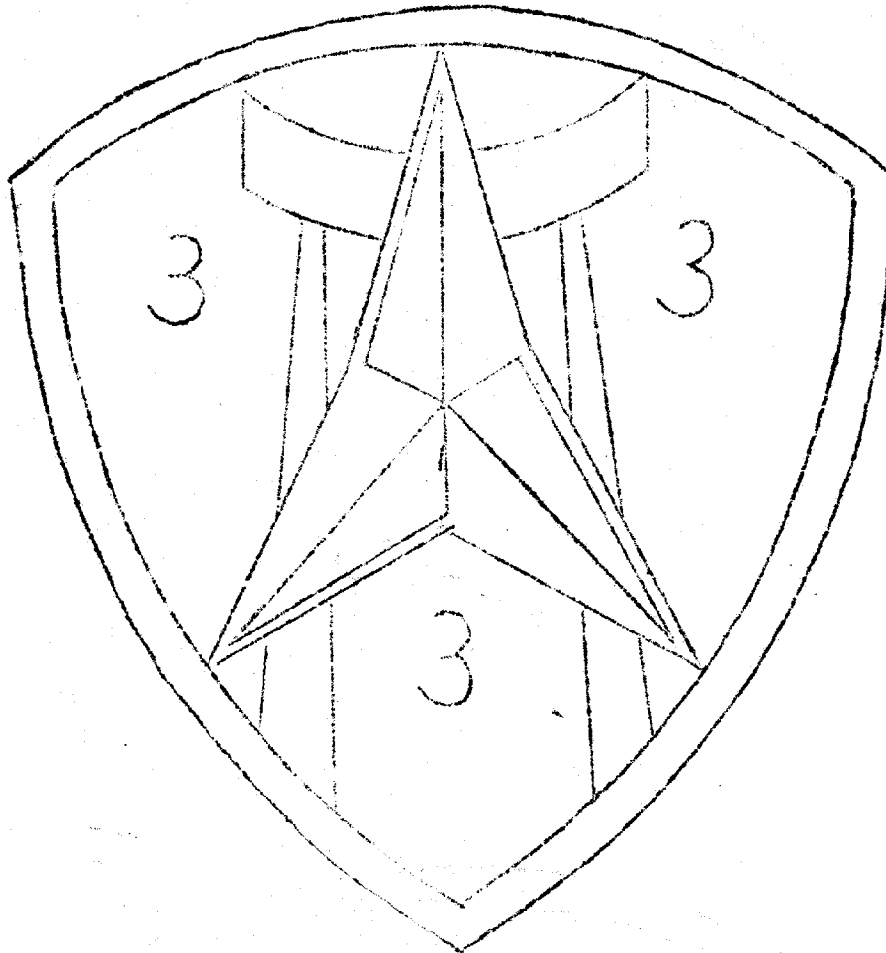


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3d BATTALION 3d MARINES
00483-68
S & C" COPY 1 OF 10



COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 1968

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3RD BATTALION 3RD MARINES

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HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 3d Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 September 1968 to 30 September 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

3d Battalion, 3d Marines

COMMANDER

LtCol W. H. BATES 1-30Sep

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company

Capt W. H. MCADAM 1-16Sep
Capt M. B. RILEY 17-30Sep

Company I

Capt M. G. MCTIERNAN 1-30Sep

Company K

1stLt L. C. IVERSON 1-30Sep

Company L

Capt W. B. GRAY 1-30 Sep

Company M

Capt B. J. WILLIAMSON 1-30Sep

ATTACHED UNITS2. LOCATION

1-13 September: Lancaster III AO Vicinity XD 9559 Map Sheet #6342 I

14-30 September: Lancaster III AO YD 0654 Map Sheet #6342 I

3. STAFF OFFICERSEXECUTIVE OFFICERMajor H. W. KIMBRELL 1-30Sep
Major G. P. SLADE 1-15Sep

S-1

1stLt D. C. MARCHETTE 1-30Sep

S-2

1stLt W. H. DOUGLAS 1-30Sep

S-3

Maj E. E. EVANS Jr. 1-30Sep

S-4

1stLt G. ESCHENFELDER 1-30Sep

S-3A

Capt K. E. JUNKINS 1-30Sep

PERSONNEL OFFICER

1stLt R. K. COULTER 14-30Sep

AIR LIAISON OFFICER

Capt W. B. CAMPBELL 1-30Sep

FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER

Capt R. J. EASLEY 1-30Sep

SUPPLY OFFICER

Lt W. J. WHITE 1-30Sep

MOTOR TRANSPORT OFFICER

Lt K. J. CONLON 1-30Sep

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COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

1stLt D. P. BARBIERO 1-30Sep

BATTALION SURGEON

Lt W. P. ASHFORD 1-30Sep

BATTALION CHAPLAIN

LtCndr R. W. BEDINGFIELD 1-30Sep

BATTALION SERGEANT MAJOR

SgtMaj F. E. DES JARDINS 26-30Sep

SgtMaj N. D. KING 1-26Sep

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PART II

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The Battalion continued search and destroy operations from company patrol bases in North-western Lancaster II AO. On 1 September patrols from Companies "K" and "M" made contact with three groups of NVA of 3 to 15 men resulting in 8 NVA KIA confirmed. On 2 September Company "K" was shelled with 334 rounds of 60mm and 82mm mortars and 19 rounds of 130mm artillery without casualties.

