
  
5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein)  
Fleet Marine Force Pacific  
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

0568  
TWS/elh  
5750  
1 June 1968

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

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

Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5750.8

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

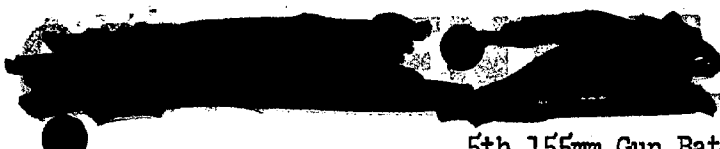
1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. When enclosure (1) is removed, this letter is unclassified.

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

5th 155mm Gun Btry

CMD CHRON

2 Aug 68



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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May - 31 May 1968

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Designation

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

CommandingMajor E. B. BEALL, Jr.  
1 May - 31 May 1968Executive OfficerCaptain T. W. STEELE  
1 May - 31 May 1968Subordinate Units

1st Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(Rein)

Commander1stLt J. M. RAPP  
1 May - 31 May 1968Attached Units

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

Commander1stLt S. A. MENNUTI  
1 May - 31 May 19682. Location

a. Battery (-)

1-31May68 LZ SHARON  
Quang Tri City

b. 1st Platoon

1-31May68 Cam Lo (C-3)

c. 8" Platoon

1-28May68 Ca Lu  
29-31May68 Khe Sahn3. Average Monthly Strength

USMC	
OFF	ENL
9	185

USN	
OFF	ENL
0	5

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## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During May 1968, the mission and disposition of the battery underwent only slight changes. The battery headquarters and 4 155 Guns continued its mission of general support of the 3rd Marine Division, reinforcing the fires of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines from Landing Zone SHARON, Quang Tri City, Republic of Vietnam. On 5 May 1968, the mission was altered to reinforce the fires of the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines (12thMarMsg 051315 May68). The original mission of reinforcing 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines was resumed on 17 May by authority of 12thMarMsg 170900 May68. The volume of fire for May has been light and the fires were mostly H and I's.

The 8" platoon continued its mission of general support of the 3rd Marine Division, reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 12th Marines from Ca Lu. On 27 May 1968, one (1) platoon from the 1st 8" Howitzer Battery was chopped OPCON to the battery upon its arrival at Ca Lu (12th Marines Msg 270300Z May68). On 29 May 1968, both 8" platoons, augmented by battery headquarters personnel, displaced to a firing position northwest of the Khe Sahn Combat Base to conduct a 48 hour artillery raid, Operation Drum Fire II. The mission was general support 3rd Marine Division with priority of fires to Task Force Hotel.

The 1st Platoon located at Cam Lo continued its mission of reinforcing the fires of the 12th Marines. The platoon fired numerous TOT and counter rocket/mortar fires.

Personnel readiness reached C1, but shortages still exist for a supply chief, communicators, and some cannoneers. Equipment status C1 was achieved for the first time since entry into RVN. This month four (4) tube changes were accomplished and one (1) M53 was exchanged on the R&E program.

The battery continues to improve its three (3) present positions. Long range support to Ca Lu and Cam Lo continues with regular convoys each week. On 6 May the battery sustained its first KIA during a rocket attack on the 8" position at Ca Lu. Two (2) other men were wounded.

The battery continues to support operations RICE, LANCASTER II, SCOTLAND II, SAILINE II, and KENTUCKY.

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Enclosure (1)

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PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 3 May 1968 - First Lieutenant L. M. PALM relieved First Lieutenant P. L. BOYER as battery FDO.
- 5 May 1968 - LZ SHARON received approximately 5 rounds of 122mm rocket fire. Negative battery casualties.
- 6 May 1968 - 8" Platoon Ca Lu sustained 1 KIA and 2 WIA from enemy rocket attack.
- 16 May 1968 - LZ SHARON received incoming rockets in early evening with four (4) U. S. Army KIA's. Negative battery casualties.
- 17 May 1968 - LZ SHARON received daylight rocket attack with no battery casualties.
- 29 May 1968 - Commenced OPERATION DRUM FIRE II. 48 hour artillery raid from vicinity of Khe Sahn Combat Base.
- 29 May 1968 - Assumed OPCON one (1) platoon 1st 8" Howitzer Battery at Ca Lu.

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