

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

3:JEF:tjs
5750
4 Oct 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Subj: Command Chronology
Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2
(b) DivO 3480.1
Encl: (1) Command Chronology; September 1966

1. In compliance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. This document is downgraded to unclassified upon removal of TABS C, D, E, and F to Appendix 2.

R. E. HARRIS
R. E. HARRIS

Classified by the Director of
the Corps History and Museums
in accordance with the provisions
of CMO ltr Ser 009D523/232096 of
24 Feb 1979

Tab (10) to Appendix (A) to Enclosure (1)
to 1st Mar Div ltr Ser: 00245-66

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S*ClgNo* 046-66

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1st AT BN

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5750
4 Oct 1966

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1. 1st Antitank Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

a. Location: Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.

b. Period Covered by Report: 1 - 30 September 1966

c. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer, Staff and Chief Subordinates:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| (1) Major R. E. HARRIS | Commanding Officer |
| Major M. F. MANNING | Executive Officer |
| SgtMaj C. C. DOBBS | Sergeant Major |

(2) Executive Staff

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 2ndLt M. L. ELL | S-1/Adjutant |
| 1stLt F. S. ROE | S-2 |
| Major A. J. EAGAN | S-3 |
| Capt G. W. VANHORN | S-4 |

(3) Special Staff

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1stLt K. S. HENDRICKSON | Supply Officer |
| 1stLt D. B. SHIKER | Comm-Elect Officer |
| 1stLt J. M. KELLY | Motor Transport Officer |
| GySgt V. L. STREET | Ordnance Maintenance Officer |
| Lt(MC) S. L. BEVENS JR. USNR | Medical Officer |

(4) Subordinate Commanders

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1stLt M. H. COLLIER | - Company Commander H&S Company |
| Capt D. M. HUFSON | - Company Commander Company A |
| Capt T. F. DEMFSEY | - Company Commander Company B |
| Capt R. J. ESPOSITO | - Company Commander Company C |

2. Commander's Narrative Summary of Significant Events

a. Throughout the reporting period subordinate units of this command were assigned missions as follows:

Company A (w) OPCON 3rd Marine Division, DS 1st Marines
Company B (Rein) DS 5th Marines; DS Chu Lai Defense Command
Company C DS 7th Marines.

1 - 30 September. The Battalion S-5 (Civil Affairs Officer) and Medical Officer continued the Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) in the hamlet of AnTan. During the month of September 482 Vietnamese civilians were treated by the Medical Officer.

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1 - 30 September. The Battalion continued to provide extensive convoy support during the month of September. Elements of the Battalion escorted units to and from Da Nang, Quang Ngai and Tam Ky.

1 - 30 September. Throughout the month of September there was a general increase in the utilization of the Ontos on squad sized infantry patrols from company combat bases. See reference (b).

4 - 15 September. Company B supported the 5th Marines during Operation NAPA. See references (a) and (c).

8 - 16 September. Company C supported the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines during Operation FRESNO. See references (b) and (d).

17 - 27 September. Company C supported the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines during Operation GOLDEN FLEECE. See references (b) and (e).

29 - 30 September. 2nd Platoon, Company A (OPCON Company B) supported the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines during Operation MONTEREY. See references (a) and (f).

b. Company A (~), 1st Antitank Battalion was OPCON 3rd Marine Division during this reporting period. Company A will submit their Command Chronology to the Commanding Officer 3rd Antitank Battalion.

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4 Oct 1966

Appendix 1 (List of References) to 1st Antitank Battalion Command
Chronology (September 1966).

1. The following references apply to paragraph 2 (Commander's
Narrative Summary of Significant Events).

- Ref: (a) Company B, 1stATBn Command Chronology
(b) Company C, 1stATBn Command Chronology
(c) After Action Report: Operation NAPA
(d) After Action Report: Operation FRESNO
(e) After Action Report: Operation GOLDEN FLEECE
(f) After Action Report: Operation MONTEREY

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4 Oct 1966

Appendix 2 (Documentation) to 1st Antitank Battalion Command Chronology
(September 1966)

1. Documentation for the 1st Antitank Battalion Command Chronology for the period 1 - 30 September 1966 is provided by the TABS to this Appendix.

