

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

3/CEO/afp
005750
1 July 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division
Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines
Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-30 June 1968
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMF PacO. 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B
Encl: (1) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology
1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a),
(b) and (c), Enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

R. H. Thompson
R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

DOWN GRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DR 5200.10

5TH MAR S&C FILES
00432-18
COPY NO. 2 OF 7

1/5 S&C
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II
COPY 6 OF 8 COPIES

1ST BN/5TH MAR

CMD CHRON

JUNE 1968

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 June 1968 to 30 June 1968

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(1)

ENCLOSURE (1)
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PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Roin)	Lt. Col. R. H. THOMPSON 1-30 June 1968
H&S Company	1st Lt. J. K. TAUSSIG 1-30 June 1968
Company A	1st Lt. S. A. NELSON 1-30 June 1968
Company B	Capt J. M. BEAUCHAMP 1-6 June 1968 1st Lt. J. S. PIPKIN 7-30 June 1968
Company C	Capt J. P. CAYNAK 1-30 June 1968
Company D	Capt M. C. HARRINGTON 1-30 June 1968

2. LOCATIONS

1-30 June 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Roin)
participated in Operation "HOUSTON PHASE III".

1-30 June 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rear)
located at Phu Bai, RVN.

1-30 June 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Forward)
located at coordinates (YD 930073).

3. STAFF OFFICERS.

Executive Officer	Maj. L. A. WUNDERLICH 1-30 June 1968
S-1 Officer/Adjutant	1st Lt. T. E. HOWARD 1-30 June 1968

~~SECRET~~

S-2 Officer

1st Lt. G. L. ALVAREZ
 1-19 June 1968
 GySgt J. A. WOODS
 20-30 June 1968

S-3 Officer

Maj. C. E. OAKLEY
 1-30 June 1968

S-4 Officer

Capt. E. B. BURROW
 1-30 June 1968

S-5 Officer

1st Lt. J. K. TAUSSIG
 1-3 June 1968
 1st Lt. D. V. SHERIN
 4-30 June 1968

Medical Officer

J. E. CREACH
 1-30 June 1968

Supply Officer

1st Lt. L. MALL
 1-30 June 1968

Motor Transport Officer

1st Lt. R. P. STROM
 1-30 June 1968

Communications Officer

1st Lt. L. E. FREIDHEIM
 1-30 June 1968

Assistant Adjutant/Legal Officer

1st Lt. R. C. YOUNG
 1-30 June 1968

Chaplain

Lt. J. F. PHILLIPS
 1-30 June 1968

Air Liaison Officer

Capt. R. T. TAYLOR
 1-30 June 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
30	994	2	53

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY1. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Strength. The Battalion's strength at the beginning of the month was 32 officers and 1008 enlisted. On 15 June the strength had dropped to 30 officers and 994 enlisted. By the end of the month the strength had changed to 30 officers and 989 enlisted. At this time one officer and 29 enlisted are hospitalized. Joinings during the month were four officers and 133 enlisted.

b. Discipline, Law and Legal. Five Special Courts-Martial and four Summary Courts-Martial were convened during June. Two Special and two Summary Courts-Martial remain to be processed. No investigations were completed, three are pending.

c. POW/Detainees. Thirty-four detainees were processed during the month of June.

d. Morale. Morale and fighting spirit are excellent.

e. Postal. Postal service is still at a noteworthy high. Mail is received twice daily and is distributed immediately. Delivery of mail to the field is continuing smoothly, as evidenced by a CG Task Force X-Ray inspection during the month which found it outstanding.

f. Awards. Two Bronze Stars, one Silver Star, three Navy Commendation Medals and sixteen Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry were presented to members of this Battalion. Two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars and one Navy Commendation Medal were forwarded to former members of the Battalion. Several recommendations for awards were submitted during the month for heroism and meritorious service.

g. Interior Management. Administrative procedures and proficiency continued to improve during the month.

2. ENEMY, WEATHER AND TERRAIN. During this period 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was committed to "OPERATION HOUSTON" Phase III. This portion of the Command Chronology is included in the After Action Report attached hereto as Tab "A".

3. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

a. Organization. The organization of the Battalion remained substantially the same throughout the month of June. The Battalion continued in Operation "HOUSTON" Phase III throughout the month from 010001H through 302400H. The following units were OPCON to the Battalion during the month:

- (1) Det, Sentry Dog Teams, 3rd MPBn
- (2) Det, Scout Dog Teams, 3rd MPBn
- (3) Det, Scout Sniper Plat, Hq. Co, 5th Mar
- (4) Company F (-), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines was OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines from 081600H through 101630H June 1968.
- (5) 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines was OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines from 151630H through 160930H June 1968.
- (6) Company L, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines was OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines from 161600H through 302400H June 1968.

b. Operations

(1) The Battalion continued to participate in Operation "HOUSTON" Phase III from 1 June 1968 through 30 June 1968. Phase IV Operation "HOUSTON" commenced at 010001H July 1968.

(2) The Battalion conducted numerous small unit operations during the month. The following activities were conducted:

(a) Day activities for the month totalled 53 Fire Team activities; 254 squad activities; 82 platoon activities; and 26 company operations.

(b) Night activities for the month totalled 35 fire team activities; 685 squad activities; 90 platoon activities; and 7 company operations.

(3) During the period 16 June through 28 June, one Company (Rein) conducted a combined Search and Destroy Operation in conjunction with three Regional Force Companies and three Popular Force Platoons. The operation was characterized by light contact with fire team and squad sized units of local guerrilla forces. Rice caches totaling in excess of 12 tons were discovered, nine enemy were killed; 3 VC and 1 NVA were captured; 2 civil defendants were detained and 2 weapons were captured.

c. Supporting Arms

(1) Air. During this period 58 missions were flown by Marine TACA/AO Teams for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines controlling 8 flights of fixed wing and providing valuable aerial observation in support of the Battalion's mission of patrolling, road security, special operations and waterway denial. Other missions completed included 23 visual reconnaissance missions, 56 medevacs, 7 flareships, 12 flights of HUE-1 Gunships and 1 Spooky mission.

(2) Artillery. Delta Battery and Whiskey Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines were in Direct Support of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during the month of June. Echo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was in General Support with priority of fires for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Also, a platoon from the 1st 155 Gun Battery (SP), 11th Marines, provided support. The majority of artillery fire support was in the form of day and night harassing and interdiction fires, blocking fires, and S-2 targets. Reconnaissance inserts and CAP units were also supported by artillery fires from Delta and Echo Batteries.

(3) Tanks. Tanks were employed in Direct Support of small unit and platoon size mechanized patrols to search for and destroy enemy forces and equipment, and to determine the trafficability of the terrain for tracked vehicles. Excellent results were achieved by using Tanks to support an infantry assault.

(4) Ontos. Ontos were employed in Direct Support of small unit and platoon size mechanized patrols to search for and destroy enemy forces and equipment, and to determine the trafficability of the terrain for tracked vehicles. Excellent results were achieved by using Ontos to support an infantry assault.

(5) LVT's. LVT's were employed principally to carry supplies and captured rice, and were used as night-time small unit command post. LVT's were found to be the most maneuverable tracked vehicles for the type terrain operated in, which consisted mostly of sand, marsh and rice fields.

4. TRAINING

a. The following training was conducted during the month:

(1) Weapons Safety

- (2) Ambushes
- (3) Patrolling
- (4) Gun drill: 81mm; 60mm; 106mm's and M-60 MG
- (5) Mapping and Compass
- (6) Familiarization Firing and Zeroing of Small Arms
- (7) Weapons Inspection
- (8) Small Unit Leadership
- (9) Care and Cleaning of Weapons and Equipment
- (10) Personal Response

b. During the past month, two courses of instruction were conducted on the Battalion level as follows:

(1) Field Radio Equipment School. This course of thirty-two hours instruction and application taught over a four-day period was repeated twice and was attended by twenty-two Marines.

(2) Radar PPS-6 Operators School. This course of eight hours instruction and application was taught to eight students on one day.

c. One class was presented by 5th Marine Regiment on RV-38 to five students for 2 hours.

d. Replacement personnel received five (5) days training at 5th Marines Headquarters prior to being committed to the field.

e. The Battalion continued to utilize schools provided by higher headquarters. During the month, nineteen members of the Battalion attended schools in DaNang and Okinawa.

