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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May - 31 May 1968

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/AF/jmb
005750
10 June 1968

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From: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AD 3D)

Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period of 1 May - 31 May 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

M. V. Palatas
M. V. PALATAS

Copy To:
(2) Copies 9th Marines

1st Bn. 9th MAR
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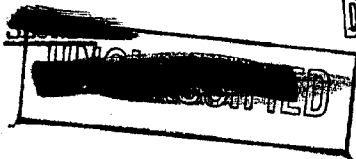
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1ST BN 9TH MAR

CMD CHRON

10 JUN 1968

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

PART I1. DESIGNATION

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

"H&S" Company

Company "A"

Company "B"

Company "C"

Company "D"

COMMANDERS

LtCol. J. H. CAHILL
1 May - 12 May 1968
Lt Col. J. W. QUINN
13 May - 26 May 1968
LtCol. M. V. PALATAS
27 May - 31 May 1968

Capt. E. R. MILLER JR.
1 May - 31 May 1968

Lt. H. LAMKA
1 May - 31 May 1968

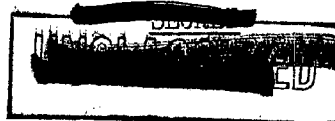
Capt. J. P. WILLIAMS
1 May - 31 May 1968

Capt. R. H. FLAGLER
1 May - 31 May 1968

Capt. J. W. CARGILE
1 May - 31 May 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)



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During the month of May, 1979 was under the Operational Control of the 9th Marine Regiment and participated in Operation Kentucky throughout the month. Said operation consisted of providing the defense of the C-2, C-3, C-3 Bridge and Cam Lo District Headquarters, and to maintain security of Route #9 and #561 in AO. Additional missions were to prevent infiltration of NVA, the destruction of harboring sites, and capture of caches. During the latter part of the month, rice-denial operations were conducted in order to protect the rice-crops in the Cam Lo area from falling into NVA/VN hands. The Battalion participated intermittently in Operation Napoleon/Beline during the latter part of the month in which, at different times, up to three companies were under operational control of the 3rd Marines or the 9th Marines.

At 0905, on the first of May, Company D received 5 rounds of enemy 82mm mortar fire, from an unknown source. The enemy harrassing fire caused no damage or casualties.

At 1115, 1 squad from Company K 3/3, patrolling from the C-2 position spotted 2 NVA at YD 144639. The squad initiated small arms fire on the 2 enemy and began receiving return fire. Company K dispatched 2 more squads to the point of contact, at which time the enemy position was being fired upon with M-79 and 60mm mortar fire. The three squads maintained fire on the enemy position and swept through it. The results of the sweep were negative and the 3 squads returned to the perimeter.

During the period of time from 1215 to 1350 Company D received 1 round of 120mm and 2 rounds of 82mm enemy mortar harrassment fire. The incoming fire caused no friendly casualties or damage. The enemy position was not known, therefore there was no return fire.

Company A at the C3-A position, at 2210, spotted 1 man, concealing himself behind a mound of dirt at grid YD 150606. Company A fired 2 rounds of M-79 fire on the man's position. A check of the area at first light the following morning revealed nothing.

At 2245, a listening post from Company D, at the C-2 position, observed approximately 8 enemy personnel, 30 to 40 meters to their front, at grid YD 140613. The enemy was moving west to east. The listening post opened fire on the enemy with M-16s, M-79, and M26 grenades. Company D sent 1 squad to the point of contact to reinforce the listening post and to sweep the area. As the squad swept through the area, it began receiving enemy hand grenades. The squad then withdrew to the perimeter to allow supporting arms to be fired on the area. Artillery and 60mm mortar illumination was employed as twin 40mm, 60mm, and 90mm tank high explosive rounds were fired on the enemy position. In 3 instances, members of tank crews observed mortar fire, including 50 and 30 caliber machine gun fire, on the positions. The enemy returned a minimal amount of return fire with small arms. All together a total of 15 enemy personnel were sighted at 2245. When no further enemy movement could be observed, all friendly fires were ceased. A close search of the area, the following morning revealed numerous fresh tracks of NVA boots and other indications of the enemy's previous presence in the area, however no enemy bodies or gear could be found.

On 2 May, at 1150, Company D at the C-3 position, received 1 round of enemy 82mm mortar fire. Company D called in 81mm mortar fire on the suspected enemy position yielding good coverage of the target with unknown results.

The C-2 position, at 1415, received 7 rounds of 122mm rocket and 1 round of 82mm mortar fire resulting in the destruction of 1 truck and wounding 1 Marine. The source of the enemy fire was unknown.

At 1000, on 3 May, the friendly units at the C-2 position received 2 rounds of 120mm mortar and 1 round of 82mm mortar fire. An artillery mission was fired on the suspected enemy position, at grid YD 08766316, with good coverage of the target and unknown results. Again, at 1040, the C-2 position received 2 rounds of 120mm mortar fire. The source of the enemy fire was suspected to be at grid YD 175598 but the pending mission on that enemy grid was put in a check fire because of the presence of an ED in the area.

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N. Communications: Due to the deployment of the Bn often during May, Radio Communications were the primary concern. As always, we experienced frequency problems; more specifically over riding of our TAC net by other units. Also we found it necessary to carry at least one 292 antenna to the field at all times. There were times when a whip antenna just would not fulfill the requirements. It is advisable that all units carry 292 antennas on every operation, especially in Northern I Corps area.

