

DECLASSIFIED

DOD MARDIV S&C FILE  
B776 27769

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS

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

3/GWS/er

5750

10 Jan 1969

Smith 003-69

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of Marine Corps (Code 103 D)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein)  
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 December to 31 December 1968  
Ref: (a) MOD 5750.2A  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) 3dMardivO 5750.1A w/ch#1  
Encl:  (1) Command Chronology, December 1968  
1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.  
2. The security classification of this document is downgraded at three (3) year intervals and declassified after twelve (12) years.

*G. W. Smith*  
G. W. SMITH

Declassified when enclosure (1) is removed.

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

DEC 1968

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

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

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

## Index

PART I	ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
PART II	NARRATIVE SUMMARY
PART III	SEQUENTIAL LIST- ING OF SIGNIFI- CANT EVENTS
PART IV	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.10

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

## UNCLASSIFIED

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION.

	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1st Battalion, 9th Marines	LtCol G. W. SMITH	1-31 Dec 68
Company "A"	1stLt W. L. FOX	1-31 Dec 68
Company "B"	2ndLt J. A. BURNS CAPT G. MEERDIK JR.	1-8 Dec 68 9-31 Dec 68
Company "C"	1stLt B. W. RAY	1-31 Dec 68
Company "D"	CAPT E. F. RILEY	1-31 Dec 68
Company "H&S"	1stLt T. G. JACKSON	1-31 Dec 68

2. LOCATION.

- 1-24 December 1968: DA KRONG Valley (Operation Dawson River Afton).
- 24-27 December 1968: Vandegrift Combat Base.
- 27-30 December 1968: CUA VIET.
- 30-31 December 1968: Vandegrift Combat Base and Ca Lu.

3. STAFF OFFICERS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Major C. D. FOREMAN	1-31 Dec 68
S-1	1stLt W. PHETO	1-31 Dec 68
S-2	2ndLt J. W. JACKSON	1-31 Dec 68
S-3	CAPT J. S. SIROTHNIK Major D. M. KENNEDY	1-7 Dec 68 8-31 Dec 68
FSOC	1stLt W. LAWLESS	1-31 Dec 68
ALO	1stLt R. H. BULLOCK	1-31 Dec 68
S-4	1stLt R. PETRY	1-31 Dec 68
COMM	1stLt T. G. JACKSON	1-31 Dec 68
Supply	2ndLt R. E. McSWEENEY	1-31 Dec 68

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

MT	1stLt J. T. CLARK JR.	1-31 Dec 68
Chaplain	Lt Cmdr. M. BRAY	1-31 Dec 68
Medical Officer	Lt W. DICK	1-31 Dec 68

4. Average Monthly Strength.

USMC		USN		OTHER	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
38	1105	2	52	0	0

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

**UNCLASSIFIED**

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the period 1 through 24 December 1968, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was deployed in the DA KRONG Valley area on Operation Dawson River Afton. The battalion was untasked and was at Vandegrift Combat Base from 25 through 27 December. From 28 through 30 December the Battalion was on R&R at CUA VIET, and on 30 and 31 December it assumed the base defense of Vandegrift Combat Base and Ca Lu.

**UNCLASSIFIED**

## PART III

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Combat Mission Assigned.

To conduct detailed search and clear operations to locate fix and destroy the enemy, his weapons, material and/or other sources and to endeavor to locate and evacuate BIAU tribesmen.

a. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAGO 91-68.

(1) No change from Operation Order 12-68, Ref. Command Chronology for Nov 68.

b. 9th Marines Directive.

(1) On 5 December "W" Battery 2/12 chopped Opcon to Company C.

c. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAGO 93-68.

(1) On 8 December one platoon of Company A to conduct an heli-borne assault at YD 037280 and conduct search and clear operations on Hill 850 (YD 049287) and surrounding area. The platoon will be extracted to YD 067242 forty-eight hours later.

(2) Upon completion of paragraph 1, one platoon and the CP of Company A will conduct an heli-lift to vicinity YD 067242 and establish a patrol base. Extraction will take place vicinity YD 060285, tentatively on 10 December.

d. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAGO 94-68.

(1) Company A on 10 December conduct heli-borne assault at YD 052281. Establish a combat operations base to support an expedited advance to Hill 850 and vicinity to destroy or capture enemy supplies and equipment. Alternate LZ for heli-borne assault is YD 037280.

(2) Company C is in reserve. Maintain one ready platoon for deployment in battalion HQ. Deployment to be on order.

e. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAGO 96-68.

(1) Company A conduct a heli-borne assault to LZ Gold at YD 175290 on 14 December. Establish a combat operations base on Objective 1 at YD 199277 (Hill 1108) and clear the same. Construct 1 CH-46 LZ on Objective 1.

(2) Company C on 14 December conduct a heli-borne assault into Objective 2 (coordinates YD 161273) Hill 498. Conduct clearing operations from Objective 2 to Objective 3. (coordinates YD 178258, Hill 472).

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

- (3) Company D on 14 December and on order conduct tactical march from LZ DELTA to Hill 812 (coordinate YD 101201). Conduct clearing operations in southern portion of your AO. Construct 1 CH-46 LZ in the vicinity of Hill 812. Be prepared on or about 17 December to conduct heli-borne assault into Objective 4 (Coordinates YD 160237) Hill 554 and conduct clearing operations in the vicinity of Hill 554. Construct or locate LZ in vicinity of Hill 554.
- (4) On 14 December "W" Battery 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines was returned Open to 2/12 upon completion of heli-lift to VCB.

f. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAGO 97-68.