5. LOGISTICS. During the past month, no major problems occurred in the logistical area. The resupply of companies along route # 1 has been accomplished through the use of four (4) 6x6 trucks. Three (3) of these trucks are TAD to the Battalion and the fourth is obtained from Regiment on a daily basis. Resupply of units in the Phu Thu SOA was accomplished daily by helicopter. Helicopter non-availability proved to be the only factor militating against normal resupply, making it necessary on several occasions to upgrade routine resupply requests to emergency category.

6. CIVIL AFFAIRS

a. During the reporting period a total of 325 people were treated at MEDCAPs. No permanent MEDCAP site has been constructed due to a lack of security and the constant movement of the units of this battalion. Health and sanitation leaflets and soap were distributed at the MEDCAPs.

b. 13,000 pounds of rice were delivered to the Phu Loc District Headquarters for distribution to the refugees of the district. Excess food from the forward CP has been distributed to the refugees of Loc Son Village.

c. Solatium payments were made to two Vietnamese of Nam Pho Ha Hamlet for the loss of their father and husband. Civic action supplies were delivered to Nam Pho Ha Hamlet after it had been destroyed by friendly air strikes. A total of 250 bags of cement and 150 sheets of roofing tin were delivered. In addition, a bull dozer cleared the land and leveled the bomb craters in the hamlet.

d. About 10 of the 30 families living in the vicinity of the Truoi River Bridge have been moved with no difficulty. The remainder of the families will be moved as soon as possible.

e. The division Personal Response Team met with members of the Battalion at the beginning of the month.

f. Daily contact with local Vietnamese Government officials in the AO has brought a closer relationship between the local people and Marines in the area.

7. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

a. A total of 4,500 Rewards for Mines and Booby Traps leaflets were hand-distributed in the TAOR. Daily aerial leaflet drops and broadcasts were requested for the entire month.

b. Two armed propaganda teams were used to support operations of the Battalion, along with a group broadcast team which supported both the armed propaganda teams and units of the Battalion. These teams supported the Battalion on over half of the days of Phase III.

c. An increased Chief of Staff has shown the effectiveness of the use of leaflets, broadcasts and armed propaganda teams in operational as well as in security units.

8. COMPTROLLERS ACTIVITIES. Total money spent for the month was \$27,273.00 which leaves a balance of \$4,960.88.

9. COMMUNICATIONS. Communications at the Forward Command Post were improved by extending the wire lines to include all bunkers and all attached and CFCON supporting units. In addition, three test stations were installed to provide more reliable and expeditious communications. On three occasions, liaison and relay stations were used to extend radio coverage to units operation in the canopy and in the Phu Thu SCA, outside the normal operating range of the AN PRC-25.

10. SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES INFLICTED OR SUSTAINED: VC CAPTURED

a. Friendly Casualties (USMC). See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Report.

b. Enemy Casualties. See Tab "A" to enclosure (1),
Combat After Action Report.

11. SIGNIFICANT ENEMY ORDNANCE CAPTURED DURING THE
MONTH OF JUNE 1968.

a. Weapons Captured. See Tab "A" to enclosure (1),
Combat After Action Report.

b. Ordnance Captured. See Tab "A" to enclosure (1),
Combat After Action Report.

12. SIGNIFICANT MUNITIONS CAPTURED/FOUND AND DESTROYED
DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE 1968.

See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action
Report.

13. SIGNIFICANT ENEMY EQUIPMENT CAPTURED DURING THE
MONTH OF JUNE 1968.

See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action
Report.

14. SIGNIFICANT ENEMY CAVES, TUNNELS, BUILDINGS AND
FORTIFICATIONS DESTROYED DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE 1968.

See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action
Report.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. 1-30 June 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein) continued to participate in Operation "HOUSTON" Phase III. See Part IV of 5th Marines Command Chronology Combat After Action Report Operation HOUSTON III.

