

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

3:PJS:trh  
 5750  
 Ser.No. 010-67  
 9 Apr 1967

[REDACTED]

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding General, First Marine Division  
 Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1 Mar to 31 Mar 1967 (4)

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
 (b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
 (c) DivO 5750.2B

1ST ENGR BN 012567  
 CMCC NR  
 COPY 1 OF 7 COPIES

Encl: ✓(1) 1st Engineer Battalion Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c),  
 enclosure (1) is submitted.

*C. O. Newton*

C. O. NEWTON

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 1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF

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MAR 1967

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March to 31 March 1967

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

1st Engineer Battalion

COMMANDER

Maj C. O. NEWTON

20Aug66 - Present

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&amp;S Company (-)

Capt R. OSBORNE

28Nov66 - 14Mar67

Engineer Support Company

Capt H. A. MORGAN III

15Mar67 - Present

Company A (Rein)

Maj P. J. SHANK Jr.

16Nov66 - 1Apr67

Company B (-)

Capt H. E. ITCHKAWICH

3Sep66 - Present

Company C

Capt R. W. FALKENBACH

8Sep66 - Present

8Sep66 - Present

2. LOCATION

Battalion minus Company A (Rein)

1 - 31 Mar

Chu Lai, RVN

Company A (Rein)

1 - 31 Mar

DaNang, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj E. J. TOWNSEND

25Jan67 - Present

Sergeant Major

SgtMaj F. C. TOMON

29Nov - Present

S-1/Adjutant

2nd Lt J. MOUTON

14Dec66 - Present

S-2

1st Lt. D. M. TOTH

28Nov66 - Present

S-3

Maj R. PETROFF

18Jul66 - 31Mar67

S-4 (Fwd)

Maj J. C. FLOYD

21Feb67 - 31Mar67

S-4 (Rear)

Capt L. R. CORNWELL

14Mar67 - Present

S-5

Capt R. OSBORNE

28Nov66 - 14Mar67

Capt H. A. MORGAN III

14Mar67 - Present

Supply Officer

Capt. T. F. BYRNE

7Sep66 - Present

Communications Officer

1st Lt. P. A. BERKHEIMER

24Feb67 - Present

Medical Officer

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BY (USMR) J. A. BACKER  
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8Aug66 - Present

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|                            |                       |                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Motor Transport Officer    | 2nd Lt. J. T. WYNN    | 24Aug66 - Present |
| Engineer Equipment Officer | 2nd Lt. G. MACKY      | 25Aug66 - Present |
| Utilities Officer          | 1st Lt. J. MIZERAK    | 11Feb67 - Present |
| Construction Officer       | W.O. R. H. McALLISTER | 10Sep66 - Present |

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

| USMC |     | USN |     |
|------|-----|-----|-----|
| OFF  | ENL | OFF | ENL |
| 25   | 715 | 1   | 9   |

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Primary effort of the Battalion was direct support of Task Force X-Ray in the Chu Lai TAOR. Company "A" reinforced with 2nd Platoon Company "B" and detachments of H&S and Support Companies supported elements of 1st Marine Division in the DaNang TAOR. Eighteen men supported Chu Lai Defense Command for the entire month as security troops.

The letter companies with reinforcements from H&S and Support Companies were moderately committed to combat operations, taking part in OPERATION DESOTO and numerous small unit actions. Construction, road repair, maintenance and administrative functions kept all hands occupied seven days a week.

The Battalion provided engineer support for ten vehicle convoys, three of which were ROUGH RIDER operations to or from DaNang. Five major road and bridge recons were completed and an average of 13 mine sweeps which covered 45 kilometers of road each day.

On 12 and 13 March a three level, 600-m long cave and tunnel complex was explored, charges were placed and the complex destroyed. The cave was located on a hill at BS705936 in the 1/7 TAOR. Fifteen other caves were destroyed this month.

Dry weather and receipt of repair parts significantly increased vehicle and equipment availability. Deadline of Combat Essential equipment on hand decreased from 98 pieces at the beginning of the period to 63 pieces at the end. Engineer equipment operated a total of 8,088 hours and motor transport mileage was 21,183 for the period.

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## PART III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. PERSONNELa. Gains and Losses

During entire month

Joined two Marine officers, 53 Marine listed; dropped one Marine officer, 17 Marine enlisted.

b. Casualties

Twelve WIA's and four KIA's.

2. INTELLIGENCEa. Reconnaissance

Road and bridge recon of Hwy #1 from BT 546016 to BT292225.

Water point recon at Tam Ky.

