

00352-68

#3 of 15

HEADQUARTERS

Second Battalion, Ninth Marines
Third Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco California, 96602

30 MAR 68 SEC FILE
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5 October 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: Commanding General, Third Marine Division

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 September to 30 September 68.

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8

Encl: (1) Second Battalion, Ninth Marines Command Chronology.

✓ TAB A- A/RPT (OpN LANCASTERT-TROUSDALE

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

2. Downgraded to unclassified when Sections I, II, III, IV, V, VII and VIII are removed from enclosure (1).

R. E. HENSEL, DC
By direction

Copy to:

- 1 - CO, 4th Marines
- 1 - CO, 9th Marines
- 1 - CG, Third Marine Division
- 4 - File

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS

DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

HEADQUARTERS
 Second Battalion, Ninth Marines
 Third Marine Division (Rein), FMF
 FPO San Francisco California, 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 September 1968 to 30 September 1968

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SECTION I - Organizational Data

1. Designation/Location. 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, 30 September 1968, Ca Lu and Quang Tri.

2. Period Covered by Report. 1-30 September 1968.

3. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer and Staff including T/O Billet Assignments.

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Commanding Officer | LtCol F. S. KNIGHT | 1-15 September |
| | Maj F. E. SISLEY | 16-30 September |
| Executive Officer | Maj F. E. SISLEY | 1-15 September |
| S-1 | 1stLt R. E. HENSEL | 1-30 September |
| S-2 | 1stLt W. M. KERR | 1-30 September |
| S-3 | Maj J. M. SMITH | 1-30 September |
| S-4 | 1stLt J. M. G. MITCHELL | 1-30 September |
| Comm Officer | 2dLt W. O. WELDON, Jr. | 1-30 September |
| MT Officer | 2dLt J. BORYCKI | 1-18 September |
| Supply Officer | 1stLt G. A. THOMPSON | 1-7 September |
| | 2dLt L. S. DRIEVER, Jr. | 8-30 September |
| Medical Officer | Lt M. M. SHERMAN | 1-30 September |
| Chaplain | LCDR W. L. CHILDERS | 6-30 September |
| "H&S" Company | 1stLt R. E. HENSEL | 1-22 September |
| | 1stLt A. A. PIERCE | 23-30 September |
| Company "E" | Capt J. D. WARD | 1-30 September |
| Company "F" | Capt R. H. SUTTON | 1-30 September |
| Company "G" | Capt D. N. BUCKNER | 1-30 September |
| Company "H" | Capt D. F. WINECOFF | 1-30 September |
| S-2 | | |
| S-3 | | |
| S-4 | | |
| Comm Officer | | |
| MT Officer | | |

SECTION II - S-1 Chronology

1. General. During the reporting period, the officer strength has increased but is still 2 officers under T/O. 10 officers were joined and 5 were lost to this organization. The enlisted strength increased remarkably having joined 308 and dropping 160. A shortage exists in SNCO ranks, but of SNCO other than occupational field 03. The non-effectives at the end of the reporting period totals 5 officers and 167 enlisted. Losses for the month of October 1968 are expected to be 3 officers and 59 enlisted who rotate to CONUS.

a. Strength. The average monthly strength for the period ending 30 September 1968 was as follows:

| <u>USMC</u> | | <u>USN</u> | |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <u>OFF</u> | <u>ENL</u> | <u>OFF</u> | <u>ENL</u> |
| 39 | 1185 | 2 | 48 |

Note: Percentage of T/O was about 102%.

b. Losses.

| | <u>USMC</u> | | <u>USN</u> | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | <u>OFF</u> | <u>ENL</u> | <u>OFF</u> | <u>ENL</u> |
| Hostile | 0 | 25 | 0 | 1 |
| Non-Hostile | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| Administrative | 5 | 130 | 0 | 10 |

Note: The above figures include only those personnel dropped from the rolls. For total casualties see the medical chronology.

(1) Of the battle casualties, 7 were KIA, 1 DOW, and 17 were WIA. The 17 were transferred by service records to Camp S. D. BUTLER.

(2) Of the administrative losses, 1 officer rotated to CONUS, 4 were transferred inter-division. 67 enlisted rotated to CONUS, 29 were transferred to other WESTPAC commands and 34 were transferred inter-division.

c. Administrative

(1) State of Morale. Excellent.

(2) Significant Activities of Personal Service. None.

(3) Promotions. 4 Corporals were promoted to Sergeant meritoriously, 79 Lance Corporals were promoted to Corporal, 38 Private First Class were promoted to Lance Corporal and 4 Privates were promoted to Private First Class.

(4) Discipline, Law and Order. 1 Special court-martial was completed and 4 persons were awarded NJP by the Battalion Commander. There was 1 Article 32 completed.

(5) Mail. Service has been satisfactory.

Equipment & Clothing--

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| Khakis | 150 | pr |
| Utilities | 206 | pr |
| Sweatshirts | 202 | |
| Flight Suit (U.S.) | 1 | |
| Uniform Insignia | 2 | |
| Belts | 300 | |
| Tennis Shoes | 2 | pr |
| Boots | 5 | pr |
| Flak Jackets | 6 | |
| Helmets | 22 | |
| Canteens | 6 | |
| E-Tools | 15 | |
| Cartridge Belts | 10 | |
| Packs | 9 | |
| Bayonets | 1 | |
| Machete | 1 | |
| Ponchos | 8 | |
| Blankets | 40 | |
| Total | 986 | items |

