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BT#655568

HEADQUARTERS

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

3: TIW:trt
5 December 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (code A03D)
VIA: Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 November to 30 November 1968
Ref: (a) MCPO 5750.2
 (b) FMF Paco 5750.8
Encl: ✓(1) Second Battalion, Ninth Marines Command Chronology

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).

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

B. J. Ramsey
B. J. RAMSEY
By direction

Copy to:

1-Commanding Officer, Ninth Marines
13-Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division
2-File

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 November 1968 to 30 November 1968

INDEX

Section I	-	Organizational Data
Section II	-	S-1 Chronology
Section III	-	S-2 Chronology
Section IV	-	S-3 Chronology
Section V	-	S-4 Chronology
Section VI	-	S-5 Chronology
Section VII	-	Communications Chronology
Section VIII	-	Medical Chronology
Section IX	-	Chaplain's Chronology

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SECTION I - Organizational Data

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

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

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

Commanding Officer	Maj F. E. SISLEY	1-30 November
Executive Officer	Maj J. M. SMITH Maj T. D. WILSON Maj P. C. COLLINS	1-21 November 22-28 November 29-30 November
S-1	1stLt R. B. HENSEL	1-30 November
S-2	1stLt W. M. KERR	1-30 November
S-3	Capt W. P. NEGRON Maj T. D. WILSON	1-28 November 29-30 November
S-4	1stLt J. M. G. MITCHELL Capt D. N. BUCKNER	1-8 November 9-30 November
Comm Officer	1stLt W. O. WELDON, Jr.	1-30 November
MT Officer	1stLt J. M. G. MITCHELL	9-30 November
Supply Officer	2dLt L. S. DRIEVER, Jr.	1-30 November
Medical Officer	Lt T. S. POWERS	1-30 November
Chaplain	LCDR W. L. CHILDERS	1-30 November
"H&S" Company	1stLt A. A. PIERCE	1-30 November
Company "E"	Capt J. D. WARD	1-30 November
Company "F"	Capt R. H. SUTTON	1-30 November
Company "G"	Capt D. N. BUCKNER Capt D. A. HITZELBERGER	1-8 November 9-30 November
Company "H"	Capt D. F. WINECOFF	1-30 November

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SECTION II - S-1 Chronology

1. General. During the reporting period, the officer strength has remained rather constant. 7 officers were joined and 9 were lost to this organization. There was a slight decrease in the enlisted strength during the reporting period having joined 76 and dropping 151. The non-effectives at the end of the reporting period totals 3 officers and 153 enlisted. Losses for the month of December are expected to be 89 enlisted who rotate to CONUS and 3 officers who rotate to CONUS.

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

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
39	1140	2	49

Note: Percentage of T/O was about 98.4%.

b. Losses

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	
Hostile	0	6	0	0
Non-Hostile	1	14	0	9
Admin	8	131	0	4

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

(1) All the battle casualties were WIAs. They were transferred by service records to Camp S. D. BUTLER.

(2) Of the administrative losses, 1 officer rotated to CONUS and 7 were transferred inter-division. 94 enlisted rotated to CONUS, 30 were transferred to other WESTPAC commands, 26 were transferred inter-division, and 1 was dropped as a deserter.

c. Administration

(1) State of Morale. Excellent.

(2) Significant Activities of Personal Service. None

(3) Promotions. 2 Corporals were promoted to Sergeant meritoriously, and 2 Lance Corporals were promoted to Corporal meritoriously. On the regular promotion basis, 6 Lance Corporals were promoted to Corporal, 32 Private First Class were promoted to Lance Corporal and 12 Privates were promoted to Private First Class.

(4) Discipline, Law and Order. 5 Special court-martials were completed, 1 Summary court-martial was completed and 7 persons were awarded NJP by the Battalion Commander.

(5) Mail. Service has been satisfactory.

