1705H	14	CoG	Evaced 30 USMC's
1800H	15	S-3	Units secured day act and commenced night
Ø	Ø	Ø	defensive positions and acts
1930H	16	CoA 1/5	Night positions set in
2400H	17	S-3	Journal closed

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2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 7 Oct 68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0405H	2	CoG	CoG in contact, receiving S/A fire from ZC200- Ø
Ø	Ø	Ø	550.
0410H	3	CoG	Taking incoming mortars
0600H	4	S-3	Units secured night acts and commenced day act
0701H	5	CoG	Had 1 Emerg WIA and 4 prior Med-Evacs
1030H	6	CoG	Road sweep started
1042H	7	CoG	Found blood trails and assorted 782 gear.
1202H	8	S-3	Air Strikes being conducted
1600H $\frac{1}{2}$	9	CoA 1/5	Commenced attack of high ground at ZC190560 Ø Ø
Ø	Ø	Ø	and received heavy S/A, A/W and B-40 rocket fire from ZC190560.
Ø	Ø	Ø	
1800H	10	S-3	Units secured day act and commenced night act.
2400H	11	S-3	Journal closed

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2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 8 Oct 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 acts and commenced day act
0815H	3	CoE	CoE in staging area. Fixed wing hitting obj
Ø	Ø	Ø	at ZC190560.
0930H	4	S-3	Fixed wing continues to hit ZC190560
1000H	5	CoG	Sighted a Maching gun at ZC187567
1455H	6	CoG	Fixed wing called on grids ZC190562 to ZC192561
1655H	7	CoE	CoE assaulted obj at ZC190561
1800H	8	S-3	Units secured day acts and commenced night act
2015H	9	CoE	Received 3 rds 82mm From ZC194564.
2140H	10	CoA 1/5	Observed 1 A/W at ZC190558
2400H	11	S-3	Journal closed

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2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 90ct68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0315H	2	CoE	Defensive posit received Enemy fire from
Ø	Ø	Ø	ZC189568
0400H	3	CoA 1/5	Received enemy fire from ZC198562
0425H	4	CoG	Defensive posit received S/A fire fm ZC196563
0445H	5	CoG	Def posit received probing Enemy fire from
Ø	Ø	Ø	vicinity ZC198563
0600H	6	S-3	Units secured night defenses and commenced
Ø	Ø	Ø	day activities.
0830H	7	CoG	Observed 10 NVA heading South
1045H	8	CoE	Received 1 60mm rd from ZC186568
1130H	9	CoA 1/5	Spotted 1 A/W site at ZC202574
1250H	10	CoG	USMC wounded by air strike at ZC196568
1330	11	CP	AO observed group of NVA at ZC188568
1402H	12	CoE	While digging in found numerous items at
Ø	Ø	Ø	ZC189560
1534H ₂	13	CoE	Received 1 rd 82mm from ZC192568
1800H	14	S-3	Units secured day acts and commenced night act.
1830H	15	S-3	CP continued to employ air strikes and arty
Ø	Ø	Ø	missions to the N, NW, and NE of CP position
2400H	16	S-3	Journal closed

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2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 10Oct68

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 defensive positions and
Ø	Ø	Ø	commenced day activities
0920H	3	CoE	Received enemy mortar fire from ZC201570
1030H	4	CoE	While searching area found weapons at ZC189560
1310H	5	CoL3/7	Observed one NVA at ZC195551
1500H	6	CoE	Marine hit by rock from air strike at ZC189560
1730H	7	CoA	OP observed group of NVA at ZC200567
1750H	8	CoG	Marine accidentally detonated a grenade, ZC195567
1800H	9	CP	Air and arty support hit ZC190565, ZC201570,
Ø	Ø	Ø	and 187570
1800H	10	S-3	Units secured day act and commenced night act
2015H	11	CoA	Received 4 rds 60mm from ZC191567
2020H	12	CoG	Received S/A fire from ZC200565
2320H	13	CoL	Marine wounded by sentry at ZC199557
2400H	14	S-3	Journal closed

