

HEADQUARTERS
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

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3/CBW/tfs
5750
5 August 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein)
Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment

Subj: Command Chronology for period 010001H July67 to 312400H July67

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMF PacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: ✓(1) 3rd Bn, 5th Mar, Combat After Action Report, Operation CALHOUN
✓(2) 3rd Bn, 5th Mar, Operations Summary (Period 25-26 July 1967)
✓(3) 3rd Bn, 5th Mar, Operations Summary (Period 29-30 July 1967)

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c), the Command Chronology for the month of July, with enclosures (1), (2), and (3) is hereby submitted.

C. B. Webster
C. B. WEBSTER

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HEADQUARTERS
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

010001H July67 to 312400H July67

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- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION
3rd Bn, 5th Mar

COMMANDER
LtCol C. B. WEBSTER (27 May 1967)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company

2Lt B. T. HEIDTKE (9 June - 3 July 1967)
Capt J. A. SPEICHER (4 July 1967)

I Company

Capt F. M. BURKE (18 June 1967)

K Company

Capt J. R. TENNEY (25 May 1967)

L Company

Capt H. D. PETTINGILL (1-3 July 1967)
Capt H. J. KOLAKOWSKI (4 July 1967)

M Company

Capt GREENE (26 June - 10 July 1967)
1st Lt J. B. FRETWELL (11-18 July 1967
Acting)
Capt B. A. VREDEVOLD (11-30 July 1967)
1st Lt J. D. MURRAY (31 July 1967)

2. LOCATION (Admin. Rear)

1-2 July, Chu Lai Installation, RVN

2 July, Afloat

3-21 July, 11th Motor Transport Bn Compound, Danang, RVN

21 July - to date, Hill 63, Quang Nam Province, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

ExecO

Maj B. R. CUMMINS (22 April 1967)

S-1

2ndLt W. M. GORTZ (1-3 July 1967)
2ndLt G. E. OWSLEY (4 July 1967)

S-2

1stLt S. E. LINDBLOM (7 Jan - 1 July 1967)
2ndLt D. R. DUNAGAN (2 July 1967)

S-3

Maj E. S. PIPER, Jr. (16 Nov 1966)

S-4

2ndLt W. W. KING (19 May 1967)

S-5

Lt J. E. LOUIS (MC) USNR (5 Apr-3 July
1967)
1stLt J. D. MURRAY (4 July - 31 July 1967)

Supply Officer

Capt S. C. THOMPSON, Jr. (1 April 1967)

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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
39	1059	3	56

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

This Battalion is presently two officers over TO; however, two Lieutenants (0302) are non-effective in the hospital and one Captain (0302) is TAD to III MAF. There exists a need for a Captain 0402 but the billet is being filled by an 0302 Lieutenant. First Sergeants are assigned in all companies and a First Sergeant is filling the billet as Acting Sergeant Major. A shortage exists in the Staff Sergeant billets but in most cases the billets are being adequately filled by Sergeants. Between October and December the Battalion will experience the loss of the majority of the experienced 0141's at both company and battalion levels.

The Battalion's Kit Carson Scout continues to do an outstanding job and is the most valuable of all the Vietnamese personnel attached to this Command. The S-2 Scouts have been continuously employed both in Battalion (-) Operations, Company sweeps and in all other sized patrolling activities. Enemy activity, though heavy at times, consisted primarily of sniper activity.

The Battalion has completed Operation CALHOUN (25 June-1 July 1967) and two Battalion (-) Operations in the Hill 63 operational area. Currently the Battalion (-) is OpCon to 1st/Marines for Operation PIKE (31 July 67 to date).

At the present time there are no major communication or logistical problems in the Battalion.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Topicsa. Personnel and Administration

(1) The Battalion began the month of July with an on-rolls strength of 33 Marine Officers, 1072 enlisted Marines, 3 Naval Officers, and 55 Naval Enlisted. Our current on-board strength is 44 Marine Officers, 1068 enlisted Marines, 3 Naval Officers, and 56 Naval enlisted.

(2) Twenty-seven enlisted Marines are scheduled for rotation during the month of August. No officers are scheduled for rotation, however one Major O302 is being reassigned within the 1st Marine Division and his replacement is aboard. One O301 2ndLt will be reassigned within the 5th Marines without replacement on 1 August 1967.