N. Artillery: Between 1 May and 30 May 63 Missions were fired by the forward observers attached to 1st Bn, 9th Mar.

During this reporting period, the Battalion artillery to fire on targets such as; troops in the open, active artillery, mortar, and rocket sites and prep fires. The use of artillery to help conceal the Bn movements from one objective to the other was also utilized.

Several times the Battalion called on artillery for zone and sweep fires which accounted for several secondaries and 12 confirmed NVA/KIAs.

Near the end of the month air and artillery were coordinated to help prep and clear areas that contained an estimated regiment. The area was swept after extensive prep fires were fired and a large quantity of gear and bodies were found.

P. Air: During the month of May the Battalion was in the field for four duration operations. Air support was made use of whenever possible. Whenever contact was made friendly units would hold back and maximum use would be made of air and artillery support.

On 2 May, a flight of fixed wing was run on Cam Vu (YD 175616) in support of an operation to extract some MIAs.

Between 13 and 16 May the Battalion was operating west of Cam Lo District Headquarters and a sizeable contact was made at YD 100600. A total of nine flights of fixed wing aircraft were run flashing twenty NVA into the open, killing 4 confirmed, and silencing the enemy resistance.

On 27 May, the Battalion made contact in the Qua Viet area at YD 263660 with an estimated NVA company. Air support was requested and a flight of A-4s arrived on station an hour later. With snakeyes and napalm they 15 NVA confirmed kills. At this point an emergency request was placed for more fixed wing support (time 1730) as we had wounded pinned down by enemy fire. The A-4s had been very effective in suppressing the enemy while the wounded were extracted. However, no more fixed wing arrived that day. The unit took 16 medevacs (three emergency the rest priority). The medivac request was placed at 1800. At 2000 the medevac CH-46 finally arrived. No explanation was offered for the delay.

AOs were used extensively throughout the month for Vis, air strikes, and artillery adjustment. They were usually available if the unit was in contact but were often difficult to obtain for routine missions. AOs were used for 30 missions. The Battalion had a total of 20 emergency, 37 priority, and 11 routine medevacs for the month.

Helicopter resupply was used extensively in the field. It usually arrived several hours past the time it was requested for. Our first resupply on the 27 May was particularly poor in that the external loads were dropped from a height of 50 feet, bursting most of the water containers. The Battalion was re-lifted on several occasions with no problems.

An estimated 90,000 pounds of supplies was dropped in direct support of the Battalion during the month.

Q. Activation/Deactivation/Redesignation: None

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I. Administration: No problems were encountered during this reporting period.

J. Personnel: The following personnel were transferred from this Command:

USMC OFF	6	USN OFF	
ENL	109	ENL	

Personnel who were joined to this Command:

USMC OFF	6	USN OFF	
ENL	75	ENL	

K. Intelligence: During the month of May the enemy units operating in the Battalion AO included the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 27th Regiment, 320th Division. Also encountered was the 7th Battalion of the 27th Independent Regiment. These infantry units were supported by the 54th Artillery Regiment, which was deployed in the NTH and the 164th Artillery Regiment located in the vicinity of TM 0560. In the latter part of the month, the Battalion moved to the 3rd Marines AO and came in contact with the 52nd and 18th Regiments of the 320th Division.

On May 1, D Co 1st Bn, 9th Mar, while employed as support for Task Force Bobbie, came into contact with enemy elements in the vicinity of Cam Vo. The enemy unit was part of the 2nd Bn of the 27th Independent Regiment. The enemy was well deployed with numerous bunkers and coincidentally defensive positions in great depth.

Following the action of the 1st the enemy effort was restricted to scattered instances of incoming and occasional attempts at harassing and ambushing vehicles on the highway between C-2 and C-3.

Intelligence indicated that the enemy was using the Quat Xa and Cam Hung as infiltration routes.

On the 15th of May, as the Battalion moved into a blocking position, the enemy was content to attack by fires, generally coming from fixed positions North of the 60 grid line.

On 16 May, the Battalion returned to the fixed defensive positions around C-2 and C-3. The Battalion remained at these positions until the 26th of May and continued to receive harassing mortar and artillery fire, and made occasional sightings of enemy troops.

On the 26th of May, the Battalion was repositioned to TM 10 10 60 on the Nam Viet River for the purpose of being Regimental Reserve for the 3rd Marines.

On 27 May, the Battalion was returned to the operational control of the 9th Marines and moved to the vicinity of Vinh Quan Thang in order to establish a blocking position. D Co came under heavy automatic weapons fire and began to receive incoming mortar and rocket rounds. E Co called on supporting arms, resulting in 26 enemy KIA. During the evening of the 27th, the Battalion drew back in order to repel a counter attack with elements of the 3rd Bn, 2nd Bn, 9th Mar, and the 2nd Artillery Regiment. Information given by 2 PW captured by M Co 2nd Bn, 2nd Mar, stated that the entire 52nd Regiment of the 320th Division was encompassed by the attack.

On 28 May, the Battalion continued being held in place, north of Vinh Quan Thang. While B Co and D Co remained in their respective positions along the border, the 1st Bn, 9th Mar, following repeated enemy rifle and mortar attacks, P Co 1st Bn, 9th Mar and A Co 3rd Bn 9th Mar were enjoined with the task of repelling the enemy's counter attack. During the evening, B Co captured 13 PW, 27mm Recoilless Rifles, 2 1/2 inch machine guns, 13 M16's, 3 M14's, 3 M1 carbines and assorted communications equipment and documents.