Ordinance--

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Chi Com Gren | 100 |
| Smoke Gren | 6 |
| AT Mines | 916 |
| AP Mines | 61 |
| Claymores | 308 |
| Booby traps | 2 |
| 61mm Mort rds | 389 |
| 81mm Mort rds | 82 |
| 82mm Mort rds | 3,471 |
| 60mm Mort rds | 1,896 |
| 12.7 rds | 33,065 |
| 20mm rds | 45 |
| 45cal rds | 100 |
| AK rds | 392,760 |
| M-16 rds | 40 |
| M-60 rds | 100 |
| B-10 RC rds | 52 |
| 105mm rds | 1 |
| 75mm rds RR | 143 |
| 57mm rds RR | 5 |
| 107mm Rkt rds | 39 |
| 122mm Rkt Motor | 3 |
| 122mm Rkt Warhead | 1 |
| Rkt Fuze Carrying Case | 2 |
| RPG Booster | 40 |
| Total | 433,528 |

(b) LANCASTER II-TROUSDALE:**782 Gear--**

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Ponchos | 13 |
| Magazine Pouch | 8 |
| Gas Mask | 14 |
| Packs | 4 |
| Helmets | 13 |
| E-Tools | 7 |
| Mess Gear | 25 |
| Total | 84 |

Mines, Grenades, and Boosters--

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Claymores | 1 |
| Chi Com Gren | 7 |
| Smoke Gren | 1 |
| AT Mines | 1 |
| RPG Booster | 3,7 |
| Mort Boosters | 112 |
| Total | 329 |

Weapon Accessories--

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| AK-47 Mag | 6 |
| T-56 LMG Drum Mag | 5 |
| Total | 11 mags |

Ordinance--

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| RPG-7 rds | 8 |
| T-56 LMG rds | 800 |
| AK-47 rds | 1,737 |
| Total | 2,545 rds |

Medical Supplies--

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Plasma | 1 bottle |
| Foot Ointment | 2 tubes |
| Total | 3 items |

Miscellaneous--

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Black Ink | 1 pt |
| Radio Batteries | 2 |
| Total | 3 pt |

8. NVA/VC Initiated Incidents: There were 6 NVA initiated incidents during Operation SCOTLAND II -TROUSDALE.

There were 2 NVA initiated incidents during Operation Lancaster II-Trousdale.

9. Sources of Intelligence: Information used for intelligence purposes was obtained from many sources. On both operations, the Battalion drew information from ground troops, B-2 Scouts, translated documents, reports, and from regular higher echelons. Ninth Marine Regiment, Task Force Hotel, and Third Marine Division are examples.

SECRET

10. PSYOPS. There were no psychological warfare operations employed on either operation.

11. Items of Intelligence value. None.

12. Comments and Conclusions.

It appears that the enemy had made long and thorough preparation in this area, probably with the thought of attacking one or more friendly installations along the DMZ. Stores had been laid and bunkers constructed and it appeared that the enemy was preparing next to move in men and weapons.

Another interesting aspect of this operation was the appearance of enemy psychological warfare operations. One leaflet was found urging negroes to revolt against participating in the war and listing the huge expenditures of the U.S. government on the war. Another captured document contained instructions for the firing of one 81mm mortar round which contained psychological leaflets. Later an 81mm mortar round was found with foreign markings that could not be identified at Battalion level. The round was turned in for further identification and exploitation.

PART II

1. General Information. From 21 September to 24 September 1968, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines participated in Operation SCOTLAND II and on 30 September participated in Operation SCOTLAND II - NANKING. On both operations the battalion was OPPOON to Fourth Marines. The mission of the Battalion on Operation SCOTLAND II was to help defend Vandegrift Combat Base and provide a company reaction force. On Operation SCOTLAND II - NANKING the battalions mission was to prepare to proceed to the area around Delta-5 for operations there. Although Vandegrift Combat Base was not the operating area for Operation SCOTLAND II - NANKING, it was the only area occupied for the day.

2. Description of the Operating Area. The terrain around Vandegrift Combat Base is composed mainly of rugged hills and mountains. Prominent terrain features in the area are Dong Toan vic. (XD 0844), Dong Ngan vic. (0844) and the ridgeline between them. Excellent observation over much of the OA is offered from these two points.

Because of the steep gradient of the land masses and the vegetation, cross country trafficability is extremely poor. The valley floor surrounding Vandegrift Combat Base is covered with thick scrub brush and high elephant grass.

The principle avenue of approach into this area is Route #9. This road runs north and west along the valley floor. There is a small dirt road that runs east from Ca Lu into the Ba Long Valley. The Quang Tri River, except during the monsoons, can be considered a water avenue of approach.

Route #9 is an all weather road that can accommodate all types of traffic. Route #558 which enters the Ba Long Valley at vic. (XD 1042) will handle light vehicular traffic in some places. At Vandegrift Combat Base the MLZs can handle all types and amounts of helicopters.

3. Weather. The skies were usually partly cloudy with rain showers occurring mostly in the afternoons. Total precipitation was approximately 3 - 5 inches with the temperature ranging from a high of 92 degrees to a low of 74 degrees.

4. Enemy Situation. Since on both Operations the Battalion was in a static position at Vandegrift Combat Base the following categories will be listed as N/A.

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Section III - S-2 ChronologyPART I

1. General Information. From 1 September to 21 September 1968, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines participated in Operation SCOTLAND II - TROUSDALE and from 24 September to 30 September 1968, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines participated in Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE. Second Battalion, Ninth Marines was OPCON to Ninth Marines for both operations with the A.O. being the same for both. The mission for both operations was to occupy company size patrol bases and conduct platoon size search and destroy patrols.

2. Description of the Operating Area. The operating area was approximately 10,000 meters west of the Rockpile. Generally the terrain in this area must be described as rough. The hills are steep and the ridgelines narrow. There are several cliffs in the area with high waterfalls. The valley floors are narrow but flat and void of heavy vegetation. The Tien Hien Stream, a waterway 20 meters wide and 1 meter deep, is the main waterway in the area.

Because of the steep grades and thickness of the vegetation, cross country trafficability, is almost entirely restricted to existing trails.

