

3D MAR DIV S&C FILE
BT#493168

HEADQUARTERS

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

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3/AP/rjb
005750
10 August 1968

From: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines

To : Commandant for the Marine Corps (Code AO 30)

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 1-31 July 1968

Ref : (a) FOO 5750.24
(b) FMFPacC 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1A

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

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

2. The security classification of this document is downgraded at three (3) year intervals and declassified after twelve (12) years.

Francis X. Colliton
FRANCIS X. COLLITON

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
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1ST BN/9TH MAR

CMD CHRON

JULY 1968

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 - 31 JULY 1968

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INDEX

PART I.....	ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
PART II.....	NARRATIVE SUMMARY
PART III.....	SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
PART IV.....	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
✓ TAB-A-	JOURNAL
✓ TAB-B-	A/ARPT(OPN LANCASTER II)

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

H&S Company

Company "A"

Company "B"

Company "C"

SECRET

Company "D"

1. DESIGNATION

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

H&S Company

Company "A"

Company "B"

Company "C"

COMMANDERS

Lt Col M.V. PALATAS
1 - 14 July 1968
Lt Col Francis E. COLLETON
15 - 31 July 1968

1/Lt M.J. WALKER
1 July 1968
1/Lt H.L. LAMBEKA
2 - 31 July 1968

1/Lt H.L. LAMBEKA
1 July 1968
Capt. J.S. SIROTHIAK
2 - 31 July 1968

Capt. J.P. WILLIAMS
1 - 20 July 1968
1/Lt S.E. STACY
21 - 31 July 1968

Capt. R.H. FLAGLER
1 - 15 July 1968
1/Lt K.L. HARMON
16 - 31 July 1968

Capt. F. BRADLEY
1 - 31 July 1968

COMMANDERS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET~~
COLLETON

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1/Lt M.J. WALKER
1 July 1968
1/Lt H.L. LAMBEKA
2 - 31 July 1968

1/Lt H.L. LAMBEKA
1 July 1968
Capt. J.S. SIROTHIAK
2 - 31 July 1968

Capt. J.P. WILLIAMS
1 - 20 July 1968
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
21 - 31 July 1968

ENCLOSURE (1)
Capt. R.H. FLAGLER

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2. LOCATION: From 1 - 6 July 1968, the Battalion CP was located at CAMP CARROLL and the elements of the Battalion were located at THON SON LAM, KHE GIO BRIDGE, along Route #9 and D-5, (area southwest of CAM LO and in the CUA VALLEY vic. YD 095530).

From 7 - 12 July 1968, 1/9 was employed in support of operations in the northern ICTZ. At 121330H July 68, the Battalion arrived at QUAT XA area (YD 094596) and remained there until 16 July 68.

On 161515H July 68, the Battalion moved to an assembly area outside of the Forward Operating Base at C-2 (YD 123646).

On 180735H July 68, the Battalion commenced movement from YD 124654 to YD 051642 and remained in this area until 24 July 68, participating in a multi-regimental operation in the MUTTERS RIDGE area.

At 240720H July 68, lead elements of 1/9 were helilifted to LZ STUD (YD 002483). The helilift was completed by 241015H July 68. The Battalion remained in positions at LZ STUD and CA LU under the OPCON of 4th Marine Regiment for the remainder of July with the mission of perimeter defense and area security.

3. STAFF OR DINES

Executive Officer

Major W.W. DINEGAR
1 - 31 July 1968

S-1

1/Lt P.A. WCOG
1 - 20 July 1968
1/Lt W.M. PELTO
21 - 31 July 1968

S-2

1/Lt R.J. ARBOLEDA
1 - 22 July 1968
1/Lt G.M. COSTELLO
23 - 31 July 1968

S-3

Major A. FERNANDEZ
1 - 31 July 1968

S-4

2/Lt F.B. LOVELY Jr.
1 - 31 July 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH:

USMC

DEF

Off
31

Enl
1064

Off
2

Enl
55

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 1 July, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was the infantry battalion charged with the mission of base perimeter defense of CAMP CARROLL, THON SON LAM, and security of Route #9 in the assigned area of operations. Company B was located in the D-5 area southeast of CAMP CARROLL. At 0630, a patrol from Company B, while checking where an ambush had made contact the previous night, spotted two enemy in the bushes. The two enemy tried to escape and the patrol took them under small arms fire. The contact resulted in wounding one VC, who became a POW, and capturing assorted gear. Between 0700 and 0800, a platoon from Company D observed 20x82mm impacting on civilians at YD 093578. A total of 4 civilians were injured, but none were serious. An 81mm mortar mission was called on the suspected enemy sites at YD 098598 and YD 985497, with unknown results. A patrol from Company B at YD 117524 received approximately 15 rounds of automatic weapons fire. The patrol took cover and called in an 81mm mortar mission. After the fire mission, the patrol swept the area with negative results. At 1730, another patrol from Company B, took 3 VC under fire at YD 019513. The contact resulted in 1 VC KIA and the following gear: 20 lbs of rice, 1 flashlight, mess gear, undetermined amount of North Vietnamese currency and unidentifiable papers, the papers and currency were turned over to S-2 reps.

On the 2nd of July, a patrol from Company B discovered 7 bunkers under construction and 20 fighting holes at YD 107516. Bunkers and holes were destroyed by engineers. On the evening of the 2nd, Company C, received 2x60mm mortar fire from YD 005584. A 105mm arty mission was called in with good target coverage. The position was later subjected to H&I and one TOT. At 2200, Company A, at the ROCK PILE, received 10 rounds of small arms fire and one ChiCom grenade in the defensive lines. Small arms fire and M-79 fire was returned.

