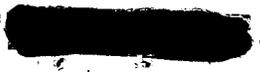


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HEADQUARTERS  
1st Antitank Battalion  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3:AJE:bey  
5750  
5 Apr 1966

From: Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

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

*Walter Moore*  
WALTER MOORE

1st  
A.T.  
Bn

Declassified by the Director of  
Marine Corps History and Museums  
in accordance with the provisions  
of GPO ltr Ser 009D523/232095 of  
Feb 1973

*[Signature]* Date 2/11/87

ENCLOSURE (7)



1st  
A.T.  
Bn



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5750  
5 Apr 1966

d. The Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion and two members of this command received Letters of Commandation from the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), for their work in the movement of Embarkation Unit Charlie from CONUS to Okinawa. Letters were received by LtCol W. MOORE, 1st Lt R.R. TIMBERG and SSgt. R.E. LINEBERRY.

e. On 15 March this Battalion conducted a test of a .50 Cal. machine gun mounted on an Ontos in place of one of the 106mm Recoilless Rifles. The test was a preliminary trial of a plan to mount two .50 Cal. machine gun's on the Ontos for direct fire support in counter guerrilla operations.

f. LtCol WALTER MOORE was designated Commanding Officer of Embarkation Group Echo for deployment of the 1st Antitank Battalion (-), 1st Motor Transport Battalion (-) Rein, and Det, H&S Company (-), 3rd Amphibious Tractor Battalion, to RVN.

g. H&S Company, 1st Antitank Battalion embarked aboard the USS WHETSTONE (LSD-27) on 22 March. Major J.J. KEEFFE, S-4, 1st Antitank Battalion, was Embarkation Team Commander.

h. H&S Company arrived in RVN on 27 March. A temporary CP was established with the 11th Marines while a permanent CP for the organizations were being constructed farther forward in the TAOR.

i. Company C, 1st Antitank Battalion reverted to parent unit control upon this Battalion's arrival in RVN. This Battalion also assumed administrative and operational control of 1st and 2nd platoons, Company B, 3rd Antitank Battalion.

j. Company A (-), 1st Antitank Battalion deployed from Okinawa on 31 March aboard the USS WINSTON (AKA-94). Capt G.R. VAN HORN, Commanding Officer, Company A, was Embarkation Team Commander.

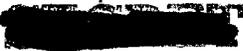
### 3. Detailed Description of Significant Events.

#### a. Testing of .50 Caliber Machine Gun Mounted on Ontos.

Operational reports from Marine forces in the Republic of Vietnam have indicated the desirability of a light tracked vehicle for use in direct fire support of infantry. The Ontos has proven its ability to negotiate terrain which is not accessible to tanks or wheeled vehicles, however its main armament is designed for antitank use. The backblast, relatively low ammunition capacity, and burst characteristics of the 106mm recoilless rifles have inhibited its effectiveness as a counter guerrilla weapon.

It was theorized that the replacement of two of the six 106mm rifles on the Ontos with .50 Caliber coaxially mounted machine guns would increase its flexibility as a fire support weapon, and permit rapid ambush and counter ambush fire in situations where the smaller caliber round would be more appropriate, or where the firing of the 106mm weapon would be precluded due to friendly troops or equipment in the backblast area.

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5 Apr 1966

The theory was tested on 15 March 1966 at the Camp Hansen, Okinawa firing range. Using a locally fabricated mount, one caliber .50 caliber machine gun was fired in place of the number 4 rifle on the Ontos. (See pictures 1, 2 and 3) As with the 106mm recoilless rifle, the weapon was charged manually from outside the vehicle. It was fed from a 200 round ready box. Target acquisition, aiming and firing were accomplished from within the vehicle, using the Ontos fire control system.

The test showed that the emplacement of .50 caliber machine guns can be done without modification to the Ontos, that room is available for belts of up to 600 rounds per machine gun, and that well aimed .50 caliber fire can be delivered in this manner.

On 28 March 1966, this battalion requested sufficient M85 machine guns to arm thirty (30) Ontos as described above.

