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HEADQUARTERS
2nd Battalion, 7th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/RAS/ww
1300

1 June 1966

2nd Bn. 7th Marines

Log No. **0233-66**

Copy No. 1 of 7
SERNO. 035-66

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines (Rein), FMF
Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2A
Encl: (1) Command Chronology

1. As directed by reference (a) enclosure (1) is submitted.


LEON N. UTTER

2/7

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may 66

Training

a. Extensive commitments to airfield defense, one battalion size operation and one company being committed on operation Mobile, limited training during the period. Four Marines received training on water proofing communications equipment, two Marines received training on vehicle water proofing. They will in-turn conduct training for other members of the battalion. The Engineer Battalion Land Mine Warfare School quota for the month of May was cancelled, but thirty men from this battalion are rescheduled for the month of June.

b. Special Operations.

(1) There was one battalion size and one company size operation during the month. The battalion operation was generated by intelligence information acquired and processed by the 2nd ARVN Division furnished them by defectors and agent reports. The company size operation was on order of Commanding Officer, 7th Marines, the company to be utilized as regimental reserve for Operation Mobile. All operations are covered in detail within the attached Combat After Action Report.

(2) During the month the following small unit activity was conducted within the battalion TAOR.

- (a) 3 Platoon search and destroy operations.
- (b) 2 Squad search and destroy operations.
- (c) 2 Squad reconnaissance patrols.
- (d) 4 Squad night ambushes.
- (e) 4 Squad night security patrols
- (f) 83 fire team night ambushes
- (g) 83 fire team night security patrols
- (h) 279 night Listening Posts.

e. Command and Control

Battalion and company operations during May were under the command and control of the Commanding Officer, 7th Marines.

f. Close Combat.

(1) Close combat during battalion and company operations is described in the attached Combat After Action Reports.

(2) Close combat within the TAOR was as follows:

(a) At 281915H, CF G-3 reported 5-6 young Vietnamese males threw one WP grenade approximately 200-300 meters from a G-3 L.P. at BT-473045. There were no casualties on either side. At 291240H, G-3 sent a patrol into village at BT-473045. Interpreter questioned village chief who stated that the Vietnamese boys had found the WP grenade and had taken it outside of the village to

Command Chronology

1. Organization Data

- a. Location 2nd Bn, 7th Marine (Rein) GP.
Location Chu Lai VN BT-504036.
- b. Period Covered 1-31 May 1966.
- c. Commanding Officer and Staff
 - (1) Lieutenant Colonel LEON N. UTTER Commanding Officer
 - (2) Major R.E. Moss Executive Officer
 - (3) 1st Lt. R.W. Hall S-1
 - (4) 1st Lt. G.V. Hartman S-2
 - (5) Major A.J. Doublet 1-4 May 1966 S-3
 - Major R.A. Stephens 5-31 May 1966
 - (6) Capt. W.D. Seymour 1-2 May 1966 S-4
 - Capt. M.F. Welty 3-31 May 1966

2. Detailed Description of Significant Events.

a. Personnel

(1) During the month of May this battalion joined 5 officers (1 Captain, 3 Lieutenants, 1 Lieutenant USN) and 241 enlisted, Five officers (1 Major, 1 Captain, 3 Lieutenant USN) and 285 enlisted were transferred largely due to normal rotation.

(2) Casualties during the period were four enlisted WIA, 10 non-battle casualties and one enlisted died, non-battle.

(3) One Gunnery Sergeant was promoted to Lieutenant, 19 Lance Corporals were promoted to Corporal, 45 Privates First Class to Lance Corporal, and 13 Privates to Private First Class, during this period.

(4) Five Silver Stars, 12 Bronze Stars, one Navy Commendation Medal, 14 Purple Heart and 3 Good Conduct Medals were awarded during May.

b. Intelligence. Significant intelligence obtained and acted upon during the period resulted in Operation Montgomery. Supporting information is obtained in paragraph 7 of the Combat After Action Report attached as Appendix A.

throw it away. The chief then brought forth six Vietnamese boys, 11-12 years of age who allegedly threw the grenade. G-3 patrol returned to position without incident.

(b) At 282330H CF H reported position at BT-518009 received 3-5 rounds SA fire and one frag grenade. CF H returned 5-7 rounds S.A. No enemy casualties were observed. CF H had one WIA from grenade fragment, did not require evacuation.

g. Fire Support

(1) A concise picture of fire support furnished for operations is contained in paragraph 6 of each of the attached Combat After Action Reports.

(2) Fire support within the TAOR amounted to 100 H&I fire missions during the period.

h. Civil Affairs/Civic Action

(1) During May a program for school renovation was instituted and began in the hamlet of Long Phu (1) (BT-508034). It is anticipated that the interior of the school will be refinished, new blackboards erected and existing desks improved before school re-opens in July. The shower point at Long Phu (1) is now in operation at the schoolhouse and the Corpsmen wash children prior to giving medical treatment.

(2) Mr. Peter Braestrup of the New York Times, a former platoon commander of Co. E, who served with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines in Korea, visited our Civil Affairs area while on a tour of this command. From the information furnished him, Mr. Braestrup wrote an article which will appear in the Sunday supplement of the New York Times.

(3) On 22 May 1966, Maj Gen Fields CG. 1st Mar Div, reviewed the Civil Affairs program and commented on the commendable progress of the program.

Appendices:

- A. - List of References
- B. - Documents

Appendix A to Enclosure (1) of Command Chronology Report.

List of References:

1. Maps: AMS Vietnam 1:50,000 Series I-701, Sheets 6756 I, II, III, IV.
2. After Action Report - Operation Montagnard

Appendix B to Enclosure (1) of Command Chronology Report.

List of Documents

1. ✓ Battalion Frag Order NO 6-66
2. ✓ Battalion Frag Order NO 7-66
3. ✓ Battalion Frag Order NO 8-66
4. ✓ S-2 Command Journal for May 66 (9-14 May)
5. ✓ S-3 Command Journal for May 66
6. ✓ Battalion Newspaper, #8, 9, 10
7. ✓ A/A Report, Operation MONTGOMERY

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 2nd Bn, 7th Marines (Rein)
 CHU LAI, RVN
 021900H May 1966

FRAG ORDER 6-66

Ref: (a) AMS Map Vietnam 1:50,000 Series L-701 Sheets 6756 I and IV
 (b) 2/7 OpOrder 206-65

Time Zone: H

2nd Bn, 7th Marines
 Log No. **0154-66**

Copy No. 11 of 20
 SER NO 023-66

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Situation. Current INTSUMS.b. Friendly Forces.

(1) MAG-36 helicopter support to include escort helicopter.

(2) MAG-12 CAS. Condition III.

2. MISSION

One company reinforced furnishes security for MAG-12 detachment investigating downed aircraft on D-day in Quang Ngai Province by executing helicopter-borne assault in LZ to be designated.

3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operation. One company reinforced furnishes security for MAG-12 detachment to investigate downed aircraft on D-day. Second company provides platoon reinforced to relieve execution company on FEBA and acts as reserve company on one hour standby to reinforce first company. Battalion Command Group remains on one hour standby to accompany reserve company if committed.

b. Company "E" (Rein).

Attached: Sect 81mm Mortars
 FAC Tm
 Scout/Int Tm

(1) Provide one platoon reinforced to relieve Company "F" on FEBA at 030600H.

(2) Remain on one hour standby after L-hour as battalion reserve to reinforce Company "F" on order.

c. Company "F" (Rein)

Attached: Sect 81mm Mortars
 FAC Tm
 Scout/Int Tm

DOWNGRADED AT THREE INTERVALS
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
 DODDIR 5200.10

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APP B, encl #1

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Provide security for MAG-12 detachment in search for downed aircraft on D-day by first securing LZ to be designated out to effective small arms range, and escort security during search as required.

(2) Be prepared to conduct limited offensive operations on order to ensure successful accomplishment of mission.

d. 2nd Bn (-)(Rein). Units not effected by this order continue presently assigned mission. Be prepared to furnish combat and combat service support as required.

e. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) D-day 3 May 1966.

(2) L-hour 030800H

(3) Thrust Points: BS 710840 - Any color
BS 750860 - Any Day

(4) Rules of engagement as contained in reference (b).

(5) Use of CS/CN authorized. Notify this headquarters on use.

4. ADMIN AND LOGISTICS

As specified by Company Commanders.

5. COMM-ELEC

a. Communications in accordance with DivO 332000.2B and reference (b) except as modified herein.

b. Guard radio nets upon reaching LZ Camp.

c. Cryptographic. Effective editions of KAK-JI will be used locally.

d. Radio Frequencies and Call Signs.

<u>Freq Desig</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Freq</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Alt Desig</u>
M-63	Bn Tac #1	3217	County Fair	A-71
M-388	Bn Tac #2	41.7	County Fair	A-160
M-416	81mm Co F	44.7	County Fair W	A-181
M-479	Co F Tac	52.4	Country Fair F	A-128
M-44	TAR	2112 (P)	Land Shark Alfa W-5	
M-95	TAR	4182 (s)	Land Shark Alfa W-13	
M-578	TAD #3(Pur)	314.6	As directed	W-128
M-556	TAD #4(Brw)	283.3	As directed	W-117
M-365	Div Air Obs#1	39.6	Black Coat	A-86
M-617	Div Air Obs#2	369.1	Black Coat	A-102

e. Command Posts. 2nd Bn, 7th Marines BT 504036.

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g. Reports. Spot reports as required.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JETER

R. E. MOSS
R. E. MOSS

Major, U.S. Marine Corps
Executive Officer

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 CHU LAI, RVN
 041500H May 1966

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Frag Order 7-66

Ref: (a) AMS MAPS Vietnam 1:50,000 Series L-701, Sheets 6756 I,II,III,IV.
 (b) 7th Marines Frag Order 10-66
 (c) 2nd OpOrder 206-65
 (d) 7th Marines Admin Plan 329-66

2nd Bn, 7th Marines
 Log No. **0169-66**

Copy No. 24 of 30
 SER NO 027-66

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Situation. Current INTSUMS

b. Friendly Forces.

- (1) MAG-36 helicopter support.
- (2) MAG-12 CAS
- (3) 3/11 (-) GS
- (4) 2nd ARVN Div conducts coordinated operations south of the SONG TRA KHUC.
- (5) 1/7 conducts operations on our right.

2. MISSION

2nd Battalion, 7th Marines (-) (Rein) conducts operation in assigned area in Quang Ngai province in conjunction with coordinated ARVN operations to capture or destroy enemy forces, supplies and equipment located therein.

3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of operations. 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines (-) (Rein) assumes two hour alert D-1, to execute helicopter-borne assault into LZ YELLOW (BS 510758) on LZ GREEN (BS 513787) and conducts operations as directed with two companies abreast and one in trace. If not committed, Moves by motor convey, about L-3 hours, to Quang Ngai airfield. About L+2 hours, D-Day, executes helicopter-borne assault into LZ BLUE (BS 415755) then conducts operations north-eastward in zone.

b. Op A (Rein).

Assigned: Sect 81mm Mortars
 Platoon
 Arty FO Tm
 Scout/Interp Tm
 Eng Tm
 Sqd Flares

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 Intervals Declassified
 After 12 Years DOD DIRM
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App B, encl #2

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- (1) Conduct helicopter-borne assault to seize and defend LZ. Ensure security of LZ out to effective small arms range.
- (2) On arrival of Co "F" in LZ assume responsibility for defense of south 180 of LZ.
- (3) Be prepared to conduct search and destroy operations north-eastward advancing in southern half of assigned sector.

c. Co F (Rein)

Attached: Sect 81mm Mortars

FAC Tm

Arty FO Tm

Scout/Interp Tm

Eng Tm

Sgt Flames

- (1) Land in LZ and upon coordination with Co "E" assume responsibility for defense of the North 180 of LZ.
- (2) Be prepared to conduct search and destroy operations North-eastward, advancing in Northern half of assigned sector.

d. Co G (Rein) Bn. Reserve.

Attached: Arty FO Tm

Eng Tm

Scout/Interp Tm

- (1) Land in LZ and move to assembly area in western portion of LZ.
- (2) On order follow in trace of E&S Co.

e. M&S Co (-) (Rein)

Attached: H&T Tm

Eng Tm

- (1) Land in LZ move to assemble area northern portion of LZ.
- (2) Be prepared to support operations as directed.
- (3) Provisional platoon provide rear guard security in movement north-eastward.

f. Co "H" (Rein) (Detached)

Attached: Scout/Interp Tm

- (1) Report to CO 1st Tank Bn 071700H May, for mission to be assigned.

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g. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) D-Day 8 May 1966
- (2) L-Hour 080000H
- (3) Position reports will be by thrust points as follows:

RS 4680	Any City
BS 4277	Any Car
BS 4974	Any Cigarette
- (4) Sequence of landing in LZ will be Co "E", Co "F", Cmd Grp, Co "G" & H&S, including Provisional Platoon.
- (5) Sequence of movement: Co's "E" and "F", Cmd Grp, H&S, Co "G".
- (6) 81mm Mortar section, less FO's revert to general support on order.
- (7) Rules of engagement and handling of private property contained in reference (c).
- (8) Use extreme caution for mines and booby traps.
- (9) Use of CS/CN authorized. Notify CO prior to utilization.
- (10) Co "F" base company for direction and control.

4. LOGISTICS AND SUPPLY

Reference (d)

5. COMMAND AND COM-ELECT

- a. Communication-Electronics. In accordance with reference (b) and (c), except as modified herein.