Friendly avenues of approach would include all HLZ's in the area and a long flat valley stretching from Route #9 to the base of hill #792. Enemy avenues of approach consist of a heavy network of trails confined mostly to the ridgelines that run east to west, probably extending as far west as the Laotian border.

Due to the shallow depth of the Tien Hien Stream and the fact that the stream bed is made up of boulders and large rocks, it can be forded at almost any point.

Vegetation on the hills consisted of tall trees of moderate density and a small amount of underbrush. Vegetation on the valley floor is restricted to short grass.

Although there are no roads in the area, there are well worn trails some as much as three feet wide and indications of recent use. Many of the trails are reinforced with logs to prevent the rains from washing them out.

The initial HLZ's were natural HLZ's and needed no improvement. HLZ's Lee (XD 905552) and LZ Arios (XD 915546) are on the valley floor and can accommodate two CH-46 helicopters at a time. LZ Mars is located on an open hilltop and can accommodate one CH-46. LZ's Pluto (XD 893538), Krypton (XD 892569), Neptune (XD 889538), Uranus (XD 886538), Gazelle (XD 871535), Sandy (XD 910564), Comanche (XD 862540) and Fox (XD 927546) are man made and can accommodate one CH-46 at a time.

3. Weather. The weather on both operations ranged from "summer" hot to "winter" cold. The temperature reached as high as 98 degrees, and dropped as low as 72 degrees.

Total rainfall for both operations was 19 inches and the total number of days with rain was 16.

4. Enemy Situation. Translated enemy documents indicated that elements of the 303th, 320th, 325th, 325 C NVA Divisions were operating in this area.

(a) General Situation. On both operations, most of the enemy forces encountered were of squad or platoon size. Several snipers and suicide squads were also encountered.

(b) Significant Enemy Activities. Generally, small groups of enemy soldiers were left in one area to act as a delaying force. Small encounters, mining incidents, and the fact that there were three explosions in one area indicated that the NVA were using delaying tactics and blowing up their caches as they retreated.

5. NVA/VC Casualties and Personnel Losses. N/A.
6. NVA/VC Fortifications Destroyed or Captured. N/A.
7. NVA/VC Weapons Destroyed or Captured. N/A.
8. NVA/VC Initiated Incidents. N/A.
9. PsyOps. N/A.
10. Sources of Intelligence. N/A.
11. Items of Intelligence Interest. N/A.
12. Comments and Conclusions. N/A.

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Section IV - S-3 Chronology

1. General. Second Battalion, Ninth Marines participated in Operation SCOTLAND II - TROUSDALE from 1 September to 21 September, Operation SCOTLAND II from 21 September to 24 September, Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE from 24 September to 30 September and Operation SCOTLAND II - NANKING on 30 September.
2. Company "E", Second Battalion, Ninth Marines. From 1 September to 21 September E/2/9 participated in Operation SCOTLAND II - TROUSDALE west of the Rockpile. E/2/9 returned to Vandegrift Combat Base from 21 September to 25 September and from 25 September to 30 September E/2/9 participated in Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE west of the Rockpile and then returned to Vandegrift Combat Base on 30 September for Operation SCOTLAND II - Nanking.
3. Company "F", Second Battalion, Ninth Marines. From 1 September to 21 September F/2/9 participated in Operation SCOTLAND II - TROUSDALE west of the Rockpile. F/2/9 returned to Vandegrift Combat Base from 21 September to 25 September, from 25 September to 30 September F/2/9 participated in Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE. F/2/9 returned to Vandegrift Combat Base on 30 September for Operation SCOTLAND II - NANKING.
4. Company "G", Second Battalion, Ninth Marines. From 1 September to 21 September G/2/9 participated in Operation SCOTLAND II - TROUSDALE west of the Rockpile. G/2/9 returned to Vandegrift Combat Base from 21 September to 25 September, from 25 September to 30 September G/2/9 participated in Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE west of the Rockpile. G/2/9 returned to Vandegrift Combat Base on 30 September for Operation SCOTLAND II - NANKING.
5. Company "H", Second Battalion, Ninth Marines. From 1 September to 21 September H/2/9 participated in Operation SCOTLAND II - TROUSDALE west of the Rockpile. H/2/9 returned to Vandegrift Combat Base from 21 September to 24 September, from 24 September to 30 September H/2/9 participated in Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE west of the Rockpile. H/2/9 returned to Vandegrift Combat Base on 30 September for Operation SCOTLAND II - NANKING.
6. "H&S" Company, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines. From 1 September to 12 September Alpha and Bravo Command Groups participated in Operation SCOTLAND II - TROUSDALE west of the Rockpile. On 13 September Bravo Command Group was dissolved. The Command Group remained in the Scotland II - TROUSDALE area until 21 September. From 21 September to 25 September the command group operated out of Vandegrift Combat Base and from 25 September to 30 September participated in Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE west of the Rockpile. The command group returned to Vandegrift Combat Base on 30 September for Operation SCOTLAND II - TROUSDALE.
7. Close Combat. During the month of September Second Battalion, Ninth Marines conducted 14 company, 97 platoon and 29 squad size patrols. It also conducted 3 platoon and 25 squad size ambushes.
8. Training. Due to Operational commitments very little formal training was conducted. There were 114 replacement personnel who received training in accordance with DivO 1510.3B.
9. Fire Support and Fire Support Coordination.
 - (a) Second Battalion, Ninth Marines was provided with direct fire support for the month of September by 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines, batteries "D", "E", "F", "W" and "B". General support was provided by 4th Battalion, 12th Marines battery "N" and one 155mm battery from 4th Battalion, 12th Marines plus "T" battery 1st

Battalion, 11th Marines and 1st 8" platoon. Tactical and technical control was provided by 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines.