On the 3d, at 0630, Company A, sent out a patrol to check out the area. The patrol found unspent 7.62 mm and 5.56mm rounds, 3 30 round belts of M-60 ammo, U.S. canteen and belt, 1 claymore, shell fragments and torn utilities, 1 trip flare with wire cut, 3 60mm mortar rounds and 1 mortar round of unknown caliber in water. Between the times of 0930 and 0945, the perimeter of CAMP CARROLL received 6x5mm pack Howitzer from an unknown enemy position. Counter-battery suppressive fire commenced immediately. The incoming rounds accounted for one serious Medevac. At 1126, Company D, observed automatic weapons firing at helicopters from YD 046565. Co D FO called in 105mm arty mission of 2 WP and 34 HE rounds with excellent coverage.

At grid YD 995560, at 1315 on the 5th, a truck proceeding along Route #9, received 3 to 5 rounds of small arms fire from approximately 20 feet away. The enemy personnel were observed running away from the ambush site. The assistant driver returned small arms fire. The truck continued on its way. A fire mission consisting of 2 WP and 6 HE 105mm rounds was fired in the direction of the fleeing enemy. At 1700, an AO on station, confirmed 2 enemy KIA.

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At approximately 0900 on the 7th of July, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines (-) departed CAMP CARROLL by helicopter and proceeded to YD 135685. At 0930, the helicopter lift was completed and the Battalion was on the move to their first objective. Company B, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, the lead company, found 3 RPG rounds at YD 133694. The rounds were blown in place by engineers. Company C found at YD 147704, a bunker complex of 4 bunkers with measurements of 10'x5'x5'. These bunkers were made of dirt and logs. Of the 4 bunkers, one contained an explosive device. They were destroyed by engineers. During the daylight hours of the 7th, elements of the Battalion found one mortar pit, 3 ChiComs, 4 bunkers 4'x6'x4' made of bamboo and dirt. In addition, 2 bunkers 5'x8'x7' containing explosive devices made of LAWS attached to ChiComs were blown in place. The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, moved into their night-time position at approximately 2355 on the 7th of July, with Company A located at YD 148702, Company B at YD 140708, Company C at YD 148702, and the CP at YD 148703. At approximately 1947, at YD 144698, a listening post from Company C spotted 8 indigenous personnel hiding in bushes. The LP initiated fire with M-79 and small arms. The figures pulled back. At 2120, at YD 147705, another listening post from Company C, utilizing the starlight scope, spotted two enemy. When the enemy moved within 40 meters, the listening post initiated fire. Results were unknown. At approximately 2230, a listening post at YD 144698, spotted 1 person. The listening post, with sniper-scope, fired one round. The figure fell to the ground. However, the area was checked in the morning with negative results.

At 0400, 8 July, at YD 147705, while in a defensive perimeter, 2nd Platoon Company C reported movement in front of the lines. A warning shot was fired but movement continued. A second round was fired in the direction of the movement resulting in one friendly NRC. The Marine was medevaced that morning. At approximately 0930, on the 8th, 1/9(-) commenced extensive saturation patrolling in the area around Objective C, vic of YD 148709. The patrols discovered 47 bunkers, 341x82mm mortar rounds, 1x82mm mortar tube (destroyed), 10x82mm boosters, 20x60mm rounds, 225x82mm mortar fuzes, and 1 .50 cal. AA barrel (destroyed), 40 ChiComs and 3500 AK-47 small arms rounds.

On 9 July, saturation patrolling continued. During the day, approximately 33 bunkers were found and destroyed around area of Obj C (YD 148709). Among the equipment found was 6,000 rds AK-47 ammunition, 500 lbs of rice, 2 ChiCom mines, and various documents.

On 10 July, Companies A & B commenced movement to Obj A (YD 133724). At approximately 1230 Company B crossed PL Blue, at YD 0133714 and was followed by Company A at 1300. By 1330 Company B was in the assault position at YD 130718.

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At 1457 Company B jumped off in the attack and secured Objective A by 1522. Various equipment found at Obj A was destroyed. The tanks attached to Co B fired 1 90mm cannister resulting in 1 NVA casualty.

At 0840 on the 11th, Co B moved out in conjunction with 3/9 to secure Obj B (YD 15736). The objective was secured at 1235.

On the 12th of July, the Battalion moved by foot to YD 139698 to be motorized out of area to a new location to prepare for a forth-coming operation.

At 1530, 13 July Co C, at YD 102602, vicinity of THON XUAT XA, found 2 bunkers in a destroyed village area, the bunkers 5'x6'x3', reinforced by logs, covered by dirt, 4-5 months old, were destroyed. A mortar pit 8'x4', in addition was destroyed.

No significant events on 14 July.

No significant events on 15 July.

No significant events on 16 July.

On 16 July Companies A and B departed their positions at CAM LO RIVER, at 1515, and boarded trucks at YD 074570, on Route 49, for transportation to assembly area outside of C-2. The companies arrived at the assembly area at approximately 1630 and set in. CP and Company C departed CAM LO RIVER position at 1520 and arrived at the assembly area by 1740. Company D arrived at the assembly area by 1915. All companies and CP were set in at the following positions "A"-YD 123656, "B"-YD 122652, "C"-YD 126653, "D"-YD 127658, & CP- YD 124654. Night Acts were initiated.

On 17 July 1/9 departed the assembly area at 0630 with attachments of five tanks and 10 APC's (ARVN). At 1115, the battalion arrived at the assigned blocking position. The companies and the CP were set in as follows: "A"- YD 087650, "B"- YD 090655, "C"- YD 097651, "D"- YD 090645 (with one platoon at YD 085648), and CP YD 096653. Twenty-four casualties were medevaced during the day by helicopter and APC's.

