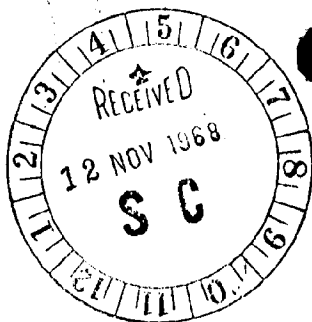


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2d Battalion, 3d Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco 96602

2nd BN, 3rd MAR, 5 & C  
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3 Nov 1968  
Ser No 075-68

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPao 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.1B (NOTAL)

Encl: ✓(1) 2d Battalion, 3d Marines Command Chronology for 010001H to  
312400H 00768

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

*B.T. Chen*  
B. T. CHEN

GP-4  
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
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HEADQUARTERS  
2d Battalion, 3d Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

010001H to 312400H October 1968

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

GP-4  
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
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## PART I

## ORGANIZATION DATA

1. DESIGNATION

	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
2dBn, 3dMar	LtCol B. T. CHEN	1-31 Oct 68
<u>SUBORDINATING UNITS</u>		
H&S COMPANY	1stLt J.L. McDONNELL	1-31 Oct 68
Company E	CAPT D. A. CROWE	1-31 Oct 68
Company F	CAPT C. E. DAVIS	1-31 Oct 68
Company G	CAPT D. D. DEAN	10-31 Oct 68
	CAPT J.L. THROCKMORTON	1-10 Oct 68
Company H	Capt D. J. MYERS	1-31 Oct 68
2. LOCATION

CAM LO DISTRICT, QUANG TRI PROVINCE, RVN
3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj J. C. Click	1-31 Oct 68
S-1/Adjutant	1stLt. P. J. MATTHEWS	1-31 Oct 68
S-2	SSgt J. B. McDONALD	1-31 Oct 68
S-3	Maj T. C. DOLSON	1-31 Oct 68
S-4	Capt P. J. SINIOTT	1-31 Oct 68
CommO	1stLt W. T. GEORGE JR	1-31 Oct 68
4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
36	1159	3	51

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

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During the reporting period, the Second Battalion, Third Marines was constantly employed in a variety of tactical missions. As the month began 2/3 was completing an extended operation in the hills north of the Rockpile. After a one night rest, the command was committed to a cordon and search operation in the Qua Valley, southeast of Camp J.J. GARRETT. After three days on the cordon, the Battalion was sent to Vandegrift Combat Base and Ca Lu to the south, for base defense.

On the 7th of October, the unit was chopped from Opcon to 9th Marines, back to the Third Marines for an extended operation in the DMZ. This operation placed the Battalion in the most western area of the DMZ that any US had been in to date.

As opposed to the month of September, when enemy contact was heavy, contact was sporadic and light. The signs were obvious. The enemy had fled the DMZ in 2/3's AO. Some contact was made, but mostly with service unit personnel who seemed startled by 2/3's presence in their considered rear area. Many caches and logistical supply trails, as well as rest centers, were discovered. The greatest enemy soon became the rain, as it was daily and torrential, causing difficulty in movement, many cases of emersion foot, and infrequent resupply. Water, obviously, was not a problem.

After 17 days in the DMZ, the Battalion was returned to G-12 Ca Lu. Two days later, the first elements moved out to undertake pacification assistance role, in support of GVN regional and popular forces. The area of operations was Can Lo and Huong Loc Districts in Quang Tri, Province. This operation was scheduled to last for three months or longer.

The end of the month found 2/3 with one company deployed with the 10th units in Can Lo District, one company with the 17 platoons in Huong Loc District, and a third company along the high ground and H&R between the populated areas of both districts. The remaining company, "G", was Opcon to the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division at Pao Hany, well south of Quang Tri City. Pacification assistance plans were being made jointly with the GVN District Chief and the MACV District Senior Advisor.