(b) Second Battalion, Ninth Marines employment of artillery while at Vandegrift Combat Base and on Operations during the month of September resulted in the following round expenditure: 10,659 HE, 248 WP and 299 Illumination. Nature of targets included active rocket sites, automatic weapons positions, bunkers, arms and food caches, NVA in the open, OP's, prep fires, night defensive fires, harrassing fires, interdiction fires, TOT's, rocket and mortar suppressive fires and illumination for medevacs

(c) The artillery support received during the month of September was considered satisfactory.

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10. Air Support.

(a) Medevacs. A total of 105 personnel were medevaced during the month.

(b) Command and Control. During the month of September, 7 visual reconnaissance flights were performed.

(c) Resupply. During the month of September, 413,588 pounds of supplies were lifted to the units in the field.

(d) Troop Lifts. During the month of September, 9 troop lifts were employed.

(e) Fixed Wing. During the month of September, 12 flights of fixed wing were controlled by Second Battalion, Ninth Marines.

Section V - S-4 Chronology

1. General. Resupply to the field was done primarily by OH-46 helicopters from Vandegrift Combat Base. Tactical situation dictated a multilanding zone setup and at times the Battalion was spread out considerably making resupply somewhat more complicated than on previous operations when the entire unit was resupplied by helicopter to just one landing zone. Increasingly inclement weather hampered us somewhat and some field locations were socked in by cloud formations due to their high elevation and this too added to the other problems. Although occasional problems were encountered, for the most part resupply went well. A large amount of demolitions, particularly C-4, was used during this period both in clearing LZ's and blowing bunkers and ordnance during operations west of the Rookpile. It often became necessary to use TNT in place of C-4 which was in short supply. Rainsuits have not yet become available to the battalion, with the exception of 290 sets of Japanese vintage. Unfortunately this number is not enough to outfit the entire unit so issue of same has been suspended until such time as enough are received to outfit all the troops. Rubber mattresses are also in very short supply and it is feared that a major health problem may soon develop among the field troops since a good many are sleeping on bare ground with no protection other than a poncho over their heads.

a. Supply.

(1) The supply situation presented no major problems in carrying out the Battalion's mission. However, the below listed items were in short supply during this period:

Air Mattresses
Utility Trousers
Utility Shirts
Socks
Under shirts
Starters for M27A2's
Regulators for M151A1's
Flak Jackets
Sleeping Shirts
BA 386's
Coleman Lanterns

Barber Kits
Masking Tape
Scotch Tape
First Aid Packets
Memo Books
6x10 Tablets
Boots Sizes (9W, 9R, 11W,
10W, 12's, 7's,
8's)
Dapzone

During this period BA 386's were in short supply. During this period 720 BA 386's were received. At present 1283 BA 386's are on order. The situation on BA 386's is critical.

Items of significant importance during the month are as follows:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|-------------------|------------|
| Gas Masks | 1,000 |
| Handsets H-189 | 24 |
| Bayonet Scabbards | 50 |

b. Ordnance.

(1) The ordnance situation was considered satisfactory. However, the battalion has a deficit of 65 Pistols cal .45 which are on order.

(2) The following items of Ordnance type Combat Essential Equipment are on 3rd Echelon Maintenance:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Flamethrower Portable | 2 |
| Compressor for flames | 1 |

(3) At this time there are no Ordnance type Combat Essential Equipment on 2nd Echelon Maintenance.

(4) The following items of Ordnance type Combat Essential Equipment are on order:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>DOC #</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|----------------|--------------|------------|
| Pistol Cal. 45 | 8116-1557 | 65 |

c. Comm/Elect.

(1) The situation in the Communications section during this period was considered just barely satisfactory due to the maintenance of equipment in 3rd Echelon Repair and the availability of spare parts.

(2) The following items of Comm/Elect Combat Essential Equipment are on 3rd Echelon Maintenance:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Switch Board Tele. M58-22/PV | 1 |
| PRC-41 | 1 |
| PRC-47 | 1 |
| KY-8 | 1 |

(3) The following items of Comm/Elect Combat Essential Equipment are on 2nd Echelon Maintenance:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|-------------|------------|
| AN/GRC-125 | 5 |
| MRC-109 | 1 |
| KY-8 | 2 |

(4) The following items of Comm/Elect Combat Essential Equipment are on order:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>DOC #</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Rec. Radio AN/URR 23 | 7308-0002 | 1 |
| Battery Cell for PRC-47 | 8169-2154 | 80 |
| PRC-47 | 8179-2275 | 1 |
| PRC-47 | 8224-0522 | 1 |
| PRC-25 | 8174-2204 | 2 |
| Handset for PRC-25 | 8220-0457 | 12 |
| XMod Cable for KY-8 | 8162-2048 | 4 |

d. Motor Transport.

(1) The organic Motor Transport situation was considered just barely satisfactory due to the large numbers of M274A2's which are on 2nd Echelon Maintenance for the lack of starters FSN 2920-570-3057. The situation on these starters is getting worse each month. If receipt of starters does not come through shortly this Battalion will have no M274A2's operationally ready.

(2) The below listed items of organic Motor Transport Combat Equipment are on 2nd Echelon Maintenance:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|---------------------|------------|
| Trk Carge M37 | 1 |
| Trk Platform M274A2 | 2 |

(3) The below listed items of organic Motor Transport Combat Essential Equipment are on 2nd Echelon Maintenance:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|---------------------|------------|
| Trk Utility M151A1 | 1 |
| Trk Platform M274A2 | 18 |

(4) The following items of organic Motor Transport Combat Essential Equipment are on order:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>DOC #</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|
| Starters for M274A2 | 8079-0969 | 1 |
| Starters for M274A2 | 8086-1076 | 1 |
| Starters for M274A2 | 8128-1681 | 6 |
| Starters for M274A2 | 8206-0309 | 5 |
| Regulators for M151A1 | 8023-0220 | 1 |
| Regulators for M151A1 | 8171-2165 | 5 |
| Regulators for M151A1 | 8179-2287 | 5 |

(5) Non Organic Transportation was provided by 3rd Motor Transport Battalion, through 9th Marine Regiment and was considered satisfactory with the exception of the following: the only problem area was obtaining a household truck for the Battalion Rear at Quang Tri. Third Motor Transport Battalion, through 9th Marine Regiment, continued to provide us with two 2½ ton vehicles for support of troops in the field. One of these remained at Vandegrift for transportation of supplies to the LZ for staging while the other made a daily trip from Quang Tri with Class II and all other supplies not available at Vandegrift. Only after constant visits and calls to the S-4 rear of 9th Marines was the household vehicle problem finally alleviated and since 20 September one 2½ ton vehicle has been working for the Battalion rear.