As the month ended, the Bn Command Group, plus A and D Cos were occupying defensive positions in the NTH area, in the vicinity of the grid VO 267704. It was in this area that elements of the 2nd Bn, 4th Mar; 1st Bn, 3rd Mar; and 1st and 2nd Bn, 9th Mar had recently engaged elements of the 18th Regiment, 320th Division.

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L. Weather: During the month of May, temperatures were in the high 90s during most days and dropped into the low 80s on most nights. Clouds were generally clear with scattered cloud cover. Humidity was constantly high and lead to an occasional late afternoon or evening shower.

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Friendly units at the C-2 position, at 1215, had received enemy sniper fire and had called in 82mm mortar fire, from C-3, on the enemy position at grid YD 176598 after which there were no further enemy sniper rounds fired. During the 82mm mortar mission, 1 round of 82mm fell short and landed in a village area resulting in the death of one civilian and wounded eleven other civilians. All of which were evacuated in vehicles, by friendly units, to medical facilities in Dong Ha.

At 2120, a listening post of Company C, positioned in the Cao Lo District Headquarters Area, observed 2 VC shortly after hearing small arms fire to their west. The VC were running across a field at grid YD 128596. The listening post initiated small arms fire on the enemy with unknown results. Ten minutes later, the post observed 1 VC return to the area of the earlier sighting. The 1 VC then initiated small arms fire on the listening post, which inflicted no casualties. The post returned fire, after which they no longer received enemy fire. The listening post then moved its position slightly, and set in for the duration of the hours of darkness.

Engineers, conducting the daily road sweep, at 0800, on 4 May, found an object buried in the road at grid YD 133686. The object was blown in place, after which an analysis proved the object to be an M-14 type mine.

At 0930 Company D received 3 rounds of enemy 82mm mortar fire from an unknown enemy position. The rounds caused no damage or casualties.

The C-2 position also received enemy fire taking 2 rounds of 140mm rocket and 2 rounds of 100mm artillery fire at 1240. The origin of the enemy fire was unknown.

Company D received 1 round of 82mm mortar fire, at 1832, from an unknown enemy position. There were no friendly casualties.

At 1840, the enemy fired another round of 82mm mortar fire, this time at a vehicle enroute to the C-2 position. The round narrowly missed the vehicle, and its occupants sped back to the C-2 position.

At 0740, on 5 May, 1/9 units at the C-2 position, received 1 round of 122mm rocket fire, from a direction of 5600 mils, resulting in 2 serious WIAs. A counter battery was fired on the suspected enemy position with unknown results.

Company D, at 1200, at the C-3 position, received 2 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. The rounds inflicted no casualties or damage. The source of the enemy fire was unknown. Again at 1257, Company D received 2 more rounds of enemy 82mm mortar fire. An attempted fire mission was checked due to troops in the approximately same area of the suspected enemy position.

At 2120, Company D, by use of the Night Observation Device, detected one (1) person lying flat in the outer defensive wire. 4 rounds of 60mm illumination were fired and a scout sniper fired 3 rounds of small arms fire after which no further movement could be detected.

At 2230, Company B received 2 rounds of enemy 60mm mortar fire. There were no casualties as a result nor were there any return fires.

At 1730, one S-6 truck carrying 10 Marines, was enroute to C-2 pulling a 105mm artillery piece. At grid YD 133630, the truck was ambushed by approximately 8 personnel dressed in civilian clothes, who were 40 to 75 meters to the west of the road. The enemy initiated the ambush with a type of explosive device and then employed automatic weapons and rifles against the truck and destroyed it. The Marines disembarked and removed the wounded. The enemy departed. At this time, a heavy fighting force arrived at the ambush site. Upon arrival, the enemy observed the advancing enemy and initiated small arms fire in three, causing the 1st platoon to retreat to the west. One of the trucks in the convoy picked up the 9 wounded men, and the other remaining members of the ambush vehicle and transported them to C-3.

At 1750, a reaction force of 2 platoons from Company D, was dispatched to the enemy position of the ambush, along with 2 tanks. The reaction force fired on the enemy position but no direct contact was established.

The 9 WIAs were evacuated from C-3.

Also at 1750 Company D received 1 round of 82mm mortar fire. No casualties resulted from the incoming round.

At 1240, 1/9 units at the C-2 position received 6 rounds of 140mm rocket fire which did not inflict any friendly casualties. The source of the enemy fire was unknown.

At 1200, Company D received 3 more rounds of 82mm mortar fire.

Company D's and platoon, at YD 134607 observed 6 NVAs, at 1345. Tanks at the C-3 position fired on the enemy position with 90mm rounds and heavy machine gun fire. There were no confirmed results from the mission.

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Again at 1350 the C-2 position received 4 more rounds of 140mm rocket fire. The rounds were observed to come from an azimuth of 5200 mils but the attempted fire mission on the enemy position was given negative clearance.

At 1450, an artillery forward observer with Company D spotted an enemy 82mm mortar position at YD 08126413 and called in and adjusted an artillery mission on the enemy position. 1 secondary explosion was observed as a result of the mission.

At 1720, a truck proceeding south on the road from C-2 was hit by small arms fire at YD 129634. The truck kept going to get out of the killing zone of the ambush. 81mm mortar suppression fire was initiated on the suspected enemy position with unobserved results.

At 1840, C-2 again came under enemy fire receiving 5 rounds of 100mm artillery.

A listening post from Company B, at 2305, observed 2 people proceeding south on the east side of the road at YD 136650. 81mm mortars were fired on the enemy position providing excellent coverage of the target with unknown results.