(1) Frequencies

<u>CIRCUIT DESIGNATOR</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>FREQUENCY DESIGNATOR</u>
A-141	Bn TAG	41.7	M-369
	TACP Local	43.0	L-443
	H&S Co TAG	43.3	M-405

(2) Call Signs

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>VOICE</u>
2nd Bn, 7th Marines	COUNTY FAIR
1st Tank Bn	DENNINGTON

b. Command Posts.

- (1) Cmd Group moves behind center of Co's "E" and "F".

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(2) Report GP locations when established.

c. c. Cryptographic. Effective edition of KAG-JI series authentication and numerical codes.

d. Reports.

(1) Position reports every six hours commencing 081100H.

(2) Spot reports as required.

~~ATTACHMENT RECEIPT~~

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL UTTER

R. E. Moss
R. E. MOSS

Major, U. S. Marine Corps
Executive Officer

~~2105XZ~~

3. Operation Overlay

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FRAG ORDER 8-66

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 CHU LAI, RVN
 061200H Day 1966

1. SITUATION

- a. Enemy (See Frag Order 7-66)
- b. Friendly (See Frag Order 7-66)

2nd Bn, 7th Marines

Log No. **0179-66**Copy No. 7 of 30(1) MAG-36 provide armed helicopter escort **SER No 029-66**

(2) 1st Anti Tank Battalion provide one platoon for convoy escort

- c. Attachments and Detachments (See Frag Order 7-66)

2. MISSION

2nd Battalion, 7th Marines (-) (Rein) moves by motor convoy at L-3 hours on D-Day to Quang Ngai airfield (BS 610720). Be prepared to conduct helicopter-borne assault at LZ Blue (BS 415755) at approximately L+2.

3. EXECUTION

- a. Concept of Operation

(1) Prior to L-3 on D-Day 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines moves by motor convoy to IP vic BT 507056. At L-3, move to Quang Ngai airfield.

- b. Company E with heavy section of ontos attached, assume mission of advance guard of motor convoy. Be prepared to conduct helicopter assault to LZ Blue upon arrival at Quang Ngai airfield.

- c. Company F assume mission of motor convoy main body. Be prepared to conduct helicopter assault to LZ Blue upon arrival at Quang Ngai airfield.

- d. Company G with light section of ontos attached, assume mission of rear guard of motor convoy. Be prepared to conduct helicopter assault to LZ Blue upon arrival at Quang Ngai airfield.

- e. H&S Company assume mission of main body of motor convoy with Company F.

- f. 1st Platoon Co C 1st Anti Tank Battalion effective 080600H heavy section attached to Co E and light section attached to Co G.

- g. Coordinating Instructions

(1) D-Day 8 May 1966

(2) L-Hour 0900H

(3) Order of movement of motor convoy:

E -- CP (Fwd) - F - H&S (plus Yankee) - CP Rear - G

App 8, 0600H

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- (4) Order of loading for helicopter assault:
E * F - CP Fwd - G - CP Rear - H&S (plus Yankee)
- (5) 1st Platoon Company C 1st Anti Tank Battalion join motor convoy at intersection of 2/7 road and Nat. Hwy #1 at 080600H.
- (6) Road Check points will be reported when crossed by Company E.

IP	550019
CP2	565995
CP3	577965
CP4	597928
CP5	624865
CP6	635803
CP7	642747
CP8	612719

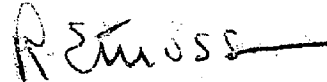
4. SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

- a. (See Frag Order 7-66)
- b. Gas masks will be carried by all personnel

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. (See Frag Order 7-66)
- b. Activate all radio nets 080600H, including Regimental Tactical Net.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL UTTER



R. E. MOSS

Major, U. S. Marine Corps
Executive Officer

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JOURNAL
NAVJG 219-GS (REV. 8-56)
SUPERSEDES PREVIOUS EDITION
WHICH MAY BE USED

UNIT OR STAFF SECTION

S-2

ORGANIZATION

2nd Bn, 7th Marines

OPENED (DTG, Month, year)

091100H MAY 66

CLOSED (DTG, Month, year)

110900H MAY 1966

(Classification)

TIME		SER. NO.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN	
IN	OUT				M-Maps S-Staff	T-Troops F-File
091100H				"OPERATION MONTGOMERY" COMMENCED.		
091315H				E COMPANY KILLED 2 VC WITH WPNS AT BS-422757, ALSO CAPTURED 1 VCC FEMALE WITH WPN. VC STATED SHE WAS A HAMLET GUERRILLA.		
091430H				E COMPANY CAPTURED 1 VC AT BS-422758 WHO ADMITTED HE WAS FROM THE 20th BATTALION.		
091515H				H&S COMPANY CAPTURED 2 VIETNAMESE WHO ADMITTED BEING VC CADRES AT BS-422758. VC STATED 300 VC HAD FLEED THIS POSITION. THIS MORNING.		
091725H				E COMPANY KILLED 2 VC AT BS-439765. TOTALS AS OF 091800H: VC KIA 4, VCC 4, VCS 1, WPNS, CAPTURED: 1 M-1 RIFLE, 1 CHI-COMM CARBINE AND 1 US M-30 CARBINE RETAINED AT THIS POSITION. ESTIMATE THIS UNIT HAS BEEN ENGAGED BY ELEMENTS OF GUERRILLA PLATOON TODAY.		
101015H				F COMPANY MADE CONTACT WITH ESTIMATED VC FIRE TEAM AT BS-473767, VC BROKE CONTACT.		
101130H				GG COMPANY APPREHENDED 3 VCS AT BS-431768, ALL EVACUATED TO QUANG NGAI.		
101140H				F COMPANY FOUND 2 VC KIA FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS AT BS-412761 AND BS-402759.		
101620H				F COMPANY KILLED 1 VC AT BS-424775.		
101700H				E COMPANY APPREHENDED 1 VCS AT BS-437770. TOTALS AS OF 101800H: VC KIA, 7-VCC, 4-VCS, 5 WPNS, 3.		
110015H				F COMPANY KILLED 3 VC AND CAPTURED 2 WPNS AT BS-427771.		
110900H				E COMPANY FOUND 1 VC PACK AND M-1 RIFLE AT BS-438768.		

PAGE NO:

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Appri, encl 4

INSTRUCTIONS FOR KEEPING JOURNAL

1. To make entries:
 - a. Headings:
 - (1) Enter the unit or staff section designation.
 - (2) Enter official designation of the organization.
 - (3) Enter the DTG that journal is opened.
 - (4) Enter the DTG that journal is closed.
 - b. Time in: Enter the time information was received within your unit, or the time an event took place within your unit.
 - c. Time out: Enter the time outgoing information was delivered.
 - d. Serial number: Number each item consecutively.
 - e. Date Time Group: Enter if available,--if not, enter time signed.
 - f. Incidents, messages, orders, etc:
 - (1) First line, enter the addressee if outgoing and the originator if incoming.
 - (2) Entries are recorded in order of occurrence.
 - (3) For written messages or orders, write a brief synopsis which will indicate the substance of the message or order.
 - (4) Oral messages should be recorded in detail or reduced to writing and handled like written messages.
 - (5) Incorrect entries should not be altered but marked "VOID" and corrected with a new entry.
 - g. Action taken: Enter a brief description of the action taken on each message, incident or order received. In the case of outgoing messages, indicate information addressees.
2. Keep a journal file: number all items(messages, transcriptions,-etc) consecutively; enter them in the journal; and then file them in numerical order.

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JOURNAL
 NAVMC 219-GS (REV. 8-56)
 SUPERSEDES PREVIOUS EDITION
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UNIT OR STAFF SECTION

S-2

ORGANIZATION

2nd Bn, 7th Marines

OPENED (DTG, Month, year)

111230H MAY 66

CLOSED (DTG, Month, year)

141200H MAY 1966

(Classification)

TIME		SER. NO.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN M-Maps T-Troops S-Staff F-File
IN	OUT				
111230H				F COMPANY KILLED 1 VC WHO BROKE FROM SMALL CAVE AT BS-458787.	
111430H				H&S COMPANY APPREHENDED 1 VCS HIDING IN SMALL SHELTER AT BS-467790.	
111500H				G COMPANY LOCATED CONSTRUCTED WELL CAMO-FLAGED POSITIONS AT BS-477798. TOTALS AS OF 111800H: VC KIA, 11-VCC, 4-VCS, 6-WPNS, 6.	
111800H				E COMPANY APPREHENDED 1 VCS AT BS-468789. TOTALS AS OF 121800H: VC KIA, 11-VCC, 4-VCS, 7-WPNS, 6.	
122230H				H&S COMPANY CAPTURED 1 VC GUERRILLA WHO WAS HIDING IN CAVE AT BS-508805. VC WAS ARMED WITH M-26 GRENADE AND CHI-COMM 7.62 CARBINE.	
131630H				E COMPANY APPREHENDED ONE VCS HIDING IN HEDGEROW AT BS-568839. SUSPECT WORE GREEN UNIFORM AND SPOKE GOOD ENGLISH., ALSO HAD USMC I.D. CARD AND LETTER FROM NORTH VIETNAM. S-2 BELIVES HE MAY BE VC OFFICER. TOTALS AS OF 131800H: VC KIA-11-VCC-5-VCS-8-WPNS-7.	
141200H				OPERATION MONTGOMERY ENDED.	

PAGE NO:

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 - e. Date Time Group: Enter if available, if not, enter time signed.
 - f. Incidents, messages, orders, etc:
 - (1) First line, enter the addressee if outgoing and the originator if incoming.
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 - (3) For written messages or orders, write a brief synopsis which will indicate the substance of the message or order.
 - (4) Oral messages should be recorded in detail or reduced to writing and handled like written messages.
 - (5) Incorrect entries should not be altered but marked "VOID" and corrected with a new entry.
 - g. Action taken: Enter a brief description of the action taken on each message, incident or order received. In the case of outgoing messages, indicate information addressees.
2. Keep a journal file; number all items (messages, transcriptions, etc) consecutively; enter them in the journal; and then file them in numerical order.

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JOINT COMMAND DIARY
 NAVMC 219-65 (REV. 8-56)
 SUPERSEDES PREVIOUS EDITION
 WHICH MAY BE USED

UNIT OR STAFF SECTION S-3	
ORGANIZATION 2nd Bn, 7th Marines	
OPENED (DTG, Month, year) 011500H MAY 66	CLOSED (DTG, Month, year) 062140H MAY 66

(Classification)

TIME		SER. NO.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN M-Maps T-Troops S-Staff F-File
IN	OUT				
011500H				CF"H" RETURNED OPCON CF AND RELIEVED CF "G-3 ON THE LINE. CF"G-3" RETURNED TO THEIR NORMAL POSITION.	
011800H				CF"6" HELD BRIEFING FOR BATTALION STAFF. AS OF THIS HOUR, THE NEW TAOR IS IN EFFECT.	
012050H				CF"E" PATROL ACTING AS ESCORT FOR VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN DEPARTED CF"E" CP TO VICINITY OF TICH TAY (2). HAPPY AGE AND AMIGO UNITS NOTIFIED.	
012200H				CF"E" ESCORT PATROL RETURNED.	
020622H				REF - 1st MAR.DIV. MSG 020622Z APRIL SECURITY CONDITION YELLOW IS HEREBY REVOKED.	
020600H				C.F.F. ALERTED TO STAND BY FOR POSSIBLE USE AS SECURITY FORCE FOR INVESTIGATION OF DOWNED AIRCRAFT VICINITY BS-724855.	
021500H				CF 6 AND STAFF ATTENDING MEETING AT BH CP.	
021900H				ISSUED FRAG ORDER 6-66.	
022000H				FRAG ORDER 6-66 WAS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED DUE TO REQUEST OF MAG 12.	
031030H				AMIGO AND MONTH FDC REPORT DAYLIGHT SNIPPING ON HWY 1 FROM VICINITY NEW LIFE HAMLET. BH AND GRASSHOPPER WERE NOTIFIED.	
041630H				OPERATION MONTGOMERY HAS BEEN DELAYED FOR FORTY EIGHT HOURS.	
050850H				INFORMED BY BH3 THAT TWO COMPANIES FROM 3/1 VICE 3/7 WILL MAN CF TAOR.	
061800H				FRAG ORDER 7-66 DISTRIBUTED TO CF UNITS WITH STANDBY TIME 070800H. HST AND ENG ORDERED TO REPORT CF CP TONIGHT.	
062140H				CO. C 1st ENGINEERS ARRIVED. CF CP.	

PAGE NO:

(Classification)

App. B encl #5

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~~JOURNAL~~ COMMAND DIARY
 NAVMC 219-65 (REV. 8-56)
 SUPERSEDES PREVIOUS EDITION
 WHICH MAY BE USED

UNIT OR STAFF SECTION S-3	
ORGANIZATION 2nd Bn, 7th Marines	
OPENED (DTG, Month, year) 071530H MAY 66	CLOSED (DTG, Month, year) 091820H MAY 1966

(Classification)

TIME		SER. NO.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN M-Maps T-Troops S-Staff F-File
IN	OUT				
071530H				RELIEF OF CF LINES EFFECTED BY FALSE UNITS.	
071700H				CF NOTIFIED BY BH TO STAND DOWN FROM 2 HR. ALERT.	
071800H				FRAG ORDER 8-66 DISTRIBUTED TO ALL CF UNITS.	
080930H				MESSAGE RECEIVED FR BH "OPERATION MONTGOMERY D-DAY L-HOUR NOW 090900H MAY.	
090600H				CF DEPARTED CF CP BY MOTOR CONVOY FOR "OPERATION MONTGOMERY.	
090615H				CF PASSED IP.	
090625H				PICKED UP ONTOS & ENGINEERS AT BH CP.	
090635H				CONVOY ARRIVED AT QUANG NGAI.	
090810H				ONTOS HIT MINE NEG. CASUALTIES.	
090935H				CONVOY ARRIVED AT QUANG NGAI, AIRFIELD.	
091030H				ASSAULT ELEMENTS COMMENCED HELLO-LIFE.	
091145H				ALL UNITS IN LZ.	
091320H				2 VC KIA WITH WEAPONS, (CFE) CFF RECEIVED FIRE FROM 7-10 VC ONE USMC KIA.	
091342H				SIT REP #1 SUBMITTED.	
091635H				CFF SENT OUT RECON TM TO SEARCH VILLAGE (BS-428767).	
091645H				GEN. STILES & GEN. ELWORTHS. COL. HAFLEY VISITED CF CP.	
091730H				CFF & F RECEIVED SMALL ARMS FIRE CFF 2 VC KIA.	
091820H				CF SET IN FOR THE NIGHT (BS-428767).	