(6) Other Logistic Support. Bad lots of 81mm ammunition, particularly WP and HE, were issued to the Battalion during the latter half of this period, from the ASP at Vandegrift Combat Base. Some lots dated back as late as 1945 and when attempts were made to fire same, it resulted in nothing but misfires and duds.

2. Operations. See S-3 Chronology.

3. Logistical Lifts.

(1) Primary means of resupply was by CH-46 helicopters. The status of lifts are as follows:

| <u>LIFTS</u> | <u>CARGO</u> | <u>PERSONNEL</u> |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| 184 | 378,776 | 350 |

(2) Other vehicular support. Ninth Motors assisted the Battalion at Vandegrift Combat Base by providing it with one 5 ton vehicle daily which was used primarily as a household vehicle. The status of lifts are as follows:

| <u>LIFTS</u> | <u>CARGO</u> | <u>PERSONNEL</u> |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| 26 | 126,258 | 350 |

4. Ammunition expenditure for the month was as follows:

| <u>DODAC</u> | <u>NOMENCLATURE</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| A127 | 7.62 link | 44 cases |
| A175 | 45 cal. Ball | 1 box |
| B632 | 40mm HE | 17 cases |
| B568 | 60mm HE | 300 cases |
| B630 | 60mm WP | 22 cases |
| B627 | 60mm Illum | 4 cases |
| C256 | 81mm HE | 14 pallets |
| C226 | 81mm Illum | 57 cases |
| C230 | 81mm WP | 53 cases |
| C650 | 106mm HE | 8 cases |
| C651 | 106mm HEPT | 19 cases |
| C940 | Grenade Hand | 16 cases |
| H55 | Rkt 60mm (LAAW) | 6 cases |
| G940 | Gren Smk green | 4 cases |
| G945 | Gren Smk yellow | 8 cases |
| K143 | Mine AP M18A | 8 cases |
| L314 | Sig Illum white Para | 3 cases |
| L315 | Sig Grn Star Cluster | 5 cases |
| L316 | Sig white Star Clust | 4 cases |
| L498 | Flare, Surface trip | 2 cases |
| M032 | Chg Block TNT 1b | 2,560 lbs |
| A071 | 5.56 Ball | 28 cases |
| M756 | C-4 Demo Kit 1bs | 9,463 lbs |
| A068 | 5.56 tracer | 1 case |
| M420 | Shape charge | 11 cases |
| M039 | cratering charge | 31 cases |
| M670 | Time fuse | 4,400 feet |
| M456 | Det cord | 11,800 feet |
| A935 | Hand WP | 1 case |
| M131 | Blasting caps | 1,100 caps |
| K143 | Claymores | 4 cases |

5. NVA/VC Casualties & Personnel Losses. The following totals have been broken down by operation:

(a) SCOTLAND II- TROUSDALE

| KIA | POW | DETAINEES |
|-----|-----|-----------|
| 97 | 0 | 0 |

(b) LANDCASTER II- TROUSDALE

| KIA | POW | DETAINEES |
|-----|-----|-----------|
| 9 | 0 | 0 |

6. NVA/VC Fortifications Destroyed or Captured.

(a) SCOTLAND II-TROUSDALE:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Bunkers | 847 |
| Fighting Holes | N/A |
| AA Posit | 2 |
| Hospital | 1 |

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Kitchens | 7 |
| Straw Shelters | 14 |
| Tunnels | 5 |

(b) LANDCASTER II-TROUSDALE:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Bunkers | 39 |
| Fighting Holes | 6 |
| Living Shelters | 45 |
| Aid Station | 1 |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Kitchens | 8 |
| Observation Tower | 1 |
| Mortar Pit | 1 |
| Head | 1 |

7. NVA/VC Weapons & Equipment.

(a) SCOTLAND II-TROUSDALE:

Individual Weapons-

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| AK 47 | 17 |
| SKS | 45 |
| M 16 | 2 |
| M-2 Carbine | 1 |
| M-1 Rifle | 1 |
| M-14 | 4 |
| M-79 | 1 |
| LAAW | 3 |
| RPG-2 | 3 |
| SMG | 2 |
| Total | 81 IWC |

Crew Served Weapons-

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 50cal MG | 3 |
| 1-56 LMG | 1 |
| 60mm Mort Tube | 1 |
| Total | 5 CSW |

Accessories-

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| AK-47 Mag | 23 |
| AK-50 " | 3 |
| M-16 " | 3 |
| AK-50 Barrel | 1 |
| 82mm Mort Bipods | 14 |
| 82mm Mort Stakes | 9 |
| LMG Parts | 2 |
| Initiators | 2 box |
| Increments | 2 cas |
| 60mm Mort Caps | 20 |
| AA Sight (12.7 MG) | 1 |
| Mortar Fuzes | 359 |
| Total | 565 itc |

Medical Equipment-

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Battle & Guaze Dressing | 301,000 |
| Novacaine | 10 vials |
| Water Purification tabs | 12 bottles |
| First Aid Kits | 20 |
| Syringes | 20 |
| Total | 301,047 items |

Miscellaneous-

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Comm Wire | 5 mi |
| Armorer's Tools | 3 set |
| Fishnets | 3 |
| Animal Cages | 3 |
| Wedding Ring (U.S.) | 1 |
| Wrist Watch | 1 |
| Periscope | 1 |
| Total | 19 itc |

Demolitions-

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Explosives | 4,350 lb |
| Det Cord & Time Fuze | 1,100 ft |
| Electric Blasting Caps | 50 boxes |

Documents: 80 lb

Food Stuffs-

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Rice | 55,410 lb |
| Rock Salt | 11,500 lb |
| Total | 66,910 lb |

Section VI - S-5 Chronology

1. General: Due to Operational commitments and tactical deployment, Civic Actions were curtailed. No Medcaps were conducted, however at the present time Medcaps are in the process of being arranged for the near future.