- (1) Company C upon establishing COB and LZ in the vicinity of Objective 3, conduct a search and destroy activity in the direction of Objective 4 (YD 159237 Hill 544) keeping within an 8000 meter fan from Shiloh and Barnett.

g. 9th Marines FRAGO 98-68.

- (1) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines on 20 December be prepared to close Shiloh and extract to VCB.

h. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAGO 98-68.

- (1) Cancel FRAGO 97-68.
- (2) Company A be prepared for extraction from COB (YD 198278) on or about 21 December.
- (3) Company B on 19 December conduct administrative heli-lift to FSB Barnett (YD 194325). After your arrival at FSB Barnett conduct an overland movement to Regimental Objective Bennie (Hill 606, YD 215334). Seize and occupy Regimental Objective Bennie and establish COB. Conduct search and destroy operations to north and west in assigned AO. Be prepared for extraction from COB on or about 21 December.
- (4) Company C conduct heli-borne assault from COB (Hill 472, YD 178258) to Hill 848 (YD 198304). Conduct search and destroy operations in assigned AO with attention directed to north-east and south-west basin areas. Be prepared for extraction from COB on or about 21 December.

i. 9th Marines FRAGO 123-68.

- (1) Cancel FRAGO 123-68.
- (2) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines orient your activities from Hill 1108 east to vicinity of 23rd north-south grid line and west to vicinity of the 18th north-south grid line.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~~~SECRET~~

- (3) Close FSB Shiloh on morning of 19 December.
- (4) At 19 December move Company (-) to FSB Barnett for clearing operations in the AO to the north and south.
- (5) On order assume Opcn of the platoon of K Company 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines at Barnett.
- (6) On order assume Opcn of the platoon of B Company at FSB DICK.
- (7) On order assume responsibility for security of FSB's Barnett and DICK.
- (8) Occupy and clear Regimental Objective Pennie.

j. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAGO 99-68.

- (1) Company B be prepared to depart OOB by helicopter on 21 December.

k. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAGO 100-68.

- (1) Company B conduct heli-borne assault at LZ Gold (YD 173289). Establish blocking position in the vicinity of YD 167311. On order conduct search and clear operations within your AO.

l. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines FRAGO 101-68.

- (1) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines conduct offensive patrol activity in AO to find, fix and destroy the enemy his equipment, material and supplies. In addition fulfill tasks as assigned by higher head quarters.
- (2) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines 81mm Mortars and 3 Companies patrol battalion AO as designated. Provide Sparrow Hawk, Bald Eagle and convoy security.
- (3) Company A on 26 December assume Sparrow Hawk and Bald Eagle posture in accordance with Division Operation Order 44-68 until relieved.
- (4) Company B on 26 December commence company-size patrol in AO in accordance with battalion's mission.
- (5) Company C (-) on 26 December commence company size patrol in AO in accordance with the battalion's mission.
- (6) One platoon from Company C on order on 26 December provide convoy security as directed. You will be chopped to Opcn of convoy commander on order. On 27 December you will return to VCB and to parent unit.

m. 9th Marines FRAGO 125-68.

- (1) On 26 December relieve D Company 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines of Sparrow Hawk and Bald Eagle requirement in accordance with Division Operation Order 44-68 as applicable.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SECRET~~  
~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

- (2) Provide security platoon for special convoy which is departing for Dong Ha on 26 December and returning to VCP on 27 December.
- (3) Conduct a 2 day Company size patrol in temporary AO west of VCB.
- (4) Conduct 2 day Company minus patrol into and through the villages south-east of Ca Lu utilize night ambushes as appropriate.

n. 9th Marines FRAGO 126-68.

- (1) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines cancel heli-borne assault.
- (2) Chop Company G to 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines upon receipt of this message.
- (3) On 27 December assume operational control of Company G.
- (4) Continue preparations for motor transport and boat march to CUA VIET on 28 December. You are chopped to Task Force Bravo upon arrival.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

UNCLASSIFIED

## 2. Operations. (files 2013, 1016L)

01 DEC At 1030 Company D found a trail wide enough for one person, not used recently, and running east to west at YD 104236. At 1230 Company D, found a trail running south to north from YD 092238 to YD 097241. The trail was 4 to 5 feet wide, well cleared, but not used for approximately 2 months, and slightly overgrown. At 1700 Company D saw 2 personnel, either友 or enemy, at YD 015245. At YD 042257, at 1230 Company A found 5 huts of bamboo and banana leaves, many pots and pans, 2000 pounds of white rice, several documents, one bottle of penicillin, one small notebook with no writing, one cross bow, 1 sword, 1 spear, and 1 small NVA pouch. The rice was burned with the huts, because it could not be evacuated, and the rest of the gear was confiscated. At 2130 at YD 105267 Company B heard movement, fired 8-10 rounds but found no results.

