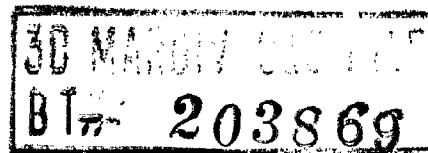


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HEADQUARTERS

1st Battalion, 4th Marines
3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602



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HEADQUARTERS

1st Battalion 4th Marines

00135-48

1 OF 8 PAGES

5750

1 June 1969

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Attn: G-3)
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force (Attn: G-3)
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific (Attn: G-3)

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 May to 31 May 1969.

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1

Encl: ✓(1) 1st Battalion, 4th Marines Command Chronology

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

2. This letter of transmittal is declassified upon removal of enclosure (1).


C. E. WILLCOX

Copy to: 4th Marines

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 4th Marines
3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May to 31 May 1969

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DOWNGRADED AT THREE YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER TWELVE YEARS

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

Designation	Commander	Date
1st Battalion, 4th Marines	LtCol C. E. WILCOX	1-31 May

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Company "H&S"	1stLt H. R. MORRIS	1-7 May
Company "H&S"	Capt D. M. ATKINSON	8-16 May
Company "H&S"	1stLt H. R. MORRIS	17-31 May
Company "A"	Capt H. W. FUSE III	1-31 May
Company "B"	Capt G. A. FRY	1-16 May
Company "B"	Capt D. M. ATKINSON	17-31 May
Company "C"	1stLt G. H. BROUILLETTE	1-31 May
Company "D"	1stLt T. J. RABBITT	1-31 May

ATTACHED UNITS

Det, Co "H&S" 3rd MP BN (Scout Dogs)
 Det, Co "B" 3rd SP BN (HST Teams)
 Det, Co "A" 3rd Eng BN
 Det, Btry "G" 3/12 FO Teams
 Det, 3rd Mar Div, Kit Carson School (KC Scouts)

Location

Battalion CP 1-6 Cua Viet "R&R" center
 Battalion CP 7-8 Vandegrift Combat Base
 Battalion CP 9-31 Fire Support Base Neville

Staff Officers

Executive Officer	Major J. R. GREEN	1-31 May
S-1 Adjutant	1stLt R. J. LLOYD	1-31 May
Personnel Officer	1stLt K. A. MARLANES	1-31 May
S-2	Capt J. J. GREEN	1-31 May
S-3	Major H. E. PIERPAN	1-4 May
S-3	Major C. W. COBB Jr.	5-31 May
S-3 ALO	Capt D. B. PAGE	1-16 May
S-3 Assgnt ALO	1stLt A. BELL	1-16 May
S-3 ALO	1stLt A. BELL	17-31 May
S-3 FAC	1stLt R. P. MAKAREWICZ	1-31 May
Artillery Officer	1stLt A. O'SULLIVAN	1-13 May
Artillery Officer	1stLt K. H. SHELLEY Jr.	14-31 May
S-4 Officer	1stLt H. R. MORRIS	1-31 May
S-4 Officer "A"	2ndLt H. F. SMITH III	1-31 May
S-4 Officer "B"	2ndLt H. R. HEADAPOH	1-31 May
Comm Officer	1stLt C. S. GILMORE	1-11 May
Comm Officer	1stLt W. A. TYNDALL	12-31 May

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MT Officer	1stLt J. F. DANMAN	1-15 May
MT Officer	2ndLt R. W. HUNER	16-31 May
Supply Officer	1stLt R. A. STOTZ	1-31 May
Chaplain	LtCmdr L. E. ALLRED, USN	1-31 May
Bn Surgeon	Lt W. D. MOORE, USN	1-31 May

Average Monthly Strength

	USMC	
OFF		ENL
36		1180

	USN	
OFF		ENL
2		48

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PART II

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. General Overview of all Activities. The beginning of May found the battalion at Cua Viet engaged in rest and rehabilitation. Though half of the battalion was tactically employed in defensive operations in the Cua Viet area, two of the companies were free to enjoy the beach facilities, movies a cook-out type steak fry and two USO shows all sponsored by the 3rd Marine Division Special Services. After three days the companies were rotated so that all companies could have a three day rest period; however, the stay at Cua Viet was shortened due to tactical considerations, resulting in companies "B" and "C" getting only about half of the programed three day rest period. While at Cua Viet the battalion was under the operational control of the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Infantry Division, U. S. Army. This R&R Program is considered to be an excellent program. It contributed perceptibly to the morale of the Marines who had recently been employed in extended periods of combat prior to their participation in the program.

