





HEADQUARTERS 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Ast Marine Division (Rein) FMF Sam Francisco, California 96602

> 3/EFHJR/rem 5750 13 Oct 1968

From: Commanding Officer

Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF Gormanding Officer, 5th Marines To:

Tha a s

Command Chronology for the period of Cl0001H to 302400K 3001: September 1968

Ref:

(a) MCO 5750.2A (b) FMF PacO 5750.8

(c) Div0 5750.2B

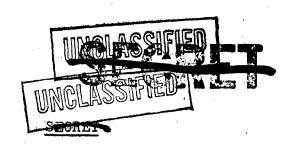
Encl: √(1) Command Chronology Report

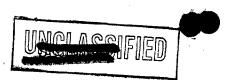
1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), (b) and (c); the Command Chronology for the month of September 1968 is hereby submitted.

> E. F. HERTLING. By direction

STH MAR SAC FILES

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS: DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200/10





HADWOLRTERS 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF FPO San Francisco, California 36602

Command Chronology 010001H to 302400H Sept 1968

#### Index

Part I - Organizational Data Part II - Narrative Data

Part III - Sequential Listings of Significant Events



# PART I CEGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

Commander

Period Covered

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines

LtCol R. A. SEXMOUR

#### SUBORDINATE UNITS

. H&S Co

letht J. J. LAZARUS Fr 1Sept68

00 "1"

1stLt A. M. CLEMENTS To 1Sept68 Capt M. A. GURROLA Fr 2Sept68

Oo "K"

Capt D. W. MEYERS

Go "L"

Capt R. G. SNOWDEN

Jo Figh

1stLt B. P. BARRON

2. Location. Quang Nam Province, RVN.

3. Staff Officers

XO

Major E. F. HERTLING, Jr.

S-1

CWO2 J. S. BISESI

S-2

latLt K. J. SALAMON Fr 1Sept68

S-3

Major R. C. RICH Capt M. P. DOWNS To 11Sept68 Fr 12Sept68 ic

•

Major W. F. BURT

20Sept68 Fr 21Sept68

s-4

lstLt W. C. HOEY

To 850pt68

Capt J. D. NIOTIS

Fr 9Sopt68
To 17Sept68

Supply0

lstLt R. J. NUSS lstLt G. C. FERREE

Fr 18Sept68

CommO

1stLt C. A. MOORE

MTO

1stLt J. D. ANDERSON

4. Average Monthly Strength.

USMC

USN

OFF

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ENCLOSURE (1).

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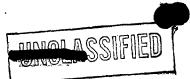
#### PAND II

# MARRATÍVE SUMMARY

Lering this reporting period, the 3rd Battalien, 5th Marines terminated operation SUSSEX BAY and participated in operation MAMELUKE THRUST in the Arizona area. Light to moderate enemy contact was encountered throughout the month with no significant problems experienced. Indications are that the Battalien's efforts both in an offensive and rice denial role have greatly hindered enemy freedom of movement and contributed significantly to enemy food procurement problems. In this regard, security in the form of OP's and combat patrols was provided for a six day rice harvest by Due Due district refugees.

28 The capture of six NVA soldiers during the peroid 10-12 Sept 1968 is considered significant and provided conclusive proof of the presence of the 21st NVA regiment in the Arizona area.





# PART III SEQUINTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

#### 1. Topics

# a. Porschaol and Administration

- (1) The Battalion began the month of September with an on board stength of 29 Marine Officers, 1147 Marine Enlisted, 3 Novy Officers, and 58 Navy Enlisted. The current on board strength is 33 Marine Officers, 1155 Marine Enlisted, 3 Navy Officers, and 53 Navy Enlisted.
- (2) The current effective strength of the Battalion is TO Markine Officers, and 972 Marine Enlisted.
- (3) A Marine Officer, and 16 Marine Enlisted rotated during September 1968.

MOS	NUMBER
0302 0311 0331 0341 0351 3051	1 7 3 2 1 1
0141	1.