02 DEC At 0930 at YD 102244 Company D found an elephant trail and a side trail that led to an area which apparently was used as a resting place for 10 elephants. At 1215 at YD 103233 Company D found one anti-personnel mine, apparently a bounding-type M-4, and skirted it. At 1300 at YD 031254 Company A found a hut of bamboo and banana leaves and a cardboard tube,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " - 4" diameter, 3' long, covered with a rubber substance on each end and ripped on each end. There were also machete marks on vegetation in the area. At 1340 at YD 100234 Company A found a punji-pit and a pineapple grenade, both of which they destroyed. At 1305 at YD 034259 Company A found trail and tracks while that day. At YD 033258, trails previously mentioned lead to a sniper position, and Company A found sniper cartridges of an unknown caliber with #31 on the top and #36. About 50 meters behind the sniper position was a hut, and behind the hut a bunker, both of which Company A destroyed. At 0945 at YD 027262 a large trail system running east to west and large enough for a cart to pass over was sighted by an AO.

03 DEC At 1000 at YD 027262 Company D found fresh elephant tracks and 4 fighting holes, 3 or more months old, 2" x 3". At 1055 at YD 109237 Company D found 1 cave slightly under water but no live findings underneath. At 1200 at YD 022258 Company A found a trail 3" to 4" wide, elephant tracks and feces one month old and pig tracks 1 week old. The trail ran south to north. At 0650 at YD 098231 Company D received a probe by an estimated squad (-), taking automatic weapons fire, grenades, RPG rocket fire, and suffering 6 WIA's. Fire was returned with small arms and missions were called and fired by 60mm mortars, 82mm mortars and artillery on suspected routes of egress. At 0730 Company D heard chopping and digging at YD 098225 and called artillery on the grid, then airstrikes by an AO and fixed wing, with unknown results. At 0950 at YD 095223 fixed wing aircraft received small arms fire.

04 DEC At 1215 at YD 028252 Company A found 2 new huts of bamboo and banana leaves and 30 pounds of rice in baskets and loose, all of which was destroyed in place. At 1320 at YD 027248 Company D took 2 sniper rounds, then the sniper apparently fled. At 1200 at YD 096230 Company D found 40 empty AK-47 cartridges and tennis shoe prints of an estimated 3 or 4 NVA heading on a 120 degree azimuth. At 0830 at YD 098233 the battalion 1ST not received static, music and intelligible conversation. At 0700 the same was received on the Conduct Of Fire net. At 1320 at YD 025249 Company A found 1 hut and 300-400 pounds of rice loose on grass mats, all of which was destroyed in place. At 1730 at YD 053837 Company

UNCLASSIFIED

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

I heard noises, and at dusk a dog barked. An artillery mission was called on the grid and human gasps were heard afterwards.

05 DEC At 1510 at YD 024244 Company A found 1 hut recently built, with a burned out fire still warm in the hut. An estimated squad-sized unit had been in the hut. At 1030 at YD 100271 Company B found 1 bunker 6'x6'. Fifty meters to the right of the bunker was a garden of dimensions 50 by 45 meters, possibly containing potatoes. There were 6 or 7 similar plots along the river and the whole cultivated area was estimated to be able to feed a battalion for 5 months. The river was also full of fish. At 1350 at YD 102220 Company D found 1 old destroyed hut 5'x6'x5' of sticks and bamboo leaves. At 1805 Company A took 12 to 13 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from YD 037264, but the nearest round impacted 300 meters from the perimeter. Counter-battery fire was effected with 81mm mortars and artillery with unknown results. At 2025 at YD 104220 Company D heard movement, estimated as one individual, and fired one burst of M-16 with unknown results. At 2240 at YD 098234 Company D heard movement, received a small amount of small arms fire and 2 grenades; small armsfire, 60mm mortar, 81mm mortar, and artillery missions were called in. One man was wounded and medevaced the next day. An armed C-117 came on station but did not fire.

06 DEC At 0710 at YD 097235 Company D sent one fire team to check out the area of the previous evening's action but found no results. At 1045 at YD 043258 Company D sighted a figure moving from north to south through a clearing, and an artillery mission was fired with unknown results. At 1130 at YD 051206 Company C found freshly cut trails, punji-stakes 2 months old, lines tied from tree to tree used for booby traps, and freshly cut logs. At 1055 at YD 021243 a member of Company A was wounded when he stepped on a grenade type booby-trap. At 1330 at YD 041205 Company C found four 2-man fighting holes 3'x4'x5' that were very old. At 1630 at YD 051203 Company C found small traps used for catching rock apes, pigs and other animals, a field with edible vegetables, and some plants freshly dug up. At 1600 at YD 046206 Company C found 10-12 huts with their roofs collapsed and prints of bare feet less than a week old. At 1745 Company A found a trail 3' - 4' wide and followed it from YD 101223 to YD 093227. Branches were cut away to enable easy movement and the trail had been recently used. At 1945 at YD 042251 Company A heard movement to the northeast, and estimated 3 individuals, and fired an 81mm mortar mission with unknown results. At 2230 at YD 051206 Company C saw one enemy on the lines, and three enemy a few moments later, and fired claymores and small arms. At 1930 Company A heard movement of 782 gear at YD 051203.

07 DEC At 1100 at YD 046277 an A0 spotted bunkers. At 1000 at YD 053201 Company C found a small Brou village comprised of 2 huts, 10'x4' and 4' off the ground, small pens used for pigs, papers with names and supply routes, bottles of medicine, vegetables and peppers, pack-type baskets, water containers and one round of unknown caliber. Also, Brou were sighted in the area, but they refused to be evacuated. At 1130 at YD 037205 Company C found 20 fighting holes formed a U-shaped perimeter and were at most 2 days old. At 1145 at YD 044257 Company A found one elephant and three water buffalo running loose. At 1230 at YD 038200 Company C found 4 huts, and hidden inside were 2 M14sor rifles and one M-1 rifle (Winchester), all in good condition. At 1245 at YD 059246 Company A found 200 pounds of wheat packaged in baskets and destroyed it.