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2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 11 Oct 68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	Journal opened
0600H	2	S-3	Units secured night acts and commenced day act
1015H	3	S-3	AO observed enemy base camp at ZC175605
1110H	4	CoG	Units resupplied without incident.
1310H	5	AO	Observed large cave at ZC186572
1415H	6	CoE	While being resupplied, received enemy S/A fire
Ø	Ø	Ø	and mortar fire from ZC187575
1800H	7	S-3	Units secured day acts and commenced night acts
1830H	8	S-3	All units continued to sight enemy movement
2400H	9	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 12Oct68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0200H	2	CoG	Enemy movement heard outside perimeter, ZC19556
0400H	3	CoE	Came under a well coordinated ground attack.
Ø	Ø	Ø	Enemy located at ZC189562.
0600H	4	S-3	Units secured night acts and commenced day acts
0730H	5	CoG	Marine spotted 2 NVA at ZC196563
0815H	6	CoL	R/S found 4 boats at ZC207550
1040H	7	CoA	Patrol observed 6 NVA at ZC207560
1800H	8	S-3	Units secured day acts and commenced night acts
2400H	9	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 13 Oct 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 acts and commenced day ac.
0915H	3	CoG	Search area at ZC197653
0950H	4	S-3	2/5 units supported by air gun ships
1005H	5	CoG	Snipers spotted 3 NVA at ZC191568
1505H	6	CoA	Received S/A fire from ZC206569
1800H	7	S-3	Tank stranded at ZC151554
1800H	8	S-3	Units set into night defensive positions
1810H	9	S-3	Air and Arty called in on enemy positions
∅	∅	∅	around the Battalion's position
2400H	10	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 15Oct68

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 acts and commenced day acts
0650H	3	S-3	Units were supported by 1 flareship
1310H	4	CoE	Search of area at AT860481 produced 2 NVA bodies
1435H	5	CoA	Patrol completed without incident
1800H	6	S-3	Units were supported by AO and artillery.
1800H	7	S-3	Units secured day acts and commenced night acts
2400H	8	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 16 Oct 68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0510H	2	CoA	Defensive posit received enemy fire from
ø	ø	ø	ZC201562
0600H	3	S-3	Units secured night act and commenced day acts
1730H	4	S-3	Units were supported by artillery but no air
ø	ø	ø	because of bad weather
1800H	5	S-3	Units secured day act and commenced night act
2400H	6	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 18Oct68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1½	S-3	New Journal opened
0600H	2	S-3	Units secured night acts and commenced day act.
1800H	3	S-3	Units secured day acts and commenced night act.
2400H	4	S-3	Journal closed

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2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date 19Oct68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO	ORG	INCIDENT
0001H	1	S-3	Journal opened
2400H	2	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date 21Oct68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO	ORG	INCIDENT
0001H	1	S-3	Journal opened
2400H	2	S-3	Journal closed

PAGE NO. 1

DECLASSIFIED

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date 22Oct68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO	ORG	INCIDENT
0001H	1	S-3	Journal opened
2400H	2	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 23Oct68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0300H	2	S-3	All units secure and in CP located at An Hoa
0800H	3	S-3	2/5 units' day activities negative
1000H	4	S-3	Units notified of possible displacement
1220H	5	S-3	2/5 CP getting ready to displace via helicopter
1430H	6	S-3	2/5 CP departing An Hoa
1445H	7	S-3	CP arriving in LZ located at ZC817487
1600H	8	S-3	2/5 units searching area; will commence N/A
1900H	9	S-3	Units set in night positions
1935H	10	G	G2A departing CP for ambush sight
2010H	11	CoG	G3A departing CP for ambush sight
2012H	12	G	G1A departing CP for ambush sight
2050H	13	CoG	G2A set in at AT835493
2058H	14	CoG	G1A set in at AT843493
2110H	15	CoG	G3A set in at AT843495
2400H	16	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	17	S-3	Journal closed

PAGE NO. 1

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 24 Oct 68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0630H	2	CoG	Night ambushes returning to CP
0700H	3	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1100H	4	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1115H	5	CoE	Sweep bn obj 3 and proceeding to Bn obj #4
1710H	6	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1730H	7	BnCP	Units setting into night defensive positions
1950H	8	CoE	Ambushes departing CP
2010H	9	CoG	Night Activities departing CP
2015H	10	CoE	All night ambushes set in
2030H	11	CoG	All night ambushes set in
2250H	12	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	13	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 25Oct68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0510H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1100H	3	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1700H	4	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2240H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	6	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 26Oct68