On 6 May the Alpha Command Group with elements of "H&S" Company, Company "B" and Company "C" departed for Vandegrift Combat Base (VCB). The move was made by LCU type craft to the Dong Ha ramp, and by truck to VCB. The move was made without incident and was supported by Company "C" 9th Motor Transport Battalion. Upon arrival at VCB, Company "B" was immediately lifted to Hill 304 (XD 856615). Due to inclement weather the lift was not completed until 1630H the following day. At this time the company was chopped to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines for operational control. When Company "C" arrived at VCB, they were placed under the operational control (opcon) of the 3rd Marine Division and was subsequently passed to Task Force Hotel. On 7 May Company "C" assumed the mission of Sparrow Hawk/Bald Eagle. This is the code name used to identify the company acting as the tactical reserve. This company is subject to immediate deployment on short notice to any part of the Area of Operations (AO). One platoon (Sparrow Hawk) must be prepared to be employed in twenty minutes, while the remainder of the company (Bald Eagle) is prepared to move on sixty minutes notice. Company "C" was relieved of the responsibility on 9 May.

The battalion was alerted on 8 May to commence "Operation Herkimer Mountain" and on 9 May the Alpha Command Group and Company "C" were helilifted to the northwestern corner of the 4th Marines AO with the Alpha Command Group occupying Landing Zone (LZ) Catapult (XD 826617). The battalion assumed operational control to Company "C" 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, located at FSB Neville and assumed control of the AO.

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On 11 May, Company "D" returned from Cua Viet and was immediately helilifted to FSB Neville, relieving Company "C", which returned to its parent battalion. Company "A" having returned from Cua Viet with Company "D", joined the remainder of the battalion in the field on 13 May, relieving Company "L", 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines on FSB Russell (XD 912591). Also on 11 May the battalion AO was enlarged to include the area vacated by the 3rd Battalion. This larger AO resulted in the battalion being responsible for an unprecedented 182 one-thousand meter grid squares.

During the remainder of the month extensive patrolling by platoon and squad size units was conducted by all companies. Company positions remained stationary with the exception of Company "B" which moved to LZ Margo (XD 901609) on 17 May.

2. Command Relations. The battalion remained generally under the control of the 4th Marine Regiment, with the exception of the period during which it was under the operational control of the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Infantry Division, U. S. Army, at Cua Viet. There were certain instances during the month when companies from another battalion were the operational control of the battalion. The battalion also relenquished operational control of two of its organic companies to other commands. Specific units and dates are set forth in the Sequential Listing of Significant Events portion of this Chronology.

3. Mission Assigned. The primary mission of the battalion throughout the month was to continue to defend and conduct operations north of Fire Support Bases Neville and Russell.

4. Intelligence.

a. General. During the month the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines participated in action against enemy forces from Hill 304, FSB's Neville and Russell, and LZ Catapult. The battalion encountered light and sporadic contact with small enemy units in the northern sector of the assigned AO. Numerous bunkers, caves, huts, and fox-holes were uncovered and destroyed. After the movement of Company "B" from Hill 304 to LZ Margo, the enemy increased his activity somewhat by directing mortar fire toward their new position. LZ Catapult also received mortar fire on several occasions. In these attacks by fire the enemy was generally off the mark, except on 28 May when several rounds impacted inside the lines resulting in eight Marines being wounded. Increased enemy sightings in the northern sector of the AO indicated that enemy units were attempting to infiltrate south through the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

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Several large caches were found and numerous items of enemy equipment and ordnance captured and/or destroyed. Items that were thought to be of value to the intelligence effort were forwarded to higher headquarters. These included documents, a large type AT Mine, and a fuse assembly (with case) from a 122MM rocket.

b. Weather. During the first half of the month the weather was generally hot and humid during the day and somewhat cooler during the late evening and early morning hours. Visibility was mostly unlimited lowering somewhat during periods of rain and early morning fog. An exception to this was FSB Neville which remained under cloud cover approximately 50% of the time. During the latter part of the month the weather was somewhat cooler with periods of high winds, rainstorms, and showers. Visibility was restricted for extended periods during rainstorms and showers making the use of aircraft very difficult around several of the positions.

c. Terrain. The terrain consists of sharply rising mountains with topographical crests ranging from 300 to 1739 meters broken up by two large river valleys. Vegetation ranges from abandoned rice paddies along the streams to dense underbrush and heavy jungle in the higher elevations. In addition to two rivers there are numerous small streams throughout the AO.

5. Operations. The battalion participated in operation "Herkimer Mountain" during the month. The operation commenced at 0001 on 9 May and is continuing. The operation has been characterized by the defense of FSB's Neville and Russell, and extensive patrolling operations throughout the AO. Light contacts with small groups of NVA soldiers were encountered as the enemy continued to refuse to commit any major size force to combat. Specific contacts including dates and units involved are set forth in the Sequential Listing of Significant Events portion of this Chronology.