APPENDICES A (List of References)  
B (Documentation)

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**SECRET**5750  
5 Apr 1966

## Appendis A (List of References)

1. .50 Cal. Machine Gun Mounted on Ontos, picture of
2. 106mm RR turret modified for .50 Cal. MG, picture of
3. 106mm RR turret modified for .50 Cal. MG, picture of

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5750  
5 Apr 1966

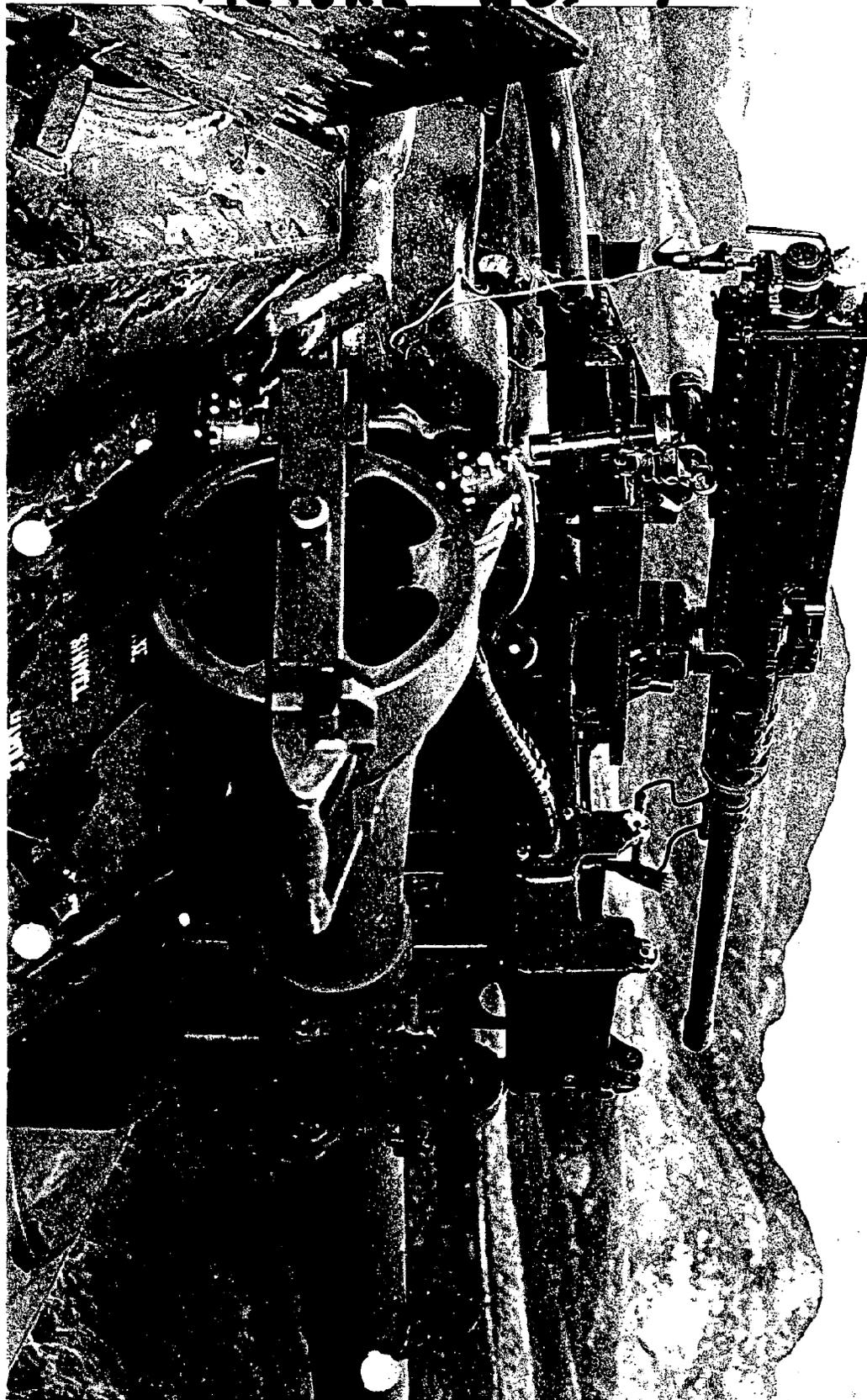
Appendix B (Documentation)

