

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines
Camp Chien Pao-lan
141000Z March 1968

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HEADQUARTERS

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines

1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF

San Francisco, California 96602

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3/EFHJR/rm

5750

6 Dec 1968

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

Subj: Command Chronology for the period of 010001H to
 302400H November 1968

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

Encl: (1) Command Chronology Report

✓ Tab A - Combat After Action Report (Operation Mameluke Thrust)

26 July - 23 Oct 1968

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

2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), this letter is downgraded to unclassified.

H. E. Atkinson

H. E. ATKINSON

5TH MAR S&C FILES

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00303-68

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 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
 EOD DIS S20010

3 RD BN/5TH MAR

CMD CHRON

Nov 1968

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

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Command Chronology
010001H to 302400H Nov 1968

Index

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- ✓Part II - Narrative Data
- ✓Part III - Sequential Listings of Significant Events

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation Commander Period Covered
 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines LtCol H. E. ATKINSON

SUBORDINATE UNITS

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|------------|
| H&S Co | 1stLt J. J. LAZARUS | |
| Co "I" | Capt M. A. GURROLA | |
| Co "K" | Capt D. W. MEYERS | To 20Nov68 |
| | 1stLt W. W. RIGGS | Fr 21Nov68 |
| Co "L" | Capt R. G. SNOWDEN | |
| Co "M" | 1stLt B. P. BARRON | |

2. Location. Quang Nam Province, RVN.

3. Staff Officers.

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------|------------|
| XO | Major E. F. HERTLING Jr. | |
| S-1 | CWO J. S. BISESI | To 29Nov68 |
| | 1stLt W. G. BINES Jr. | Fr 30Nov68 |
| S-2 | 1stLt K. J. SALAMON | |
| S-3 | Major W. F. BURT | |
| S-4 | Capt J. D. NIOTIS | To 21Nov68 |
| | 1stLt W. C. HOEY | Fr 22Nov68 |
| SupplyO | 1stLt G. C. FERREE | |
| CommO | 1stLt C. A. MOORE | To 1Nov68 |
| | 1stLt D. W. RODDY | Fr 2Nov68 |
| MTO | 1stLt J. D. ANDERSON | To 29Nov68 |
| | 1stLt G. C. FERREE | Fr 30Nov68 |

4. Average Monthly Strength.

| | | | |
|------|------|-----|-----|
| USMC | | USN | |
| OFF | ENL | OFF | ENL |
| 30 | 1160 | 3 | 57 |

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. The Battalion's officer shortages are one WO 0130, one Capt 0202, three Capts, 5 Lts 0302, and 1 Capt 0402. The Battalion enlisted shortages are: three GySgt 0369, 3 SSgt 0369, and 51 Sgt's 03's. The Battalion has 79% of its M/L strength of Lt's 03, 71% of its M/L strength in Staff WCO's 0369, and 39% of its M/L strength in Sgt's 03.

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SEQUENTIAL LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**1. Topics****a. Personnel and Administration**

(1) The Battalion began the month of November with an on board strength of 28 Marine Officers, 1209 Marine Enlisted, 3 Navy Officers, and 60 Navy Enlisted. The current on board strength is 30 Marine Officers, 1122 Marine Enlisted, 3 Navy Officers, and 57 Navy Enlisted.

(2) The current effective strength of the battalion is 22 Marine Officers, and 947 Marine enlisted.

(3) 49 Marine enlisted rotated during November 1968.

| <u>MOS</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>MOS</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> |
|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| 0311 | 26 | 2511 | 2 |
| 0331 | 2 | 2531 | 2 |
| 0341 | 2 | 2533 | 2 |
| 0351 | 4 | 2519 | 1 |
| 0369 | 2 | 2542 | 2 |
| 2111 | 2 | 3041 | 1 |
| | | 3516 | 1 |

(4) Critical MOS shortages are shown below:

| <u>MOS</u> | <u>M/L</u> | <u>OH</u> | <u>SHORTAGES</u> |
|------------|------------|-----------|------------------|
| 0202 | 1 | 0 | 1 Capt |
| 0302 | 32 | 24 | 3 Capts, 5 Lts |
| 0402 | 1 | 0 | 1 Capt |
| 0311 | 586 | 559 | 27 Sgts |
| 2531 | 33 | 28 | 1 LCpl, 4 Pfc |
| 3041 | 8 | 4 | 1 Sgt, 3 Cpl |

(5) Casualties

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| KIA | 11 |
| DOW | 0 |
| NON HOSTILE DEATHS | 0 |
| WIA (EVAC) | 45 |
| WIANE | 28 |
| NON HOSTILE WOUNDED | 6 |
| MIA | 0 |
| DAI | 1 |

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~~UNCLASSIFIED~~b. Intelligence.(1) Personnel.