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## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## 1. Personnel and Administration

- a. Awards. There were no awards for the month of October
- b. R&R. A total of 84 R&R quotas were utilized during the month of October.
- c. Personnel Losses and Gains for October

USMC				USN			
OFF		ENL		OFF		ENL	
Join	Drop	Join	Drop	Join	Drop	Join	Drop
8	6	71	60	0	0	6	3

d. Casualties for October 1968

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
KIA		3		
WIA		6		
DOW		0		
MIA		0		

- e. Promotions. There were 175 enlisted promotions for the month of October.
- f. Legal and Discipline. A total of three Non-Judicial punishments were held during October 1968. There are four investigations pending. There were no Special Courts-Martials completed this month.
- g. Pay and Allowances. Satisfactory.
- h. Postal. Fair.
- i. Post Exchange. Exchange facilities in Quang Tri are available to the 2/3 rear. No PX facilities have been available to the battalion in the field. Supplementary packs are being obtained through resupply channels.
- j. Religious Services. Catholic Mass was celebrated by the battalion Chaplain whenever possible in the field. Protestant Services were conducted by visiting Chaplains when available. 2/3 rear personnel attended services in the Quang Tri complex.

## 2. Enemy, Weather and Terrain.

- a. Summary of Enemy Activity. Enemy activity for the month

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of October was considered as light. Sightings of the enemy were few and contacts consisted of short, quick engagements with the enemy withdrawing immediately upon contact. The contacts were with NVA in what appeared to be rest areas or transportation workers moving along east west ridgelines.

(1) Personnel: NVA KIA - 8, NVA POW - 2

(2) Equipment and weapons

- 1 - AK-47 Assault Rifle
- 3 - SKS Rifles
- 8 - NVA Hand Grenades
- 5 - Pounds of TNT
- 250 - Pounds C-4
- 160,300 - Pounds of Rice
- 1 - M-14 Anti-Tank, Anti-Personnel Mine
- Unlisted Documents

b. Weather and Terrain. Throughout the month dense fog and heavy rains prevailed. The continuous heavy rains and density of the fog restricted movement and resupply. The average temperature ranged from 70 to 80 degrees. The terrain consisted of high ridgelines running east and west and deep compartments running north and south. Movement was helped somewhat by trails and log steps made by the enemy.

### 3. Operations

011800H The Battalion completed an overland march from LZ's Sierra and Mac to Route 9. Trucked remainder of the distance to Camp Carroll 064548. Foxtrot company remained at Fire Support Base Pete as security.

011800H 2/3 was assigned as reserve battalion for 9th Marines cordon and search operation, in the Mai Loo area,

021100H 2/3 minus moved overland from Camp Carroll to assume mission of 2/9, vicinity of YD 0952.

021700H Conducted cordon operation of Mai Loo in conjunction with 3/9.

051600H Battalion returned to Camp Carroll.

051700H Companies E and G, 81mm Plt. and 106RR Plt. relieved 1/4 of Vandergrift Combat Base defense. Company H remained at Camp Carroll.

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071110H Bn. C.P., 81mm Plt. and Company G conducted helo-lift from Vandergrift Combat Base to 848647. Assumed mission as per 3rd Mar Frag Order 53-68: At H-Hour, D - Day conduct Helo - lift into LZ at 848647 to relieve 1/9. Conduct search and destroy operations. Maintain security for establishment of Fire Support Base at LZ Catapult. See **Sketch** 1.

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071600H Company F recon patrol found two mortar positions and fighting holes at 848647. Positions appeared to be about one week old and had fired about 25 82mm mortar rounds.

071835H Conducted helo-lift of Company E to 848647. 2/3 C.P., 81mm Plt and Company G set in defensive perimeter at 848647 and Company E set in defensive perimeter at 854650.

071900H Company F moved to 848647 in preparation for helo - lift to 848647.

071930H Companies B and C of 1/4 chopped OpCon to 2/3. Radio contact completed at 071930H. Night defensive fires coordinated.

080700H 2/3 commenced local combat patrols in AO.

08080H Conducted helo - lift of Company F from Fire Support Base Pete to 848647.

080945H Chopped OpCon from 9th Mar to 3rd Mar.

081000H Company F moved to 855651, set up defensive positions and commenced to clear LZ Anvil.

081400H Company H commenced helo - lift to 848647. Companies E and G conducted platoon size patrols in assigned areas.

081226H Company G found heavily used trail running parallel to the main trail at coordinates 846645.

081334H Company E while on patrol, found three old fighting holes and one tree rigged with sniper position at 857651.