*Pictures*

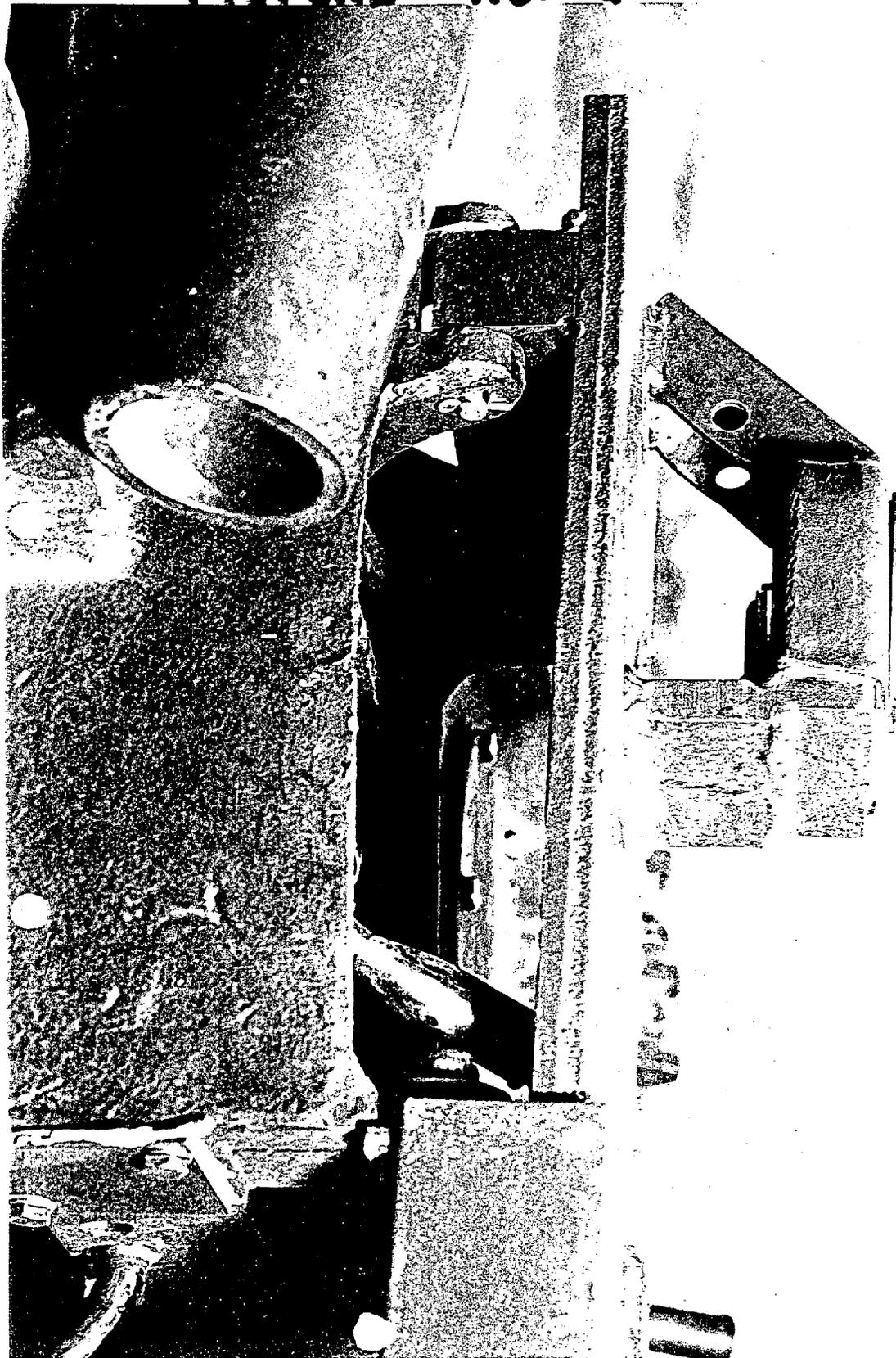
Added : C. B., 1<sup>st</sup> AT Bn: C/Chronology, Mar - 27 May 66  
C. C., 1<sup>st</sup> AT Bn: Opns Summary, 27 Feb - 10 Mar; 10 - 20 Mar; 20 - 31 Mar 66