(3) The regular monthly promotion cycle tends to provide stability to the junior NCO ranks.

(4) A difficult, but not insurmountable situation arose in the case of one rifle company. Both the Company Commander and the Company Gunnery Sergeant received TAD orders and were detached on the same date with little or no forewarning. Fortunately, an outstanding Officer was available to fill the gap; however he was assigned to the Command for only 20 days OJT. Efforts to effect his permanent reassignment were in vain. After his detachment the Company Executive Officer was assigned temporarily to Command of the Company. A few days later another Captain joined the Battalion and was assigned as the Company Commander. As a result, the Company underwent three changes of Command in less than a thirty-day period.

(5) A related, though much less serious problem arose when the Battalion's Motor Transport Chief was permanently transferred to another Command within the Division without any prior notice to this Command.

b. Intelligence

(1) Following is a summary of intelligence activities and section readiness during the month of July 1967.

(a) Personnel. Personnel changes for the month of July included the following additions and deletions:

2ndLt Donald R. DUNAGAN, 093603/0202/0210; joined as the Battalion Intelligence Officer on 2 July 1967 vice 1stLt S. E. LINDBLOM, transferred to duty as Battalion S-3 ALPHA.

(4) A difficult, but not insurmountable situation arose in the case of one rifle company. Both the 5th Battalion's Gunnery Sergeant and the Company Commander received TAD orders and were detached on the same date with little or no forewarning. Fortunately, an outstanding Officer was available to fill the gap; however he was assigned to the Command for only 20 days OJT. Efforts to effect his permanent reassignment were in vain. After his detachment the Company Executive Officer was assigned temporarily to Command of the Company. A few days later another Captain joined the Battalion and was assigned as the Company Commander. As a result, the Company underwent three changes of Command in less than a thirty-day period.



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SSgt B. J. McKENZIE, 1873201/0369/9940; joined as of 28 July 1967 as an Interpreter, a billet previously unassigned.

Sgt J. D. GIBBS 2062922; 0311; joined on 27 July 1967 as Intelligence Assistant, 0231, a billet previously unassigned.

1-The Battalion S-2 is presently operating with one PFC/PVT 0311 in excess of T/O. This additional man adds greatly to our ability to provide maximum support for company commanders and section intelligence production.

(b) Intelligence Operations

1-Following 3/5's relocation on Hill 63, the first two weeks of July were spent in the collection and processing of local VC order-of-battle (OOB) and combat intelligence data from local Vietnamese Nationals. This effort provided 26 separate reports on VC activities, tunnel and trench locations and the OOB/disposition of two local force companies whose movements were subsequently supported by 3/5 patrols.

2-During the month the Battalion conducted extensive patrolling with special attention to the area 360 degrees around Hill 63 out to approximately 3,000 meters. Additional combat patrolling was conducted to the West and Northwest to a distance of approximately 9,000 meters. These westerly patrols covered the ground most frequently mentioned by local Vietnamese sources as being controlled by LFVC.

3-Post patrol reports and individual patrol leader debriefings provided considerable enemy defense data and terrain analyses information.

4-Detainees and equipment taken and processed during this period are cited below:

DETAINEES (all groups): 47

Pack, back:	7
Web ammo belts:	1
Poncho, U.S.:	2
Sweaters:	3
Uniforms, khaki, foreign:	2 sets
Uniforms, green, foreign:	2 sets
Canteens:	2
Mess gear, french:	2
Radio, btry powered, U.S. mfd., AM/FM:	1
Medical supplies: 3 separate groups, approx.:	20 lbs
M-26 grenades:	3
M-16 rifles:	2
M-60 MG:	1
Cartridges, several cal's:	120

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5-The S-2 Scouts, Kit Scouts, and Chieu Hoi's were assigned to each squad (Rein) and larger patrol conducted during July. The ability to support Company Commanders was greatly enlarged by the addition of six Chieu Hoi's and one VN interpreter.