Road recon from BS811385 to BS835363.

Road recon from BS835363 to BS867371.

b. Weather. Six days of rain early in March hampered earthmoving and grading operations but the later half of the month was warm, dry and dusty.c. Enemy Ordnance

(1) Three booby traps and 21 mines were discovered and destroyed in the Chu Lai TAOR during routine patrols and sweeps. One mine was detonated by a vehicle.

Ref: SitReps of 2, 7, 9, 17, 20, 24, 26, 31 March 1967.

## (2) ROUGH RIDER mine incidents.

(a) Mine detonated at BT124483 on 151300. Three "A" Co KIA, two WIA. Detonated as man probed suspicious area in roadway.

Ref: SitRep of 17 March 1967.

(b) On the 20 Mar ROUGH RIDER six mines were encountered.

Ref: SitRep of 20 March 1967. CO Co B AA rpt 5/WJG/jtd over 3000 of 23 Mar.

(Tab) A

(c) On the 24 Mar ROUGH RIDER one mine was encountered.

Ref: CO Engr Spt Co AA rpt WJG/ec over 3000 of 2 Apr 67

(Tab) B

d. Tunnel / Cave / Fortification Destruction

(1) On 3 March at BS846384 destroyed one 120 m long cave using 1600 lbs of cratering charges.

Ref: CO Co "B" AA rpt 5/WJG/jtd over 3480 of 9 Mar 67.

(2) On 3 March at BS846391 destroyed one cave 10 feet long with nine pounds TNT.

Ref: CO Co B AA rpt 5/WJG/jtd over 3480 of 9 Mar 67.  
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(Tab) C

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(3) On 3 March at BS846391 destroyed one cave 25 feet long using 18 pounds of TNT.

Ref: CO Co B AA rpt 5/WJG/jtd over 3480 of 9 Mar 67.

(Tab) C

(4) On 060915H at BS638955 a cave 3' x 4' x 20' was destroyed by 20 pounds of C-4. Two other caves at BS633960, one 3' x 5' x 15', the other 4' x 7' x 25' about 30' apart were destroyed with 20 pounds of C-4 in each.

Ref: CO Co C AA rpt GGG:ej over 3000 of 18 Mar 67.

(Tab) D

(5) On 080950 at BS632961 a cave 2' x 4' x 8' was destroyed with 10 pounds of C-4. On 101300 a cave 4' x 4' x 15' was destroyed at BS645975 using 20 pounds of C-4.

Ref: CO C Co AA rpt GGG:ej over 3000 of 18 Mar 67.

(Tab) D

(6) On 121600 a 600 m long three level tunnel complex at BS702938 was destroyed with 4820 pounds of explosives.

Ref: SitRep 13 Mar 67.

(7) On 23 Mar two caves 10m x 1m x 1m each at BS677632 were destroyed using 20 pounds TNT each.

Ref: SitRep 24 Mar 67.

(8) On 261300 two caves 2' x 3' x 26' and 2' x 3' x 20' at BS555917 were closed by five pounds TNT each. On 261430 two more caves were destroyed, one 2' x 3' x 15' using two 40 pound shaped charges.

Ref: CO Co C AA rpt GGG:ej over 29 Mar 67.

(Tab) E

(9) Nine LVTE - 1 Projected line charges were fired in vicinity BS 5592 in 2/7 TAOR. Five had to be manually detonated.

Ref: B Co SitRep of 28 Mar 67.

e. Other Ordnance. The following types and quantities of U.S. ordnance were destroyed:

#### BOMBS

| 250# | 500# | 1000# | 3.5" WP | 60mm Mort | 105mm |
|------|------|-------|---------|-----------|-------|
| 3    | 4    | 1     | 2       | 3         | 1     |

A total of 30,675 pounds of explosives consisting of C-4, TNT, Line Charges, Cratering and Shaped Charges were expended by the Battalion during March.

Ref: SitReps of Mar 67.

#### 3. TRAINING

a. Land Mine Warfare and Demolition Schools graduated 451 at Chu Lai and 374 at DaNang, total 825 students. Engineer units had 129 graduates.

Ref: Engr SitRep Recaps of 12 Mar and 26 Mar 67, Sit Rep of 29 Mar 67.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~4. OPERATIONS

Throughout March

Operation DESOTO continued in the Duc Pho District (BS8037) with 2d Plat, Co C in direct support of 3/7 (Rein). Additional support consisting of utilities men with a water purification and distribution unit plus a bath unit and the D-4 tractor with dozer blade on temporary loan from MAG-13 continued operation. The tractor, operated by an equipment operator and an equipment mechanic worked an average of 10 hours a day throughout March clearing fields of fire, revetting supplies, digging wells and pioneering roads. On March 23 one SNCO and 20 men began construction of an operating room bunker for the 3/7 Battalion Aid Station. Work continued into April.