**SECRET**

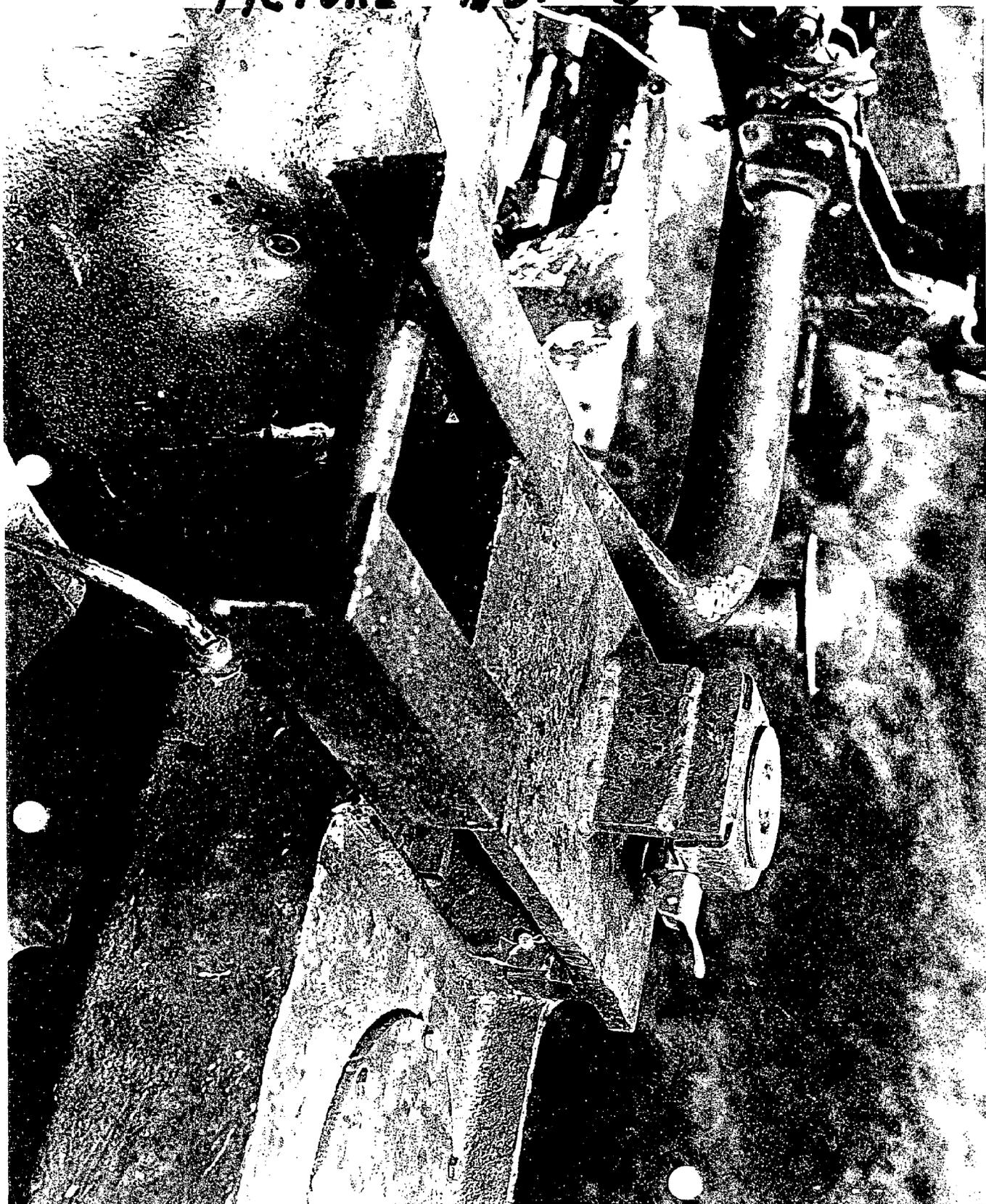
PICTURE NO. 1



PICTURE NO. #2



PICTURE NO. #3



COMPANY B  
1st Antitank Battalion  
(ADCON) 5th Marine Regiment  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

