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BT# 528508

HEADQUARTERS
2d Battalion 4th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/AFP/der
5750
8 September 1968
SerNo: 003A26268

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 August 1968
Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5150.8
(b) Map Vietnam, Quang Tri Sheet No. 6342 II and III
Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a),
enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

Charles W. Knapp
CHARLES W. KNAPP
By direction

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HEADQUARTERS
2d Battalion 4th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-31 August 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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SECTION I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA INCLUDING ATTACHMENTS

Commanding Officer		LtCol L. A. RANN
Executive Officer		Maj C. W. KNAPP
S-1	To 19Aug68	1stLt T. E. TANZEY
	Fr 20Aug68	CWO2 W. ZUBRISKI
S-2		Capt J. H. BUTLER
S-3		Maj R. G. LEIDICH
S-4		Capt L. A. GOODALE
Supply Officer		1stLt J. D. CLARKE
Communications Officer		1stLt P. J. MCFLINNNEY
Motor Transport Officer	To 19Aug68	1stLt D. H. NEFF
	Fr 20Aug68	1st W. G. HOGSON
Medical Officer		LT F. P. MURPHY USN
Chaplain		LT M. F. WILLARD USN
Dental Officer	To 13Aug68	LT J. C. GABUS USN

Company Commanders

H&S Company	To 21Aug68	1stLt S. M. LOVE
	Fr 22Aug68	1stLt B. V. TAYLOR
E Company		Capt E. G. MASSMAN
F Company		Capt R. J. MURPHY
G Company		Capt J. M. DWYER
H Company		Capt N. J. LADUCA

Attachments (Transferred to parent unit on date indicated)

BtryH, 3dBn, 12thMarines (14Aug68)	Capt E. C. BROWN
MortarBtry, 3dBn, 12thMarines (14Aug68)	1stLt C. S. PIAZZA
Det, HqBn, 3dMarDiv (16Aug68)	1stLt J. L. PHILIPP
1stPlt, CoA, 5thTkBn (14Aug68)	1stLt R. D. SMITH
1stPlt, CoA, 5thATBn (13Aug68)	1stLt H. E. LINDFELT
4thPlt, CoB, 1stAmtracBn (13Aug68)	1stLt E. E. COX
4thPlt, CoB, 3dEngrBn (15Aug68)	1stLt P. S. HAMILTON
3dPlt, CoC, 3dMTBn (19Aug68)	Capt J. F. BRUCH
1stPlt, CoC, 3dSPBn (16Aug68)	Capt J. R. COGHILL
Log Support Unit, FLC (15Aug68)	1stLt J. R. WHITWORTH
1stPlt, CoD, 3dReconBn (15Aug68)	1stLt C. W. MUTER
ClearingPlt, CoD, 5thMedBn (13Aug68)	LT D. F. FCHOLS USN

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SECTION II

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Period: 01 to 31 August 1968

1. a. The average monthly strength during the period:

OFF	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
	37	2
ENL	1005	65

- b. Critical MOS's and rank deficiencies have been closely monitored and requested.

- c. The following number of personnel were transferred during the period:

OFF	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
	15	2
ENL	415	30

- d. The following number of personnel were joined during the period:

OFF	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>
	4	0
ENL	441	12

- e. The following casualties were incurred during the period:

KIA - 10	MIA - 0	INJURED - 39
WIA - 43	WIANE - 28	DOI - 0
DOW - 1	DISEASE - 9	OTHER - 0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of August, BLT 2/4(-) concluded Operation CANTON II and resumed normal operations from Firebase CATES. The first six days of the month saw a continuation of the split command of the BLT. The Alpha Command Group and Companies F, G, and H were operating in conjunction with 1st Battalion, 4th Marines in Operation CANTON II. The Bravo Command Group retained control of Company E and H&S Company units in and around Firebase CATES; also, Company M 3/4 was placed OPCON to the Bravo Command Group at CATES. Later, as enemy contact in each command's respective areas necessitated the commitment of more forces, the Alpha Command assumed OPCON of Company D 1/4, and a Provisional Battery of artillery consisting of three (3) 105mm howitzers and three (3) 107mm mortars, and the Bravo Command assumed OPCON of Company G 2/9 and Company B 1/4.