Ref: SitRep Recaps of 12, 26 Mar 67.  
SitRep of 24 Mar 67.

CO Co B AA rpt 5/WJG/jtd over 3480 of 9 Mar 67. Tab C

15 Mar 1967

Co A provided engineer support to ROUGH RIDER, 1st MT Bn convoy from DaNang to Chu Lai. At BT124483 on 151300H, a mine detonated as an engineer probed a suspicious area in the roadway resulting in three Co A KIA's, two WIA's. Convoy reached Chu Lai.

Ref: SitRep of 17 Mar 67.

20 Mar 1967

ROUGH RIDER convoy to DaNang departed Chu Lai with twelve engineers 200707H. Located two mines of approx 40-50 lbs flaked TNT at BT138470 on 20 1430H Mar. Blown in place using two lbs TNT and 2½ lbs of C-4. At 201530H ARVN truck pulled out of compound at rear of convoy and detonated a mine of 75-100 pounds explosives. Five ARVN WIA. At 201534H a mine detonated ahead of the convoy. One infantry WIA and one engineer was knocked down by the blast. Mine consisted of 75-100 pounds of explosive. No wires discovered. This mine was at same location where three Co A men KIA on 15 Mar 1967. At 201550H a cow detonated a mine of 75-100 pounds at BT111499. Cow disintegrated. Explosion occurred ahead of area being swept. At 201605H located a soft area in the road at BT1154494. Set a trunk line of 16# TNT on road center line. Detonated a mine of approx 40-50 lbs. Arrived at DaNang 201915H Mar 67.

Ref: CO Co B AA rpt 5/WJG/jtd over 3000 of 23 Mar 67. Tab A

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24 March 1967

ROUGH RIDER, 7th MT Bn convoy with 15 engineers in support departed 240830H for DaNang. On 241755 the fifteenth truck in the convoy was destroyed by mine approx 150-200 lbs explosive. Mine was buried under three feet of rock and one foot of soil. Area had been swept and probed but no wires or firing devices were located. Two USMC KIA, four USMC WIA. Mine located at BT113497, at 241845H convoy was ambushed at BT104508 by enemy employing mortars, recoilless rifles and small arms. One USMC KIA, 28 WIA. Convoy arrived at DaNang 242130H. Ref: CO Engr Spt Co AA rpt WJG/ec over 3000 of 2 April 1967.  
(Tab) B

5. WATER SUPPLY. The Battalion is operating seven water points and eight bath units in the Chu Lai TAOR and two water points in the DaNang TAOR. Potable water distributed was 1,865,525 gallons. Shower water distributed was 976,370 gallons.

Ref: SitReps for Mar 67

6. ROADS. Constructed 300m one lane road, 400m two lane road, and capped 600m of two lane road with 6" wearing course. Hauled, spread, and compacted 3,370 cu yds of fill.

Ref: SitReps for Mar 67

7. CIVIL AFFAIRS/CIVIC ACTION. During nine MEDCAP's to the village of PHUOC AN at BT572015, 308 people were given aid.

Ref: MEDCAP Tm rpt for Mar 67

## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

TAB  A XO Co "B" AA rpt 5/WJG/jtd over 3000 of 23 Mar 67.

B CO Engr Spt Co AA rpt WJG/ec over 3000 of 2 Apr 67.

C CO Co "B" AA rpt 5/WJG/jtd over 3480 of 9 Mar 67.  
w/CO 1st Engr Bn First Endorsement of 14 Mar 67.

D CO Co "C" AA rpt GGG:ejc over 3000 of 18 Mar 67.

E CO Co "C" AA rpt GGG:ejc over 3000 of 29 Mar 67.

