

HEADQUARTERS

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division, (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

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3/R4F/af
0072-66
1 Nov 1966

5TH MAR S&C FILES

From: Commanding Officer -
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1
(b) DivO 5750.2

00647-66
COPY NO. 3 OF 10

Encl: (1) - 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for the period
1 October to 31 October 1966
(2) - Chronological Sequence of Events
(3) - After Action Report Operation DOVER

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosures (1), (2) and (3) are submitted herewith.

2. This chronology includes all pertinent and significant information as defined in references (a) and (b).

B. S. Pickett
B. S. PICKETT
By Direction

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1/5th Marines

Oct 1966

1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology

1. The following organizational data is submitted:

a. Designator/Location.

During the month of October the Battalion occupied a position on Hill 54 and continued to control its assigned TAOR. The Battalion is composed of a Headquarters Company and four rifle companies.

b. Period Covered.

From 10Oct66 to 31Oct66.

c. Personnel Assignment/Attachments.

Commanding Officer	LtCol E. R. WATSON
Executive Officer	Maj B. S. PICKETT
S-1	WO J. J. TIMONEY (10Oct66 - 25Oct66)
	2ndLt G. L. GORTON (26Oct66 - 31Oct66)
S-2	1stLt R. BENIGO
S-3	Maj R. A. FREEMAN
S-4	Capt G. J. STREMLow
CO, H&S Company	Capt. F. M. KAUFFMAN
CO, Company A	Capt M. T. COOPER (10Oct66 - 20Oct66)
	1stLt A. C. BLADES (20Oct66 - 31Oct66)
CO, Company B	Capt J. P. T. SULLIVAN
CO, Company C	Capt M. B. DARLING
CO, Company D	Capt. J. J. CARTY

2. Sequential Listing of Significant Events.

a. Personnel

(1) Average monthly strength:

(a) USMC OFFICERS	31
USMC ENLISTED	1117

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- (b) USN OFFICERS 3
- (c) USN ENLISTED 47
- (2) Present on board strength:
 - (a) USMC OFFICER 34
 - USMC ENLISTED 1139
 - (b) USN OFFICER 3
 - USN ENLISTED 47

(3) There are no critical shortages within this Battalion.

b. Intelligence

(1) During the period 1 October 1966 to 31 October 1966, the S-2 continued to provide the Order of Battle within the Battalion TAOR and area outside the TAOR for possible future operations. In addition the S-2 continues to maintain an up-date Black List of known VC in the TAOR. This list and close cooperation with local officials of the Ly Tin District have resulted in the apprehension of 14 VCS, one of whom had a shotgun hidden in a bundle she was carrying. There have also been five Chieu Hoi Ralliers during the month of October.

(2) During operation Dover 19 October to 30 October 1966, in conjunction with the 6th ARVN Regiment the S-2 organized and inserted two squad size OP's which provided intelligence prior to and during the operation. The S-2 processed and forwarded to TTT ten VCS. The following equipment was also processed: one (1) M-1 rifle, one (1) Springfield 03 rifle, 30 rds ammo (.30 cal and 7.62mm), 4 clips (M-1), 1000 lbs rice captured and 9000 lbs rice destroyed, 5 lbs meat and various other articles of 782 gear, uniforms, documents and medical supplies.

(3) The S-2 scouts continue to be employed as security elements for the movement of the Command Group and as intelligence assistants to Company Commanders, during operations of company and larger size. At the combat base, the scouts are used as security elements in night defensive positions in addition to manning weapons sights, infra-red, which are employed in the defensive perimeter.

c. Logistics

During October the following was accomplished:

A wooden frame structure was completed for battery storage and communications equipment storage. Road improvement has halted however, 9th Engineers have indicated that work will begin during the first week in November.

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A Post Exchange has been constructed in the Battalion Area and has been inspected and approved for operation by representatives of the Division Post Exchange. MCB-40 has completed drilling of the well in this area and delivery and installation of the Advance Base Component 2115 is the only delay on establishing a water point at this position. In addition to the galley at Hill 54, two company size galleys located at Chu Lai and Hoa Vinh Thanh are in operation as is one platoon size galley.

d. Communications

(1) Communication on the Battalion level was entirely dependent on FM, HF and UHF radio equipment. All radio nets were terminated by the AN/PRC-47 and AN/PRC-41. During this reporting period all radio equipment proved reliable considering the weather, terrain and distance between stations. During Operation DOVER all FM transmissions had to be relayed from Battalion CP to Hill 54 to Regimental COG. HF and UHF proved outstanding.

(2) In spite of damp weather wire communications between Battalion and Regiment was excellent, however wire communication was poor from Regiment to Division.

(3) Teletype was dependent on wire and AN/TRC-27. At all times teletype communication proved excellent. During the reporting period the radio relay terminal between the Battalion Combat Base at Hill 54 and the island of Hoa Vinh Thanh (Company C Combat Base) was removed necessitating all communication between the company occupying the island and the Battalion Combat Base to be conducted over the Battalion Tactical net.

c. Air Support: During October the following air activities took place:

Total helicopter request submitted:

Medical evacuations sent: 37

Convoy escorts: 16

Troop lifts: 4 (1222 people)

VIP: 2

Organizational Commanders: 3

Logistics: 10 (18,243 lbs)

Tactical air requests: 4

During Operation DOVER two tactical troop lifts were conducted. The first lift consisted of thirteen UH-46 aircraft and the second lift consisted of six UH-46 aircraft.

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Both of these troop displacements were supported by flights of fixed wing aircraft (each flight consisting of two A-4 aircraft) controlled by TACA from VMOC. Throughout the operation two UH-34 aircraft were on station at the LSA located at the Battalion Combat Base for resupply and medical evacuation missions. A total of ten resupply missions and sixteen medical evacuations were executed during this operation. Two close air support missions (consisting of one flight of F-4 aircraft and one flight of A-4 aircraft) were called to suppress enemy sniper fire harassing the lead elements of the Battalion. The F-4 flight was controlled by a FAC team attached to Company D. The F-4 stricken depended all ordnance on the target as requested by the FAC. The flight of A-4 aircraft was controlled by TACA due to the distance from friendly lines to the target. This air strike suppressed the enemy fire and denied him use of the most likely route of withdrawal.

f. Artillery Support

(1) During the month of October, artillery support was provided for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in support of operations within and outside of the TAOR. There was a noticeable decrease in the required support until the latter part of the month. This support consisted primarily of:

(a) Approximately 50 rounds of HE were fired for nightly H&I on VC trails and trenches. This count is down from previous months due to ammunition restrictions.

(b) Illumination missions were conducted with greater success than in previous months. This was due to the fact that the 4th Battalion, 11th Marines displaced to a new location; thereby providing better coverage of the TAOR.

(c) Three new registration points were added within 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR. This enabled artillery to register more frequently in order to deliver accurate fire with minimum ammunition and yet not interfere with infantry operations in the TAOR.

(2) In the latter part of October, Operation DOVER was conducted. Artillery support was available but not used as it was not necessary during Phase I. In Phase II and III, the following was accomplished:

(a) FO Teams were placed on OP's in both the US and ARVN sectors of operation on D+6 prior to landing the main force which took place on D+7. These OP's registered the direct support unit, Delta Battery, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines. The OP's also adjusted the LZ preparation fires thus providing accurate and effective fire. They also called in observed missions on snipers and VC moving in the area. These OP's provided the main forces with better coverage of the operational areas.

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(b) The use of the Army Liaison Officer with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines provided faster clearance for missions fired in the ARVN area of operations and also provided us with ARVN position reports.

(c) Having a free fire zone in the US operation area made for quicker and better support. This method is highly recommended.

(d) Artillery support during the operation consisted of H&I's, preparation fires, unobserved and observed missions with approximately 50 rounds being fired. These rounds accounted for two confirmed VC KIA's.

g. Civil Affairs. Medical Civic Action Patrols, assisted by five VC trainees, saturated the Battalion Tactical Area of Responsibility treating 4,375 civilian patients during the month. These same medical teams distributed 2,000 bars of soap, 20,000 vitamins, and continued lectures on hygiene and sanitation.

Thirty refugee families relocated at Ly Tra Hamlet BT 386167 were assisted with the following items donated through the village and hamlet chiefs:

- a. Three Carpenter Kits
- b. Four Agricultural Tool Kits
- c. 20 Blankets
- d. 80 lbs of Clothing
- e. 400 lbs of Rolled Wheat
- f. 50 lbs. of Salt
- g. 200 lbs of Rice

The Battalion dedicated its new recreation hut on 14 October 1966, by hosting a children's party for 960 school children from the Hamlet Schools at:

- a. Ly Tra, 389164
- b. Diem Pho, 419119
- c. Phu Vinh, 419138
- d. Dong Than, 434145

The District Chief from Ly Tin, the Village Chief of Ky Chanh, Hamlet Chiefs Village Elders, School Teachers, the District Chief of Police, and representatives of the Vietnamese Information Service were present.

Marines provided two trucks and an amphibian tractor to transport the children from their respective schools to this Combat base.

After the welcoming, by Lieutenant Colonel WATSON, the Vietnamese officials addressed the children as to why the Marines were in Vietnam, so far from their homes and families and how they were aiding the Vietnamese government in its struggle against the Viet Cong.

Following the series of speeches and introductions, the children were entertained by three short Vietnamese movies.

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The party was concluded after serving cookies and soft drinks (36 gallons of Kool Aid and 1,300 cookies) and distributing gifts, which included:

- a. 800 School Kits + 100 Replacement Kits
- b. 450 Pairs of Shower Shoes
- c. 200 T Shirts
- d. 100 Baseball Caps

The children and the Vietnamese officials were enthusiastic and cooperated throughout the afternoon. The children were particularly impressed and entertained by the motion pictures, which included two comedies and one combat

On 16 October 1966, two civilian buses collided a mile north of the Battalion Combat Base. Battalion medical personnel were rushed to the scene where they treated 29 of the injured. Helicopter medical evacuations were called and 16 of the seriously injured civilians were medically evacuated to Chu Lai for further treatment.

Psychological Warfare

The Battalion continued to provide security for "Golden Fleece" operations within the T.M.R. 80,000 leaflets were dropped and two hours of airborne loud-speaker broadcasts were directed at civilians to prevent their rice from falling into Viet Cong hands.

A Chieu Hoi rallier that surrendered to the Ky Chanh Village Chief made a tape recording and consented to having his name and photograph appear on a leaflet. The broadcast and 100,000 copies of the leaflets, were subsequently used over the T.M.R. in an appeal to other members of the ralliers unit.

Psychological warfare efforts in support of Operation Dover (Oct 19-30) included:

- (a) Loudspeaker broadcasts for Chieu Hoi
- (b) 80,000 Chieu Hoi leaflets dropped
- (c) 40,000 Safe conduct passes dropped
- (d) 20,000 leaflets underlining the adversities suffered by the Viet Cong.

h. Medical

(1) Personnel: Operating allowance of corpsmen for the Battalion Aid Station is 53 corpsmen. At the beginning of October the Battalion Aid Station had 48 corpsmen with 42 effective. At the present time the total strength is 47 with effective strength of 40. Two corpsmen are on R&R, two are on the sick list, two are T.D and one is on emergency leave. Average strength per line company is seven corpsmen. The Battalion Aid Station has been able to adequately support the Battalion with the above personnel. One medical officer and four hospitalman participated with the Battalion Command Group in Operation DOVER from 19 October to 30 October 1966. The forward element performed medical assistance to casualties and assisted in medical

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evacuation while the remainder of Battalion Aid Station personnel in the rear at the Battalion Combat Base accomplished administrative processing of casualties.