On 7 May, at 1115, the C-2 position received 12 rounds of 122mm rocket fire from enemy positions at YD 070671. A counter battery mission was fired giving good coverage of the target with unknown results. Later, at 1255, C-2 received 4 rounds of 100mm artillery from an unknown enemy position. Again at 1414, C-2 received 4 more 100mm artillery rounds. None of the incoming resulted in friendly casualties.

At 1415, engineers, working on a reservoir project, received 3 rounds of enemy mortar fire from YD 098599. Friendly mortars, at the District Headquarters position fired on the enemy grid with unknown results.

Three civilian children hearing water buffalo at YD 178587 were wounded by artillery fire. The children were taken to the CAP #3 position for medical assistance. Two were treated and released and the 3rd was treated and evacuated to medical facilities at Dong Ha.

At 2113, an LP from Company B observed 3 people at YD 13366507. 81mm mortars at the C-2 position fired on the enemy grid after which a spot light at C-2 checked out the area with negative results.

On 8 May, Company D received 2 rounds of 82mm mortar fire, at 0950, from an enemy position at YD 107606. A 105mm artillery mission was fired on the enemy position with excellent target coverage.

A patrol from Company B, at 1015, found 1 NVA helmet and 1 personal letter written in Vietnamese. The items were reported and turned into S-2.

At 1045, the C-2 position received 2 rounds of 100mm artillery from an unknown source.

Two more rounds of 100mm artillery were again fired on Company B at C-3. The source of enemy fire was undetermined. Company B received a 3rd round of 100mm

artillery at 1448.

Personnel at the CAP #3 position observed 3 VC at YD 187598. They called in artillery fire resulting in the confirmed killing of 1 VC.

An ambush, from the CAP #1 position, at 1945 received 3 rounds of 60mm mortar fire. The ambush then started the initial ambush site and moved to a new position. At 1745, the C-2 position received 8 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an enemy position, unknown at this time. Friendly units suffered no casualties.

At 2120, the CAP #1 position received 8 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an enemy position at 092599. An artillery mission was fired on this enemy position providing good target coverage.

Friendly units at the C-3 position received 1 round of suspected 82mm mortar fire from an unknown position. No friendly casualties were sustained.

On 10 May, at 0558, 1/9 units at the C-2 position received 5 rounds of 100mm artillery from enemy positions at YD 127808. A counter battery artillery mission was fired on the enemy positions with unknown results. Enemy positions at YD 108648, again at 1205, fired on C-2 employing 2 rounds of 82mm mortar fire against the position. An artillery mission was called in on the enemy position giving good coverage of the target.

At 1920 Company D called in an artillery mission on a suspected enemy mortar site at YD 102602. The mission gave good coverage of the target but results were unknown.

At 1935, VC fired 1 round of 60mm mortar fire into a local village area at YD 110577.

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At 1935, VC fired 1 round of 60mm mortar fire into a local village at YD 110577. CAP #6 dispatched 1 squad to the area. The unit found 4 civilians wounded as a result of the single round. The unit prepared and effected the medical evacuation.

On 11 May, at 1216, Company D sighted 1 enemy soldier in the same area of an earlier suspected enemy mortar position. An artillery mission of 26 rounds of RM was fired, excellently covering the enemy position at YD 08726043. Company d, again fired a second mission in the same area at 1835. No confirmed results were obtained from either mission.

At 2220, the C-2 position received 1 round of 100mm artillery from an unknown enemy position. The round did not result in any damage or casualties.

At 0025, a listening post from Company M 3/3, at the C-5 position, observed 2 persons kneeling along the side of the road at YD 125646. Upon firing 13 rounds of artillery illumination and 3 rounds of 81mm mortar HE. The 2 persons ran from the area. A check of the area at first light yield negative results.

At 1400, a cow set off a mine on the road at YD 117590. In view of the possibility of other mines in the road, the road was closed to all traffic until a road sweep was completed. The road sweep was conducted and no further signs of enemy activity were found.

At approximately 2440, an ambush from Company K 3/3, at C-2, on route to its ambush site spotted 6 to 8 enemy troops at YD 129635. The point opened fire and the ambush started its return to the perimeter. The unit spotted 3 to 6 more enemy troops at YD 130637 and initiated small arms fire and machine gun fire on the enemy. The ambush then returned to the perimeter and 60mm mortar fire was employed against the enemy position and a search light was used to observe the area. No sightings were made. At 2630, Company K 3/3 deployed a squad to proceed to the area of the earlier contact to search for enemy troops. This squad went to the area, conducted a search with negative results, and returned to the perimeter.

On the evening of the 13th of May at 1830, Companies Bravo and Delta plus 1 Command Group left J-3 grid YD 143614. Approximately 20 minutes later Companies Bravo and Delta with Command Group disembarked from vehicles at YD C91579 and assumed a defensive position at above grid.

Early the following morning at 0215, the 2 Companies and Command Group moved under cover of darkness to YD 101595 and were in position at 0315. Bravo Company spearheaded the move across the river at 1000. The opposite side was secured at 1030.

During this time period, 1 tank, two Jack Ramo Rabble and a company from 1st Bn, 9th Marines arrived at YD 105594. They made liaison with Command Group at 1020. Shortly after Company A arrived, one casualty was medevaced by vehicle.