(a) During the month of November 1968, the Battalion Intelligence Section lost one Sgt/0311 RTD, one Cpl/0311 WIA, one SSgt/ARVN KIA Interpreter, one SSgt/ARVN Interpreter transferred, and one Kit Carson Scout KIA. During the same period, one Sgt/0231, two PFC's/0311 and one Kit Carson Scout were joined.

(b) During the reporting period, one Interrogator Translator Team, one U. S. Army HB Team and one Sniper squad were employed for portions of the reporting period.

(2) Collection. During the reporting period, the main collection efforts have been made as follows:

- (a) Enemy Order of Battle
- (b) Enemy Infrastructure
- (c) Enemy supply denial
- (d) PSYOPS operations

(3) The Battalion S-2 Section conducted daily Command and Staff briefings during November 1968.

(4) Enemy Activity.

(a) Synopsis. During the reporting period, enemy activity consisted of food gathering, terrorism, small scale attacks against US/ARVN military installations, and stepped up mining and booby trapping recruiting and political indoctrination.

(b) Capabilities. Continued harrassing actions include:

- a Sniping
- b Small scale probing attacks
- c Use of mines and booby-traps
- d Ambushes
- e Propaganda
- f Terrorism
- g Mortar and rocket attacks
- h Attacks by fire
- i Recruiting

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(5) Vietnamese Attachments.

(a) Interpreters. The Battalion is presently employing (4) ARVN Interpreters. This reporting period one interpreter was transferred and one interpreter was KIA. Efforts are being made to obtain (2) additional interpreters in order that each of the rifle companies, the Alpha Command and the S-5, have at least one qualified ARVN Interpreter.

(b) Kit Carson Scouts. The Battalion is presently employing (6) Kit Carson Scouts. During the reporting period, the Battalion lost one KCS KIA and joined one KCS in his place. The Kit Carson Scouts have been assigned to the four rifle companies of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

(6) Enemy Losses:

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| KIA: | 7 NVA KIA, 10 VC KIA, 9 BNR |
| POW: | 0 |
| DET: | 5 |
| CHIEU HOI: | 0 |

(7) Weather.

(a) Rainfall: Moderate to Heavy
 (b) Temperature
 (1) Avg. High; 84
 (2) Avg. Low; 72

(8) Terrain. The terrain through which the Battalion moved during the reporting period, was, for the most part, low agricultural area. This usually flat terrain is a series of rice paddies, hamlets and treelines. A portion of the terrain covered was in mountainous canopy. Approach routes were usually mined or booby-trapped.

(9) Captured Weapons. The following is the total of weapons and equipment captured by the Battalion during November 1968:

a. Weapons. 1 LAAW, 7 ChiCom grenades, 410 AK-47 rounds, 1 60mm Mortar round, 1 80mm Mortar round, 2 82mm Mortar rounds, 1 M-79 round, 1 20 pound box mine, 1 20 pound anti-personnel mine, and 2 M-26 grenades.

b. Equipment. 1 radio, 3 percussion caps, and 1 roll trip wire.

c. 782 Gear. 8 packs, 1 U.S. gas mask, 1 helmet and 25 pounds black pajama's.

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d. Documents. 18 pounds with enemy map and 1 wallet with 7 VC names.

e. Other. 11,200 pounds rice, 30 pounds corn and 1 sewing machine.

c. Training

(1) Training included lectures, demonstrations, and/or practical applications in the following subjects:

- (a) Weapons
- (b) Radio Procedures
- (c) Spot Reports
- (d) FO & FAC Procedures
- (e) Field Communications Expedients
- (f) Flam firing of all individual and crew-served weapons
- (g) Mines and booby traps

(2) Seven Indocctrination Schools were conducted by 5th Marines. Classes on FO procedures, and on care and cleaning of the M-16 are included in the school syllabus.

(3) Personnel attended the following schools:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| (a) NCO School | 8 |
| (b) Officer Leadership School | 2 |
| (c) Registered Publications School | 1 |
| (d) SNCO School | 1 |
| (e) Kit Carson Scout School | 1 |
| (f) Ammo Tech School | 1 |

d. Operations.

(1) At 051530H Nov 68 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, chopped company India to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(2) At 081400H Nov 68 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped company India to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

(3) At 180900H Nov 68 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines chopped company Mike to 5th Marines.

(4) At 181200H Nov 68 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines assumed OPCON company Bravo 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(5) At 200800H Nov 68 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines chopped to 1st Marines. Operation HENDERSON HILL terminated and operation MEADE RIVER commenced.

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e. Artillery Support

(1) The 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines provided direct support to the Battalion for Operation HENDERSON HILL during 1-19 November. In addition to 4,632 H&I rounds fired, 1,438 rounds of HE, 150 rounds of WP and 37 rounds of illumination were fire on 76 called missions, 52 observed and 24 unobserved.