(2) Sanitation. Sanitation inspections were performed daily and weekly reports were submitted to the Commanding Officer. Sanitation in the battalion area has continued to improve. No major sanitation problems have been noted.

(3) Medicine: The major medical problem continues to be Malaria. The Battalion Aid Station has continued to stress the importance of mosquito repellent, mosquito nets and weekly prophylaxis with Chloroquine and Primaquine tablets. Materials have been obtained and plans formulated for battalion immunizations which are due in November.

(4) Civic Action: This program continues to grow. A total of 4,375 patients were seen and treated by Medical Civic Action Teams from the Battalion Aid Station. On 15 October 1966 personnel from the Battalion Aid Station responded to an emergency call to render aid to Vietnamese civilians injured in a two bus accident. Emergency first aid was rendered both at the scene and at the Battalion Aid Station. Further evacuation to 1st Medical Battalion for the seriously injured was then accomplished.

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Chronological Sequence of Events

1. 10Oct66 Negative contact throughout the day.
2. 020930H 3rd platoon Company D, S&D mission, coord. (BT 412122), received one round sniper fire from (BT 412124). Searched area and apprehended one VCS in vicinity from which fire came. VCS was screened and forwarded to IIT.
3. 022000H Platoon OP, Company D, coord. (BT 382103), received four rounds mortar or grenade from Coord. (BT 376103). Gun flashes observed at coord. (BT 376103). Illuminated and counter battery mission fired, negative results.
4. 022122H Platoon OP, Company D, coord. (BT 383103), observed six persons running (BT 381103), engaged with small arms fire, illumination mission fired, negative results.
5. 031640H 1st platoon, Company D, coord. (BT 408109), located one cave 3'X3'X7'. Platoon entered cave and found booby trapped fragmentation grenade, pin pulled and laying on its spoon. Grenade was destroyed in place.
6. 032140H Squad security patrol, Company C, coord. (BT 492140), fired on boat with no lights vicinity coord. (BT 492140). Negative results.
7. 041300H 2nd Platoon, Company A, S&D mission. (BT 397104), apprehended one VCS whose name appeared on 1stBn, 5thMar black list. VCS screened and forwarded to IIT.
8. 051410H Squad security patrol, Company A, coord. (BT 376111), tripped a booby trapped fragmentation grenade, sustaining one USMC WIA who was medically evacuated to 1st Medical Battalion.
9. 061030H Vehicular convoy, 1stBn, 5thMar, coord. (BT 407154), received two rounds sniper fire from (BT 403137). No fire returned, continued with mission.
10. 071635H Company D, S&D mission, located freshly dug cave dimension 4'X15' coord. (BT 392113). 3rd platoon, Company A established ambush during the night of 7 November and remained in area through 8 November.
11. 081055H 3rd platoon, Company A, S&D mission, coord. (BT 390148), observed two VC at coord. (BT 388149) carrying rifles. Both VC wore black PJ's. One wore a white top. Platoon fired two rounds small arms fire. Lost sight of VC. Negative results.
12. 091200H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped OPCON 5th Marines, OPCON 7th Marines, ADCON 5th Marines.
13. 101130H Squad S&D patrol, Company A, coord. (BT 393128), observed eight VCS observing patrol. As patrol approached VCS at (BT 390127), VCS fled in westerly direction. Patrol fired a warning shot and shouted for them to halt. VCS failed to halt. Patrol fired at VCS. Negative results. Searched area found tracks made same as those worn by PF's. Believe one VCS had binoculars

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14. 101430H Fire team security for Medical Civic Action Patrol, Company D, coord. (BT 409129), apprehended two VC females carrying bundle containing one shot gun and five rounds. Both VC females were identified and interrogated by PF's and ARVN's in village. VCC and captured weapon was released to ARVN officer at Ky Chang Village.

15. 110Oct66 Negative contact throughout the day.

16. 121400H 1st platoon, Company A, destroyed cave, coord. (BT 392113), dimensions 4'X4'X15'.

17. 130415H 3rd platoon, Company A, coord. (BT 397145), during the process of moving to assembly area to provide security for early motor convoy, one fragmentation grenade apparently fastened to a cartridge belt accidentally exploded resulting in eleven WLI's. Seven WLI's were medically evacuated to the 1st Medical Battalion. Four WLI's were not medically evacuated. One WLI later died of wounds.

18. 141025H 3rd platoon, Company D, S&D mission, coord. (BT 39119), located and destroyed in place what appeared to be a booby trapped Bouncing Betty placed upside down.

19. 151010H As the vehicle with the 7th Marines S&3 actual was heading south from Hill 54, they received three rounds sniper fire from westerly direction, coord. (BT 402141). A man in a white suit was seen running from the area with a rifle. The local villagers appeared shaken up. The action could have been local PF's. The area is now under observation.

20. 150845H Two busses collided resulting in one being turned over. The Vietnamese people were thrown about and caught underneath the bus. When the Battalion driver arrived three people were dead. While awaiting medical evacuation by helicopters, two more died. The helicopters then evacuated thirteen people to Quang Ngai. While in route one more died. Total of six dead. Thirteen people were treated at 1stBn, 5thMar Battalion Aid Station. Three were treated on the spot and released. Three of the thirteen at the Battalion Aid Station were evacuated that same afternoon to the 1st Medical Battalion. This accident involved only Vietnamese civilians.

21. 151545H 3rd Platoon, Company D, S&D mission, coord (BT 392113), located two caves both dimensions were 2'X4'X15". A thorough search of the caves revealed one bear trap. Both caves were blown with fragmentation grenades.

22. 160828H Squad S&D mission, 3rd platoon, Company A, coord (BT 392117), apprehended one VCS who's name appeared on 1stBn, 5thMar black list. VCS was screened and forwarded to IIT.

23. 160835H Squad S&D mission, 3rd platoon, Company A, coord. (BT 392117), apprehended one VCS with no ID card. VCS was screened and forwarded to IIT.

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24. 16Oct66 Rice harvest 5-3 commenced.

Number of harvesters: Approx. 100

Total amount of rice harvested: Negative

Amount of rice to be harvested: Approx. 50 tons

Square meters of rice to be harvested: 10 grid squares

Incidents of contacts: Negative

25. 17Oct66 Rice harvest 5-3 continued

Number of harvesters: 90

Total amount of rice harvested: 14600 lbs

Amount of rice to be harvested: Approx. 200 meters

Amount of rice harvested this day: 14600 lbs

Square meters of rice to be harvested: Approx. 8 grid squares

Incidents of contacts: Negative

26. 171200H Company A OPCON Chu Lai Defense Command

27. 171305H Company B chopped OPCON Chu Lai Defense Command.

28. 171530H Battery L, 4/11 coord (BT 394144), apprehended seven VCS in immediate vicinity of artillery positions. VCS were observing artillery positions approximately 20 meters from defensive wire with disregard to all warning signs. VCS were screened and forwarded to ITT.

29. 18Oct66 Rice harvest 5-3 continued.

Number of harvesters: 72

Total amount of rice harvested: 27000 lbs

Amount of rice to be harvested: Approx. 150 acres

Amount of rice harvested this day: 13000 lbs

Square meters of rice to be harvested: Approx. 7 grid squares

Incidents of contacts: Negative

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30 181530H 2nd Platoon Company D security mission, coord. (BT 373163), apprehended one VCS whose name appeared on 1st Battalion, 5th Marines black list. VCS was screened and sent to ITT.

31. 182300H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines 81mm mortars, coord. (BT 397145), while firing preplanned H&I mission, one short round traveled approximately 65 meters from gun and landed in Company B's position resulting in ten WIA and one KIA. One WIA died of wounds on 19Oct66.

32. 190ct66 Rice harvest 5-3 secured temporarily due to excessive rain.

33. 190ct66 D-Day Operation DOVER commenced Phase I

a. 190700H Company B commenced movement via motor convoy to vicinity (BT 330208).

b. 190740H Company B arrived dismount point vicinity (BT 330208).

c. 190810H Company B commenced search and destroy operation within assigned zone of Phase I. Refer to enclosure (1).

d. 190930H Company B position report was from (BT 325197) to (BT 340105) Negative contact.

e. 190935H Company C(-) commenced sweep at vicinity (BT 367210).

f. 191030H Company B position report was from (BT 326185) to (BT 355197) to (BT 365203). Negative contact.

g. 191100H Company C(-) secured from sweep and commenced movement back to Company C's CP.

h. 191300H Company B, (BT 355163), located a booby trapped M-26 grenade, pull type attached with wire across trail. Booby trap was disarmed and forwarded to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines S-2.

i. 191310H Company C(-) arrived Company C's CP and secured from Operation DOVER until 200905H.

j. 191330H Company B secured from sweep with negative contact and commenced movement back to Hill 54 (BT 397145).

k. 191415H Company B arrived Hill 54, (BT 397145), and secured from Operation DOVER until 200730H.

34. 200ct66 D+1

a. 200730H Company B moved via antracs to commence Phase I. Refer to enclosure (1), Operation Overlay.

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b. 200900H Company B arrived (BT 391236) and commenced sweep. Displaced one platoon to (BT 374258) as directed by 7th Marines.

c. 200905H Company C(-) established blocking force (BT 415190).

d. 201045H Company B platoon at (BT 374258) had Amtrac break down and estimated it would be approximately three hours before they would rejoin company.

e. 201130H Company B position report with negative contact (BT 398270).

f. 201245H Company B position report (BT 393231) conducting thorough and detailed search. Negative contact.

g. 201330H Company B position (BT 400220) reports negative contact.

h. 201400H Company B position report (BT 414203) platoon that was at (BT 375258) rejoined company.

i. 201730H Company B and blocking force Company C(-) secured from Operation DOVER, Phase I, negative contact.

35. Operation DOVER, Phase II and III was temporarily postponed until 25Oct66 due to adverse weather conditions.

36. 211726H Engr detail, coord. (BT 359190), received approximately three rounds sniper fire from a northerly direction, coord. (BT 359191), approximately 100 meters away. Estimate one sniper. No fire was returned.

37. 211935H Squad security patrol Company C assisted PF's, coord. (BT 441149), in apprehending four VCS. Hamlet chief of Bien An (1) identified two VCS as harboring VC and two children VCS, who were warning VC of Marine movement. All VCS were screened and released to PF's.

38. 22Oct66 Negative contact throughout the day.

39. 231000H Detachment Lima Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, coord. (BT 406137), while enroute to Hill 54 via motor vehicle received four rounds small arms sniper fire from coord. (BT 404132) approximately 400 meters from west side of Highway #1. Rounds hit road directly in front of vehicle. No fire returned. Continued with mission.

40. 241945H Fire team ambush, F&S Company, coord. (BT 399142), observed five VC with weapons vicinity coord. (BT 399143). Fire team sprung ambush when VC were approximately 25 meters away. Fire team threw three grenades and fired approximately 40 rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact and fled in a southerly direction. Fire team searched area and found traces of blood. Estimate one VC WIA probable.

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41. 251200H 3rd Platoon Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines OPCON 1st Battalion, 5th Marines for duration of Operation DOVER.