TAB

- A - Company B (Rein) Command Chronology
- B - Company C (-) Command Chronology
- C - After Action Report: Operation NAPA
- D - After Action Report: Operation FRESNO
- E - After Action Report: Operation GOLDEN FLEECE
- F - After Action Report: Operation MONTEREY

COMPANY B
1st Antitank Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

RRR/jwk
3000
1 October 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) BnO 3480.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology; September 1966

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

T. F. Dempsey
T. F. DEMPSEY

Q-8: 1st AT Bn

Dep 1966

TAB -A

3000
1 October 1966

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY, SEPTEMBER 1966

1. Organizational Data

- a. Location. Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam
- b. Period Covered by Report. 1 - 30 September 1966
- c. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer, Staff and Chief Subordinates

(1) Commanding Officer and Staff

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Capt T. F. DEMPSEY | Commanding Officer |
| 1stLt R. R. THIBERG | Executive Officer |
| 1stSgt J. M. REID | First Sergeant |
| GySgt V. K. WALKER | Gunnery Sergeant |

(2) Subordinate Commanders

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2ndLt L. C. BEARD | 1st Platoon Commander |
| 2ndLt A. F. TRAYNOR | 2nd Platoon Commander |
| 1stLt W. L. BUCHANAN | 3rd Platoon Commander |
| 2ndLt A. F. HOLMAN Jr. | 2nd Platoon (Company A) Commander |

2. Commander's Narrative Summary of Significant Events

a. Throughout the present reporting period Company B had operational and administrative control of all three of its organic platoons and of the 2nd Platoon, Company A. During this period Company B maintained two platoons in direct support of the 5th Marines and two platoons in direct support of the Chu Lai Defense Command.

b. During the period 4 September to 15 September Company B (Company Headquarters and 2nd Platoon, Company A) participated in Operation NAPA in direct support of the 5th Marines. (See Company B After Action Report; Operation NAPA).

c. During the period 9 September to 12 September the 3rd Platoon conducted armored reconnaissance patrols in Sector V of the Chu Lai Defense Command.

d. At 0130H on 11 September the 5th Marines Regimental Headquarters came under a Viet Cong mortar attack. The Company B Command Post, located within this area, received one incoming 60mm mortar round. No casualties were sustained.

ENCLOSURE (1)

3000

1. October 1966

e. On 14 September this command joined 2nd Lieutenant A. F. TRAYNOR. 2nd Lieutenant TRAYNOR was assigned duty as Platoon Commander, 2nd Platoon. Staff Sergeant H. J. FOGLE, the 2nd Platoon Commander since June, was reassigned as Platoon Sergeant.

f. 1st Lieutenant T. F. DEMPSEY assumed command of Company B on 20 September relieving Captain J. E. FELKER. 1st Lieutenant DEMPSEY had been the Battalion S-4 Officer prior to his assignment to this company. Captain FELKER was reassigned as Assistant Battalion Operations Officer after completing a one year tour as Commanding Officer of Company B.

g. Captain T. F. DEMPSEY, the Commanding Officer, was promoted to his present rank on 25 September.

h. On 26 September a Light section from the 2nd Platoon provided security for a "Rough Rider" convoy from the Chu Lai Combat Base to the Danang Combat Base. On 27 September the "Rough Rider" convoy returned with the Ontos again employed in a security role.

i. During the period 29 - 30 September the 2nd Platoon, Company A participated in Operation MONTEREY in direct support of the 5th Marines.

j. On 30 September the 1st Platoon and 3rd Platoon (less one light section) shifted OPCON from the Chu Lai Defense Command to the 5th Marines. One light section from the 3rd Platoon remained in direct support of the Chu Lai Defense Command, manning security positions in Sector I.

k. 2nd Lieutenant A. F. HOLMAN, Platoon Commander, 2nd Platoon Company A was promoted to his present rank from the grade of Staff Sergeant on 30 September.