Section VII Communication Chronology

1. General. The communications platoon was divided into three sections. The rear section consisting of approximately 22 men, providing radio, wire, repair and message center support at Quang Tri. From 8 to 12 men were assigned to support the S-4 for administration and logistics at Vandegrift Combat Base. The remainder of the communication platoon provided normal support to the battalion in the field on the following operations.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) 1 - 21 September | SCOTLAND II - TROUSDALE |
| (b) 21 - 25 September | SCOTLAND II |
| (c) 25 - 30 September | LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE |
| (d) 30 September | SCOTLAND II - NANKING |

2. Wire. Normal wire communications was employed at Quang Tri and Vandegrift Combat Base. Wire was not used in the field.

3. Radio. Normal radio communications was established at all Battalion locations. With the onset of the monsoon season, equipment failure is increasing. This is not a serious problem as yet, steps have been taken to insure adequate spare parts are on hand.

4. Message Center. The message center processed 616 incoming messages and 18 outgoing messages during the month. Shackles and brevity codes were delivered to the field every five days. It became necessary to extend the amount delivered from 5 to 10 days because of the time delay in obtaining aircraft to make deliveries. When the Battalion was split between 4 to 5 LZ's, it would take up to 4 days to complete deliveries.

5. Difficulties. Evacuation and replacement of equipment to the field was slow because of availability of aircraft. There is still a shortage of antenna bases and whip antennas in the supply system.

Section V - Medical Chronology

1. General. During the month of September, the BAS held sick call for 1,060 Marine Corp personnel. No medical civic action program was held, although Medcaps are in the process of being arranged.

2. Sanitation. Routine daily inspections were made of the battalion rear area.

3. Disease, Injuries and Treatment in General. There were at least 27 diagnosed cases of malaria in the battalion. Continuing attempts to strengthen the chemoprophylaxis program are being made.

4. Casualties and Hospitalization. There were 6 KIA's, 1 DOW, 39 WIA's, 3 WINE, 78 NBC's and 1 DOC evacuated from the field. Outpatient treatment consisted of 364 shrapnel wounds, 48 gunshot wounds, 73 dermatology conditions, 63 FUO's, 85 GC, 65 Rabies, 49 consultations, 11 urology conditions, 12 EENT and 290 miscellaneous conditions.

5. Training. Orientation lectures were given to 80 personnel. The subject matter included personal hygiene, self and buddy aid, venereal disease, care of the feet, and the snake problem in Vietnam. On the job training and lectures were given periodically for the corporals.

6. Complement. At the close of the month, the BAS had a complement of one Medical Officer, and 47 Navy Hospital Corpsmen. There are 3 SNCO's attached with 5 personnel joined and 11 personnel transferred. There were 7 non-effectives.

Section IX - Chaplain's Chronology

1. General. During the month of September, both Protestant and Catholic services were provided for Battalion units. Protestant services were conducted by the Battalion Chaplain. Catholic services were conducted by various neighboring chaplains.

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9th Mar. Regt.

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HEADQUARTERS

Second Battalion, Ninth Marines
Third Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco California, 96602

3:JMS:trt

7 October 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines

Subj: Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE After Action Report

Ref: (a) DivO 3100.1D
(b) Frag Order 97-68

1. Code Name. Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE
2. Dates of Operation. Second Battalion, Ninth Marines (+) participated in Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE under OPCON of the 9th Marines from 24 September to 30 September 1968.
3. Location. Huong Hoa District, Quang Tri Province, Republic of South Vietnam.
4. Task Organization.

Second Battalion, Ninth Marines

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Company "E" | 24 Sept - 30 Sept |
| Company "F" | 24 Sept - 29 Sept |
| Company "G" | 24 Sept - 29 Sept |
| Company "H" | 24 Sept - 29 Sept |
| Command Group | 24 Sept - 30 Sept |
| Det. Co. "C" 3rd Engr Bn | 24 Sept - 29 Sept |
| Det. Co. "C" 3rd Shore Prty Bn | 24 Sept - 29 Sept |

5. Supporting Forces.a. Artillery.

- (1) Second Battalion, Ninth Marines received direct support from "D", "E" and "F" batteries, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines for Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE.
- (2) Second Battalion, Ninth Marines received general support from 4th Battalion, 12th Marines who supported with a 155mm battery.
- (3) Nature of targets included prep fires, night defensive fires, harrassing fires, suspected OP, suspected enemy positions and illumination for medevacs.
- (4) Total round expenditure for Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE was 1440 HE, 88 WP and 4 illumination rounds.

b. Air Support.

- (1) Medevacs. A total of 29 medevacs were evacuated during Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE.
- (2) Command and Control. A total of 1 command and control flight was flown during Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE.
- (3) Resupply. A total of 105,151 pounds of supplies was delivered to the battalion during Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE.

(4) Troop Lifts. A total of 2 troop lifts were accomplished moving 1496 troops.

(5) Fixed Wing. A total of 2 fixed wing flights were flown in support of Second Battalion, Ninth Marines.