Journal

(DTG) From 0001H To 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	ORG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0400H	2	S-3	All units secure
0555H	3	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
0630H	4	S-3	All night activities have returned to CP
0810H	5	S-3	All day patrols are out
1100H	6	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1700H	7	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
1930H	8	CoG	G-1 & G-2 ambushes departing CP
2255H	9	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	10	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 29Oct68

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
1650H	4	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2251H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	6	S-3	Journal closed

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines S-3

Date: 30Oct68

JOURNAL

(DTG) FROM 0001H TO 2400H

DTG	SER NO.	CRG	INCIDENTS
0001H	1	S-3	New Journal opened
0500H	2	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
0700H	3	S-3	Bn (-) E, G, H, to be lifted to An Hoa
2230H	4	S-3	Fox moved to serviceman's posit
2230H	5	S-3	6 hour Sit Rep sent
2400H	6	S-3	Journal closed

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

3/SJH/gco
 3480
 25 October 1968

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines
 Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

Ref: (a) Maps: VietNam 1:50,000 AMS series L 7014 sheets
 6540 I and 6640 IV

1. Code Name. Operation MAUI PEAK
2. Dates. 060600H to 191800H October 1968
3. Location. Thuong Duc District, Quang Nam Province, Republic of VietNam.
4. Control or Command Headquarters.

2nd Bn (-), (Rein), 5th Marines
 060600H to 191800H Oct68 LtCol. J. W. STEMPLE

CoE, 2/5 060600H to 191800H Oct68 Capt. J. A. WOGGON
 CoG, 2/5 060600H to 191800H Oct68 Capt. H. J. POOLE
 CoA, 1/5 060600H to 062300H Oct68 Capt. R. L. CODY
 082300H to 191800H Oct68 1stLt. S. A. NELSON
 CoL, 3/7 091600H to 191800H Oct68 Capt. G. OBERNDORFER

5. Task Organization.

2nd Bn, 5th Marines

H&S Co

CoE

CoG

CoA, 1st Bn, 5th Marines

CoL, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines

Det, HST, 1st Shore Party Bn

Det, CoA, 3rd Amtrac Bn

Det, CoB, 1st Tank Bn

-1-

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TAB-B

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6. Supporting Arms.

a. Fire Support.

(1) Battery E 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, Battery W 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines and a platoon of the 1st Armored Amphibious Company were in direct support of the Battalion and provided close and continuous fire support for the operation.

(2) Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines and one platoon from the 3rd 8-inch Howitzer Battery furnished general support for the operation.

(3) Communications on the Fire Direction Nets was considered excellent throughout the operation.

(4) Large caliber weapons utilizing delay type fuzes were especially effective against fortified positions and trench lines.

b. Air Support.

(1) Air Support was considered outstanding throughout the operation, except when curtailed by weather.

(2) Medical evacuation, resupply, passenger lifts and tactical air support missions were responsive to command requirements.

(3) During the pre-dawn hours of 7-10 October, Spooky gunships proved very effective in warding off ground attacks. That the attacks were rapidly suppressed was largely due to quick and accurate response of the Spooky aircraft. From the night of 10 October to the completion of the operation, the Battalion was able to obtain the all-night support of either a Spooky (weather permitting), a Flareship, or an alternation of the two. It appeared very evident that the early on-station activities of these aircraft were a major deterrent from further ground attacks.

7. Intelligence.

a. G-2 of the First Marine Division and S-2 7th Marines carried elements of the 21st Regiment (NVA), three battalions of the 141st Regiment (NVA), one battalion of the 368 Regiment (NVA artillery), one battalion of the 68B Regiment (VC/NVA) and elements of the 31st Quang Regiment in the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines' area of operations. The mission for these units was that of interdicting road travel to Thuong Duc and harassment of friendly units and installations.

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The first contact was at 060930H October 1968 in the saddle in the vicinity of ZC197561. This contact was light and involved about a platoon which held the high ground west of the saddle. The platoon was in shallow fighting holes and was overrun. The second contact was at 071600H in the vicinity of ZC190561 and was heavy. The contact was with a company size unit and was carried into the next day. The enemy company was well dug into the base of the hill at ZC190561. The elements at the base defied air preparation and turned back the first attempt to take the hill. The next day more direct fire was aimed at the base of the hill as well as the peak, and the remaining elements of the NVA company were overrun. The enemy company received some supporting mortar fire as the Marines moved up the hill, but it was light and ineffective. Marines remained on the high ground for the rest of the operation. The Marine units took light harassing fire from mortars and light line probes with only one counterattack which was stopped. The NVA units did maintain anti-aircraft positions in the area and used it on supply aircraft and close air support in the area. As the weather changed, the enemy avoided any other significant contact in this area of the operation in the latter days of the operation.

c. Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines received the only sizeable counter attack which it turned back, but the Company did take one POW and documents indicating the 1st Battalion, 11th Regiment was the unit in contact. At the start of the operation, the unit received incoming 140mm rocket fire, indicating the 3rd Battalion, 368B Regiment was within its stated area of operation northeast of Second Battalion's position. No contact was made with any other unit reported to be in the Battalion's TAOR.