l. As the reporting period terminated this Command had three platoons and one heavy section supporting the 5th Marines. One light section remained in direct support of the Chu Lai Defense Command.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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

RJE/rdb
3000
1 Oct 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Antitank Battalion (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) EnO 3460.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

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

R. J. Esposito
R. J. ESPOSITO

Encl. 1 of ATB

TAB - B

Aug 1966

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

I. Organization Data

1. Locations

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| a. Company Headquarters | BT 548018 |
| b. 1st Platoon | BT 548018 |
| c. 2nd Platoon | |
| (1) Light Section | BS 663984 |
| (2) Light Section | BS 699973 |
| d. 3rd Platoon | BS 575922 |

2. Period Covered by Report. 1 September 1966 through 30 September 1966.

3. Principle Billets

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| CO | Captain R. J. ESPOSITO |
| XO | 1stLt D. R. WEST |
| 1stSgt | 1stSgt F. N. JORDAN |
| 1st Plat Cndr | 2ndLt J. J. FLYNN Jr. |
| 2nd Plat Cndr | 2ndLt M. J. BOREK |
| 3rd Plat Cndr | 2ndLt H. L. REED |

II Narrative of Significant Events

Events during the month of September fell generally into three categories with the early part of the month showing considerable use of the Ontos in convoy escorts. The second platoon (Composite) participated in two operations (Fresno and Golden Fleece) and the third platoon participated in several company size search and destroy operations with M/3/7. The first platoon returned to Company control from the Chu Lai Defense Command.

On 1 September 1966 escorted 3 convoys to Nui So.

On 3 September 1966 2nd platoon heavy section supported a river crossing for D/1/7 at BS 640977. Section drew 15 rounds of small arms at 1600, returned 200 rounds .30 Cal; results unknown. Light section of 3rd platoon escorted convoy to Nui Vo.

On 4 September 1966 2nd platoon, heavy section conducted a search and destroy operation with D/1/7 in the vicinity of BS 670957.

On 6 September 1966 convoy escort returning from Rough Rider to Da Nang, approximately 9 miles north of check point # 37, received 150 rounds of smallarms fire from a building east of highway # 1. Returned three (3) 106mm rounds and 200 rounds 7.62mm. Sniper fire ceased.

On 7 September 1966 2nd Platoon (Composite) moved to Construed CP in preparation for operation Fresno.

On 8 September 1966 2nd platoon, light section moved from D/1/7 combat base to B/1/7 combat base (BS 699974). Composite platoon of "C" Company began operation Fresno.

On 9 through 18 September 1966 Composite platoon "C" Company continued in support of operations Fresno and Golden Fleece.

On 19 September 1966 at 190940H at M/3/7 (552926), a Camberra jet flew over the position going due west. The plane received sniper fire from 574922. Approximately 5 or 6 Viet Cong were spotted running into tree line at 574922. Ontos (C-32) fired 8 major rounds and 20 .50 Cal spotter tracers into the tree line, sniper fire ceased. Infantry dispatched patrol and found (1) one Viet Cong WIA as a result of Ontos firing.

On 21 September 1966 A light section from "C" Company 3rd platoon (C-33 and C-35) left India combat base at 1215 enroute overland to Nam Trung BS 511906. The patrol encountered smallarms fire from a house 250 meters southwest upon reaching BS 523922, returned two rounds 106mm and 150 rounds 30 caliber. Two 106mm rounds failed to explode, searched and results were negative. India 3/7 suffered one Med Evac. Light section returned to "C" Company CP at approximately 1715.

On 22 September 1966 light section 2nd platoon escorted convoy to Quang Ngai at 0645. Returned at 1600.

On 24 September 1966 at Bravo combat base fires 12 rounds of 106mm as H&I fire.

On 25 September 1966 two Ontos from Bravo combat base fired a total 10 rounds of H&I from 2310 to 0210 between coordinates BS 700971 and BS 704971. C-31 and C-33 on patrol with M/3/7 at 1500 at coordinates BS 568922 spotted three VCs at coordinates BS 569918, fired 6 106mm rounds with no VC KIA's but 1 VC WIA. No VC captured or weapons found or equipment or supplies found.