6-The enemy suffered the following casualties as a result of 3rd Battalion actions:

VC KIA (conf): 47
VC KIA (prob): 109

c. Training

(1) During the month of July very few days of actual class training time were available to the Battalion due to operational commitments and the relocation of both the Battalion forward and rear CP locations. However during operational breaks the Battalion held and conducted Indoctrination Schools for the new men in-country, radio procedure classes, FO procedure and FAO procedure classes, and classes in field sanitation and care and cleaning of the M16A1 rifle. All companies held classes on fireteam, squad, and platoon tactics, use of supporting arms, building of fortifications, patrolling and ambush techniques, and all units were able to FAM fire their TO weapons at least once during the period.

(2) During the month of July, selected personnel of the Command were nominated and attended the following formal schools in Okinawa and DaNang:

- a) Vietnamese Language - 2
- b) Basic Weapons Repair - 2
- c) Ammunition Technicians School - 1

d. Operations

(1) From 25 June-1 July Company I, Company K (-), Company L and the Battalion's Alpha Command Group participated in Operation CALHOUN. See after action report: enclosure (1).

(2) From 1 July until present the Battalion has been responsible for the bridge and road security north from Tam Ky to the Hill 63 Combat Base. The Battalion has also provided all security necessary for the engineer activities in and around the Hill 63 area.

(3) From 1-16 July, 5th Regiment had OPCON of two of the Battalion's Rifle Companies, and on 17 July the Battalion once again assumed OPCON of all its units.

(4) From 17-23 July, Company L conducted a sweep of the AO to the northwest of the Hill 63 Combat Base.

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(5) From 25-26 July, Company I, Company L, and the Battalion's Alpha Command Group conducted a joint USMC/VN Regional Force cordon and sweep operation. See Operational Summary (Period 25-26 July): enclosure (2).

(6) From 29-30 July, Company I, Company L, and the Battalion's Alpha Command Group conducted a combat patrol/escort mission. See Operational Summary (Period 29-30 July): enclosure (3).

e. Artillery Support. See the Combat After Action Report and the two Operational Summaries: enclosures (1), (2), and (3).

f. Air Support

(1) During the month of July two helicopter requests were submitted. Both were completed satisfactorily. All other helicopter support was handled by a Helicopter Support Team attached to this Battalion.

(a) Troops moved - 317

(2) Air operations exclusive of Operation CALHOUN and the two Battalion (-) Operations included daily visual reconnaissance flights by Blackcoat Air Observers and fifteen fixed wing flights flown in the Battalion's area of operations. Bomb damage assessment for the fixed wing strikes included:

(a) 22 KBA (confirmed)

(b) 38 KBA (probable)

(c) 50 Structures destroyed

(d) 21 Structures damaged

(3) The Battalion currently has three aviators attached as ALO/FAC. There are sufficient trained enlisted personnel to provide all companies with the required FAC teams.

g. Communication

(1) The AN/PRC-25 radio has performed more than adequately this past month, however the handsets for this radio are becoming scarce and could present a problem in the future. The AN/PRC-47 is not being used since the AN/PRC-25 is fulfilling all the Battalion's communication requirements; the AN/PRC-47's weight makes it impractical for Battalion Operations. The AN/PRC-41 is utilized for UHF transmissions and for FAC teams in the Battalion CP group as well as company FAC teams. There has been a problem with batteries (BB 451) for the AN/PRC-41's, in that there were no charging units operating due to a lack of electricity. The Hill 63 Combat Base does have electricity now and the batteries are on hand in sufficient quantity.

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(2) The Communications is up to T/O strength with all but four operators competent on radio circuits. These four operators are being given additional schooling in order to increase their proficiency. Accountability and servicability of radio equipment has become a problem due to the movements of the companies during this past month, however steps are being taken by Communications personnel to locate this equipment, serialize it, and check for servicability.

(3) Communications in general has been more than adequate for the Battalion and a continuous program to stress self improvement is presently being conducted.

h. Logistics

(1) General. The overall logistics status of the Battalion is satisfactory. At the present time, there are no major logistical problem areas.

(2) Supply. The Battalion Supply section commenced the month of July by moving all gear from Chu Lai to DaNang via LST. After relocation at the 11th Motor Transport Compound in DaNang, prior to 6 July, the Supply Section began to shift supplies and equipment, via helicopter to the new combat base, Hill 63. On or about 15 July the Supply Section began to move all tents, poles, and decking to Hill 63 via truck convoy. On 27 July the Battalion moved its Op Supply Stock to Hill 63. It is anticipated that the supply bulk equipment will remain in the 11th Motor Transport Compound for the duration of the monsoon season. The present concept for supply operations is to have two supply personnel remain with the bulk equipment in DaNang and for the balance of the section to operate at Hill 63. Daily courier runs, via helicopter, have begun in order to effect a smooth logistical flow between Hill 63 and the FLC at DaNang.