JAL/jwk  
5750  
27 May 1966

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

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) RLT-5 msg 132250Z May 66

1. In accordance with reference (a) the following report is submitted.

2. Organizational Data

a. Designation and Location

- (1) Company B (-)(Rein), 1st Antitank Battalion  
     Company B (-)  
     Company Headquarters (-)  
     Detachment, H/S Company, 1st Antitank Battalion  
     Detachment, Comm Plat  
     Detachment, Medical Sect  
     Detachment, Mess Sect, Supply Plat

- (2) 1 March - 21 May 1966: Camp Hansen, Okinawa  
     22 May - 27 May 1966: USS RENVILLE (APA-227)

b. Period Covered: 1 March 1966 through 27 May 1966.

c. Commanding Officer: Captain J. E. FELKER

d. Average Monthly Strength: 2 Officers/45 Enlisted

3. Commanders Narrative Summary. During this reporting period emphasis has been placed on supply and maintenance readiness, as well as the FAM Firing of individual weapons, training in counter guerrilla warfare, Jungle Lane Firing, and Land Mine Warfare/Demolitions/Booby Trap training.

4. Chronology of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
-------------	--------------

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ENCLOSURE (7)

C.B. 107 AT BM

17 May 27 May 66

1 March 1966 Attached to Regimental Landing Team 5 with administrative control resting in 5th Marines. Strength upon joining was 2 USMC Officers, 45 USMC Enlisted, and 1 USN Enlisted. Task organization included the 2d Platoon.

1 - 24 March 1966 2d Platoon conducted intensive training to include 106mmRR FIREX, field exercises, Jungle Lane firing, Counter guerrilla Warfare School, FAM Firing of individual weapons and crew served machine guns, Land Mine Warfare/Demolitions/Booby Trap School, and combat driving with the M-50A1 ONTOS.

25 March 1966 2d Platoon attached to BLT 2/5.

27 March 1966 3d Platoon rejoined from BLT 3/5.

28 March - 25 April 1966 3d Platoon conducted same intensive training as that which 2d Platoon underwent.

26 April 1966 3d Platoon attached to BLT 3/5.

22 May 1966 Embarked aboard the USS RENVILLE (APA-227).

23 May 1966 Underway for Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.

23 - 26 May 1966 Conducted shipboard training program.

27 May 1966 Arrived at Chu Lai. Detached from Regimental Landing Team Five and reassigned to parent Battalion effective 0530H. Debarked with 1 USMC Officer, 23 USMC Enlisted, and 1 USN Enlisted.

  
E. FELKER

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ENCLOSURE (7)

COMPANY "C"  
1st Antitank Battalion (-)  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

WFS/jvp  
3000  
11 Mar 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 3d Antitank Battalion (Rein), 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Operations Summary; report of

Ref: (a) EnO 3100.2

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report is submitted for the period 2400H 28 Feb 1966 - 2400H 10 Mar 1966:

WEEKLY OPERATIONS SUMMARY

Company "C", 1st Antitank Battalion (-),  
3dMarDiv(Rein), FMF Captain W. F. SNYDER, Commanding

	<u>No. Off</u>	<u>No. Enl</u>	<u>No. Navy</u>	<u>GridCoor</u>
CoHq Captain W. F. SNYDER	1	28	2	BT560048
1stPlt 1stLt H. T. SCHMIT	1	21	0	BT584016
2ndPlt 1stLt H. J. CONNOLLY	1	21	0	BT509028
3rdPlt SSgt E. DAVIS	0	21	0	BT560048

2. Operations

a. The first platoon in support of 1/7 has been manning positions on the MLR. The light section was in support of D-1/7 at (BS605995) and the heavy section was in support of C-1/7 at (BS588981). On 7 Mar 1966, at 1430, the light section departed the Chu Lai enclave. It's mission was to escort a twenty-five (25) truck convoy south on highway # 1 to (BS639750). The convoy arrived at their destination and picked up the troops from 2/7 which had just completed Operation "Utah". The convoy returned to the Chu Lai enclave at 1915 on 7 Mar 1966.

b. The second platoon in support of 2/7 has been manning positions on the MLR. A light section mans positions at (BT495036) and another light section mans positions at (BT504030).