On 26 September 1966 light section of 3rd platoon participated in a mechanized patrol from 1100 to 1530 with squad from M/3/7 in BS 5692, no contact with VC. Charlie 2 reported discovery of electrical AT mine.

On 27 September 1966 one light section provided security from 0800 to 1600 for blade tank which was filling in trenchline from coordinates BS 568924 to BS 572926. Composite platoon returned from Golden Fleece at 1430.

On 28 September 1966 Charlie 3 participated in operation in the vicinity of BS 5691. Contact was negative. Units returned to Mike combat base at 1400.

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

3:AJE:tjs
3123
20 Sep 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment
Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report; Operation NAPA
Ref: (a) your msg PL60838Z Sep66
Encl: (1) After Action Report; Operation NAPA

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

R. E. Harris
R. E. HARRIS

1st Antitank Battalion
SAC Log No. 042-66

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

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TAB-C

3123
20 Sep 1966AFTER ACTION REPORT: OPERATION NAPA

1. Code Name. NAPA, a Regimental search and destroy operation.
2. Dates of Operation. 040930H - 151530H September 1966.
3. Location. Quang Tin Province, Tam Ky District.
4. Control or Command Headquarters. 5th Marine Regiment, Colonel C. F. WIDJECKE, Commanding.
5. Task Organization
Company B (-), 1st Antitank Battalion Capt J. E. FELKER
2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Antitank Battalion SSgt A. F. HOLMAN JR.
6. Supporting Forces. None.
7. Intelligence. See 1st Marine Division Intelligence Summary for the operational period.
8. Mission. Provide direct support to the 5th Marines with one Ontos platoon.
9. Concept of Operation. Company B was directed to provide support to the 5th Marines with one antitank platoon. Initial plans called for the antitank platoon to provide security for artillery firing positions in the vicinity of the ISA at Tam Ky. The platoon was to be prepared to provide support as directed by the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines anywhere in the operational area. To coordinate their activities a command group, led by the Commanding Officer, Company B moved with the Regimental Command Group to Tam Ky.
10. Execution.
D-1 (4 September)
040930H. Company Command Group and 2nd Platoon, Company A (OPCON Company B) departed Hill 35 for Tam Ky. The platoon provided convoy security for the 5th Marine Regimental Command Group.
041120H. Convoy arrived at Tam Ky; one Ontos broke a short axle about 8 kilometers south of Tam Ky and was towed in by an M-62 Wrecker.
041300H. Company Command Post established at Tam Ky.
041800H. Ontos repairs completed after arrival of replacement axle.

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3123
20 Sep 1966

041830H. Heavy section of 2nd Platoon placed in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Light section of 2nd Platoon placed in direct support of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Both sections assigned mission of providing security for Regimental Command Post and artillery firing positions.

D-Day (5 September)

050900H. The Company Commander requested permission for the Ontos to fire ninety (90) rounds of prep fire on Hill 26, vicinity of BT 208249, which was to be used by 1/5 for their Command Post on the night of 5 September.

051300H. Permission denied; 2/11 directed to lay prep fire.

051100H. 2nd Platoon placed in direct support of G-2/5 for security and defense of Tam Ky.

D plus 1 (6 September)

060800H. The Company Commander recommended that the antitank platoon be attached to 3/5, joining that unit at Cam Khe (I), coordinates BT 223226, for the remainder of the operation. Preparations made.

061600H. Link-up of antitank platoon with 3/5, scheduled for the morning of 7 September, postponed one day.

D plus 2 (7 September)

071700H. The Company Command Group departed Tam Ky with the Regimental Command Group for Hill 35. The 2nd Platoon remained at Tam Ky in support at G-2/5.

071800H. Company Command Group arrived at Hill 35.

D plus 3 (8 September)

081130H. Platoon Commander, 2nd Platoon informed that scheduled link-up with 3/5 had been cancelled. Platoon to remain at Tam Ky to support G-2/5.