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Section III - S-2 Chronology

Part I

1. GENERAL INFORMATION. During the reporting period Second Battalion, Ninth Marines participated in two operations. From 1-28 November, the battalion participated in OPERATION SCOTLAND II- AFTON while OPCON to the Ninth Marine Regiment. From 28-30 November, the battalion participated in OPERATION DAWSON RIVER, AFTON while still OPCON to the Ninth Marines. The battalion operated in the Da Krang Valley (ref AMS map sheet 6342 II), and the area directly south extending to the Laotian border during both operations.

2. DESCRIPTION OF OPERATING AREA. The terrain was a mixture of steep hills with wide ridgelines and gently rolling hills with numerous draws and small streams. Prominent terrain features in the area include Hill 908 vic (XD 941311) and Nui Grang Gio vic (YD 050287). A high plateau just across the Laotian border is a dominant land mark useful in orienting oneself. Friendly avenues of approach would include all HLZ's in the area. Enemy avenues of approach would include all trails in the area and a man made road bed running east from within Laos into South Vietnam. The nature of the terrain and the vegetation allows the enemy to move wherever he wants with ease. The numerous draws allow one to move without being detected. Vegetation in the operating area is varied. In some areas low elephant grass ranging up to four feet high was dominant. In other areas the elephant grass was up to twelve feet tall, coarser and much denser. Some of the higher hills in the area were covered with a thick growth of trees and hanging vines. Extensive bamboo thickets were also found in some areas. In the southern portion of the operating area many banana trees were found. There were many small seasonal streams in the area, all of which were running freely during the operating period. These streams ranged in depth up to two feet and in width up to twenty-five feet. All of these streams were fordable. The Da Krang River was the main waterway in the area, but because of its depth and swiftness it proved to be unfordable. One Marine who tried to cross the river was forced to sacrifice his gear and his rifle to save his life. Trails in the operating area were numerous. None of the trails found in the area indicated that they had been used extensively at any recent time. Throughout most of the area it would be easy although time consuming to pioneer a path in almost any direction. Over a period of months a trail of this sort would be quickly covered by new growth. Highway # 926 vic (XD 903278) was found to be in a poor state of repair with indications that it had not been used in the past four or five months. All places where the road crossed a stream in the area there were no prepared fords. In most places vegetation was growing profusely on the road itself. Some of this was natural vegetation (elephant grass and weeds) while some of it was deliberately planted camouflage (banana trees). Culverts made of rocks and logs were found along the road to allow small streams and springs to pass under the road. The road was continuous but constructed in patches mainly where natural camouflage was present. The road ranged in width up to fifteen feet. In places where growth covered the road, there was a small trail running down the center of the road. The main construction of the road was complete but repairs, maintenance and removal of camouflage would be necessary to make the road operational. Once operational, this road would have the capability of handling heavy vehicles up to and including tanks during the dry season. The road was cratered by Marine Engineers at vic (XD 903274) and vic (XD 908271).

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The following HLZ's were used on both operations. LZ LANE vic (XD 932295), LZ QUEEN vic (XD 925306), LZ SCALE vic (XD 951316), LZ CORPS vic (XD 978312), LZ LEATHERNECK vic (XD 951316), LZ TORCH vic (XD 905278), LZ RUNWAY vic (XD 932281), LZ GUNNER vic (XD 977313), LZ BUCK vic (YD 006304), LZ SENATE vic (YD 011335), LZ FISHER vic (YD 037281), LZ TUBA vic (YD 080270), and LZ PUSAN vic (YD 036351). These HLZ's for the most part required very little preparation. THE following Fire Support Bases were also constructed for both of these operations. FSB MINK vic (XD 986356), FSB SHILOH vic (YD 106267) and FSB ROBIN vic (XD 912335). The Fire Support Bases were used concurrently as HLZ's and company patrol bases.

3. WEATHER. During the reporting period temperatures ranged between fifty-five and eighty-two degrees. Light rains fell frequently during the day and at night. The total precipitation didn't amount to very much, but the frequency of the showers kept everything wet.