At 1440 Co B received approximately eleven rounds of 240mm mortar fire from a suspected position at YD 075674. Counter battery 21mm was initiated on the suspected enemy grid. An AQ was called to scan the area for active tubes. Helicopters were called in and casualties were evacuated. Friendly casualties incurred were 2 KIA, 8 MIA's (3 emergency, 4 routine, and one non-medevac).

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At 1420, Co A took four rds of 82mm at their position from suspected enemy grid of YD 074676. 81mm mission was called in on suspected enemy grid. A medevac helicopter was summoned for casualty evacuation. Casualties incurred were six WIA, (2 emergency, 2 priority, 1 routine and 1 non-medevac).

At 1722, Co B took three rds of 82mm mortar fire from suspected enemy grid of 069678, suffering 3 KIA and 8 WIA. Arty and 81mm missions were called in on suspected grid. A medevac helicopter was called in for casualties (emergency and routine). Co B was moved to a new position at YD 092653. All fire missions called had unknown results. Total casualties incurred for 17 July were 5 KIA, 22 WIA, (20 medevac, 2 non-medevacs). NPC medevacs came to a total of 20; a total of 42 medevacs for 17 July 68. Enemy equipment & installations destroyed consisted of: 13 spider holes, with covers - 5'x8'; two large bunkers - 8'x10'x6'; 100x60mm rds; 75x82mm rds with 200 fuzes. Three graves; and one body which was 6 months old were found; the body appeared to be from the 21st NVA Bn.

18 July, at 0930, Co A reported two suspected NVA in tree line at YD 073647. Fire mission was called in but not fired due to negative clearance from the 2nd Bn, 9th Marines.

At 1820, Co B spotted 1 NVA moving Westward at YD 105661. The NVA moved into a hole or bunker. An arty mission was called in with unknown results.

S-2 turned in a destroyed enemy gear list which reported finding and destroying 170x82mm rds, 201x60mm rds, 124 ChiCom grenades, 60 fuzes for both 60mm and 82mm rds, 10 RPD drum magazines, 15 cans of increments for 60mm, 6 cans of increments for 82mm rds, 9 claymores, 2 RPG-2 rds, 12 AK-47 magazine w/rds, 1000 AK-47 rds, 4 spring loaded trip devices, and 4 blasting caps.

On 19 July, at 1100, Co C patrol called in a arty mission on suspected enemy bunker complex at YD 108666 with unknown results. At 1940 the 81 Platoon found a gravesite of one NVA at YD 097652. A grave marker stated body was from the 3rd Co of the 21st NVA Bn. The body appeared to be 3 to 6 months old.

On 20 July, Co A took 15 rds 82mm from YD 082628. Counter-battery artillery mission commenced and an AQ was called for. Co A incurred 1 KIA (KCS), 1 WIA (KCS), and 1 WIA (USMC). At 1800, Co B found 15 bunkers, 1 cookshack, 1 ChiCom rifle grenade w/adaptor, picks & shovels, 1 tunnel 15 ft. long with no recent use apparent. The tunnel had the date of 28 Jan 68 inside. Equipment found consisted of one gas mask, first aid pack (NVA type), and 2 ChiComs with carrier. All gear was turned into S-2.

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28 July no significant events.

At 0930, 29 July, the Company D Forward Observer spotted 3 vehicles (armor type) at YD 894527. FO4 called in a fire mission with unknown results. At 2145, Co C, 2nd Plt, heard movement at YD 992495 and YD 997497. Two people were sighted at each grid. The sightings were by NOD and the suspect enemy movement was fired at with small arms, M-79's, and 60mm. The movement stopped. At 2230 a trip flare in front of Co D's lines at YD 979480 was ignited and movement was heard in the area. M-79's were fired into the area plus 60mm, 81mm HE, and 81mm illumination. The results were unknown.

At 1700 on 30 July 68, a Co A patrol spotted one NVA at YD 010434. An arty mission was initiated with good coverage of target.

At 0145, on 31 July 68, a Co C LP spotted 1 NVA at YD 992489. The NVA appeared to be preparing to throw a grenade at Co C's LP. The LP opened fire with unknown results and negative findings. At 2147, Co D, 3d Plt at YD 979476 heard what seemed to be digging. They fired 4 rds 60mm HE with good coverage of target. The digging ceased.

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At 1035, on 21 July, Co A spotted 7 enemy in a bunker complex at YD 055625 and called in arty mission and called for an AC. AC reported several bunkers destroyed and 5-6 secondary explosions. At 2000 Co A found 7 bunkers; 4 at YD 065625 and 3 bunkers at YD 059621. At the CP positions, a tunnel was found plus 2 RPG rounds. Co C found bunkers & trench lines running west to northwest for 500 meters vic of YD 070645. The bunkers were 6-7 months old. At 070636 1 NVA ID Card was found in a cave and turned into S-2.

At 0800 on 22 July, Co D found 3 bunkers (4'x10'x4') 3 bunkers (4'x8'x4'), 1 bunker (5'x15'x5'), 19 bunkers (5'x12'x4'), 2 bunkers (6'x12'x4'), 1x82mm rd, and 1 AK-47. The bunkers were reinforced w/logs and well camouflaged. At 1435, Co D, at YD 042645, and YD 042645, and YD 043646 found 2-13 bunker complexes and 2x122mm rocket rds. All of the above were destroyed. At 1500 Co B found an NVA ammo cache at YD 075643, 36x82mm rds, 3-RPG rds, and fuzes & increments for 82mm. All except 2 RPG rds were destroyed.

At 1045 on 23 July, Co D at YD 053653, found 4 NVA packs consisting of assorted 782 gear, 140 AK-47 rds, 1 NVA Bible, 3 rice bowls and 1 cooking pot. All equipment was destroyed. At 1600, Co C at YD 069636 found a bunker complex consisting of 5-6 bunkers with connecting comm wire plus several water cans and 1 bottle of penicillin. At 1600, Co D at YD 041644, YD 047645, and YD 042644 found approximately 15 bunkers with the following dimensions: 9 were 6'x6'x4', 6 4'x4'x4'. Eight of these bunkers were destroyed. At 1730, Co B at YD 051642 captured 1 POW/WIA. The POW was medevaced for treatment and interrogation.