(2) The 1st Battalion, 11th Marines provided direct support and the 4th Battalion, 11th Marines provided general support to the Battalion for Operation MEADE RIVER during the last eleven days of November. These units fired 1,632 rounds of HE, 165 rounds of WP and 14 rounds of illumination on 72 observed and eight unobserved missions.

(3) A total of 8,066 rounds were fired in support of this Battalion.

f. Air Support(1) Tactical Fixed Wing Support

(a) 19 TAC (A) controlled

(b) 6 FAC controlled

(2) Helicopter Support

(a) 2 Medevac missions

(b) 6 Huey gun strikes

(3) Miscellaneous

(a) 34 AO missions

(b) 15 Spooky missions

(c) 4 Flare ship missions

(d) 2 V.R. missions

(e) 12 Admin missions

(f) 6 V.I.P. missions

g. Communications

(1) Supported Battalion operations with primary use of FM radio communications (AN/PRC-25)

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(2) This command was supported by radio relay communications in the month of November (AN/PCC-1, AN/TRC-27) Negative comm with AN/TRC-27 which was believed to be lack of coordination and failure to bring spare parts.

(3) AN/PPS-6 was used extensively in the defense of the AN Hoa Combat Base and the perimeter of the Battalion Forward Command Post on operation MEADE RIVER.

h. Logistics

(1) General. The overall logistic status of the battalion is satisfactory. Battalion S-4 has supported the battalion while in the field with resupplies on a daily basis.

(2) Supply Situation. This command is currently short five 81mm Mortar tubes. This shortage is on order at FLC Maintenance Fleet (MC 135), on document No. 8312-3816 covered by our letter 21/GCF/rdb over 4400, dated 7 November 1968.

(3) Motor Transport. Three items of test equipment, Test set tack and dwell, Low Voltage Circuit Tester, and adapter set Electric, have been requisitioned, and are considered essential to the efficiency of the motor transport section.

One M-107 (Water Trailer) has been on order for the past six months. This essential item has not been received to date.

i. Civic Action

(1) MEDCAPS: 480 Vietnamese Nationals were treated during the period covered. Medcaps were held at the Battalion C.P. area as well as the An Hoa area.

2. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

a. 20 Nov 1968

Operation HENDERSON HILL terminated and Operation MEADE RIVER commenced

b. 30 Nov 1968

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines continues on Operation MEADE RIVER

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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

3/WFB/rm
3121
10 Dec 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines
Subj: Combat After Action Report

5TH MAR S&C FILES

Ref: (a) Division Order 3480.1A
(b) 5th Marines OpO 7-68
(c) 5th Marines FragO 99-68
(d) 5th Marines FragO 100-68
(e) 5th Marines FragO 101-68
(f) 5th Marines FragO 102-68
(g) 5th Marines FragO 103-68
(h) 5th Marines FragO 104-68
(i) 5th Marines FragO 105-68
(j) 5th Marines FragO 106-68
(k) 5th Marines FragO 107-68
(l) 5th Marines FragO 108-68
(m) 5th Marines FragO 109-68
(n) 5th Marines FragO 111-68
(o) 5th Marines FragO 112-68
(p) 5th Marines FragO 202-68

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Encl: (1) Area of Operation
✓(2) 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines FragO 1-69
✓(3) 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines FragO 7-69
✓(4) 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines FragO 8-69
✓(5) 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines FragO 9-69
✓(6) 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines FragO 10-69
✓(7) 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines FragO 11-69

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1. Name of Operation: Operation HENDERSON HILL
2. Dates of Operation: 231200H Oct to 062400H Dec 1968
3. Location: Duy Xuyen, Duc Duc, Dien Ban District's Quan Nam Province, RVN
4. Control of Command Headquarters: 5th Marines

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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5. Reporting Officer: LtCol. H. E. ATKINSON
6. Task Organization: 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines
LtCol. H. E. ATKINSON

H&S Co 1stLt. J. J. LAZARUS

Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn. 11th Marines
Det, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn.
Det, Company B, 1st Shore Party Bn.

Co I Capt. M. A. GURROLA

Det, H&S Co 3/5
Det, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn.
Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn. 11th Marines
Det, Company B, 1st Shore Party Bn.

Co L Capt. R. G. SNOWDEN

Det, H&S Co 3/5
Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn. 11th Marines
Det, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn.
Det, Company B, 1st Shore Party Bn.

Co K Capt. D. W. MEYERS

Det, H&S Co 3/5
Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn. 11th Marines
Det, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn.
Det, Company B, 1st Shore Party Bn.

Co M 1stLt. B. F. BARRON

Det, H&S Co 3/5
Det, Btry F, 2nd Bn. 11th Marines
Det, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn.
Det, Company B, 1st Shore Party Bn.