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

3/CEO/afp
 003480.1A
 05 May 1968

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
 Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines
 Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray
 Subj: Combat After Action Report (Operation HOUSTON Phase II)

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1A
 (b) 5th Marines Frag Order 32-68
 (c) 5th Marines Frag Order 35-68
 (d) 5th Marines Frag Order 36-68
 (e) 5th Marines Frag Order 40-68

Encl: ✓(1) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 65-68
 ✓(2) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 66-68
 ✓(3) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 67-68
 ✓(4) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 68-68
 ✓(5) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 69-68
 ✓(6) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 70-68
 ✓(7) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 71-68
 ✓(8) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 72-68
 ✓(9) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 73-68
 ✓(10) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 74-68
 ✓(11) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 75-68
 ✓(12) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 76-68
 ✓(13) Medical Supply Usage Data

1. Name of Operation. Operation "HOUSTON" Phase II (Search & Destroy).

2. Dates of Operation. From 010001H May 1968 to 312400H May 1968.

3. Location. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines participated in Operation "HOUSTON" Phase II in the southeast part of Huong Thuy District and the northeast part of Phu Loc District in the Thua Thien Province.

TAB A to ENCLOSURE (1)

4. Control or Command.

5th Mar (-)(Rein) 1st Mar Div (Rein) Colonel P. G. GRAHAM

5. Reporting Officer.

1st Battalion, 5th Mar (-)(Rein) Lt. Col. R. H. THOMPSON

6. Task Organization.

1st Battalion, 5th Mar (-)(Rein) Lt. Col. R. H. THOMPSON

1st Battalion, 5th Mar (Rear) Maj. L. A. WUNDERLICH

H&S Company (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

Company A (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

Company B (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

Company C (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

Company D (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

Det, Company B, 1st Engr Bn

H&S Company (-)(Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar 1st Lt. S. A. NELSON

Det, H&S Company (-) 1-13 May 1968

Det, 81mm Mortar Platoon 1st Lt. J. K. TAUSSIG

Det, Comm Plat 14-31 May 1968

TACP

Det, 106 RR Plat

Det, Flame Section

Kit Carson Tm

Det, HqCo, 5th Mar (Scout Snipers)

Det, 3rd MPBn (Scout & Sentry Dog Tm)

Det, Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar

Det, Co B, 1st Engr Bn

Company A (-)(Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar Capt. R. C. RICH

Company A (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar 1-27 May 1968

Det, Co B, 1st SPBn, 5th Mar 1st Lt. S. A. NELSON

Det, Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar (FO Tm) 28-31 May 1968

Det, HqCo, 5th Mar (Scout Sniper)

Det, 3rd MPBn (Sentry & Scout Dog Tm's)

Det, H&S Co, 1st Bn, 5th Mar

Det, 81mm Mortar Plat (FO Tm)

Det, Mod Plat

Det, Comm Plat

S-2 Scout

FAC Tm

Kit Carson Tm

Company B (-)(Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar Capt. J. M. BEAUCHAMP
 Company B' (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Det, Co B, 1st SPBn
 Det, Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar (FO Tm)
 Det, HqCo, 5th Mar, (Scout Sniper)
 Det, 3rd MPBn (Sentry & Scout Dog Tm's)
 Det, H&S Co, 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Det, 81mm Mortar Plat (FO Tm)
 Det, Mod Plat
 Det, Comm Plat
 S-2 Scout
 FAC Tm
 Kit Carson Tm

Company C (-)(Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar Capt. J. P. CAYNAK
 Company C' (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Det, Co B, 1st SPBn
 Det, Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar (FO Tm)
 Det, HqCo, 5th Mar, (Scout Snipers)
 Det, 3rd MPBn (Sentry and Scout Dog Tm's)
 Det, H&S Co, 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Det, 81mm Mortar Plat (FO Tm)
 Det, Mod Plat
 Det, Comm Plat
 S-2 Scout
 FAC Tm
 Kit Carson Tm

Company D (-)(Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar Capt M. J. HARRINGTON
 Company D' (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Det, Co B, 1st SPBn
 Det, Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar (FO Tm)
 Det, HqCo, 5th Mar, (Scout Sniper)
 Det, 3rd MPBn (Sentry & Scout Dog Tm's)
 Det, H&S Co, 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Det, 81mm Mortar Plat (FO Tm)
 Det, Mod Plat
 Det, Comm Plat
 S-2 Scout
 FAC Tm
 Kit Carson Tm