24 July 1/9 commenced helilift to LZSTUD at 0720 and was completed by 1015.

At 0810, 25 July, 1/9 relieved 1/4 of LZ STUD perimeter defense. Companies B, C, D, and H&S were located at LZ STUD while Co A maintained the perimeter at CA LU. At 2015 Co A reported that 1 WP 81mm landed in vic of Montagard village with negative casualties. 1 house was destroyed. The village chief desired 2 cases of G-Rats. The situation was turned over to the S-2 for action. At 2345, 25 July, Co A lines observed movement through the MDD. Fifteen rds S/A were fired and the movement ceased.

At 0118, 26 July, Co A LP spotted 5 figures walking to their direct front. They took the enemy under small arms fire and initiated an 81mm mission with unknown results. At 1400, a Co C patrol at YD 003492 found an M-33 surprise explosive device with trip line. Marked same for engineers to blow.

27 July no significant events.

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F. COMMAND RELATIONS. From 1-24 July 1968, the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was under operational control of 9th Marines. On the 24th of July, the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines came under control of the 4th Marine Regiment.

G. EQUIPMENT.

(1) ORGANIZATIONAL DATA(Motor Transport Section):

- (a) Location: Quang Tri, LZ STUD
- (b) Period Covered: 1-31 July 1968
- (c) Officers and Staff: 1/Lt J.T. CLARK MTO. Gy/Set
W. T. IRVINE, MT Chief.
- (d) Average Monthly Strength:

<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
1	19

(2) GENERAL CONCEPT OF OPERATION.

- (a) Organic motor transport has been primarily engaged in moving the battalion rear from DONG HA to QUANG TRI.
- (b) Motor transport at QUANG TRI has been engaged in resupply, administrative, and message runs.

(3) SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: None

H. LOGISTICS: During this reporting period, supply activities centered around resupply of Class II material, outfitting of new personnel, and relocating the Battalion supply from DONG HA to present location in QUANG TRI.

The commitment during the last month required that clothing be made available upon return from the field. At the present time, assets are insufficient. In this respect, a quantity of 600 sets of utilities is necessary to effect and maintain cycle of laundered utilities in exchange for dirty ones.

Office and warehousing procedures and storage areas are all in accordance with latest embarkation procedures.

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SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. A. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED. During this reporting period the Battalion was employed on the following missions:

- (1) Providing defense for THON SON LAM, CAMP CARROLL, and security for Route #9 from 1 - 6 July 1968.
- (2) From 7 - 12 July the Battalion was employed in support of operations in the northern ICTZ. The mission of the Battalion was to maintain a blocking position and conduct saturation patrolling in vicinity of YD 148709.
- (3) From 12-16 July the Battalion was employed in an operation to interdict the enemy mortaring and harassment of the CAM LO District Headquarters in the vic of YD 094596.
- (4) MUTTER'S RIDGE AREA: From 16-24 July, 1968 the Battalion was employed in a clear and search and destroy mission ranging from YD 124654 to YD 051642.
- (5) LZ STUD AREA: On the 24th of July the Battalion arrived at LZ STUD to assume the perimeter defense of both LZ STUD and CA LU. At the end of this reporting period the Battalion remained as the resident battalion charged with the defense of LZ STUD and CA LU.

B. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED. The battalion was engaged in two major operations during the month of July. The first operation was in the vicinity of the "Market Place" in Leatherneck Square. The second operation, from 16-24 July, consisted of a multi-regiment search and destroy assignment covering from Dong Ha Mountain and Mutters Ridge to Leatherneck Square.

C. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY.

<u>KIA(CONF)</u>	<u>KIA (PROP)</u>	<u>TON</u>
3	0	2

D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED.

USMC KIA	5	USMC KIA	0
USMC KIA	9	USMC KIA	1

E. NEW TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED. None.

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L. INTELLIGENCE: During the month of July, 1st Battalion 9th Marines, participated in operations near the UMZ area. Enemy forces in the Battalion's area of operation were composed primarily of one division (the 320th), the 270th Independent Regiment, the 27th Independent Regiment and the 27th Independent Battalion. Supporting the above infantry units were the 164th Artillery Regiment, 84th Artillery Regiment, and the 54th Artillery Regiment.

On 1 July, Co B, operating in the D-5 area, made contact with 2 enemy resulting in 1 enemy WIA/POW (other enemy escaped). Co B also made contact on 1 July at YD 19513 with 3 VC resulting in 1 VC KIA (other 2 escaped).

From 7 July - 12 July the Battalion was on an operation west of Con Thien. No significant enemy ground contact was made during the operation but there were numerous enemy sightings (largest sighting was 8 people). A tank supporting Company B fired on 3-4 NVA resulting in 1 NVA KIA (confirmed). Approximately 66 bunkers were discovered and enemy equipment and munitions captured included the following: 192x60mm mortar rds, 495 x .50 Cal rds, 2 x .50 Caliber barrels, 1 x 82mm mortar tube, and 2 x AK-47 rifles. Three dead NVA bodies were also found during the operation.

During the period 12-16 July the Battalion was set in near QUAT XA Village in the vicinity of YD 1059. No significant enemy activity was encountered by 1st Battalion, 9th Marines during this period.