There were two minor enemy contacts during the first week of August. The first contact was an NVA ground attack on the platoon from Company E located at Hill 950 on 2 Aug 1968. This attack was in keeping with the enemy's general plan of harassment tactics. The second contact on 6 Aug 1968 was an attack on Company G 2/4 and also could be classed as a harassing/delaying attack. The rest of the contacts were light probes along defensive perimeters and mortar/artillery attacks. At 130700H Aug 1968 the BLT was chopped ADCON to the 3rd Marine Division and re-designated Second Battalion, 4th Marines at that time. All of the attachments that had belonged to the BLT were chopped back to their parent units by 19 Aug 1968.

During the latter half of the month, the battalion continued normal operations from CATES in conjunction with the assigned mission. The 4th Marines ordered that another firebase be built on Hill 832 (XD 973447) for the 4.2" mortars. Company E moved to Hill 832 on 17 Aug 1968 and began to develop the position. Later, on 25 Aug 1968 Company G relieved Company E and continued to develop this position with the 4.2" Mortar Battery. The remainder of the battalion's units continued construction on the existing defensive positions.

There were no major enemy contacts during the last half of August. The enemy centered his activity around two of the battalion's positions -- the Company H position on Hill 691 and the Company F position on the 950/1015 hill complex. The main activity was around Company F. Numerous sightings of NVA and artillery/mortar attacks were received by Company F. These attacks were neither heavy nor sustained; they appeared to be a continuation of the harassment policy of the NVA. The NVA also continued to probe both these positions at night from time to time. The probes seemed to be a testing of the defenses and a further continuation of harassment.

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At the end of the month the battalion continued to prepare defensive positions with the keynote being the weather-proofing of the bunkers before the monsoons. Aggressive small unit patrolling was continued by all units in conjunction with the preparation of the defensive positions.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS01 Aug 1968

At 1545H, a platoon patrol from Company H spotted 3 NVA at XD 903504. The patrol opened fire, killing 2 NVA. Shortly after the contact, the patrol found a bunker complex containing several items of U.S. type 782 gear and 6 60mm mortar rounds. At 1925H, an active rocket site was observed by an FO at XD 893526. Counter-battery fire was called, but because of the proximity of another unit the fire was delayed. Air strikes were finally called and 1 secondary explosion was observed.

02 Aug 1968

At 0230H, the platoon from Company F on Hill 950 heard movement on their lines. At 0330H, this unit came under attack and began receiving incoming grenades and 60mm mortar fire. The western end of the perimeter, closest to the LZ, was overrun at 0345H. The lines were quickly re-established, cutting off the LZ. During the initial phase of the enemy attack, grenades, mortars, and small arms fire were used by the enemy. At 0500H the attack began to falter and the platoon from Company F had cleared their position of the enemy. The 60mm mortars were fired into the area just below the LZ and by 0600H the original lines had been re-established around the perimeter. The platoon sustained 6 KIA and 11 WIA, and they found 5 NVA KIA and 3 enemy individual weapons. A further check revealed that the wire around the area had been cut and illumination devices deactivated. Blood trails and several documents were also found. Later, as a UH-1E helicopter landed on the LZ at Hill 950, the unit received 3 incoming rounds believed to have come from a direct fire weapon. An AO was called on station and an artillery mission was called on the suspected position. Another platoon from Company F, while on patrol, discovered an old harbor site at XD 895455. The site contained 3 bunkers and miscellaneous cooking gear. At 1630H, the BLT assumed OPCON of Company D 1/4. At 1815H, Company G at XD 887496 reported taking heavy rocket incoming from an area XD 894528. Company G had sustained 7 WIA at this time. The incoming started again at 1900H, and Company G received 14 more rocket rounds and sustained 2 more WIA's. At 2120H, the 2nd Platoon of Company F heard movement on their lines on Hill 679 and fired their 60mm mortars, using illumination and HE.

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DECLASSIFIED03 Aug 1968

At 0120H, Company E on Hill 691 had a trip flare set off at the northern end of their perimeter. A hand illumination grenade was thrown and M-79 rounds were fired at suspected targets. A check at first light produced negative results. A platoon on Hill 679, from Company E, on a check at first light, discovered several trees lying across the concertina and claymores turned toward the lines. Company G 2/9 was chopped OPCON to BLT 2/4(-) at 1200H. At 1230H, during the change of units on Hill 950, the position began receiving incoming mortars and troop-carrying helicopters began receiving automatic weapons fire. Artillery was fired into the suspected mortar and AA site and an AO was sent to check the area. Company G 2/9 sustained 3 WIA. Company G 2/9 sent a patrol to investigate the area where the anti-aircraft fire was suspected of coming from. The patrol found a well-used trail and miscellaneous NVA gear. The gear was left untouched because of possible booby-traps. At 1930H, an NVA radio message was monitored and all useful information was passed to the 4th Marines intelligence section. At 2205H, Company E heard movement in the treeline near their defensive wire on Hill 691. M-79's were fired at the suspected movement.

