


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

0969
WMS/elh
2 Oct 1968


From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (SC-3)

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 September to 30 September 1968

Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5750.8
(b) CG 3rd MarDiv msg 111330Z JUNE 68

Encl: (1) Copy of 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) (Rein), Command Chronology

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

Willard M. Stephens
WILLARD M. STEPHENS

3RD - 155mm GUN BTRY

CMD CHRON

SEP 1968

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340 1/2 Am Sun (12) (10in)
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100-10-1000000

1 September - 30 September 1968

100-10

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - RELEVANT DATA

PART III - SUMMARY LISTING OF INDIVIDUAL NAMES

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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ENCLOSURE (9)

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PAGE 1

1. Organization

5th 155mm Gun Battery (155) (Main)

5th 155mm Gun Battery (155) (Main)

Commanding

Major J. F. Smith
1-30 September 1968

Executive Officer

Captain J. F. Smith
1-30 September 1968

Subordinate Units

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

1st Lt J. F. Smith
1-30 September 1968

2nd Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Battery (155) (Main)

2nd Lt J. F. Smith
1-30 September 1968

3rd Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Battery (155) (Main)

3rd Lt J. F. Smith
1-30 September 1968

Attached Units

1st Platoon, 5th 8" Recoilless Rifle Battery (155)

1st Lt J. F. Smith
1-30 September 1968

2. Location

a. Battery Headquarters, 2nd Platoon

1-30 September 1968
Camp Correll

b. Battery Area

1-30 September 1968
Camp Correll, Camp Tri City

c. 1st Platoon

1-30 September 1968
Camp Correll (3-5)

d. 2nd Platoon

1-30 September 1968
Ther. Area (2nd Platoon)

e. 3rd Platoon

1-30 September 1968
Camp Correll

3. Monthly Average Strength

OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
9	19	9	8

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ENCLOSURE (1)

PART II

REPORTING SUMMARY

During September 1968, the mission and disposition of the battery underwent certain changes. By 5 September 1968 the maintenance situation had deteriorated to the point that only 2 155 guns were operational. These two guns on 15 September, one from C-3 and one from Camp Carroll, were designated as the Third Platoon and displaced to Thon Son Lam (Rock Pile) and assigned the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines. On 27 September the original mission of reinforcing the fires of the 12th Marines was removed with the 3rd Platoon remaining at the Rock Pile. On 29 September a third 155 gun was removed from deadline and displaced to the 8" Platoon position at Ca Lu.

The First Platoon during the first half of September continued its mission from Cam Lo. The volume of fires was moderate. During the latter half of the month work continued in the position to reinforce the structures for the wet weather. Additionally, the position was expanded with several new bunkers. On 14 September, 1 M53, 155 Gun, while attempting to return to C-3, was submerged in the Cam Lo River. The appropriate report was made and on 25 September the battery was directed to prepare the gun for evacuation.

The Second Platoon at Camp Carroll fired with one gun until 15 September also since the displacement to the Rock Pile all technical fire direction for the Third Platoon has been accomplished from Camp Carroll and fire commands have been issued by radio. Work within the position has been extensive with the construction of a new HQ bunker and the preparation to move the battery rear to Camp Carroll.

From the Rock Pile the Third Platoon's fires were very heavy during the initial phases of the operation in the northwestern sector of the DMZ with mortar fires and counter battery fires.

The 8" Platoon continued its mission from Ca Lu answering calls for fire from the 3rd & 4th Battalions, 12th Marines. The volume of fires has been for the most part very light. Intensive work is being done to prepare two additional firing positions within the platoon position to accommodate 2 155 guns. On 29 September 1968, 1 155 gun occupied position at Ca Lu.

Personnel readiness remains C 1 but with five positions the available assets are strained considerably. Additionally during October sixteen junior NCO's rotate and the loss will be felt most heavily in the C8, 21, and 25 fields. Equipment readiness has been C-3 the entire month with only 2 155 guns operational. Major problems have been the non-availability of 3rd & 4th echelon repair parts, and M100 flights. 1 M100 8" howitzer was deadlined for 1 week for an idler arm and spindle. By the end of the month 3 155 guns and both 8" were operational.

Preparation for the monsoons continues at all positions. To date no guns pads have been built, but construction of tropical huts will commence at Ca Lu within two weeks.

ENCLOSURE (9)

The battery continues to support Operation SCOTLAND II, 12th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Air Task Force, 1st Marine Air Task Force, 1st Marine Air Task Force.

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PART III

Essential Listing of Significant Events

- 10 September 1968 - Battery Headquarters moved to Camp Carroll. Camp Carroll received incoming 130mm Artillery with negative battery casualties.
- 12 September 1968 - Camp Carroll received incoming 82mm Mortars with negative battery casualties.
- 14 September 1968 - 1 M53, 155 Gun submerged engine while attempting to ford Cam Lo River.
- 15 September 1968 - Created and displaced 3rd Platoon commanded by 2d Lt D. R. HARDY to Rock Pile to reinforce fires of 2d Battalion, 12th Marines. Battery sent fire missions by radio for first time from Camp Carroll.
- 16 September 1968 - Received incoming mortars at Rock Pile with negative casualties or damage.
- 19 September 1968 - Received incoming 107mm rockets fire which detonated nearby powder storage of K-4-12 at Rock Pile with negative casualties for the battery.
- 22 September 1968 - Lt CANNING and recon party stranded outside Ca Lu on Route 9 for three (3) days due to road washout.
- 23 September 1968 - 1st Platoon cut off as bridge to C-3 collapses.
- 27 September 1968 - Commenced displacement of battery rear to Camp Carroll.

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ENCLOSURE (4)

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