6. Results of Operations.

a. Enemy KIA:	12	POW	0		
b. Friendly KIA:	2	WIA	46	MIA	0
c. <u>Equipment and Supplies Captured/Destroyed:</u>					

(1) Small Arms Ammo

Rounds

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50 Caliber	22
AK-47	1,354
7.62MM	9,000
12.75MM	10,795

(2) Mortars, Recoilless Rifles, Rocket.

82MM Mortar	145
60MM Mortar	26
RPG	91
57MM	2

(3) Weapons.

60MM Mortar Baseplates	4
AK-47's	2

(4) Mines, Demolitions, and Explosives.

Chi Com grenades	14
1/2 pound blocks TNT	32
1 pound blocks TNT	37
Claymore Mines	263
Fuses	976
Stick Explosives	2,040
Anti Tank Mines	52

(5) Medical Supplies.

Sulpha Dressing (NVA)	3 Bottles
-----------------------	-----------

(6) Miscellaneous Gear.

Ponchos	8
Comm Wire	2,000 FT
AK-47 Magazines	12
Knives	3
Hammocks	3
Picks	3
"E" Tools	9
Canteen	1
Wire Cutters	1
Cooking Utensels	8

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7. Supporting Arms.

a. Air Support. An additional Naval Aviator (NA) joined the battalion during the month to replace the Air Liaison Officer (ALO) whose TAD was terminated. Both of the NA's new with the battalion are helicopter pilots; however, the capability to direct fixed wing aircraft strikes has not diminished due to their personal initiative and desire to learn. The ALO remains with the Battalion CP and utilizes an AN/PRC-41 (UHF) radio in the control of high performance aircraft. He also maintains a transponder (commonly referred to as a "beacon") at the position, using it in conjunction with the off-set radar controlled bombing technique employed by Marine A6A aircraft. This provides the battalion with an all weather air support capability which has been vital during the volatile weather conditions existing in northwestern Quang Tri Province. During the month a total of 26 "Beacon" strikes were run, delivering devastating ordnance with pinpoint accuracy.

The Forward Air Controller (FAC) has been employed generally with one of the companies, thus expanding the air control resources of the battalion. This employment has enhanced the coordination effort required in the field between the units on the ground and the numerous helicopters and fixed wing aircraft that have continuously supported the battalion in a tactical, as well as logistical rolls.

There were a total of 34 "TPQ" strikes requested during the month and 17 flown. These strikes are also radar controlled from the Direct Air Support Center (DASC) at VCB. Requests are submitted on day in advance and are scheduled around the clock against selected targets ranging from likely avenues of approach to known or suspected enemy positions.

b. Artillery Support. There were generally two batteries of 105's supporting the battalion during May, with 155's and 8" fire available upon request. This heavier artillery was employed in a general support, reinforcing role. The two 105 batteries were "C" 3/12 and "H" 3/12, located at FSB's Neville and Russell respectively. The location of these batteries allowed the battalion to conduct operations throughout the AO while remaining well within the 105 "fan". Nearly 3,000 rounds were fired by these batteries during the month, including harassing and interdiction fires, TOT's, night defensive fires and fires for effect being delivered on known and suspected enemy positions and lines of communication.

8. Logistics.

a. Supply.

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(1) Class I. All Class I was drawn at VCB in support of operations. The Battalion Mess Hall served "R" rations daily at VCB and seven hot meals were served to troops in the field. Approximately one hundred tons of Class I were delivered to the field in support of operations.

(2) Class II. Class II supply tents are used for storage at VCB to cut time in transfer of cargo from the rear to the field. Shortages in the following items were experienced during this period.

Nozzles, cover (water buffalo)
Flak jackets
M-16 magazines
M-16 cleaning rods
Magazines, cal. .45
Coat, utility

The above items have repeatedly been placed on requisition, but as yet not enough have been received in sufficient quantities to alleviate the shortages.

(3) Class III. Class III was drawn at VCB and was adequate.

(4) Class IV. Class IV was drawn at VCB and was adequate. The following amounts were delivered to the field in support of operations

Sand Bags, filled	3,200
Sand Bags, empty	16,000
Concentina	16 sleeves
Barbed wire	400 roles
Drive stakes	3,442

(5) Class V. Class V was drawn at VCB. Approximately 81 tons were delivered to the field.

(6) Class VI. Two hundred and forty one cases of beer and soda were delivered to the troops in the field.

(7) Class VII. Eight complete 106MM Recoilless Rifles were drawn from FLSC-B in return for eight which were Code-H.

(8) Class VIII. A forward Battalion Aid Station (BAS) was maintained at VCB and a rear BAS at Quang Tri. Medical supplies were sufficient during this period.