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COMPANY "B"

1st Engineer Battalion  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF5/WJC/jtd  
3000  
23 Mar 1967~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: Executive Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion  
 Subj: Convoy Operation After Action Report  
 Ref: (a) Maps of Vietnam Series L701, Sheets 6659 II, III; 6658 I, II  
       III, IV; 6657 I, II; 6757 III, IV

1. Code Name. Operation Rough Rider.
2. Date. 20 March 1967
3. Location. Route #1 from Chu Lai to DaNang.
4. Control or Command Headquarters.
  - a. Major K. H. REAGAN, 1st Motor Transport Battalion, Convoy Commander.
5. Task Organization. Twelve engineer personnel, one officer and 11 enlisted, consisting of combat engineers, bridge personnel, and M 51 driver, provide support to a 32 vehicle convoy.
6. Supporting Forces. Not Applicable.
7. Intelligence. Convoy was advised road was mined, had obstacles, bridges could be destroyed enroute, and an ambush was expected.
8. Mission. Provide direct engineer support to get the convoy to DaNang.
9. Concept of Operation. Engineers were attached to the convoy to employ mine sweeping techniques, standard military bridging, and by-passing measures to clear and make passable the road to DaNang.
10. Execution
  - a. Convoy departed MSR and route #1 at Chu Lai 20 0707H Mar 67.
  - b. 20 1415H Mar 1967 convoy warned by ARVN operating in area that road was mined and a battalion of Viet Cong was on either side of the road.
  - c. 20 1430H March 1967 encountered soft sand area in road with Vietnamese vehicles parked on the other side. Infantry with two engineers attached circled area in the road and checked civilian vehicles. Lead vehicle had several loose leads on chassis but no other indications of enemy equipment. Engineers checked sides of road before mine detector men moved into area in order to reduce chance of command

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Tab A

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controlled mine. Located two mines of approximately 40-50 pounds flaked TNT and destroyed in place with two pounds TNT and two and one half pounds of C-4, at GC BT 138470.

d. 20 1530H March 1967 ARVN truck which pulled out of a compound at rear of convoy was destroyed by a mine of approximately 75-100 pounds explosive. Five ARVN WIA and evacuated at GC BT 138468.

e. 20 1534H March 1967 mine was detonated at head of stopped convoy as engineer personnel and security moved forward along sides of road to check for wires. One infantry WIA not evacuated and one engineer knocked down by the blast and struck by a rock. Mine consisted of approximately 75-100 pounds explosive. No wires discovered in area. This occurred at the same cut in the road where three USMC KIA received on the way down at GC BT 124484.

f. 20 1550H March 1967 cow detonated a mine of approximately 75-100 pounds explosive. Cow was disintegrated at GC BT 111499. Explosion occurred ahead of area engineers were working on.

g. 20 1605H March 1967 came to soft area in road and could not located a mine at GC BT 115494 but placed a trunk line charge of 16 pounds TNT along center of road. Detonated a mine or approximately 40-50 pounds TNT. Recovered a pressure electrical firing device which was turned over to Major REAGAN, 1st Motor Transport, for further delivery to G-3, 1st Marine Division.

h. 20 1915H March 1967 convoy arrived in 1st Motor Transport Compound. Operation complete.

11. Results. No vehicles lost in convoy, six mines encountered with two personnel WIA, and one Viet Cong firing device recovered intact.

12. Administrative Matters. Not applicable.

13. Special Equipment and Techniques. When sand or earth filled areas were encountered in the stretch of road mines were not detectable with the P-153 mine detector. There were so many rocks in this soil and sand that the AN/FRS 4 was not used. Personnel would make a sweep in the area along the shoulders to locate wires and then begin a probe of the area. mines were buried at a depth of two to three feet.

14. Commanders Analysis. The technique employed kept two people definitely from being casualties. Had individuals been up on the road. Even at a distance of 50 meters, the blast and débris could have resulted in definite casualties. The Viet Cong mines appeared to be confined to the soft areas of the road. No hard surface areas were mined.

15. Recommendations. Shoulders of the road should be checked for wire prior to the approach of a mine detector man. When soft areas are checked an AN/FRS 4 mine detector should be used since the P-153 will not detect the minimum metal used in the blast mines encountered.

*W. J. Gleeson*  
W. J. GLEESON

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## ENGINEER SUPPORT COMPANY

1st Engineer Battalion  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMFWJG/ec  
3000  
2 Apr 67

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer 1st Engineer Battalion  
 Subj: Convoy After Action Report  
 Ref: (a) Maps of Vietnam Series L701, Sheets 6659 II, III; 6658 I, II  
       III, IV; 6657 I, II; 6757 III, IV

1. Code Name. Operation Rough Rider.
2. Date. 24 March 1967
3. Location. Route #1 from Chu Lai to DaNang.
4. Control or Command Headquarters.
  - a. Captain Robert W. SMITH, "B" Company, 7th Motor Transport Battalion, Convoy Commander.
5. Task Organization. Twenty-two (22) engineer personnel consisting of one engineer officer, seven bridging personnel, eleven (11) combat engineers, and three (3) M 51 drivers, provide support to a forty (40) vehicle convoy.
6. Supporting Forces. Seven bridge personnel from 9th Engineer Battalion.
7. Intelligence. Road would be mined and ambush was expected.
8. Mission. Provide direct engineer support for movement of convoy to DaNang.