Company M (-)(Rein) 3rdBn, 5th Mar Capt. F. D. PACELLO
 Company M (-), 3rd Bn, 5th Mar 1-6 May 1968
 Det, Co B, 1st SPBn
 Det, Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar (FO Tm)
 Det, HqCo, 5th Mar Scout Snipers
 Det, H&S Co, 3rd Bn, 5th Mar
 Det, 81mm Mortar Plat (FO Tm)
 Det, Mod Plat
 Det, Comm Plat
 FAC Tm
 Kit Carson Tm

7. Supporting Forces.

a. Air

(1) During Operation "HOUSTON" Phase II, fixed wing and helicopter support was provided by the 1st MAW.

01May68 Scarface 91 and 92 (Huey Gunships) provided a visual recon of the area while Crossbill 087 (Flareship) dropped illumination flares. Cowpoke 20 (Aerial Observer) supported Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Cowpoke 24 (Aerial Observer) conducted reconnaissance along the river area for Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Cowpoke 23 (Aerial Observer) also checked out river area for Company C. Fingerprint 1 (Flareship) dropped flares in 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR.

02May68 Spooky 13 (Dragonship) supported Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in the 9208 Grid Square.

03May68 Cowpoke 20 (Aerial Observer) operated in Company A's TAOR. Scarface 8-1 (Huey Gunship) conducted a VR of Grid 905090 with negative results.

04May68 Cowpoke 12 (Aerial Observer) supported Company D in the vicinity of Grid 938051. Cowpoke 20 (Aerial Observer) took over. Negative sightings.

05May68 Cowpoke 21 (Aerial Observer) supported Company A.

06May68 Basketball 180 (Flareship) supported Company M, 3rd Bn, 5th Marines at grid 967063. ←

07May68 Basketball 804 (Flareship) supported Company C during light contact.

08May68 Helo-lift of Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines to LZ Sparrow 834065.

10May68 Basketball 812 (Flareship) supported Company C while in contact at Troui Bridge. Cowpoke 20 (Aerial Observer) supported Company C - Negative results. Scarface 64 (Gunship) fired on (YD 911082) for Company B. Furbritches 838 (Flareship) on station providing illumination.

12May68 Cowpoke 23 (Aerial Observer) supported Company C - negative sightings.

14May68 Scarface 616 and 617 (Hucy Gunships) made a visual reconnaissance of the Battalion TAOR - negative sightings.

15May68 Flareship and Scarface 614 and 615 (Hucy Gunship) supported Company A while in contact.

16May68 Cowpoke 10 (Aerial Observer) supported Company B. Cowpoke 20 (Aerial Observer) supported 1st Battalion 5th Marines and ARVN Unit - Negative sightings. Cowpoke 20 (Aerial Observer) controlled 1 flight of fixed wing (A-4's) armed with 500lb bombs against grid 969136. Target coverage 90%/60% being destroyed.

17May68 Cowpoke 24 (Aerial Observer) supported Companies B and C - Negative results.

19May68 Cowpoke 12 (Aerial Observer) conducted a visual reconnaissance of grids Upper left 8906, 8902 SW, 9802 SE, 9806 NE - Negative results. Cowpoke 16 (Aerial Observer) worked (YD 8202) to (YD 8702) - Negative results.

20May68 Cowpoke 16 (Aerial Observer) made a visual reconnaissance for Company B - Negative results. Cowpoke 8 (Aerial Observer) worked southern TAOR. Controlled 1 flight of A-4, armed with bombs/napalm, against trail (YC 992957). Target coverage 100%/80% being destroyed. Basketball 246 (Flareship) supported Company A at grids 900088 suspected VC concentration.

21May68 Basketball 911 (Flareship) supported Company A while Bridge # 2 was under attack. Basketball 246 (Flareship) relieved 911. Cowpoke 24 (Aerial Observer) controlled one Flight of F-4's, armed with 500lb bombs, at (YD 858032). Negative battle damage assessment. Cowpoke 16 (Aerial Observer) conducted a visual reconnaissance - Negative results.