~~SECRET~~ UNCLASSIFIED

At 1230 at YD 096231 Company D encountered a smell of something dead and found an area where the leaves had been matted down as if someone had lain there. Artillery had been used in the area; a .50 caliber cartridge was found on the matted down grass. At 1510 at YD 051201 Company C found 1 NVA shirt, 1 buckle, and 1 ammunition pouch. At 1030 at YD 098262 to YD 100272 Company D found a rice garden with a fence surrounding it and a shelter.

08 DEC At 1340 at YD 043203 a Company C squad received fire from an estimated 4 enemy while approaching a village, and took one man killed. An 82mm mortar mission was fired on the village, an AO worked out on the area with good target coverage. The squad found blood when checking out the area and estimated one enemy killed. The enemy were dressed in khaki shirts and green trousers and one carried an M-1 rifle. At 1500 at YD 106273 Company B found apple peelings and sneaker tracks. At 2100 at YD 052205 a Company C listening post sighted one enemy approaching the perimeter and fired small arms with negative results. At 2110 at YD 097236 Company D heard movement approaching its perimeter and fired small arms and a 60mm mortar mission with negative results. At 2240 at YD 101213 Company D observed lights and called an artillery mission on the grid. Excellent target coverage was achieved and the lights disappeared. At 2245 at YD 100237 a trip flare on the Company D's lines went off. Small arms, a 60mm mission, and an artillery mission were fired with excellent target coverage but negative results.

09 DEC while running fixed wing preparation fires on Hill 850 (YD 049287), aircraft received .50 cal fire from YD 037244. An artillery mission was fired on the grid and then fixed wing ran airstrikes resulting in a secondary explosion equal to 50 - 100 82mm mortar rounds. At 1000 at YD 097236 Company D discovered one AN-47 casing from the previous night's contact. At 1020 at YD 084240 Company C found 2 old fighting holes covered with vines and branches and not used recently. At 1050 at YD 037203 Company C found 2 montagnard nuts with 2 anti-tank mines with fuzes (U.S. made), two 50 round magazines similar to the Thompson magazines, 100 rounds of small arms ammunition, 40 lbs of TNT(NVA type), food peppers, spices, 1 NVA canteen, 1 hand tool, and one spear. At 1215 an AO adjusted an artillery mission and observed a secondary explosion, but the grid is not available because the AO checked off the radio frequency without reporting it. At 1310 at YD 031237 an AO observed a small secondary explosion from an artillery mission. At 1300 at YD 086234 Company D found a trail wide enough for 1 person. At 1115 at LZ FISHER (YD 037287) a CH-46, after dropping one heliteam, took fire. The heliteam was picked up a few minutes later and returned to its original position. At 1430 at YD 068249 Company A found 1000 lbs of rice and 60 lbs of corn packaged in grass baskets in 2 nuts. At 1655 at YD 096231 Company D found a trail running east and west with fresh tennis shoe prints of 3-4 persons heading towards company D's lines.

10 DEC at 1050 at YD 096262 a Company B patrol called for a pre-planned 60mm mortar mission that fell short and caused 4 WIA's in the patrol. At 1740 at YD 098257 Company B observed 2 persons wearing tan clothing watching the companies perimeter. An artillery mission was fired with negative results.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

10 DEC At 1300 at YD 096268 Company B found fields of mountain rice and other plants with edible roots, all ready for harvesting. At 1630 at YD 038200 Company C made contact with an estimated squad of NVA, killing one enemy and suffering 1 WI.

11 DEC At 0830 at YD 049290 Company A found 15 punji pits and destroyed them. At 1030 at YD 096226 Company D found an old trail running east and west. At 1105 at YD 096221 Company D found tennis shoe tracks showing movement of 2 persons on a 285 azimuth 24 hours previously. At 1135 at YD 096221 Company D found more tennis shoe tracks about 1 hour old and heading southeast. A patrol pursued with negative results, and a fire mission was fired on probable routes of egress with unknown results. At 1345 at YD 029188 Company C made contact with an estimated NVA squad and fired small arms and an 81mm mortar mission. The enemy broke contact and no apparent casualties were inflicted. At 1400 at YD 033198 Company C made contact with an estimated 4-5 NVA, fired small arms and maneuvered, but the enemy withdrew. At 1410 at YD 041214 Company C found a hut with a rifle of unknown caliber, 350 lbs of rice, papers with Vietnamese writing on them and detonating cord. At 1600 at YD 107267 Company B observed movement in trees and fired small arms at it with negative results. At 1400 at YD 113274 Company B found a trail marker 2' high with "D" and "L" on it. At 1530 at YD 025197 to YD 024198 Company C found a well-used footpath about 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>' wide with brush cut away on the sides and that appeared recently used. At 1800 at YD 030197 Company C took 10 rounds of AA-7 fire from an estimated 1-2 NVA. At 2040 at YD 105268 Company B observed 2 characters and fired small arms and artillery and 60mm mortar illumination mission with negative results. At 2100 at YD 104266 Company B fired small arms at movement with negative results.

