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5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein)  
1st Battalion, 13th Marines  
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

0168  
AJS/elh  
5750  
1 Feb 1968

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines, FPO, San Francisco,  
California 96602

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 January to 31 January 1968

Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5750.8

Encl: (1) 5th 155 Gun Battery (SP)(-)(Rein) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. When enclosure (1) is removed, this letter is unclassified.

*E. B. Beall Jr.*  
E. B. BEALL, Jr.

5th - 155 mm Gun Btry

CMD CHRON

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5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein)  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 January - 31 January 1968

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PART 1

**DECLASSIFIED**Organizational Data1. Designation

5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(-)(Rein)

CommandingMajor E. B. BEALL, Jr.  
1 January - 31 January  
1968Executive OfficerCaptain A. J. SCHMIDT, Jr.  
1 January - 31 January  
1968Subordinate Units

2nd Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(-)(Rein)

Commander1st Lt. R. E. WASSON  
1 January - 31 January  
1968Attached Units

1st Platoon, 5th 8" Howitzer Battery (SP)

CommanderCaptain A. J. SCHMIDT, Jr.  
1 January - 31 January  
19672. Location:

a. Battery (-) (Rein)

1 January-10 January 1968 17 miles south of  
Gau-Lai10 January - 26 January 1968 5 miles North of  
Chu-Lai28 January - 31 January 1968 Landing Zone  
SHARON Quang Tri City

b. 1st Platoon

1 January - 27 January 1968 Cam Lo Area  
28 January - 31 January 1968 Rejoined Battery  
Headquarters at  
LZ SHARON

c. 2nd Platoon

1 January - 27 January 1968 DaNang TAOR  
28 January - 31 January 1968 Landing Zone EVANS  
(formerly Camp  
EVANS)3. Average monthly strength

USMC	
Off	Enl
10	201

USN	
Off	Enl
0	4

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## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 10 January 1968, the Battery Headquarters and one 155mm Gun Platoon, reinforced by the 1st Platoon, 5th 8-inch Howitzer Battery (SP), moved from their former location 17 miles south of Chu Lai to a new permanent location. The new position, five (5) miles north of Chu Lai, placed the Battery (-) in support of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade of the Americal Division. The operational commander of the Battery remained the 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery.

On 19 January 1968, the Battery received a warning order to move the 8-inch Platoon north to the province headquarters of Tam Ky to support the defense forces around the province headquarters. All available Battery assets were mobilized, and on 21 January, the 8-inch Platoon was emplaced and firing from a position in Tam Ky City, adjacent to province headquarters. An average of 240 rounds per night were fired by the platoon in H&I fires. Numerous TOT and Destruction missions were also fired. The remainder of the Battery Headquarters and 155mm Gun Platoon remained in the main position north of Chu Lai.

On 24 January, the Battery received an order to move by sea and road to Northern I Corps and support the 1st Air Cavalry Division. The 8-inch Platoon was relieved in place the afternoon of the 25th, and all track vehicles moved to Chu Lai LST Ramp and were embarked aboard an LST at 1800 25 January 1968.

The wheeled convoy, consisting of 22 vehicles and 54 men, under the command of Captain A. J. SCHMIDT, departed Chu Lai at 1000, 26 January for Northern I Corps. The Battery guns, Engineer equipment and 50 men sailed the evening of 25 January, under the command of Major E. B. BEALL, Jr.

2nd Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Btry was chopped from operational control of 11th Marines on 27 January, and arrived at Camp Evans, north of Phu Bai on 28 January 1968. Operational commander of the Platoon is First Battalion, 30th Artillery, with a mission of General Support/Reinforcing the fires of Second Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division. The 2nd Platoon received received two (2) 155mm Guns, in operational condition, from 1st 155 Gun Btry (SP), inactivating the one (1) Platoon gun to 3d 155mm Gun Btry (SP).

First Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Btry (SP) was dropped from the operational control of the 12th Marines on 28 January, and arrived in Quang Tri City to support the 1st Air Cavalry Division the same day.

The contingent under Major BEALL debarked at Dong Ha on 28 January, after a stop and a reembarkation of equipment aboard LCU's at DaNang. The guns closed on Quang Tri at 1200, 29 January. The wheeled convoy closed on the new Battery location at 1700, 29 January 1968, with all vehicles present.

The Battery mission is general support of the First Air Cavalry Division, reinforcing the fires of the First Battalion, 30th Artillery. First of the 30th is the Battery's operational commander. In the Quang Tri position, called Landing Zone SHARON, the Battery answers calls for fires from the 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery, a Direct Support Battalion. Weapon distribution is as follows:

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Landing Zone SHARON, Quang Tri City - 2-8-inch Howitzers and 4-155mm Guns (2 Deadlined for the last 2 months for spare parts)

Landing Zone EVANS - 2- 155mm Guns

Primary emphasis in the new position has been preparation of positions and defensive bunkers. Mortar attacks have occurred on LZ SHARON during both 30 and 31 January. No casualties or damage to this unit to date.

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PART III

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## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

9 January 1968 Battery received notification of return of M51 Retriever from temporary loan status with SLF

10 January 1968 Battery (-)(Rein) moves to new position 5 miles north of Chu Lai

19 January 1968 Warning order to move 8-inch Platoon to Tam Ky received

20 January 1968 Advance Party to Tam Ky departs

21 January 1968 8-inch Platoon emplaced and firing from Tam Ky City.

25 January 1968 Battery (-)(Rein) began move to Northern I Corps

27 January 1968 2nd Platoon chopped from 11th Marines control

28 January 1968 1st Platoon chopped from 12th Marines control and closes on Quang Tri City position  
2nd Platoon closes on Landing Zone EVANS and fires under operational control of 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery.

29 January 1968 Battery (-)(Rein) closes on Quang Tri (LZ SHARON) and comes under OPCON of First Battalion, 30th Artillery

30-31 January 1968 Incoming mortar rounds (Total 150 rounds) received by LZ SHARON. No damage or casualties received by Battery

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