D plus 4 (9 September)

090900H - 091200H. The heavy Ontos section of the 2nd Platoon and one squad from G-3/5 made a armored recon of the area two thousand meters north of Tam Ky between the railroad tracks and Route #1. Captured one (1) Viet Cong suspect at BT 271236. Suspect had no Identification Card, no voter's card and acted very nervous. No rounds expended.

D plus 5 (10 September). No change.

D plus 6 (11 September). No change.

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3123
20 Sep 1966D plus 7 (12 September)121400H - 121600H. The heavy Ontos section of the 2nd Platoon and one squad from G-2/5 made an armored reconnaissance through Phuong Hoa (1) (BT 281237) and the area north of the ISA. No contact.D plus 8 (13 September)131500H. The 2nd Platoon departed the ISA to link-up with 3/5.131515H. Link-up accomplished at BT 287199. Platoon moved with I-3/5 to BT 247183. The light section was placed in direct support of L-3/5 at BT 245170. The heavy section was placed in direct support of K-3/5 at BT 242167.131900H. Set into night defensive positions.D plus 9 (14 September)140900H. Light section detached to return to combat base (HILL 35). Heavy section swept with K-3/5 from BT 242174 to HILL 83 (BT 248169). Set into defensive positions.D plus 10 (15 September)150900H. Three (3) Viet Cong in open spotted at BT 229147. Ontos at Hill 83 (BT 248169) fired four (4) rounds 106mm. One (1) Viet Cong KIA (probable).151000H. 2nd Platoon, with K-3/7, commenced movement eastward to link-up with artillery.151200H. 2nd Platoon, with K-3/5, received small arms fire from BT 255183. One (1) USMC KIA. Ontos, at BT 254185, returned fire with one hundred twenty-five rounds caliber .30, 75 rounds caliber .50 and five rounds 106mm. Ontos advanced within one hundred meters of target under fire. Destroyed house being used as cover by Viet Cong. Two (2) Viet Cong KIA (probable).151435H. G-2/5 received small arms fire from two concrete dwellings at BT 258194. Called for Ontos support. Because of thick undergrowth and dense hedgerows Ontos could not return effective fire from a covered position. The Ontos Commander maneuvered his vehicle to within two hundred meters of the enemy position before he was able to return effective fire. Ontos fired fifteen rounds of caliber .50 spotter-tracer and five rounds 106mm, destroying both buildings completely. One (1) Viet Cong KIA (probable).151700H. 2nd Platoon returned to Hill 35.

11. Results. Four (4) Viet Cong KIA (probable), three (3) houses destroyed.
12. Administrative Matters. No problems encountered.
13. Special Equipment and Techniques. None utilized.

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3123
20 Sep 1966

14. Commander's Analysis.

- a. This operation went a long way toward dispelling doubts as to cross-country travel capability of Ontos. Virtually all Ontos operating was done off the roads.
- b. Ontos fire appears to have been overcontrolled. Although suitable targets appeared, permission to fire was often denied. In some cases the target was fleeting, and had disappeared before other supporting arms could be brought to bear.

15. Recommendations.

- a. Increase the employment of Ontos units in a manner which exploits the inherent mobility and firepower of the Ontos.
- b. Give greater control in the employment of the Ontos to the local Ontos unit commander.

ENCLOSURE (1)

4

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

3:JEF:tjs
3123
4 Oct 1966

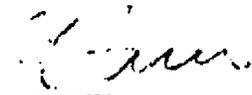
From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 7th Marine Regiment

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation FRESNO

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1

Encl: (1) After Action Report; Operation FRESNO

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


R. E. HARRIS

Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years
DOD DIR 5200.10

1st Antitank Battalion
S&C Log No# 043-06
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TAB-D