On 3 September Company "L" was shelled with 172 rounds of 60mm and 82mm mortars and 25 rounds of 130mm artillery. There were no casualties. Counter-battery fire resulted in 4 secondary explosions on enemy mortar positions. Immediately following the NVA prop fires, an estimated force of 2 companies assaulted Company "L". The assault was easily repulsed with 2 minor casualties to Company "L" as the assaulting force was hit with approximately 300 M-26 grenades before they had an opportunity to open fire. Searches of the area revealed 11 NVA KIA confirmed and 19 weapons captured, of which three were 3 RPD type 56 Machine Guns that had not been fired.

There was only one contact from 4 September through 6 September as a tropical storm greatly restricted movement. From 7 September to 8 September the Battalion maneuvered into position for a sweep through the low ground to the Northwest in conjunction with operations by the 1st Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines on Mutter's Ridge to the North. There was no enemy contact of note, but several new complexes of fighting holes and bunkers were discovered in various stages of construction.

From 9 September through 11 September the Battalion advanced with three companies on line to the Northwest; Company "I" on the South, with Company "M" and Company "K" on line in that order to the North. The NVA resisted the advance with dug in troops, 60mm and 82mm mortars and artillery fires. All units received indirect fires: Company "K" was attacked by small groups of NVA from Mutter's Ridge and Company "I" was resisted by an estimated Platoon (Bn) of NVA in bunkers in their zone. Company "I" received approximately 106 rounds of 60mm and 82mm mortars and had 1 KIA and 33 WIA. Company "I" suffered 3 KIA and 13 WIA from small arms fire while getting 7 NVA KIA confirmed and 1 NVA POW. Six weapons were captured and 1 M-16 lost. Company "K" received approximately 10 rounds of mortar fire without casualties. There were 2 KIA and 6 WIA from small arms and automatic weapons and rifle grenade fire, and 11 NVA KIA confirmed. Company "M" received 120 rounds of 60mm and 82mm mortars and suffered 2 KIA and 35 WIA. Company "L" received 28 rounds of mortar and 12 rounds of 130mm artillery without casualties.

The Battalion retired on 12 September and returned to Camp Carroll on 13 September without incident. Company "L" remained in position as security for FSB Bird which was under construction at their position. From 14 September through 30 September the Battalion was assigned security in the 3d Marines ILOC-During this period there were no rounds or ground

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contact and three incidents of incoming 82mm mortars. Missions assigned during this period were as follows: Security of Camp Carroll, Rho Gio Bridge, Dong Ha Mountain CP, Dong Ha Convoy and security of Route #9 in AO, 14 September through 30 September. Security of FSB Bird, 13 September through 15 September and 24 September through 30 September. FSB Pote, security of, 14 September through 15 September; Bru Village Mai Loc, security of, 15 September through 18 September.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1 September 1968 | 1. Continue search and destroy operations in the 3d Battalion AO of the Lancaster III AO. (Regt Frag Order 39-68) |
| 7 September 1968 | 1. Continue search and destroy operations to the Northwest. (Regt Frag Order 41-68) |
| 12 September 1968 | 1. Provide one company for establishment of FSB Bird.
2. Conduct search and destroy operations in AO.
3. Be prepared to relieve 1st Battalion, 9th Marines on order about 14 September 1968. (Regt frag Order 43-68) |
| 14 September 1968 | 1. 3d Battalion, 3d Marines assume 1st Battalion, 9th Marines AO.
2. Provide security for Thon Son Lam, Camp Carroll, Khe Gio Bridge, Dong Ha Mountain OP, FSB Poto and Route #9 in AO. (Regt Frag Order 44-68) |
| 15 September 1968 | 1. Provide security for Bru Resettlement area and conduct patrols west and southwest of the resettlement area.
2. Continue security of Camp Carroll, Khe Gio Bridge, Dong Ha Mountain OP, Route #9 in AO. Provide Sparrow Hawk force. (Regt Frag Order 47-68) |
| 24 September 1968 | 1. Provide security for Camp Carroll, Thon Son Lam, Khe Gio Bridge, Dong Ha Mountain OP and Route #9 in AO.
2. Conduct mine sweeps, provide security and Sparrow Hawk (Regt Frag Order 49-68.) |

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2. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS

1 September - 1030H Company "M" patrol made contact with 6-7 NVA at XD 967597. The NVA split into two groups and fled south and southwest. Organic weapons of the company were employed.

1335H A Company "L" patrol made contact with 3 NVA at XD 967597. Company organic weapons were employed and the patrol attempted to maneuver to flank the NVA position, but the nature of terrain and vegetation prevented maneuver. Artillery was employed to block the route of withdrawal of the NVA.

1730H A Company "L" patrol heard movement on trail behind them at XD 955605. A hasty ambush was established and initiated on 15-20 NVA. The 81mm mortars and the 60mm mortars of Company "M" were employed for fire support.

2 September - 1830H Company "K" received 334 rounds of 60mm mortars and 19 rounds of 130mm artillery at XD 947588. Counter battery fires from 81mm mortars were employed against the mortar positions, and an AO was called to direct artillery fires at artillery positions.

1915H A Company "I" ambush at XD 951599 observed 8 NVA moving south along stream. NVA were engaged and withdrew to north. Artillery was employed to block probable routes of withdrawal.

2055H Company "L" was probed by an estimated squad of NVA. Hand grenades were employed by troops to repulse the probe.

2125H Company "M" engaged 4 NVA at XD 966595 with small arms.