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NAVJAG COMMAND DIARY
 NAVMC 219-85 (REV. 8-56)
 SUPERSEDES PREVIOUS EDITION
 WHICH MAY BE USED

UNIT OR STAFF SECTION	
S-3	
ORGANIZATION	
2nd Bn, 7th Marines	
OPENED (DTG, Month, year)	CLOSED (DTG, Month, year)
091930H May 66	130800H May 66

(Classification)

TIME		SER. NO.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN M-Maps T-Troops S-Staff F-File
IN	OUT				
091930H				SIT REP #2 SUBMITTED.	
100700H				FRAG ORDER 9-66 ISSUED.	
100820H				ARTILLERY PREP FOR CF G.	
100840H				AIR PREP FOR CF F.	
100900H				CFG L-HOUR COMMENCED.	
100919H				CFG ASSAULT ELEMENTS IN L.Z. NO CONTACT.	
101115H				CFE 1 VC KIA.	
101215H				CAPTURED 5 VCS & 1 VCS FEMALE. NO WPNS.	
101230H				SIT REP #5 SUBMITTED.	
101249H				CFE 2 MED EVAC FROM HEAT.	
101400H				CFE JUMPED OFF.	
101430H				CFE LOCATED 1 VC KIA.	
101600H				CF-6 WENT TO MEETING WITH COMPUTATION 6.	
101700H				CFE RETURNED.	
110130H				CFE KILLED TWO VC ON TRAIL WITH WPNS.	
110900H				ALL UNITS BEGAN MOVE FROM PRESENT CPT.	
111430H				CF CP AT BS-464794 IN VILLAGE SET UP 360 DEFENSE FOR THE NIGHT.	
120700H				COMMENCED SWEEP TO XUAN HOA (1).	
121330H				CF(-) SET IN NIGHT PERIMETER AT XUAN HOA (1).	
130710H				CFE, E AND BRAVO COMMAND GROUP LANDED IN OBJECTIVE LZ BS-539825.	
130800H				CFE, G AND ALFA COMMAND GROUP HAS (-) BEGAN SWEEP TOWARDS HILL 97.	

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NAVJG 210-6S (REV. 8-58)
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WHICH MAY BE USED

UNIT OR STAFF SECTION S-3	
ORGANIZATION 2nd Bn, 7th Marines	
OPENED (DTG, Month, year) 131130H MAY 66	CLOSED (DTG, Month, year) 251415 MAY 1966

(Classification)

TIME		SER. NO.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN M-Maps T-Troops S-Staff F-File
IN	OUT				
131130H				CFE, H AND BRAVO COMMAND GROUP SWEEP EAST- WARD TO BS-570853.	
131145H				CG FMF PAC ARRIVED HILL 97 TO RECEIVE BRIEFING ON AREA OF OPERATIONS.	
131815H				CF SET IN FOR THE NIGHT AT BS-570853.	
140930H				LAST ELEMENTS CLOSED TO LZ AT BS-604873.	
141000H				COMMENCED LIFT TO LZ GOOSE.	
141015H				FIRST UNITS OF COUNTY FAIR RETURNED TO COUNTY FAIR CP FROM OPERATION MONTGOMERY.	
141115H				FINAL ELEMENTS CLOSED OF CP.	
141500H				CF UNITS RELIEVED FALSE UNITS AND ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR CF TAOR.	
160001H				CF COMMENCED 24 HOUR ALERT STATUS. NO MIS- SION PENDING AT THIS TIME.	
171000H				CF NOTIFIED BY MESSAGE #P160325Z TO SET CONDITION YELLOW THROUGHOUT.	
181030H				CF E&F COMMENCED MOVE TO AIR FIELD DEFENSE COMMAND.	
221115H				MAJ GEN FIELDS ARRIVED AT CF CP.	
221215H				MAJ GEN FIELDS DEPARTED CF CP.	
241930H				GRASSHOPPER UNIT RECEIVED PERMISSION TO FIRE AT SUSPECTED VC INSIDE 2/7 TAOR, AT COORDINATES 441001. CF "G" & "H" UNITS NOT- IFIED.	
251100H				CF HOTEL ALERTED FOR 1 HOUR STANDBY FOR OPERATION MOBILE.	
251100H				BIG BUDDY UNIT REPORTED TO CF HOTEL.	
251415H				CF HOTEL MOVED TO BIN SON FOR OPERATION MOBILE. YANKEE PLT EMPLOYED AS CONVOY ESCORT.	

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OPENED (DTG, Month, year) 251400H MAY 66	CLOSED (DTG, Month, year) 282345H MAY 66

(Classification)

TIME		SER. NO.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN M-Maps T-Troops S-Staff F-File
IN	OUT				
251400H				HAPPY AGE UNIT ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR CF HOTEL LINES.	
251745H				YANKEE PLT RETURNED FROM CONVOY ESCORT. ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR A PORTION OF CF HOTEL LINES.	
261825H				CF H RETURNED TO CFCP FROM OPERATION MOBILE.	
270800H				YANKEE PLT AND HAPPY H UNIT RELIEVED OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CFH LINES. CFH ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR SECTION OF CF TAOR.	
281915H				A. CF "G"-3 B. 281915H C. 486038 C.2 482034 D. FIVE TO SIX VIET MALES THREW ONE W.P. GRENADE 200 METERS FROM G-3 L.P. E. SENT ONE FIRE TEAM TO BASE OF OP-21 FIRED 2 M-79 & 20-30 ROUNDS M-14 AFTER CHALLENGING. FIVE TO SIX MALES RAN INTO VILLAGE AT 473045.	SPOT REPORT TO BH-3 2/5 UNITS AIRBATT
282345H				RECEIVED SPOT REPORT FROM CF H. A. CFH B. 282330 C. 518009 D. RECEIVED SMALL ARMS FIRE AND ONE GRENADE ESTIMATE ONE SNIPER. E. RETURNED FIRE WITH SMALL ARMS F. NONE G. ONE, DID NOT REQUIRE MED EVAC. SHRAPNEL FROM GRENADE. H. NONE I. UNKNOWN J. UNKNOWN K-N. NONE	SPOT REPORT TO BH-3. S-1 NOTIFIED CFG NOTIFIED

PAGE NO:

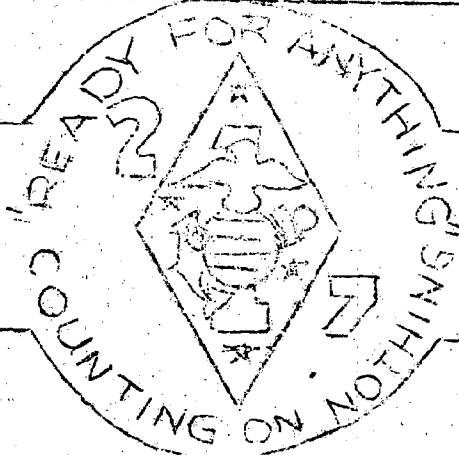
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PASS THIS COPY ON

TWO
SEVEN

TOOTER

Volume No. 1, No. 8

May 6, 1966

FEARLESS FOX FINDS HOT "FIRE FIGHT"

(By Cpl R. C. DAVIS)

A VICIOUS FIREFIGHT WITH VIET CONG 50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS TURNED OUT TO BE A BIT OF A CARRIED JOKE FOR MARINES OF FOX COMPANY MAY 1.

It happened at 6:30 a.m.---the sound of 50 caliber machine guns firing.

Captain Alex Lee, company commanding officer, woke to these hair-raising sounds, grappled to his still sleeping feet and stumbled half-awake outside to survey the situation.

By this time the company was also awakened by the commotion and everyone was gathered around the C.O.'s tent speculating on where the firefight was taking place.

In the background of their voices the blood curdling sounds of a distant 50 caliber's relentless firing could be heard.

Sgt. Ed Grimes of weapons platoon scanned the area and spotted a helicopter taking off in the distance. The sergeant swore that this was where the fierce battle was taking place.

Some of the men agreed with the sergeant's guess, others suggested the battle was going on elsewhere.

Still, the 50's could be heard chugging away.

Soon all the men agreed that the battle was taking place near the rising helicopter in the distance.

But the battle was closer than they expected. In fact, it was right beneath their feet.

Just prior to the "firefight", a corporal saw a gas burner on one of the mess washing cans catch fire. To avoid a possible explosion and injury to the troops nearby if the can were to explode, it was pushed over the side of the hill out of harms way.

As the tank burned, it sputtered chugged and popped. The sounds were the same as 50 caliber machine guns.

When the group of Marines were told their "firefight" was probably from the burning can below them, they exploded with laughter.

The can, finished with its practical joke on the Marines, also exploded. Thus ended the intriguing mystery of the Fearless Fox Firefight.

WELCOME ABOARD

Marines joining the 2nd Bn., 7th Marine Regiment are extended a hearty welcome from the men of 2/7.

We are glad to have you aboard.

The Two Seven Tooter, battalion newsletter, welcomes any suggestions or stories that you might wish to pass to the battalion. If you have an item of interest, see your company reporter and give him the scoop.

App. B encl #6

COMPANY NEWS

(company news cont.)

ECHO ECHOS: by Pfc. G.A. Calta

Congratulations to Pfc's Rayer and Funicelli on their new ranks. Cpl's Tignor, McIntosh and Heimback received Good Conduct Medals.

Cpl. La Bante is probably the only man in Vietnam to join Echo for the first time in Vietnam! Hope you stick around this time.

There's a mysterious little insect running around the area. He's labeled "NA".

"F" -- The men of Fearless Fox are wondering if Uncle Fred got his preserves set. Did you Unc?

Rumor has it the company has put in an urgent request for cigaret lighters, even for men who don't smoke!!

"H" -- stands for not so Hot Hotel. They are finally off the Chu Lai Desert, and now are back in the Chu Lai plains.

"G" -- Captain Shoptaw is in command of the company now. Captain Seymour is up at battalion as the assistant S-3.

BAS -- A new doctor, Lt. John J. Ryan has been added to BAS. Welcome aboard! Dr. Penza and Meda are leaving 2/7 after saving many lives of wounded Marines. How can you thank a man for saving many of your friends' lives in combat? As meager as it sounds, thanks for your services doctors, and all the luck in the world from all the Marines of 2/7.

BAS NEWS, -- by LCpl. G.W. Reichle

There has been a lot of cans and paper left at the movie lately. If you carry full cans up, you should be able to tote empty ones away. You may be the one on a working party that says, "why can't those #%%*%%... take these things back with them?"

I was on the first mess deck one day aschow secured and the mess hall looked like a movie set for Soupy Sales. Let's all try to be a little more careful with the food and help save the messmen a lot of extra work.

Corporal Weigle wants people to stop calling him Gunny as he says Sergeant Spencer holds that billet. So everyone please stop calling Weigle Gunny. Are you happy now Gunny??

It seems the team to beat in the CP "Jungle" Volleyball game is Ripleys Rackers. They are currently nursing a rash of injuries with Danglin' Dave himself sporting a couple of jammed fingers and Doodlin' Doug a sprained ankle. Stuffin' Stahr is suffering from rope burns under the arm pits, which we all know, but he vehemently denies, comes from hanging on the net.

Good luck to all the old "Heat & Steamers" going home these next couple of months.

GySgt. J. J. (Maverick) Allen, the battalion motor transport chief, reenlisted on May 4 for another 2 years. This will give him a total of 20 years and 6 months as a Marine.

The company office has asked that all married enlisted men come by and pick up their W-4 forms and have them filled out and returned by Monday, May 9.

Welcome back to Captain Welty who has been TAD to the R&R center in Manila. The returned captain is now the S-4 officer.

** *****

WOMEN

O. Henry, the great 20th Century story teller, spent many literary lines "knocking" that fleeting, flittering, firey critter called woman. Here are some of O. Henry's passages about the most delicate beast in nature:

"A man asleep is certainly a sight to make angels weep. Now, a woman asleep you regard as different. No matter how she looks, you know it's better for all hands for her to be that way.

(continued page 4, col. 2)

MOTHERS MEMORIES

She's plump or thin, neat and trim, and in her prime. She has a way with apple pie, and ham and steak and angel food cake.

When you're feeling low and down she's got a friendly smile to say hello or a question, "want to talk son?"

When you were small, you trailed behind her apron strings and spilled things on her floor.

As you grew, she pampered you, and dressed you like a little king, exclaiming, "isn't he the cutest thing!"

As you grew, you'd sometimes blush when she'd hug you and kiss your cheek. But it would pass, as you'd say, "Aw, com'on Mom."

She brought you snacks, late at night when you studied for a test. And patted your arm on the way to school saying, "good luck today son."

Her house was open to all your friends and parties were always a success, because she had so much of her heart behind your happiness.

Then one day her eyes grew sad when she found you were leaving home. But in your uniform, standing tall and proud, she knew it was inevitable.