6. Intelligence.

(1) General Description of the Operating Area. During the reporting period of 24 September to 30 September 1968, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines was OPCON to Ninth Marines.

The operating area was approximately 10,000 meters west of the Rockpile. Because of the hilly terrain and moderately thick vegetation, the Battalion operated from several Company size patrol bases.

(2) Terrain Features. Generally, the terrain in this area must be described as rough. The hills were high and steep, and the ridgelines narrow. There were several cliffs in the area with high waterfalls. The valley floors were narrow, but flat and devoid of vegetation. The Tien Hien Stream, a waterway twenty meters wide and one meter deep, was the main waterway in the area.

(3) Trafficability. Because of the steep grades and the thickness of the vegetation, movement in the area was almost entirely restricted to existing trails. There were numerous trails in the area. The area cannot be considered suitable for any kind of mechanized operations.

(4) Avenues of Approach. Friendly avenues of approach would include all of the helicopter landing zones in the area. Although not used during the operation, a long flat valley stretching from Route 9 to the base of Hill 792 could be used as a friendly avenue of approach.

Enemy avenues of approach consisted of a heavy trail network, confined mostly to ridgelines that ran east to west, possibly extending as far as the Laotian border.

(5) Stream Fording Points. Because of the shallow depth of the stream, and the fact that the stream bed was made up of boulders and rocks, the Tien Hien Stream can be forded at almost any point.

(6) Vegetation. The vegetation on the hills consisted of tall trees of moderate density and a small amount of underbrush. Vegetation on the valley floor was restricted to short grass.

(7) Road and Trail Conditions. There were no roads in the operating area. The trails were well worn and indicated recent use. Many of the trails had been improved by the use of logs for steps and to prevent the rain from washing the trails out. Some of the trails were as wide as three feet.

(8) HLZ's. HLZ's SANDY (XD 910564), STORK (XD 935554), and FOX (XD 927546) are manmade HLZ's capable of holding one CH-46 at a time.

(9) Enemy Forces Encountered. Document translation reports indicated that elements of the 308th, 320th, 325th, 325 C NVA Divisions were operating in the area.

a. Strength: Most forces encountered were squad or platoon size, or smaller.

b. Type of enemy Weapons & Equipment: Small arms, automatic weapons, and ChiCom grenades were the principal weapons encountered on this operation.

c. Type of Uniforms: The enemy KIA's were wearing the usual green utilities.

d. Age of Enemy KIA's: N/A

e. Tactics Used: The enemy seemed to try to avoid contact with Friendly forces. When contact was achieved, it was with a platoon size unit reinforced with claymores and a 50cal MG.

(10) Enemy Fortifications. Second Battalion, Ninth Marines found and destroyed 39 bunkers, 45 living shelters, 6 fighting holes, 1 aid station, 8 kitchens, 1 observation tower, 1 mortar pit, and 1 head.

a. Bunkers were all living type bunkers.

b. They were all made in the A-frame design, and made out of logs, dirt and natural camouflage.

c. N/A

(11) Cumulative Enemy Losses.

782 Gear Capt'd.

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Ponchos | 13 |
| Magazine Pouch. | 8 |
| Gas Masks | 14 |
| Packs | 4 |
| Helmets | 13 |
| E-Tools | 7 |
| Mess Gear | 25 |

Total 84 items

Ordinance Capt'd.

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| RPG-7 rds | 8 |
| T-56 LMG rds | 800 |
| AK-47 rds | 1737 |
| Total | 2545 rds |

Weapon Accessories.

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| AK Magazines | 6 |
| T-56 LMG Drum Mag | 5 |
| Total | 11 items |

Mines, Grenades, Boosters Capt'd.

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Claymores | 1 |
| Chi Com Grenades | 7 |
| Smoke Grenades | 1 |
| A T Mines | 1 |
| RPG Boosters | 7 |
| Mortar Booster | 12 |

Total 29 items

Medical Supplies.

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Plasma | 1 bottle |
| Foot Ointment | 2 tube |
| Total | 3 items |

Miscellaneous.

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Black Ink | 1 bottle |
| Radio Batteries | 2 |
| Total | 3 items |

Enemy Personnel Losses.

| | | |
|-----|-------|-----------|
| KIA | POW's | DETAINÉES |
| 9 | 0 | 0 |

Weather:

Temp Hi 90 Lo 75

Total Rainfall 8 in

Number Days w/ Rain 3

7. Mission. At L-Hour on D-Day Second Battalion, Ninth Marines conducts a heliborne assault in the LANCASTER II A.O. to seek out and destroy the enemy, his supplies and infiltration facilities.

8. Concept of Operation. On D-1 one company minus helilifted to LZ Sandy and marches overland to secure LZ Fox and improve the LZ. On D-Day one company and the Battalion Headquarters land at LZ Sandy to accomplish the mission in the area of the LZ. Two companies

land at LZ Fox, one pushes south within the Battalion A.O. and the other north and east to find and destroy enemy personnel and supplies. Companies develop additional LZ's as the terrain and situation permits.

9. Execution.

(a) 24 September 1968.

(1) Disposition of Forces.

E/2/9 - Chopped from 4th Marines. Continued assigned mission.

F/2/9 - Chopped from 4th Marines to 9th Marines. Continued assigned mission.

G/2/9 - Chopped from 4th Marines to 9th Marines. Continued assigned mission.

H/2/9 - Chopped from 4th Marines to 9th Marines. Continued assigned mission.

(2) Enemy Contacts and Significant Events.

240845H - H/2/9 (-) began lift to LZ Sandy.

241015H - H/2/9 (-) completed helilift to LZ Sandy and commenced foot march to LZ Fox.

241140H - H/2/9 observed 5 NVA crossing stream at (XD 915552). Fired several bursts from M-60 and continued patrol to LZ Fox. Searched area and found 3 NVA KIA (c).

