

DECLASSIFIED

3rd Mar Div BT #

S 92868

1ST 8" HOW (SP)

CONTROL #

68-01

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP)
3d Marine Division, FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

FLT/rbk
5750
2 Dec 1968
02A33768

(Unclassified upon removal of enclosure(1))

From: Commanding Officer

To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, FMF

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 November to 30 November 1968

Ref: (a) IGO 5750.2A
(b) FMFACO 5750.8

Encl: (1) 1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP) Command Chronology

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

P.L. Townsend
P.L. TOWNSEND

Copy to:
OC, 12th Marines

Page 1 of 7
Copy 1 of 8

UNCLASSIFIED

1ST 8" HOW BTRY

CMD CHRON

NOV 1968

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP)
3d Marine Division, FIF
APO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 November 1968 to 30 November 1968

INDEX

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 2 of 7

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP)

COMMANDER

Capt. P.L. Townsend
087362/0802
1 November 1968 to
30 November 1968

2. LOCATION

"A" Platoon

1 Nov - 14 Nov 1968 - Two 8" Howitzers (M110) at A-3, RVN
15 Nov - 30 Nov 1968 - Two 8" Howitzers (M110) at A-2, RVN

"B" Platoon

1 Nov - 30 Nov 1968 - Two 8" Howitzers (M110) at Rockpile, RVN

"C" Platoon

1 Nov - 30 Nov 1968 - Two 8" Howitzers (M110) at A-4, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Not Applicable

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC

OFF
8

ENL
189

USN

OFF
0

ENL
4

UNCLASSIFIED

PART II

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Due to the bombing halt and subsequent restrictions on firing into the DMZ, shooting was light during the month of November.

The Battery is now completely under the Operational Control of 12th Marines. At their direction, a centralized FDC has been established at A-4.

The one displacement was made by "A" Platoon. A-3 was abandoned, forcing "A" to displace to A-2.

The Battery lost two officers for as yet undetermined lengths of time. On 13 November Lt. Fisher, who had taken command only 12 days before was wounded by enemy mortar fire while leaving his bunker to conduct a crater analysis. On 26 November, CWO-2 Fisher, Platoon Commander of "C" Platoon, suffered a mild heart attack. Both officers are expected to return to full duty in early December.

CG Inspection was held on 1st 8" Howitzer Battery (SP) from 24 November through 29 November. Every area inspected received a satisfactory rating with several receiving noteworthy comments.

During the month of November, the howitzers of this battery fired 75 observed missions and 151 unobserved missions, expending 1953 rounds of M106 (HE) and 56 rounds of M104 (HE).

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSA. COMBAT MISSION ASSIGNED

General Support of the Third Marine Division

B. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

1. Operation Kentucky
2. Operation Highrise
3. Operation Geline II
4. Operation Lancaster II
5. Operation Scotland II East

C. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY

1. 8 KIA (confirmed)
2. 10 KIA (probable)
3. 45 Bunkers Destroyed
4. 11 Bunkers Damaged
5. 34 Secondary Explosions
6. 3 Secondary Fires
7. 2 AA Positions Destroyed
8. 3 50 Cal Positions Destroyed
9. 2 Automatic Weapons Positions Destroyed
10. 1 Tunnel Complex Destroyed
11. 1 Tunnel Complex Damaged
12. 18 Fighting Holes Destroyed
13. 1 Bridge Destroyed
14. 2 Structures Destroyed
15. 1 Structure Damaged
16. 270 Meters of Trenchline Destroyed
17. 2 Crates of Supplies Destroyed
18. 5 Fortified Positions Destroyed

D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

2 - Lt Richter, shrapnel wounds in the right eye and legs and Pfc Freyberger, bullet wound in the right arm.

E. NEW TECHNIQUES

None

F. COMMAND RELATIONS

N/A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (continued)G. EQUIPMENT

The 8" Howitzers (M10) are, undoubtedly, the best artillery weapons in Vietnam. Due to a continued lack of spare parts combined with normal wear and tear, however, there are rarely more than 4 guns operational at any one time. There were 6 guns operational on one occasion from 2100 25 Nov until 0900 26 Nov. Spare part support for the vehicles continued to cause an excessive downtime rate.

H. LOGISTICS

The Battery experienced little difficulty in resupplying the platoons during operations.

I. CIVIC ACTION

None

J. ADMINISTRATIVE

No Problems

K. PERSONNEL

The Battery joined 2 Officers and 2 Enlisted and dropped 1 Officer and 13 Enlisted. The operating percentage (of manning level) of Officers 72% and, of Enlisted, 20%.

L. INTELLIGENCE

No Comment

M. COMMUNICATIONS

No Problems

N. WEATHER

Mostly clear and warm with occasional light showers.

O. FIRE SUPPORT

N/A

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PART III (continued)

P. AIR SUPPORT

N/A

Q. ACTIVATIONS / DEACTIVATIONS / REDESIGNATIONS

N/A

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. None

UNCLASSIFIED