3 September - 1850H-040116H Company "L" at XD 953599 received 172 rounds of 60mm mortar and 82mm mortar and 25 rounds of 130mm artillery. Counterbattery fires resulted in 2 secondary explosions from 81mm mortar fires, and 2 secondary explosions from artillery fires on NVA mortar positions.

1930H Company "L" was assaulted by an estimated two company force of NVA. NVA set off trip flare warning device and were immediately taken under fire by M-26 grenades, which broke back the assault. Artillery was employed against avenues of approach. An emergency resupply of ammunition was received during the fight. Sporadic small arms fires were received until 0116H.

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9 September

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- 0500H Company "L" at XD953599 received 28 rounds of 60mm mortar. Artillery was employed on suspected mortar positions.

1300H Company "I" at XD939603 encountered an estimated Platoon (Rein) of NVA in bunkers. Company withdrew and called artillery on area.

1330H Company "I" Emergency med evac helicopter was taken under fire by 3 NVA near the LZ. Small arms accounted for all 3 KIA.

1500H Company "K" at XD943607 engaged in unknown size force on Mutter's Ridge with organic weapons and artillery. NVA returned fire with small arms and 60mm mortars.

1520H Company "M" at XD941604 began to receive 30 rounds of 82mm mortar fire inside their position. Artillery was called on suspected mortar positions.

1730H Company "L" at XD953599 received 8 rounds of 130mm artillery fire. AO was directed to fire on NVA artillery positions.

1800H Company "M" began to receive 14 rounds of 82mm mortar fire inside their position. Counter battery fire by artillery was employed against suspected mortar positions and suspected FO position.

10 September

- 0300H Company "K" at XD943607 initiated contact with an unknown size NVA force. NVA fired automatic weapons and rifle grenades from high ground to north. 91mm mortars were employed against NVA positions.

0730H Company "I" at XD967604 made contact with NVA in two bunkers. Action continued until 1100H. Small arms, AW's and LAAN's were employed. Bunkers were destroyed by LAAN fire.

0930H Company "M" at XD944603 received a total of 35 rounds of 82mm mortar fire at 0930H and 1100H. Artillery and gun ships were employed against suspected mortar positions.

1100H Company "I" at XD935604 received 32 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Gunships were called to bring fires against suspected mortar positions.

1615H Company "I" at XD935605 made contact with an unknown size force of NVA in bunkers. The point man was killed immediately. Efforts to recover the body continued through the night. The body was recovered at 0800H, 11Sep68. The man's weapon was missing and the body had been searched. The engagement took place at 30 meters; too close for any supporting arms, except

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60mm mortars.

1650H Company "M" received 18 rounds of 82mm mortar fire.

1700H Company "I" received 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire.

1800H Company "I" received 20 rounds of 82mm mortar fire.

1915H Company "M" received 23 rounds of 82mm mortar fire.

1700H to 1930H Artillery was employed against suspected mortar positions and suspected PD positions in an effort to suppress the 82mm mortar fires.

11 September 1968 -1600H Company "I" received 40 rounds of 82mm mortars. Artillery was employed against suspected mortar positions.

13 September -0900H to 1830H Battalion minus Company "L" helilifted to Camp Carroll.

14 September -0800H Company "M" began motor march to Thon Son Lam.

0800H Company "I" began a motor march to Khe Gio Bridge.

0800H 3d Platoon, Company "I" (Rein) helilifted to Dong Ha Mountain OP.

1200H Company "I", 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, began a foot march to AD 978505 from Thon Son Lam to escort artillery and engineers to establish FSB Pete.

15 September -1800H Company "M" at Thon Son Lam began helilift to AD 978515, Mai Loc. Lift was not completed.

1610H Company "M" at Thon Son Lam received 2 rounds 82mm mortar fire on the LZ.

2100H Company "I" (-) at Khe Gio Bridge received 22 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Artillery was employed against suspected mortar position.

21 September -2300H to 0100H Company "I" at Khe Gio Bridge received 30 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Artillery was employed against suspected mortar position.

16 September -0930H Company "M" (-) at Thon Son Lam began motor march to Mai Loc via Camp Carroll.

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- 18 September 3 - 0800H Company "K" at Camp Carroll began helilift to relieve Company "L" at FSB Bird. Relief completed at 1600H.
- 19 September - 1645H to 2145H Company "L", with a light section of the tanks in direct support, searched area YD050545 in response to a reported sighting of one company of NVA without incident.
- 24 September - 0830H Company "M" (Rein) conducted a foot march from Camp Carroll to Thon Son Lam
- 14 to 30 Sept 1968 - Battalion conducted routine patrols on Route #9 in AO and near base camps.

3. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY

a. During the month of September the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines inflicted the following casualties on the enemy:

37 NVA KIA Confirmed, of which five were killed by Air Strikes/ Artillery Fires.

4. NUMBER OF BATTLE CASUALTIES

TOTALS	KIA	WIA	DOW	MIA	NBC	NBC KILLED
USMC 3/3	07	84	01	00	53	00
USN 3/3	00	09	00	00	02	00
USMC OTHERS	00	00	00	00	00	00

5. NEW TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED

- 2 September 1968 - Company "K" moved to night position at dusk. Mortar and Artillery fired by NVA were on positions occupied before the move. (CG 3dMarDiv msg)
- 3 September 1968 - Company "L" employed M-26 grenades almost exclusively against an assaulting force of 2 NVA companies. Consequently the NVA assault was broken at hand grenade range before the NVA had an opportunity to fire weapons. They were unable to consolidate and launch another assault.