3. d. Captured Equipment and Casualties.

NVA KIA	134
VN KIA	1
NVA KIA by Air Support	54
TOTAL	189
<u>(1) Weapons</u>	
AK-47	17
SKS	1
B-40 rocket launcher	1
RPG	1
M-16	1
RPD (Machine gun)	1
Carbine (Destroyed)	1
<u>(2) Ammo.</u>	
ChiCom Grenades	80
B-40 rocket rounds	22

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B-40 boosters	10
82mm rounds	1
AK-47 rounds	3,550
Machine gun magazines (drum type)	5
AK-47 magazines	22
Carbine magazines	2

(3) Other Assorted Military Gear.

AK-47 cleaning gear	
First aid kit	1
AK-47 magazine pouches	3
Carbine bayonet	1
Assorted documents	
762 gear (pack, ponchos, canteens, etc.)	

8. Mission.

Initially occupy Fire Support Base at Hill 52 and be prepared to attack on order to relieve friendly elements at Thuong Duc Special Forces Camp.

9. Concept of Operations.

Second Battalion (-) Rein attack to the Northwest along Route #4 to seize the high ground vicinity Hill 100. Establish blocking positions along high ground from ZC194561 along line to ZC203564.

10. Execution.

At 060930H, the point man of a Company E patrol detonated a "tomato can" type explosive device rigged with trip wire at AT890491. Results: 2 USMC Evac.

At 061315H, while assaulting a hill at ZC198559, Company G received automatic weapons and B-40 rocket fire from an estimated platoon of NVA. Air strikes and 60mm HE were called in. Utilizing its units for a base of fire, Company G successfully took its objective on the third assault. Results: Two USMC KIA, 16 USMC WIA-Evac and 12 NBC Evac, nine NVA KIA and capture of two AK-47 rifles, one B-40 rocket launcher, ten ChiCom grenades and assorted military gear.

At 070405H Company G in defensive position at ZC195561, was attacked by an estimated two squads of NVA supported by B-40 rockets and 82mm mortars. As the enemy closed, the defensive position returned small arms and automatic weapons fire, grenades and 38 rounds of 81mm mortars, and called for and received a spooky gunship. At 070550H the enemy broke contact. Results: Five USMC KIA, Four USMC WIA Evac, Three NVA KIA and capture of two AK-47 rifles and one SKS.

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At 071400H, Company A called for and received extensive preparation fire on a hill at ZC190560. After the fire was lifted, the 2nd platoon came under intense rifle and automatic weapons fire and B-40 rocket fire from an estimated two reinforced NVA platoons in numerous fighting holes and fortified bunkers. Company G, providing supporting fire, came under heavy semi-automatic and automatic weapons fire from vicinity ZC195561 and ZC189562. Due to the heavy volume of fire from enemy emplacements, Company A pulled back and called for additional supporting fires. Results: 12 USMC WIA, 27 NVA KIA by Marine Air and 15 NVA KIA by assaulting infantry.

At 081610H, immediately after an artillery prep fire, Company E began to assault its objective at ZC190561. As the lead elements, supported by four 90mm tanks, maneuvered to the base of the hill, they came under moderate small arms fire from across the Song Vu Gia Rivor, vicinity ZC193553. At 1700H, two platoons on line from ZC190558 to ZC192558 assaulted the hill. At 1715H, the lead elements reached the crest, and by 1730H, the Company had secured the hill.

During the advance, the assaulting units received three rounds of incoming 82mm mortar fire from ZC192567 and ZC194544. A counter mortar mission of 130 rounds 81mm and one flight of fixed wing aircraft were called, and both mortar positions were silenced with a secondary explosion observed at ZC192567. The small arms and automatic weapons fire received from across the river during the assault was suppressed by artillery fire.