4. ENEMY SITUATION. During the two operations there were no significant enemy activity. Scattered contacts and sightings were made. All indications were that NVA forces had not been in this area in force for at least three or four months. (See comments & conclusions)

5. NVA/VC CASUALTIES AND PERSONNEL LOSSES

<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>POW</u>	<u>DETAINEES</u>
3	0	0	64

6. ENEMY FORTIFICATIONS DESTROYED/CAPTURED

Bunkers	794	Bridges	4
Fighting holes	909	Cook shacks	3
Incoming holes	7	Tunnels	18
Head	1	Cook holes	1
Living platform	1	Cultivated gardens	9

Total 1,707 structures

7. ENEMY EQUIPMENT DESTROYED/CAPTURED

<u>Individual Weapons Captd</u>	<u>Ordnance</u>		
SKS	2	60mm Mort rds	1
Carbine (ChiCom)	1	Bangalore torpedo	1
Cross bows	4	M-26 grenade	1
Swords (NVA OFF)	2	7.62mm rds	188
Bows (& arrows)	0	DH-10	1
	17 IWC	Mortar fuze	1
		Arrows	101
		Blasting caps	20
		Det cord (50' coil)	1
		314 items	
<u>Medical gear</u>			
First aid kit	1		
Bottle of pills	1		
	2 items		
	<u>Weapon Accessories</u>		
<u>Foodstuffs</u>			
Rice	17,190 lb	AD magazine	1
Grain	2,150	Gun oil	1
Corn	4,560	Rifle sling	1
Tobacco	210 1/2		3 items
Peppers	20		
Beans	2		
	24,132 1/2 lb		

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782 Gear

Helmets	4
Helmet liner (US)	1
Shelter Half (US)	1
Canteen cups (US)	2
Pack	2
Poncho	4
E-tool	1
Gas mask	1
Gren pouch (NVA)	1
Cartridge belt	1
Belt Susp straps	1
Poncho liner	1
M-14 Mag pouch	1
Mag pouch (NVA)	4
Canteen	1
	26 items

Utensils/Tools

Chop sticks	37
Frying pan	1
Stoves	2
Knives	5
Cooking pots	7
Chop sticks holder	1
Baskets	202
For's	6
Machete	4
Axe	1
Fishing line	1
Farming tools	4
	271 items

Clothing

Blue sweatshirt	1
Rain gear	2
Jungle utilities (US)	1
Socks	1
Shirt	1
Boots (NVA)	1
Utilities (NVA)	10
Jungle Boots (US)	1
	18 items

Live stock

Pigs	3
Chickens	7
Water buffalo	2
	12 animals

Miscellaneous Gear

Cigarette case	1
Silver coins (Indo-China)	40
Silver bar	1
Documents	4
57mm RR rd (extended)	1
Aerial flare (expended)	1
Sunglasses	1
Fish nets	4
Fishing pole	1
Guitar	1
Hammock	2
Mosquito net	2
Tow chain	1
Flight suit (US)	1
Hospital jacket	1
Twine (ball)	1
	63 items

8. ENEMY INITIATED INCIDENTS

Mortar atks	3
Small arms fire	2
SAF against helos	4
	Automatic weapons fire
	Artillery
	Booby trap

Total 13 EII

9. SOURCES OF INTELLIGENCE. During both operations the usual sources of intelligence were used. Information gathered by S-2 Scouts, ground troops and aerial observers coupled with intelligence disseminate from high echelons provided the intelligence used by this battalion. Members of the 17th ITT were utilized to interrogate detainees.

10. PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE OPERATIONS. During this reporting period Montagnard turned himself in and indicated that there were several more of his people in the area. When this information was revealed a

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PsyOps team was brought in to try to persuade more of the people to give themselves up. Mechanical difficulties with the speakers prevented maximum effective use of the team, and the end result proved to be negative.