12 DEC At 1530 at YD 039217 Company C found 2 huts, built off the ground with baskets and bowls inside, and a bunker, all which was destroyed. A well used trail also passed through the grid. At 1600 at YD 037217 Company C found a hut (10'x7'x5'), clothing, 1 cord of wood, 1 M-1 round, corn, pots of seeds, and 1 bunker (3'x5'x3'). At 1145 Company C found an empty Vietnamese wallet at YD 111226, a dead campfire with several bones around it at YD 109267, and a dead camp fire with cigarettes and pieces of poncho at YD 104259. At 1615 at YD 035218 Company C found 3 huts (18'x10') a barn with pigeons, 2 bunkers (3'x4'x5'), baskets, pots, seeds, garden tools, foods and a crossbow. Well used trails also passed through the grid. At 1630 at YD 034276 Company C found a well and recently used trail, 2 - 4 meters wide, running north and south. Dead brush was piled up on the sides of the trail. At 2130 at YD 038198 Company C heard the movement of 6-8 enemy, received 3-4 rounds of small arms, and returned a heavy volume of small arms. A small patch of blood was found upon investigation of the area.

13 DEC At 1150 at YD 097204 Company D found a corral 2' high, 40 meters wide and 400 meters long. At 1200 at YD 097204 Company D heard movement of an estimated 1 person, pursued physically and reconned with small arms fire with negative results. At 1330 at YD 097203 Company D found 40 stakes 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" in diameter and 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>' long. At 1010 at YD 102275 Company B found and destroyed one hut with one incoming hole.

**UNCLASSIFIED**

UNCLASSIFIED

15 DEC At 0740 at YD 098201 Company D found a punji pit ( $5' \times 3'$ ) and a trail marker made of 3 sticks. At 1045 at YD 101202 Company D found an old animal pit ( $4' \times 5'$ ). At 1100 at YD 102201 Company D found a freshly used trail with foot prints an hour old. At 1800 at YD 199287 Company A found: 1 61mm base plate; 18 M-26 grenades with caps removed and scattered around the area, and C-4 removed, possibly used for cooking; 2 gas masks; 1 gas mask pouch; 2 claymores with C-4 removed; 2 claymore wires; 1 claymore detonating device; 4 trip flares; 7 full M-16 magazines; 200 rounds of 7.62 in bandoleers; 2 M-79 rounds; 1 new asbestos glove, used for changing machine gun barrels. At 1100 at YD 199277 Company A found well worn foot paths, one that appeared to have been used by hundreds of troops passing daily for several years. The trails are wide enough for pack animals and run southeast.

16 DEC At 1000 at YD 100203 Company D received several bursts of AK-47 fire while preparing for helo-extraction from a zone. The enemy force, an estimated reinforced squad, was taken under small arms fire, 60mm mortar, 82mm mortar fire and artillery fire mission with excellent target coverage. One WIA was suffered by the Company. At 1230 at YD 194274 Company A found 500 rounds of M16 in clips, 2 claymores without C-4, one claymore detonating device, and 82mm mortar aiming stakes. This gear was found inside a perimeter previously occupied by a friendly unit. At 1600 at YD 185176 Company A found the following NVA gear: 1 E-Tool, 1 canteen, 1 cartridge belt, 1 pack, and 24 61mm mortar rounds with fuzes and increments. At 1330 at YD 201271 Company A found bootprints a week old and a punji pit ( $1' \times 1' \times 1'$ ).

17 DEC At 1030 at YD 182253 Company C found fresh trails and footprints made by one person. At 1135 at YD 190269 Company A found 2 mountain type huts, 1-E Tool, one 61mm round, 2 bottles of medical gear (type unknown), 2 cans of cleaning compound, 5 banana clips of AK-47 rounds, 2 canteens, 2 pairs of trousers, 2 belts, 2 ammunition pouches, 1 gas mask filter, and one letter. At 1445 at YD 181253 Company C saw one indigenous individual bathing in a stream. He fled without his clothing and the company pursued by fire with negative results. At 1500 at YD 178258 Company C saw a character dressed like an ARVN and armed with a unrecognizable rifle approach its position and appearing to be lost. The character, when he saw the Company C personnel, turned and ran, and was pursued by fire with negative results. At 2245 at YD 178259 Company C had movement of an estimated 3 enemy, and fired small arms with negative results.

18 DEC at 1300 at YD 214283 Company A found 18 82mm mortar rounds, 30 fuzes, and 2 cans of increments and charges. At 1340 at YD 220287 Company A sighted 8-10 NVA/VC with packs suspected of being mortar ammunition. When an M-79 man attempted to take the personnel under fire, two rounds failed to explode on impact but made enough noise to alert the enemy, who withdrew. At 1600 at YD 175253 Company C found 1 9mm pistol, 1 knife, 8 road stakes, 1 case of 61mm rounds (8 rounds/case), a grave with one body, wearing fairly new clothing, and a trail 8' wide, running north and south from YD 218285 to YD 179244.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