Company G, supporting the assault troops by fire, received incoming small arms and 50 caliber machinegun fire from ZC192566. An 81mm and 60mm mortar mission silenced the enemy guns. Results: One USMC KIA, eight USMC WIA Evac, one USMC WIA Non-Evac, and 37 NVA KIA.

At 090400H, Company A, in defensive positions, came under a coordinated enemy probe consisting of mortars, B-40 rockets, grenades and small arms fire. Results: Two USMC KIA, three USMC WIA-Evac, one NVA KIA and capture of one AK-47 rifle.

At 091130H, Company A observed one automatic weapons site. Artillery was called and one body was seen blown into the air. Results: One NVA KIA.

At 091250H, an AO working with the Battalion, observed a group of NVA at ZC188568. A fixed wing napalm strike was called with excellent coverage. Results: Ten NVA KIA.

At 091534H, Company E at ZC189560 received one incoming 82mm mortar round from ZC192567. Air strikes were called. Results: One USMC Evac and seven USMC Non-Evac.

At 091600H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines assumed operation control of Company L 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines.

At 092010H, Companies E and G received 40 rounds of incoming 60mm and 82mm mortars. Returned fire on suspected enemy mortar sites consisted of 69 rounds of 81mm mortars and 36 rounds of 105mm artillery. Air strikes consisting of 40,000 pounds HE and 48 napalm pods were called on an enemy concentration of approximately 16 NVA with excellent coverage. Results: Seven USMC Evac and 16 NVA KIA.

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At 101030H, Company E found various enemy equipment and one dead NVA. Results: One NVA KIA and capture of the following equipment: One B-40 rocket launcher sight, seven ChiCom grenades, 500 AK-47 rounds, one 82mm mortar round, one first aid kit, two carbine magazines, four AK-47 magazine pouches, one carbine bayonet and 12 B-40 rockets.

At 101310H, a Company L patrol at ZC193559 received three rounds of incoming 60mm mortars from ZC191567. Results: One USMC Evac, one USN Evac and one USMC Non-Evac.

At 120400H, Company E in night defensive positions, came under a well coordinated mortar and ground attack from an estimated NVA company. Under a barrage of 40 rounds of 82mm mortar fire, the enemy attacked with small arms, automatic weapons, grenades and B-40 rockets. Company E returned fire with small arms, automatic weapons, grenades and claymore mines. Artillery missions totaling 26 rounds of 8", 249 rounds of 155mm, 300 rounds of 105mm and 438 rounds of 81mm mortars were called in on troop concentrations and suspected mortar sites. Results: Eight USMC KIA, nine USMC Evac, one USN Evac, ten USMC Non-Evac, 46 NVA KIA, one NVA POW and capture of nine AK-47 rifles, one AK-50 machinogun and 47 ChiCom grenades.

At 120730H, a Marine from Company G observed two NVA crossing a stream bed at ZC196563. He opened fire killing both. Results: Two NVA KIA.

At 131005H, Company G snipers at ZC195561 observed three NVA at ZC191568. The enemy were taken under fire. Results: Two NVA KIA.

11. Results.

a. Enemy Personnel.

(1)	NVA KIA	134
(2)	VC KIA	1
(3)	NVA KIA by Air	54

b. Friendly Personnel.

(1)	USMC KIA	20
(2)	USMC WIA	67
(3)	USMC W/ANE	19
(4)	USMC NED	4
(5)	USMC NBC	13
(6)	MIA	2

12. Administration and Logistics.

a. Supply.

(1) Helicopter Support Teams attached to each company and the Battalion Command Group coordinated all resupply for Operation MAUI PEAK. Resupply was made by helicopter and motor vehicle from the LSU at Hill 55.

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(2) LVT's attached to the Battalion were utilized to transport supplies from Hill 52 to the Battalion Command Post. Two days rations and ammunition were stored in the LVT's.

(3) Personnel from Battalion Supply and S-4 were sent to Hill 55 to coordinate resupply with the LSU and 7th Marines' S-4.

b. Treatment of Casualties and Hospitalization.

(1) There were no significant problems encountered during Operation MAUI PEAK.

c. Transportation.

(1) Four trucks from the 11th Motor Transport Battalion were TAD to the Battalion and were utilized to make resupply runs from Hill 55 to Hill 52 until the road was closed by heavy flooding.