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(9) Class IX. Repair parts are still slow coming up through the supply channel, but their flow seems to be improving.

(10) N/A

b. Support.

(1) Battalion Motor Transport vehicles were used for administrative and logistic runs from VCB and Quang Tri and were satisfactory. Mileages by vehicle type are listed below:

(4) M37B1's	1,706 miles
(26) M274A's	160 miles
(20) M151A1's	8,938 miles

FLSC-B was used as the source of maintenance and is considered adequate.

(2) Division Motor Transport furnished transportation for delivery of Class II supplies and personnel from Quang Tri to VCB.

Supplies	10 6x6 loads
Personnel	206

9. Communications-Electronics.

a. Message Center. The Battalion Message Center continued to handle unclassified and classified message traffic at VCB and Quang Tri. Numerical codes and authentication tables were distributed as required. Communication security procedures were reemphasized. An intensified training program is being initiated for training of all personnel on use and handling of classified code sheets.

b. Radio. The radio section continues its mission of providing direct communications between elements of the command. Due to the issue of new frequencies to this command and administrative net was initiated between Quang Tri and VCB. This has greatly reduced the volume of traffic on the battalion tactical net. The AN/PRC-88 has been phased into all companies for inter-company use. It has been tested by all companies and very favorable reports have been received. The AN/PRC-88 has proven very useful in reducing the traffic load on the company tactical nets.

c. Covered circuits. One covered circuit net (Regimental Tactical Net) is maintained by the battalion. There are 22 KY-38's on hand in the battalion; however, there is only one AN/PRC-77 available for use in conjunction with the KY-38.

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d. Wire. One switchboard is maintained at VCB. The 4th Marine Regiment maintains our switchboard at Quang Tri, while we still maintain our own lines. The wire section had a sixty percent turn over of personnel this reporting period; hence, much additional time has been spent training new men.

e. Electronic Repair. The electronic repair section now maintains two shops; one at Quang Tri and one at VCB. Steps are being taken to combine the two shops at VCB. The shortage of test equipment still hampers the technicians in the performance of their duties.

f. Critical Shortages. A critical shortage of repair parts exists for the A-9, A-10, and A-1 modules for the AN/PRC-25. Tape antennas for the AN/PRC-25 and UC-255's for the RC-292 are also in short supply.

g. Equipment repaired. The following equipment was repaired by the battalion's 2nd echelon technicians:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
AN/PRC-25	31
TA-312	5
TA-1	3
EE-8	3
M-189	11

10. Personnel and Administration.

a. Losses and gains.

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	EM:	OFF	EM:
Losses	5	106	0	12
Battle	0	45	0	0
Non-Battle	4	19	0	9
Administrative	1	42	0	3
Gains	5	150	0	8

b. Awards. During the reporting period 1 Silver Star, 5 Bronze Stars, 1 Navy Commendation Medal, 5 Navy Achievement Medals, 6 Purple Heart Medals, and 15 Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry were presented. The following type awards were processed recommending approval:

Navy Cross	1
Silver Star	4

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Navy and Marine Corps Medal	3
Bronze Star	14
Navy Commendation	24
Navy Achievement	34
Purple Heart	46
VCG	0

c. Discipline. The number of disciplinary cases acted upon or pending action are as follows:

Courts-Martial/Admin Discharges/Investigations

Art 32 - Pending	1
GCM	4 Pending
Special Courts-Martial	3 Pending
Summary Courts-Martial	2 Pending
Admin Discharges	1 Recommended

Non-Judicial Punishments

Battalion Commander	3
Company Commander	20

d. R&R. The battalion utilized the following out-of-country R&R quotas for the month of May:

Bangkok	16	Penang	0
Hawaii	21	Singapore	5
Hong Kong	12	Okinawa	3
Kuala Lumpur (cancelled)		Sydney	15
Taipei	8	Tokoyo	6
Manila	2		

e. Promotions. During the month the following promotions were affected:

<u>To</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Meritorious</u>
PFC	6	0
LCpl	30	5
Cpl	145	8
Sgt	0	4

f. Religious Activities.

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(1) Twenty-nine Protestant Services were conducted for the battalion during the month of May. The total attendance was 704 Navy/Marine personnel, with 429 receiving communion.

(2) Four Protestant Services were conducted for other units. The total attendance was 69, with 37 receiving communion.

(3) Eight Catholic Masses were conducted for the battalion. The total attendance was 164.

(4) The Battalion Chaplain visited 19 men aboard the hospital ships and 12 men at 3rd Medical Battalion.