7. Supporting Forces

a. Artillery. During the operation, the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, in direct support fired a total of 1,438 rounds of HE, 150 rounds of WP and 37 rounds of illumination on 52 observed and 24 unobserved missions. Most unobserved missions were S-2 targets. There were 4,632 H&I rounds fired.

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b. Air

(1) On Operation HENDERSON HILL there were no transport helicopters used for troop transport during the operation.

(2) A total of three flights of fixed wing were flown on Operation HENDERSON HILL. All were TAC (A).

(3) A total of 18 medevacs were conducted: 5 emergencies, 9 priorities, and 4 routines.

(4) A total of nine AO's were utilized to control air strikes and recon missions.

8. Intelligence

a. During Operation HENDERSON HILL, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines conducted offensive operations in the assigned AO to seek, and destroy or capture enemy forces, weapons, material, and positions. Within the HENDERSON HILL AO, village PSYOPS operations were held, providing the Battalion with increased knowledge of Enemy Infrastructure.

b. The following enemy units were identified as being disposed throughout the HENDERSON HILL AO:

1. Elements of the R-20 Bn, 38th Regiment
2. Elements of the Q-81 LF Co.
3. Elements of the 36th Regiment, 308th NVA Division
4. Elements of the Q-82 LF Co.
5. Elements of the Q-83 LF Co.

c. Collection and Dissemination

(1) During the reporting period, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines had 1 NVA POW and 7 detainees.

(2) Captured documents included: Map of unknown base area, list of VC names, enemy casualties, orders, tax records, personnel letters and propaganda. All documents were forwarded to 13 ITT.

(3) Captured weapons included: 1 LAAW

(4) Other captured equipment included the following:

a. Ordnance- 9 ChiCom grenades, 410 AK-47 rounds, 1 60mm Mortar round, 1 81mm Mortar round, 2 82mm Mortar rounds, 1

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M-79 round, 1 20 pound box mine, 1 20 pound anti-personnel mine, 2 M-26 grenades, and 2 percussion caps.

b. Captured equipment- 1 radio, 1 roll trip wire, 8 packs, 2 AK-47 magazines, 25 pounds black pajama's, 1 bed roll, 1 canteen cup, 1 nurse uniform, 1,000 multi-vitamin tablets, 56 vials of vitamin B-12, 24 vials of streptomycin, 1,000 C and P tablets, 23 vials serum-glucose, 100 tablets chloroquine

c. Food caches- 11,405 pounds rice

(5) Total enemy losses were: 24 VC/NVA confirmed.

9. Mission

Conduct offensive operations in the assigned AO to seek, and destroy or capture enemy forces, weapons, material, and positions.

10. Concept of Operations

(1) Establish a base of operations at My Son (1) and conduct offensive operations to destroy the enemy in the Southern AO.

(2) Provide security for daily mine sweep operations to clear Liberty Road from An Hoa to the northern boundary of the Bn. AO.

(3) Keep Liberty Road open within the Bn. AO and protect friendly convoys by constant surveillance and interdiction of enemy threats to the road with day OP's and night ambushes; and patrols along the axis of the road.

11. Execution

a. 27 Oct 1968

(1) At 270500 India 3/5 at Coord. AT906510. While in high defense position elements of India detected movement. Element threw one hand grenade in the direction of the movement. A patrol at first light found one elderly VC male who had been injured by the hand grenade. It is believed the victim left his house to make a head-call. Corpsman tended the wounded. Will be medevaced if necessary.

(2) At 270640H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT904523. Observed approximately ten VC, five in black and five in white, one observed with rifle. Fired on enemy with small arms fire and called in artillery. Results not observed.

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(3) At 271220H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT907526. While searching out area, discovered six jars and 24 one hundred pound tins filled with milled rice. Jars and tins were buried in the ground outside of hootches. Condition of rice containers made retrograde infeasible. Dumped rice in river.

(4) At 271740H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT904521. Unit was checking hootches in area of cordon and discovered enemy medical supply, documents, and clothes in hootch. Two females believed to be VC nurses were found in the same hootch. Detained suspects and destroyed medical supplies and turned documents into S-2. 2 female detainees, 1,000 tablets of chloroquine, 23 vials of serum- glucose, C and P tablets 1,000, 24 vials of streptomycin, 56 vials of vitamin B-12, 1,000 multi-vitamin tablets, 1 nurse uniform

(5) At 271810H 3/5 CP at Coord. AT906524. Villager found in AO was interrogated by ITT and subsequently released. During movement to Kilo's position same suspect was found in hootch along with the following NVA gear; 1 ChiCom pouch, 1 pack, 1 uniform. VC suspect presently being detained for evac to An Hoa. 1 ChiCom pouch, 1 pack, 1 uniform

(6) At 272300H 3/5 CP at Coord. AT899512. While on night movement moving in southern direction, received small arms and automatic fire both sides of column. No enemy observed. Estimated enemy to be squad size. Returned small arms and automatic fire. Enemy broke contact. 3 USMC WIAE, 1 USMC WIANE

b. 28 Oct 1968

(1) At 280130H Mike 3/5 at Coord. AT887500. On night movement to objective, point element tripped unknown explosive device suspected to be booby trapped 105mm round. Searched area of explosion which was devastated over a 10 meter diameter area. 7 USMC WIAE

(2) At 280700H Kilo 3/5 at Coord. AT888502. While moving to objective rear guard sighted 10 VC heading north. One confirmed having weapon. Took enemy under fire with small arms and automatic weapons fire and 60mm mortar fire. VC fled. Negative results.