04 Aug 1968

The unit from Company E on Hill 679 had several trip flares set off and heard heavy movement along their wire. Grenades were thrown and 60mm mortar and artillery illumination were fired. At 0840H both Company G and Company H received 4 rounds of light artillery incoming from XD 884527. Counterbattery fire was called. At 1515H, Company G 2/9 received 1 round of 60mm mortar fire while a helicopter was on the LZ at Hill 950. Later, a patrol from Company G 2/9 found what appeared to be the assembly area for the enemy's attack on the Hill 950 position on 2 Aug 1968. Assorted NVA gear and ordnance were also found. At 1730H, Company F discovered a large cache of enemy weapons and ordnance under the false bottoms of 7 huts. The gear of intelligence value was sent to the 4th Marines, and the remainder of the ordnance was destroyed. The total weight of the cache was estimated to be 20 tons. At 2145H, 4-5 enemy were spotted near the lines at Firebase CATES, and a 60mm mortar mission was fired. Company E's position on Hill 691 also had movement on the lines shortly after the movement at CATES. A check of Company E's lines in the morning revealed 9 large cuts in their wire. These were repaired.

**ENCLOSURE
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Company G 2/9 received 3 rounds of 60mm mortar incoming again while a chopper was on the LZ. The rounds were believed to have come from XD 834445. Later, a patrol from Company G 2/9 discovered two small bunker complexes - one at XD 846454 and one at XD 849453. These were destroyed. Company G 2/4, while moving, found a small bunker complex at XD 890499 containing approximately 100 rounds of 12.7mm ammo. The bunkers were destroyed along with the ammo. Later, a patrol from the BLT's Recon Platoon, supported by Companies G and H, searched a suspected rocket site, vicinity 893524, with negative results. At 2320H, the BLT received 4th Marines Frag Order - the BLT was to assume OPCON of Company B 1/4 and retain OPCON of Company G 2/9 until 071200H Aug 1968. Again, shortly after dark, there was enemy movement around the unit from Company E on Hill 679. A check at first light produced negative results.

06 Aug 1968

At 0418H, Company G 2/4 at XD 886496 came under a heavy ground attack from the northwest. The NVA initiated the attack with small arms and RPG rockets. Company G sustained 4 KIA and 6 WIA. A thorough search of the area of contact in the morning revealed miscellaneous enemy gear and ordnance; however, there were no enemy bodies. At 1130H, Company G 2/4 was lifted to VANDEGRIFT Combat Base and the Alpha Command Group and Company H were helilifted to Firebase CATES. Company M 3/4 and Company D 1/4 were chopped OPCON to their parent units. At 1505H, Company F 2/4 was lifted to VANDEGRIFT for rehab. Company B 1/4 remained OPCON to BLT 2/4(-) until 071200H Aug 1968. Operation CANTON II terminated on this date, and the BLT resumed its normal operations in the SCOTLAND II AO.

07 Aug 1968

At 0131H, the Company E unit on Hill 679 received several incoming Chicom grenades, and the lines heard heavy movement and the noise of a tactical radio. Artillery, 81mm and 60mm mortars were fired in support of the unit. At 1115H, the Commandant of the Marine Corps visited Firebase CATES and presented awards to several of the BLT's personnel. At 1515H, Company G 2/9 was chopped OPCON to its parent unit. At 1700H, flashes believed to have been rockets were observed at XD 883535 (Hill 792). A 4.2" mortar mission was called on the target and a secondary explosion was observed. Artillery and air strikes were also run on the target. Two NVA radio transmissions were monitored at approximately 2100H. The S-4 rear picked up an NVA station on their net, and an interpreter said that

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the NVA were talking about an attack on Cam Lo that night. Also, Company E picked up NVA voices on their net. An effort was made to persuade the NVA to surrender; however, this produced negative results. At 2205H, an LP from Company E on Hill 691 received an incoming grenade and observed a moving figure. The LP returned fire, but the figure successfully made his escape. Movement was also detected on the lines at Firebase CATES. An M-26 grenade was thrown and movement ceased.