From 17 July - 24 July 1968 the battalion took part in an operation southwest of CON THIEN. During the operation no significant ground contact was made. Approximately 33 rounds of incoming 82mm mortar fire was received throughout the operation. Numerous bunkers (approx. 154) and large quantities of enemy munitions were found. Enemy ammunition captured included 1140 AK-47 rounds and the following munitions: 9 claymores, 306x82mm mortar rds, 307x60mm mortar rounds, 156 fuzes, 21 cans of increments, 1x122 rocket round and 7 RPG rounds. One AK-47 rifle was captured and three (3) graves were found. One dead NVA body was found, and on 23 July one wounded NVA was captured at YD 051647. The POW was medevaced for medical treatment and interrogation.

On the morning of 24 July 1st Battalion 9th Marines was heli-lifted to LZ STUD and remained there during the period 24-31 July. During this period no significant enemy activity was encountered by 1/9.

M. WEATHER. Temperatures ranged from the low 80's during the evening to the low 100's during the day. Winds ranged from 5 - 15 knots. Occasional showers occurred throughout the month.

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Classes II and IV supplies were adequate to accomplish operational commitments in the month of July. The only serious shortage is that of gas masks and vehicle starters.

I. CIVIC ACTION: A Med/Cap was conducted on 20 July 1968, at Father CO's dispensary in CAM LO Refugee Village. A total of 64 persons were treated: eleven men, twelve women, and forty-one children. On 22 July 1968, 2 children and their mother were taken to QUANG TRI City Hospital. The children had been treated at the Med/Cap held 20 July 1968. It was recommended by the corpsmen that they be taken to the hospital for further treatment. The blankets, clothing and juices were taken to the children and mother in hospital. Also, periodic checks on their condition were made. One of the children was discharged and taken home on 31 July. The other child and the mother are expected to be released soon. Also, during July, I/9 distributed 7 boxes of clothing, 1 box of foods and assorted toys to people of the CAM LO Refugee Village.

J. ADMINISTRATION. Nothing significant to report.

K. PERSONNEL. The following people were transferred from this Command:

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
17	160	0	13

The following people were joined to this Command:

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
15	147	1	23

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED

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N. COMMUNICATIONS. During the month of July the Battalion was introduced to the PRC 77 radio with cipher unit KY-38. Upon receipt of the equipment it was put on the Regimental Tactical Net, enabling us to talk in the "Covered Mode" with Regiment. No noticeable power decrease was noted with the PRC-77. Power supply for the KY-38-(3-PA 386's) lasted 72 hours. This equipment greatly improved the ability to communicate, as it eliminated the time consuming process of shackling.

The unit

We found it necessary to utilize relay stations for operations during July. One station was located at C-2, the other at DONG WA.

This system proved to be effective, and enabled us to maintain communications on the Battalion Admin Net, used for resupply purposes.

O. ARTILLERY. During the month of July, artillery support was instrumental in the accomplishment of operations southeast and southwest of CON THIEN in the Leatherneck Square Area. On July 16th artillery support was credited with close to 20 confirmed NVA KIA north of the Market Place by firing some 130 rounds of Firecracker ammunition. Many prep and neutralization fires were also fired in support of the operation. A heavy H&I and night defense fire program was also conducted concurrent with this operation.

During the next operation west of C-2 and south of CON THIEN, artillery fired more prep fires than any operation so far this summer. Night defensive fires were shot in closer than ever before and heavy H&I's continued. During this phase of the operation, TOT's were fired south of our position in the YD 0562 grid square on reports from intelligence sources. An AO surveillance of the area reported no confirmed enemy casualties.

In P. AIR. the first seven days of July the AO directed air traffic in the vicinity of CAMP CARROLL. These duties consisted primarily of coordinating with artillery to pass safe routes to helicopters and check fire batteries when necessary. On 2 July three flights of Marine jets were ground controlled to napalm and bomb a suspected enemy observation point on DONG WA Mountain overlooking CAMP CARROLL. On 7 July the Battalion was helilifted from CAMP CARROLL by CH-46 and CH-53 aircraft for the first phase of the operation, and we were helilifted at the end of the second phase, 24 July, to LZ STUD.

All emergency and priority medevacs and most routine were by air totaling 84 for the operation.

Aerial observers were used extensively with OV-10 and OV-10 aircrews dividing their time among the Battalion and adjacent units, priority being determined by Regiment when necessary.

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Twenty-three airstrikes were controlled by aerial observers in support of the Battalion with battle damage assesment totaling 80 bunkers, and 1 mortar pit destroyed, and 36 kills by air, with additional damage to trails and trenchlines.

Q. Activation/Deactivation/Redesignation. None


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1st Mar. Regt.

Control No. 20526-68

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BT 843

HEADQUARTERS

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

3/AP/rjb

03490

10 August 1968

From: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Via: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines

Subj: Combat After Action Report

Ref: (a) 9th Marines Op Order 7-68
(b) 9th Marines Frag Order 17-23 July 1968

1. Code Name: LANCASTER II
2. Dates of Operation: 170645 July to 240720 July 1968
3. Location: COM LO DISTRICT, QUANG TRI PROVINCE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
4. Task Organization:

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

LtCol FRANCIS X. COLLITON
17 - 24 July 1968H&S Company (Rein)
H&S Company1stLt W.L. LAMPKA
17 - 24 July 1968Company A (Rein)
Company A
FO tm, D Ptry 2/12
Det, H&S Company
FO tmCapt J.S. STROTNIAR
17 - 24 July 1968FO tm, 81mm
Det, Med Plat
Det, Comm Plat
Det, Pq Co, 3d Mf Bn
Det, Hq Co, 9th Mar
Det, 3d Engr Bn

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Company B (Rein)
Company B
(Same attachments as above)1stLt S.E. STACY
17 - 24 July 1968Company C (Rein)
Company C
(Same attachments as above)1stLt V.J. HAYTON
17 - 24 July 1968Company D (Rein)
Company D
(Same attachments as above)Capt F. PRATT
17 - 24 July 1968

Francis X. Colliton

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TAB-B

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5. Supporting Forces:

a. Artillery: On the 18th of July 68, as we moved from our night defensive positions near C-2, artillery was instrumental in the neutralization of Battalion and Regimental objectives. Suppressive fires were fired to both our north and south in support of ground movement.