11. Training.

a. General Military Subjects and MOS training for the month of May for Squad, Platoon, and Company size units was increased slightly over previous months, primarily because the battalion was dispersed in static positions on Landing Zones and Fire Support Bases throughout northwestern I Corps area.

b. All replacements received comprehensive indoctrination briefings in accordance with the battal SOP for Replacement training. Each replacement fired his T/O weapon for familiarization.

c. Unit training.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
First Aid, Field Sanitation and Hygiene	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	85
Map Reading	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	109
Compass	14	114
Artillery FO Procedures	4	15
Defensive Positions	5	40
LAAM Firing Procedures	4	35
FAM Firing of Organic Weapons	20	209
50 Cal Machinegun	2	4
M-60 Nomenclature Care and Cleaning	4	30
Radio AN/PRC-25 Communications Procedure	2	47
Quick Kill Point Shooting	5	50
River Crossing/Installation and Repelling	6	25
Scouting and Patrolling	1	20
60MM Mortar: Clearing a Misfire	1	12
.45 Cal. Pistol Care and Cleaning	1	15

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Wire: Employment of Tangle Foot and Concertina	2	15
81MM Mortar Gun Drill	60	15
Night Firing 81MM Mortars	7	28
Preventive Maintenance PRC-25 and PRC-41	5	31
Communications Security	3	40

d. Officer and Staff Non-Commissioned Officers Training

Ground Surveillance Detection Devices	1	25
Instruction on the use of PRC-88 Radio	2	50
Identification of NVA Weapons		

e. Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare training was negligible during the month of May due to the tactical situation.

f. The following Division Inspections were held during the month of May:

(1) Supply	1-3 May
(2) Motor Transport	21 May
(3) Embarkation	22 May
(4) BM Club	22 May
(5) Ordnance	12 May

12. Psychological Operations. There were two "broadcast Teams" from G-5 of the 3rd Marine Division assigned to the battalion for a short period of time during the month. One was located at LZ Catapult with Company "C" and the other at FSB Russell with Company "A". Their mission was to conduct broadcasts into and just south of the DMZ in support of the "Chieu Hoi" program. The teams were to direct their efforts toward the 88th Regiment of the 308th NVA Division which was reported to be operating in this area.

Between the period 6-18 May 192,000 propaganda leaflets were dropped into grid square XD 7662. Due to prevailing northwesterly winds, many of these leaflets landed in the battalion's AO.

13. Medical and Dental Affairs.

a. The total number of visits to the Battalion Aid Station during the month of May was 1764.

b. Prevalent medical entities encountered were:

Gonorrhea	6	Rat Bites	12
Diarrhea	86	FVO	25
Malaria	5	Dermatological	250
URI	54	conditions	
NP Disorders	5	Heat Casualties	76
Hepatitis	0	NSV	1

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c. All suspected and confirmed cases of Venereal Disease were given a STS in accordance with the Navy Manual of Medicine 22-16 and the results entered in the individuals' health record.

d. A total of 157 patients were referred to 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF. Of those referred, the following were consults:

ENT	2	Internal Medical	3
Urology	1	Dermatology	4
Surgical	1	Orthopedics	24
NP	5		

(1) Following referrals were made to:

NSA DaNang	0
USS SANCTUARY	21
USS REPOSE	14

(2) Total patients referred to Dental for treatment: 87

e. Weekly malaria prophylaxis was continued with the use of Chloroquine-Primaquine tablets in the battalion area rear. Daily malaria prophylaxis was administered by the use of Dapsone in conjunction with the weekly use of Chloroquine-Primaquine in battalion forward areas. Personnel from all areas in the rear were mustered daily and given Dapsone.

f. Sanitation Inspection was held daily, and weekly in accordance with Division Order P6000.4 in the battalion areas, VCB and Quang Tri. Sanitary facilities, at present are considered highly satisfactory.

g. Two Battalion Aid Stations were maintained during the month of May. A forward BAS consisting of a Battalion Surgeon and nine Hospital Corpsmen located at VCB and a secondary BAS located at Quang Tri, consisting of nine Hospital Corpsmen. All injuries and malaria encounters were treated by the line company corpsmen, and when required, casualties were transferred for further treatment. No serious delays were encountered in resupply or evacuation during this period.

h. Lectures were given regularly at both BAS's.

i. With cooperation of Battalion Rears, Dental Unit, and Headquarters Battalion Dental Unit, a total of 87 patients were referred. All arrivals into the battalion are screened and those presenting a class III or IV dental profile are referred to either unit prior to going to the forward area.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Combat operations.