When both Bravo and Delta Companies moved out toward their objective, HILL 52, they started to receive mortar fire from YD 103637, 091611, and 091539. An artillery mission was called in but after 20 rounds had been expended, Garlen Valley was hit in a chain fire by friends. Enemy contact was made at YD 091539 by Delta Company as light mortar fire and 60mm mortar fire and 81mm mortar fire were thrown. While small arms contact was going on, the enemy employed successive use of 60mm mortars. Two flame tanks were deployed to help Delta Company in their contact. Company D also reported at 1440 that there was a 60mm mortar tube close enough for effective M-79 fire. The flame tanks were utilized and the 60mm mortar position was occupied. The flame tanks were destroyed at 1425 and fired 11 rounds 90mm mortar at enemy troops and positions. During this time, enemy was estimated to be between a platoon and a company, using 120mm mortar fire plus his 60mm mortars.

After enemy contact was broken, the enemy was estimated to have the following gear: AK47's, Chicom-grenades, 60mm mortars, and communications with a 120mm or a 82mm mortar position.

While counter battery-fire and air strikes were being utilized, Alpha Company and the Command Group received approximately 20 rounds of 60mm mortar fire resulting in 6 WIA's, 4 of which were medivaced. Bravo Company reported 3 WIA's medivaced and 1 WIA non-serious from incoming mortars.

Fixed wing on station at 1452 with 500 pound "Snake Eye" bombs.

In late afternoon heavy rains hampered movement so much that both Bravo and Delta Companies were brought to almost a complete halt. This difficulty and the possibility that the Song Cam Lo fording position YD 102596 might flood, forced the Battalion Commander to call back both companies and the tanks. Both companies and the tanks were on the south side of the river at 1730.

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The Battalion (-) then assumed the defensive position and prepared for the night. Total enemy confirmed killed was 9, and the total friendly WIA's for this period was 10.

On the morning of the 15th at 0735, lead elements of Bravo went across the river and prepared to go into the attack. While this was taking place the tanks were firing preparation fires on Hill 52 at YD 092599. The tanks drew a few rounds of AK-47 and some M-79 fire.

While Delta was to move out in trace of Bravo they discovered they were missing 1 copman who was seen earlier that morning. This person was found by ARVN personnel and turned over to 1/9 personnel at YD 143614.

While the rear elements of Bravo were moving across the river, 3 flights of fixed wing were run on Hill 52 and the surrounding area. Bravo Company was across the river at 0912. Delta Company then prepared to follow but was detained by a heavy volume of rocket and mortar fire impacting at YD 096593. Rockets were believed to have come from YD 070636 on the back side of Hill 62 and mortar fire was believed to have come from YD 075625 on the side of Hill 100. Artillery was called with a zone and sweep which expended approximately 200 rounds. Artillery then fired smoke to cover Delta crossing YD 092599 and surrounding area. A total of 9 flights of fixed wing were run on Hill 52 and surrounding area. An AO spotted two confirmed KPAs and approximately 20 more enemy were seen running in the open. Napalm and smoke were dropped but there was no battle damage assessment. While air was off station, an AO called in artillery missions on YD 092599. The AO also sighted enemy along the ridge line starting at YD 1060 and running to the west for approximately 100 to 200 meters. Two more air strikes were called in, but no battle damage assessment was reported.

Delta Company was across the river and starting into the attack/sweep phase at 1258.

Bravo sent 1 platoon forward at 1338. on the sweep Delta had 1 man trip an anti-personnel mine at YD 100600. There were 2 other men injured by the explosion but they were not medivaced. The man who tripped the mine died after he was medivaced. Delta Company suffered 4 heat casualties. The sweep showed no signs of enemy bodies or gear in the area.

Due to the heavy vegetation and hard maneuverability, a different night position was requested by the Battalion Commander. Permission was granted and the Command Group moved to the other side of the river with 4 tanks. Alpha Company remained on the south side of the Song Cam Lo river. At 1735, the Command Group set up their night defense with Bravo Company at YD 098600, Delta Company at YD 098600, Delta Company at YD 097599 and the Command Group at YD 097599.

On the morning of the 16th, Delta Company moved out at 0400. The Command Group and Bravo Company moved out at 0531. Delta Company secured Hill 46 and then moved to assist Bravo Company in securing objective 1 at YD 115613. Movement to objective was covered by extensive use of artillery smoke rounds. At 0805 objective #1 was secured. The companies then placed men in strategic positions to watch for enemy movement. When objective 1 was secured Alpha Company was ordered to move with the tanks to C-3 location at YD 143614. While Alpha Company was preparing for the move they received mortar fire from an unknown location. Alpha Company suffered 2 casualties from this fire. Alpha Company moved back to C-3 without further incidents. Companies Bravo and Delta plus the Command Group moved back to C-3 located at YD 143614 at 1615 on the 16th of May.

On the 15th of May at 1513 Alpha Company found 1 person wandering along the river. A squad and S-2 scout were sent to bring him in. The individual was sent to Regimental S-2 for interrogation.

On 17 May, at 0045, a unit of Popular Forces, operating out of the Cam Lo District Headquarters area, made contact with an estimated 2 platoons of NV. There was a brief exchange of small arms fire resulting in 1 NV KIA confirmed and 1 PF WIA medvac. The exchange occurred at grid YD 105560. Following the small arms fire the PF broke contact and called in 81mm and 60mm mortar fire on the enemy position. The results of the mission were unknown.

At 0800, the road sweep security from Company K 3/3 found 1 bunker, constructed with logs at grid YD 129625. from this bunker was afforded good fields of observation of the C-2 position. The bunker was destroyed with entrenching tools.