08 Aug 1968

Company F 2/4 was lifted into the Hill 950 position at 1300H. Company F had the mission to search, fix, and destroy the enemy in the Hill 950 complex west of the 85 grid line. The lift was complete at 1405H. Company B 1/4 had the mission to search, fix, and destroy the enemy in the Hill 1015 complex east of the 85 grid line. Company G was to continue the development of Firebase CATES. Company H was to assume responsibility for the development of Hills 691 and 950. At 1530H, Company F, while on patrol, found some booby-trapped U.S. type 782 gear. This gear was destroyed in place.

09 Aug 1968

Company F was helilifted into the Hill 613 (XL 89438) at 1300H with the mission to prepare strong defensive positions, develop LZ's, and patrol throughout the area.

10 Aug 1968

At 1535H, three Marines from Company E were wounded when a booby-trapped M-26 grenade was tripped. It was felt that this was left by the previous friendly unit. A search was conducted to discover if there were anymore of these devices in the area. A Company H patrol found 2 bamboo aiming stakes at XD 927444 that were pointed at the 106 recoilless rifle positions. The aiming stakes were removed and sent in for evaluation. While registering NDF with 60mm mortars, Company F had a round land inside their perimeter injuring 3 Marines. The round was affected by the high wind from the northwest.

11 Aug 1968

At 1230H, Company H on Hill 691 spotted 4 NVA in a treeline at XD 926452. Both 60mm and 81mm mortars were

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fired with good target coverage. At 1845H, the platoon from Company H on Hill 950 received 5 rounds of 60mm mortar fire during a resupply operation. All of the rounds landed outside the perimeter. Two artillery missions were fired and gunships were called in to work the suspected enemy position. Company B 1/4 began a helilift at 1415H; however, only two platoons were lifted and the third was forced to remain in the Hill 950 position to be extracted at a later date. The 4th Marines also laid the requirement on the BLT to develop Hill 832 (XD 873445) as a 4.2" mortar firebase.

12 Aug 1968

At 1915H, Company H observed 5 NVA moving north at XD 958459. An artillery mission was fired with good coverage.

13 Aug 1968

BLT 2/4(-) was ADCON to the 3rd Marine Division at 0700H and was re-designated as the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines at that time.

14-15 Aug 1968

There was no enemy contact during this period of time. All units of the battalion continued with their assigned missions and developed their respective defensive positions.

16 Aug 1968

At 2200H, Company H intercepted a radio transmission (freq 75.30) from an NVA Captain who said he wanted to surrender. He said that he was afraid to approach the friendly position because he thought he would be shot. Efforts were made to coax him in, but transmission was broken. A patrol found a hammer and a bag of rice at XD 891439. The scent of fish being cooked was also detected but soon lost. The gear was left untouched as it appeared to be booby-trapped.

17 Aug 1968

A request was sent to the 4th Marines that four NOD's and four SID's be made available for the battalion's use at CATES. Engineer support was requested from the 4th Marines. At 2330H, Company H at their defensive perimeter on Hill 691 heard movement and what might have been the sound of wire being cut. Both 60mm and 81mm mortars fired missions into the suspected area of movement.

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EXCERPT (1)

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The area where Company H heard movement on the previous night was searched thoroughly. There were negative results. The 4th Marines sent a message that all thrust points were compromised and that new thrust points were forthcoming.

19 Aug 1968

New thrust points were sent from the 4th Marines and went into effect at 1255H. At 1430H, a patrol from Company F found the friendly gear that had been left by Company H on Hill 512. This gear was untouched and was helilifted to Company E's position. At 1915H, Company F on Hill 950 received 7 rounds of incoming artillery fire from the vicinity of XD 788438. Counter-battery fire was called on the suspected enemy position with unknown results. At 2130H, Company H on Hill 691 received 2 incoming Chicom grenades. Company E fired 60mm mortars and threw M-26 grenades at the enemy movement. Three casualties were sustained by Company H and these were evacuated on the following morning.