42. 251530H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines 9th Engineer road repair detail, coord. (BT 413126), while repairing road received four rounds sniper fire from one VC at coord (BT 410123). No fire was returned. VC fled in a southeasterly direction.

43. 252130H Squad security, H&S Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, coord (BT 359190), observed what appeared to be two VC (frogmen) swimming near bridge. Squad fired approximately 25 rounds automatic weapons fire. Squad lost sight of VC swimmers due to darkness. Illumination mission was fired. Checked area, found nothing. Estimate one VC KIA probable.

44. D+6 Operation DOVER Phase II Commenced

a. 250730H Reconnaissance OP (ROBIN) composed of one Marine rifle squad from Company B and one ARVN rifle squad from the 6th ARVN Regiment and an FO team from Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, was inserted at (BT 313109).

b. 250800H Reconnaissance OP (SPARROW) composed of one Marine rifle squad from Company B and one ARVN rifle squad and an FO team from Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was inserted at (BT 258104).

c. 250830H Squad recon patrol ROBIN, Company B (BT 313110), located two booby trapped Chi Comm grenades located along trail. Both grenades had trip wires attached and pull type detonation devices. Grenades were disarmed and were forwarded to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines S-2.

d. 251125H Squad recon patrol ROBIN, Company B (BT 312110), located four booby trapped Chi Comm grenades. All had trip wire attached and were employed along trail with pull type detonation devices. All were disarmed and forwarded to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines S-2.

e. 251220H OP(ROBIN), Company B (BT 312110), located one booby trapped Chi Comm grenade, trip wire attached with pull type detonation device. Disarmed grenade was forwarded to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines S-2.

44. D+7 260000H

a. 260735H Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines arrived in support position (BT 307188).

b. 260840H Company B commenced helo lift to LZ (BT 326113).

c. 260915H Company B touched down LZ (BT 326113). Negative contact.

d. 260918H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group commenced helo lift to LZ (BT 321113).

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- e. 260925H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group touched down LZ (BT 321113).
- f. 260926H Company D (Rein) commenced hoist lift to LZ (BT 326113).
- g. 260930H Company D (Rein) touched down LZ (BT 326113). Negative contact.
- h. 260945H Company B (BT 323112) received approximately 15 rounds small arms fire from an estimated three snipers vicinity (BT 322106) sustaining one USMC WIA. Company B returned two LAW's and approximately 2 rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact and fled in a southeasterly direction. Company B pursued VC but was unable to regain contact. WIA was medically evacuated to 1st Medical Battalion, Chu Lai.
- i. 260946H Company B and Company D commenced sweep, refer to enclosure (1), Operation Overlay.
- j. 261000H Company D apprehended three VCS (BT 320118). All were sent to ITT.
- k. 261100H Leading elements Operation DUCK Thanh Hoa (4). Negative contact.
- l. 261300H Company B and D established combat patrol base vicinity (BT 310124).
- m. 261430H Company B (BT 321123) apprehended one VCS identified by PF's as being a VC. VCS was screened and forwarded to ITT.
- n. 261600H Company D (BT 308117) squad patrol observed one VC dressed in black uniform and armed with a rifle. Patrol fired five rounds small arms fire hitting VC in the right side knocking him into the brush. Patrol pursued VC, found extensive amounts of blood, but was unable to relocate VC. Estimate one VC WIA probable.
- o. 261630H All units established night defensive positions. Refer to enclosure (2), Operation Overlay D+7 26Oct66.
- p. 261745H Company B apprehended one VCS, (BT 310124), VCS was screened and forwarded to ITT.
- q. 261915H Squad recon patrol Company D (BT 258104) received four rounds automatic weapons fire from an estimated one VC. No fire was returned. due to distance involved. VC broke contact and fled in a northwest direction.
- r. 262000H Company B squad ambush, (BT 312127), while moving into position observed six VC at (BT 312128). Four VC were dressed in black uniforms. VC fired 20 rounds small arms fire. Patrol returned 40 rounds small arms fire. VC fled and tried to break contact. Patrol pursued VC who fired 10 more rounds small arms fire.

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s. 262110H Company B squad ambush, (BT 317123), sprung ambush on one VC, dressed in gray uniform and armed with an M-1 rifle with three clips of 30 cal. ammo. Ambush fired approximately 14 rounds small arms fire killing VC. VC KIA and rifle were forwarded to ITT.

45. 27Oct66 Rice Harvest 5-3 final report:

Number of harvesters	115
Total amount of rice harvested	28250 lbs
Amount of rice to be harvested	100 acres
Amount of rice harvested this day	900 lbs
Square meters of rice to be harvested	6 grid squares
Incidents of contacts	Negative

46. 27Oct66 D+8 Operation DOVER

a. 270810H Company B, (BT 378124), conducted a thorough search of ambush sight of VC contact 262110H. Found a pool of blood and a Springfield rifle converted to fire 7.62 ammo. Estimate one VC WIA probable. Rifle was forwarded to ITT.

b. 270850H Squad recon, Company D, conducted joint patrol with ARVN's vicinity (BT 258104), where they received fire from on 261915H. Negative results.

c. 270930H Company D, (BT 295130), received approximately ten rounds automatic weapons fire from an estimated one sniper at (BT 292133), approximately 500 meter away. No fire was returned. VC fled in a westerly direction. Searched area with negative results.

d. 271130H Company B, (Bt 308140), received heavy automatic weapons fire estimate 70 to 80 rounds from an estimated six to nine VC at (BT 307144), resulting in one USMC KIA. Company B returned approximately 100 rounds semi and automatic weapons fire. Artillery fired approximately 60 rounds HE. VC withdrew to the north. A partial search of the area was conducted and one VCS was apprehended vicinity (BT 307144). VCS was forwarded to ITT.

e. 271500H Company D, (BT 294140), apprehended one VCS identified by PF's as being a VC. VCS was screened and forwarded to ITT.

f. 271515H Squad recon (SPARROW), Company D, was extracted from (BT 258104).

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g. 271615H Squad Recon (ROBIN), Company B, (BT 313110), observed three VC with weapons at (BT 318121). Artillery fired approximately ten rounds HE with excellent target coverage. Area was not checked due to distance.

h. 271715H Company B, (BT 307144), completed a thorough search of area VC contact was made 271130H. Located two VC bodies, no weapons.

i. 271730H Established night defensive positions, refer to enclosure (3), Operation Overlay 27Oct66.

j. 271800 Company D, (BT 305147), apprehended two VCS. Both VCS were identified by PF's as being VC and were screened and sent to ITT.

47. 28Oct66 D+9 Operation DOVER

a. 280830H Company B and D continued to conduct a thorough search of northeast sector of Phase II area and vicinity of combat patrol base vicinity (BT 307144).

b. 281130H Company B completed thorough search of Bich Ngo (2) and Truong An. No people in area. appeared as if people left in hurry, hot fires and food remained in area.

c. 28125H Operation DOVER, Phase II terminated, commenced Phase III. Company B, D and Command Group commenced helo lift to LZ SPARROW (BT 326114).

d. 281230H Company B, D and Command Group touched down LZ SPARROW (BT 326114).

e. 281300H Company B, D and Command Group commenced sweep.

f. 281330H Squad recon (ROBIN) Company B was extracted.

g. 281400H Company B, (BT 281400), received 15 rounds small arms fire from an estimated six to nine snipers at (BT 327103), Company B sustained one USMC KIA and three WIA. Company B returned approximately 40 rounds small arms fire and 11 60mm mortars. VC broke contact. A thorough search revealed one shirt with two bullet holes in it covered with blood. Also several blood trails. Estimate one VC KIA probable and seven WIA probable. Estimate on number of VC now appears to be 15 to 20. At the same vicinity, (BT 327103), located hut that appears to be VC meeting place for 20 to 30 VC. Four tunnels and 8,500 pounds of rice was found and destroyed.

h. 281540H Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines OPCON 1st Battalion, 5th Marines for duration Operation DOVER.

i. 281630H All units established night defense positions. Refer to enclosure (5), Operation Overlay.

ENCLOSURE (2)
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48. 292230H Fire team combined action security patrol, coord. (BT 480139), observed two boats with no lights at coord. (BT 475136). PF's with patrol fired 20 to 40 rounds small arms fire as a warning. Boats failed to yield to warning. 10 rounds 81mm illumination and approximately 200 rounds small arms fire was fired jointly by PF's and Marines. One boat was sunk containing five VC. No fire was returned. Estimate five VC KIA probable. Other boat escaped in a southeasterly direction. A thorough search by PF's and Marines on 30Oct66 revealed nothing.

49. 290ct66 D+10 Operation DOVER

a. 290800H Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines located VC harboring site, (BT 366065). In process of searching area, Company K received four rounds small arms fire from an estimated two to three snipers at (BT 364070). No fire was returned. VC broke contact and fled to the northwest. A thorough search of the area revealed one smoke cylinder, two M-26 frag grenades, VC clothing and some cooking utensils. The site would house eight to ten VC and had anti-American propaganda writing in English throughout. The site was surrounded by 30 one man fighting holes. All of the sites were destroyed.

b. 291040H Company D, (BT 346076), received approximately 20 rounds small arms fire from two huts vicinity (BT 349077). Estimate approximately two snipers. Company D returned approximately 60 rounds small arms fire and pursued VC with negative results. Company D sustained one USMC KIA and two USMC WIA. All were medically evacuated to 1st Medical Battalion.

c. 291130H Company D, (BT 350089), tripped a booby trapped Chi Comm grenade attached with a trip wire resulting in 5 USMC WIA. All were medically evacuated to 1st Medical Battalion.

d. 291325H Company H&S, (BT 344073), received one round sniper fire from one sniper vicinity (BT 344074), resulting in one USMC KIA. While KIA was being evacuated via helicopter, VC fired approximately 70 rounds automatic weapons fire. 81 mortars fired four rounds HE and seven rounds WP, also 155's fired five rounds HE. VC fire ceased. Searched area negative results.

e. 291805H All units secured sweep of Phase III area of Operation.

f. 292000H All units reached Highway #1 vicinity (BT 418123) and commenced movement via motor convoy to Hill 54, coord. (BT 397145).

g. 292145H All units arrived Hill 54. Refer to enclosure (5), Operation Overlay 29Oct66.

50. 300ct66 D+11 Operation DOVER

a. 301200H Companies B, D and Command Group, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and OPCON Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines secured from Operation DOVER.

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51. 301200H Company H(-), 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines and Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines CHOPPED OPCON 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

52. 311915H Squad (Rein) H&S Company, Coord. (BT 359190), received approximately 150 rounds small arms fire from three friendly helicopters. Helicopters having received fire from the ground in vicinity of ground troops. Incident was reported to Division FSCC.

Page 11

ENCLOSURE (2)

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division, (Rein), FMF
APO, San Francisco, 96602

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Marine Division(-)(Rein), FMF
Via: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report; Operation DOVER.

Ref: (a) 1stBn, 5thMar Operation Order 2-66 Operation DOVER.
(b) DivO 3480.1
(c) Maps: Viet Nam AMS Series L701, Sheet 6757 IV (1:50,000)
Phu Nam, Viet Nam AMS Series L7014 (1:50,000), Sheets
6739 IV Tra Bong, 6639 I Tien Phoc, 6640 II Tam Ky.

