

~~SECRET~~

Sunday, March 31, 1968
8:15 AM

Pres file

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GENERAL WESTMORELAND'S REPORT
NUMBER FIFTY-SIX ON THE KHE SANH/DMZ/A SHAU VALLEY AREA.

Yesterday at Khe Sanh skies were clear to scattered with good visibility until 9:00 PM. By 2:00 AM this morning, ceilings of less than 600 feet and visibility of less than one mile was recorded. These conditions persisted until 9:00 AM. The same pattern is predicted for tomorrow.

A total of 127 short tons of supplies and 140 passenger replacements were delivered to the Khe Sanh Combat Base during the period. Seven C-130 and four C-123 aircraft conducted airdrops. Twenty Marine helicopters lifted cargo and passengers.

Khe Sanh received 120 artillery, 87 rocket and 140 mortar rounds for a total of 347 incoming rounds. These attacks killed six Marines and wounded 12 (six evacuated). Other activity at Khe Sanh included two combat patrols. In the first a reinforced company from the 1st battalion, 26th Marines engaged an enemy battalion south of the perimeter. Heavy contact continued through the morning. Nine Marines were killed and 71 wounded (42 evacuated). The enemy lost 115. In the second contact, a patrol from company D, 9th Marines contacted an unknown size enemy force west of Khe Sanh perimeter at 1:00 PM yesterday. Three Marines received minor wounds. 15 enemy were killed in the action.

Along the DMZ, the deception attacks which were initiated yesterday continued northwest of Dong Ha. ARVN elements reported killing 132 enemy and US forces killed 18. All objectives for the day were secured by mid-afternoon. A total of 280 enemy were killed (29 killed by air) along the entire DMZ. In addition, three were detained and 25 individual and 12 crew served weapons were captured. Friendly losses stood at 34 killed (14 ARVN, 20 US) and 158 wounded (75 ARVN, 83 US). The 1st Air Cavalry Division continued preparation for future operations.

Artillery fire support for Khe Sanh consisted of 82 missions expending 4,080 rounds. Twenty missions were observed. In one mission supporting operation Lancaster, 14 rounds of COFRAM ammunition was fired. Results are unknown.

Report 56

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

DA Memo. Jan. 5, 1968

By *19* NARA Date *3-27-92*

SECRET

-2-

A total of 284 tactical air sorties were flown in the Niagara area. Ten secondary explosions, eleven secondary fires, 28 road cuts, damage of six structures, and destruction of four trucks, 105 meters of trenches, 29 bunkers, six structures and one mortar position was observed. Tactical air sorties planned for tomorrow total 192.

There was eight ARC LIGHT strikes (48 sorties) scheduled into the Niagara area. One strike was against a target 1,100 meters from friendly forces. One strike observed three secondary explosions. Eight B-52 missions are scheduled for Niagara on 31 March.

Aerial surveillance in the A Shau Valley included one airborne radar mission which revealed ten targets at two locations. A photo mission detected two vehicles, seen light anti-aircraft positions at three different locations and three anti-aircraft/automatic weapon sites. Three secondary fires were reported from one tactical air mission. Ten tactical air missions were flown against A Shau Targets.