At 1247, the C-3 position received 4 rounds of 240mm mortar Artillery from an enemy position at YD 125630. A counter battery artillery mission of 78 rounds was fired on the enemy position with good coverage of the target area. The incoming rounds resulted in 2 friendly WIA's: 1 serious medivac and 1 non serious. At 2040, a listening post from Company 1 sighted 1 person running toward the road, at YD 149614. One hand illumination and 2 rounds of 60mm mortar illumination were fired but no further sightings were made.

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On 18 May, at 1208 a patrol from Company B at the C-2 position, found 1 Chinese Communist concussion type hand grenade at grid YD 153638. The grenade was turned into S-2.

At 1830, personnel, from Company D, heard a possible 120mm mortar firing from a previously suspected enemy position, at grid 082605. Twenty-three rounds of artillery were fired on the enemy position, covering the target area well. After the mission, the enemy mortars could no longer be heard firing. There were no other significant occurrences for the remainder of 18 May.

On 19 May, at 1030, personnel from Company D manning the observation tower at the C-2 position spotted 1 enemy personnel enter a bunker at grid YD 082625. An artillery mission of 5 rounds of HE, 2 rounds of WM, and 8 rounds of firecracker ammunition was fired on the enemy position, excellently covering the target.

At 2100, as requested by a forward observer from Company D, 2 rounds of artillery illumination were fired over a suspected enemy position at grid YD 082606. The area was then checked out with the use of a night observation device, the results of which were negative.

On 20 May, at 0935, a squad on patrol from Company D picked up and detained 1 indigenous male personnel, approximately 32-34 years of age. The suspect had no identification papers. The suspect was returned to the C-3 position for interrogation and later released as an innocent civilian.

At 1700, an AO controlled by 1/9 spotted 2 areas with heavily used trails indicative of enemy positions. The 2 areas were at grids YD 071606 and YD 082613. At 1800, Company B adjusted an artillery mission of 20 rounds on grid YD 071606, providing good coverage of the target area. Again, at 2045, Company D adjusted a second artillery mission, this time on grid YD 082613. 18 rounds of 105mm artillery HE were fired giving excellent coverage of the target area.

On 21 May, at 0925, a squad patrol from Company D found 2 bunkers. Both were located at grid YD 133603, one being made of concrete and hidden in a haystack; the second made of logs. Both were searched with negative results and the patrol continued. There were no other significant events on 21 May.

On 22 May, at 1100, observation post #1, at the C-3 position, manned by personnel from Company D, observed 1 enemy troop at grid YD 082604. A 105mm artillery mission of HE rounds provided excellent coverage of the target.

At 1400, 1/9 was instructed to move with the Alpha Command Group and 3 companies to an area around FBU 02 at grid YD 143691, with the reporting distance of elements of 1/9 being 1/9, minus the Bravo Command Group, Company C and units of company H&S, began its movement via convey. By 1600, all were dismounted in an area at grid 143697 from which the Battalion deployed toward its objective. 1/9 reached the objective area at approximately 1830 and began positioning its units to effect a tactical blocking force. By 2030 all units were in position. Company D extended from YD 141691 to 145691. Company A extended from YD 134696 to YD 137693. Company B extended from YD 134691 to 141691. The Alpha Command Group was located at 137690. 1/9 remained in positions prepared for the remainder of 22 May.

Acting on information from 9th Marines as to enemy positions, 1/9 shifted the positions of its blocking force to better accomplish its given mission. By 1000, on 23 May, all units were in a new position. Company B was located from YD 139691 to 137689. Company D was located from YD 145696 to 143691. Company A was located from 143691 to 139691. The Command Group was in position at YD 143691.

At 1050, a Marine from Company B, tripped a booby trap wire about waist high, and was located on a trail running behind Company B's position. The Marine was medically evacuated by helicopter at 1135.

At 1100, an AO controlled by friendly units in the area, reported observing 40 NVA, in the open, moving southerly at YD 135705. Air and artillery strikes on the enemy position resulted in 40 KIA enemy confirmed after which, the AO reported that there were remaining enemy troops, still moving south, directly toward the position. Company B in particular. All units were notified and, at 1230, Company B went on a Red Alert Status. At 1530, 1/9 received word from 9th Marines to be prepared to move at any time on order.

At 1600, 2 CH-54 Helicopters resupplied the units in the field with food and supplies. At 2000, 9th Marines Regimental Commander arrived by CH-54 Helicopter, at the Alpha Command Group position, conferred with the 1/9 Battalion Commander for 20 minutes, and then departed. 1/9 was instructed to remain in their present positions on the hours of darkness and prepare to move in the following morning.

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At 0630, on 24 May, Company D began its movement to a newly assigned Battalion objective, Hill 45 at grid YD 154664. At 0940, Company D was at phase line Blue at grid YD 154664. Company B departed its position to join Company D.

At 1415, Companies D and B commenced their movement toward the objective and at 1500, had secured it.

At 1500, the Command Group and Company A, prepared to move out and both had departed their respective positions on route toward the objective. By 1905, all units were on Hill 45 at YD 154664 and were establishing defensive positions. All units were in position and the night passed without incident.

At 0900, May 25, all units in the field, located at grid YD 154664 (Hill 45), began movement back to the C-2, C-3 positions. Movement back had been on convoy with vehicles on the road at approximate grid YD 133651. The first troops mounted the trucks and began transportation back to the C-3 position at 1400. All units were returned to their previous locations at C-2 and C-3.