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a. During the month of September the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines inflicted the following casualties on the enemy:

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TOTALS	KIA	WIA	DOW	MIA	NBC	NBC KILLED
USMC 3/3	07	84	01	00	53	00
USN 3/3	00	09	00	00	02	00
USMC OTHERS	00	00	00	00	00	00

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5. COMMAND RELATIONS

a. OPCON - 3d Marine Regiment

ADCON - 3d Marine Division

b. Subordinate Units,

- (1) 13-15 Sep 68 Company "L" OPCON 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (2) 14-15 Sep 68 Company "D", 1/3 OPCON 3d Battalion, 3d Marines
- (3) 15-18 Sep 68 Company "L" OPCON 1st Battalion, 3d Marines
- (4) 18-22 Sep 68 Company "W" OPCON 3d Recon Battalion
- (5) 18-24 Sep 68 Company "K" OPCON 1st Battalion, 3d Marines
- (6) 24-30 Sep 68 Company "K" OPCON 2d Battalion, 3d Marines

7. EQUIPMENT

a. As of 30 September only 73% of the combat essential equipment was combat operational. (OPSTAT Report of 30 September 1968)

8. LOGISTICSa. Supply(1) Class II

(a) The Battalion has a critical shortage of the following items, and has a 81.6% supply category. (OPSTAT report dtd 30 Sep 68)

ITEMSHORTAGE

(a) Helmets	305
(b) Flack Jackets	308
(c) Compasses	131
(d) Binoculars	33
(e) Jungle Utilities	1239
(f) Undershirts	1239
(g) TA-1/RT Telephone	63
(h) R8 292 Antenna	8

(2) Class V

- (a) There was a shortage of flechette rounds for the M-79.
- (b) The utilization of HE (light) M-525 fuse for 81mm mortar is not very stable.

(3) Resupply

- (a) There was no resupply of the Battalion in the field during the tropical storm from 4-6 September. During the remainder of the period the Battalion was in the field it was resupplied entirely by helicopters.

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b. Evacuation and hospitalization

- (1) There was an increase in fever of unknown origin.
- (2) All emergency medical evacuations were made by helicopter with the longest time from initial request to evacuation being one hour and 32 minutes. Delay was due to no escort aircraft on station.

c. Transportation.

(1) The Battalions total mileage on organic transportation was 7,500 miles. When available 2½ ton 6by6 and helicopters carried resupply and troops on troop movements; however, the majority of troop movements were by foot.

(2) The availability of M-151A1 is only 75% for the Battalion due to shortage of regulators, while availability of M-274A2 is 76.7% due to shortages of magnetos and starter assemblies.

d. Service

(1) A platoon of Company "B", 3d Engineer Battalion rendered assistance in all engineering tasks, but heavy equipment was unobtainable.

(2) HST 3d Shore Party Battalion provided helicopter guidance at all LZ's.

(3) FLSU Bravo contact team was present at Camp Carroll on 16 September. This confirmed that only 5 of 8 106's and 4 of 8 flames of the battalion were combat operational.

9. CIVIC ACTION - Not applicable

10. ADMINISTRATION

a. An awards ceremony was held on 19 September 1969 at Camp Carroll. The below awards were presented by Colonel R. L. MICHAEL JR., Commanding Officer, 3d Marines.

2 Bronze Star Medals
1 Navy Commendation Medal
13 Purple Heart Medals
5 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Medals

b. A total of 6 Court-Martials were held during September: 3 General Courts-Martial, and 3 Special Courts-Martial. Five Courts-Martial are pending. Seven Battalion Commander's Office Hours were completed. There were 5 company commander's Office Hours completed.

c. Liberty was not authorized during this period.

(1) A platoon of Company "B", 3d Engineer Battalion rendered assistance in all engineering tasks, but heavy equipment was unobtainable.

(2) HST 3d Shore Party Battalion provided helicopter guidance at all LZ's.

(3) FLSU Bravo contact team was present at Camp Carroll on 16 September. This confirmed that only 5 of 8 106's and 4 of 8 flames of the battalion were combat operational.