19 DEC At 1030H at YD 218285 Company A found 7 M-16 grenades, 3 full M-16 magazines, 2 claymore detonating devices, 2 claymore fuses, 1 pouch (U.S. Army type), 1 helmet, (Chinese Communist type), 1 cartridge belt, and one pair of sandals. At 1430H at YD 233260 Company A found a downed CH-53 helicopter, down for an estimated 7 months, containing charred flesh, clothing and gear of infantrymen, crew and pilots. The following was found: 6 M-16 barrels, 1 M-16 bipod, 2 watches (1 engraved SCIRAM, F.L.), 2 name tags off flight suits (UGINO, J.J. and SCIRAM, F.L.), 1 E-9 utility chevron, 5 cigarette lighters, one insignia "TMC", 2 documents marked "CONFIDENTIAL" and "1st MARDIV and 3d MARDIV PRIGS", 1 K-Bar, 1 M-16 bayonet, 1 M-60 butt plate and bolt, 1 wedding band, 2 cameras, 2 U.S. .45 cal pistols (serno 936459 and 2130875), 1 M-16 bolt, 1 pocket knife, 5 boots, 7 helmets, and the following I.D. tags:

WHITE, R.	2353701
PROTANO, C.J.	2266513
BARRY, K.D.	2325949
DAY, H.R.	2152529
DIAZ, D.	2347416
NICHOLSON, D.D.	2323079
FREEMAN, G.W.	2200577

20 DEC At 1530H at YD 193295 Company C found a way station with 3 women detainees, 2 carbine rifles, radio tubes, 2 boxes of transistors, 15 feet of heavy communication wire with attachments, 250 feet of communication wire, 1 large transmitter estimated weight 50 lbs, power packed with a crank and another radio, 1 typewriter, 3 NVA packs, some documents dated May 1968, medical supplies in a pack, assorted 782 gear, and assorted clothing. The women said that 150 NVA had been in area 29 days before and had 5 weapons between them and were carrying heavy packs. The women detainees were supposedly forced labor. According to the women the 150 NVA claimed they would return in one week. Detainees claimed that they have been in area for one year, and that there is another way station nearby.

21 DEC At 0900H at YD 197293 Company C observed movement outside the lines, fired at it, saw one figure, with negative results. At 0930H at YD 193295 Company C found 1 campfire burned out 24-48 hours before.

22 DEC At 1500 at YD 166315 Company B found 40 empty 122mm rocket containers, 4 empty 12.7mm ammunition box and 2 bunkers (8'x10').

23 DEC At 1410H at YD 213284 a Company A patrol encountered 10-12 NVA and exchanged small arms fire with negative results. The patrol called an artillery mission, then advanced, finding a campsite 200 lbs of rice; some cooked, 12 packs (containing clothing, medical gear and medicines, 4 cartons of cigarettes, C-rations, 1 large transistor radio, commercial type, 1 new U.S. poncho liner, 1 wristwatch, 1 large Chinese communist compass, 3 sun helmets, medical books, resupply orders, and a field commanders case containing documents, a diary and other miscellaneous papers.

UNCLASSIFIED

10

**UNCLASSIFIED****5. Casualties and Damage Inflicted on the Enemy.****a. Personnel.**

- (1) NVA KIA - 1
- (2) CHIEU HOI - 3

**b. Weapons Captured.**

- (1) Individual - 6

**c. Munitions.**

- (1) Small Arms Rounds - 692
- (2) Mortar Rounds - 127
- (3) Mines - 1
- (4) Grenades - 19
- (5) Explosives, lbs. - 40

**d. Food Stuffs (Partial Listings).**

- (1) Rice, lbs. - 3780
- (2) Wheat, lbs. - 200
- (3) Corn, lbs. - 60

**e. Structures Destroyed.**

- (1) Fighting Holes - 31
- (2) Huts - 40

**f. Medical Supplies (Partial Listings).**

- (1) Penicillin, Bottles - 4

**g. Miscellaneous (Partial Listings).**

- (1) Utilities, Sets - 1
- (2) Helmets - 4
- (3) Packs - 8
- (4) Gas Masks - 3

**6. Friendly casualties sustained during the reporting period.****KIA 1 WIA 12 WIANE 8****7. New Techniques employed: NONE****8. Equipment.**

- a. The following is a report of the readiness of major items of combat essential equipment.

**UNCLASSIFIED**

~~SECRET~~ UNCLASSIFIED

(1) <u>Motor Transport</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>OP-READY</u>
M-151 Al	20	19	16
M-37 El	4	4	3
MRC-109	2	1	0
MRC-87	1	1	1
MRC-83	2	1	1
M-170	1	1	1
M-274	30	29	22
M-101	4	4	4
M-107	6	4	2
M-41 6El	19	18	18
M-12	1	1	1
M-250	1	1	1

(2) Communications

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ALLOWANCE</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>OP-READY</u>
PP-3240 20132	5	5	5
PP-4567 20135	5	0	0
PU-348 20930	1	1	0
PP-388 21650	1	1	1
PP-2953 21665	1	0	0
AN/PPS-6 21775	0	6	6
AN/GR4-39 21907	12	6	6
AN/GRC-125 21954	7	7	7
AN/MRC-83 22040	2	1	1
AN/MRC-87 22050	1	1	0

UNCLASSIFIED

AN/MRC-109 22051	2	1	0
AN/PRC-25 22101	75	75	67
AN/PRC-41 22105	3	3	3
AN/PRC-47 22105	5	2	1
AN/PRC-77 22108	19	0	0
AN/URR-23 22390	1	1	1
SB-22, PT 22650	5	5	5
AN/TCC-24 22670	3	0	0
TA-31/PT 22680	35	30	26
TA-1 22730	44	53	52
AN/GGC-3 22770	1	0	0
AN/TGC-14()			
22783	2	0	0
KY-8	3	2	2
KY-38	0	15	15

b. Major items previously warranted to higher echelon maintenance facilities that have not been returned.