Encl: (1) ✓ Operation Order 2-66 Operation DOVER.
(2) ✓ Operation Order 3-66 Operation DOVER Change I.
(3) ✓ Operation Overlay D+7 26Oct66.
(4) ✓ Operation Overlay D+8 27Oct66.
(5) ✓ Operation Overlay D+9 28Oct66.
(6) ✓ Operation Overlay D+10 29Oct66.

1. Code Name and Type of Operation: Operation DOVER (Search and Destroy).
2. Dates of Operation: 19 October - 30 October 1966.
3. Location: In the RAOR to the north and northwest of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR, Quang Tin Province, RVN on map sheets, AMS Series L701, Sheet 6757 IV (1:50,000) Phu Nam, AMS Series L7014 (1:50,000), Sheets 6739 IV Tra Bong, 6639 I Tien Phoc, 6640 II Tam Ky.

4. Command Headquarters

CO, 1stBn, 5th Marines (-)

LtCol E. R. WATSON

CO, Company B

Capt J. P. T. SULLIVAN

CO, Company D

Capt J. J. CARY

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5. Task Organization1st Battalion, 5th Marines(-)(Rein)

LtCol E. R. WATSON

H&S Co(-)
 Det(-), Co B, 1st SP Bn
 Plt(-), Co B, 1st EngBn
 Shore Fire Control Party
 Det, Delta Battery, 2/11
 Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm

Company B (Rein)

Capt. J. P. T. SULLIVAN

Company B
 Det, H&S Co
 Det, Comm Plt
 Det, Med Plt
 2nd FO Tm, 81mm Plt
 1st FAC Tm
 Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm
 Sqd, Co B, 1st EngBn
 Det, 1st Sentry Dog Plt
 2nd FO Tm, Delta Battery, 2/11
 NGF Spot Tm #1
 Det, Co B, 3rd Amtrac Bn
 Det, Co C, 1st AT Bn

Company D (Rein)

Capt J. J. CARTY

Company D
 Det, H&S Co
 Det, Comm Plt
 Det, Med Plt
 4th FO Tm, 81mm Plt
 2nd FAC Tm
 Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm
 Sqd, Co B, 1st Engr Bn
 Det, 1st Sentry Dog Plt
 3rd FO Tm, Delta Battery, 2/11
 NGF Spot Tm #1

81mm Mortar Platoon (-)

1stLt R. A. BELKNAP

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6. Supporting Arms

a. Air Support: Operation DOVER Phase II commenced on D+6 at 0730 with two H-34 aircraft transporting a reconnaissance element from coord. (BT 397145) to coord. (BT 313110). At 0800 on D+6 two H-34 aircraft transported another recon element from coord. (BT 397145) to coord. (BT 238104). Prior to each lift the above aircraft picked up one squad of ARVN soldiers from the 5th ARVN Regimental Headquarters at coord. (BT 310218) then proceeded to coord. (BT 397145) to pick up Marine Corps elements of the reconnaissance outpost.

On D+7 two HU1-E aircraft provided convoy escort for Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines movement into position for support of Phase II and III. Additionally on D+7 a helo lift consisting of 13 OH-46 aircraft transported two rifle companies and a command group from coord. (BT 402147) to LZ SPARROW, (BT 326113). The LZ was prepared by a flight of A-4 aircraft under the control of a TACA.

Two H-34 aircraft were on station at the LSA established at the Battalion Combat Base (BT 397145) during daylight hours throughout the operation for resupply and medical evacuation.

On D+7 an air strike was called to suppress sniper fire at coord. (BT 304137). The ordnance dropped effected one secondary explosion which caused a one hundred foot fire ball of gray smoke.

On D+8 an air strike was called to attack VC who were fleeing in a northerly direction from the direction of attack. This strike made the route of retreat for the VC untenable.

Phase III of Operation DOVER commenced on D+9 with a helo lift, consisting of 6 OH-46 aircraft, of the two companies and command group from coord. (BT 304143) and coord. (BT 317168) to LZ SPARROW coord. (BT 326113). Upon completion of the troop lift the final recon extraction was completed. This lift was supported by two flights of A-4 aircraft under the control of a TACA. No strikes were made during this move. No difficulties were encountered in this troop displacement.

During the operation, HMM-361 aircraft (consisting of numerous H-34 aircraft) performed in an outstanding manner supporting this battalion in medical evacuations and resupply. VMO-6 aircraft consisting of HU1-E aircraft were readily available and proved to be a very effective means of reconnaissance ahead of the lines.

It is felt that the maximum use was made of attack aircraft and helicopter support throughout the operation.

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h. Artillery Support

1. Artillery support for Operation DOVER consisted of Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines in direct support and Lima Battery, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines in General Support Reinforcing. During Phase I artillery support was available, but not requested. However Phase II and III artillery night defensive forces and H&I fires kept VC movement to a minimum. Further breakdown of Phase II and III is as follows:

(a) On 26Oct66 a LZ prep fire was fired on LZ SPARROW vicinity coordinates (BT 325112) from 0820-0845. This prep fire was adjusted by an FO from Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines on Hill 302, who was with the recon element inserted on 25Oct66. From 1100-1420 the FO on Hill 302 conducted a fire mission along the ridge line on a sniper that was harrasing both maneuver elements and the recon element. At 1920, an FO from Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, who was in the A&V operational area, called in a fire mission on a VC automatic weapon firing at the FO and recon's position. VC fire ceased, but further results were unable to be determined due to the size and mission of the recon insert. NGF, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines provided 5" guns in addition to artillery for H&I fire.

(b) On 27Oct66 at 0940, an Army AO spotted five VC in the brush. An artillery fire mission was called and adjusted by this AO, but results were undetermined due to dense undergrowth. At 1030, Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was pinned down in a rice paddy by heavy automatic weapons fire from a village. The artillery observer with Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines called in a fire mission resulting in two confirmed VC KIA's and elimination of VC fire.

(c) On 28Oct66 Phase III began. Lima Battery fired a LZ prep fire on LZ SPARROW (vicinity BT 325112) from 1200-1215. Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines received small arms fire but an artillery mission could not be called as dense vegetation prevented observation. An artillery mission was called at 1510. Results were undetermined.

(d) At 291340H, an artillery mission was called upon a VC sniper firing on the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group. An end of mission was given at 1408 due to friendly troops entering the target area. Dense vegetation and undergrowth prevented surveillance. At 1420, Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines displaced their position in order to provide better support as 1st Battalion, 5th Marines had moved beyond Delta Battery's effective range.

2. In general, artillery support was good. In several instances it proved invaluable in eliminating or reducing VC sniper activity.

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3. Listed below is the approximate number of rounds and type of fire used for the operation:

HAI	200 rounds (HEQ & Illumination)
Prep Fire	80 rounds (HEQ, EE Time & WP)
Unobserved Missions	15 rounds (HEQ)
Observed Missions	200 rounds (HEQ & WP)

The insertion of an FO Team as part of a recon element into the area prior to D-Day as was done in this operation is recommended for future operations.

7. Intelligence

a. Estimate of VC Strength, Location and Tactical Disposition

(1) Forces in Immediate Objective Area

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Tactical Disposition</u>
75th LF Co	BT 305145	Unknown	Unknown
706th LF Co	BT 335104	Unknown	Unknown
A-21 Co	BT 275105	100	Unknown

(a) Elements of the 620 Division operate in the area but location, strengths and tactical disposition is presently unknown.

(2) Intelligence was initially furnished this unit by the 7th Marines and the 6th ARVN Regiment.

(3) The objective of this operation was to conduct search of area of operation and to destroy any VC in the area.

b. VC Strength and Situation Actually found on Operation DOVER: As a result of the operation, elements of this Battalion accounted for three VC KIA (Confirmed), two VC KIA (Probable), nine VC WIA (Probable) and ten VCS. All VCS were forwarded to 9th ITT for further interrogation. On D+9, elements of the Battalion became heavily engaged with an estimated VC LF platoon utilizing A/W and S/A, with contact lasting for only a short period of time. From D+1 to the end of the operation, excluding D+9 above, enemy activity consisted of sporadic sniper fire and one booby trap incident.

c. VC Units Identified: 75th LF Co, revealed by VCS as having been in Truong Cuu (1) Hamlet, (BT 307145), three days prior to Battalion moving in.

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d. Significant Intelligence gained:

- (1) See paragraph 7c.
- (2) Interrogation of villagers in Truong Chu (1) Hamlet indicated the village was under VC control, but the villagers were receptive to Marines.
- (3) Enemy units engaged throughout the operation were local force personnel with the mission of harassing and delaying Marine movement.

e. Terrain:

- (1) Critical Terrain Features: Hill 302 (BT 314109).
- (2) Observation and Fields of Fire: The terrain in the area of operation consisted primarily of several hamlets surrounded by protective rice paddies and thick hedge rows. Other areas were narrow valleys and hills covered by secondary jungle growth. Fields of fire for defenders and attackers depended on which type of terrain you were in. In general fields of fire and observation were extremely limited.
- (3) Cover and Concealment: Excellent cover and concealment was provided by hedge rows, tree lines and locally constructed trench lines within and surrounding the hamlets. Concealment in secondary jungle areas was excellent.
- (4) Obstacles: The only major obstacle encountered was the secondary jungle growth on most of the high ground. Streams were found to be fordable.

8. Mission: To conduct search and destroy operations in the RAOR area to the north and northwest of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR, capture prisoners and obtain detailed intelligence information in coordination with the 6th ARVN Regiment, 2nd ARVN Division.

9. Concept of Operation:

(1) Phase I. On D-Day move one reinforced rifle company via motor convoy to vicinity (BT 330208); thereafter conduct search and clear operation in southeasterly direction to northern boundry of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR. One reinforced squad move via LVTP-5's to vicinity (BT 353224); thereafter conduct search and clear operation in southeasterly direction to northern boundry of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR. On D+1 move one reinforced rifle company via LVTP-5's to vicinity (BT 390238) and vicinity (BT 383232); thereafter conduct coordinated search and clear operation in southeasterly direction to northern boundry of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR.

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(2) Phase II. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) Command Group and two reinforced rifle companies land via helicopter in vicinity (BT 326113); thereafter conduct search and destroy operation in a northwesterly direction in conjunction with 6th ARVN Regiment.

(3) Phase III. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) Command Group and two rifle companies land via helicopter in vicinity (BT 325080); thereafter conduct search and destroy operations in a southeasterly and easterly direction.

10 Chronological Sequence of Events.

a. D-Day 19Oct66

- (1) 190700H Company B commenced movement via motor convoy to vicinity (BT 330208).
- (2) 190740H Company B arrived dismount point vicinity (BT 330208).
- (3) 190810H Company B commenced search and destroy operation within assigned zone of Phase I. Refer to enclosure (1).
- (4) 190930H Company B position report was from (BT 325197) to (BT 340105). Negative contact.
- (5) 190935H Company C(-) commenced sweep at vicinity (BT 367210).
- (6) 191030H Company B position report was from (BT 326185) to (BT 355197) to (BT 365203). Negative contact.
- (7) 191100H Company C(-) secured from sweep and commenced movement back to Company C's CP.
- (8) 191300H Company B, (BT 355163), located a booby trapped M-26 grenade, pull type attached with wire across trail. Booby trap was disarmed and forwarded to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines S-2.
- (9) 191310H Company C(-) arrived Company C's CP and secured from Operation DOVER until 200905H.
- (10) 191330H Company B secured from sweep with negative contact and commenced movement back to Hill 54 (BT 397145).
- (11) 191415H Company B arrived Hill 54, (BT 397145), and secured from Operation DOVER until 200730H.

b. D+1 20Oct66

- (1) 200730H Company B moved via Amtracs to commence Phase I. Refer to enclosure (1), Operation Overlay.
- (2) 200900H Company B arrived (BT 391236) and commenced sweep. Displaced one platoon to (BT 374258) as directed by 7th Marines.
- (3) 200905H Company C(-) established blocking force (BT 415190).
- (4) 201045H Company B platoon at (BT 374258) had Amtrac break down and estimated it would be approximately three hours before they would rejoin company.