(3) At 280750H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT866494. While establishing assigned cordon Marine tripped what was believed to be an M-33 fragmentation grenade with trip wire. Three Marines were injured. 3 USMC WIAE

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c. 30 Oct 1968

(1) At 302210H India 3/5 at Coord. AT932476. While moving to objective, point elements of column came upon apparent but not alert outpost of 3-4 enemy. Element of India throw one hand grenade and delivered about 20 rounds small arms fire at enemy. Contact broken as enemy fled, no definite direction. Searched out area. 1 bed roll with plastic cover, 2 bags rice, 1 ChiCom grenade, 1 canteen cup

d. 31 Oct 1968

(1) At 311240H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT935488. Sighted five enemy wearing packs running tree to tree in easterly direction. Fired small arms fire and called for artillery. Negative results.

(2) At 311310H Mike 3/5 at Coord. AT930494. Spotted 4-5 enemy running tree to tree in northerly direction with packs. Fired M-60 machinegun fire. Negative results.

(3) At 311345H India 3/5 at Coord. AT900489. Spotted four enemy running in easterly direction. Fired seven rounds 60mm mortar in vicinity of enemy sightings. Negative results.

(4) At 311700H Mike 3/5 at Coord. AT938498. While consolidating at Regimental Objective 5, elements of Mike saw about 40 to 50 enemy fleeing to north, northwest and west across a rice paddy. Enemy was dressed in white top and black bottoms. Fired 10 rounds of 60mm mortar fire and 500 to 600 rounds of 7.62 fire killing six enemy. 6 VC KIA confirmed

(5) At 311730H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT906504. Spotted 20-25 enemy dressed in white running in northwest direction. Did not observe packs or weapons. Took enemy under fire with small arms and automatic weapons fire and 60mm mortars. 7 VC/NVA KIA confirmed

(6) At 311815H India 3/5 at Coord. AT954508. While on move to Regimental Objective 6, captured one NVA in bunker. NVA was taken from bunker and is being held at India's position awaiting evacuation tomorrow. NVA had no documents or no weapon. 2 ChiCom grenades, 2 AK-47 magazines, 782 gear

e. 01 Nov 1968

(1) At 011710H 3/5 CP at Coord. AT938498. While conducting operations, groups of 3-4 enemy per group ran from treeline in a west to northwest direction. As each grouping emerged from

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treeline they were taken under fire with small arms and automatic weapons fire and 60mm and 81mm mortars. 300 AK-47 rounds, 6 ChiCom grenades, 4 packs

(2) At 011100H Mike 3/5 at Coord. AT950505. Discovered several small caches of rice hidden throughout area. Destroyed all of the rice. 5-6 tons of rice

(3) At 011135H Mike at Coord. AT945505. While conducting search Mike found three tons of rice in three different caches, in around hootch. Rice destroyed. 3 tons of rice

(4) At 011205H India 3/5 at Coord. AT953517. While conducting a letter size sweep to northwest in vicinity of above coordinates, two packs were found with about 100 rounds of AK-47 ammo and documents. Included in documents was a map showing areas of possible penetrations into unknown compound. Documents turned over to S-2 scout, will be tagged and evaced as soon as possible. 100 AK-47 rounds, documents

(5) At 011704H India 3/5 at Coord. AT952509. While conducting search of objective 9, 60mm and 81mm mortar rounds were found. Mortars were American made. Destroyed in place. 1 60mm and 1 81mm mortar round

(6) At 012200H Mike 3/5 at Coord. AT938498. While Mike was setting in defense perimeter two possible NVA walked up to the Northeast portion of perimeter. Took enemy under fire, checked out area. Found one bundle of assorted clothing, 1 radio, and 2 bags of documents weighing approximately 10 pounds

f. 04 Nov 1968

(1) At 040835H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT933444. While on daytime activities a Marine tripped a booby trap believed to be an M-33 grenade with trip wire extending across trail. 1 M-60 unoperational due to shrapnel. Called for medevac and extracted 1 USMC and 1 M-60 machinegun. 1 USMC KIA

(2) At 041330H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT941442. While on patrol observed two enemy, one with weapon, one with pack, moving along trail in northerly direction. Fired 20 rounds small arms fire killing one enemy. Search around area disclosed brush beaten down around area of contact. 1 NVA KIA confirmed

g. 05 Nov 1968

(1) At 050955H Kilo 3/5 at Coord. AT905466. Found M-79 booby trap. Blew in place. 1 M-79 booby trap

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(2) At 051430H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT905466. Upon reaching objective discovered three enemy fighting holes. 8' by 5' by 3'. Two possible anti-aircraft positions, 8 feet in diameter, 1 tunnel complex 30 meters long 4 feet high and 4 feet wide and 8 feet under ground, with three concealed entrances. A reinforced enemy squad could easily fit inside this tunnel. Searched the tunnel thoroughly with negative results and will destroy these positions upon leaving area.