(3) Motor Transport

(a) No major problems have been encountered. A continuing program of education continues for mite and mule drivers, and commanders at Company level concerning maintenance responsibilities for their vehicles.

(4) Construction. No construction is in progress at this time. Engineer support has been requested and approved for the following construction; Mess Hall, Shower Unit, 30 assorted bunkers and decking for tents. In addition the Construction Battalion will build strongback tin roofs for all the S-Section working spaces. Tropical type structures are planned for the Chapel and the Enlisted Men's Club.

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2. Chronology of Events

- 1 July - Operation CALHOUN terminated 011200H.
Companies M and K OPCON to 5th Marines.
- 2 July - CP, Company I, and Company L heli-lifted from Que Son to Tam Ky LSA.
- 4 July - Joined Capt SPEICHER (for assignment CO, H&S Co).
- 5 July - Company M returned OPCON to 3/5.
- 6 July - 3/5 CP displaced to Hill 63 from Tam Ky.
- 9 July - 3/5 Rear joined CP at Hill 63.
- 10 July - Dropped Capt GREENE (from TAD as CO Company M).
- 11 July - Joined Capt VREDEVOLD (for assignment CO Company M).
- 15 July - Dropped Capt PETTINGILL (RTD).
- 17 July - Companies K and L returned OPCON to 3/5.
Joined Capt LOVING (for assignment S-3A).
- 21 July - Move of 3/5 completed to Hill 63 by convoy from DaNang.
- 25-26 July - Battalion Operation (limited objective) Encl (2).
2ndLt WARNER KIA.
- 27 July - Joined Maj SHAW (for assignment S-3).
- 29 July - Joined Lt SEXAUER USN (MC) - Bn Surgeon.
- 29-30 July - Bn Operation (limited Objective) Encl (3).

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i. Civic Action

(1) MedCap. Approximately 50 Vietnamese have been treated by medical personnel at the Hill 63 Combat Base. A full scale MedCap program for the Huong Kuan (1) vicinity is planned and co-ordinated and will be initiated when operational commitments allow.

(2) Training. Meetings between the village chief of Phu Huong and the S-5, 3/5 have produced the following resolutions:

(a) A MedCap station will be located in the hamlet of Huong Kuan (1) coordinates BT 144457.

(b) OJT training for village corpsman on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday of each week will be conducted.

(3) Waste Food. Approximately 200 pounds of waste food has been distributed daily to the hamlet of Huong Kuan (1), since 26 July.

(4) Graves. Indiginous personnel are picked up daily and are distributed to all units for removal of graves. A deadline of 20 August 1967 is tentatively set for the removal of all graves within our Combat Base area.

(5) Projects. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base is located in a region ripe for Civic Action. Low sanitation standards, poverty, illiteracy and the ever present VC who undermine our security provide open field for all Civic Action.

The following facets of Civic Action are tentative projects:

(a) County Fair (2 to 3 days in length).

(b) MedCap on a daily basis with the objective of continous OJT for local Vietnamese aspiring to become corpsmen.

(c) Procurement of VC grain caches for ultimate distribution to New Life Hamlets, County Fairs, and payment for services by the local population.

(d) An extensive psychological operation program via the media of propaganda leaflets, audio-visual teams, video-tapes and Marines.

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HEADQUARTERS
3rd Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
San Francisco, California 96602

3/ESP/dab
3121
31 July

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Operational Summary (Period 25-26 July 1967)
Ref: (a) 5th Marines Frag Order 14-67

Encl: (1) Operations Overlay

1. Background. This Battalion received reference (a) on 24 July 1967 assigning it the mission of conducting a joint USMC/VN Regional Force cordon and sweep, limited objective operation on the Phuoc An/Tra Dea Hamlet/market complex (grid squares BT 2143, 2144, 2243, 2244); time frame was approximately 48 hours.