9. Concept of Operation. Engineers would employ nine detecting techniques, bridging capabilities, and limited road building measures to make the road passable to DaNang.

10. Execution.

- a. Convoy departed MSR and route #1 at 24 0830H Mar67.
- b. Engineer Officer advised that road from check point 34 to check point 28 appeared mined. Task Force Xray engineer officer met convoy at Tanky 24 1030H Mar67.
- c. 24 1150H Mar67. Convoy arrived check point 34 GC BT 150453 and engineers prepared to sweep road.
- d. 24 1340H Mar67. Commenced sweep by having two men sweep sides of road for command wires. Swept each soft area of road with AN/PRS-4 mine detector. Detector worked well locating bits of metal and small rocks at ~~DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS~~ DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS.

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18" to 24". Probed each area which registered a reading.

- e. 24 1500H Mar67. Encountered Vietnamese rice truck which had been destroyed by a mine at GC BT 138468. Mine was of 40-50 pounds of explosives. Removed wreck and proceeded.
- f. 24 1745H Mar67. Completed foot sweep. No mines encountered.
- g. 24 1755H Mar67. Fifteenth (15th) truck in convoy was destroyed by mine of approximately 150-200 pounds explosive. Mine was buried under three feet of rock and one foot of soil. Area had been swept and probed, no wires or firing devices were found prior to or after the explosion. Two USMC KIA, four USMC WIA, truck totally destroyed, wreckage was removed and crater filled. Location of mine was GC BT 113497.
- h. 24 1845H Mar67. Convoy came into heavy ambush at GC BT 104508 enemy employed mortars, recoilless rifles and small arms. One USMC KIA and 28 USMC WIA.
- i. 24 1130H Mar67. Convoy arrived 1st Motor Transport Battalion CP.

11. Results. Three vehicles lost in convoy, one to a mine. Cumulative casualties, three USMC KIA and twenty-eight WIA of which two WIA were engineer personnel.

12. Administrative Matters. Not Applicable.

13. Special Equipment and Techniques. AN/PRS-4 mine detector used to detect non-metallic mines. Two engineer personnel used to locate command wires in initial sweep to flanks of soft areas of road.

14. Commanders Analysis. Technique employed was not sufficient to locate the mine encountered. It was intended for the return Rough Rider to employ the M58 line charge in three lines down soft areas of road. Viet Cong mines were confined to soft areas of the road.

The main purpose of this convoy is to prove to the Viet Cong that we control the road. The purpose can not be served when convoy is halted for a period of five hours in the nined section, thus giving the enemy time to react and set in an effective ambush.

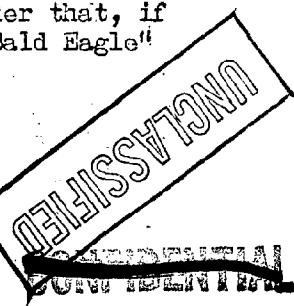
15. Recommendations. That a sweep team clear the nined section prior to the convoy's arrival. This would require sufficient security and could definitely be effective if using the LVT 1E M58 line charge. This charge should either detonate the mine, destroy the firing device, or cut command wires, any of which actions would render the mine useless.

This recommendation is based on the fact that the convoy must move out of the killing zone of the ambush rapidly or through it. With the area ahead nined the convoy has no free movement. If a prior sweep is not possible, additional security could be provided in order that, if stopped, the convoy would not be decimated. An on call "Bald Eagle" would serve this same principle.

*W. J. Gleeson*  
W. J. GLEESON

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3/RP/mz  
3480  
14 Mar 1967

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO "B" Co AA Rpt 5/WJG/jtd over 3480 of 9 Mar 1967

From: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion  
To: Commanding Officer, 7th Marine Regiment

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report

1. Readdressed and forwarded.

2. Concur in that portion of the recommendation regarding the use of cratering charges. There can be no general policy regarding the number of mine detectors that should be taken on an operation with any given unit. The foregoing should be based upon intelligence information and the nature of the operation. A minimum of three mine detectors will be taken with each platoon.