4 Oct 1966

AFTER ACTION REPORT; OPERATION FRESNO

1. Code Name. FRESNO, a Battalion sized search and destroy operation.
2. Dates of Operation. 080500H to 162400H September 1966.
3. Location. Mo Duc District, Quang Ngai Province, RVN.
4. Control or Command Headquarters. 1st Battalion, 7th Marines; Major L.W.T. WALKER III, Commanding.
5. Task Organization
2nd Platoon, Company C, 1st Antitank Battalion, 2nd Lt M.J. BOREK.
6. Supporting Forces. None.
7. Intelligence. Current 1st Marine Division INTSUMS.
8. Mission. Provide direct support to 1/7 with one Ontos platoon.
9. Concept of Operation. Company C was directed to provide direct support to 1/7 with one Antitank platoon. Initial plans called for the antitank platoon to provide security for artillery. The platoon was to be prepared to provide support as directed by the Commanding Officer 1/7 anywhere in the operational area.
10. Execution

8 September (D-Day)

0500. The 2nd Platoon, Company C escorted the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines convoy from the Chu Lai Combat Base south on Route #1 to Nui Dep (BS 7160). A heavy section remained at Nui Dep to provide security for the artillery while the light section continued south with the convoy to Thi Pho Nhat (BS 7256). The light section then returned north, escorting a truck convoy to Nui Dep and joined the heavy section.

1500. The artillery displaced south to Mo Duc (BS 729539) with a heavy section of Ontos providing security. The light section of Ontos escorted two 155 Howitzers from Nui Dep to the Quang Ngai Air Strip and remained to provide security.

9 September (D + 1). A light section of Ontos escorted an artillery resupply convoy from Mo Duc (BS 729539) to Quang Ngai (BS 6473) and return.

10 September (D + 2). A light section of Ontos escorted an artillery resupply convoy from Mo Duc (BS 729539) to Quang Ngai (BS 6473) and return.

11 September (D + 3). A heavy section of Ontos patrolled Route #1 and provided security for infantry companies moving into Combat Bases.

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4 Oct 1966

12-16 September (D+4-D+8). Throughout the remainder of the operation the Ontos platoon provided road security for the local Vietnamese harvesting rice; were used as a covering force for infantry units conducting sweeps; provided convoy escorts to Quang Ngai for resupply; and provided security for artillery.

16 September (D+8)
2100. Operation FRESNO was terminated.

11. Results. None.
12. Administrative Matters. None.
13. Special Equipment and Techniques. None utilized.
14. Commander's Analysis. Although the Ontos did not fire as anticipated it is felt that the continued presence and movement of the Ontos throughout the area of operations helped keep friendly casualties to a minimum.
15. Recommendations. The Ontos units be employed similarly in future operations.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

3:JEF:tjs
3123
4 Oct 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 7th Marine Regiment
Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation GOLDEN FLEECE
Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1
Encl: (1) After Action Report; Operation GOLDEN FLEECE

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

R. E. Harris
R. E. HARRIS

Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years
DOD DIR 5200.10

1st Antitank Battalion
S&C Log No # 044-66
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TAB-E

3123
4 Oct 1966

AFTER ACTION REPORT; OPERATION GOLDEN FLEECE

1. Code Name. GOLDEN FLEECE: a Battalion sized search and destroy operation enabling Vietnamese civilians to safely harvest rice.
2. Dates of Operation. 171930H to 271930H September 1966.
3. Location. Mo Duc District, Quang Ngai Province, RVN.
4. Control or Command Headquarters. 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, Major L.W.T. WALLER III Commanding.
5. Task Organization
2nd Platoon, Company C, 1st Antitank Battalion, 2nd Lt M.J. BOREK.
6. Supporting Forces. None.
7. Intelligence. Current 1st Marine Division INTSUMS.
8. Mission. To provide DS to 1/7 with one Ontos platoon.
9. Concept of Operation. Company C was directed to provide support to 1/7 with one antitank platoon, Plans called for the Ontos to be used as convoy escort for resupply runs to Quang Ngai and as a covering force for infantry units sweeping VC controlled villages. The platoon was to be prepared to provide support as directed by the Commanding Officer, 1/7, anywhere in the operational area.
10. Execution
17 September (D-Day). From D-Day to the termination of Operation GOLDEN FLEECE the Ontos platoon provided road net security for the local Vietnamese harvesting rice, a covering force for infantry units conducting sweeps, convoy escorts to Quang Ngai for resupply and direct support during the occupation of Van Ha (1) (BS 7651). All of the above missions were accomplished by distributing the platoon into two light sections and leaving one Ontos to provide security for the artillery.