20 Aug 1968

At first light Company H searched the area of contact of the previous night with negative results. At 0900, a patrol from Company F found a fresh enemy trail at XD 864453. Company F also received one round of incoming from XD 769463 at their defensive perimeter on Hill 950. An AO was on station and continued to observe the area. At 1330H, a routine patrol from Company E found a battalion size enemy harbor site in the vicinity of XD 889442. There were 15 to 20 well-used trails in the area and a good water source. The camp appeared to be 2-3 months old. There were no extensive fortifications, merely fighting holes with overhead cover.

21 Aug 1968

At 0530H, trip flares were ignited on the Company E perimeter on Hill 691. Frag grenades were thrown and a check shortly thereafter showed negative results. Company F had an unknown explosion close to their lines on Hill 950, and the SID device picked up movement. After firing a 60mm mortar mission, the movement ceased. A patrol from Company E found approximately 50 fighting holes and 2 living bunkers at XD 873453. Trails were again found throughout the area; however, they showed

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no sign of recent use. At 1425H, the SID device on Hill 950 again picked up movement in the vicinity of XD 840452. Fire missions were called in on the area with unknown results.

22 Aug 1968

There was no enemy contact during this 24-hour period. All rifle companies received frag orders and continued to prepare their positions.

23 Aug 1968

An observation post from Company H spotted 5-6 NVA at XD 943445. An artillery mission was called, 106mm recoilless rifle was fired, and both 60mm and 81mm mortars fired missions with unknown results. Again Company F on Hill 950 detected enemy movement vicinity XD 847455. An artillery mission was fired and 60mm mortars were fired on the target.

24 Aug 1968

At 1510H, Company F received one round of 60mm mortar fire from XD 834481. Counter-battery fire was called on the suspected enemy position.

25 Aug 1968

At 0800H, Company G began a trooplift to Hill 842 to take over development of that position from Company E. Company E returned to CATES. At 1310H, Company F spotted 10-15 NVA moving in a treeline vicinity XD 865466. A 60mm mortar mission was fired with unknown results. At 1320H, Company F on Hill 691 received 38 rounds of mixed 60mm and 82mm mortar fire. Counter-battery fire was fired on the suspected enemy position vicinity XD 929450. Company H sustained 11 men wounded. Approximately 30 minutes after Company F fired on the NVA in the treeline, their perimeter received two rounds of incoming 60mm mortar fire. Counter-battery was fired, and an AO was brought on station. Later in the evening, Company F spotted a group of 14 NVA moving back into the same area of the initial sighting. Artillery was again called on that target. At 2130H, Company H heard movement at the southwestern end of their perimeter. A cut in the wire was observed. Grenades, M-79's, and a 60mm mortar mission were fired into the area, and a scream was heard. A search at first light, however, produced negative results. At 2300H, a recon insert called in a fire mission on an enemy convoy at XD 841416. The FO from Company F took over the adjustment of the mission. Company F reported secondary explosions with flashes 15-45 seconds long. Air was also brought on station and controlled by the FAC team attached to Company F.

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Throughout the morning Company F received 11 rounds of mixed 60mm and 82mm mortar rounds which landed outside the perimeter. An AO ran an airstrike on several NVA moving in a treeline (XD 863466) and claimed 2 NVA KIA. Again at 1455H, Company F received mortar incoming. This time 5 rounds of 82mm mortar fire, and again all rounds impacted outside the perimeter. Air, artillery, and mortars were called in on the suspected enemy position.

27 Aug 1968

At 0940H, Company F received one round of 60mm mortar fire vicinity XD 837453. Two Marines were wounded when the round landed in a trenchline. Later, a patrol from Company F spotted 4-5 NVA at XD 845585. An 81mm mortar mission was fired and an AO was brought on station. At 1400H, another patrol from Company F found a block of TNT and a C-ration can in an open, matted down area at XD 845458. At 1630H, Company F again received 2 rounds of 60mm mortar fire while a helicopter was in the LZ. A flight of OAS was run on the suspected enemy position (XD 897435).