*C. O. Newton*

C. O. NEWTON

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3/RP/mz  
3480  
14 Mar 1967

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO "B" Co AA Rpt 5/WJG/jtd over 3480 of 9 Mar 1967

From: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion  
To: Commanding Officer, 7th Marine Regiment

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report

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

5/WJG/jtd  
 3480  
 9 Mar 1967

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~~COMINT~~

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion  
 Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report  
 Ref: (a) Maps of Vietnam Series L7014 Sheets 6738 I and 6838 IV

1. Code Name. Operation De Soto/Deckhouse VI.
2. Date. 26 February 1967 to 4 March 1967.
3. Location. Duc Pho, Vietnam.
4. Control or Command Headquarters.
  - a. Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray - Brigadier General W. A. STILES, USMC.
  - b. Commanding Officer, Seventh Marines - Colonel C. C. CROSSFIELD, USMC.
  - c. Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines - Lieutenant Colonel P. L. HILGARTNER, USMC
  - d. Commanding Officer, "B" Company, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, Captain J. N. PETERSON, USMC.
  - e. Commanding Officer, "C" Company, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, Captain B. J. CASWELL, USMC.
  - f. Commanding Officer, "D" Company, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, Captain J. J. CARTY, USMC.
5. Task Organization. One squad of engineers was attached to each of three Companies of the 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines. Platoon Headquarters was attached to the 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines Headquarters group. "B" Company Headquarters group was attached to Task Force X-Ray Headquarters.
6. Supporting Forces. Not applicable.
7. Intelligence. Estimates of the area of operation indicated strong resistance would be encountered with enemy forces having well fortified positions, extensive caves, and an excellent complement of arms.
8. Mission. To provide direct combat engineer support for the Task Force X-Ray Headquarters and direct support to the 1st Battalion Fifth Marines.
9. Concept of Operation. Search and destroy operation was conducted in conjunction with 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, the ~~5th~~, 1st Battalion ~~4th~~ Marines, 1st Battalion Fifth Marines, and two Battalions of

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ARVN Rangers.

10. Execution.

- a. Warning order received on 23 February 1967 of a regimental sweep operation in the Duc Pho area.
- b. 24 0830H February 1967 1st Platoon, "B" Company departed engineer command post and reported to S-3 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines at Hill 54.
- c. 25 1600H February 1967 1st Lieutenant GLEESON and eight men departed Landing Zone Penguin (BT 543018) and displaced with Regimental Headquarters to Nui Dang Hill.
- d. 26 0830H February 1967 Lieutenant GLEESON and four men departed Nui Dang, GC-BS 815385, for lift to Nui Tho, (BS 778469) USMC Artillery at this position had suspected booby traps and mines. Sweep team checked with probes and P-153 mine detector, discovered two 105 rounds, three 60mm mortar rounds, and one 57mm recoilless rifle round. Destroyed all using five pounds of C-4. Team had to return by helicopter to Chu Lai in order to return to Nui Dang the next day, at 27 0830H February 1967.
- e. 26 1000H February 1967 engineer units with 1/5 lifted to operation area from MAG-36. Second Squad with "C" Company 1/5 destroyed a small cave and WP grenade at GC-BS 753381 using seven pounds of TNT.
- f. 27 February 1967 Second Squad with "C" Company, 1/5 destroyed one 500 pound bomb at GC-BS 753381 using two and one half pounds of C-4. Second Squad also destroyed small cave at GC-BS 754392 with seven and one half pounds of C-4. Second Squad also destroyed a bunker at GC-BS 758402 using 10 pounds of TNT and 10 pounds of C-4.
- g. 28 February 1967 Platoon headquarters with 1/5 headquarters destroyed 10 rounds of 60mm WP mortar ammunition using two and one half pounds of C-4 at GC-BS 770395. Platoon headquarters destroyed two caves at GC-BS 775402; one 300 meters in length seven to 10 feet below ground level with 1000 pounds of C-4 and the other cave 25 meters in length using 150 pounds of C-4 with eight feet of ground cover. The platoon destroyed two 3.5 heat rounds at GC-BS 791416 using two and one half pounds of C-4.
- h. Second Squad destroyed concrete bunker at GC-BS 779399 with 36 pounds of TNT. At the same position the squad destroyed one 3.5 WP round, one HE 3.5 round, and two M-26 grenades using five pounds TNT. The squad also destroyed a bunker of culvert using six pounds of TNT and seven pounds of C-4 at GC-777397.
- i. 1 March 1967 Platoon headquarters group destroyed one 500 pound bomb and one 1000 pound bomb at GC-BS 788413 using 10 pounds of C-4.
- Second Squad destroyed one WP round at GC-BS 796428 using  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of C-4.
- First Squad with "B" Company 1/5, destroyed one 500 pound bomb at GC-BS 801423 with five pounds C-4, one 250 pound bomb at GC-BS 802418 with two and one half pounds of C-4 and TNT, and 60mm mortar round at GC-BS 804424 using two and one half pounds of C-4.
- 2 March 1967 First Squad destroyed one 250 pound bomb and one 3.5 WP round at GC-BS 787416 using two pounds of C-4.
- Second Squad destroyed one 500 pound bomb at GC-BS 801422 with two and one half pounds of C-4. The squad also destroyed one 500 pound bomb with two and one half pounds of C-4 at GC-BS 904424
- Lance Corporal RUBILLO, M. C. was medivaced with sprained ankle.
- j. 3 March 1967 Company headquarters lifted from Nui Dang, BS 815385, to Nui Cam, GC-BS 845382, with two teams. Destroyed one cave 120 meters in length with 10 to 100 feet of overhead cover using 1600 pounds of cratering charges at GC-BS 846384. Destroyed one cave with three to