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There were several small contacts with the enemy during the month of September including one large contact with a two company size NVA units on 3 September. Elements of the battalion received heavy incoming while in the field from ~~Cong~~ ~~021830H~~ ~~L/3/3~~ ~~made contact with 3 NVA in the vicinity of XD955595 resulting in 1 NVA KIA confirmed.~~ At 011730H 3dPlt L/3/3 heard movement in the vicinity of XD961599 and set up a hasty ambush. The Plt initiated contact with M-26's, SAF, and M-79 grenades with an estimated 15 NVA. The Plt called in a mortar mission on the enemy and contact was broken resulting in 7 NVA KIA confirmed. At 021830H K/3/3 received approximately 334 rounds of 60mm mortar from vicinity of XD940613 and 19 rounds of 130mm artillery from an unknown location. At 022035H L/3/3 vicinity of XD954599 received a light probe from the north by an estimated small force armed with AK-47 rifles. After contact was broken, the area was checked at first light and several items of enemy gear and ordnance were captured. Between 031850H and 040116H L/3/3 vicinity of XD954599 received 172 rounds of 60mm mortar and 82mm mortar fired from the vicinity of XD953615. Immediately afterwards they received 25 rounds of 130mm artillery from the direction of 0400 MILS, followed by an estimated NVA two company size assault which was repulsed with grenades and SAF at 032230H. The enemy continued to pour in sporadic SAF until 040116H when contact was broken. The area was checked at first light revealing 9 NVA KIA confirmed, 10 IWC, 4 CSWG, and assorted documents identifying the 7thCo, 2ndBn, 3rdRegt, 320th Div. At 090500H L/3/3 received 28 rounds of 60mm mortar from the vicinity of XD933624. At 091300H a MEDEVAC Chopper for L/3/3 received light MG fire from 3 NVA vicinity of XD937602. The enemy was engaged by SAF and Huey Gunships resulting in 3 NVA KIA confirmed. The area was searched resulting in 1 RPD IMG type 56, 1 AK-47, and 1 SKS captured plus numerous individual gear, and ordnance. At 091500H K/3/3 made contact with an unknown number of NVA vicinity of XD942607 resulting in 11 NVA KIA confirmed. At 091520H M/3/3 received approximately 44 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an unknown location. At 091730H L/3/3 received 8 rounds of 130mm artillery from an unknown location. At 100730H L/3/3 made contact with an unknown number of NVA in two bunkers, vicinity of XD937601 and XD937604 resulting in 4 NVA KIA confirmed plus 1 CSWG and 2 IWC. At 101100H L/3/3 captured 1 NVA POW vicinity of X D938602. At 100930H M/3/3 received 30-35 rounds of 82mm mortar from vicinity of XD927610. At 101650H M/3/3 received approximately 41 rounds of 82mm mortar from vicinity of XD940610. At 101700H L/3/3, vicinity of XD937637, received 10 rounds of 82mm mortar from an unknown location and later received

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4 rounds of suspected 130mm artillery from an unknown location. At 111600H 1/3/3 received 45 rounds of 82mm mortar from the vicinity of XD947606 and XD937605. At 141835L 1/3/3 received 3-4 rounds of 82mm mortar from the vicinity of YD 035636 and at 152100H received 22 rounds from the vicinity of YD031580 and at 152300H received another 30 rounds from the vicinity of YD030583. At 160910H 1/3/3 vicinity of XD955599 found two NVA KIA approximately two weeks old resulting in 1 IWC, 1 CSWC, and various other items of enemy equipment and ordnance which they had with them. At 161915H AO observed approximately 90 NVA vicinity of YD124552 and called in an air strike with unknown results. At 221000H K/3/3 vicinity of XD947605 found 1 Soviet Flame Thrower, LPO-50 (Man Pack), complete with fuel tanks and accessories. The Flame Thrower had been abandoned about 100 meters from Kile's position and appeared to have been lying on the ground about 2-3 weeks before being discovered.

Again as during the month of August, the Battalion discovered and destroyed many bunkers and fortified areas in our AO, which were mostly newly constructed or under construction, indicating the enemy's desire to build up and occupy positions in the 3d Marines AO before the monsoons arrive and hamper their routes of infiltration into this area from the north. At the close of the month the enemy still appeared to be building up their forces in these areas for possible operations against friendly forces during the monsoons. Also there has been an apparent increase in their use of 82mm mortars and heavy artillery from the DMZ against the friendly forces operating in this area.

Listed below are the unit identifications as discovered from captured documents and/or the POW and a list of the total enemy weapons and equipment captured by the battalion during the month of September. In addition to the POW, there were 13 detainees picked up during the month which were all released as innocent civilians after being turned over to the 3d Marines ITT for disposition.

UNIT IDENTIFICATIONS

1. 7thCo, 2dBn, 48th Regt., 320th Div
2. Poss 5thCo, 5thBn, 52nd Regt
3. Poss 6thCo, 5thBn, 52nd Regt., 20-7Div (20-7Div Poss AKA for 320thDiv)
4. Song Dinh Unit - AKA for 52nd Regt
5. I6, Z5, Song Dinh - AKA for 6thCo, 5thBn, 52nd Regt
6. 13884 IS - 1stCo, 5thBn, 52nd Regt, 320th Div

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ENEMY WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT CAPTURED 1 to 30 SEPTEMBER 1968

AK-47 Rifles	14	AK-47 Magazines	26
SKS Carbines	5	Leather Belts, NVA (2 Officer)	6
RPD LMG (Typ 56)	5	RPD Drum Magazine	3
RPG-2 Launchers	2	RPG-2 Rds	6
Soviet Flame Thrower (LPO-50)			
(Man Pack)	1	82mm Rds	20
Fuel Tanks for "	3	ChiCom Grenades	20
Explosive Charges "	2	M26 grenades	2
Batteries for "	2	7.62mm Short Ammo, Rds	300
Strikers for "	3	U. S. Water Cans	6
NVA Helmet	6	Comm wire, meters	140
NVA Gas Mask	1	Sandals pair	2
Canteen, NVA	1	Rice, lbs	50
"E" Tool, NVA	7	Poncho, NVA	2
Salt, bag	1	Knife	1
Medical Carrying Pouch		First Aid Kit, U.S.	1
w/assorted med supplies	1	Battale Dressing Kit	1
Opium, pouches	3	NVA Uniforms (Bloody)	2
Ammo Case	1	Boots, NVA, pair	7
Packs, NVA	11	Homemade AP Mine	1
Documents, assorted			

13. COMMUNICATIONS

a. The continuing difficulty is the overcrowded radio nets, due to sharing of all VHF frequencies with Army units.