Late on the afternoon of the 18th, as we were setting in our blocking position, we received between 10 and 15 rounds of 75mm Pack Howitzer artillery from the northwest. Almost immediately, counter battery fires were shot and many rounds were shot to silence the hostile artillery. It was later believed that our artillery was responsible for the destruction of these tubes. Night defensive fires were shot in and 42's continued throughout the night as we sat in our defensive blocking force.

Our next move was supported extremely well with many direct and neutralization fires shot in support of the Battalion's scheme of maneuver. As we began to set in again, one of the companies started receiving 82mm mortar fire, and again artillery responded very rapidly. Close to 45 rounds of mortar fire was taken by this company. After artillery had literally saturated the C-62 grid square, the tubes were silenced. Once again, night defensive fires were shot in and a very heavy 42's program was maintained throughout the night.

From the 22d to the 24th, suppressive, neutralization, and destruction missions were fired on suspected sites, and a program of 42's and 82's were maintained for the remainder of the operation.

b. Air:

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c. Armor: For this operation, the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines had a section of tanks and 10 APC's (M113) attached in direct support of the Battalion. The tanks were employed to add to the fire power. A secondary mission for the tanks was transporting supplies to the high ground saving continuous helicopter resupply.

The APC's proved quite helpful by transporting supplies, mortar tubes, ammunition, and mortar personnel over rugged terrain normally for a man carrying an extremely heavy load. With the weather as hot and humid as it was, the APC's were invaluable when it came to water resupply. The only difficulty encountered with the APC's was the working attitude of the Vietnamese crew, who worked only when forced. As the operation progressed west, the terrain proved to be extremely heavy with foliage and quite mountainous, consequently, the tanks and APC's could not be used.

6. Intelligence: As Operation Lancaster II began on 17 July 1968, enemy combat forces in the DMZ area were composed primarily of one division (the 320th) the 270th Independent Regiment, the 27th Independent Regiment, and the 27th Independent Battalion. Supporting Artillery units were the 164th Artillery Regiment, 84th Artillery Regiment, and the 54th Artillery Regiment.

During the operation, no significant ground contact was made by the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines. Approximately 33 rounds of 120mm mortar fire were received throughout the operation.

Numerous bunkers (approx. 154) and large quantities of enemy munitions were found. Enemy ammunition captured included 1140 AK-47 rounds and the following munitions were founded: 9 claymores, 306x22mm mortar rounds, 307x60mm mortar rounds, 156 fuses, 21 cans of increments, 1x122mm rocket round and 7 RPG rounds. One AK-47 rifle was captured and three (3) graves were found. One dead NVA body was found and one wounded POW was captured at YD 051642 on 22 July 1968. The POW was medevaced for medical treatment and interrogation.

Temperatures ranged from the mid 80's to the low 100's. Winds remained at 5 knots and scattered showers occurred periodically throughout the operation.

7. Mission: For this reporting period, the Battalion participated in a multi-regiment operation, just south of the DMZ, from Leatherneck Square to Mudders Ridge and Dong Ha Mountain. Initially the Battalion's mission was to form a blocking position in conjunction with 2d Battalion, 9th Marines and 3d Battalion, 9th Marines, moving north to south, parallel to the block. Once in position, the Battalion was to conduct saturation patrols in our AO. The latter part of the operation found the Battalion with an additional mission of sweeping west to secure a series of regimental objectives.

8. Concept of Operation: The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was to set up as a blocking force, while elements of the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, moved north to south, parallel to the block. The blocking position was established with three company strongpoints. Each strongpoint having excellent visibility due to the high ground occupied, and therefore considered effective with the good utilization

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tion of FO's. Additionally, a section of tanks was employed to add to the firepower of the company strongpoints.

9. Execution: On 17 July 1968, the Battalion was located in an assembly area outside of the forward operating base of C-2. At 170830H July 1968, the Battalion departed the assembly area with attachments of 5 tanks and 10 APC's (ARVN). At 171115H July 68, the Battalion arrived at its assigned blocking position with the Battalion CP and companies were located as follows: CP at YD 090653, Co A at YD 587560, Co B at YD 090655, Co C at YD 097651, Co D at YD 090645 (with one platoon at YD 085648). 20 West casualties were redevac'd during the day by helicopter and APC's,

At 1440, Co B received approximately 11x82mm fire from a suspected position at YD 075645. Counter-battery fire was initiated on the suspected enemy grid. An arty mission was called to scan the area for active tubes. Helicopters were called in and casualties were medevac'd. Friendly casualties incurred were 2 KIA, 8 WIA (3 emergency, 4 routine, and 1 non-medevac).

At 1420, Co A took 4 rounds of 82mm at their position from suspected enemy grid of YD074676. 81mm mission was called on suspected enemy grid. A medevac helicopter was summoned for casualties evacuation. Casualties incurred were: 6 WIA (2 emergency, 2 priority, 1 routine and 1 non-medevac).

At 1722, Co B took 3 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from suspected enemy grid of YD 069678, suffering 3 KIA and 8 WIA. Arty and 81mm missions were called on suspected grid. A medevac helicopter was called in for casualties (8 emergency and 3 routine). Co B was moved to a new position at YD092653. All fire missions had unknown results. Total casualties incurred for 17 July were 5 KIA, 22 WIA (20 med-vac, 2 non-medevacs). NPC medevacs came to a total of 20; a total of 45 medevacs for 17 July 68. Enemy equipment and installations destroyed consisted of: 13 spider holes with covers 5'x6'; 2 large bunkers 8'x10'x6'; 100x60mm rounds; and 75x82mm rounds with fuses. Three graves and 1 body which was 6 months old were found; the body appeared to be from the 21st NVA Bn.