22May68 Cowpoke 1 (Aerial Observer) checked out report of VC at (YD 934024). 8 VC spotted. Cowpoke 8 (Aerial Observer) registered Battery D, 2nd Bn, 11th Marines.

23May68 Cowpoke 8 (Aerial Observer) conducted a reconnaissance of grid (YD 0805). Negative results. Cowpoke 9 (Aerial Observer) registered Battery D, 2nd Bn, 11th Marines.

24May68 Spooky 13 (Dragonship) fired on (YD 949053) for Company D.

25May68 Cowpoke 20 (Aerial Observer) at (YD 954132) spotted 2 males in green uniforms. Cowpoke 21 (Aerial Observer) checked grids (YD 8902) to (YD 8901), 9400 to 9402. Spotted 9 holes along river bank. Cowpoke 9 (Aerial Observer) supported Company A while on river patrol.

26May68 Basketball 573 (Flareship) conducted an illumination mission for Company C (YD 988039). Cowpoke 2 (Aerial Observer) supported Company B at Grid (YC 099980). Basketball 684 (Flareship) was on station.

27May68 Cowpoke 2 (Aerial Observer) checked out grids (YD 8803) to (YD 8800) for Mortar sites. No sites spotted.

28May68 Scarface 6-8 and 6-7 (Huey Gunships) supported Company D and controlled fixed wing in strikes on LZ area. Gunsmoke 14 controlled the preparation.

29May68 Cowpoke 9 (Aerial Observer) worked with Company C. Scarface 6-7 (Huey Gunship) worked with Company D. Cowpoke 8 (Aerial Observer) fixed wing (4 flights) armed with 250lb bombs and napalm against NVA in village. Cowpoke 2 (Aerial Observer) relieved Cowpoke 8. Cowpoke 7 (Aerial Observer) relieved Cowpoke 2. Basketball 791 (Flareship) conducted an illumination mission in our area.

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30May68 Cowpoke 7 (Aerial Observer) supported Company A by conducting a reconnaissance of grids (YD 9709, 9708, 9706, 9809). Negative results.

31May68 Cowpoke 7 (Aerial Observer) worked grid 9503 and along river - negative sightings. Cowpoke 9 (Aerial Observer) registered Battery D, 2nd Bn, 11th Marines.

b. Artillery

(1) Battery "D", 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was in Direct Support for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines with Battery "E", 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines in General Support with priority fires.

(2) Delta Battery fired a total of 111 missions in support of the maneuver elements.

(3) Due to the nocturnal activities of the enemy, artillery support was primarily unobserved missions such as blocking fires, S-2 targets and H&I fires. A notable exception occurred on 29 May 1968 when an estimated enemy force of two companies was trapped in the Truio River area. The box tactic was used with infantry on three sides and artillery and air on the fourth. This action resulted in fifty enemy KIA.

(4) An average of 50 H&I fires were delivered daily on likely targets.

(5) Artillery fires were called continually in support of the maneuver elements during "HOUSTON" Phase II.

c. Tanks. Were employed in small unit mechanized patrols south of route # 1 to Search for and destroy enemy forces and equipment, and to determine the trafficability of the terrain for tracked vehicles. On one occasion, tanks were used on a company size Search and Destroy mission. Excellent results were achieved by using tanks to support an infantry assault on enemy located in a hamlet area which was not suitable for direct tank assault.

d. Ontos. Were employed in small unit mechanized patrols south of Route # 1 to Search for and destroy enemy forces and equipment, and to determine the trafficability of the terrain for track vehicles. On one occasion, Ontos were used on company size Search and Destroy mission. Excellent results were achieved by the use of Ontos to deliver direct supporting fires in front of an infantry company in the assault.

e. Engineers. Engineer support was provided by Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion. Engineers were employed principally to supervise mine laying, destroy duds, booby traps and captured enemy ammunition, and to conduct daily mine sweeps of the road networks in the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR.

f. Shore Party (HST). HST's were provided by Company B, 1st Shore Party Battalion. These attachments provided good support in coordinating and effecting helicopter resupply and medevacs.

SECRET

of the Phu Loc LSA. This truck is also used for administrative runs to Phu Bai from the LSA. Arrangements were made to use the water point at MCB-1 to resupply units operating in the vicinity of the Rock Crusher.