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10 feet overhead cover using nine pounds TNT. Length of cave was 10 feet, location was at GC-BS 846391. Destroyed one cave 25 feet long with six to 10 feet of overhead using 18 pounds of TNT at GC-BS 846392.

k. 4 March 1967 Operation De Soto/Deckhouse VI ended.

11. Results. One engineer casualty medevaced. Following items destroyed using 1600 pounds of charges, 1212½ pounds C-4, and 130½ pounds TNT:

- a. Two M26 grenades.
- b. Two 250 pound bombs.
- c. Five 500 pound bombs.
- d. One 1000 pound bomb.
- e. Three 3.5 rocket rounds.
- f. Two 105 rounds.
- g. 14 60mm mortar rounds.
- h. One 57mm recoilless round.
- i. Two WP grenades.
- j. 450 meters of cave complex (six caves).
- k. Three bunkers.

12. Administrative Matters. Not Applicable.

13. Special Equipment and Techniques. Not Applicable.

14. Commanders Analysis. Operation De Soto/Deckhouse VI was a successful operation in which the engineers were well utilized. Several items of ordnance were destroyed thus denying future use by enemy forces. Cratering charges gave the most complete destruction of caves due to the heating effect. Spaced at intervals of 10 to 15 feet for large overhead cover and 20 to 25 feet for shallow overhead extensive destruction is insured. Furthermore the gases released by this explosive deny further use of any sections which escape the blast.

15. Recommendation. That cratering charges be used as much as possible in the destruction of caves and bunkers. Only one mine detector should be carried per engineer platoon. Experience has indicated that detectors are infrequently used on operations of this nature. They become subject to abuse due to conditions and a higher deadline rate may result from this type of use.

*W. J. Gleeson*  
W. J. GLEESON  
Acting

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

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GGG:ej0  
 3000  
 16 Mar 67

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion  
 Subj: Combat After Action Report  
 Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1  
 (b) Map Vietnam 1:50,000, Sheet 6739 I  
 Series L 7014

1. Code Name: None
2. Dates of Operation: 051430HMar67 to 101700HMar67
3. Location: Phu Long (4) area, Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam
4. Command and Control Headquarters:  
 1/7 Lt Col J. D. REILLY  
 D/1/7 2nd Lt J. S. FRANZIA  
 "C" Co support Sgt F. N. ALFONSO  
 team
5. Task Organization: N/A
6. Supporting Forces: N/A
7. Intelligence: 1/7 S-2
8. Mission: To provide combat engineer support to "D" Company, 1/7 for a five day operation supporting squad-size patrols.
9. Concept of Operation: One NCO and nine men with demolitions and one P153 mine detector was in direct support of D/1/7. This team consisted of men from the 3rd Platoon, "C" Company, 1st Engineer Battalion.

10. Execution:

An engineer squad departed this CP on 051430HMar67 to give close combat engineer support to D/1/7 in a company sweep operation. A cave 3'X4'X20' was found at 0915 on 6 March 1967, at coordinates BS 638955, and was destroyed using 20 pounds of C-4. Two caves were found at coordinates BS 633960; one 3'X3'X15' and the other 4'X7'X25'. The caves were approximately 30' apart and were destroyed with 20 pounds of C-4 on each.

Two men were wounded at 1630 by the detonation of an enemy fragmentation grenade in the vicinity of coordinates BS 646957. They were medical evacuated to "D" Company, 1st Medical Battalion for treatment of wounds.