On 18 July 68, Co B spotted 1 NVA moving westward at YD 105661. The NVA moved into a hole or bunker. An arty mission was called in with unknown results.

S-2 turned in a destroyed enemy gear list which reported finding and destroying 170x82mm rounds, 204x60mm rounds; 124 ChiComs, 60 fuses for both 60mm and 82mm rounds, 10 WPD drum magazines, 15 cans of increments for 60mm, 6 cans of increments for 82mm, 9 claymores, 2 PRG-2 rounds, 12 AK-47 magazines w/rounds, 1000 AK-47 Rounds, 4 spring loaded trip type device and 4 blasting caps.

On 19 July, at 1100, Co C patrol called in arty mission on suspected enemy bunker complex at YD 108666 with unknown results. At 1940, the 81's pl't found a gravesite of one NVA at YD 097652. A grave marker stated the body was from the 3d Co of the 21st NVA Bn. The body appeared to be 3 to 6 months old.

On 20 July, Co A took 15 rounds of 82mm from YD 082628. Counter-battery artillery mission commenced and an APC was called in. Co A incurred 1 KIA (KCS), 1 WIA (KCS), and 1 WIA (USMC). At 1800, Co B found 15 bunkers, 1 cookshack, 1 ChiCom rifle grenade w/adaptor, picks and shovels, 1 tunnel 15' long with no recent use apparent. The tunnel had the date of 28 Jan 68 inside. Equipment

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found consisted of: 1 gas mask, first aid pack (NVA type), and 2 Chicom w/carrier. All gear was turned into S-2.

At 1035, on 21 July, Co A spotted 7 enemy in a bunker complex at YD 055625 and called in arty mission and called for an AO. AO reported several bunkers destroyed and 5-6 secondary explosions. At 2000, Co A found 7 bunkers; 4 at YD 055625 and 3 bunkers at YD 059621. At the CP position, a tunnel was found plus 2 RPG rounds. Co C found bunkers and trench lines running west to north west for 500 meters in vic. YD 070645. The bunkers were 6-7 months old. At 070636, 1 NVA ID card was found in a cave and turned in to S-2.

At 0800, on 22 July, Co D found 3 bunkers (4'x10'x4' 3 bunkers (4'x8'x4' 1 bunker (5'x15'x5'), 19 bunkers (5'x13'x4'), 2 bunkers (6'x12'x4') 1 82mm round, and 1 AK-47. The bunkers were reinforced with logs and well camouflaged. At 1435, Co D at YD 040645, YD 042645, and YD 043646 found 2-13 bunker complexes and 2x122mm rocket rounds. All of the above were destroyed. At 1530, Co B found an NVA ammo cache at YD 075643, 36x82mm rounds, 3 RPG rounds and fuses and increments for 82mm. All except 2 RPG rounds were destroyed.

At 1045, on 23 July68, Co D at YD 053653, found 4 NVA packs containing assorted 732 gear, 147 AK-47 rounds, 1 NVA Bible, 3 rice bowls and 1 cooking pot. All equipment was destroyed. At 1600, Co C at YD 039636 found a bunker complex consisting of 5-6 bunkers with connecting comm-wire plus several water cans and 1 bottle of penicillin. At 1600, Co D at YD 041644 YD 047645, and YD 042644 found approximately 15 bunkers with the following dimensions: 9 were 6'x6'x4', 6 were 4'x8'x4'. 2 of these bunkers were destroyed. At 1730, Co B at YD 051642 captured 1 POW/MIA. The POW was moved for treatment and interrogation.

24 July, 1/9 commenced helilifts to LZ STUD at 0720 and was completed by 1015.

10. Results:a. Casualties Sustained:

USMC KIA: 6
USMC MIA: 25
USMC MIA: 0

b. Casualties Inflicted:

VC/NVA KIA: 0
VC/NVA MIA: 0
VC/NVA POW: 1

1. During this reporting period the following enemy ammunition, munitions and weapons were captured: 1140xAK-47 rounds, 9 claymores, 306x82mm mortar rounds, 30x160mm mortar rounds, 156 fuses, 21 cans of increments, 1x122mm rocket round, 7 RPG rounds, plus 1 AK-47 rifle.

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(6)

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11. ADMINISTRATION.

a. Supply. During this operation the bulk of logistical effort has been directed towards the support of the Battalion. Classes II and LV supplies were adequate for the operation.

b. Maintenance. The overall maintenance situation as to this reporting period is extremely poor due to the lack of spare parts, such as carburetors, starter cables, spark plugs, tires and tubes.

c. Treatment of Casualties, Evacuation and Hospitalizations.

The medical report for Operation Lancaster II is as follows: There were 6 KIA's, 25 WIA's, (1 DOW later), plus 2 MFO's as a result of accidental firing of weapons. Both were medevaced. There were at least 4 heat casualties medevaced of a total of 22 reported. All have returned to duty. There were 4 FHO's medevaced. Two of these were subsequently found to have Malaria. There were 4 medevacs for foot and knee problems. Miscellaneous medevacs: 1 GI Floeder, 1 anxiety reaction. Total: 47 medevacs (including 6 KIA's).

d. Transportation. During this reporting period organic MT was primarily engaged in resupply to LZ STUD usually in conjunction with 9th MT Bn. Convoy. At QUANG TRI, MT is engaged in household, administrative runs, and message run. MT forward is located at LZ STUD is set up to handle limited repairs and assist in weekly preventive maintenance.

e. Communications. Communications during the subject period were uneventful and generally good. On one occasion, due to CP setting, it was necessary for Battalion CP to relay through Company B any traffic destined for Company A. Had relaying equipment been available at the CP, this situation could have been alleviated. On all future operations relaying equipment will be carried to the field. On one of the resupplies, a case of batteries, RA-386 were delivered, all of which were unusable. The lot number was not noted, but it is believed that they were "Brown" batteries. The KY-38 and AN/PBC-77 were used on Regimental Command net, and the results were excellent. The equipment was used in a two-man configuration. However, having been issued only one KY-38, it is deemed awkward at this time to use the KY-38/PBC-77 on the company level. A moderate amount of mutual interference was experienced between M-81 and M-817, both of which are assigned to this unit.

