

[REDACTED]

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

0768  
EBB/elh  
4 Aug 1968

[REDACTED]

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 July to 31 July 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.

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5TH 155mm GUN BTRY

CMD CHRON

July 1968

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July - 31 July 1968

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## PART I

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## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

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

CommandingMajor E. B. BEALL, Jr.  
1 July - 31 July 1968Executive OfficerCaptain T. W. STEELE  
1 July - 31 July 1968Subordinate UnitsCommander1st Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein) 1stLt J. M. RAPP  
1 July - 7 July 19681stLt L. M. PALM  
8 July - 31 July 19682nd Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP)(Rein) 1stLt C. R. THORNHILL  
26 July - 31 July 1968Attached UnitsCommander1st Platoon, 5th 8" Howitzer Battery (SP) 1stLt H. K. LEE  
1 July - 29 July 19681stLt J. P. CANNING  
30 July - 31 July 19682. Location

a. Battery Headquarters

1-31 July 1968 LZ SHARON  
Quang Tri City

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

1-31 July 1968 Cam Lo (C-3)

c. 2nd Platoon

26-31 July 1968 Camp  
Carroll

d. 8" Platoon

1-31 July 1968 Ca In

3. Average Monthly StrengthUSMC  
OFF ENLUSN  
OFF ENL

10

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## PART II

UNCLASSIFIED Narrative Summary

During July 1968, the mission and disposition of the 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SF) (Rein), commanded by Major E. B. BEALL, Jr., underwent significant change. From 1-17 July the 2 155 Guns located with the battery headquarters command post at LZ SHARON, Quang Tri City, continued its mission of general support of the 3rd Marine Division, reinforcing the 12th Marines. The total expenditure of rounds, however; during that period was in support of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, answering calls for fire from the 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery.

The First Platoon (Rein) (4 155 Guns) continued its mission of general support for the 3rd Marine Division, reinforcing the fires of the 12th Marines. On 17 July the remaining 2 guns from Landing Zone SHARON were displaced to Cam Lo in order to maintain 4 guns continuously firing in support of OPERATION THOR. The volume of fire was heavy and during the period 15 - 31 July, 6 tube changes were required, causing considerable down time.

The 8" Platoon continued its mission of general support of the 3rd Marine Division, reinforcing the fires of the 12th Marines from Ca Lu. The volume of fire during July was very light.

On 26 July, the 2nd Platoon was designated under the command of First Lieutenant Charles R. THORNHILL and directed to displace to Camp Carroll to support also the 3rd Marine Division, reinforcing the fires of the Fourth Battalion, 12th Marines.

Personnel readiness remained C-1 with some relief in the communication ranks. Equipment status fluctuated so rapidly during the month with numerous tube changes and other maintenance problems causing down time. By the end of the month a C-2 status prevailed with 2 155mm Guns deadlined.

The battery now occupies 4 positions. A new messhall was completed at Landing Zone SHARON and Ca Lu. Second Platoon occupied an old Army 175 Gun Position at Camp Carroll. Work continues at all positions to prepare for the monsoon.

The battery continues to support Operations SCOTLAND II, LANCASTER II, NAPOLEON/SALINE II, KENTUCKY and also CANTON II.

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PART III

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Sequential Listing of Significant Events

- 1 July 1968 - Completed construction of new messhall at Battery CP Landing Zone SHARON
- Commenced Operation THOR
- 8 July 1968 - First Lieutenant L. M. PALM relieved First Lieutenant J. M. RAPP as First Platoon Commander
- 10 July 1968 - Colonel P. L. MULRONEY, Commanding Officer, 12th Marines, visited Battery Headquarters position Landing Zone SHARON
- 17 July 1968 - Displaced 2 155 guns from Landing Zone SHARON to further reinforce 1st Platoon at Cam Lo.
- 26 July 1968 - Designated and displaced Second Platoon (2 155 guns) from Landing Zone SHARON and Cam Lo to Camp Carroll, commanded by First Lieutenant Charles R. THORNHILL
- 29 July 1968 - First Lieutenant J. P. CANNING relieved First Lieutenant H. K. LEE as 8th Platoon Commander.
- 31 July 1968 - Battery continues to support OPERATIONS SCOTLAND II, LANCASTER II, KENTUCKY, NAPOLEON/SALINE, AND COMMENCED CANTON II

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