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

1068  
WMS/elh  
2 Nov 1968

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

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


*Willard M. Stephens*  
WILLARD M. STEPHENS

*5th 155 mm Gun Btry*

*Cmdr Chmn*

*05 1968*

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 October to 31 October 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation.

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

CommandingMajor W. M. STEPHENS  
1-31 October 1968Executive OfficerCaptain T. W. STEELE  
1-31 October 1968Subordinate UnitsCommander

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

1stLt L. M. PALM  
1-7 October 1968

2nd Platoon, 5th 155mm GunBtry(SP)(Rein)

2ndLt W. W. MILES  
1-7 October 1968  
1stLt L. M. PALM  
8-31 October 1968

3rd Platoon, 5th 155mm GunBtry(SP)(Rein)

2ndLt D. R. HARDY  
1-7 October 1968  
2ndLt W. W. MILES  
8-31 October 1968Attached UnitsCommander

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

1stLt J. T. CANNING  
1-31 October 19682. Location

a. Battery Headquarters, 2d Platoon

1-31 October 1968  
Camp Carroll

b. 1st Platoon

1-7 October 1968  
Ca Lu

c. 1st Platoon (Rear)

1-31 October 1968  
C-3

d. 3rd Platoon

1-31 October 1968  
Rockpile

e. 8" Platoon

1-4,9-31 October 1968  
Ca Lu

5-8 October 1968 2Z STORMY

3. Monthly Average Strength

USMC

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OFF 9 ENL 185

USN

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During October 1968, the battery, commanded by Major W. M. STEPHENS, continued its mission of reinforcing the fires of the 12th Marines. By 12 October the rear area of the battery-supply, maintenance, and motor transport - had completed the move from Landing Zone SHARON to Camp Carroll. The battery maintained positions at Camp Carroll, C-3, Rockpile, and Ca Lu. During the month 155 gun sections were shifted to Ca Lu, Camp Carroll and the Rockpile as directed by the 12th Marines to support Marines in the LANCASTER AND SCOTLAND AO's. Additionally, from 16 - 26 October bridge and fording limitations prevented the displacement of operational 155 guns west of Camp Carroll and the evacuation of 155 Guns in need of repair from Ca Lu and the Rockpile.

The battery fired from the Rockpile during the first 20 days of October, reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 12th Marines. The volume of fires was moderate to heavy with numerous TOT, artillery suppression and prep fires. An engine fire on 3 October put one gun out of action and necessitated the shift of a 155 gun on 9 October from Ca Lu to the Rockpile.

The 8" Platoon operated from Ca Lu during October except for its displacement 4-9 October to Landing Zone STORMY to support Operation SCOTLAND/NANKING. During that period the 8" Platoon was under the operational control of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines. Since 10 October, the 8" platoon and a platoon of 155 guns, has been in position at Ca Lu to reinforce the 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines.

On 16 October the battery received two (2) R&E 155 guns from FLSG/B, Dong Ha. These weapons were removed to Camp Carroll for test firing. This temporary measure was extended until 26 October due to the limitations on bridge and fording traffic. During that ten (10) day period, the guns at Camp Carroll fired to reinforce the 1st Battalion, 12th Marines. The volume of fire was heavy with considerable long range counter battery fires. On 26 October, two (2) operational 155 guns successfully forded the Cam Le River and occupied positions at Ca Lu and the Rockpile, while 2 155 guns awaiting survey and repair were moved back across the river to Camp Carroll.

Equipment readiness remained marginal (C-3) during October 1968 for the second straight month. While at LZ STORMY one (1) 8" Howitzer, while firing from an extremely soft position, cracked a hull. Additional down time was caused by a broken hydraulic line. 155 gun down time was caused by a lack of M100 sights, a faulty sight mount, tube changes, and engine repairs.

The battery continues to support OPERATIONS SCOTLAND II, LANCASTER II and KENTUCKY.

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PART III

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Sequential Listing of Significant Events

- 2 October 1968 - Incoming 130MM throughout night, about 25 rounds - no battery casualties or damage.
- 5 October 1968 - Displace 8" Platoon to LZ STORMY to support Operation SCOTLAND/NANKING.
6. October 1968 - Ninth MAB inspection team arrives.
- 7 October 1968 - Second Lieutenant W. W. MILES relieved Second Lieutenant D. R. HARDY as 3rd Platoon Commander at the Rockpile.
- 9 October 1968 - 8" platoon returns to Ca Lu.
- 12 October 1968 - Completed displacement of battery rear to Camp Carroll.
- 16 October 1968 - Received 2 155 guns under the R&E program.
- 25 October 1968- Established liaison with 8th of the 4th Artillery regarding training on 175 guns.
- 26 October 1968- Four (4) 155 guns ford Cam Lo River between Camp Carroll and Rockpile.

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