(4) Critical MOS shortages are shown below:

MOS	M/L	<u>OH</u>	SHORTAGES
0130	2	1	l Lt
0202	1	0	l Lt
0302	32	28	Lts
0402	1	0	l Capt
0311	577	536	31 Sgts, 10 Cpls
2533	33	12	6 LCpls, 15 PFC/Pvts
3041	8	5	l Cpl, 2 LCpls

(5) Casualities

KIA DOW NON HOSTILE DEATH WIA EVAC	24 3 1 73
WIANE	56
NON HOSTLE WOUNDED	10
MIA	0
DAI	0



ENGLOSURE (1)



# 

#### (1) Personnel

- (a) During the month of September 1366, the Battalion Invelligance Section last one latht/0302, one CySgt/ 0239, one Opl/023% and two Opl's/0311. During who seme period one 2ndLt/0301, one 88gt/0239, one Opl/0311 and one FMC/0331 wese joined.
- (b) An Interrogation Translation Test was employed with the Battalion Command Group, providing timely intelligence gained from field interrogations of POW's, detainees and local civilians.
- During the reporting period, the main (7) Usillection. collection . Fronts have been as follows:
  - Enemy Order of Battle (a)
  - (გ)\_\_ Enemy Infrastructure

#### 13 Enemy Activity.

- (a) Synopsis. During the reporting period enemy activity consisted primarily of food gathering missions and political indoctrination of local villagors.
- (b) Capabilities. Continued harrassing actions to include:
  - Sniping
  - Small scale
    C Use of mine
    Ambushes
    Propaganda
    Mortar and Small scale probing attacks
  - Use of mines and booby-traps

  - Mortar and rocket attacks
  - Attacks by fire

# (4) Vietnamese Attachments.

- (a) Interpreture. The Battalion employs six (6) ARVN interpreture. Efforts are continually being made to ensure that each of the rifle companies, the Alfa Command and the S-5 have at least one qualified ARVN interpreter.
- (b) <u>Kit Carson Scouts</u>. The Battalion is presently employing four (4) Kit Carson Scouts. They have been assigned to the three rifle companies working in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Area of Operation.

ENCLOSURE (1)



(5) Enemy losses:

KIA: 65 NVA KIA, 10 VC.KIA

POW: 6 NVA POW, 8 VC POW

DET: 24

(6) Weather.

(a) Rainfall: Moderate

(b) Temperature:

l. Avg. High; 86

2. Avg. Low; 74

(c) Light:

1. Avg. Sunrise; 0613H

Avg. Sunset: 1927H

- (7) Terrain. The terrain consisted of large open rice paddles mostly underwater due to the rainfall of the reporting period. Throughout the rice paddles were areas of highground on which the hamlets and villages were located. The approach routes and populated areas were enemy fortified for the most part.
- (8) <u>Captured Weapons</u>. The following is the total Weapons and equipment captured by the battalien during September 1968:
- (a) Wospons. 4 RPD maxhineguns, 7 B/41 rocket launchers, 1 60mm mortar, 2 RPG's, 21 AK-47, 2 M-1 carbines, 8 SKS rifles, 2 AK-44 carbines, 3 ChiCom pistols, 53,210 AK-47 rounds, 20 .30 calibor rounds, 255 B/41 rocket rounds, 19 82mm mortar rounds, 20 75mm rocoiless rifle rounds, 4 M-26 grenades, 40 ChiCom grenades, 3 anti-personnel mines and 1 RFD magazine drum.
- (b) Equipment. 1 ChiCom radio, 1 short-wave radio, 1 EE-8 field-phone, 600 feet communications wire and approximately 45 pounds of miscellaneous 782 gear.
  - (c) <u>Documents</u>. 50 pounds
- (d) Other, 21,275 pounds of rice, 3,600 pounds of corn, 850 pounds of tobacco, 100 pounds of potatoes, 96 onemy uniforms, 1 first-aid kit, 50cc of blood supplement and 20,000 SVN piasters



#### TENTELLISTETED



# (c) Training.

- (1) Training included lectures, demonstrations, and/or practical applications in the following subjects:
  - (a) Weapons
  - (b') Radio Procedures
  - (c) Spot Reports
  - (d) PO & FAC Procedures

  - (c) Field Communications Expedients
    (f) Fam firing of all individual and crew-served

weapons.