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- (5) 201130H Company B position report with negative contact (BT 398220).
- (6) 201245H Company B position report (BT 393231) conducting thorough and detailed search. Negative contact.
- (7) 201330H Company B position (BT 400220) reports negative contact.
- (8) 201400H Company B position report (BT 414203) platoon that was at (BT 375258) rejoined company.
- (9) 201730H Company B and blocking force Company C(-) secured from Operation DOVER, Phase I. Negative contact.

c. Operation DOVER, Phase II and III was temporarily postponed until 25Oct66 due to adverse weather conditions.

d. D+6 25Oct66

(1) 250730H Reconnaissance OP (ROBIN) composed of one Marine rifle squad from Company B and one ARVN rifle squad from the 6th ARVN Regiment and an FO team from Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, was inserted at (BT 313109).

(2) 250800H Reconnaissance OP (SPARROW) composed of one Marine rifle squad from Company B and one ARVN rifle squad and an FO team from Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was inserted at (BT 258104).

(3) 250830H Squad recon patrol ROBIN, Company B (BT 313110), located two booby trapped Chi Comm grenades located along trail. Both grenades had trip wires attached and pull type detonation devices. Grenades were disarmed and were forwarded to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines S-2.

(4) 251125H Squad recon patrol ROBIN, Company B (BT 312110), located four booby trapped Chi Comm grenades. All had trip wire attached and were employed along trail with pull type detonation devices. All were disarmed and forwarded to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines S-2.

(5) 251220H OP (ROBIN) Company B (BT 312110), located one booby trapped Chi Comm grenade, trip wire attached with pull type detonation device. Disarmed grenade was forwarded to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines S-2.

e. D+7 26Oct66

(1) 260735H Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines arrived in support position (BT 307188).

(2) 260840H Company B commenced helo lift to LZ (BT 326113).

(3) 260915H Company B touched down LZ (BT 326113). Negative contact.

(4) 260918H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group commenced helo lift to LZ (BT 321113).

(5) 260925H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group touched down LZ (BT 321113).

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- (6) 260926H Company D (Rein) commenced helo lift to LZ (BT 326113).
- (7) 260930H Company D (Rein) touched down LZ (BT 326113).
Negative contact.
- (8) 260945H Company B (BT 323112) received approximately 15 rounds small arms fire from an estimated three snipers vicinity (BT 322106) sustaining one USMC WIA. Company B returned two LAAW's and approximately 20 rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact and fled in a southeasterly direction. Company B pursued VC but was unable to regain contact. WIA was medically evacuated to 1st Med Battalion.
- (9) 260946H Company B and Company D commenced sweep, refer to enclosure (1), Operation Overlay.
- (10) 261000H Company D apprehended three VCS (BT 320118). All were sent to ITT.
- (11) 261100H Leading elements Operation DOVER Thanh Hoa (4).
Negative contact.
- (12) 261300H Company B and D established combat patrol base vicinity (BT 310124).
- (13) 261430H Company B (BT 321123) apprehended one VCS identified by PF's as being a VC. VCS was screened and forwarded to ITT.
- (14) 261600H Company D (BT 308117) squad patrol observed one VC dressed in black uniform and armed with a rifle. Patrol fired five rounds small arms fire hitting VC in the right side knocking him into the brush. Patrol pursued VC, found extensive amounts of blood, but was unable to relocate VC. Estimate one VC WIA probable.
- (15) 261630H All units established night defensive positions. Refer to enclosure (2), Operation Overlay D+7 26Oct66.
- (16) 261915H Squad recon patrol Company D (BT 258104) received four rounds automatic weapons fire from an estimated one VC. No fire was returned due to distance involved. VC broke contact and fled in a north-west direction.
- (17) 261745H Company B apprehended one VCS, (BT 310124) VCS was screened and forwarded to ITT.
- (18) 262000H Company B squad ambush, (BT 312127), while moving into position observed six VC at (BT 312128). Four VC were dressed in black uniforms. VC fired 20 rounds small arms fire. Patrol returned 40 rounds small arms fire. VC fled and tried to break contact. Patrol pursued VC who fired 10 more rounds small arms fire. Patrol returned 20 more rounds small arms fire and observed one VC knocked down by fire. Other VC grabbed VC body and dragged him away. Patrol continued to pursue but lost sight of VC due to darkness. One VC KIA probable.
- (19) 262110H Company B squad ambush, (BT 317123), sprung ambush on one VC, dressed in gray uniform and armed with an M-1 rifle with three clips of 30 cal. ammo. Ambush fired approximately 14 rounds small arms fire killing VC. VC KIA and rifle were forwarded to ITT.

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f. D+8 27Oct66

(1) 270810H Company B, (BT 378124), conducted a thorough search of ambush sight of VC contact 262110H. Found a pool of blood and a Springfield rifle converted to fire 7.62 ammo. Estimate one VC WIA probable. Rifle was forwarded to ITT.

(2) 270850H Squad recon, Company D, conducted joint patrol with ARVN's vicinity (BT 258104), where they received fire from on 261915H. Negative results.

(3) 270930H Company D, (BT 295130), received approximately ten rounds automatic weapons fire from an estimated one sniper at (BT 292133) approximately 500 meters away. No fire was returned. VC fled in a westerly direction. Searched area with negative results.

(4) 271130H Company B, (BT 308140), received heavy automatic weapons fire estimate 70 to 80 rounds from an estimated six to nine VC at (BT 307144), resulting in one USMC KIA. Company B returned approximately 100 rounds semi and automatic weapons fire. Artillery fired approximately 60 rounds HE. VC withdrew to the north. A partial search of the area was conducted and one VCS was apprehended vicinity (BT 307144). VCS was forwarded to ITT.

(5) 271500H Company D, (BT 392140), apprehended one VCS identified by PF's as being a VC. VCS was screened and forwarded to ITT.

(6) 271515H Squad recon (SPARROW), Company D, was extracted from (BT 258104).

(7) 271615H Squad recon (ROBIN), Company B, (BT 313110), observed three VC with weapons at (BT 318121). Artillery fired approximately ten rounds HE with excellent target coverage. Area was not checked due to distance.

(8) 271715H Company B, (BT 307144), completed a thorough search of area VC contact was made 271130H. Located two VC bodies, no weapons.

(9) 271730H Established night defensive positions, refer to enclosure (3), Operation Overlay D+8 27Oct66.

g. D+9 28Oct66

(1) 280830H Company B and D continued to conduct a thorough search of northeast sector of Phase II area and vicinity of combat patrol base vicinity (BT 307144).

(2) 281130H Company B completed thorough search of Bich Ngo (2) and Truong An. No people in area. Appeared as if people left in hurry, hot fires and food remained in area.

(3) 281215H Operation DOVER, Phase II terminated, commenced Phase III. Company B, D and command group commenced helo lift to LZ SPARROW (BT 326114).

(4) 281230H Company B, D and Command Group touched down LZ SPARROW (BT 326114).

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- (5) 281300H Company B, D and Command Group commenced sweep.
- (6) 281339H Squad recon (RUBIN) Company B was extracted.
- (7) 281400H Company B, (BT 281400), received 15 rounds small arms fire from an estimated six to nine snipers at (BT 327103). Company B sustained one USMC KIA and three WIA. Company B returned approximately 40 rounds small arms fire and 11 60mm mortars. VC broke contact. A thorough search revealed one shirt with two bullet holes in it covered with blood. Also several blood trails. Estimate one VC KIA probable and seven WIA probable. Estimate on number of VC appears now to be 15 to 20. At the same vicinity, (BT 327103), located hut that appears to be VC meeting place for 20 to 30 VC. Four tunnels and 8,500 lbs of rice was found and destroyed.
- (8) 281540H Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines OPCON 1st Battalion, 5th Marines for duration of operation DOVLR.
- (9) 281630H All units established night defensive positions. Refer to enclosure (5), Operation Overlay.

g. D+10 29Oct66

(1) 290800H Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines located VC harboring site, (BT 366065). In process of searching area, Company K received four rounds small arms fire from an estimated two to three snipers at (BT 364070). No fire was returned. VC broke contact and fled to the northwest. A thorough search of the area revealed one smoke cylinder, two M-25 frag grenades, VC clothing and some cooking utensils. The site would house eight to ten VC and had anti-American propaganda writing in English throughout. The site was surrounded by 30 one man fighting holes. All of the sites were destroyed.

(2) 291040H Company D, (BT 346076), received approximately 20 rounds small arms fire from two huts vicinity (BT 349077). Estimate approximately two snipers. Company D returned approximately 60 rounds small arms fire and pursued VC with negative results. Company D sustained one USMC KIA and two USMC WIA. All were medically evacuated to 1st Medical Battalion.

(3) 291130H Company D, (BT 350089), tripped a booby trapped Chi Coma grenade attached with a trip wire resulting in five USMC WIA. All were medically evacuated to 1st Medical Battalion.

(4) 291325H Company H&S, (BT 344073), received one round sniper fire from one sniper vicinity (BT 344074), resulting in one USMC KIA. While KIA was being evacuated via helicopter, VC fired approximately 70 rounds automatic weapons fire. 81 mortars fired four rounds HE and seven rounds WP, also 155's fired five rounds HE. VC fire ceased. Searched area, negative results.

(5) 291805H All units secured sweep of Phase III area of Operation.

(6) 292000H All units reached Highway #1 vicinity (BT 418123) and commenced movement via motor convoy to Hill 54 (BT 397145).

(7) 292145H All units arrived Hill 54. Refer to enclosure (5), Operation Overlay-29Oct66.

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h. D+11 30Oct66

(1) 301200H Companies B, D and Command Group, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and OPCON Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines secured from Operation DOVER.