On 26 May, 1/9 was directed to move with 3 companies and the Alpha Command Group to Camp Big John at YD 279666. 1/9 began movement with Companies B, C, and D, by helicopter, at 1315. The lift was completed at 1530. Once at Camp Big John, 1/9 set up defensive positions in which they remained for the remainder of 26 May.

On 27 May at 1100, 1/9 gave operational control of Company C, 1 platoon of Company B, and the 81mm Mortar section to 2/4, at Camp Big John, to remain there for support.

The Command Group, 2 platoons of Company B and Company D began movement from Camp Big John at 1215. At 1530, Company D made contact with an estimated NVA Company in bunkers at YD 248667. At this time Company D received 12 rounds of a undetermined size artillery. While still engaged with the enemy, Company D along with Company B were placed under operational control of 3/3. This occurred at 1800.

The Command Group set in a night time defensive position at grid YD 249664 and remained there for the duration of 28 May.

On 28 May, at 1700, The Command Group departed their position at grid YD 249664, by helicopter, destined for Dong Ha in the general area of YD 2460. There were no significant incidents on 28 May.

At 1430, on May 29, the Alpha Command Group and Company C with 2 platoons arrived at the C-3 position. One platoon from Company C was positioned at C-3A. At 2330, Company Cs 1st platoon, at C-3A received 40 rounds of small arms and M-79 fire from enemy positions at grid YD 146606. The platoon returned fire with small arms and M-79 fire with unknown results. No further rounds were received by the platoon.

On 30 May, at 1715, the Alpha Command Group and 81mm Mortar section were heli-lifted from the C-3 position to Camp Big John. The lift was completed at 1730. Upon arrival, the Command Group reestablished operational control of Company D. At this time Command Group A, Company D and the 81mm Mortar section went under operational control of the 3rd Marine Division. The units spent the remainder of 30 May in the Camp Big John perimeter at grid YD 279666.

On 31 May, the Command Group, Company D and 81mm Mortar section departed Camp Big John at 1015. The objective of the move was Chi Ha at grid YD 270706, where they arrived at 1115. At 1730 the units departed Chi Ha and returned to Camp Big John, at which they spent the remainder of 31 May.

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PART III
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

FME Organizations committed to combat and the SPT.

A. Combat Mission Assigned: During the month of May, 1/9 was under the Operational Control of the 9th Marines Regiment and participated in Operation Kentucky throughout the month. Said operation consisted of providing the defense of the C-2 C-3, C-3 Bridge, Cam Lo District Headquarters, and to maintain security of Route #9 and #561 in AO. Additional missions were to provide infiltration of WVA, the destruction of harboring sites, and the capturing of caches. During the latter part of the month, Rice-denial operations were conducted in order to protect the rice-crops in the Cam Lo area from falling into WVA/VC hands. The Battalion participated intermittently in operation Napoleon/Saline during the latter part of the month in which, at different times, up to three companies were under operational control of the 3d Marines or the 9th Marines.

B. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy (by operations):

NVA/VC KIA	41
NVA/VC POW	15

C. Casualties Sustained:

USMC KIA	2	USN KIA	0
WIA	115	WIA	0
MIA	0	MIA	0

D. New Techniques Employed: None

E. Command Relations: Units changed to operational control of 3rd, 4th, and 9th Marines during period.

F. Equipment: Motor Transport:

1. Organizational Data:

- (a) Location: Dong Ha, Camp CARROLL, and the Rockpile WFO
- (b) Period Covered: 10 May to 10 June 1968
- (c) Officers and Staff: 2/Lt J.T. CLARK MTD, Gy/ SGT W.E. LIVING MTD
- (d) Average Monthly Strength: 23 Enlisted, 10 Officer

2. General Concept of Operations:

- (a) Organic motor transport at Dong Ha has been primarily engaged in resupply, administrative, and message runs during the period covered by this report.

3. Significant Frontiers:

- (a) Twenty new M-15s have greatly helped our support capability
- (b) Motor transport forward has been moved from C-5 to Camp CARROLL and the Rockpile. A maintenance tent and dispatch officer has been set up at the Rockpile to better support the Battalion.

G. Logistics: Logistic functions during the month of May centered around maintaining of a 10 day supply of classes I, III, IV, and V at the Battalion positions of B-2 and C-3. During the latter quarter of the month the Battalion moved to the field, and water again became a significant problem. As was mentioned in the April Command Chronology water resupply with 5 gallon expeditionary cans was not adequate. We again stress that the 250 gallon blivitts and 6 gallon disposable plastic containers should be made available to all infantry units.

H. Civic Action: Civic Action projects for the month of May consisted of the following:

1. The Marines at the C-3 position contributed C-rations and wood, which were turned over to the Chaplain for distribution among the people of the Cam Lo Refugee Village.
2. S-5 met with District Advisor and District Tai Uy to establish a location for a trash dump where by the villagers could have free access.
3. A price list was established and agreed upon by the Cam Thai District Chief and District Advisor for the Cam Thai concessions.