- 01 May At 1840H Company "B" at Grid YD 312723 received six to eight rounds of AK-47 small arms fire from Grid YD 314-715. The company returned fire with M-79 and 60MM mortars with unknown results.
- 08 May At 1300H Company "B" found three caves with entrances 10' by 2', about six months, old at Grid XD 843622.
- 09 May At 0730H Company "B" found 50 to 75 bunkers adjacent to a trail at Grid XD 857615. The bunkers had hootches built on top of them and were estimated to be about two to three months old.
At 1730H Company "B" found a disarmed booby-trapped can, with wire inserted. The wire had been previously cut. No action was taken.
At 1745H Company "B" found three bunkers built with sand bags and plastic at Grid XD 855593.
- 10 May At 0830H Company "B" found two .50 cal. positions, two "A" frame bunkers, three empty .50 cal ammunition cans, benches and tables. Positions and bunkers were located at Grid XD 847587 and were estimated to be two months old.
At 1700H Company "B" while moving north through a draw, received small arms fire from their front, wounding two Marines. They returned fire resulting in two probable NVA, KIA's. They then commenced to move to high ground taking small arms fire and grenades from the west. Results were two more Marines wounded. They continued to move up the hill and took sniper fire from the south wounding one Marine. The company called artillery fire and an air strike at Grid XD 865618, with unknown results.
- 11 May At 1020H Company "B" while searching the area of the previous day's contact, found assorted miscellaneous 782 gear and numerous bloody bandages at XD 867611.
- 12 May At 0630H Company "C" located at LZ Catapult, received approximately 18 rounds of 82MM mortar fire from suspected enemy position at XD 849649. The company fired 81MM mortars, and called in artillery fire and an air strike on the suspected enemy position.
At 1040H Company "C" received approximately 30 rounds of .50 cal fire from the vicinity of XD 875634 while helicopters were landing at their company position.

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The company fired 81MM mortars and directed artillery fire on the suspected enemy position.

At 1200H Company "C" found a bunker complex running along the trail in a northerly direction between Grid XD 828-610 and XD 830613. The bunkers were well constructed, and estimated to be three to six months old. The company also found two graves at XD 833607 covered with stones. They had stakes at both ends and were fenced in by rope. The graves were five or six feet deep with one body in each one. The bodies were deteriorated with no markings on the uniforms.

At 1020H Company "C" also found four AK-47 magazines, eight Chinese Communist Grenades, nine "E" tools, six ponchos, three hammocks, one canteen, two medium size clay-pores, five small picks, two large cooking pots, small bowls one block of TNT, one saw, on tube (substance unknown), two machetes, two small green bags and 25 pounds of rice. All articles were found in a complex of 16 bunkers at XD 867611. The bunkers were either new or under construction. Some medical supplies were also found consisting of two bottles of aspirin, two syrettes of alcohol, two vials of methyrate, one can of camphor and six battle dressings. All of these supplies were found in two first aid kits. At 1900H Company "D" found ten homemade TNT explosive devices and one RPG round at XD 823574. They were found while patrol was on a wire check. The patrol also found explosives 100 meters in front of the wire. The explosives were in $\frac{1}{2}$ pound blocks secured with vines. Each block contained an AK-47 round as a blasting device.

13 May At 1812H Company "B" located at XD 858615, received approximately 15 rounds of 82MM mortar fire from the vicinity of XD 850636. All rounds fell about 400 meters short of the company position. Counter mortar fire was conducted with 81MM mortars and artillery.

14 May At 0045H Company "C" spotted one NVA outside of their perimeter at XD 826615. Two hostile grenades were thrown from the outer perimeter, resulting in one Marine being wounded. Small arms fire and hand grenades were returned with unknown results.

At 1900H Company "D" located at XD 885613, received approximately 10 rounds of small arms fire, which impacted 20 meters from their perimeter. The company fired 60MM and 81MM mortars with unknown results.

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16 May At 0912H Company "C" found a cave complex which was estimated to be three months old, and large enough to accommodate at least 40 persons. The company searched the area and found 54 AK-47 rounds, one 82MM mortar round and two Chinese Communist grenades. All items were destroyed in place.

At 1610H while patrolling in the vicinity of XD 901585, Company "A" made a security halt, and then continued on their patrol route. The last man in the column remained behind. His absence was noticed three or four minutes later. The patrol immediately began to conduct a search for the missing Marine. The patrol found the following items of his personal equipment; ammunition, one cartridge belt, canteens, and one wrist watch. The patrol continued to search the area with negative results.

17 May At 0900H Company "C" found two boxes of AK-47 rounds with 550 rounds in each box. They also found three living hootches and one kitchen located inside a cave, dimensions 10' by 4' at XD 830625. The company destroyed all the rounds.

At 1015H Company "A" found the Marine who had been missing since 16 May. He was found at XD 903582. The incident is under investigation.

19 May At 0545H Company "B" located at XD 901610, received approximately 20 rounds of 82MM mortar fire from vicinity of XD 875635. The rounds impacted about 200 meters west of the company position. The company returned fire with 81MM mortars and called artillery fire with unknown results. At 1020H Company "B" located at XD 902609, received 30 to 50 rounds of 50 cal fire as helicopters approached their LZ. The company returned fire with 81MM mortars and called artillery and air strikes with unknown results.