11. Results

a. Personnel

(1)	Enemy	
(a)	VC KIA	3
(b)	VC KIA (Probable)	2
(c)	VC WIA	0
(d)	VC WIA (Probable)	9
(e)	VCC	0
(f)	VCS	10
(2)	Friendly	
(a)	KIA	3
(b)	DOW	1
(c)	WIA	12

b. Equipment and Material

	<u>Captured</u>				
Rice	lbs	1000	Rice	bags	2
Rifle, M-1		1	Meat(Chicken & Pork)	lbs	5
Springfield .03 rifle		1	Billfold w/15 pictures		1
CHICO M grenades		7	Grenade, M-26		1
Entrenching tools		2	Clips w/29 rds .30cal ammo		4
Assorted Medical Supplies	bag	1	Whistle		1
Green Uniform		1	Documents		2
Surgical Gown		1	Box assorted documents		1
PJ's (Bottom)	pair	1	Hammock		1
Shorts	pair	1	Cartridge Belt		1
Shirts		3	Rds 7.62 ammo		2
Ponchos		3	watch		1
Gas Mask		1	pack		1

	<u>Destroyed</u>	
Rice	lbs	9000

12. Administrative Matters:

a. Phase II of Operation DOVER was delayed three days due to adverse weather conditions which precluded the use of helicopters and at the same

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time prevented the operation from proceeding with alternate plan 3-66 (displacement by motor convoy). Torrential rains on D+2 thru D+5 caused a bridge washout resulting in the only route being impassible to vehicular traffic.

b. No major logistic problems were encountered. Generally the execution of the logistics aspect of Operation DOVER consisted of an LSA established at the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base. The LSA was administered by a helicopter support team (-) and supported by the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines S-4. Two resupply H-34 helicopters were positioned at the LSA daily throughout the operation. A representative of the Battalion S-4 and a detachment of HST operated as a part of the Battalion Command Group. The field S-4 representative received and consolidated all resupply requests in the field and submitted them to the HST which handled the matter thereafter. A representative of the supply section, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was also positioned at the Medical Battalion to collect personal and government property of medical evacuees. The HST was responsible for medical evacuees from the field. Considering some of the problem areas which normally exist in the logistics aspect of an operation, it is the combined opinion of the HST and the S-4 section that a locally operated LSA is the most desirable method of supporting a Battalion size operation.

c. Psychological Warfare

The following psychological warfare projects were executed in conjunction with Operation DOVER:

- (a) Loudspeaker broadcasts for Chieu Hoi.
- (b) 80,000 Chieu Hoi leaflets dropped in area of operation.
- (c) 40,000 safe conduct passes dropped in area of operation.
- (d) 20,000 leaflets underlining the adversities suffered by Viet Cong.

To date there have been no known results of the psychological warfare aspects of Operation DOVER.

d. Communication Annex: Only minor communications difficulties were encountered during Operation DOVER. Due to the distances and mountainous terrain it was necessary for the greater part of the messages to higher echelons of command to be relayed. Since the problem was not anticipated during the initial stages of the operation, some messages were not received as rapidly as desired, however the relay station increased the number of personnel on duty and this problem was alleviated. The following communication equipment was used:

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1 PRC-47
3 PRC-41
20 PRC-25

1 EE-8
15 TA-1

Equipment failures were as follows:

- 2 PRC-47, due to condensation
- 1 PRC-25, due to failure to cut out
- 1 EE-8, due to faulty transmitter element

As a result of rotating two BB 386 batteries each 12 hours, excellent battery life was achieved. As a rule, each battery lasted approximately 100 hours.

e. Medical: Medical support was divided into two echelons, forward and rear. The forward echelon consisted of line company corpsmen, seven to eight per company and a medical team with the command group consisting of one medical officer and four corpsmen, two of which were attached to the 81mm mortar platoon. The forward echelon took care of casualties by rendering first aid and coordinating initial evacuation procedures while the rear echelon followed up on each casualty and handled medical records for those personnel killed in action. Of note was the outstanding support provided by the helicopters assigned to medical evacuation. They responded promptly, several times entering hostile landing zones.

13. Commander's Analysis

a. Phase I of Operation DOVER showed that the terrain between the northwest boundry of the TAOR and the northwest boundry of the RAOR and boundry on the southwest by a line between BT 3514 and BT 3118 offers no resistance to its continued use by organized military units. The rivers and coastline however created difficulties for operations attempting to traverse both land and water continuously.

b. Phase II of Operation DOVER gave good indication that sub Company Battalion sized units could operate in the area bounded by BT 3514, BT 3210, BT 2814, and BT 3217 without difficulty. The civilians in the area appeared susceptible to revolutionary development if the VC could be kept clear of the area and the civilians offered protection.

c. Phase II of Operation DOVER was in an area that appears to have pockets of VC resistance. This emanated itself as sniper firing from positions of heavy jungle growth. The area is adapted to operations of sub Battalion Company sized units and smaller units operating in the area could possibly cope with the problem of individual snipers. There is no civilian populace in the area so revolutionary development is not an immediate consideration.

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14. Recommendations

a. That the area in Phase I of Operation DOVER be added to the TAOR if sufficient forces are available to operate and resources are available to cope with the land-water capability necessary.

b. That a reinforced company operate for periods of time in the Phase II area of Operation DOVER and eventually, as more forces are available to remain for long periods of time, that it also be added to the TAOR.

c. That small units of reinforced platoon but not more than reinforced company size operate periodically in the Phase III area of Operation DOVER.

B. S. Pickett

B. S. PICKETT
By Direction

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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
 Ly Tin District, Tam Ky District
 18 October 1966 Ser: 0068-66

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Operation Order 2-66 Operation DOVER

- Ref: (a) Viet Nam AMS Series L701, Sheet 6757 IV (1:50,000) Phu Nam
 (b) Viet Nam AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6739 IV (1:50,000) Tra Bong
 (c) Viet Nam AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6639 I (1:50,000) Tien Phoc
 (d) Viet Nam AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6640 II (1:50,000) Tam Ky
 (e) BnO 5000.B (SOP for Administration)
 (f) BnO 2000.1A (SOP for Communication)

Task Organization: Annex A (Task Organization)

- Encl: (1) Operation Overlay, Phase I
 (2) Operation Overlay, Phase II and III

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Forces

See current INSUM's

b. Friendly Forces

- (1) 1st MAF provide air support as required.
- (2) D Btry, 2ndBn, 11thMar provides direct support.
- (3) 4thBn(-), 11thMar provides general support.
- (4) 2nd ARVN Division provides forces from the 6th ARVN Regiment to operate in coordination with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

c. Attachments

- (1) 2 platoons, 3rdBn, 5thMar
- (2) Det, Sentry Dog Plt
- (3) Plt, B Co, 1stSP Bn
- (4) Plt, B Co, 1stEngBn
- (5) Det, B Co, 3rdAmTracBn
- (6) Det, C Co, 1stAT Bn
- (7) Det, MCF Spot Tm
- (8) Det, Btry T, 2/11

2. MISSION

To conduct search and destroy operations in the RAOR area to the north and northwest of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines RAOR, capture prisoners and obtain detailed intelligence information in coordination with the 6th ARVN Regiment, 2nd ARVN Division.

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 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
 DOD DIR 5200.10

3. EXECUTIONa. Concept of Operation

(1) Phase I. On D-Day move one reinforced rifle company via motor convoy to vicinity coord. 330208; thereafter conduct search and clear operation in southeasterly direction to northern boundary of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR. One reinforced squad move via LVTP-5's to vicinity coord. 352224; thereafter conduct search and clear operation in southeasterly direction to northern boundary of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR. On D+1 move one reinforced rifle company via LVTP-5's to vicinity coord. 390238 and vicinity coord. 383232; thereafter conduct coordinated search and clear operation in southeasterly direction to northern boundary of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR.

(2) Phase II. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) command group and two reinforced rifle companies land via helicopter in vicinity coord. 326113; thereafter conduct search and destroy operation in a northwesterly direction in conjunction with 6th ARVN Regiment.

(3) Phase III. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) command group and two reinforced rifle companies land via helicopter in vicinity coord. 325080; thereafter conduct search and destroy operation in a southeasterly and easterly direction.

b. Phase I(1) Company B (Rein)

(a) Commencing at 0700 on D-Day, move via motor convoy to vicinity coord. 330208.

(b) Conduct search and clear operations within zone of action as prescribed in Enclosure 1 (Operation Overlay, Phase I).

(c) Commencing at 0830 on D+1, move via LVTP-5's to vicinity coord. 390238 and vicinity coord. 383232.

(d) Conduct search and clear operations within zone of action as prescribed in Enclosure 1 (Operation Overlay, Phase I).

(2) Company C (-) (Rein)

(a) Commencing at 0700 on D-Day, move one squad via LVTP-5's to vicinity coord. 352224.

(b) Conduct search and clear operations within zone of action as prescribed in Enclosure 1 (Operation Overlay, Phase I).

c. Phase II(1) Company B (Rein)

(a) Commencing at 0900 on D+3, land via helicopter in landing zone Sparrow and secure landing zone, Enclosure 2 (Operation Overlay, Phase II and III).

(b) Be prepared, on order, to conduct search and destroy operations within Phase II area of operation. Enclosure 2 (Operation Overlay, Phase II and III).

(2) Company D (Rein)

(a) Commencing at 1000 hours on D+3 land via helicopter in landing zone Sparrow.

(b) Be prepared, on order, to conduct search and destroy operations within Phase II area of operation. Enclosure 2 (Operation Overlay, Phase II and III).

d. Phase III(1) Company B (Rein)

(a) On order, land in landing zone Wren and secure landing zone. Enclosure 2 (Operation Overlay, Phase II and III).

(b) Be prepared, on order, to conduct search and destroy operations within Phase III area of operation. Enclosure 2 (Operation Overlay, Phase II and III).

(2) Company D (Rein)

(a) On order, land in landing zone Wren.

(b) Be prepared, on order, to conduct search and destroy operations within Phase III area of operation. Enclosure 2 (Operation Overlay, Phase II and III).

e. 2 Platoons, 3rdBn, 5th Marines

(1) Phase I, not attached.

(2) During Phase II and III provide combat base security.

f. 81mm Mortar Platoon (-)

(1) During Phase I remain in combat base.

(2) Phase II and III move with Company D.

(3) On order, occupy designated firing positions.

(4) General support.

g. Coordinating Instructions

(1) D-Day: 19 October 1966

(2) H-Hour: 0700

(3) All units have front line/unit identification markers.

(4) Rules of engagement apply.

(5) Enclosures 1 and 2 (Operation Overlay, Phase I, Phase II and III).

(6) Attachments effective 190700H October 1966.

(7) Code name: DOVER.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

(a) See reference (e)

(b) Individual uniform and equipment: Utility uniform, normal arms and equipment, helmet and upper torso body armor.

(c) Basic load: As previously prescribed.

(d) All personnel carry five meals.

(e) Resupply: Units submit routine requests for delivery of re-supplies to this headquarters no later than 1400 daily; Emergency requests anytime.

(f) LSA located at Hill 54.