And when you came to Vietnam, her heart shipped a beat or two for she knew the great dangers ahead of you.

Every second, every day, her thoughts are of her son, fighting for his country in a far off asian land.

She scans the papers carefully and watches the newsreels, to see if she can glimpse the sight of her fighting son's face.

Her letters come with simple things, like news of Aunt Jane, or the long relentless rain, but beneath her pencil the unspoken fears can be read and felt and loved.

For there is nothing dearer than a mother whom you can hug when you return and yell with all the power in your lungs "Mom, am I glad to be home."

But in the interim, between your return she worries every day. Her only comfort is a red and blue striped envelope addressed to her from you.

Especially this Sunday, on Mothers Day, she'll be watching the postal box, if you haven't yet, get it in the mail today, a letter saying, Happy Mothers Day.

FIRST SGT'S BUSY TO MAKE TWO SEVEN MODERN UTOPIA!!!!!!

The Chu Lai Appalachia Program, designed for underdeveloped areas, is moving by leaps and bounds at 2/7 headquarters, it was reported early this morning.

In charge of the massive program of robeautifying the area are three resident's of the 2/7 Old Soldier's Home, 1st Sgt.'s McAndrew, Mills and Lott.

"We felt everyone here was drawing under the necessary amount of basic subsistance," one of the 1st Sgt.'s said, "so we requested funds from President Jumpson to beautify and develope our little valley here."

The three mainstays of the program have asked for a \$5 million grant.

Due to a lack of billboards and beagle hounds to take by the ears, the First Sgt.'s have taken the hoe by the handle and are currently working on irrigation problems.

Shower troughs to increase the flow of wash water--"a beautiful sight to see, soapy water flowing freely in the path you have made with your own two hands"--are under constant care by the three-Marine team.

Two bridges have also been constructed over these water troughs. One of the bridges leading into the Old Soldier's Home is called the Kwai River Bridge. "It is called Kwai River, instead of River Kwai Bridge," a graying 1st Sgt. said, "because it's not a railroad bridge like the real Kwai Bridge. But those coming across ours can pretty well bet they'll get railroaded into something or another."

Job assignments on the beautification and redevelopment program have been carefully doled out.

1st Sgt. Mills has been designated as the light dredger. His job is to keep the shower trough clear of floats and empty prell tubes. 1st Sgt. McAndrews is in charge of heavy equipment. He cares for the rakes, hoes, shovels and masterminded the construction of the Kwai River Bridge.

(continues page 4, col. 1)

(2/7's Utopia, continued)

And 1st Sgt. Lott is in charge of the project's supervision.

Under a self aid program of collective farming, 1st Sgt. McAndrews has tilled and toiled about 1/80th of an acre of burgeoning watermelons. He hopes to grow enough watermelons to supply the battalion. He has already had one product, an Oklahoma Rust Springs vintage that mysteriously appeared one morning from a two-day old plant.

Prior to his watermelon program, he had tried raising lettuce and radishes, but found that his Water Buffalo fertilizer was burning out his crops and discontinued his project.

"We must be especially careful in choosing our fertilizers," the 1st Sgt. commented.

If the 1st Sgt's Appalachia program falls through, they have an ace in the hole--a super secret formula for deodorizing urnials which will sell for millions they suspect.

(WOMEN continued)

"You can't appreciate home till you've left it, money till it's spent, your wife till she's joined a women's club, nor Old Glory till you see it hanging on a broomhandle on the shanty of a counsel in a foreign town.

"If men knew how women passed their time when they were alone, they would never marry.

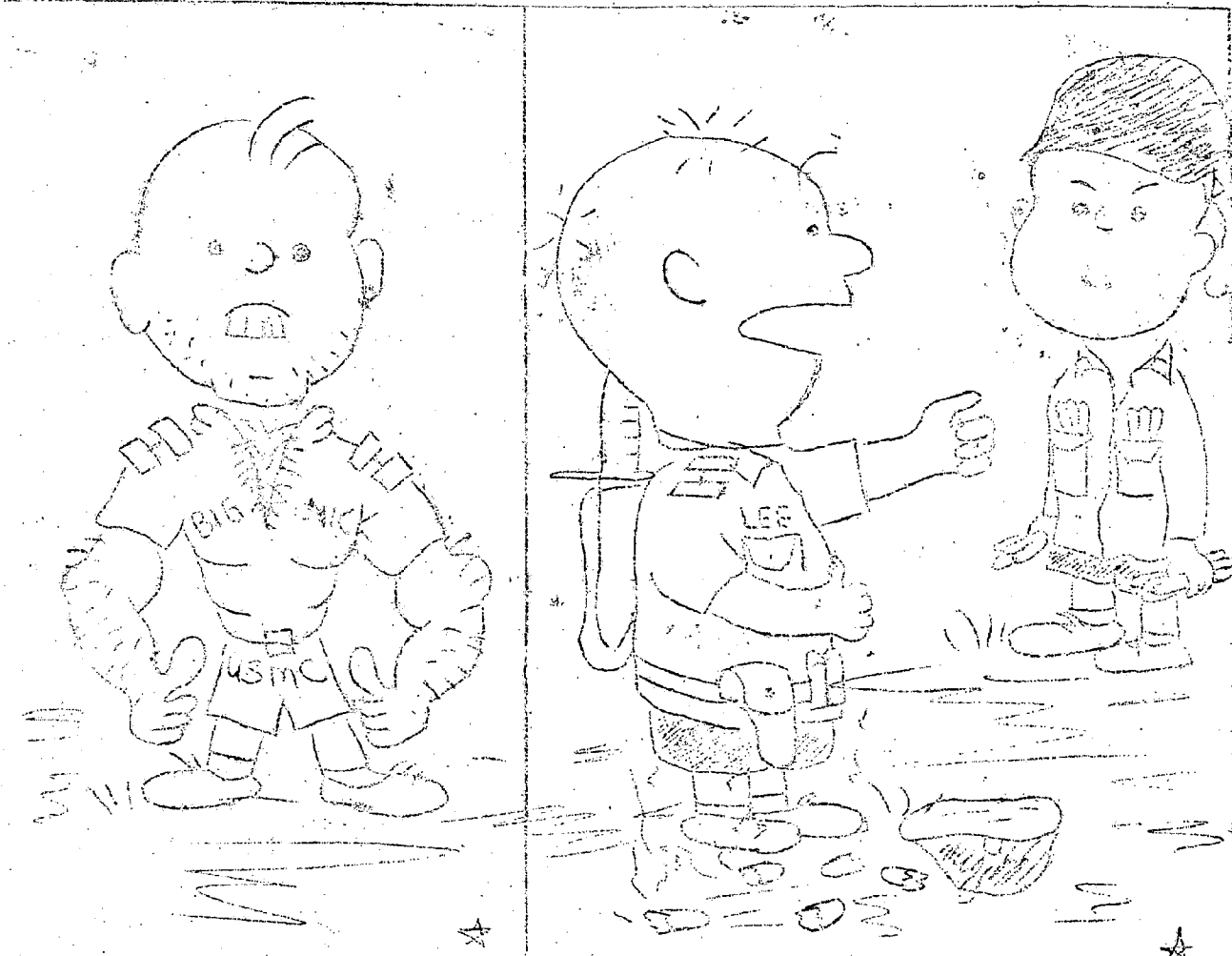
"What a woman wants is what you're out of. She wants more of a thing when it's scarce.

"She plucked from my lapel the invisible strand of lint (the universal act of woman to proclaim ownership of the man.)

*** *****

The Tooter extends its thanks this week to Cpl. Shoon and L.Cpl. Reichle for their assistance in putting out the Tooter.

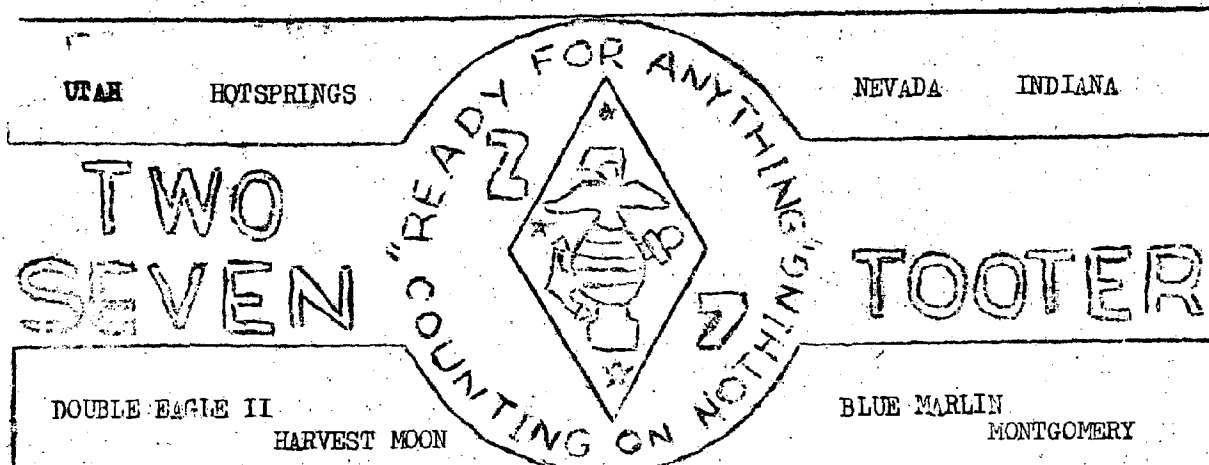
GOODBY JOHN HALL AND JESSE WARD,
SEE YOU SOMEDAY, SOMEWHERE--



"The next guy who says I look like Port Lancaster is going to get knocked from Here To Eternity!"

"The next time I call for a cigar Marine, you better double time!"

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TWO - SEVEN MARINES



Volume 1, No. 9

May 23, 1966

vietnam

san diego

THE 365th

ON MAY 24, 1965 TWO THINGS HAPPENED TO THE SECOND BATTALION, SEVENTH MARINE REGIMENT THAT THE MEN AND OFFICERS OF THE UNIT WILL NEVER FORGET.

The first was when they set sail for the embattled Republic of Vietnam; the second was when Lieutenant Leon N. Utter took command of the battalion that late day in May.

Now, in one day, a year will have passed, an anniversary will be celebrated and most of the "old" 2/7 men will be preparing to go home. The following story is about that year, about the men and officers of 2/7 who made their stand in Vietnam.

The task of leadership is not a gift, but a product of years of hard work, understanding and conviction. Colonel Utter employed these basic principles and put them into practice in leading his Marines.

Colonel Utter put trust and faith in his staff, allowing them the use of judgement and discretion in deploying their troops to get the job done, on the battlefield or in the office. He believed in the theory of delegating responsibility--"A Marine wants to do his best, all you have to do is give him the freedom and he'll give you his best." (con't page 2, col. 1)

CHAPEL DEDICATION

The hollow wail of taps filled the straw-thatched chapel of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines here yesterday as the chapel was dedicated to the memory of Marines and sailors who died for Freedom's cause in Vietnam.

Chaplain John Wissing, 1st Marine Division Chaplain, officially dedicated the church, "SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPEL."

The battalion chaplain, Paul Pearson and former battalion chaplain, Walter Hiskett suggested the name.

At first they wanted to name the chapel after one representative Marine. But those who died, died for the same reasons and ideals. The chaplains decided that to single one man out would be an impossibility.

"Because many Marines died near the hills and in them," Chaplain Pearson said, "we decided to name the chapel, Shepherd of the Hills."

(con't page 2, col. 2)

cont "365"

So the threading of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines into a closely knit sweater began, with each strand as strong and important as the one next to it, above it, or below it.

In Qui Nhon the battalion was spread like a knit sweater, stretching over 81 million square meters--a monstrous piece of land to protect from the Viet Cong with maximum integrity--and the strands remained strong; no man fell victim to the strain.

Teamed with Colonel Utter in command of the battalion was Lieutenant Colonel Wilson and Sergeant Major Unger. The battalion kept stretching its protective vigil out, effectively and professionally.

Chu Lai brought better living conditions to the Marines of 2/7 in November when they landed. There were a few luxuries available, living was a bit better than the primitive conditions Qui Nhon had offered.

But Chu Lai brought more battles and operations, more tests to the strength of the battalion's professional quality.

No one flaunted his duties. The men were "tight"--no Viet Cong force could break them. The V.C. tried on Harvest Moon, but the 2/7 Marines slipped the V.C.'s own noose around their heads and hung the enemy with their own rope. The sweater would neither rip, nor tear, nor fly apart in the face of strain.

Sting after sting, the "Counting on Nothing, Ready for Anything" Marines lashed out at the Viet Cong--Harvest Moon, Double Eagle II, Utah, Hot Springs--showing the V.C. they meant business, the business of being Marine and the damn best ones in the land of Vietnam.

There were the long hot walks like Blue Marlin, Nevada, Montgomery, Indiana that tested the Marines' stamina. The nightly battles with mosquitos, daily battles with heat--were all taken in stride.

Now the year has past for most of the Marines of the battalion. Many have returned already to their wives, families, sweethearts; while others await their turn.

Tomorrow the year will be up. Two Seven will have its anniversary. The men will laugh, joke and remember and then they will become reverently quiet as they think of their friends who fought with them and died defending their country's decision and freedom's sake. And they will know, from colonial to private, that the 2/7 knit sweater is still taut even though their friends are not with them--they will know that those men's souls linger in the threads of 2/7 material--as they will forever in the minds and hearts of we here today. "HAPPY ANNIVERSARY."

** *****

Cont

CHAPEL

Lieutenant Colonel Leon N. UTTER paid homage to the deceased Marines and sailors during an eloquent speech he made prior to the actual chapel dedication.

