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

1068
WMS/lke
30 Nov 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FPO, San
Francisco, California 96602

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

Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5750.8
(b) BRIGO 5750.1C

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

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

Willard M. Stephens
WILLARD M. STEPHENS

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5TH-155mm GUN BTRY

CMD CHRON

Nov 1968

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 November to 30 November 1968

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PART I

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation.

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

CommandingMajor W. M. STEPHENS
1-30 November 1968Executive OfficerCaptain T. W. STEELE
1-30 November 1968Subordinate Units

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

1stLt J. T. CANNING
1-30 November 1968

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

1stLt L. M. PALM
1-30 November 1968

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

1stLt W. W. MILES
1-30 November 1968Attached Units

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

Commander1stLt. J. T. CANNING
1-30 November 19682. Location.

a. Battery Headquarters

1-30 November 1968 Camp Carroll

b. 1st Platoon

1-30 November 1968 Ca Ia

c. 2nd Platoon

1-3 November 1968 C-2
4-30 November 1968 Camp Carroll

d. 3rd Platoon

1-30 November 1968 Reck Pile

e. 8" Platoon

1-30 November 1968 Ca Ia

3. Monthly Average Strength

USMC	
OFF	ENL
9	180

USN	
OFF	ENL
0	8

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PART II

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During November 1968, the 5th 155mm Gun Battery (SP) and its attached 1st Platoon, 5th 8" Howitzer Battery (SP) commanded by Major W. M. STEPHENS continued its mission of reinforcing the 12th Marines. The battery remains under the operational control of the 108th Artillery Group (USA) and the administrative control of the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. During the month firing positions were maintained at Camp Carroll, the Reck Pile, and Ca 1a to support 3d Marine Division units. Readiness of the 155 guns fluctuated rapidly throughout the month from 2 to 5 guns operational.

Firing from Camp Carroll and the Reck Pile was controlled both tactically and technically from the battery FDC at Camp Carroll. The volume of fires was light and confined almost entirely to unobserved TOT/H&I/ artillery suppression fires.

The volume of fires from the 2 8" Howitzers and 2 155mm guns at Ca 1a was extremely light during November with only occasional prep fires and H&I/TOT's. One 155 gun experienced considerable down time due to a replacement and adjustment of a sight mount. Work in the position continues to better prepare the area to accommodate 4 weapons. A 100 man mess hall was built by the battery from accumulated assets and is now operational.

Equipment readiness remained marginal (C-3) throughout the month with final drive, sight mount, equilibration system, and main engine repairs. It is extremely difficult due to the lack of repair parts and the weapons' age to keep more than three 155 guns operational at any one time. This battery's retriever (VTR M51) has been deadlined since 1 October for a transmission. Prospects of repairs being accomplished before 1 January 69 are dim with no available parts. Some down time is being experienced with the new multifuel trucks for exhaust stacks, starters, and voltage regulators. Personnel readiness dropped to C-2 during November for the first time since May 1968.

By 23 November the battery had commenced displacement of the command post and administrative rear from Camp Carroll to Dong Ha. The move should be completed by the first week in December.

The battery continues to support OPERATIONS SCOTLAND II, HIRISE AND SCOTLAND II EAST. OPERATION LANCASTER II terminated 2400, 23 Nov 68.

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PART III

Sequential Listing of Significant Events

- 1 November 1968 - Displaced 2nd Platoon (2 155 Guns) from Camp Carroll to C-2.
- 3 November 1968 - 2nd Platoon reoccupied Camp Carroll.
- 14 November 1968 - 2nd Battalion/94th Arty assumed responsibility for 175 Gun training.
- 18 November 1968 - Forces at Camp Carroll to be reduced. 5th 155 Gun Battery and 2/94th Arty to occupy Camp Carroll.
- 20 November 1968 - CG Ninth MAB 190744Z NOV 68 received changing ADCON directly to Ninth MAB as of 1 December 1968.
- 21 November 1968 - Mission redefined as reinforcing 12th Marines. Discontinued reinforcing missions to 1/12 and 2/12.
- 22 November 1968 - Directed to displace Battery Headquarters to Dong Ha west. Commanding Officer inspected Motor transport.
- 23 November 1968 - Commenced displacement of Battery Headquarters to Dong Ha west.

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