(3) At 051800H Mike 3/5 at Coord. AT904475. Elements of Mike were approached by Vietnamese civilian who stated that a Marine with whom he was riding was killed on Liberty Road to north by 25 VC who stepped onto road in front of jeep. Mike dispatched north along Liberty Road to investigate, accompanied by civilian. Element of Mike went north to AT910488 and were instructed to return with the Vietnamese civilian so an accurate story (which was garbled at the time) could be determined by an interpreter. On questioning civilian stated he is bus driver (has valid operators license issued by NSA) and was coming to DaNang today as lead of two civilian buses. Approaching An Hoa he noted second bus not in trace so went back to look and was picked up by Marine. As they approached AT909499 they were stopped by 25 VC. Driver attempted to turn jeep around and was shot. Civilian jumped out and ran back down road to the south until spotted by Mike 3/5 at AT902472. Name is CULU NGUYEN LIEM. Government motor vehicle operator ID NO9729, issued 6-22-68 by NSA. Civilian being questioned and is being held by Mike 3/5. 1 detainee

(4) At 052320H 3/5 CP at Coord. AT895467. A Marine on duty was cleaning his pistol when it discharged, wounding him in the left knee. Medevaced called 1 USMC WIANBC

h. 06 Nov 1968

(1) At 061225H 3/5 CP at Coord. AT908503. Booby trap suspected grenade. Reference to 051800H Nov 1968. Coordinates AT908503. To medevac USMC and to provide security for area until vehicle removed. 8 USMC WIAE

(2) At 061900H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT934414. Observed five enemy moving in a southeasterly direction across river. It was too dark to observe color of uniforms, packs, rifles and etc. Fired 15 60mm mortar rounds in target area. Area was covered well but no assesment of enemy casualties could be made due to darkness.

i. 07 Nov 1968

(1) At 071800H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT933473. Outpost

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spotted eight enemy moving across river in a south easterly direction. From outpost's position it appeared that the enemy were carrying packs and weapons. Elements of Lima opened up with M-60 machinegun fire to kill and pin the enemy down. 60mm section fired 30 rounds into target area. Also fixed wing was called into target area dropping napalm. Two AO's on station also gave good coverage of target area with rockets and small arms fire. After airstrikes we observed bodies floating in river. Will patrol in early dawn. 5 NVA KIA confirmed.

(2) At 072000H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT933423. Ambush site heard, and then actually observed two enemy walking up trail toward their position from a westerly direction. Unit waited until enemy within 25 meters before opening up with M-60 machinegun fire and M-16 fire. Point element of enemy was hit point blank at the same time friendly unit received one incoming ChiCom grenade. Will check out at first light. 1 NVA KIA confirmed.

j. 08 Nov 1968

(1) At 080940H Kilo 3/5 at Coord. AT801537. Kilo came across covered up punji-pit, well camouflaged.

k. 09 Nov 1968

(1) At 090130H Kilo 3/5 at Coord. AT927533. Marine set off claymore mine causing blasting cap to go off. He received one inch laceration and abrasive. Corpsman treated Marine. 1 USMC WIANE

l. 10 Nov 1968

(1) At 100915H India 3/5 at Coord. AT804568. Spotted six people with at least two weapons dressed in black headed from AT902464. Requested artillery and 81mm mortars along suspected routes of enemy. Rounds of adjustment resulted in movement of 15 civilians with five water buffalo in area. India requested check fire and dispatched patrol to investigate.

(2) At 101500H Nov Kilo 3/5 at Coord. AT805528. Found four small caves that had signs of having a small fire in it but not recently. Caves had 12 foot clothes lines just outside entrance. Clothes lines made from vines. Continuing to check out area. Vegetation very dense. Will destroy.

m. 11 Nov 1968

(1) At 110830H Mike 3/5 at Coord. AT904484. Stopped and

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questioned civilians. Found one Vietnamese female and one small Vietnamese boy carrying large sum of money. Civilians were questioned by KCS and interpreter. Sent detainee's back with Mike S-2 scout into S-2 positions. Vietnamese interpreter believes that civilians are buying food for the VC/NVA from An Hoa and delivering it to surrounding villagers. Female and the boy were carrying over one hundred in Vietnamese money. 1 female, 1 small boy as detainee