2. Sequence of Events

a. 242400H - Companies I and L, a platoon of tanks, and the Battalion CP Group departed Hill 63 Combat Base and moved to LOD on Highway 1. No enemy contact was made enroute.

b. 250200H - Company L arrived at jump-off point on LOD and held position. (BT 166433)

c. 250300H - Company I, CP and tanks arrived at Thang Binh jump-off point (BT 176419). Regional Force troops were met and joined. Regional Forces and 1 platoon of Company I moved south to their jump-off point on LOD (BT 190399).

d. 250500H - (H-Hour) All units crossed LOD attacking generally east toward objective area.

e. 250630H - Company C - 1/5 was heli-lifted into objective area (BT 2344) to begin its sweep.

f. 250700H - Company I (-) and the Alpha Command Group reached their position at BT 204434. One platoon of Company I was working jointly with 2 platoons of RF's, assumed blocking position at BT 208430 northeast to BT 212435. Company L moved east across the high dike and heavy hedgerow area (BT 1844 and 1944).

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31 July 1967

g. 250800H - Company L at BT 18644 picked up a VN male with an ID card. The detainee informed Company L he saw two VC squads pass through the area at daybreak. They were moving east.

h. 250820H - Company L made contact with an estimated 50 to 100 man VC unit just east of their last position. The Company maneuvered well until engaged by heavy automatic weapon fire. An AO was on station and assisted by calling in air strikes continuously for thirty (30) minutes. The VC broke contact and fled in an easterly direction. Observation by an AO indicated they were carrying and dragging bodies. No assessment of damage or casualties were made at that time. A limited search of the area was conducted by Company L and heavy blood trails and one wounded VC, who later was medevac'd, was found in the area. The remainder of the day Companies L and C continued to search hamlets in their assigned areas. The results follow in the intelligence summary.

i. 251900H - Company I was joined by their third platoon and the RF's in setting up a night perimeter defense for the CP and tanks at BT 206432. Company L set in their night position at BT 203438 and Company C1/5 set in at BT 209441. All units conducted local security patrols during the night. Enemy contact was negligible except for occasional sniper rounds.

j. 260630H - Companies L and C jumped off on a search and destroy mission northeast to BT 205455 then turned and swept west to gate L. An AO on station in the area, called in an air strike on a position at 203454. Company C swept the area and found one VC body, many pieces blood-soaked clothing and blood trails leading from the area. Also captured at this time was one (1) M-60 machine-gun with 400 rounds of linked 7.62 ammunition, one (1) M-16 rifle with two magazines of 20 rounds each of 5.56 ammunition, and a damaged first-aid stretcher.

k. 260830H - Company C encountered two VC filling canteens at a water hole, when they challenged two more run across a rice-paddy dike, they challenged then opened fire killing one (1) VC confirmed and three (3) probable. They captured two CS grenades. Details to follow on intelligence summary.

l. 260830H - The CP, Company I, tanks and the RF's after waiting for Companies L and C to make their turn toward Highway 1 moved west from their position down the main access road to Thang Binh. After releasing the RF's the column continued into the combat base on Hill 63.

m. 261500H - Company C was heli-lifted to Que Son and LPCON returned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

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31 July 1967

3. SUMMARY

Operation "No Name I" resulted in 11 VC KIA (confirmed), 29 VC KIA (probable), 11 detainees and 2 weapons captured, one a M-60 LMG and one (1) M-16 rifle, both were in operable condition.

By the tactics employed against us, that of, hit and run by small units, sniper fire, and the small unit sightings, it is quite evident that the units engaged were Main and local Force VC as opposed to regular NVA units.

The area covered revealed the people to be very hostile to Marine units. There was no cooperation, and a general harboring of all information concerning VC activities.

Aerial observation, rotary and fixed wing support for the operation were excellent. All air strikes were controlled by a tactical air controller (airborne). Fixed wing support commenced at 250615H with a bombing prep of the area adjacent to the LZ prior to the heli-borne operation at BT 232438.

Close air and direct air support missions were flown in support of the operation on both 25 and 26 July. AO support was outstanding in aerial observation and air strike control.

Forstret Battery (2/11) was in direct support of the operation and fired both observed and unobserved fires. An artillery prep was fired in support of the heli-borne landing on the morning of 25 July. There was excellent target coverage.