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- 101345H Company E at 849665, encountered three NVA on trail running east and west. Took NVA under fire, killing one, wounding another. Called in 81's to west to catch survivor. Searched area with negative results.
- 101727H Company G while on patrol located trail running east and west at 853653, also found one log bridge and shelter at 852655.
- 110930H Company F at 834647 found carving on tree, "Dau Can A6 Co. B4 012 3 22/2/67". At 829659 found carving on tree, "Dau Can Co Thanh Nien".
- 111200H Company F at 829653 found bunker complex on bluff overlooking stream containing four bunkers, four living huts, consisting of wooden frames with thatching. No sign of occupancy within ten to fifteen days. Located at end of excellent trail.
- 111205H A platoon from Company E, while on search and clear mission at 832669 overheard several voices. Patrol maneuvered into position and captured one NVA. Continued search of area which produced more contact resulting in two NVA killed. Found two packs, one which had a complete set of new medical gear. Uniforms and gear were all new.
- 111420H Company F found extensive bunker complex, with living area and cooking facilities, on south bank of the stream. Destroyed same.
- 121020H Company H, at 852669, found large bunker complex. Unable to destroy at this time due to the lack of C-4.
- 121130H Company H, while conducting patrol came in contact with one NVA armed with AK-47. Exchanged fire with negative results. Engagement resulted in one WIA, USMC.
- 121245H Company E patrol found well constructed hut at 836670. Hut used as grainery bin and contained about 500 lbs. of rice. Hut and rice was burned except for a small amount which was given to S-2.
- 121200H Company F, at 827653, found 13 combination bunkers and living huts, plus three cooking huts. No sign of recent activity.
- 121305H At 836670, H Company patrol found five gallon tin can with medical supplies such as liquid and powdered penicillin, dextros, and streptomycin.

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- 121200H Company E, at 851629, located enemy bunker complex. There were approximately 20 bunkers, six cooking hutches and first aid station. Estimate less than one month old. Sighted one enemy wearing bush hat and black P.J.'s. Had AK-47 and was moving north. Engaged enemy resulting in one WIA, USMC
- 131126H Company E, at 833674, made contact with an estimated NVL platoon in bunkers. Returned fire and pulled back. Called in mortars and artillery. Above action resulted in five NVL dead and one POW. Friendly casualties were three KIA and two WIA. Assorted documents, weapons, medical gear and food were found.
- 141200H Company H at 847667 found enemy bunker complex. Fourteen completed bunkers and four bunkers under construction, plus numerous fighting holes. One NVL grenade and 50 pounds of polished rice.
- 161100H 2/3 S-2, and five man recon team, heard approximately five NVL. NVL were walking along trail moving northeast. One man was talking, possibly giving directions. Did not engage.
- 181153H Company G, platoon size patrol, on NVL trail running north, discovered two hutches. Hutches were elevated and would hold five persons each; both in bad condition. Many fighting holes in the area. Searched area thoroughly and found one sealed bottle of aspirin (500), one AK-47 magazine, five one pound blocks of TNT.
- 191320H Company H secured 2/3 Objective 6 without incident. No recent enemy signs on objective. Set in defense. (See sketch # 1)
- 211717H Company M 3/3 attached; returned to position at 8256111 to destroy bunker complex reported on 13th October. Found additional bunkers south in valley. Two large sleeping and eating bunkers with 20 man capacity. Hospital bunker in underground moss bunker with large feeding capacity. Human intestines and blood estimated two days old near hospital. Previously discovered complex reflected signs of occupancy since initial discovery. Heard noises as patrol entered area which indicates occupants fleeing ahead of friendlies. All structures were destroyed.
- 221210H Company F, at 809671, completed search of Objective 7. Found no signs of enemy. Found one trail running on a azimuth of 240 degrees. Company F returned to LZ Devil for scheduled helo-lift to Camp Carroll. (See sketch # 1).