241550H - H/2/9 (-) made contact at (XD 926547). Enemy had 1 automatic weapon and claymores. Artillery mission fired and A.O. on station. Air strikes run on enemy positions. 3 KIA and 8 WIA friendly. Searched area and found 4 NVA KIA (c).

242255H - Received 9th Marines Frag-Order 96-68 directing Second Battalion, Ninth Marines to continue assigned mission.

(b) 25 September 1968.

(1) Disposition of Forces.

E/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Began lift to LZ Sandy.

F/2/9 - Continued assigned mission.

G/2/9 - Continued assigned mission.

H/2/9 - Continued assigned mission.

(2) Enemy Contacts and Significant Events.

251430H - H/2/9 (-) secured LZ Fox and began development of an LZ.

251510H - Command Group and E/2/9 began lift to LZ Sandy.

252125H - Received Frag-Order 97-68 from 9th Marines.

251715H - H/2/9 (-) while searching area of previous contact (XD 925547) found 3 A-frame bunkers. 2 NVA KIA (c). One bunker was destroyed by artillery, the other two were blown. Also found 3 RPG-7 rounds, 4 RPG boosters, 1 AK-47 magazine, 5 type 27 light machinegun canisters, 400 rounds type 27 light machinegun ammunition, 227 AK-47 rounds, misc. 782 gear and personal gear.

(c) 26 September 1968.

E/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Conducted one platoon size patrol. Conducted two squad size ambushes.

F/2/9 - Continued assigned mission.
 G/2/9 - Continued assigned mission.
 H/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Conducted two squad size patrols and two squad size ambushes.

(2) Enemy Contacts and Significant Events.

260800H - H-1/2/9 departed Fire Support Base Sandy for LZ Fox.
 261200H - H-1/2/9 linked up with H/2/9 at LZ Fox.
 261230H - G/2/9 began lift from LZ Stud.
 261810H - Received boundary change from 9th Marines.

(d) 27 September 1968.

(1) Disposition of Forces.

E/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Conducted two squad size and two platoon size patrols. Also conducted two squad size ambushes.

F/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Conducted two squad size and one platoon size patrol. Also conducted two squad size ambushes.

G/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Conducted one platoon size patrol.

H/2/9 - Continued assigned mission.

(2) Enemy Contacts and Significant Events.

271115H - F/2/9 found 3 old A-frame living bunkers. Also found a trail with 6 fighting holes along trail. Blew all the bunkers.

271235H - H-2/2/9 at (XD 920544) found 30 living hootches, will blow. Also found 1200 AK-47 rounds, 5 AK magazines, 2 AK magazine pouches, 1 claymore, 4 RPG-7 rounds, 3 RPG boosters, 5 gas masks, 1 AT mine, 12 mortar boosters, 7 chi coms, 1 green smoke grenade and one bottle of black ink.

271800H - A further search of bunker complex at (XD 925546) revealed larger complex than reported. Numerous additional A-frame bunkers. Also found kitchens with cooking holes, 1 latrine, 1 aid station, 1 booby trap, 1 bloody bandage, 1 bottle of plasma, 1 NVA KIA (o). Will search area again later.

(e) 28 September 1968.

(1) Disposition of Forces.

E/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Conducted two platoon size and one squad size patrol. Also conducted one squad size ambush.

F/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Conducted one platoon and one squad size patrol plus one squad size ambush.

G/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Conducted one platoon and one squad size patrol plus one squad size ambush.

H/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Conducted one platoon and one squad size patrol plus one squad size ambush.

(2) Enemy Contacts and Significant Events.

281025H - H-1/2/9 at (XD 918546) found 25 bunkers, 6 kitchens, 1 35 foot observation tower built in trees, 7 NVA packs and empty bottles of medical supplies.

281415H - G/2/9 built an LZ at (XD 934553), requested a name from 9th Marines for LZ.

281950H - H/2/9 found 1 RPG-7 round, 250 AK-47 rounds, 4 packs, 13 helmets, 9 gas masks, 6 ammunition pouches, 10 ponchos, 7 E-tools, 25 mess gears, 2 tubes of foot ointment.

(f) 29 September 1968.

(1) Disposition of Forces.

E/2/9 - Continued assigned mission.
 F/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Returned to Vandegrift Combat Base.
 G/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Returned to Vandegrift Combat Base.
 H/2/9 - Continued assigned mission. Returned to Vandegrift Combat Base.

(2) Enemy Contacts and Significant Events.

290810H - H/2/9 began lift to Vandegrift Combat Base.
 290845H - H/2/9 finished lift and G/2/9 began lift to Vandegrift Combat Base.
 290850H - F/2/9 began lift to Vandegrift Combat Base.
 290930H - Companies "F", "G" and "H" finished lift to Vandegrift Combat Base.

(g) 30 September 1968.

(1) Disposition of Forces.

E/2/9 - Continued assigned mission.
 F/2/9 - Now at Vandegrift Combat Base.
 G/2/9 - Now at Vandegrift Combat Base.
 H/2/9 - Now at Vandegrift Combat Base.

(2) Enemy Contacts and Significant Events.

301100H - Command Group and E/2/9 (-) returned to Vandegrift Combat Base.
 301215H - E-1/2/9 chopped from 9th Marines to 3/9.
 301230H - Second Battalion, Ninth Marines (-) chopped from 9th Marines to 4th Marines.

10. Results.

- a. Friendly Personnel Losses. 3 KIA, 9 WIA and 17 NBC.
 b. Enemy Losses. (See Intelligence Portion of Report.)

11. Administrative Matters. Water, food and ammunition was supplied to the Battalion by helicopter from 24 September to 30 September.

12. Special Equipment. None.

13. Commanders Analysis. None.

14. Recommendations. None.

R. E. Hengel
 R. E. Hengel
 By direction

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