28 Aug 1968

Company H on Hill 691 reported movement on their lines just prior to dawn. Grenades were thrown, and M-79s were fired. The position received 4 incoming Chicom grenades. A check was made at first light with negative results. A patrol from Company F received 1 sniper round from XD 857457 and fired a 60mm mortar mission. No more fire came and the patrol continued. At 1400H, another platoon patrol was held up for 45 minutes when a sniper fired 8 rounds at the patrol. The small arms fire was returned and mortars were employed. A check of the area found only a trail leading to the north-east. At 1630H, this same patrol, while checking the area of the previous days air strike, found bloody bandages, drag marks, and pools of blood at XD 837452. Enemy activity on Hill 679 (XD 893458) was spotted from CATES. Two flights of fixed-wing and several 155 missions on the target destroyed 6 enemy bunkers. Company F heard movement on their lines at 2135H. A 60mm mortar mission was fired and the movement ceased.

29 Aug 1968

A recon insert, Crystal Star, spotted 2 NVA pulling out wounded after a UH-1E gunship strike on grid XD 853460. Company F began calling artillery missions into that grid.

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At 1430H, Company F spotted 5 NVA vicinity XD 855467. A 60mm mortar mission was fired with unknown results. Company F received one round of 60mm mortar fire as a CH-46 landed in the LZ. The direction of the round was unknown.

30 Aug 1968

At 0930H, a wire check on the Company F perimeter revealed that several of the trip flare wires had been cut. These were repaired. Company F received one 82mm mortar round inside their wire at 1645H. The round was suspected to have come from XD 848462; an AO and gunship checked the area. Company F sustained 9 men WIA. At 1900H, Company F observed 15-20 NVA move up a trail into a cratered area at XD 873453. Artillery and 81mm mortars were fired into the area with excellent target coverage.

31 Aug 1968

At 1500H, Company F spotted 5 NVA running along the road into a ravine. An artillery mission was fired with unknown results. Company F received two rounds of 60mm mortar fire when a helicopter dropped an external load on the LZ; later, two more rounds were received. On both occasions the rounds landed outside the perimeter, and observers could not determine direction or position. At 2200H, Company F observed movement of two figures with a starlight scope. Surveillance was kept over the area of movement.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓ TAB A	-	INTELLIGENCE
✓ TAB B	-	TRAINING
✓ TAB C	-	LOGISTICS
✓ TAB D	-	COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS
✓ TAB E	-	FIRE SUPPORT
✓ TAB F	-	MEDICAL AND DENTAL
✓ TAB G	-	CHAPLAIN SUPPORT

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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INTELLIGENCE

AREA OF OPERATIONS: SCOTLAND II

MAP REFERENCES:

- (a) Cam Lo Map Sheet 6342 I, Series L7014
- (b) Thon Doc Kinh Map Sheet 6342 II, Series L7014
- (c) Huong Hoa Map Sheet 6342 III, Series L7014
- (d) Nguon Rao Map Sheet 6342 IV, Series L7014

1. Intelligence operations during the period 1-31 August 1968 were satisfactory.

2. Enemy Situation

- (a) 25 attacks by rocket/mortar
- (b) 26 movement, probes, ground attacks on friendly positions
- (c) 14 enemy sightings
- (d) 11 enemy base/rest areas discovered
- (e) 11 active rocket/mortar positions observed

From 1-6 August the battalion completed Operation CANTON II. In this phase of the operation the battalion met with none of the enemy's main forces. The NVA appeared only in small groups, the largest being platoons in size (20-25), whose mission it probably was only to delay and harass friendly units operating in his area. Company G was hit by a ground attack in the early morning hours of 6 August by one such unit. However, the extent of the enemy's former presence in the area was revealed by the number of bunkered base/rest areas discovered during this time. At one of these positions approximately 20 tons of enemy ordnance was found. This cache consisted of 6 CSW/ 21 IW/ 1300/82mm mortar rounds, 600/60mm mortar rounds, 105 RPG-2 rounds, 360 RPG-7 rounds, 600 cases of 7.72mm rounds, 170 cases 12.7mm rounds and smaller amounts of ordnance.

The battalion came under several rocket or mortar attacks while on this operation. These active sites were noted to be on the high ground just to the north of the Khe Giang Thuan River between the 88-91 grid line. Six of these sites were taken under fire during the operation with unknown results.

While Companies F, G, and H continued on CANTON II, Company E, broken down into platoons, held positions on Hills 691, 679, and 950. At night these units reported constant movement and probing on their perimeter. The enemy searched for weaknesses and on 2 August did hit Hill 950 with a ground attack. This contact resulted in 5 NVA KIA and 3 IW captured.