14. WEATHER. In comparison to August, September's weather was cooler, especially at night. Rain continued at the level it achieved in the latter part of August, although the wind calmed considerably.

Average High - 88 degrees

Average Low - 71 degrees

Average Humidity - 68%

15. FIRE SUPPORT

a. Units Providing Direct and General Support

- (1) Battery "A" 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (2) Battery "B" 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (3) Battery "C" 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (4) Battery "W" 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- (5) Battery "K" 4th Battalion, 12th Marines
- (6) Battery "M" 4th Battalion, 12th Marines

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13. COMMUNICATIONS

a. The continuing difficulty is the overcrowded radio nets, due to

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b. Missions Fired

(1) Artillery		Ammunition Expended
(a) Preparatory fires	23	105mm 3419
(b) Night Defensive Fires	30	155mm 1842
(c) Suspected Enemy Position	117	4.2mm 541
(d) Live Missions	43	

c. 81mm Mortars

(a) Preparatory fires	HE 2606
(b) Targets of opportunity	WE 306
(c) Counter Mortar Fire	ILL 302
(d) Suspected Enemy Positions	
(e) Night Defensive Fire	
(f) Illumination	

16. AIR SUPPORT

a. During the month of September, 10 flights of fixed wing aircraft ran strikes in support of the Battalion. All strikes were controlled in coordination with the ALO/FAC team.

b. 20 AOs were requested and 18 received.

c. 93 med evacs were completed.

d. 5 flights of Gunships were run for a total of 5 hours.

e. 67,750 pounds of cargo were lifted and 6 troop lifts completed.

f. 7 C&C flights were used.

g. Flare ships logged 30 hours on station.

h. 4 Dragon Ships for a total of 9 hours. Expended 45,000 rounds.

i. 4 emergency resupply total 6,000 pounds.

17. ACTIVITIES/DEACTIVATIONS/REACTIVATIONS. N/A

(1) Artillery		Ammunition Expended
(a) Preparatory fires	23	105mm 3419
(b) Night Defensive Fires	30	155mm 1842
(c) Suspected enemy Position	117	4.2mm 541
(d) Live Missions	43	

c. 81mm Mortars

(a) Preparatory fires	HE 2606
(b) Targets of opportunity	WE 306
(c) Counter Mortar fire	ILL 302
(d) Suspected Enemy Positions	
(e) Night Defensive fire	
(f) Illumination	

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JOURNAL SUMMARY
SEPTEMBER 1968

010600H The area XD 965604 was searched by elements of Company "M" with negative results.

011030H In the area of XD967597 elements of Company "M" made contact with 6 or 7 NVA. The NVA split into two groups, one fleeing South, the other Southwest. One NVA was believed wounded.

011335H In the area of XD 955605 elements of Company "L" made contact with 3 NVA. Resulting in one NVA KIA.

011400H In the area of XD 949599 elements of Company "I" discovered 4 bunkers. There was no evidence of recent use. The bunkers were destroyed.

011730H In the area of XD 961599 the 3d Platoon of Company "L" heard movement and set up a hasty ambush. The platoon initiated contact with M-26 frag grenades, small arms fire and M-79's. It was estimated 15 NVA, called in mortar mission and contact was broken. 7 NVA KIA

021530H In the area of XD955599 elements of Company "L", while digging a mortar pit, found 20 82mm mortar rounds. The rounds were destroyed.

021830H From the vicinity of XD940613 Company "K" received 334 rounds of 60mm mortar rounds and 19 rounds of 130mm artillery rounds from an unknown location. Called artillery on suspected mortar position and the mortar fire ceased. Checked the area at first light with negative results.

021915H In the area of XD951599 Company "I" ambushed 8 NVA traveling South down the river. The ambush was initiated with small arms fire and the NVA retreated up the river with unknown results.

022035H In the area of XD954599 Company "L" received a light probe from the enemy estimated to be 1 or 2 NVA armed with AK-47's. Threw frag grenades and small arms fire was returned. Contact was then broken. The area was checked at first light and found medical carrying pouch with writing, 1 pack, 3 RPG-2 rounds, 3 RPG-2 boosters, 1 Canteen, 2 pair sandals, 1 bag boiled rice, surgical dressing with 6 packages of opium.

022125H In the area of XD966595 the listening post of Company "M" engaged 4 NVA with small arms fire and grenades. Search of the area with negative results.

031850H To 040116H In the area of XD954599 started to received 172 rounds of 60mm mortar and 82mm mortar. The 82mm mortar was fired from the vicinity of XD953615, the 60mm mortars were fired from 9 different locations. Immediately after receiving 25 rounds of 130mm artillery from the direction of 400 mills. Followed by an assault of 2 NVA company size. The assault was repulsed with small arms and grenades. From 032230H to 040116H received sporadic small arms fire. 81mm mortar and artillery fired on enemy 82mm mortar position resulting in 2 secondary explosions on 82mm mortar and 2 on 60mm mortar. The flare ship on station and Spooky were employed to the west

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with unknown results. Checked area at first light and found assorted documents identifying the 7th Co., 2dBn, 48th Regt, 320th Division, 9 NVA's KIA, 3 SKS, 3 RPD, 7 AK-47's and RPG launcher. Documents and weapons will be forwarded to 3d Marines S-2.

041230H In the area of XD055601 Company "L" observed 1 NVA who appeared to be a Corporal. The enemy was taken under fire with gren des and small arms fire, also M-79's. Searched the area and found 1 canteen, 2 AK-47 rounds. The canteens and rounds were destroyed. The 1st day of the tropical storm.