The primary means of communication was the AN/PRC-25 and once again it proved to be highly effective and praiseworthy. The AN/PRC/41 was of very little use due to faulty batteries, this coupled with the heavy FM traffic resulted in an inability to obtain proper bomb damage assessment.

4. ANALYSIS. While no real VC traffic was uncovered in the objective area, the operation did provide an excellent area reconnaissance for the Battalion. It accomplished some destruction of local enemies, and gave new unit leaders experience in unit maneuvers and tank-infantry coordination. The night movement went smoothly and the objective area was well covered by sweep forces.

E. S. PIPER Jr.
By direction

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3RD BATTALION, 5TH MARINES 231800Z
ANNEX A TO MEG ORDER 14-67(OPERATIONS OVERLAY)



HEADQUARTERS
 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines
 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/PES/tfs
 3121
 31 July 1967

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines (Attn: S-3)
 Subj: Operational Summary (Period 29-30 July 1967)
 Ref: (a) 5th Marines Frag Order 54-67

Encl: (1) Operations Overlay

1. Background. Reference (a) was received on 28 July 1967 assigning a Battalion (-) combat patrol/escort mission to deliver 2 self propelled 155 guns and one bulldozer at the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines combat base at Que Son; time frame was approximately 36 hours.

2. Sequence of Events

a. 290400 - Companies I and L, a security platoon from K, and the Battalion CP group with 2 SP 155 guns and bulldozer from 2/11 departed Hill 63 combat base and moved by road to the LOD. No enemy contact was made enroute.

b. 290600 - Lead elements crossed LOD.

c. 290645 - Company I observed a force of 50 VC with weapons and packs moving in column in grid square 0942 towards the NW. Artillery mission was called in by AO on station. Company I secured objective 1A.

d. 290730 - Company L secured objective 1A. No enemy contact encountered.

e. 290800 - CP crossed checkpoint 1.

f. 290830 - CP crossed checkpoint 2.

g. 290930 - Company L secured objective 1C. CP crossed checkpoint 4.

h. 291105 - CP reached checkpoint 5. Company L secured objective 1D. Company I secured objective 1C.

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31 July 1967

- i. 291200H - Company I secured objective ID. CP crossed checkpoint 6.
- j. 291215H - Engineers blew a 105 dud at BT 082390.
- k. 291400H - CP crossed checkpoint 7. Column stopped in hamlet at BT 064366 to care for 3 minor heat cases. A small MED-CAP program of treating minor injuries and sores was held.
- l. 291410H - Company L received 20 rounds sniper fire from VC w/grey uniform and carbine. Returned 60 rounds S/A and M-60 rounds.
- m. 291700H - CP and Companies I and L set up a night patrol base camp at BT 047338. Local ambush and security patrols were conducted in coordination with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.
- n. 300600H - Commenced heli-lift to Hill #63. Heli-lift completed at 301145H.

3. SUMMARY

3/5 (-) (Rein) left Hill 63 and crossed the LOD at 290600H to escort two 155SP Howitzers to Que Son also one bulldozer. Enemy contact was limited to one sighting of 50 VC. AO called an artillery mission. Company I searched the area and found 5 VC KIA (confirmed) and 5 VC KIA (probable) based upon the blood trails and drag marks leading from the area.

The remainder of the contact was sniper fire. Company L had two VC confirmed KIA who sniped at the company. They were killed by 3.5 rocket fire. They were dressed in black PJ's and also found near the bodies were two M-26 grenades and the empty cartridge cases from 5 caliber .30 rounds.

At 291700H after delivering the SP's and dozer to Que Son, the 3/5 CP, Company I and L plus attachments set up a patrol base camp at BT 047338.

The 3/5 (-) (Rein) heli-lifted from Que Son to Hill 63 commencing 301030H, the last chopper set down at 301130H.

It is of interest that moving down the main access road between Hill 63 and Que Son, the column encountered twenty sets of vehicle traps. Most consisted of 8 railroad ties buried perpendicular in the road bed about six feet deep; there were ditches intersecting the road approximately six feet deep and six to eight feet wide. These traps created no particular problem since they were easy to bypass or bulldoze for easy passage. It will be considerably more difficult to traverse this same road in the monsoon season.