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
ENCLOSURE (3)  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

C "C", 1st AT Bn

28 Feb - 10 Mar 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~WFS/jvp  
11Mar66

The fifth ontos remains in the platoon CP at (BT509028). Two men are used on a walking security post around the platoon C.P.

c. The third platoon in support of 3/7 has been manning positions on the MLR. A light section is located at (BS549996) in support of M-3/7. Another light section is located at (BT529002) in support of I-3/7. The fifth ontos is at the Company CP deadlined for lack of track. On 7 March 1966, a light section escorted a twenty-five truck convoy south on Highway #1 to (BS637784) and picked up troops from 2/4 that had completed Operation "Utah". The convoy left the Chu Lai enclave at 1430 and returned at 1800 the same day. Since the return of the convoy the 3rd platoon has only one Ontos at (BS549996).

d. Company Headquarters continues to man two (2) M-60 MG positions at (BT560048) in conjunction with the 7th Marines Beach Security Plan.

e. Statistics.

(1) 1 convoy escort mission consisting of four Ontos and fifty trucks.

(2) None

(3) None

(4) NONE

(5) None

(6) None

3. Training.

a. Classes were conducted on boresighting of the 106, convoy procedures, ammunition safety precautions, Ontos Tactics, map reading, and comm procedures. Fam. firing was conducted with the .45 Cal. pistol and the .45 Cal. SMG. Inspections were held on personal weapons, the Ontos, and personnel.

b. The condition of the track continues to limit our operating capabilities.

*W. F. Snyder*

W. F. SNYDER

Copy to:

CO, 7thMar (Attn: S-3)

CO, 1stATBn (-) (Attn: S-3)

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S4C # 185-66

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COMPANY "C"  
1st Antitank Battalion (-)  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

WFS/fnm  
3000  
19 March 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 3d Antitank Battalion (Rein), 3d Marine  
Division (Rein), FMF (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Operations Summary; report of  
Ref: (a) BnO 3100.2

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report is submitted  
for the period 2400H 10 March 1966 - 2400H 20 March 1966:

WEEKLY OPERATIONS SUMMARY

Company "C", 1stATBn (-),  
3dMarDiv (Rein), FMF

Capt., W.F. SNYDER Commanding

	<u>No. Off</u>	<u>No. Enl</u>	<u>No. Navy</u>	<u>GridCoor</u>
CoHq Capt., W.F. SNYDER	1	31	2	BT547016
1stPlt 1stLt H.T. SCHMITT	1	19	0	BT584016
2ndPlt 1stLt H.J. CONNOLLY	1	19	0	BT509028
3rdPlt SSgt E. DAVIS	0	20	0	BT547016

2. Operations.

a. The first platoon in support of 1/7 has been manning positions on the MLR. The light section was in support of B-1/7 at (BT605995) and the heavy section was in support of C-1/7 at (BS588981). On 17 March, from 0500-1600, a light section supported 3/7 on Operation "West Virginia" in the area of (BS5489). Three companies conducted a search and clear operation in the area while the ontos was on-call for direct fire missions. Two companies formed a blocking force north of the Song Tra Bong River. A third company was escorted by the ontos section to (BS555894). The troops dismounted from the trucks and swept north, crossing the river by LCR's. No contact.

b. The second platoon in support of 2/7 has been manning positions on the MLR. A light section mans positions at (BT495036) and another light section mans positions at (BT504030). The fifth ontos remains in the platoon CP at (BT509028).

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE (3)

C "C" 102 AT B

10-20 Mar 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~WFS/fnm  
19 Mar 1966

c. The third platoon in support of 3/7 has been manning one position with one ontos at (BS549996). During the period 11-14 March a light section was in support of 3/7 while conducting Operation "C&H" in the area of (BS593934). The objective of the operation was to provide security for the 1500-2000 <sup>workers</sup> while they harvested the sugar cane in the area. The mission of the ontos section was two-fold; (1) to provide direct fire support for the Battalion as part of a reaction force (2) to provide security and a show of force for the Vietnamese laborers. On 16 March the platoon displaced its' CP from (BT560048) to (BT547016).

d. Company Headquarters displaced its' CP from (BT560048) to (BT547016). The move commenced on the morning of 16 March and was completed on the afternoon of 19 March. During this period personnel provided beach security and security at the new CP site.

e. Statistics.