(2) At 111810H India 3/5 at Coord. AT775563. Six men, one with a pack setting up a mortar tube. Our men opened fire upon them wounding one and then they escaped. Fired three rounds of WP and nine rounds of HE. One confirmed enemy wounded, was carried away by his comrades.

n. 12 Nov 1968

(1) At 121920H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT867460. While proceeding to ambush site spotted three enemy on high ground. Requested Lima 6 if there were any friendlies in the area. Received reply of negative. Opened up with approximately 80 rounds of small arms fire. Received approximately 1,000 to 1,500 small arms fire, 20 M-79 rounds, and 5-6 grenades in return. Heard voices and civil guard with Lima surmised the voices were friendly Vietnamese. Lima started calling out that they were Marines and to cease fire Vietnamese did not cease fire. Lima had previously requested illumination and was continuing at this time. One civil guard stood up and raised his rifle over head. Firing stopped for a short time Vietnamese the requested two civil guards to come to position where they were set in. Civil guards complied but when they approached Vietnamese position firing started again. Lima did not return fire but shot green star clusters. Lima continued yelling that they were friendlies. The third civil guard with Lima stood up and put weapon over his head. All Marines then stood up and moved to top of hill into Vietnamese position which was not confirmed to be friendly. The squad leader of Lima-1 tried to coordinate but was told by the Vietnamese Officer in charge to be quiet. or the civil guard would be shot. They separated civil guard and Marines. Lima noticed Vietnamese had packs and full equipment. An argument ensued Lima and Officer in charge of Vietnamese over Vietnamese desire to take Marines somewhere. Squad leader requested advisor who eventually came. Advisor and Officer in charge of Vietnamese began argument over who would take custody of Marines. Marines were finally returned by vehicle to strong point Delta. Civil guards had weapons taken from them and weapons were not returned.

(2) At 122000H 3/5 CP at Coord. AT873464. Strong point Delta received a burst of AK-47 fire of approximately 8-10 rounds from village. Did not return fire. Tried to locate weapon. Reported to Lima 6.

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p. 13 Nov 1968

(1) At 130715H Lima 3/5 at 0000. AF975567. Lima found one LAAW in enemy position at strung point Bravo. Reported information to Lima 6. Sent message back to Lima 6. En route's came to strung point Bravo to check for possible booby trap and to blow the LAAW. 1 LAAW

(2) At 131240H Lima 3/5 at 0000. AF925490. Observed three VC fleeing from area of check point 2 (AF924492). Took VC under fire with M-60 machinegun fire and 60mm mortars. Fired approximately 100 rounds of M-60 and 10 rounds of 60mm.

(3) At 131245H Lima 3/5 at 0000. AF939499. Found one NVA type pack hidden in bunker entrance with fresh blood stains on it. Questioned local civilians with no active results. 1 NVA pack

p. 14 Nov 1968

(1) At 142025H 3/5 at 0000. AF96464. 1 USMC killed in motor vehicle accident when the male in which he was riding went over an embankment. Evacuated and initiated investigation. 1 USMC KIA

q. 16 Nov 1968

(1) At 160915H Lima 3/5 at 0000. AF965482. While on patrol spotted 1 Vietnamese with no identification card. Also he acted in a suspicious manner. S-2 interpreter detained individual and brought him back to Command post. S-2 took detainee to the rear. 1 Det inco

(2) At 161115H Lima 3/5 at 0000. AF961486. Spotted 3-10 NVA moving through treeline heading east. We could not tell from our position if they had weapons. They were wearing uniforms of the NVA. Lima informed Lima 6 of this observation and that it was out of our area. Artillery worked up a fire plan. 50 rounds of artillery were fired on the target area. Coverage was good.

(3) At 161330H Lima 3/5 at 0000. AF961486. Lima spotted approximately five enemy moving around area at 0000. We could not tell if they had weapons or uniforms. Appeared to be mining trail. Lima and Lima 6 of this observation and that it was out of our area. Lima 6 worked up fire plan mission and approximately 30 rounds of artillery were fired in target area. Good coverage was all.

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r. 17 Nov 1968

(1) At 171015H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT854487. Lima while on patrol took approximately 50 rounds of enemy AK-47 fire, from treeline to north and northeast which was 700 meters away. Using approximately four AK-47's and the remainder semi-automatic fire. The enemy could not be detected. Returned fire with M-60 machinegun fire and small arms fire. Approximately five rounds of artillery called in on target and three flights of fixed wing. There was excellent coverage of target area. Type of uniform could not be detected. After artillery and fixed wing finished, Lima began moving toward target area to search it out. Negative results.