After the chapel was dedicated the packed chapel participants moved outside where a plaque was unveiled by Chaplain Pearson.

Cpl Charles Cole and LCpl Ralph Pack had spent three days constructing the sign which read, "Shepherd of the Hills, Memorial Chapel."

More than 300 Marines turned out for the dedication ceremonies.

** *****

NEWSMAN VISITS

Peter Braustraup, a reporter for the world famous New York Times Newspaper, spent two days with Marines from 2/7 last week.

The civilian correspondent served as a platoon commander with "E" Company, 2/7 during the Korean War.

On his visit back to his old battalion he spent much of his time with the present day Vietnam-tested "E" Company under the command of Captain Gatchel.

He also viewed 2/7's civil affairs projects.

Mr. Braustraup who has just begun his reporting of the war, arrived here four days before arriving in RVN.

He has also worked for Time/Life Incorporated as well as for the New York Times.

** *****

FIGHTIN' BOY SGT BOLDLY BOASTS BULLET IN HEAD

"Can I see the X-ray Doc?" Marine Sergeant Joseph Long Jr., said April 21 at D-Med here.

Sure, sergeant," the doctor answered. "If you look closely you'll see you have a bullet in your head."

Then and only then did the Scranton Pennsylvania Marine feel faint and dizzy as a man normally would who had been shot in the face with a .45 caliber bullet, had the round pass through his sinus cavities and lodge itself just in front of his jawbone.

It is an incredible story and incredibly true.

Sgt. Long was on a company-sized sweep with "F" Co., when his squad was hit with sniper fire near Tho An village. As the sergeant looked up to see where the sniper was firing from one of the Viet Cong rounds hit his helmet and entered his head just beneath his right eye.

"It was like getting hit in the face with a baseball only ten times as bad. I couldn't believe I was hit until I felt the blood running down my face," the sergeant said.

Sergeant Long walked from the battle area to a corpsman who cleansed the wound and suggested the Marine be evacuated.

"I think you may have some shrapnel in the wound," the corpsman said.

From Chu Lai's medical facility, where the sergeant was X-rayed and found to be housing a bullet in his head, he was flown to the hospital ship, USS Repose.

"What's the matter with you Marine? a Repose doctor asked Long who continued to walk, talk, joke and act as if he were only scratched.

"I've got a bullet in my head," Long answered. The doctor looked unbelievably at him.

Long was taken to a ward to await more X-rays. As he was waiting, the ship's chaplain walked by.

"What's the matter with you sergeant?" the chaplain asked softly of the perky-looking Marine.

"I've got a bullet in my head," he replied jovially.

It was time for the sergeant's second set of X-rays. At the X-ray ward which he walked to, a navy chief petty officer reiterated the question with Long replying his staid answer: "I've got a bullet in my head."

Only after his X-ray was completed was the incredible evident to the medical men of the Repose. The sergeant indeed had a bullet in his head.

Navy Commander Bill C. Perry, the ship's oral surgeon was assigned the task of removing the bullet from the Marine's head.

"By all rights you should be dead," the doctor said, "if the bullet had been a fraction to the left or right you would be."

When the round was extracted it was in perfect shape. No bones were broken on Long and the only adverse effect was a deadening of nerves around his nose and half of his upper lip.

Throughout the wound he only felt a small ache in the back of his neck.

Because the doctor's on the Repose considered Long's wound one of the most amazing of its kind the ship had experienced in Vietnam, a special plaque with the bullet mounted atop was presented to the wounded sergeant.

The only remnant of his wound is a small dimple below his right eye and the incredible story he relates about his "close shave."

He was returned to active combat duty 16 days after the incident and three days later participated in operation Montgomery.

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ORDNANCE & MAIL

Marines returning to CONUS are reminded not to TAKE ORDNANCE WITH THEM. It is against regulations to take grenades, ammunition or demolitions out of the country. When you leave, leave the ordnance to us--we may need it.

Also, another reminder is extended for departing Marines to check with their company offices and fill out a change of address card for forwarding mail. When mail comes to the battalion it will be quickly forwarded.

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BE SECURITY CONSCIOUS!!!

COMPANY NEWS

"F"--Uncle Fred got his preserves!

A list of promotions will be in the Tooter next week!

"E"--Promoted to Cpl. was A.L. Stinson, PMS Herring and R.L. Johnson. To Lance was; A. W. Weidon, F.T. Wheller, J.A. W. Lington, T.A. Walter, G.A. Turner, L. Ramos, W.J. Bacon.

"H"--Promoted to Cpl. was; W.E. Gray, B. D. Smith, I.L. Williams. To Lance was; J. P. Bordeaux Jr., W.P. Clark III, M. C. Elsberry, L. Griffin, A.L. Brownville R.C. Sergeant, E. Tally, and G. L. Walters.

"Q"--Promoted to Cpl. was; E.W. Ahner, W.H. Gray, S.A. Green, P. Jackson Jr., and M. P. Wilson. To Lance was; N. M. Deamer, J. DeNovellis, C.J. Harig, J.W. Hodgson, F.S. Holcomb, E.A. McEwen, J. Morgan, B.A. Panneton, B.J. Podnar and T.F. Trigale. Taking the rank of Pfc. were B.P. Harris and L.W. West.

Congratulations to the newly promoted LCpl's and Cpl's. Those promoted to Corporal were P. R. HARRFORD of the S-2 Section, C. E. HAUN from S-4 and T. J. WATERMAN with HqComdt and Civil Affairs. Those receiving their crossed rifles were J. C. BILBEU Jr., C. M. C. BILBEU, J. N. GORMIER, C. N. DIGGS, W. L. MORGAN, W. J. PINTER, J. TERZZA Jr., V. J. TYNES, S. WILLIAMS and R. L. ZIELINSKI.

H&S NEWS

The company mail orderly asks that all men be reminded to put their address on their return address. This makes for easier sorting and gets the mail to you a little faster.

Welcome aboard to all the new personnel that joined us from other units and StagBn. A special welcome is extended to 1stSgt MCINNIS who joined us from I-I Duty in Oshkosh, Wis. and to SSgt SMOTHERS & SSgt LANE both serving with the S-1.

H&SCo reporter Lance Corporal G. W. ZICHLE.

** *****

HERE ARE 215 DAYS LEFT-TILL XMAS!

MIDNIGHT MARAUDERS.

MAKE BIG MARK
AGAINST V.C.

A strange thing happened to a can of yellow paint around the battalion area--it was hijacked by some Midnight Marauders and appeared the next day at the battalion waterpoint about thirty feet high.

Obviously, the paint was not the common type used to touch up a sign or trim a fancy Ely hut for some of that division-style living.

This paint was destined for greater things.

Somehow in the dark of the evening the Midnight Marauders kidnapped the innocent paint, snuck it up to the battalion waterpoint and splashed the saying, "BEAT 'VC' CLASS OF '66" across the rubber watertank.

Cpl. Brown(Brownie), battalion water and shower engineer, was a bit perplexed the following morning as he stood back and eyed the flashy display of yellow paint against the black rubber background of the water tank:

"They got to me," Brown said scratching his head, "They really got to me."

Who got to Brownie? Why the Midnight Marauders of course. There's a case of beer up for reward if the culprit is caught--but who around here can catch a colonel? Or even a Sergeant Major who is more elusive?

** *****

BRONZE STARS

Three 2/1 Marines and one Navy Corpsman were awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor on Saturday.

Receiving the awards were Sgt's Charles W. Henry, Ralph Good, Lt. Hubert Yoshida and Hospital Corpsman Gary Kunkel.

Colonel Leon Utter, battalion commander, presented the medals.

Sgt's Henry, Good and Corpsman Kunkel received a first award of the Bronze Star and 1stLt. Yoshida was presented with a gold star signet to denote this was his second Bronze Star.

The medals were awarded for the heroism displayed by the Marines and sailor during an engagement with the Viet Cong.

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF WAR'S LITTLE LUXURIES

by
Cpl. McKenzie

In a war zone you simply forget about luxuries, state taxes and pretty girls.

You soon accept the rain, the heat, the mud, the mosquitoes, the sporadic mail and lack of feminine companionship.

Soon your frustrations for these items ebb away and you live day-by-day without want.

But there is one want that is a constant necessity--the perpetual call of Nature.

It happens to me every day without pause at 0600.

Like the other day for example. I was behind schedule. I had overslept. When I finished shaving and had washed off the gallons of mosquito repellent I used the night before, I was suddenly aware of Nature's call.

I shot from my tent like a sprinter attempting a new World's 100-yard dash record. I got about 20 yards and remembered I had forgotten my weapon. Torn between military discipline and physical necessity, I chose to keep on the best side of the military and sprinted back to my tent, grabbed my weapon on-the-run and swung out the back of my tent toward the hill where the head was situated.

I knew a short cut. It was a small path which hadn't been used for quite some time and was overgrown with brush and vegetation.

I sighted it as I roared past the #2 tent. Like a bull elephant avoiding a misplaced mouse, I charged up the hill, my utility jacket catching on bushes, my arms raked by saw-like leaves. Finally I busted out bleeding and tumbled into a clearing a few feet from what I figured was relief.

"I made it!" I blurted prematurely.

For no sooner had I said the words, the solemn-faced Marine standing in front of me tipped over the head and lighted the gasoline-filled pit.

"Oh No!" I shouted. "Stop! Wait One!"

He looked at me, smiled and said "Sorry about that."

I glanced over my shoulder at the other hill where the only other close relief center was located. I could see the frustrating smoke billowing up from it in a heavy black cloud.

Then I realized there was one other luxury in this war I would have to put off for a while...at least until the fires burnt out, that is.

** *****

TAPS

At night when taps have sounded
And all hands are in the sack,
I pull my blankets over me
And my mind starts wandering back.

I think of Jim and Frenchy
And the guys we knew so well.
They're surely up in Heaven now.
They were too good to go to hell.

Maybe their morals weren't too strict,
And their language was plenty rough--
But when the chips were down they
came flying through
Lord -- isn't that enough?

Think of the freedom, the dignity of
man,
That we enjoy in our nation today.
These things would not be ours now,
Had they not died their way.

By "their way" I mean the rough way;
Not mercy; No holds barred;
No clean sheets to relax on;
Just new wounds where old had scarred.

As I wander through this great old
world

And go happily on my way --
Lord, help me lead a better life;
But let me die --- THEIR WAY.

inu - 1948

BAND PLAYS

The 1st Marine Division Band, complete from piccolos to tuba, gave a series of concerts to Marine of 2/7 here last Saturday.

Part of the Band's mission is to conduct concerts for units deployed in the field.

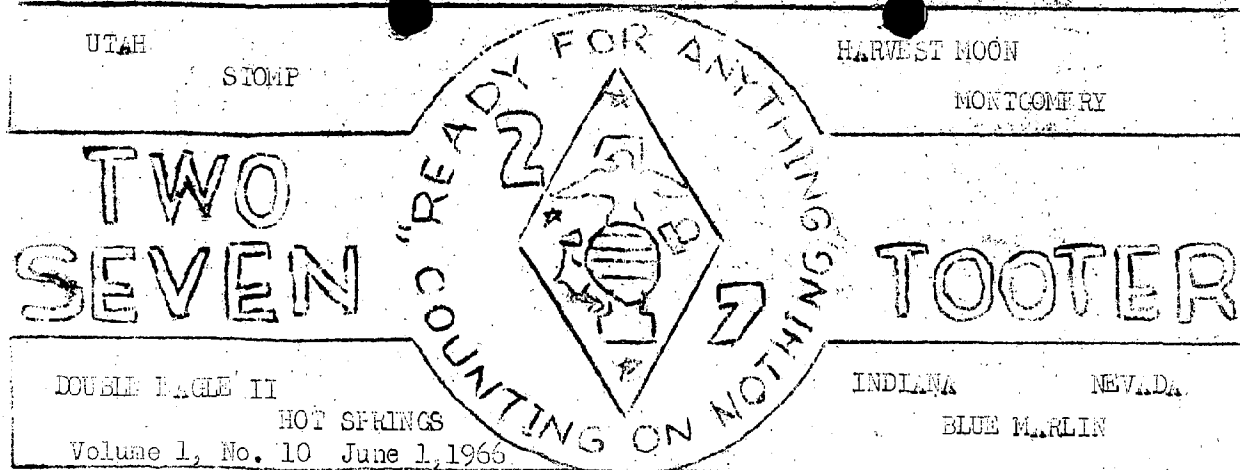
A special thanks is extended for the fine job the band did during their musical stop at 2/7.

She sped along the road quite fast,
The cops were right behind;
They blew their sirens loud and clear,
She gave them no never mind.
She pulled into a Gas Depot,
and out of her car - KA-ZOOM!
She ran into the station there,
and made it for the ladies room.
When she came out, she smiled at the cops,
she sure knew how to fake it.
She rolled on her giddle and sweetly said:
"But you thought I couldn't make it!"

He was flushed and red,
His fingers probed,
He dragged on his cigarette,
His hoarse voice croaked,
He called his wife,
"Oh Ceil... think the baby's wet."



DECLASSIFIED



TWO SEVEN HONORS HEROES

TWELVE MARINES AND TWO NAVY CORPSMEN FROM THE SECOND BATTALION, SEVENTH MARINE REGIMENT WERE AWARDED MEDALS FOR HEROISM HERE YESTERDAY. THE AWARDS INCLUDED FIVE SILVER STAR MEDALS, EIGHT BRONZE STAR MEDALS AND ONE NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL.

Lt. Colonel Leon N. Utter, battalion commander, presented the awards.