At 1200H Company " " while patrolling in the vicinity of XD 897613, found the remains of a Marine missing as result of a helicopter crash on 2 May 69. Remains were returned to company CP and med-evaced.

At 1900H Company " " located at XD 901610, received 35 rounds of 82MM mortar fire from the vicinity of XD 878628. The company returned fire with 81MM mortars and called artillery fire on the enemy positions with unknown results.

21 May At 0930H the third platoon of Company "C" located at XD 825626, received small arms fire from the vicinity XD 823627. The company returned small arms fire with unknown results.

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- 23 May At 1100H Company "A" located at XD 897627 found one Communist Chinese grenade, two .50 cal positions, and two Chinese .50 cal boxes. There were 50 rounds of expended cartridges left in the area.
At 1410H Company "B" located at XD 894632 found three fuses for 82MM mortar ammunition, two packages of Russian increments, three Russian 82MM mortar primers and approximately 1400 rounds of Chinese 7.62MM ammunition for weapons of unknown type. The patrol also found a trail running north. The trail was estimated to have been used within the past twenty four hours by a platoon size unit moving north.
At 1600H Company "C" located at XD 825639, received 30 cal fire from the north while being resupplied by helicopter. Artillery missions were fired at the suspected enemy position with unknown results.
- 24 May At 0830H Company "A" located at XD 912591, heard three AK-47's firing from the vicinity of XD 897593. They appeared to be firing at helicopters approaching FSB Russell. Company "A" deployed a patrol to the position with negative results.
At 1400H Company "B" while patrolling in the vicinity of XD 894631, found two caches containing four 60MM mortar base plates (Vietnamese, manufactured during the year 1967), 90 82MM mortar rounds, 46 Anti-Tank mines, one case of submachinegun ammunition (7.62MM), 90 RPG rounds with propellant, 263 directional mines, 523 electrical fuses, 452 pull friction fuses, 127 boxes of 12.7MM rounds, 41 boxes of 7.62MM long rimmed case cartridges, seven cans of propellant for 82MM mortars, 12 fuses for 60MM mortars, 17 boxes of stick explosives, 12 60MM rounds, six large mines (type unknown), one large fuse for 122MM rockets, and 2,000 feet of communication wire. One of each item not previously captured was returned the S-2 and the balance were destroyed in place.
- 25 May At 0730H Company "B" located at XD 887637, encountered an unknown size enemy unit at XD 887637. The enemy opened up with small arms fire. The patrol returned small arms fire and moved back. An Air Observer was on station, and adjusted artillery fire on the enemy with unknown results.
At 1500H Company "D" while patrolling in the vicinity of XD 826582, found one 82MM mortar round and six 82MM mortar fuses in a container. The fuses were new. The company destroyed the mortar round and fuses.

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At 1325H Company "B" while conducting a sweep in the vicinity of XD 890638 found three camouflaged holes, one pair of NVA sneakers, and two blood trails leading north. One man observed one NVA with what appeared to be an M-16. Small arms fire was exchanged. The NVA fled north.

- 26 May At 1020H the first and second Platoons of Company "B" while patrolling in the vicinity of XD 895618, was taken under fire by eight to ten NVA. The NVA were using Chinese Communist grenades and one RPG. The company began to take small arms fire from the east across the river. Mortar and artillery fire was placed on the enemy and helicopter gunships supported the company's assault on Hill 202. Two NVA were killed and the hill secured. At 1945H Company "B" located at XD 885636, received 10-15 rounds of 82MM mortar fire which landed 500 to 600 meters outside their perimeter. Company "B" returned fire with 81MM mortars and artillery fire with unknown results.
- 27 May At 1445H Company "B" OP at XD 888615 observed four NVA moving up and down Hill 202. The company called in artillery fire, 81MM mortars and 60MM mortars. The NVA moved down the hill and crossed the river. A thorough search of the area resulted in two confirmed NVA KIA. At 1745H Company "C" located at LZ Catapult, received approximately ten rounds of 60MM mortar fire. Company "C" immediately fired counter mortar fire with 60MM and 81MM mortars. An artillery mission was also called. One platoon of Company "C" conducted a patrol in the area of the enemy mortar positions at XD 830612.
- 28 May At 1215H Company "A" while patrolling at XD 913594, found a pair of Russian wire cutters about 200 meters outside of the wire. The wire cutters were slightly rusted but usable. At 1000H Company "B" observed 15 NVA in groups of three and four crossing a stream in the vicinity of XD 896-613. The company requested artillery and mortar fire. Fire missions were conducted with unknown results.
- 29 May At 1045H Company "B" while patrolling in the vicinity of XD 827573, found 37 one pound blocks of TNT and one AK-47 magazine with 20 rounds in it. The TNT and ammo were destroyed.