051000H In the area of XD948599 Company "I" found 1-82mm mortar position. Size approximately 6 feet in diameter and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in depth with attached ammunition bunker and another bunker 4'x6'x4', not recently used in the vicinity of XD 948599. The position was destroyed. The 2d day of the tropical storm.

061300H In the area of XD955599 Company "L" captured 1 AK-47, AK-47 ammunition, 1 poncho and NVA platoon commanders note book. The weapons and notebook to Division G-2. The 3d day of the tropical storm and the last day of heavy rain.

071400H In the area of XD 959602 elements of Company "M" found a NVA trail showing recent signs of use with fighting holes adjacent to the trail and NVA bunkers. The bunkers are known to have been constructed since 28Aug68, using 8 unservicable water cans with the markings of 2/9. The water cans were used as overhead covering, also 1 NVA helmet was found along the trail.

081330H In the area of XD952604 elements of Company "K" found 1 RPG -2 rounds, and 100 meters of communication wire. Both were buried.

081330H In the area of XD 952604 elements of Company "K" found 25 fresh fighting holes (20 completed and 5 incomplete). The holes were filled in.

081530H In the area of XD 953600 elements of Company "I" found 2 AK-47's, 3 AK-47 magazines, 1 officer's buckle, 1 drum of machine gun ammunition, in the clothing was 2 plastic playing cards, the 7 of clubs and 7 diamonds. All gear except the weapons and playing cards were destroyed.

081615H Elements of Company "M" found fighting holes that appeared to have been dug very recently, also the following equipment was found: 2 AK-47 magazines, 1 Chi Con grenade, 3 blocks of TNT, 1 RPG booster, 1 pick, 1 shovel, and 1 bush hat. (Vietnamese type)

081830H In the area of XD948598/XD948595, elements of Company "I" engaged 3 NVA with automatic weapons, 81's and artillery all movement ceased.

090500H From the area of XD935624, Company "L" received 28, 60mm mortar rounds. Artillery mission was called and the firing ceased.

091330H Elements of Company "I" began to receive small arms and automatic weapons fire from an estimated platoon of NVA at XD942693. The fire was returned with small arms and called in gunships and artillery. At 1330, a

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Med-Evac chopper received light machine gun fire from 3 NVA near the LZ. Engaged the enemy with M-79, small arms fire, automatic weapons, artillery and also, gunships were called. The results were 2 Marine KIA, 10 Marine WIA and 3 NVA KIA also captured 1 light machine gun RPD 56, 1 SKS, 1 AK-47 1 gas mask, 1 drum AK-47 ammunition, 4 chi coms and 1 helmet.

091500H In the area of XD 943607 elements of Company "K" engaged the enemy with small arms, M-79, M-60, frag grenades, 60mm mortars, 81mm mortar and artillery. Company "K" received small arms fire, rifle grenades, 60mm mortar and automatic weapons fire. Company "K" suffered 2 Marine KIA's and 4 Marine WIA's. The NVA suffered 11 KIA's.

091520H When Company "M" started to dig in for the night they received rounds believed to be 82mm mortar also small arms fire. Artillery was called in on the mortar positions. Company "M" received 2 Marine KIA's and 34 Marine WIA's.

091730H Company "L" received 8 rounds of 130 Artillery. Counter battery was called with unknown results.

100300H In the area of XD943607 the listening post of Company "K" initiated contact with unknown number of NVA. The NVA returned small arms fire, automatic weapons and rifle grenades. Artillery and 81mm mortar was called with unknown results. Company "K" suffered 2 Marine WIA's.

100730H In the area of XD937607/XD937604 elements of Company "I" made contact with unknown number of NVA in 2 bunkers. (The contact resulted in 4 NVA KIA's and 1 SKS, 1 light machine gun, 1 AK-47 and AK-47 ammunition were captured. The ammunition was destroyed and the weapons forwarded to S-2.

100930H Company "M" received 30-35 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. The first volley after resupply. The second during a med evac. 2 Marines WIA's.

101100H From the area of XD 933607 Company "I" received 32 rounds of 82mm mortar. Called air strike and gunships and the mortar fire ceased.

101100H In the area of XD937604 elements of Company "I" captured 1 NVA hiding in a foxhole. The POW was forwarded to G-2, 3d Marine Division for interrogation. His name was Pfc NGUYEN VAN THAWH, 6th Platoon, Company Hq., 2d Battalion, 1st Division (Rein).

101330H In the area of XD946608 elements of Company "K" found 5 fighting holes and 4 bunkers 4'x3'x2' overhauled with logs and dirt. The bunkers contained 5 "E"Tools, 3 helmets, 1 battle dressing kit, 2 AK-47 magazines with rounds, 1 bloody NVA bandage, 1 leather belt, 1 ammunition case, 1 bloody NVA uniform, 2 chicom grenades and a small amount of rice. The area was deserted.

101800H In the area of XD937604 Company "I" received 20-82mm mortar rounds. Gunships were on station. They fired on the enemy positions with unknown results. Company "I" suffered 1 Marine KIA and 9 Marine WIA's.

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141600H Company "I" located at XD 943602/XD937605 and XD942606 received 40 82mm mortar rounds. Called artillery mission on suspected area. Results unknown

12Sep68 No significant events.

131800H The Battalion returned from the field.

140800H Company "L" to OPCON 1stBn, 12th Marines.