Recipients of the Silver Star Medal were: Captain Alex Lee for Operation Utah, Captain James Lau, for Operation Utah, First Lieutenant E.J. Lloyd for Operation Double Eagle II, Hospital Corpsman James Layton, Operation Utah, and Private First Class G.A. Reed, also for Utah.

Bronze Star Medal winners were: Captain William Seymour, second award, Utah; First Sergeant G.D. Mills, second award, Utah; Staff Sergeant A. Miller, Utah; Corporal Robert Erlich, Utah; Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Ernest Saint, Utah; and Pfc. Clyde Martindale, Utah. First Lieutenant William Peters and Staff Sergeant Robert Badwell who received Bronze Star Medals earlier were also included in the ceremonies. First Lieutenant Richard W. Hall, was presented with the Navy Commendation Medal to end the ceremonies.

All awardees are authorized to wear the combat distinguishing device, "V".

For troop ground forces, the Silver Star Medal is considered the third highest award and the Bronze Star the fourth highest medal to be awarded for heroism in the face of the enemy.

This does not include air heroism, or extended periods of command in a battle area.

Corpsman Kunkel who received a Bronze Star Medal last week also was present at the ceremonies.

T.V. STAR VISITS

Noted television actor Don DeFore who is most commonly known for his part on the "Hazel" television series, visited Two Seven last week in conjunction with a USO show.

Rumor has it that many of the Marines here who shook his hand are not going to wash their palm for weeks to come (maybe--but I doubt it.)

Heroism is not an art but an excellence. The measure of it is often obscure during the act, and only realized in the aftermath. It is an action, a gesture with no appropriate labels or words to enhance its essence. For like Beauty herself, heroism is a world of appreciation. To limit it to complete mental understanding can only be hinted upon by words. Yet as long as man is tested in such feats as War, his peculiar energies will thus be motivated and realized. And all witnesses will awe themselves with its magnificence--ed.

FROM THE POLITICAL FIELDS OF NORTH CAROLINA TO THE "RAZING" OF VIETNAM--THAT'S THE STORY OF SERGEANT RAYBRON L. WIGGINS, 25, PRESENTLY ASSIGNED HERE AS 2/7's ASSISTANT OPERATIONS CHIEF.

Dual Job

And the catch is that he's still holding his political seat in Winston-Salem, North Carolina as city alderman (councilman) for the 60,000 people of his ward and the 160,000 populace of North Carolina's second largest city.

How?

How can the Marine sergeant/city politician wear two hats 10 thousand miles from his political post?

Technically, as a member of the active Armed Forces and Marine Corps he cannot actively participate in his political post but can still officially hold it.

Why?

The sergeant, who was an inactive Marine reservist, ran for the job as city alderman in May 1965 and won with a two-to-one margin.

He held the position until October 1965. In September the Marine Corps requested him to return to active duty since he had a critical occupation specialty as nuclear, biological and chemical warfare specialist.

After some thought and with the backing of the people of his ward, he decided to answer the Marines' request and reentered the Corps in October, assigned at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Wife Helps

Presently his wife serves as a major liaison between the city council and himself. If a big political situation arises, precinct members of Wiggins' ward correspond with the Marine sergeant and he in turn answers with suggestions to the city council which are presented to the board via one of the other alderman or city manager.

When asked why he didn't resign the political position, the Marine

defacto politician said, "I feel you should always do what the people who elected you want you to do. They asked me not to resign, but to hold my position. And that's what I'm doing. If I have an opinion on a water works or urban renewal program I have ways to pass them on although they are not publically or officially stated as mine."

The sergeant continued: "I don't think the people are being short-changed at all. I feel that anytime I can do something for the whole country, then I'm also helping that individual city. My ability as a Marine is in more demand now than as a city alderman. I have confidence in these men in my precinct."

Sgt. Wiggins arrived here at 2/7 six days ago. His political office is up in December. When the war is over and he has served his tour with the Marines he plans on returning to the political limelight and picking up where he left off.

** *****

Promotions at Foxrot Company this month put the following Marines up one rank. To Cpl. Jerry G. Soward, Larry H. Haley and Isaac R. Rawlings. To LCpl. were Raymond R. Donato, Chumagali Ali, James L. Carlson, Earl J. Morgan, James A. Hicks, Emmette A. Hanson, Richard E. McCandless and Elenicio Menzo Jr. To Pfc. Henry A. Rios was promoted.

** *****

they'll love every word!!!

THE SCENT OF TRAVEL

I took a plane ride the other day. It was one of those short trips between DaNang and Chu Lai but for me and those riding in the plane it was a hell-uv-a long and funny trip.

I figured something was askew when I noticed I had number 83 and there were seven other Marines behind me waiting to board the plane.

We jammed and crammed ourselves into the C-130s close quartered seats. The seating was so close your knees knocked five other knees and there was a strange, pungent and uncomfortable smell in the air.

I had flown on a number of C-130s. At first I thought the smell belonged to one of the passengers or crew, but after many rides, smelling the same smell, I am convinced that the scent belongs explicitly to the airplane...it's the smell of dirty feet.

I guess it's better than walking, but if every commercial plane had the smell that the C-130s have--they'd be out of business in no time. So my nose twitched, trembled and pulsed but I withstood the torturous scent.

To get my mind off the terrible odor, I began looking up about the plane's inner structure. Now here's something to think about the next time you board a C-130. Look up about mid-plane at all the pipes and tubings wrapped in fireproofing, look at the thin copper tubes perspiring and see if it doesn't remind you of the basement of some old apartment building flying 300 miles an hour--thousands of feet above V.C. held territory.

The second thing that caught my eye as I tried to take my mind off that musty, dirty sock odor was the signs on the inside of the plane. Take a look at all the arrows--instructions, numbers, sketches--it's a magical maze and seems like it would take a master magician to get to one of those side panels marked: MLG(I guess Main Landing Gear--or, could it be Marine Large Gunny--but what would a gunny be doing inside the landing gear?). Anyhoo, I finished scanning out the plane's "guts" and thought lighting and smoking a cigaret would help me forget the

scent--or at least deaden it.

Puff, puff, smoke in the nostrils bit and eyes watering, I couldn't scent anything but "Caution Smoking May Be Hazardous To Your Health." Humm, I thought, all smokers in the Marine Corps should get hazardous duty pay if they smoked on the job. Why Not? If danger is, it certainly should be acknowledged and accredited.

The smell was still there between puffs, so I decided to do some people watching and breathe through my mouth(here was a time when the gas mask would have really been of use).

As I glanced at the faces to my right and left one young Marine caught my eye. He was reaching up behind him without looking to hook one of those ex-beer can ash trays onto the round tubing above him. As he negotiated the can up, he had to tilt it to get the hook over the pole. As he tilted it, the can, emptied half its contents out and onto a captain sitting directly behind the unwary Marine. The young Pfc. didn't know he was showering the officer's uniform with ashes and old crumpled, battered butts.

But the really funny thing was, neither did the officer who was catching some snoozes after a five-day R&R trip.

Just as we were getting ready to land and everyone's ears were popping and all those close at hand to the ash can incident were still laughing, the officer shook his head, woke up saw a lapfull of cigarette butts and about 20 enlisted guilty faces smeared with silly grins--what could he do?

The back door of the plane dropped down; the plane roared over to Chu Lai's air freight and I sniffed, I sniffed again and the scent was gone.

We untrapped. Everyone tried to untangle legs, pads, helmets, rifles handbags to get out from the close confines. The captain stood. Ashes fell from his shoulders and lap. He gave a bit of a glare at us and all hands exited.

Except the smell which must be stuck somewhere in the plane waiting to harrass me on my next trip.

** *****

BE SECURITY CONSCIOUS !!!

Water, one of Man's most important natural gifts, is the constant concern of two Marines here at 2/7.

In fact, it is their job to make the fluid you drink daily clean, refreshing and healthy.

The two Marines who operate water point 9, 2/7's fluid center, are: Cpl. W. Brown (Browny) and LCpl. Patrick B. A. Allen.

Both Marines are members of Support Company, 1st Engineer Bn., and have been school trained for two months at Marine Corps Engineering Schools, Camp Lejeune, N.C. During their official training they learned the trades of water purification, well drilling and water distillation as part of the 365 hour course.

Their job isn't glamorous, or full of the heroism of infantry assault teams pushing an enemy machine gun and overrunning it. But when one thinks about it, the job they do is just as important for they make the water that the troops need available and healthy to drink.

A daily check is made by the waterpoint Marines, to insure it has its full chlorine content and is safe to drink.

In the three water tanks, there is a total of 9,000 gallons of water.

During one day Marines of 2/7 use 6,000 gallons of drinking water and 6,000 gallons for showering.

Every drop a Marine drinks has been tested by Brown and Allen during the day at two hour intervals.

To guard against possible enemy agents placed into the battalion's drinking water, activated carbon which serves to sop up the chemical agents like a sponge, is used. Although no cases have been reported of such an attempt Brown and Allen take the necessary precautions.

"If someone were to try and do something to the water," Brown said, "we'd know right away early in the morning when we tested the water."

Brown had some other comments to make about drinking unhalozonated water in the field.

"If it were me," the Marine said, "I wouldn't drink any water that did not have halizone in it. You never know what is in the water. A lot of guys have got worms and flukes from it. I don't figure it's worth taking a chance without halizone."

When you take your next drink of water in the battalion area think of Brown and Allen who watch the water come out of the well, into a treatment tank, out of the treatment tank into a purification tank and filter, and finally up to a distribution container 13 feet high.

Think of the two Marines constantly checking the water, adding chlorine and activated carbon to make sure the stuff you drink is safe and healthy.

** *

In the first shirt's tent here are four delectable beauties hanging from a crossbeam. One is Miss January, the others are Miss February, March and April.

Recently, one of the first shirts picture was taken for the New York Times Newspaper.

There is going to be an added attraction the rumor has it, that Miss April will have a fifth and close companion by the initials of J.C.

Lott.

The new member will be clothed of course, but never-the-less an added attraction.

** *****

Prior to 1954 the United States had no military defense commitments in Southeast Asia except to defend the Philippines in case of enemy attack. The colonial powers had the defensive responsibilities up until that time.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS

2nd Battalion, 7th Marines

1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

APO San Francisco, California 96602

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3/RAS/www

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17 May 1966

2nd Bn. 7th Marines

Log No. **0191-66**Copy No. 50 of 50
SERNO 031-66From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines

Subj: After Action Report "Operation MONTGOMERY"

Ref: DivO 3480.1

Encl: (1) Operations D-Day
(2) Operations D+1
(3) Operations D+2
(4) Operations D+3
(5) Operations D+4
(6) Operations D+5

1. Code Name. "Operation MONTGOMERY"
2. Dates of Operation. 9-14 May 1966
3. Location. Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam; AMS Map Series L701, 1:50,000 Sheets 6756 I, II, III and IV.
4. Command Headquarters. CO, 7th Marines.
5. Task Organization.

2nd Battalion, 7th Marine (-) (Rein)

LtCol UPTER

EBB Co (Rein)

Capt GROSE

HST

Rq Eng Bt.

Company "B" (Rein)

Capt. GATCHELL

Sect 81mm Mortars

FAC Tm

Arty FO Tm

Engr Tm

Plane Sqd

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APP B Incl #7

Company "F" (Rein)

Sect 81mm Mortars
 FAC Tm
 Arty FO Tm
 Scout Interp Tm
 Engr Tm
 Flame Sqd

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Company "G" (Rein)

Capt SHOPTAW

Arty FO Tm
 Scout Interp Tm
 Engr Tm

Company "H" (Rein)

Capt LAU

Scout Interp Tm

6. Supporting Forces.a. Artillery.

The only missions requested by 2nd Bn, 7th Marines, other than prep and R&M fires, were two illumination missions. There was good coverage but approximately 40% of the rounds fired were duds, causing delay and periods of no illumination.

Two discrepancies were noted in the clearing of missions. First, on D-Day, an aerial observer fired a mission approximately 700 meters from 2nd Bn, 7th Marines units, in 2nd Bn, 7th Marines zone of action. This fire mission was not cleared with 2nd Bn, 7th Marines FSCC. In another instance a fire mission was requested by an adjacent unit. It was close to 2nd Bn, 7th Marines and the FSCC was asked for clearance. Before an answer could be sent, initial rounds impacted, approximately 200 meters from friendly units. There were no small arms heard so it was assumed the adjacent unit was not under enemy fire. Therefore, time was not so important that the mission be fired before clearance was granted. Another discrepancy was noted when a landing zone prep was requested at coordinates BS-425795. The rounds impacted at coordinates BS-426760, approximately 1500 meters south of the landing zone. FSCC was notified, but about half of the prep impacted in the wrong area.

b. Air.

(1) Helicopter Troop Lift. The battalion had four separate troop lifts. On D-Day, 24 MAG-36 helicopters lifted the battalion, minus one company, from Quang Ngai Airfield to LZ Blue at BS-415755. On D+1, 12 MAG-36 aircraft lifted Company "G" from BS-426767 to an LZ at BS-425798. On D+4, 12 MAG-36 helicopters lifted companies

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"F" & "H" from BS-508807 to the objective LZ at BS-538826. The entire battalion was extracted on D+5 from BS-604874 to LZ Goose by 30 MAC 36 helicopters. All lifts were completed promptly and without undue difficulty. Aircraft participating in the D+4 lift were required to orbit at altitude, fully loaded, for 20 minutes while the LZ prep was completed.

(2) Close Air Support. Fixed wing aircraft provided three landing zone preps. One on D-Day for the battalion LZ, a second on D+1 for the lift of company "G" and a third on D+4 for the lift of companies "F" & "H". Two close air support missions were flown on D+4 under control of a FAC, at BS-559834 and BS-559835. The first strike resulted in excellent coverage of a portion of the target. Due to three napalm duds and one 500 lb bomb dud, the second strike was called to cover the remaining section of the target. Coverage on the second strike was poor despite corrections by the FAC. Four M4-12 aircraft participated in the first strike and two in the second.