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- 221630H Commenced helo-lift of Company G and 81mm platoon from La Catalina.
- 221720H Helo-lift of Company and 81mm platoon completed. Commence lift of 2/3 C.P. and one platoon of Company E from La Bayonet.
- 221800H Company G assumed duties as base defense upon arrival at Camp Carroll.
- 230210H Reconmenced helo-lift of 2/3 units from La Devil.
- 231010H Company F commenced move to Mai Loc, in preparation to assume mission as 3rd Max Frag Order 56-68.
- (1) Institute proficiency and assistance program within CAM LO and HUONG HUA Districts within AO, Operation code name to be "Operation Rong" or "Operation Dragon".
  - (2) Conduct search and clear operations in coordination with District Forces.
  - (3) Establish permanent liaison at each District Ho quarters.
  - (4) Maintain security of GVN Laos in your AO.
  - (5) Maintain reaction forces to assist District Forces.
- 241540H Company F arrived at Mai Loc.
- 250900H Company H commenced move to Mai Loc.
- 261540H Company F while on security patrol found two graves about one week old. Dug graves up and found two bodies which appeared to be NVL or VC. Apparently killed by supporting arms.
- 281230H Company F while on security patrol found four bunkers and one cooking hut at 141551. Bunkers appeared to be unoccupied for about two weeks. Searched bunkers and left for HBI's.
- 291400H Company F while on security patrol, at 124548, engaged two enemy snipers. Snipers had automatic weapons. Searched area and found shoe, hat and empty AK-47 rounds.

4. Training. During the month of October weapons safety classes were held whenever possible and in the field. Personnel in Camp Carroll and in Quang Tri held various classes and conducted on the job training.

SCHOOL	LOCATION	NO. ATTENDED
Personnel Response Course	Dong Ha	1
Ground Surveillance Radar	Dong Ha	6

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### 5. Artillery Support

a. During the month of October all Batteries of the 1st Bn 12th Marines were in direct support of 2/3 at various times. On October 7th and 8th, 2nd Bn 12th Marines was in direct support of this battalion. The following is a breakdown of the number of missions and rounds fired according to all batteries which fired for 2/3 during October.

<u>Alpha 1/12 105mm</u>		<u>Bravo 1/12 105mm</u>		<u>Charlie 1/12 105mm</u>		<u>Fox 2/12</u>	
HE	63	HE	256	HE	153	HE	38
WP	6	WP	13	WP	13	WP	17
TOTAL	69	TOTAL	269	TOTAL	168	TOTAL	55

<u>Bravo 1/13 105mm</u>		<u>Papa 3/12 105mm</u>		<u>Tango 3/12 105mm</u>		<u>Lima 4/12 105mm</u>	
HE	16	HE	14	HE	323	HE	
WP		WP		WP	26	WP	1
TOTAL	16	TOTAL	14	TOTAL	349	TOTAL	1

#### 5th 155 Guns

HE	
WP	2
TOTAL	2

### 6. Air Support

- a. The air support for the month of October was satisfactory.
- b. There were a total of 150 missions flown for 2/3.

(1) Medevac	102
(2) Visual Recons	2
(3) Administrative	12
(4) Logistics	23
(5) Airborne Observer	11

- c. There were a total of four flights of fixed wing aircraft in direct support of 2/3.

### 7. Logistics

#### a. General

(1) The overall logistical support of the battalion was satisfactory. Few problems were encountered in resupplying units in the field. For the most part all difficulties that have arisen have resulted from factors beyond the control of integral logistics personnel.

(2) The battalion's forward supply group operated from LZ

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Vandegrift until 22 October, when rehabilitation was effected for all units at Camp Carroll. The availability of classes I, IV and V at Vandegrift and the close proximity of that to the battalion's MO warranted the maintenance of a logistical support team there in anticipation of the eventuality of aerial resupply. In addition, an adequate amount of class I, II, III, IV and V is maintained at Camp Carroll.

(3) Considerable difficulties in aerial resupply were encountered during the period, 12 to 17 October. These difficulties were due primarily to, bad weather, helicopter nonavailability, and resupply lifts being dropped in the wrong area. The latter resulted in the loss of many items of class II and III. Since rehab, resupply has been considerably by use of truck convoy.

b. Supply. During the reporting period battalion supply completed the move into the permanent location at Quang Tri Combat Base. Battalion supply continued to have a forward representative at Vandegrift Combat Base for purpose of Class V resupply to the forward units. Most Class II items continue to be acquired from FLSG-Bravo, Dong Ha. However interruption in logistical support has occurred due to the relocation of Class II and IV supplies from Dong Ha to Quang Tri. Representatives of this battalion have been occasionally dispatched to FLC Da Nang for purposes of walk-through for critical combat essential equipment. Casualty coordinator has been permanently stationed at 3rd Medical Battalion, Quang Tri.

c. Motor Transport. During the first part of October the Motor Transport Section supported the battalion in the field from Camp Carroll with two M-274's and seven M-151A1's with trailers. The remainder of the vehicles were maintained in support of the battalion rear at Quang Tri. Two M274's were taken to FLSG-Alpha and FLSG-Bravo and sent to Okinawa for repairs.