141200H Company "D" 1st Battalion, 3d Marines to OPCON 3d Battalion, 3d Marines.

141710H Elements of Company "I" received 3 or 4 unknown type of rounds. The rounds were adjusted from the base of the hill up. Artillery was called, coverage of the target was excellent.

151300H Company "L" chop to OPCON 1stBn, 3d Marines

151300H Company "D" chop to OPCON 1stBn, 3d Marines

151610H Company "M" received 2 82mm mortar rounds at Thon Son Jam - LZ. Resulting in 1 Marine WIA.

152100H Elements of Company "I" received 22 rounds of 82mm mortar and all the rounds landed outside of the perimeter.

152300H Company "I" received 30 rounds of 82mm mortar rounds. All the rounds landed outside the perimeter. Artillery was called with unknown results.

160910H In the area of XD955599 elements of Company "L" found 2 NVA bodies, 1 AK-47, 1 RPG 2-launcher with 2 rounds, 7 chi coms, 4- .45 Cal. magazines and assorted gear. The weapons were turned into S-2.

161100H Elements of Company "K" while on road sweep from Camp Carroll to Mai Loc found 1 old anti-personnel mine at YD065537. Also a anti-tank mine located at YD084520. Both mines were blown in place.

161100H At checkpoint #69 elements of company "I" received from a civilian boy, age 12, various items of military supplies he had found. All class V were destroyed. 1 LAW, 1 M-26 grenade, 1 bandage, and 2 batteries.

161915H In the area of YD115495 Company "K" reported 1 large and 1 small secondary explosion as a result of an air strike.

162300H At the Khe Gio Bridge elements of Company "I" received 30 rounds of 82mm mortar. Artillery fired on YD 030583 with unknown results.

17Sep68 No significant events.

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180900H 3d Platoon "B" Company, 3d Engineer Battalion under OPCON 3d Battalion, 3d Marines.

180900H Section of light tanks, "B" Company, 3d Tank Battalion under OPCON 3d Battalion, 3d Marines. Assigned to Company "M".

181000H Two scout snipers from 3d Marines under OPCON 3d Battalion, 3d Marines

181000H Company "K" to OPCON 1st Battalion, 3d Marines.

181500H Company "M" to OPCON to 3d Recon Battalion.

191645H To 2145H Company "L" with a light section of tanks in direct support searched the area YD 050545 in response to a reported sighting of 1 company of NVA. With negative results.

202030H Elements of Company "I" heard what was believed to be 2 or 3 people 50 meters outside their lines. Fired M-79's will check at first light.

211750H Elements of Company "L" while on patrol heard rounds being fired from a vehicle heading toward Camp Carroll. The rounds were fired by unknown Army personnel.

221000H Company "M" returned to OPCON of 3d Battalion, 3d Marines.

221000H In the area of XD 947635 elements of Company "K" found 1 Soviet flame thrower LP0-50, 3 fuel tanks (full), and 2 explosive charges. The serial number of the flame thrower was F-436 made in 1964. The gun is in good condition. Electrically operated and contained 2 batteries, bipods and 3 strikers. The approximate weight of the entire weapon is 50# to include hose, nozzle and canvas back pack. The explosives were strapped to the tank. They are 10 inches long and 2 inches in diameter. The weapon estimated to have been abandoned 2-3 weeks ago.

231100H Elements of Company "M" departed to assist the U. S. Army 1/144 to search for missing personnel and found 1 AK-50 light machine gun.

232200H In the area of YD 064540 Fighting Mad Yankee while on line watch, heard movement near holes 2,3 and 4 at 232240H. A trip flare was set off with negative observation of movement. Illumination consisting of 4.2mm mortar and 81mm mortar were used. The 3d platoon company "L" was alerted and rallied at the LZ and then filtered into position in section "F" and part of Section "E". 60mm mortars were employed and the area was also covered by M-79 fire. At approximately 240145 another trip flare was set off and Snub Nose Yankee and 3d Platoon Company "L" saw definite movement. Additional illumination was called and the area was saturated with small arms fire, M-79 and 60mm mortar fire. The area was checked at 1st light with negative results.

241500H Company "K" to OPCON 2d Battalion, 3d Marines on order.

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252235H Elements of Company "I" heard movement on their lines, fired small arms and 4.2 mm mortars. Checked the area at first light with negative results.

261400H Elements of Company "I" located at The Old Bridge saw one person who appeared to be digging. The person was Vietnamese and was wearing what looked like a helmet. After an artillery mission the area was searched with negative results.

262200H Elements of Company "I" heard movement on their lines which set off a trip flare. Fired M79's and 20 rounds of 60mm mortar illumination and artillery. The area was checked at first light with negative results.

271745H Elements of Company "I" moved 50 civilians from Camp Carroll across road to check point #6. The civilians had 200 cans of MCI, 100 sand bags and engineer stakes, confiscated all U. S. material.

28Sep68: No significant events.

290700H Elements of Company "I" found 1 AK 47 by listening post. The weapon was rusty but in firing order. The weapon was in the brush.

30Sep68: No significant events.

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ 1. JOURNAL SUMMARY
- ✓ 2. BATTALION FRAG ORDERS
 - ✓ a. 16-68
 - ✓ b. 17-68
 - ✓ c. 18-68
 - ✓ d. 19-68
 - e. 20-68 Cancelled
 - ✓ f. 21-68
 - g. 22-68 Cancelled
 - h. 23-68 Cancelled.

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