(3) Armed Helicopters. Armed helicopter support was provided for all troop lifts on D+4. On D+1, while assisting Company "G", they engaged VC in the vicinity of BS-433784, with good target coverage. However, the results are unknown. The "Special" landing zone prep on D-Day is believed to have been quite successful, while the "Special prep" of D+4 was reduced in effectiveness by wind direction.

(4) Helicopter Med-Evac and Resupply. Support in these two areas, as usual, continued to be superb. Response to the requirements of the battalion were met immediately and without difficulty. Two incidents, however, marred this excellent performance. Both occurred during Med-Evacs on D+4. One pilot made remarks to the effect that med-evacs as close as 100 meters should be consolidated for only one pick-up. The second incident was remarks by a crew chief that it would be easier if they didn't have to take the evacuee's gear. These remarks indicate a lack of understanding by the crews concerned.

7. Intelligence.

a. Estimate of VC Strength, Location and Disposition in the Objective Area.

(1) Forces Anticipated:

Unit	Location	Strength
21st NVL Reg't (Prob)	BS 560755	Unk
1st Reg't (Prob)	BS 250750	Unk
93 Bn	BS 470925	Unk
60 Bn	BS 450795	Unk
Unk Bn	BS 445075	Unk
4th Reg't (poss)	BS 430775	Unk
	BS 490756	Unk

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307 Pn
T-19 Co
T-20 Co

BS 8782
BS 120125
BS 408129

Unk
150
150

(2) The intelligence information which generated operation "MONTGOMERY" was initially acquired and processed by the 2nd ARVN division from defectors and agent reports. The intelligence was provided to this command on 2 May 1966 along with additional information from reconnaissance reports and aerial sightings.

(3) The objective of the operation was to fix and destroy suspected VC units in the objective area.

b. VC Strength and Situation Actually Found as Operation was Conducted.

It was readily apparent from the outset of the operation that the VC had escaped from the objective area. Contact throughout the six days was limited primarily to local force and hamlet guerrillas.

c. VC Units Identified.

On the afternoon of 9 May 1966, Company "E" captured (1) VC in the vicinity of BS-423752. The captive admitted to being a member of the 20th VC battalion which normally operates in the Son Ha region south of the "MONTGOMERY" objective area. At the time of capture, 2/7 units had been in contact with elements from an estimated platoon (-) of local force guerrillas. The captive's appearance indicated he was probably a Montagnard and could have been from the 20th battalion in the Son Tinh District area.

d. Significant Intelligence Gained.

(1) The intelligence estimate verbally disseminated prior to operation "MONTGOMERY" disclosed that the western part of the Song Tra Khuc river valley was densely populated and was suspected as being a harbor site for a substantial VC force. It is significant to point out that the exact opposite of the estimate was found to be the case. The zone of action traversed by 2/7 was noticeably devoid of population. The hamlets were overgrown, the buildings largely deteriorated, and a considerable number of fields were fallow. What few civilians there were in evidence were housed in temporary shelters. No evidence could be discovered or observed to verify the report that a battalion size or larger VC unit had been quartered in the vicinity just prior to the commencement of "MONTGOMERY".

(2) On 9 May, 2/7 engaged elements of what was evaluated to be a platoon (-) of local force guerrillas. It is meaningful to note that this was one of the few occasions encountered by 2/7 where guerrilla units have made a noteworthy attempt at putting up a resistance to advancing Marine forces. Ordinarily the guerrilla tactic is long range sniping and harassment followed by escape and evasion. In this instance, some few guerrillas held their positions

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and were subsequently killed or captured by aggressive Marine squads and fire teams.

(3) The hamlet of Xuan Hoa in grid square BS-5080 although almost totally destroyed above ground, by air and artillery bombardment, still presents itself as a veritable fortress of trenchworks, fortifications, and tunnels. In addition, it was apparent from miscellaneous captured documents and material found in the hamlet, that it has been used on more than one occasion as a staging area prior to a VC attack and a regrouping location following the same. It is recommended that consideration be given to completely destroying the hamlet because of its extensive fortifications and strategic location in order to prevent future VC utilization.

e. Terrain

(1) Critical Terrain Features

Hill 139	BS-424743
Ridge line	BS-400769 - BS-428782
River Bed (Song Giang)	BS-4377, 4376
Hill 97	BS-539626
Hill 85	BS-541817

(2) Observation and Fields of Fire.

The terrain in the area was relatively flat interrupted only by low hill masses and built-up hamlets. Observation and Fields of Fire would have favored the defender.

(3) Cover and Concealment

No major obstacles were encountered during the course of the operation.

8. Mission. 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines (-) (Rein) conducts operation in Quang Ngai province in cooperation with coordinated ARVN operations to capture or destroy enemy forces, supplies and equipment located therein.

9. Concept of Operation. 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines (-) (Rein) assumes two hour alert B-1, to execute helicopter-borne assault into LZ Yellow (BS-510768), LZ Green (BS-513737) or LZ of opportunity and conducts operations as directed. If not committed, moves by motor convoy, about L-3 hours, to Quang Ngai airfield. About L+2 hours, D-Day, executes helicopter-borne assault into LZ Blue (BS-415755) then conducts search and destroy operations northeastward in zone.

10. Execution.

a. Planning. At 041500H the Commanding Officer and his staff were briefed by the Commanding Officer, 7th Marines, and his staff

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on the conduct of Operation "MONTGOMERY". Combat and combat service support unit commanders were present. All orders and instructions were verbal and were followed by 7th Marine. Frag Order 10-66 on 040800H. Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines issued verbal orders for execution of Operation "MONTGOMERY" at 041300H, this was followed by the issuance of Frag Order 7-66 at 061500H. At 041630 2/7 received message from CO, 7th Marines that D-Day was delayed 48 hours. At 070930H message from CO, 7th Marines stated that D-Day was delayed 24 hours.

d. D-Day 9 May 1966. 2/7 (-) (Rein) commenced motor march to Quang Ngai airfield at 0600. Arrived at 0935 and chopped Company "H" to CO, 7th Marines. Assault elements of companies "E" and "F" commenced lift at 1030 to LZ Blue (BS-415755). All units were in the LZ by 1145, with no opposition encountered. Upon consolidation 2/7 commenced operations northeastward with companies "E" and "F" abreast, Company "E" on the left. The Command Group, H&S Company (-) and Company "G" followed in trace. At 1315H Company "E" received fire from an estimated 6-10 VC at BS-422757. By aggressive offensive action the enemy position was overrun resulting in 2 VC KIA, 1 VCS female captured and one M-1 rifle and two carbines captured. About 1330 Company "F" received fire from its left flank by an estimated 7-10 VC. Fire was returned and 2 VC KIA and 4 VCC resulted, as well as one USMC WIA. At 1730H, Company "E" received fire from estimated VC squad, while moving into village at BS-429765. Return fire resulted in 2 VC KIA. 2/7 continued into the village of An Hoa (1) and set in 360 perimeter for the night, with no contact.

c. D+1 10 May 1966. 2/7 remained in position at BS-428768 and conducted three separate company sized operations. At 0900H Company "G" was lifted in LZ BS-426796 after extensive artillery and air prep to conduct a sweep south along the Song Giang river and establish a blocking position at BS-437779. At the same time Company "F" commenced a sweep southwest for 2000 meters along their D-Day route, then reversed course, returning along the base of the ridge at BS-410770. About 1030H Company "G" observed an estimated 2 squads of VC at BS-434767. Fire was directed on this position and two UH1H gun ships made repeated firing passes. At 1145H the FAC called in two A-42s to strike fleeing VC as observed by the UH1H pilots. The target area received good coverage, but subsequent search revealed no bodies. Company "G" continued sweep and established blocking positions at PL Golf. Company "F" made sporadic contact with an estimated 4-6 VC who continued westward. Company "E" also found a firing position apparently utilized by the VC during D-Day and 1 dead VC wrapped in a hammock hidden in the undergrowth. Company "F" flushed one VC who failed to halt; 1 VC KIA. Company "E" returned to opcon 2/7 at 1130H and was set in perimeter as Company "E" moved east across Song Giang to sweep north through Ma Dong Chim (1) to destroy suspected VC meeting place, and drive to Company "G"'s block. No contact. However, numerous tunnels and caves were located and blown. Company "E" located a masonry building at BS-436773 which contained a hidden room. They found 1 VCC, small amount of medical supplies and a pack, with two automatic rifle magazines. All companies were set in defensive perimeter by 1800H. At 0015H, Company "E" opened fire on 3-5 VC forward of their positions. Two VC KIA and two weapons, one AK assault rifle and one RPG rocket launcher resulted.

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d. D+2 11 May 1966. Continued search and destroy operations in zone with two companies. "F" and "B" abreast and two in trace, "F" and "G" were on the left. No contacts. Located several caves/tunnels vicinity of BS-459767, 9 rounds of 60mm Mortar HE ammunition and 1 pack and 1 M-1 rifle. Caves and ammo were blown. Company "F" killed one previously wounded VC at BS-458787 and captured 1 VC at 467790. The Battalion CP with companies "E", "F" and "G" set in perimeter at BS-466788. Company "H" continued northeastward to BS-473795. There were no night contacts.

e. D+3 12 May 1966. At 0630H Company "H" swept east and north to Phu Son (1), no contact. At 0700H the remainder of 2/7 jumped off in sweep to Xuan Hoa (1), Companies "F" and "G" abreast, H&S Company (-) and Company "E" in trace. No contact. 2/7 (-) set in perimeter Xuan Hoa (1) about 1330H. Found several hand grenade booby traps on village perimeter. Area was a maze of tunnels and caves. H&S Company found 1 VC in a cave at approximately 2230H. Company "H" swept east to BS-513820 then south to BS-512812 and set in for the night. No contacts.

f. D+4 13 May 1966. Companies "F", "H" and "B" Command Group landed in objective LZ (Hill 97) BS-539825 at 0710H. Areas just forward (BS-56813) of objective and immediately to the rear (BS-545821) were prepped by artillery and air with excellent target coverage. LZ was secured without contact and blocking position established. At 0800H companies "E" and "G" with "A" Command Group and H&S Co (-) in trace began drive toward Hill 97. No contacts. At 1130H, Companies "F" and "H" jumped off with "B" Command Group to sweep northeastward to BS-570853. These elements closed at 1730H. At 1145H, Commanding General, FMEPAC arrived on Hill 97 to receive briefing on the area of Operations UTAH and HOT SPRINGS. The remaining elements closed objective BS-570853 at 1815H. No contacts. Battalion set up night perimeter.

g. D+5 14 May 1966. 2/7 continued sweep north and east with four companies to pick-up LZ at BS-604873. No contacts made. Last elements closed LZ at 0930H and return lift to LZ Goose commenced at 1000H.... Final elements closed 2/7 CP at 1115H without incident.

11. Results:

a. Enemy Casualties.

Personnel

KIA

WIA

Total

0

1

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b. Enemy Casualties and Captives.

(1) Personnel	Total
VC KIA	11
VCS	5
VCS	8

c. Captured Equipment and Supplies.

M-1 rifle	(2)
Carbine, US 30 Cal.	(1)
7.62 Chi Com Carbine	(2)
4.2 Sub MG	(1)
RPG Rocket Launcher	(1)

d. Friendly Equipment Losses. None12. Administrative Matters. None13. Special Equipment & Techniques.

While an opportunity did not present itself to utilize the E-8 backpack riot control agent dispenser, it is firmly believed this can be of valuable assistance in future operation. It is also believed the "special" landing zone prep had much to do with the assault elements not encountering any opposition on approach and touch down. Due to the fact that not 600 meters from the LZ both assault companies received fire from well concealed positions.

14. Commander's Analysis.

a. The major problem encountered during this operation was the high incidence of heat cases, 33 that required medical evacuation. Of this number a proportionate number were personnel who have been in country several months and were considered acclimated. It appears that during the cooling summer months cross-country movement must be slowed during the 1400-1900 period of the day, if the commander is to conserve his fighting potential.

b. For the first time in several operations this battalion had the services of all four rifle companies. This permitted much more flexibility in operations than had been the case previously. Wide areas were covered, in blocking/sweeping and leap-frogging operations, which could not have been without the fourth company.

c. The artillery positioning was a decided improvement over operation HOT SPRINGS, in that, except for L-Hour, when an LZ prep could not be fired due to the gun-target line, fire was not into advancing forces. Some discrepancy, as previously mentioned, did occur in obtaining firing clearances.

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d. Coupled with the excellent helicopter support was the performance of the HST. Their unrelenting efforts in organizing and working the LZs was particularly noteworthy. Their immediate response to med-evac requirements was rapid and highly efficient permitting the battalion to carry out its mission without undue delay.

15. Recommendations.

a. A major difficulty arose during operations on S-4 when elements of 1/7 came into this battalion's zone in front of one assault company. Had this been a "shooting" operation, the results may have proven disastrous. There appeared to be a discrepancy in the interpretation of just where the boundary lay. While the boundary indicated on the overlay issued by CO, 7th Marines was clearly defined on 2/7's copy, such apparently was not the case with 2/7's copy. Liaison with CO, 1/7 indicated that he believed the boundary to be 500-600 meters north of where it was shown on the 2/7 copy.