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FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
060001 May 68	062400 May 68

TIME		SERIAL NO.	DATE TIME GROUP	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN	
IN	OUT				M-Maps S-Staff	T-Troops F-File
0458	0500	2	060500	GV/IP	Sit Report # 55	SF
	1050	3	060745	GV/IP	Spot Report # 1	SF
	1108	5	061130	GV/IP	Sit Report # 56	SF
	1145	6	061115	GV/IP	Spot Report # 2	SF
	1320	7	061130	GV/IP	Shell Report # 1	SF
	1325	8	061130	GV/IP	Spot Report # 3	SF
	1333	9	061315	GV/IP	Spot Report # 4	SF
	1334	10	061318	GV/IP	Shell Report # 2	SF
1350		11	061350	GV/IP	Intelligence Report	SF
	1145	12	061130	GV/IP	Spot Report # 5	SF
	1553	16	061130	GV/IP	Mortar Report # 3	SF
	1556	17	061150	GV/IP	Spot Report # 6	SF
	1557	18	061130	GV/IP	Mortar Report # 4	SF
	1558	19	061130	GV/IP	Spot Report # 7	SF
	1559	20	061330	GV/IP	Mortar Report # 5	SF
	1600	21	061330	GV/IP	Spot Report # 8	SF
	1601	22	061345	GV/IP	Spot Report # 9	SF
	1602	23	061450	GV/IP	Spot Report # 10	SF
	1603	24	061240	GV/IP	Shell Report # 6	SF
	1604	25	061240	GV/IP	Spot Report # 11	SF
	1700	26	061700	GV/IP	Sit Report # 57	SF
	1900	27	061720	GV/IP	Spot Report # 12 (F)	SF
	1903	28	061730	GV/IP	Shell Report # 7	SF
	1906	29	061840	GV/IP	Spot Report # 13	SF
	2106	31	061730	GV/IP	Spot Report # 14	SF
	JAM		062230	NOT SENT	Shell Report	NOT FILED
	JAM		062230	NOT SENT	Spot Report	NOT FILED
	2305	33	062300	GV/IP	Sit Report # 58	SF
	2400	34	062305	GV/IP	Spot Report # 15 (I)	SF
	2400	35	062320	GV/IP	Spot Report # 16 (I)	SF

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IN	OUT				M-Maps S-Staff	T-Troops F-File
	0456	1	090500	GV/DP	Sit Report # 67	SP
	1120	3	091100	GV/DP	Sit Report # 68	SP
1400		8	091400	GV/DP	Intelligence Report	SP
1745		11	091745	GV/DP	Spot Report # 1	SP
1745		12	091745	GV/DP	Shell Report # 1	SP
	2150	14	091430	GV/DP	Spot Report # 2	SP
	2155	15	091035	GV/DP	Spot Report # 3	SP
	2310	18	092310	GV/DP	Shell Report # 2 (092230)	SP
	2320	19	092330	GV/DP	Spot Report # 4	SP
	2345	20	092300	GV/DP	Sit Report # 70	SP
	0025	22	091745	GV/DP	Spot Report # 5	SP
	0030	23	092120	GV/DP	Spot Report # 6	SP
2337		24	092337	GV/DP	Intelligence Report	SP
2356		25	092356	GV/DP	Intelligence Report	SP

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100001 May 1968	102100 May 1968

TIME		SERIAL NO.	DATE TIME GROUP	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN M-Maps T-Troops S-Staff F-File
IN	OUT				
	0448	1	100500	GV/IP Sit Report # 71	SF
0558		2	100558	GV/IP Spot Report # 1	SF
0558		3	100540	GV/IP Shell Report # 1	SF
	0900	4	100430	GV/IP Spot Report # 2	SF
	0950	5	100940	GV/IP Spot Report # 3	SF
0855		6	100855	GV/IP Spot Report # 4	SF
	1005	7	101000	GV/IP Spot Report # 5	SF
	1117	8	101100	GV/IP Sit Report # 72	SF
1249		10	101205	GV/IP Spot Report # 6	SF
1251		11	101205	GV/IP Shell Report # 2	SF
	1755	12	101700	GV/IP Sit Report # 73	SF
1755		13	101530	GV/IP Intelligence Report	SF
1924		16	101920	GV/IP Spot Report # 7	SF
	2111	17	102045	GV/IP Spot Report # 8	SF
	2128	18	102115	GV/IP Spot Report # 9	SF
	2156	19	102150	GV/IP Spot Report # 10	SF
	2241	20	102235	GV/IP Spot Report # 11	SF
	2245	21	101935	GV/IP Spot Report # 12	SF
	2302	22	102300	GV/IP Sit Report # 74	SF
	0023	23	101950	GV/IP Spot Report # 13	SF
Late Entry		24	101059	GV/IP Intelligence Report	SF

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TIME		SERIAL NO.	DATE TIME GROUP	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN	
IN	OUT				M-Maps S-Staff	T-Troops F-File
0500	0515	1	140500	GV/DP	Sit Report # 87	SF
	comment		140725	GV/DP	Elements of Mike 3/4 are at C-3A	SF
1045	1114	3	141030	GV/DP	Spot Report # 1	SF
	1150	5	141135	GV/DP	Spot Report # 2	SF
	1223	6	141100	GV/DP	Sit Report # 88	SF
	1332	7	141315	GV/DP	Shell Report # 1	SF
	1430	8	141230	GV/DP	MES R to DP add to Frag Order 13-14	SF
1450	1500	9	141445	GV/DP	Spot Report # 2	SF
	1624	10	141130	GV/DP	Spot Report # 3	SF
	1539	11	141505	GV/DP	Spot Report # 4	SF
	1625	12	141606	GV/DP	Spot report # 5	SF
	1826	13	141700	GV/DP	Sit Report # 89	SF
1815		14	141815	GV/DP	MSG DP10 change of Freq	SF
1840	1945	16	141840	GV/DP	Intelligence Report # 1	SF
	2052	18	142052	GV/DP	Intelligence Report to GV FWD	SF
2020	2150	19	142000	GV/DP	Spot Report # 6	SF
	2253	20	142300	GV/DP	Sit Report # 90	SF

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