(2) Helicopter resupply was utilized for all units that could not be resupplied by road.

(3) Heavy rains impeded both air and ground vehicles and affected the operation of the Battalion. Resupply and troop movement throughout the monsoon season will continue to be a significant problem.

(4) Otters were utilized to make resupply runs from Hill 55 to Hill 52 long after LVT's ceased to operate. Heavy rains made movement of LVT's impossible.

d. Communications.

(1) Inter-Battalion radio communications experienced no difficulties.

(2) RC-292 antennae were employed to communicate with 7th Marines and 5th Marines rear.

(3) Radio communications from the Battalion Command Post to the 7th Marines encountered many difficulties due to poor retransmission and distances involved. When available, RT-524 radios in the amphibious tractors were used in lieu of the PRC-25 to restore communications.

(4) Radio communication from the Battalion Command Post to the 5th Marines Rear was quite reliable.

(5) KY-38/PRC-77 was employed with satisfactory results when used to communicate with the An Hoa area. However, difficulties were encountered in communicating with the 7th Marines on the covered nets.

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(1) Engineering assistance consisted of three engineers attached to each company and four engineers attached to the Battalion Command Post.

(2) In addition to their normal duties, the engineers were tasked with sweeping various sections of the road between Hill 65 and the Battalion Command Post.

13. Commander's Analysis.

The flexibility of Marine tactical units was reaffirmed in this operation. A composite Battalion of four rifle companies derived from three different infantry battalions and a command group was inserted into the operation on short notice. The quick assembly and organization of this force into an effective fighting unit, accomplished without loss of continuity, was due to the combat readiness and professionalism of the units which participated.

The attack by 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines was intended as a feint but developed into a major contact with the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment. This unit had been positioned to interdict Route #4, the natural route of approach for a relief column to Thuong Duc. The high ground in the vicinity of ZC189560 and ZC201562 affords observation from west of Thuong Duc to Hill 55 and will no doubt be outposted or defended by VC/NVA units whenever possible.

The early use of Spooky and flare ships probably precluded any further night attacks on the Battalion's positions after the assault on Company E during the early morning of 12 October 1968.

14. Recommendations.

(1) That some means be instituted to more accurately predict communications difficulties to be encountered within the geographical limits of the area of operations, and plans be made for alternate means of direct or relayed communication.

(2) That more extensive use of Spooky and flareships be made as a method of preventing night attacks rather than as a recourse to attack.

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

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

3/SJH/gco
 3480
 30 October 1968

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. WOGGON JR.
CoF 2/5	280001HJul68 to 292100HJul68	1stLt. T. D. MARTIN
	010001KAug68 to 231200Oct68	Capt. D. B. BROWN
CoG 2/5	280001HJul68 to 231200Oct68	Capt. H. J. POOLE
CoH 2/5	280001HJul68 to 302345HJul68	1stLt. S. R. BROWN
	010001HAug68 to 231200Oct68	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

-1-

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Tab C

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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 2.75FWAR.

(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 TACR 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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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 MANGLUKE 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 MANGLUKE 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 281210H, 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 E 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 AT912519. 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 MAT-49 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 AT913505 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 amtrucks 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 evacuated 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 H 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 AT913513, 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 20 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.

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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 a sweep security mission detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire at AT910512. 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 IFF 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 HE 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 USMC 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.

<u>KIA</u>	<u>DETAINEES</u>
175	231

b. Friendly Personnel.

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

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RPD (Machine Gun)	1
Soviet Machine Gun (unknown type)	1
M-60 Machine Gun, United States	1
*75mm Recoilless 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
MAT 49 (Sub-Machinegun)	1
KM4 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 Recoilless 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
Vitanins, 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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Food.

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 MANELUKE 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 certain 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.

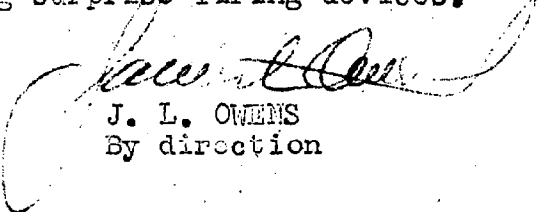
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II. Recommendations.

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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IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓ Tab A Unit journal

✓ Tab B Combat After Action Report, OPERATION MAUI PEAK

✓ Tab C Combat After Action Report, OPERATION MAMELUKE
THRUST II

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