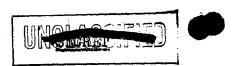
- (2) Seven Indoctrination Schools were conducted by 5th Marines. Classes on FO procedures, and on care and cleaning of the M-15 and included in the school syllabus.
  - (5) Personnel attended the following schools:

(a)	Staff NCO Leadership School	2
(b)	Embarkation School	2
(c)	Officer Leadership School	. 2
(d)	Vietnamese Language School	2
(c) (f)	NCO School	6
(f)	Basic Organic Supply Accounting	2
(g)	Movie Projector School	1
(h)	Rit Carson Scout School	l
(i)	Registered Publication School	1

# (d) Operations.

- (1) 090800H 3 Sept 68 Lima Co 3/5 chopped to 5th Marines 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines terminated Operation SUSSEX BAY and commenced Operation MAMELUKE THRUST.
- (2) 110730H Sept 68 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines assumed OPCON Lima Co from 5th Marines.
  - 302400H Sept 68 Operation MAMELUKE THRUST continues. (3)





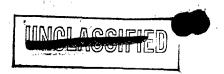
#### Artillery Support

- (1) Battery F, 2nd Bn 11th Marines provided direct support to the 3rd Battalien, 5th Marines during the month of September. Artillery support was both timely and effective.
  - (2) A total of 8370 rounds were expended as follows:
- (a) Observed Fire: : 3135 (2300HE, 685 illum and 150 WP)
  - (b) Unobserved Fire: 5235 HE
- (3) Preparation fires were used extensively. In order to better coordinate with air support, artillory prep fires were schoduled between 0500 and 0800 whenever possible.
- (4) Nino TCT missions were fired on sites of previous enomy contact, intelligence targets and enomy sightings:
- (5) An average of 30 H&I targets were fired each night.

#### 1. Air Support

- (1) Tactical Fixed Wing Support
  - (a) 76 TAC (A) controlled
  - (b) 12 FAC controlled
- (2) Holicoptor Support
  - (a) 37 modevac missions
  - (b) 5 Huey gunship strikes
- (3) Miscollancous
  - (a) 2 Flare ship missions
  - (b) 23 A0 missions





#### g. Communications

- (1) Supported battalion operations with primary use of Fa radio communications (AN/PRC-25); participating in the 5th Marines evaluation of the KY-38/PRC27.
- (2) HF communications (AN/PRC-47) used to maintain liaston with Kilo Co attached to 26th Marines.
- (3) Inspected by Division Communications (CEO) representives. Evaluation was satisfactory with no discrepencies. Considered motoworthy were the maintenance and supply procedures, PM records, battery shop and the overall organization of the Comm Section.
- (h) AN/PTS-6 was used extrensively in the defense posture of the An Hoa combat base.
- (5) Formal training on all procedures and equipment (150 hours) completed on all mowly joined comm personnel including transfers from other units.

#### h. Logistics

- (1) General. The overall logistics status of the battalion is satisfactory, Battalion S-4 has supported the battalion with resupplies on a daily basis. Due to the geographical location of the AN Hoa combat base, transportation of requisitioned supply items from Danang is limited.
- (2) Supply Situation. Battalion supply will lose two (2) 3051's, one (1) 3041 and one (1) 2111 performing duty as the formal account clork within the next thirty (30) days. Supply trained replacement personnel are not readily available. 9341's are being assigned to those billets. Preparation is now being made to initiate a battalion rear in Danang. This will expedite the handling of essential supply items between Danang and An Hoa.
- (3) Motor Transport. The motor transport section is still in need of three items of test equipment, test set tack and dwell, low veltage circuit tester, and adapter set electric.





Problems still exist with slow arrival of requisitioned repair parts for the M-27/A2. This has caused unnecessary second echolon decidines of NORS status.

The motor transport section has been assigned a motor

The motor transport section has been assigned a motor transport chief. This alleviates the lack of Staff NCO supervision, previously experienced by the section.

# i. Civic Actuen

Assistance was given to two (2) civilian medical evacuees.

continues.

# 2. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

766 W . CL	明教 医三角性神经 唯一的现在分词 "我们就是我们的一个一个人,我们没有一个一个一个人,我们就是我们的一个一个人,我们就是我们的一个人,我们就是我们的一个人,我			
C. 1	28 Aug - 9 Sept 1968 -	Operation SUSSEX BAY		
ৈ •	2 Sept 1968	Capt. M. A. GURROLA assumed duties as IMDIA Company Co.		
C +	9 Suph 1968 .	Capt. J. D. NIOTIS assumed dutios as Battlion S-4		
đ.	18 sept 1968	lstLt G. C. FERREE assumed dutios as Dattalion Supply Officer		
0.	21 Sopt 1968	Maj. W. D. BURT assumed duties as Battalien S-3		
f.	30 Sopt 1968	Operation MAMELUKE THRUST		

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