On 6 August Operation CANTON II terminated and Companies F, G, and H returned to base camps on Hills 950, 832, 691, and Firebase CATES. The enemy continued to make his presence known by constantly harassing friendly positions by night-time

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probes and mortar attacks. Hill 691 and the 950-1015 complex received the most attention from the enemy.

During the month units on Hill 691 reported 11 probes. The enemy cut wire, turned claymores and disarmed trip flares. On 25 August the enemy hit the hill with 38 rounds of mixed 82mm and 60mm mortar fire.

Hill 950/1015 has been subject to almost daily attacks by 82mm and 60mm mortar fire. However because of the terrain configuration, cover and concealment, friendly units have been unable to pinpoint the enemy positions. The enemy has used high winds and times when helicopters were in the LZ to mask his firing. 19 incidents of mortar fire were reported in August.

Overall the enemy has chosen to keep his main forces out of 2/4's AO. The greatest number of sightings have been of between 18-20 men. The enemy's probable mission is to keep a constant surveillance of friendly positions and to harass, and where possible, hit these positions. Also, the enemy is probably using this period for resupply and buildup of his forces.

Reconnaissance teams have been used extensively in the AO. 31 inserts have worked the area from 1-31 August. Their observations have generally confirmed the enemy's present trend of operations (i.e., to operate in small groups while constantly observing USMC positions).

The OP on Hill 950 together with the seismic devices planted in the area of the Khe Sanh Combat Base (KSCB) have reported an increased amount of activity in that area west of their position. There has also been several reports of vehicular movement in that area. Thus, it is believed that an increased amount of infiltration is working its way through the old supply routes. Two of these routes are particularly worth mentioning because of recent improvements. One is a 4 meter wide road that generally follows a trail route from Laos through coordinates XD 658538, XD 707543, XD 770538, and XD 806476. The other leads south from the KSCB along an intermittent stream through coordinates XD 680653, XD 680686, and XD 695622 and then along a trail through XD 735608 and XD 770538, where it joins the above road and moves southward through the KSCB area.

3. COVER AND CONCEALMENT

(a) Concealment from both aerial and ground observation in the 2/4 AO is excellent in most parts. Vegetation in the AO grows well. Forested areas, grassland areas, and canopied areas all provide excellent concealment.

(b) Cover. The enemy is afforded excellent cover in the AO. The terrain configuration alone provides the enemy with adequate cover. The irregularity of the terrain and canopy

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afford the enemy numerous areas where he is able to establish harbor sites/base camps. It has been noted that slopes forming gullies, draws and ravines are favorite sites used by the enemy to establish harbor sites/base camps. Those areas usually have limited avenues of approach and can be very easily defended.

4. Vegetation

(a) Most of the mountainous areas and the highlands are forested. Some of the highlands are covered with tall, thick elephant grass which attains a height of over 10 feet. Clusters of trees are sometimes found in the highlands where elephant grass is predominant.

(b) Wooded areas are common along the river banks and streams. Forested areas are also found in those gullies, draws, and ravines where intermittent streams are found.

(c) Heavy canopy areas are common in the SCOTLAND II AO, particularly in the higher elevations. The area along the Vietnam/Laos border is a heavy canopy area.

(d) Grasslands are usually found in the highland areas where the terrain is relatively flat. The elephant grass found in these areas is thick and grows to a height over 10 feet.

5. Results:

Enemy KIA during August: 7

Enemy weapons captured during August: 31

(a) Individual weapons: 25

(b) Crew-served weapons: 6

Total enemy KIA since 5 May 1965: 2900

Total enemy weapons captured since 5 May 1965: 851

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TRAINING

During the month of August the training within the battalion increased. At the small unit level classes were conducted on map reading, engineering, and demolitions, and classes given which included patrolling and ambushes, the briefing, patrol order, techniques, and proper debriefing. In the field, squad leaders and above were given classes on proper FO procedure. Practical application was conducted using 81's, 4.2"s, and 105's. At the company level, classes were given on field sanitation and personal hygiene, radio procedure and maintenance, indoctrination on crew-served and individual weapons, and the proper setting in of defensive positions which emphasized the laying of defensive wire and construction of fortified positions. Also included was an introduction to the handling and employment of SID's and NOD's. On the battalion level a casualty reporting class was conducted to impart the importance of prompt, accurate reporting.