March 8th at 0950 a cave, 2'X4'X6' was found at coordinates BS 632961 and was destroyed with 10 pounds of C-4. Destroyed a cave, 4'X4'X15', at 1300 on 10 March, Located at coordinates BS 645975 using 20 pounds of C-4. At 1345, a 250 pound bomb was discovered in the vicinity of BS 649975 and was destroyed with 50 pounds of C-4. A 105

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round and two 60MM rounds were found at 1415 and were destroyed with 5 pounds of C-4. The ordnance was found at coordinates BS 633963. Engineer team returned to this CP on 101700Mar67.

11. Results: Two men were WIA and were medical evacuated. Five caves were destroyed using 90 pounds of C-4. The dimensions of the caves were 3'X4'X20', 3'X5'X15', 4'X7'X25', 2'X4'X8' and 4'X4'X15'. A 250 pound bomb, one 105MM round and two 60MM rounds were destroyed using 10 pounds of C-4. 100 pounds of C-4 was used by the engineer support team.
12. Administrative Remarks: Resupply of engineer items and all other items was adequate.
13. Special Equipment and Techniques: None
14. Commanders Analysis: No unusual items were encountered and the demolition work of this engineer team was routine.

*H. L. Luttrell*  
H. L. LUTTRELL

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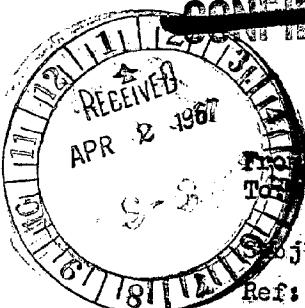
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COMPANY "C"

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

GGG:ejo  
 3000  
 29 Mar 67



From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion  
 Subj: Combat After Action Report  
 Ref: (a) DivO, 3480.1  
 (b) Map Vietnam 1:50,000, Sheet 673914  
 Series L 7014

1. Code Name: NA
2. Dates of Operation: 250900HMar67 to 271300HMar67
3. Location: Bein Son Area, Quang Ngai Province, RVN
4. Command and Control Headquarters:  
 2/7 Lt Col W. P. KITTERMAN  
 H/2/7 Capt V. M. SZALANKIEWICZ JR.  
 "C" Co, Spt team Sgt G. R. CHESTNUT
5. Task Organization: NA
6. Supporting Forces: NA
7. Intelligence: 2/7 S-2
8. Mission: To provide close combat engineer support to "H" Company, 2/7 for a three day operation.
9. Concept of Operation:

One NCO and four men with demolitions and one P-153 mine detector was in direct support of H/2/7. This team consisted of men from the 1st Platoon, "C" Company, 1st Engineer Battalion.

10. Execution: A five man engineer team departed this CP at 241300HMar67 to furnish close combat engineer support to H/2/7. The operation commenced at 250900HMar67.

A Chi Com grenade was found at coordinates BS 555917 and was destroyed with one pound of TNT at 1500. The entrances to two caves were closed, one 2'X3'X26' and the other 2'X3'X20', with five pounds of TNT on each. The caves were destroyed at 1300 on 26 March 1967 and were located at coordinates BS 555917.

A booby trapped M26 grenade, located at BS 555908 was destroyed with one pound of TNT at 1300. The entrances to two caves, located at the same coordinates were closed at 1430. One 2'X3'X15' using one 40 pound shape charge and the other 2'X3'X15' using two 40 pound shape charges. The second cave was located approximately 10 feet below the surface of the ground and leading off of a mine or well shaft. Two buildings were collapsed at coordinates BS 568909 at 1000 on 27 March 1967, by cutting the pillars. The pillars were approximately 12 inches in diameter and were made of a poor grade of concrete. Both buildings were approximately 40 feet long, 20 feet wide and 20 feet high. Seven and one half pounds

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of C-4 and five pounds of TNT were used. The operation secured at 271300HMar67, and the team returned to this CP.

11. Results: Four caves were closed using 10 pounds of TNT and three 40 pound shape charges. The dimensions were 2'X3'X36', 2'X3'X20', 2'X3'X15', and 2'X3'X15'. Two pieces of enemy ordnance were destroyed with two pounds of TNT. Two buildings, 40'X20'X10' were collapsed using seven and one half pounds of C-4 and five pounds of TNT.
12. Administrative Remarks: Time fuzes and cratering charges were requested and 40 pound shape charges and detonating cord were received instead.
13. Special Equipment and Techniques: None
14. Commanders Analysis: No unusual problems were encountered and the demolition work of this engineer team was routine.

H. L. LUTTRELL

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