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- 31 May At 0800H Company "C" located at XD 826616, received approximately 15 rounds of 82MM mortar fire from the vicinity of XD 835635. All the rounds landed approximately 80 meters outside of the perimeter. Artillery and mortars were fired at the suspected enemy position with unknown results.
- At 0845H Company "C" located at XD 826618 received approximately 30-50 rounds of medium heavy machinegun fire from the vicinity of XD 892622 as a helicopter was leaving the LZ. The company returned fire with 81MM and 60MM mortars with unknown results.

2. Significant events not related to combat operations.

- 01 May At 1030H the Alpha Command Group and Companies "A" and "D" departed for Cua Viet to join Companies "B" and "C" who had moved to the R&R center during April. Upon arrival, the battalion came under operational control of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) U. S. Army.
- 02 May At 1640H a liaison visit was made to the battalion by the Deputy Commander of the 1st Brigade, and the Assistant Division Commander, 3rd Marine Division.
- 04 May At 1100H the 3rd Marine Division Special Services Officer visited the battalion to determine how well the R&R program was functioning.
- At 0800H the relief of "A" and "D" Companies with Companies "E" and "C" commenced.
- At 1300H the relief was completed and "A" and "D" Companies commenced their R&R.
- At 1540H Col GOC IN, Regimental Commander of the 4th Marines, arrived at the 1/4 COC at Cua Viet. He departed at 1635H.
- 05 May At 0900H LtCol WILLCOX, the Battalion Commander, departed Cua Viet.
- 06 May At 0930H the Alpha Command Group and Companies "B" and "C" departed Cua Viet for VCB.
- At 1400H CG 3rd Marine Division assumed opcon of Companies "B" and "C" from 1st BDE, 5th Inf Div (Mech) and simultaneously passed control to CC, Task Force Hotel.
- At 1515H the helilift of Company "B" to relieve Company "F" 2/4 at XD 856615 commenced.

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- 07 May At 1500H Company "C" assumed responsibility for Sparrow Hawk/Bald Eagle.
At 1630H Company "B" completed their helilift to grid XD 856615 and were chopped to the operational control of the 2nd Bn, 4th Marines.
- 09 May At 0001H Operation "Herkimer Mountain" commenced.
At 0815H the helilift of the Alpha Command Group to FSB Neville commenced.
At 0830H Company "C" was relieved of Sparrow Hawk/Bald Eagle by Company "F" 2nd Bn, 4th Marines.
At 1030H helilift of Company "C" to relieve Company "H" 2/4 at XD 826616 commenced.
At 1100H the 1st Bn, 4th Marines assumed responsibility for the 2nd Bn, 4th Marines AO and assumed operational control of Company "C" 2nd Bn, 4th Marines.
- 11 May At 1245H Company "D" with "H&S" attachments arrived at VCB.
At 1300H CG Third Marine Division (Rein) assumed operational control of Companies "A" and "D" from the 1st BDE 5th Inf. Div (Mech) and simultaneously passed control to the CG Task Force Hotel.
At 1310H Company "D" was helilifted to XD 825515 to relieve Company "C" 2nd Bn, 4th Marines in place. The lift was completed at 1515H. Company "C" was simultaneously chopped back to their parent battalion.
At 1745H Company "A" with attachments returned to VCB.
- 13 May At 1057H helilift of Company "A" to relieve Company "L" 3rd Bn, 4th Marines at FSB Russell commenced. Upon completion of the lift at 1530H, the battalion assumed responsibility for the 3rd Bn, 4th Marines AO.
At 1120H in the area of the Company "C" supply tent at VCB, an explosion caused the detonation of a trash barrel wounding two Marines from Company "C".
At 1200H on Marine from "H&S" Company received minor wounds as a result of incoming 107MM Rocket rounds at VCB.
- 14 May At 1200H a squad patrol from Company "D" at XD 814-577, received on erratic 81MM WP round resulting in one Marine wounded.
- 22 May At 0831H Gen DRAKE took command of Task Force Hotel.
At 1350H Den Drake and Col GOCIN, Co, 4th Marines arrived at FSB Neville for a conference with the Battalion Commander. They departed at 1415H.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ 1. Battalion Journal 1 through 31 May 1969 *Filed Sep*
- ✓ 2. Maps Vietnam 6342 I, 6342 II, 6342 III, 6342 IV (Previously submitted).
- ✓ 3. Map Vietnam 6344 IV

Filed Sep {
✓4 Bushmaster + Day + Night Acts
✓5 Frag Orders
✓6 SITREPS
✓7 SPOT. RPTS

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