(1) <u>Motor Transport</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
M-37E1	1	FL SG-B
M-274A2	3	FL SG-B
M-107	1	FL SG-B

(2) Communications

UNCLASSIFIED

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~~~SECRET~~

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
PU-348 20930	1	3rd FSR
AN/MRC-87 22050	1	FL SG-B
AN/PRC-25 22101	8	FL SG-B
AN/PRC-47 22105	1	FL SG-B
TA-312/PT 22680	4	FL SG-B
TA-1 22730	1	FL SG-B

c. Transportation.

(1) The following vehicles have been code 4. One M-151A1, 1 MRC-109, 1 MRC 83, 2 M-107, 1 M-416H1, 1 M-274A2. One M-274A2, has been stolen. The overall condition of the vehicles as far as 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance is good.

9. Logistics.a. Supply and Distribution.

1. Primary source of supply for Rn. FL SG-B.
2. Significant items in short supply.
  - (1) Body armor
  3. Unit distribution.

b. Resupply.

1. Resupply figures, (by class) to the Companies in the Battalion.

CLASS

I	152692
II	4895
III	
IV	14310
V	55685

2. Total resupply figures for companies in the Battalion.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

Company A	48949
" B	47385
" C	62468
" D	68980

3. Hot meals were supplied the battalion in the field.

c. Transportation.

- (1) Helicopters provided by MAG-39
- (2) Number of pounds of supplies moved by air for the Battalion was: 227782.

d. Engineer Support.

The 1st Platoon, Company C, 3d Engineer Battalion served in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines.

e. Services Situation.

- (1) While at VCB showers, laundry and ice (to the mess hall) were provided when available.

f. Battalion Supply Situation.

- (1) The average of all areas is C-1.

g. Medical.

(1) SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

- (a) 05 HM's reported for duty
- (b) 01 HM rotated to CONUS
- (c) 02 HM's reassigned within III MAF
- (d) No casualties (Hostile) and 03 HM's WAD Under treatment.

(2) DEVELOPMENTS AND EVALUATION:

- (a) No notable developments have taken place since last report.

(3) MEDCAP STATISTICS:

- (a) Location: Cam Lo Village
- (b) People Treated, 100 Women, 50 Children, 07 Men, 157 TOTAL
- (c) Four children were evacuated to the Children's Hospital at Dong Ha.

UNCLASSIFIED

**UNCLASSIFIED**

(e) Supplies for the MedCaps have been extremely difficult to obtain.

(4) PATIENT STATISTIC:

(a) During the month of December 1968 393 Men were treated at the Quang Tri facility, and 289 at the L. Z. Stud facility. Total 682.

(5) IMMUNIZATIONS AND PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE:

(a) A great improvement in the sanitation of the battalion areas has taken place this month.

10. Personnel and Administration.

a. Personnel.

(1) Enlisted MOS Shortages and Rank.

<u>MOS</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SHORTAGE</u>
0141	Sgt	2
0141	Cpl	1
0232	GySgt	1
0311	Sgt	38
0311	Cpl	20
0311	LCpl	24
0331	Sgt	10
0331	Cpl	6
0341	Sgt	2
0341	Cpl	1
0351	Sgt	1
0351	Cpl	9
0848	GySgt	1
2111	Sgt	1
2311	Cpl	1
2511	LCpl	1
2531	PFC	1
2533	Sgt	1
2549	SSgt	1
2811	Cpl	1
2861	LCpl	1
2867	SSgt	1
3052	LCpl	3
3381	GySgt	1
5591	PFC	1
8421	SSgt	1

**UNCLASSIFIED**

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~~~(2) Rotations during the month of December.~~

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
0	100	0	4

~~(3) Replacements receive during the month of December.~~

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
13	94	0	5

~~(4) Casualties.~~

NBC	- 69
WIA	- 12
WIA/NE	- 8
KIA	- 1
DIA	- 2

~~(5) Promotions.~~

<u>Men in Service</u>	<u>Regular Promotions</u>
1-CySgt	1-1stLt
	9-Cpl
	45-LCpl
	1-PFC

~~(6) AWARDS: None~~~~b. Administration.~~~~(1) Special Services (Type of equipment that was allocated and passed out)~~

<u>Equipment Allocated</u>	<u>Year Quantity</u>
Pads of writing gear	1000
Paper back books	100
T. V. Sets	11
	a. 3 Large Sets
	b. 8 Small Sets
Sweat Shirts	800

~~(2) Discipline.~~

Two trip flares were thrown into a tent on 27 Dec. 1968 at approximately 1040 P.M.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SECRET~~

- (1) Courts Martial: None
- (2) Bn CO's OH: None
- (3) CO CO's OH: None

(3) Marine P.X., Postal Affairs

a. P.X.

- (1) There is a P.X. located in the 11th Engineers area which services the VCB.

b. Postal.

- (1) No problems other than transporting mail to the field during helicopter nonavailability.

11. Intelligence: From 1-24 December 1968, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines operated in the Nam Hoa Area, on OPERATION DAWSON RIVER AFTON.

The terrain consisted of mountainous, double to triple canopy jungle, which made long & fast movement difficult.

1st Battalion, 9th Marines received sporadic contact from the enemy, estimated to be V.C. Montagnards with NVA advisors. In addition there is a possibility that a main force NVA unit was moving through the area as reported by recon units.