5. COMMAND COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS

- a. See reference (f)
- b. Radio: Report immediately all attempts to interfere with or jam radio nets.
- c. Signals
 - (1) Day
 - (a) Red and white smoke signifies enemy positions.
 - (b) Red parachute or star cluster signifies request for help.
 - (c) Yellow and green smoke signifies friendly positions.
 - (2) Night
 - (a) Red parachute or star cluster signifies request for help.
- d. Battalion Command Group: Initially at Hill 54.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT:

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL WATSON

B. S. Pickett
B. S. PICKETT
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
Executive Officer

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Annex A (Task Organization) to Operation Order 2-66

Time Zone: H

1st Battalion, 5th Marines

LtCol WATSON

H&S Co(-)
 Det, HST(-)
 Plt(-), Co B, 1stEngBn
 Shore Fire Control Party
 Det, D Btry, 2/11
 Det, ARVN Interpreter Team

Company B (Rein)

Capt SULLIVAN

Company B
 Det, H&S Co
 Det, Comm Plt
 Det, Med Plt
 2nd FO Tm, 81mm Plt
 1st FAC Tm
 Det ARVN Interpreter Tm
 Sqd, Co B, 1stEngBn
 Det, 1st Sentry Dog Plt
 2nd FO Tm, D Btry, 2/11
 NGF Spot Team #1
 Det, Co B, 3rd AmTracBn (Phase I)
 Det, Co C, 1st AT Bn (Phase I)

Company D (Rein)

Capt CARTY

Company D
 Det, H&S Co
 Det, Comm Plt
 Det, Med Plt
 4th FO Tm, 81mm Plt
 2nd FAC Tm
 Det ARVN Interpreter Tm
 Sqd, Co B, 1stEngBn
 Det, 1st Sentry Dog Plt
 3rd FO Tm, D Btry, 2/11
 NGF Spot Team #2

81mm Mortar Platoon (-)

1stLt BELKNAP

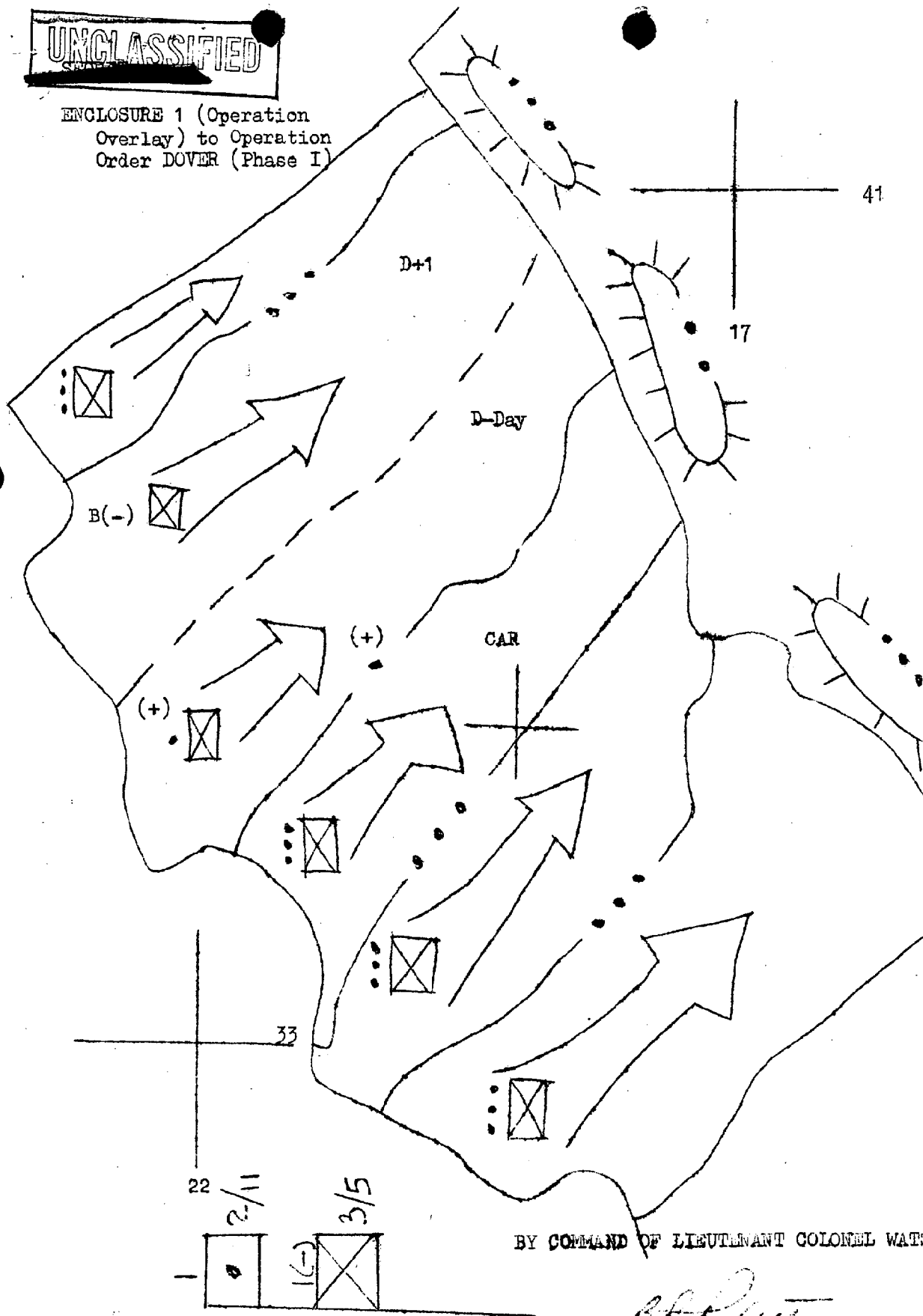
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 Major, U. S. Marine Corps
 Executive Officer

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ENCLOSURE 1 (Operation
Overlay) to Operation
Order DOVER (Phase I)



BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL WATS

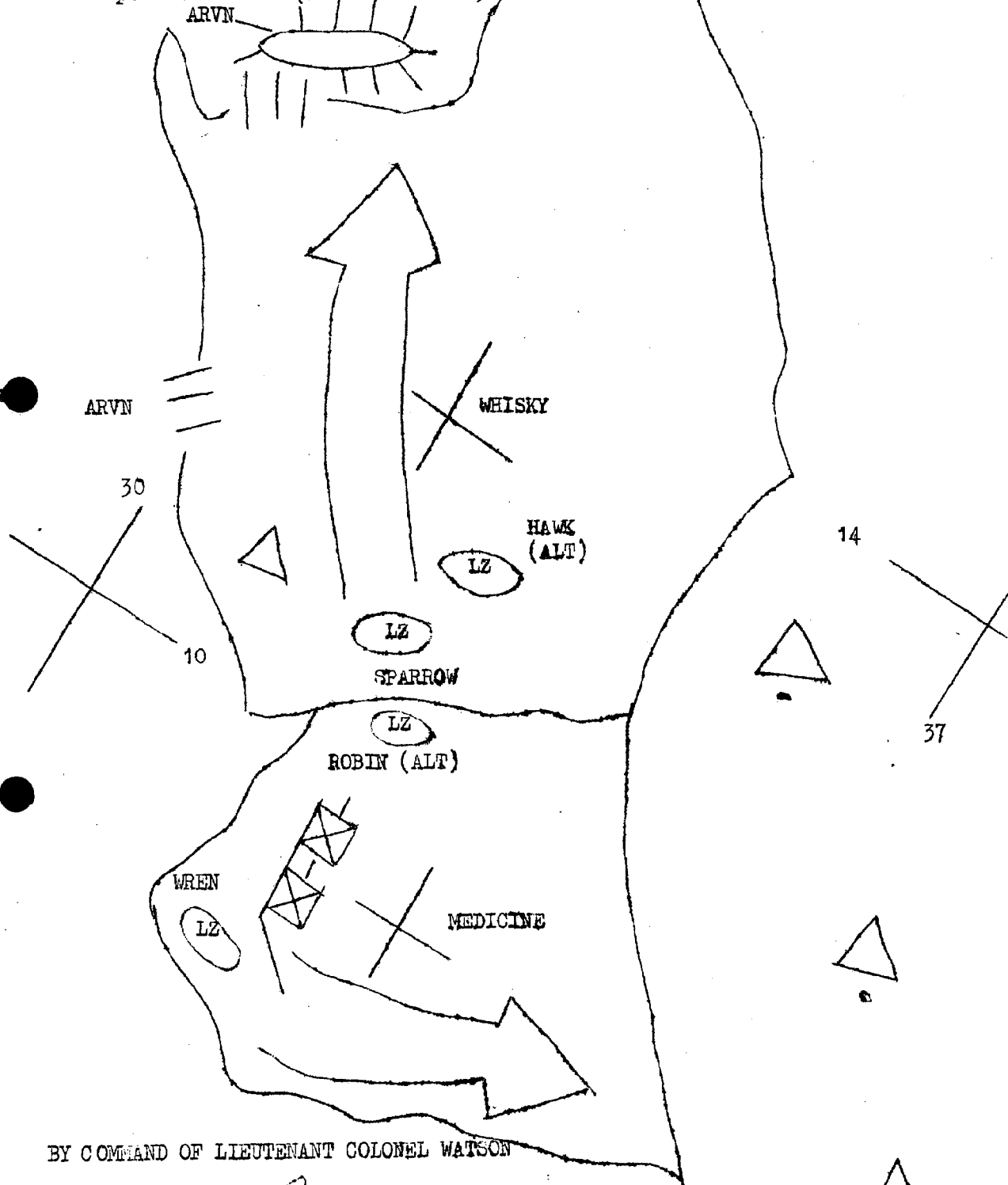
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B. S. PICKETT

Major, U. S. Marine Corps
Executive Officer

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ENCLOSURE 2 (Operation Overlay) to
Operation DOVER (Phase II & III)



BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL WATSON

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Major, U. S. Marine Corps
Executive Officer

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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
 Ly Tin District, Tam Ky District
 23 October 1966 Ser: 0070-66

Operation Order 3-66 Operation DOVER Change I

Ref: (a) Operation Order 3-66 Operation DOVER

Encl: (1) Operation Overlay, Phase II and III Change I

1. Purpose. To transmit new Operation Overlay and to direct pen changes to the basic Order.

2. Action.

a. Remove present Operation Overlay Enclosure (1) and replace with new Enclosure (1).

b. Delete paragraph 3a(1) and add:

"Phase II. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) command group and two reinforced rifle companies move via motor convoy to vicinity coord. BT 330208; thereafter move west along southern banks of Tam Ky River into area of operation; thereafter conduct search and destroy operations in a southeasterly direction in conjunction with 6th ARVN Regiment."

c. Delete paragraph 3b(1)a and add:

"Commencing at 0630 on D+5, move via motor convoy to vicinity coord. BT 330208."

d. Delete paragraph 3b(2)a and add:

"Commencing at 0630 on D+5, move via motor convoy to vicinity coord. BT 330208."

B. S. Pickett
 B. S. PICKETT
 By Direction

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Encl #2 to Encl #3

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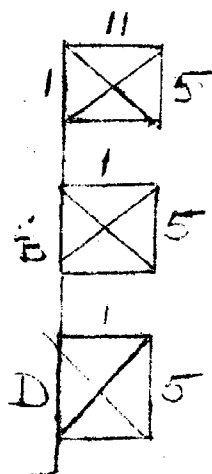
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ENCLOSURE 1 (Operation Overlay) to
Operation DOVER (Phase II & III)
Change 1