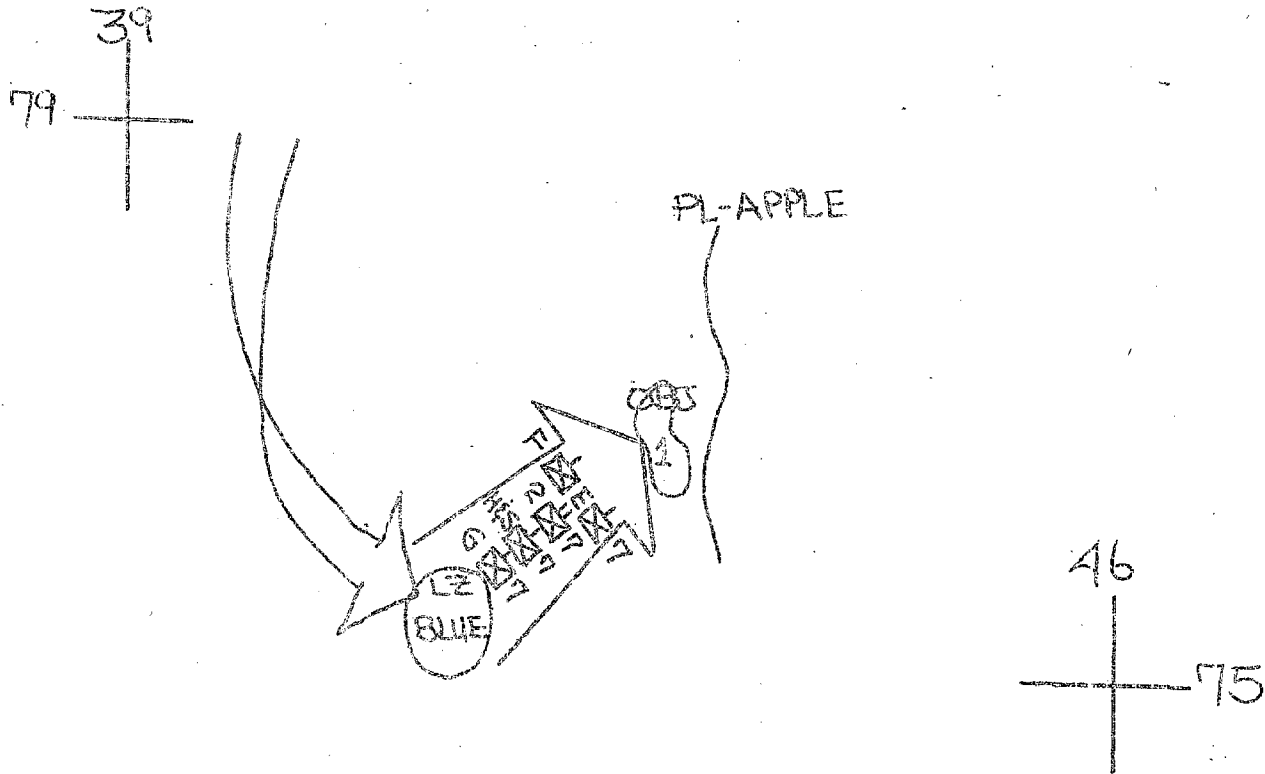
b. While resupply of rations was excellent there was a constant shortage of fuel trispartane.

c. A seemingly unnecessary delay is caused when a using unit requests a "float" item. Currently, the LSM requires the unserviceable item be turned in prior to fulfilling the request. This delay could be a very serious matter, particularly with communications equipment with still mobile components.

John P. U. Hto
LEON M. BIERER

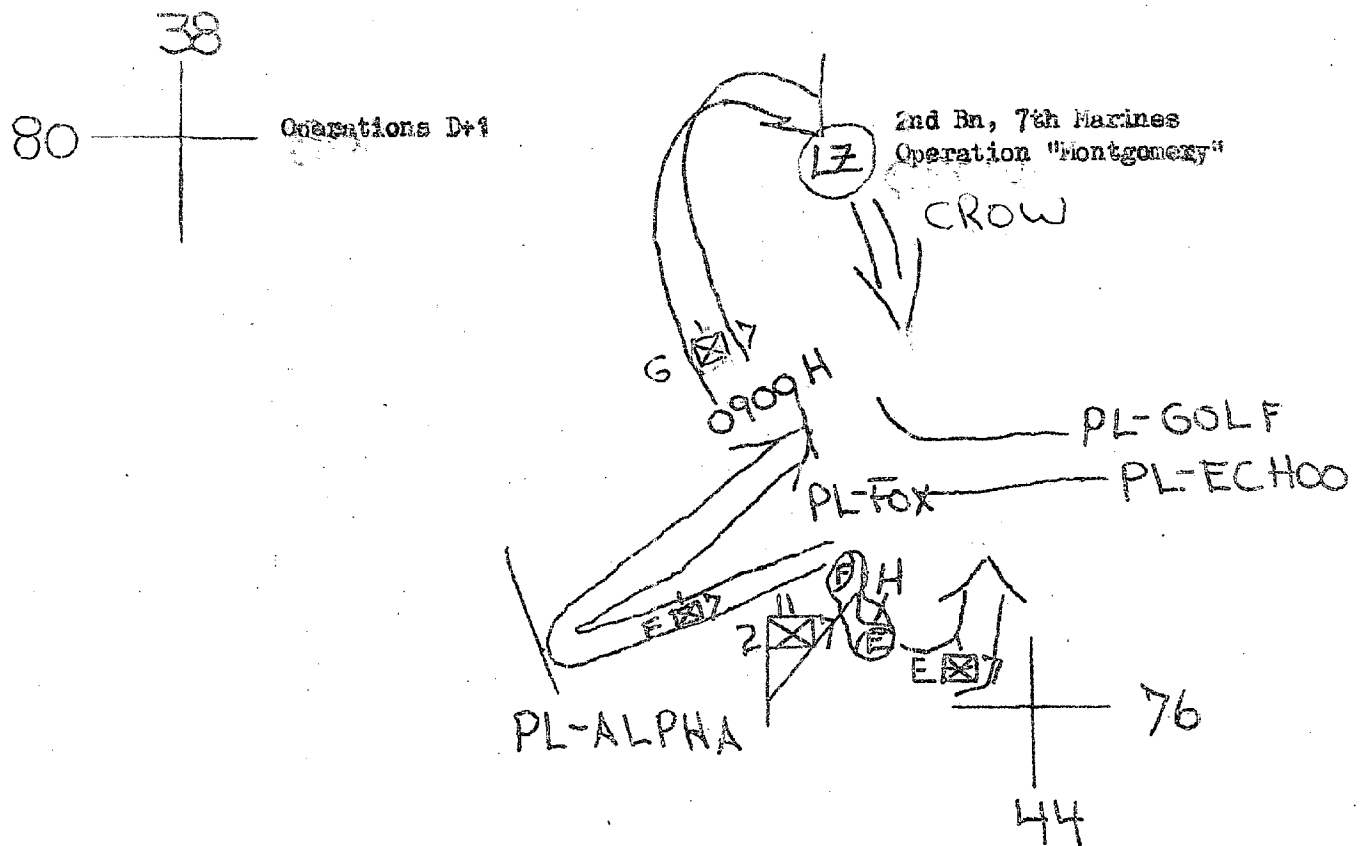
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Operations D - Day

2nd Bn, 7th Marines
Operation "Montgomery"

Map: Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam AMS Series L701
1:50,000 sheets 6756 I, II, III, IV.

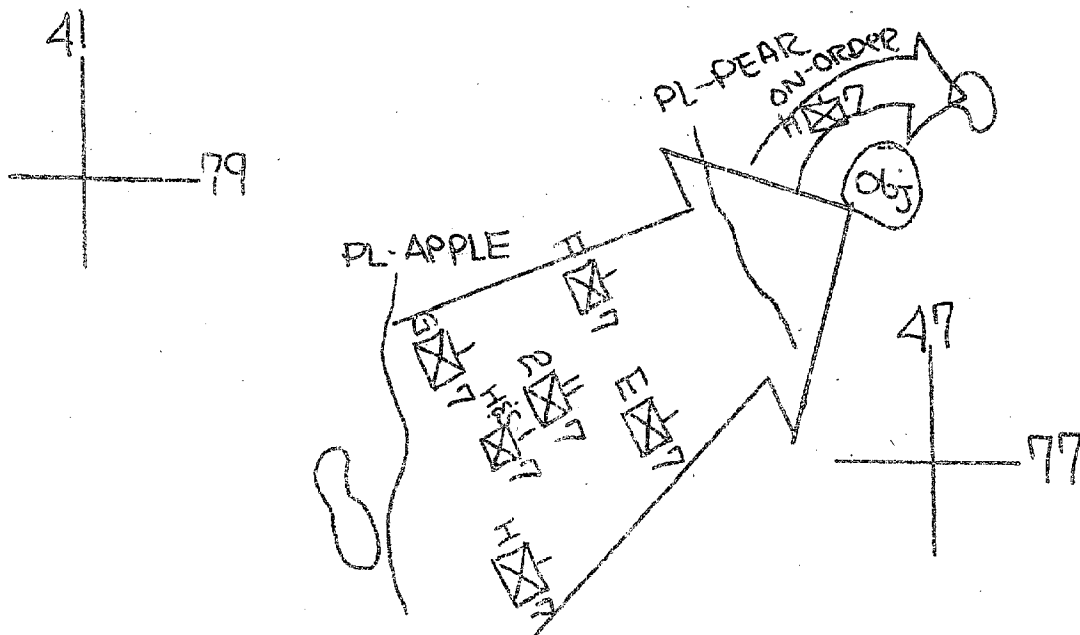
Enclosure (1)



MAP: Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam AMS Series L701
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Enclosure (2)

Operations D + 2

2nd ~~Mar~~ 77th Marines
Operation "Montgomery"

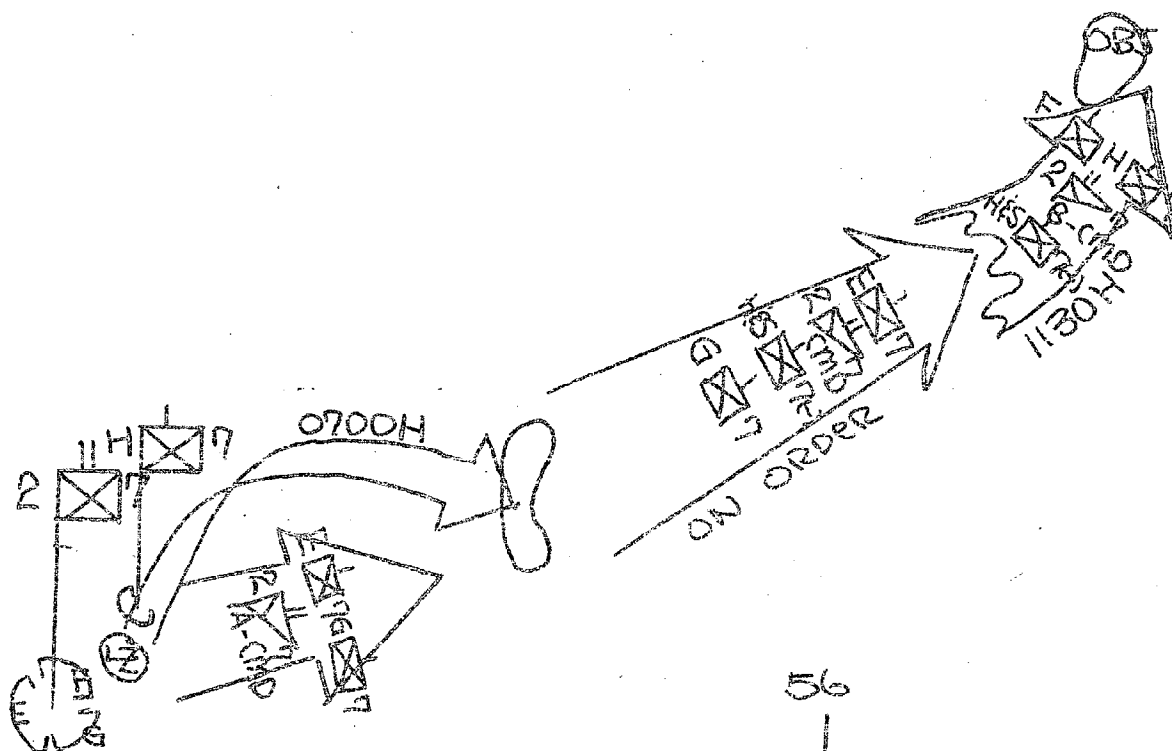
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Enclosure (3)

Operations D + 4

2nd Bn, 7th Marines
Operation "Montgomery"

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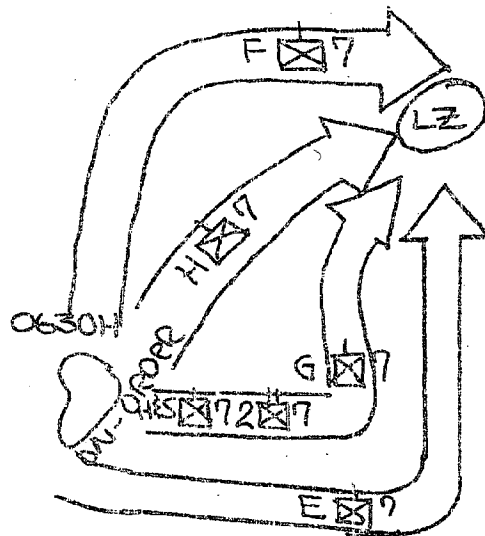
Map: Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam AMS Series L701
1:50,000 Sheets 6756 I, II, III, IV.

Enclosure (5)

2nd Bn, 7th Marines
Operation "Montgomery"

OPERATIONS D + 5

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Map: Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam AMS Map Series
L701 1:50,000 Sheets 6756 I, II, III, IV.

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Enclosure (6)