(2) At 171100H Kilo 3/5 at Coord. AT873505. Spotted VC National, checked him for his identification, he had none. 1 VC suspect

(3) At 171225H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT878493. Lima was sweeping through treeline moving eastward and noticed three enemy moving southwest into treeline. Air was on station and also confirmed three enemy in khakis. Lima took enemy under fire chasing them into treeline. Enemy did not return fire. Sweeping treeline found one 82mm mortar round with trip wire. Booby trap blown by engineer's. Continued to sweep treeline.

(4) At 171320H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT898488. While sweeping treeline discovered three freshly dug fighting holes which were not at this location yesterday. Near one of them a wallet was found containing two percussion caps and a list of names containing seven confirmed VC of which five are male and two are female. Also in the same area a roll of trip wire was found. Will turn these articles over to CP. On their return engineer's blew the percussion caps and fighting holes. 1 wallet with documents, 1 roll trip wire

(5) At 171420H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT898489. Found one 82mm mortar round rigged as a surprise explosive device. Engineer's blow in place. 1 82mm mortar booby trap

(6) At 172235H Lima 3/5 at Coord. AT915480. While in ambush site, encountered two VC moving toward their position. Opened up on enemy at approximately 50 meters the two VC went down and Lima with two men advanced to recover weapons from body. While moving toward bodies, Lima took incoming fire, returned suppressing fire. Lima co advanced and again Lima took incoming fire which was to be believed M-60 machinegun fire. At this point Lima 6 informed Lima 1 that it looked like the enemy was trying to set up a hasty ambush and using the bodies as bait. Lima-1 was further instructed to return to Lima's perimeter. While on their return Lima took enemy fire. At this point it looked like a second size enemy unit was trying to surround Lima-1 squad leader returned to the company area

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he stated that the two bodies were in sight but was unable to retrieve due to enemy fire. At 0130 Lima Company perimeter had taken sporadic fire. Lima returned fire with small arms and 60mm mortar fire. 2 VC KIA

12. Results

a. Enemy

(1) Personnel. 24 VC/NVA (confirmed) KIA, 1 NVA POW and 7 detainees.

(2) Material.

(a) Rifles: None

(b) Crew served weapons: None

(c) Ammo: 1 LAAW, 9 ChiCom grenades, 410 AK-47 rounds, 1 81mm mortar rounds, 2 82mm mortar rounds, 1 M-79 round, 1 20 lb. box mine, 2 M-26 grenades, and 2 percussion caps.

(d) Equipment: 1 radio, 1 roll trip wire, 8 packs, 2 AK-47 magazines, 1 bed roll, 1 canteen cup, and nurse uniform

(e) Other: 1,000 multivitamin tabs, 56 vials vitamin B-12, 24 vials streptomycin, 1,000 tabs C and F tabs, 23 vials serum glucose, 100 tabs chloroquine, 11,405 lbs rice

b. Friendly

(1) KIA 2

(2) DOW 0

(3) WIAE 18

(4) WIANE 10

(5) NBCE 7

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13. Administrative Matters

a. Resupply. The Battalion was resupplied on Operation HENDERSON HILL, from the LSA at An Hoa. This mission was accomplished by both helicopter and vehicle, with supervision by the Battalion S-4.

b. Maintenance. There were no major problems in maintenance.

c. Treatment of Casualties, Evacuation and Hospitalization. Casualty evacuation was accomplished with minimum loss of time.

d. Transportation. There were no major problems in transportation.

e. Communications.

(1) Supported Operation primarily with AN/PRC-25 FM communications. The AN/PRC-77 and KY30 were used on the Regimental Tactical Net. Communications were loud and clear to all stations once the COC was set in. Line companies were required to use whip antenna's due to treelines. Friendly interference was bothersome but did not present any major problems.

(2) AN/PRC-25, AN/PRC-93's and AN/PRC-41's were used within the battalion CP with a trunk line to Regiment.

f. Medical Evacuations

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| (1) KIA | 2 |
| (2) DOW | 0 |
| (3) WIAE | 18 |
| (4) NECE | 7 |
| (5) Total Medevacs | 27 |

14. Special Equipment and Techniques. There were no special equipment or special techniques used on Operation HENDERSON HILL.

15. Commander's Analysis.

a. The mission of the Third Battalion during Operation HENDERSON HILL required company size combat patrolling throughout the assigned area of operations and extensive daylight outposts and night time ambushes along Liberty Road. With companies continuously operating in the high ground the enemy was successfully denied physical access to and the ability to launch a mortar

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attack against An Hoa from the South. The ability to ambush and mine Liberty Road was denied the enemy by a series of outposts along the road during daylight and ambushes on or in proximity to the road during darkness. To be effective constant surveillance of the road was necessary.

16. Recommendations.

a. That Liberty Road be kept under constant surveillance, during daylight by outposts within observation of each other and at night by ambushes, physically on or near the road. Ambush sites should relieve outposts prior to darkness and move to ambush site after darkness. Outposts, in turn, should physically relieve ambush sites.

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