DISMOUNT POINT

20

30



PHASE II

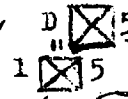
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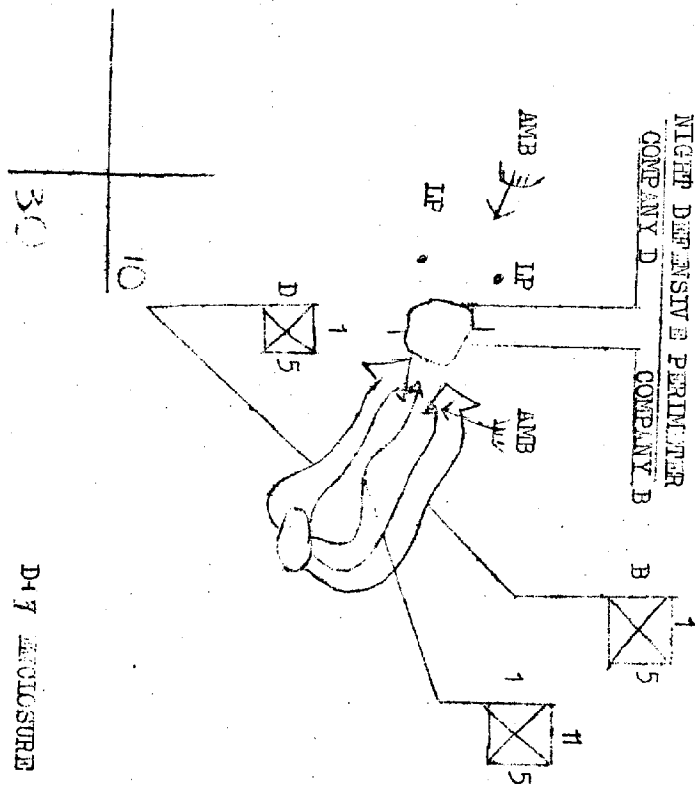
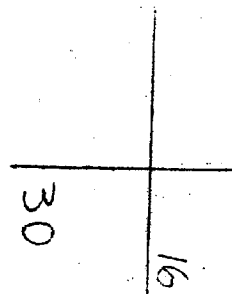
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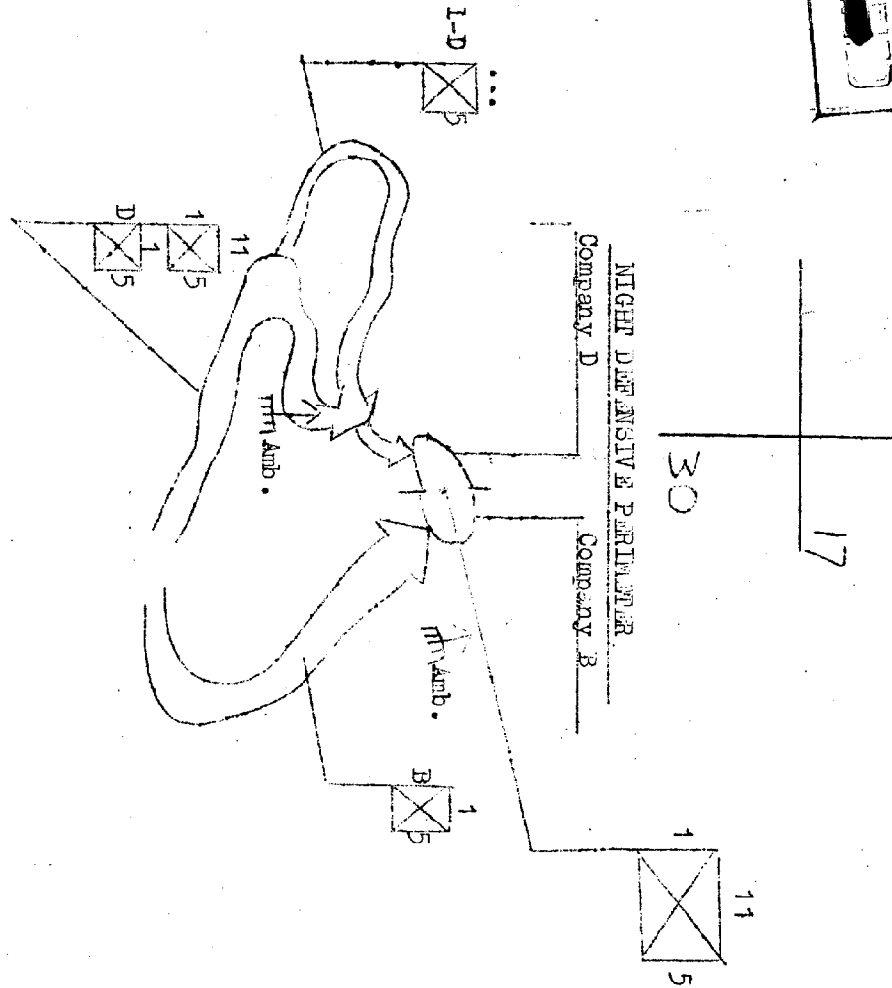
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D-7 ENCLOSURE (3)

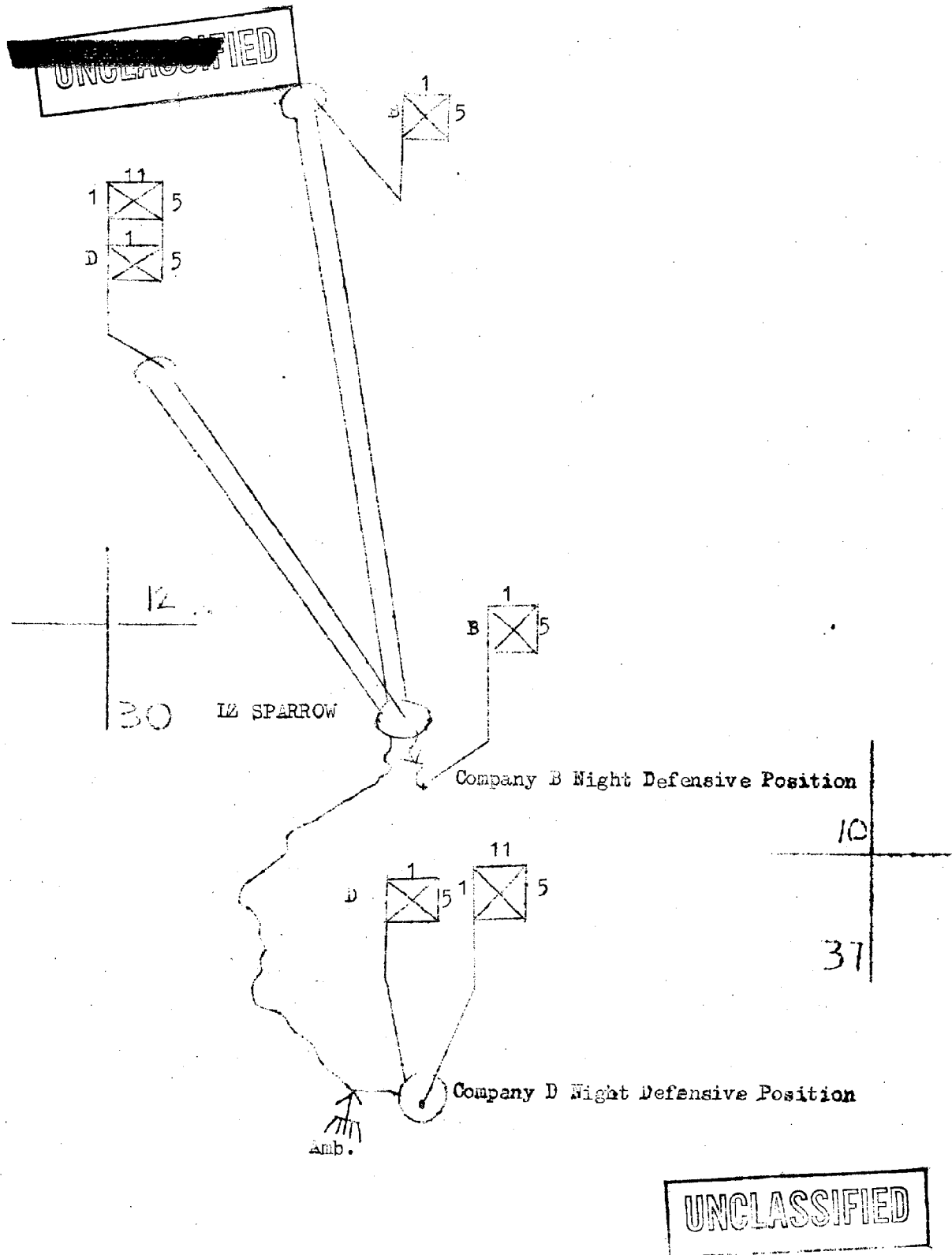
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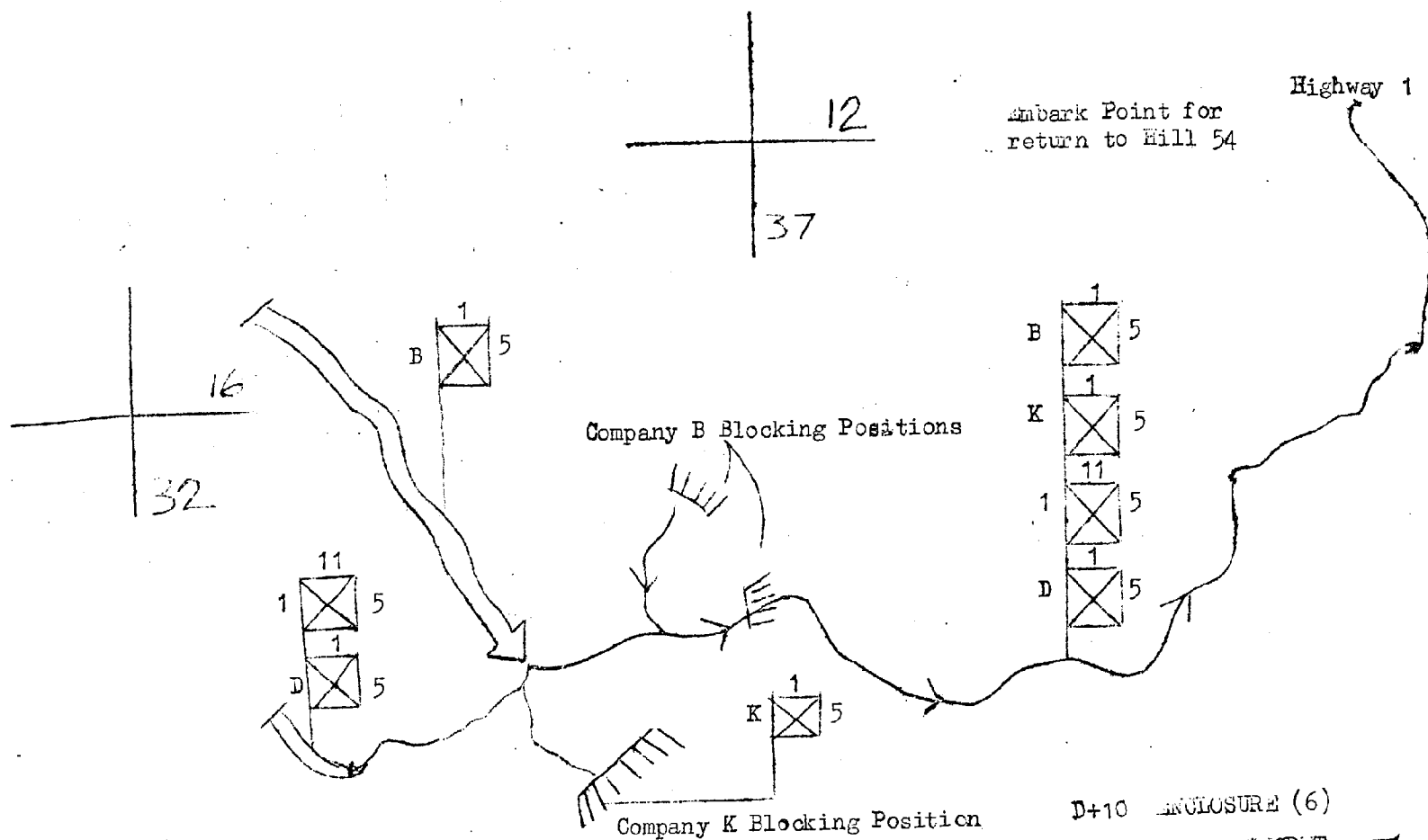


D+8 ENCLOSURE (4)

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