1st Battalion, 9th Marines conducted patrols in and around VCB, during the 24th of December 1968 to the 28th of December 1968. There was no contact made in the four days.

WEATHER: During the days the temperature ranged from the low 70's to high 80's. During the night the temperature ranged from the low 60's to high 70's. Winds were 5 to 10 knots with little precipitation.

REMARKS

1. Brouscouts proved useful on the last operation as we were in their area.
2. Scout Dogs led to the discovery of a grave.
3. Recon-Teams inserted supplied useful information. However, it was difficult to get information back from the recon teams fast enough to allow for speedy reaction by our manoeuvre units.
4. The ITT team was inserted rapidly and used effectively to question the three women POW's.

12. Air Support.

01 Dec 68- AO visually reconnoitered Battalions area of operation at 0815H. At 1500H AO ran fixed wing. AO visually reconnoitered for Company D at 1600H.

02 Dec 68- AO worked for Battalion TACP from 0830H until 1000H.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~  
~~SECRET~~

2nd platoon of Company B lifted from Signal Hill to LZ DICK (YD 14334) at 1030H aboard helicopters, with a UH-1E escort. 81mm Mortar Platoon lifted from Signal Hill to LZ DELTA (0923).

03 Dec 68- AO worked for Battalion TACP from 0950H until 1100H. A platoon from Company A was lifted from FSB DICK to LZ PUSAN (YD 0424).

04 Dec 68- AO worked for Battalion TACP from 0830H until 0930H, relieved on station by another AO who worked until 1200H. AO ran two flights fixed wing. AO worked for Company C from 1230H until 1345H.

05 Dec 68- AO worked for Battalion from 0800H until 1000H. Ran one flight fixed wing Spooky worked from 2300H-2400H in 0923 grid around LZ DELTA.

06 Dec 68- AO ran one flight fixed wing on Hill 812 (YD 1020) LZ Prep. AO worked for Company A at YD 030285.

07 Dec 68- AO ran fixed wing on Hill 812 (YD 1020) LZ Prep. AO worked for Battalion TACP from 1000H-1125H.

08 Dec 68- Company A Lifted to YD 0424 by helicopter with UH-1E escort.

09 Dec 68- Ran fixed wing for Company A, AO ran fixed wing for Company A. AO relieved ran air strike on LZ FISCHER at 1230H.

10 Dec 68- AO worked for Battalion TACP at LZ FISCHER from 0945H-1100H. AO worked for Company C at 1715H.

12 Dec 68- AO worked for Battalion TACP from 1630H-1715H.

13 Dec 68- AO looked for future LZ's for Battalion TACP and ran fixed wing on Hill 812 (YD 1020) as prep. also ran preps at (YD 171290), (YD 162273)

14 Dec 68- H&S Company lifted to LZ SHILOH by helicopter, Company A also lifted to YD 168291; Company C to YD 161272.

16 Dec 68- AO worked for Company D adjusting artillery in YD 1020 grid. Company D lifted from YD 1020 to RockPile.

19 Dec 68- Company C lifted from YD 162273 to YD 196304; H&S lifted from FSB SHILOH to YD 196304; Company B from FSB SHILOH to LZ BARNETT by helicopter transports.

21 Dec 68- H&S Company lifted from YD 196304 to LZ DICK; Company C lifted from YD 196304 to 197296 by helicopter.

29 Dec 68- Battalion lifted to VCB for Christmas.

30 Dec 68- Company B lifted from GIA VIET to ROCKPILE Company C and H&S to Vandegrift Combat Base by helicopter and escort by UH-1E.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~13. Fire Support.a. Artillery.

- (1) General: The artillery fire support for the month of December 1968 consisted of preparation fires, night defensive fires and a small number of targets of opportunity.
- (2) Significant Events: On 4 December Company D and H&S Company received a squad sized probe and responded with mortar fire, artillery fires and air support. On approximately 8 December, Company C engaged the enemy in a fire fight and employed mortar and artillery fire for support.
- (3) Type missions fired:

- a. Observed - 115 Missions
- b. Unobserved - 3 Missions
- c. H&I's - 460

(4) Number of rounds fired.

- a. 105's - 8,742
- b. 155's - 1,065
- c. 106's - None
- d. 4.2" Mortars - 995

(5) Significant Surveillance.

- a. KIA - None
- b. WIA - None
- c. Bunkers destroyed - None
- d. Secondary explosions - 3
- e. Bridges destroyed - None
- f. Mortars destroyed - None
- g. .50 Cal MG destroyed - None

16. Communications/Electronics:

- a. General: Communications during the subject month was generally excellent, in that at no time was the battalion out of communications with the parent organization, or the subordinate units. For the most part, communicating was done from high elevations and consequently was line-of-sight. The weather was mostly hot and dry, with minimal precipitation. One minor problem was encountered, and this was with dry cell battery resupply, this problem was resolved within the battalion supply system.
- b. The normal Message Center (Rear) and Field Message Center were employed with no unusual occurrences.
- c. Wire: Excluding the wire network installed in the rear areas, minimal wire usage was utilized with the battalion CP in the field.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~~~SECRET~~

- d. Radio. The only noteworthy comment in regard to radio, is that at one point it was necessary to construct a quarter-wave length long wire antenna for the Battalion Administrative net. This antenna was terminated with a 600 OHM resistor. The results were satisfactory.
- e. Radio-Relay. There was no employment of radio-relay during the subject period.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

DECLASSIFIED

PART LV

None