25 September (D+9)
1735. A heavy section of Ontos returning from blocking positions along Route #1 at (BS 740521) observed a freshly dug spot on the road. Wires were discovered leading from the spot to batteries. The wires were disconnected and a home made antitank mine was discovered in the hole. Mine contained 15 pounds of explosives. It was destroyed in place by the Ontos crewmen with a hand grenade.

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3123
4 Oct 1966

26 September (D+10)

0800. A light section of Ontos proceeding south on Route #1 to establish blocking positions for the battalions withdrawal discovered a 105mm artillery round rigged as an antitank mine at (BS 737531). The mine was destroyed ~~in place~~ by accompanying engineers.

27 September

1600. Operation GOLDEN FLEECE was terminated.

11. Results. None.
12. Administrative Matters. None.
13. Special Equipment and Technique. None utilized
14. Commander's Analysis. Although the Ontos did not fire as anticipated it is felt that the continued presence and movement throughout the area of operations helped keep friendly casualties to a minimum.
15. Recommendations. That Ontos be employed similarly in future operations and that a mine detecting team be attached to Ontos units whenever possible.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

3:JEF:tjs
3123
4 Oct 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment
Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report; Operation MONTEREY

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1

Encl: (1) After Action Report; Operation MONTEREY

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

R. E. Harris
R. E. HARRIS

Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years
DOD DIR 5200.10

1st Antitank Battalion
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TAB-F

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AFTER ACTION REPORT: OPERATION MONTEREY

1. Code Name - MONTEREY, a Battalion sized, search and destroy operation.
2. Dates of Operation. 290800H to 301245H September 1966.
3. Location. Quang Tin Province, Tam Ky District, Republic of Vietnam.
4. Control or Command Headquarters. 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment.
5. Task Organization. 2nd Platoon, Company "A" 1st Antitank Battalion (ORGAN Company "B", 1st Antitank Battalion), S/SCT H. PERRY JR.
6. Supporting Forces. None.
7. Intelligence. See 1st Marine Division Intelligence Summaries for the operational period.
8. Mission. Provide direct support to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.
9. Concept of Operation. Company "B" was directed to provide direct support to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines with one Antitank Platoon. Initial plans called for the Antitank Platoon to provide security for artillery firing positions in the vicinity of the TAM KY Airfield. The platoon was to be prepared to provide support as directed by the Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion 5th Marines anywhere in the operational area. To coordinate activities of the Antitank Platoon a liaison NCO from Company "B" Headquarters was attached to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

10. Execution, 29 September (D - day)

0800 - 0845. The 2nd platoon, Company "A" escorted the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines convoy from the Chu Lai Combat Base to the operational area.

0845 - 2100. The 2nd platoon, Company "A" moved into security positions in the vicinity of the Tam Ky Airfield in defense of Battery "E", 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines. The defense of the area was coordinated by Company "L", 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Ontos moved into firing positions as follows:

- 1 Light Section BT 304183
- 1 Ontos BT 308186
- 1 Ontos BT 309188

30 September (D+1)

0001 - 1200. No change, vehicles remained in position.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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1200 - 1245. Operation MONTEREY secured. Antitank Platoon provided security for the convoy returning Company "L", 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines and Battery "E", 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines to the Chu Lai Combat Base from the operational area.

11. Results. None

12. Administrative Matters. None

13. Special Equipment and Techniques. None Utilized

14. Commander's Analysis. Because of the brevity of operation MONTEREY, only a limited analysis is possible. If the operation had not been curtailed it is possible that antitank units may have been utilized in a direct fire support role, in addition to providing security for the artillery.

15. Recommendations. Employ Ontos units in a manner which exploits their inherent fire power and reliability.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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