In the battalion rear, all new troops were involved in the COATIP orientation program which covers the involvement in RVN with an added emphasis on personal response. Each Marine, before he comes to the front from the rear, zero's his weapon and fam-fires at least one hundred rounds.

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LOGISTICS

Throughout the month of August the battalion was supported at Firebase CATES and other hill positions from VANDEGRIFT CB. During the first half of the month, the BLT was on Operation CANTON II, and resupply to BLT 2/4(-) in the field proceeded in a highly satisfactory manner.

At 071300H Aug 1968 BLT 2/4(-) was chopped ADCON to the 3rd Marine Division and was re-designated the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines at that time. Upon re-designation, the battalion chopped all of the attachments to their parent units. The loss of the Shore Party Platoon and the Motor Transport Platoon created several major problems of resupply. However, the solution to these problems was co-ordinated through 3rd Marine Division support units and by the end of the month resupply was again flowing smoothly.

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COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS

1. Significant Events

During the month of August, elements of the communications platoon participated in the development of LZ CATES and in operations in the SCOTLAND II AO, particularly Operation CANTON II.

2. New Developments

None

3. Problem Areas

a. A shortage of clear frequencies - I Corps area - is wide - seriously hampers effective communications. Also most frequencies are badly coordinated and are too close together causing serious overrides, further hampering good, reliable communications.

4. Status of Communication Equipment

The following equipment was deadlined at the time of this report:

AN/PRC-41	3rd echelon
3 RT 505's	Combat loss, on requisition
21 TA-1/PT's	T/E deficiency
2 RT 505's	Awaiting parts
4 H-44's	Awaiting parts (second echelon)

5. Number of Security Violations

None reported

6. Number of Messages Sent and Received

Sent - 59
Received - 525

7. Personnel Status

Shortages

1 LCpl/below	2531
1 Sgt	2511
1 Sgt	2533

Overages

1 LCpl/below	2533
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FIRE SUPPORT

<u>1. ARTILLERY</u>	<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>ROUNDS EXPENDED</u>
4.2" Mortar	38 Missions	78 WP 720 HE
105mm Howitzer	81 Missions	183 WP 1324 HE 8 HCS
155mm Howitzer	22 Missions	46 WP 470 HE
	<u>TOTAL MISSIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL WP</u> 307
	141	HE : 2514
		Rounds 2829
Artillery H&I's	406 Missions	1465 HE
	<u>Artillery Confirms</u>	
	0 NVA	
	0 Ordnance (Listing)	
<u>81mm Mortar</u>	85 Missions	202 WP 1768 HE 12 ILL
81mm H&I's	110 Missions	TOTAL Rounds 1-02 1561 HE TOTAL Rounds 1561

Mortar Confirms

0 NVA

2. Close Air Support

<u>MISSION</u>	<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>
CAS	7	6
AO	19	15
TPQ	22	16
HELOLIFT	7	6
C&C (VR)	3	1
FLARESHIP	0	0

3. NAVAL GUNFIRE

Negative Missions

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MEDICAL AND DENTAL

1. Significant Events -----None
2. New Developments -----None
3. Problem Areas -----None
4. Average daily number of patients seen 26
5. Total number of patients seen from 1 Aug 68 through 31 Aug 68 803
6. Number of referrals to NSA, USS REPOSE, USS PRINCETON, ETC... 68
7. Routine Complaints
 - (a) Diarrhea 26
 - (b) URI 31
 - (c) Dermatitis 85
 - (d) EENT 15
 - (e) Venereal Disease 17
 - (f) Immersion Foot 2
 - (g) Others 39
8. Significant Disease Areas
 - (a) Malaria 8
 - (b) FUO 10
9. Number of Emergencies

	TOTAL	EVAC	KIA	DCW
(a) Burns	13	11	0	0
(b) Lacerations	7	0	0	0
(c) Heat Casualties	0	0	0	0
(d) Shrapnel Wounds	22	20	7	1
(e) Gunshot Wounds	5	5	3	0
(f) Others	1	1	1	0
10. Immunizations and prophylactics administered 37
Dental Referrals 37
11. Officers seen at sickcall included in total count
 - (a) Officers Sickcall 12
 - (b) Evacuated with shrapnel and gunshot wounds 0

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CHAPLAIN SUPPORT

	<u>Services</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Catholic	12	465
Protestant	11	406
Communion	285	
Hospital Visits	9	

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