The Battalion is now using extensively the M-33 frag grenade, and also the M-397 and M-386 round for the M-79.

During the last half of the month, the motor transport section received twenty new M-151 vehicles which replaced the M-422 vehicle.

All 81mm Mortars in the Battalion were examined by a contact team from FLSG-A. All were found to be in satisfactory condition.

6. CIVIL AFFAIRS.

a. During the reporting period, a total of 1295 people were treated at MEDCAPS. Due to the movement of the elements of the Battalion, no permanent MEDCAP site was utilized. 1,000 Health and Sanitation leaflets and 250 pounds of soap were distributed at the MEDCAPS.

b. 300 pounds of captured rice was turned over to CAP 3-2-3 for distribution to the refugees who had settled near the Troui River Bridge. Additional food and candy were given to the CAP units for use by the local Vietnamese. All excess food from the evening meal at the Forward CP is distributed to the refugee hamlets in the TAOR.

c. Solatium payments were made to four Vietnamese individuals for losses sustained in the TAOR.

d. The Phu Loc District Chief was contacted about moving 33 Vietnamese families near the Troui River Bridge so that fields of fire and observation could be constructed for the bridge defense. Six families have been moved and resettled and the remainder will be moved in the near future.

e. Liaison was established with village and hamlet chiefs and assistants in the TAOR concerning joint Vietnamese-Marine problems. Items of interest and dissent will be presented to the Personal Response Team when it arrives in early June.

7. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS.

a. A total of 2,000 Rewards for Mines and Booby-traps and Chieu Hoi leaflets were hand distributed. Posters were

displayed which continued to press the themes of Chieu Hoi and rewards. As a result, 1 SKS Rifle, 18 M-26 grenades, 1 CS Grenade and one bandoleer 7.62 ammunition found by Vietnamese children and one adult were turned over to Marines in the TAOR, and 13 Hoi Chan were received by units in the Battalion AO.

b. Aerial leaflet drops and aerial broadcasts were utilized throughout the AO. The themes of these leaflets and broadcasts were Chieu Hoi, Rewards for Mines and Booby-traps and Support the Government of Vietnam.

c. Armed Propaganda Teams and HB Teams were used extensively in conjunction with tactical operations, rice denial operations, and Intelligence operations. The success of these teams has been noteworthy. In one case, an HB Team broadcast appeals to surrender to soldiers of an NVA unit surrounded by units of the Battalion. During announced lulls in the air and artillery strikes, eight NVA and one VC surrendered. Following this operation, an armed propaganda team was placed in the hamlet which had been damaged during the operation. The team talked with over three hundred people, employing the theme that the NVA/VC were responsible for the damage, but GVN would help to repair it.

8. COMPTROLLERS ACTIVITIES. Total money spent for the month was \$71,424.25 which leaves a balance of \$33,543.36.

9. COMMUNICATIONS. Normal established communications were successfully maintained at both Phu Bai Rear and Bao Vinh Command Post. The installation of a generator, PU-239, at the latter location considerably improved the light and power capability. Training during the month included 24 field radio operators and 8 radar, PPS-6, operators.

10. SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES INFLICTED OR SUSTAINED; VC CAPTURED.

a. Friendly Casualties (USMC). See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Report.

b. Enemy Casualties. See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Report.

11. SIGNIFICANT ENEMY ORDNANCE CAPTURED DURING THE MONTH OF MAY 1968.

a. Weapons captured. See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Report.

b. Ordnance Captured. See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Report.

12. SIGNIFICANT MUNITIONS CAPTURED/FOUND AND DESTROYED DURING THE MONTH OF MAY 1968.

See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Report.

13. SIGNIFICANT ENEMY EQUIPMENT CAPTURED DURING THE MONTH OF MAY 1968.

See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Report.

14. SIGNIFICANT ENEMY CAVES, TUNNELS, BUILDINGS AND FORTIFICATIONS DESTROYED DURING THE MONTH OF MAY 1968.

See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Report.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. 1-31 May 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein)
continued to participate in Operation "HOUSTON" Phase II.
See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Report.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓ Tab "A" Combat After Action Report, Operation HOUSTON" Phase II. [M.F.]

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ENCLOSURE (1)
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