#### d. Services

(1) Messing. The battalion messing facilities are split between the rear echelon, Quang Tri Combat Base, where a messhall is jointly operated with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, and Camp Carroll where a joint mess was maintained with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines. No problems have arisen in either mess facility, both operating under mutual arrangements for motor transport, supply, and food services support.

(2) Showers. At the rear echelon, Quang Tri Combat Base, a field shower unit, signed out from 3rd Engineer Battalion, was operated until movement into the battalion's new rear area. At that time the field unit was relocated and hooked up to the shower unit constructed by the Seabees. This arrangement will be employed until running water is tapped into the permanent showers.

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At the battalion's forward echelon, Camp Carroll, a 165 gallon capacity shower is maintained. The unit is composed of three 55 gallon drums mounted on top of a shower stall. The drum itself is topped with three spouts and is filled daily with non-potable water by a tank truck from Headquarters Company, 3rd Marines.

e. Maintenance. Continuous second echelon maintenance was performed on all ordnance, motor transport and communications equipment as the tactical situation allowed. Third echelon maintenance support was through FLAG-B in Quang Tri. Third echelon support was considered adequate in most respects with the following exceptions: Delays in return of Comm items (see communications) and one 81mm mortar was returned in approximately the same condition as when evacuated. Two personnel carriers were turned in to FLAG-B and A and evacuated to 3rd FSR, Okinawa.

8. Communications. During the month of October, the Communications Platoon of 2/3 supported the battalion throughout their movements and operations. Communications were established at Vandergrift Combat Base in support of the DMZ and Camp Carroll were maintained with considerable difficulty because of the distance, terrain and weather. The rain, failure of resupply of BA-386's, and failure of RT 505's left the battalion and the rifle companies very few radios. On the 22 and 23 October, all the battalion's radios were repaired and returned to operation. Each company was equipped with 12 radios. In addition, the mortar platoon had eight and TACP had six. Extreme pressure and maximum effort was placed on maintenance of RT 505 radio components.. Currently in FLAG-B there are 17 RT 505's in for repair. This 19% deadline puts Comm in a C-3 status on RT 505's. Other problems encountered include problems for records and tactical traffic. Battalion Supply was able to acquire an adequate amount of AB 591 and AB 1091 for AN/PRC 25 which brought commitments and the shortage of 2531/2533 personnel. The Comm Platoon has had to substitute 2511's for 2531/2533 operators. During October, 3rd Marine Division, transferred MSGT T.E. Conlon, 2591 Comm Chief for the Battalion and GySgt H.E. Schoenrock Jr. 2539, become Comm Chief. Other new personnel include one 2647 technician, one 2542 message center man, one 2531 radio supervisor, and two 2531 radio operators.

#### 9. Medical

a. First echelon care was provided by the hospital corpsman assigned to the line companies. They were equipped to hold routine sick call and provide emergency treatment for casualties.

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b. Second echelon care was provided by the Battalion Aid Station which was composed of several units whose location varied according to the tactical situation. The Battalion Aid Station at Quang Tri was static and served to provide the administrative and medical supply support for the entire battalion. The Battalion Aid Station at Camp Carroll was static and staffed by a medical officer and varying numbers of corpsmen depending on need. Two corpsmen equipped for sick call, emergency aid and surgical support accompanied the Battalion C.P. in the field during the month of October.

c. Full third echelon medical support was provided by the following units: 3rd Medical Bn., Quang Tri, NSA Hospital, Da Nang, USS Rose and USS Sanctuary.

d. Statistics.

Outpatients	1028	GU	31
FUO	39	Infections	52
URI	39	NP	6
GI	67	Dental	11
VD	18	Emersion foot	176
Dermatology	44	Physioals	8
Orthopedics	60	Misc	449

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