
 014545
5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein)
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

0668
EBB/elh
1 July 1968


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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 June to 30 June 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

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JUNE

1968


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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 June-30 June 1968

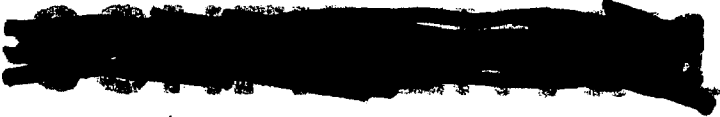
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PART I

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Designation

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

CommandingMajor E. B. BEALL, Jr.
1 June - 30 June 1968Executive OfficerCaptain T. W. STEELE
1 June - 30 June 1968Subordinate Units

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

Commander1stLt J. M. RAPP
1 June - 30 June 1968Attached Units

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

Commander1stLt S. A. MENNUTI
1 June - 4 June 19681stLt H. K. LEE
5 June - 30 June 19682. Location

a. Battery (-) (2-155 Guns)

1-30June68 LZ SHARON
Quang Tri City

b. 1st Platoon (Rein) (4-155 Guns)

1-30June68 Cam Lo (C-3)

c. 8" Platoon

1June68 Khe Sanh
2-30June68 Ca Lu3. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
8	185

<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
0	6

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PART II

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Narrative Summary

During June 1968, the mission and disposition of the 5th 155 Gun Battery (SP), reinforced by the 1st Platoon, 5th 8" Howitzer Battery (SP), commanded by Major E. B. BEALL, Jr, underwent some change. On 1 June, as directed by the 12th Marines, two (2) 155 Guns completed displacement from LZ SHARON, Quang Tri City to the First Platoon's position at Cam Lo (C-3). The battery headquarters and two (2) 155 Guns remained at LZ SHARON with the mission of general support of the 3d Marine Division, reinforcing the fires of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines. The mission was only performed on a few occasions and then confined almost entirely to long range H&I fires. Numerous H&I's, occasional fire missions, and all registrations were conducted in support of the Army's 1st Air Cavalry Division, reinforcing the fires of the 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery with approval of the 12th Marines. One mission fired the night of 27 June accounted for 60 confirmed enemy KIA's in support of OPERATION JEB STUART III.

The First Platoon, augmented by two (2) additional 155 Guns, continued its mission of general support of the 3rd Marine Division, reinforcing the fires of the 12th Marines. The volume of fire has been heavy with numerous TOT's and counter rocket/mortar fires in the area of the DMZ, Con Thien, and north of Dong Ha.

The 8" Platoon completed OPERATION DRUMFIRE II on 1 June, chopped OPCON of the 3rd Platoon, 1st 8" Howitzer Battery to Task Force HOTEL, and returned to its position at Ca Lu. One truck received considerable damage from an enemy rocket attack of the staged convoy at Khe Sanh on 1 June.

During June, the volume of fire for the 8" platoon, answering calls for fire missions from the 12th Marines in Dong Ha, was very light.

Personnel readiness remained C-1 with the only real shortages being communicators. Equipment status dropped back to C2 for most of the month with 1 gun, the retriever and several tube changes causing down time. By the end of the month, the battery achieved C1 status with seven of eight guns shooting. Supply status remains C2 due to the nonavailability of 2nd echelon spare parts for motor transport and ordnance equipment.

The battery continues to improve its three (3) positions. Construction of a messhall was begun at the LZ SHARON headquarters position. New gun pits and bunkers are being constructed at Cam Lo to accommodate the two (2) additional guns. No personnel casualties were incurred during June and vehicle damage was confined to one truck.

The battery continues to support OPERATIONS SCOTLAND II, LANCASTER II, KENTUCKY, NAPOLEON/SALINE II, and JEB STUART III.

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Part III

Sequential Listing of Significant Events

- 1 June 1968 - Completed displacement of Two (2) additional 155 Guns from LZ SHARON to Cam Lo to reinforce the 1st Platoon.
- Completed OPERATION DRUMFIRE II. Displaced 8" Platoon from Khe Sanh to Ca Lu. Received rocket attack at Khe Sanh with damage to two (2) vehicles.
- 4 June 1968 - 1stLt H. K. LEE relieved 1stLt S. A. MENNUIT as 8" Platoon Commander
- 7 June 1968 - Numerous incoming rocket and artillery rounds at LZ STUD and Ca Lu. Ammunition Dump at LZ STUD was destroyed. No 8" Platoon casualties.
- 20 June 1968 - LZ SHARON received about 25 rounds incoming 81mm mortar rounds; no battery casualties
- 26 June 1968 - Major CANTIENY, Executive Officer, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines, visited LZ SHARON position.
- 27 June 1968 - 60 confirmed KIA's from mission fired by LZ SHARON platoon.
- 30 June 1968 - Battery continues to support OPERATION SCOTLAND II, LANCASTER II, KENTUCKY and NAPOLEON/SALINE and JEB STUART III

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