

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

1068 WMS/elh 2 Nov 1968

From: Commanding Officer

To: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalien, 13th Marines, FPO, San Francisco,

California 96602

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

Ref: (a) FMFPac0 5750.8

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

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. When enclosure (1) is removed, this letter is unclassified.

WILLARD M. STEPHENS



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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

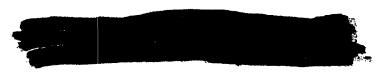
1 October to 31 October 1968

INDEX

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS



PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

ENCLOSURE (1)





ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1.	Designation.

Commanding

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

Major W. M. STEPHENS 1-31 October 1968

Executive Officer

Captain T. W. STEELE 1-31 October 1968

Subordinate Units

Commander

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

1-7 October 1968

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

2ndLt W. W. MILES 1-70ctober 1968 1stLt L. M. PAIM 8-31 October 1968

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

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

Attached Units

Commander

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

1stLt J. T. CANNING 1-31 October 1968

2. Location

a. Battery Headquarters, 2d Plateon

1-31 October 1968 Camp Carroll

b. lst Plateon

1-7 October 1968 Cs. Lu

c. 1st Plateen (Rear)

1-31 October 1968 C-3

d. 3rd Plateon

1-31 October 1968 Reckpile

e. 8" Plateon

1-4,9-31 October 1968

5-8 October 1968 &Z STORMY

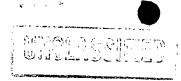
Ca. Lu

3. Monthly Average Strength USMC

OFF ENL

SOFT NO.

PAGE 2 OF 4 PAGES



PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During October 1968, the battery, commanded by Majer 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 Iu to the Rockpile.

The 8" Platoon operated from Ca In during October except for its displacement 4-9 October to Landing Zene 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 Iu to reinforce the 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines.

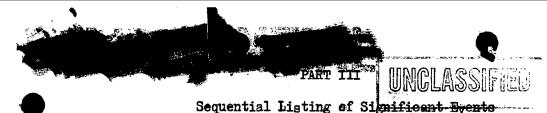
On 16 October the battery received two (2) R&E 155 guns from FISC/B, Dong Ha. These weapons were removed to Camp Carroll for test firing. This temporary measure was extended until 26 October due to the limitations on bridge and fording traffic. During that ten (10) day period, the guns at Camp Carroll fired to reinforde 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 Im 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.

PAGE 3 OF 4 PAGES ENCLOSURE (1)

COPPEND COPPE



- 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" plateon 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.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE # OF 4 PAGES