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f. Medical Evaluation. Though several problems were mentioned by the corpsmen, the only ones which may have had a detrimental effect on medical care were:

a. Slow medevacs - especially in Company B, which was apparently under heavy fire and consequently choppers could not get them out.

b. "Resupply of water mentioned by corpsmen of Company A and Company B, opposed to eight heat casualties in both Company B and Company C.

Slow resupply of everyday medical gear was mentioned, but no corpsman felt anyone received inadequate treatment as a result. Apparently there was a communication problem since requests for resupply were never received in the rear.

12. Special Equipment and Techniques. None

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SUPERSEDES 2-52 AND 8-56 EDITIONS WHICH WILL BE USED

S-3

PLACE

Camp CARROLL, D-5, Thon Son Lam, Rt. #9

FROM (Date and hour).

010001H July 68

TÔ (Date and hour)

012400H July 68

(Classification)

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO.

(Classification)

Tab. 2	Tab. 3	Tab. 4	Tab. 5	Tab. 6	Tab. 7	Tab. 8	Tab. 9	Tab. 10	Tab. 11	Tab. 12	Tab. 13	Tab. 14	Tab. 15	Tab. 16	Tab. 17	Tab. 18	Tab. 19	Tab. 20	Tab. 21	Tab. 22	Tab. 23	Tab. 24	Tab. 25	Tab. 26	Tab. 27	Tab. 28	Tab. 29	Tab. 30	Tab. 31	Tab. 32	Tab. 33	Tab. 34	Tab. 35	Tab. 36	Tab. 37	Tab. 38	Tab. 39	Tab. 40	Tab. 41	Tab. 42	Tab. 43	Tab. 44	Tab. 45	Tab. 46	Tab. 47	Tab. 48	Tab. 49	Tab. 50	Tab. 51	Tab. 52	Tab. 53	Tab. 54	Tab. 55	Tab. 56	Tab. 57	Tab. 58	Tab. 59	Tab. 60	Tab. 61	Tab. 62	Tab. 63	Tab. 64	Tab. 65	Tab. 66	Tab. 67	Tab. 68	Tab. 69	Tab. 70	Tab. 71	Tab. 72	Tab. 73	Tab. 74	Tab. 75	Tab. 76	Tab. 77	Tab. 78	Tab. 79	Tab. 80	Tab. 81	Tab. 82	Tab. 83	Tab. 84	Tab. 85	Tab. 86	Tab. 87	Tab. 88	Tab. 89	Tab. 90	Tab. 91	Tab. 92	Tab. 93	Tab. 94	Tab. 95	Tab. 96	Tab. 97	Tab. 98	Tab. 99	Tab. 100	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

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(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION S-3	
PLACE Camp CARROLL, D-5, Thon Son Lam, Rt #0	
FROM (Date and hour) 020001H July 68	TO (Date and hour) 022400H July 68

[illegible]

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO.

(Classification)

a

JOURNAL

NAVMC 219-GS (REV. 5-63)
SUPERSEDES 2-52 AND 8-56 EDITIONS WHICH WILL BE USED

(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION S-3	
PLACE Camp CARROLL, D-5, Thon Son Lam, Dist. #9	
FROM (Date and hour) 030001H July 68	TO (Date and hour) 032100H July 68

[illegible]

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO.

(Classification)

JOURNAL

NAVMC 219-GS (REV. 5-63)
SUPERSEDES 2-52 AND 8-56 EDITIONS WHICH WILL BE USED

UNIT OR SECTION

53

PLACE

Camp CARROLL, D-5, Thon Son Lam, Rt. #9

FROM (Date and hour)

040001H July 68

TO (Date and hour)

042400H July 68

(Classification)

[illegible]

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO.

(Classification)

(a)

052500H July 68

(Classification)

(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION S-3	
PLACE Camp CARROLL, Thon Son Lam	
FROM (Date and hour) -- 060001H July 68	TO (Date and hour) -- 062400H July 68

[illegible]

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO.

(Classification)

a)

(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION S-3	
PLACE LZ STUD	
FROM (Date and hour) 250001H July 68	TO (Date and hour) 252400H July 68

[illegible]

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO.

(Classification)

DECLASSIFIED

a

JOURNAL

NAVMC 219-GS (REV. 5-63)
SUPERSEDES 2-52 AND 8-56 EDITIONS WHICH WILL BE USED

(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION	
S-3	
PLACE	
LZ STUD	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
2600 01H July 68	2624 00H July 68

[illegible]

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO.

(Classification)

(a)

(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION S-3	
PLACE LZ STUD	
FROM (Date and hour) 270001H July 68	TO (Date and hour) 272400H July 68

[illegible]

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO.

(Classification)

(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION S-3	
PLACE L2 STUD	
FROM (Date and hour) 280001H July 68	TO (Date and hour) 282400H July 68

[illegible]

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO.

(Classification)

a

(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION S-3	
PLACE LZ STUD	
FROM (Date and hour) 300001H July 68	TO (Date and hour) 302400H July 68

[illegible]

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO.

(Classification)

a

312400H July 68

(Classification)