Total enemy casualties - 7 VC KIA (confirmed), 5 VC KIA (probable). Engineers blew a 500lb bomb and a 105 Howitzer round, both duds were very close to the road but neither was booby trapped.

4. ANALYSIS. Mission Accomplished.

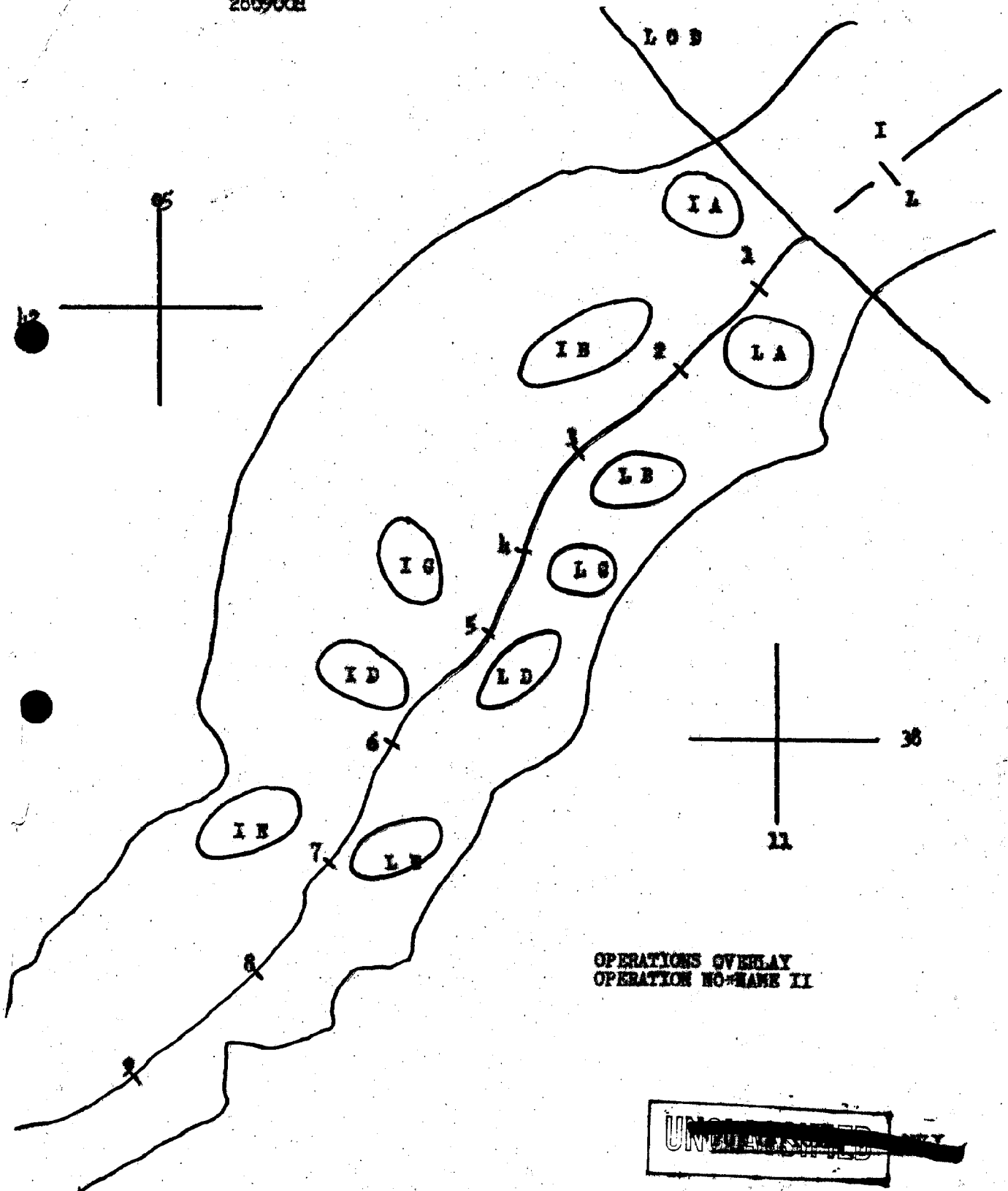
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By direction

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3RD BATTALION, 9TH MARINES
ISSUED WITH VERBAL FRAG
280900H



OPERATIONS OVERLAY
OPERATION NO. NAME II

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