(1) Two ontos, one M-37 & one M-35 provided support on Operation C&H. Two ontos, & one M-37 provided support on Operation "West Virginia."

- (2) NONE
- (3) NONE
- (4) NONE
- (5) NONE
- (6) NONE

3. Training.

a. Inspections were conducted in the following areas: OEM, 106MM Recoilless Rifle, .50 Cal. spotting rifle, .30 Cal. MG, .45 Cal. pistol, .45 Cal. Sub-MG, and M-14. Drills were conducted on the proper wearing of the gas mask.

b. The condition of the track continues to limit the companies' operating capabilities.

*W.F. Snyder*  
W. F. SNYDER

Copy to:  
CO, 7thMar (Attn: S-3)  
CO, 1stATBn (Attn: S-3)

S + C #199-66

ENCLOSURE (3)

COMPANY "C"  
1st Antitank Battalion  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMP  
FPO San Francisco 96602

WFS/fnm  
3000  
1 Apr 1966

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion, 1st Marine Division  
(Rein), FMP (ATTN: S-3)

Subj: Operations Summary; report of

Ref: (a) BnO 3100.2

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report is submitted for the period 2400H 20 March 1966 to 2400H 31 March 1966:

WEEKLY OPERATIONS SUMMARY

CoC, 1stATBN  
1stMarDiv(Rein), FMP

Captain W.F. Snyder, CoC

	#OFF	#Kil	#WAV	Grid Coord
CoHQ Capt W.F. SNYDER	1	30	2	BF 547016
1stPlt 1stLt E. T. SCHMIT	1	19	0	BF 584016
2ndPlt 1stLt H. J. CONNOLLY	1	19	0	BF 509028
3rdPlt SSgt E. DAVIS	0	20	0	BF 547016

2. Operations.

a. The first platoon in support of 1/7 has been manning positions on the MLR. The light section was in support of B-1/7 at (BF 605995) and the heavy section was in support of C-1/7 at (BS 588981). On 26 and 27 March they conducted a firing exercise. The firing position was at (BF 495036) and the impact area was to the Southwest.

b. The second platoon in support of 2/7 has been manning positions on the MLR. The heavy section was in support of F-2/7 at (BF 495036) and the light section was in support of the Bn CP at (BF 504030). On 26 March the platoon conducted a firing exercise. On 26 March the platoon fired, using the direct method. The firing position was at (BF 495036) and the impact area was to the Southwest. On 27 March the platoon fired, using the indirect method. The firing position was at (BF 507023) and the impact area was to the Southwest.

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U.S. 102 AT BN

20-517466

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c. The third platoon in support of 3/7 has been manning positions on the MLR. A light section has supported L-3/7 at (BS 549996). The heavy section has been located in the Co CP at (547016) for repairs.

d. The Company Headquarters provided (1) M-35, (1) Gas M-107, and (6) six men in support of Operation "TEXAS". The men provided security for the CP group at Bin Son (BS 598919) and ran resupply runs from the Chu Lai enclave to Bin Son.

e. Statistics.

(1) Four (4) men for CP security during Operation "TEXAS" 2 men for resupply runs

(2) None

(3) Casualties: Four (4) men suffered ruptured ear drums due to a mine which their truck hit returning from Operation "TEXAS"; Three (3) men are back to full duty, 1 man is still at "B" Med.

(4) None

(5) NONE

(6) None

3. Training.

a. Classes were conducted in the following area's: Target engagement and adjustment of fire, misfire procedures, ammunition safety precautions and indirect firing procedures. Inspections were held on OEN gear, personal weapons, Comm gear, and personnel. During the two day firing exercise, both the direct and indirect methods of firing the Ontos were employed. 503 rounds of 106MM, 330 rounds of .50 Cal. spotter, and 340 rounds of .30 Cal. was expended.

B. None

W. F. SNYDER

Copy to:

CO, 7thMar (Attn: S-3)

CO, 3dAFBn (Attn: S-3)

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