11. ITEMS OF INTELLIGENCE INTEREST. (SEE COMMENTS&CONCLUSIONS)

12. COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS. Sixty-five Montagnards were found in this area and subsequently taken to the refugee village in Mai Loc vic (YD 1052). Interrogation of some of these people showed that there had been no NVA in the area for three or four months. When the NVA were in the area, the indigenous people were forced to carry food and ammunition across the Da Krong Valley where it was picked up by other Montagnards. From what these people said, and from the scarcity of items found on the operations, it is apparent that no large caches were established in the valley. The large bunker complex that was found was south of Khe Sanh and was probably used to support NVA troops at Khe Sanh. The Montagnards indicated that the NVA political officer had worked with them, but they were not receptive to his ideas. One Montagnard turned in an SKS rifle which he claimed an NVA soldier had given him in exchange for some food. Sightings and interrogations indicated that many Montagnards remain in the area.

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Section IV S-3 Chronology

1. General. The Second Battalion, Ninth Marines participated in the following operations during the month of November 1968:

Operation SCOTLAND II-AFTON	1 November to 28 November
Operation DAWSON RIVER, AFTON	28 November to 30 November

Map Sheets 6341 I and 6342 II covered the area in which these operations were conducted.

2. Company "E", Second Battalion, Ninth Marines.

a. Operation SCOTLAND II - AFTON. E/2/9 participated in this operation from 1 November to 28 November 1968 continuing search and destroy operations began in October 1968, such operations continuing in the vicinity of LZ Gunner (XD 891261). On 4 November E/2/9 was helilifted to LZ Corps (XD 977313) and continued conducting patrolling operations. E/2/9 was helilifted to FSB Shiloh (XD 106267) on 17 November 1968.

b. Operation DAWSON RIVER, AFTON. E/2/9 continued search and destroy operations in the same operating area on the 28th of November. At 281529H E/2/9 was chopped to First Battalion, Ninth Marines.

3. Company "F", Second Battalion, Ninth Marines.

a. Operation SCOTLAND II - AFTON. F/2/9 participated in this operation from 1 November to 28 November 1968 continuing search and destroy operations began in October 1968, such operations continuing in the vicinity of LZ Lane (XD 932295). F/2/9 was helilifted to LZ Buck (XD 006304) on 6 November and on 19 November F/2/9 was helilifted to LZ Fisher (XD 037281).

b. Operation DAWSON RIVER, AFTON. F/2/9 continued search and destroy operations in the same operating area from 28 November to 30 November with the name of the operation being changed to DAWSON RIVER, AFTON.

4. Company "G", Second Battalion, Ninth Marines.

a. Operation SCOTLAND II - AFTON. G/2/9 participated in this operation from 1 November to 28 November 1968 continuing search and destroy operations began in October 1968, such operations continuing in the vicinity of LZ Queen (XD 925306). On 4 November 1968 G/2/9 was helilifted to FSB Mink (XD 986356). On 20 November 1968 G/2/9 was helilifted to LZ Pusan (XD 046250).

b. Operation DAWSON RIVER, AFTON. G/2/9 continued search and destroy operations in the same operating area from 28 November to 30 November 1968 with the name of the operation being changed to DAWSON RIVER, AFTON.

5. Company "H", Second Battalion, Ninth Marines.

a. Operation SCOTLAND II - AFTON. H/2/9 participated in this operation from 1 November to 28 November 1968, continuing search and destroy operations began in October 1968, such operations continuing in the vicinity of LZ Scale (XD 952318) where two platoons of H/2/9 were located. One platoon of H/2/9 was located at LZ Leatherneck (XD 950313). On 8 November 1968 H/2/9 was helilifted to LZ Senate (XD 011335). On 18 November 1968 H/2/9 was helilifted to LZ Tuba (XD 080270).

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b. Operation DAWSON RIVER, AFTON. H/2/9 continued search and destroy operations in the same operating area from 28 November to 30 November 1968 with the name of the operation being changed to DAWSON RIVER, AFTON.

6. H&S Company, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines.

a. Operation SCOTLAND II - AFTON. H&S Company furnished the necessary men and equipment to provide the effective control of the battalion units during the period 1 November to 28 November 1968. The Battalion Command Group began the month at LZ Leatherneck (XD 951-316). On 8 November 1968 the Battalion Command Group was helilifted to LZ Senate (YD 011335) with H/2/9. The Battalion Command Group was helilifted to LZ Tuba (YD 080270) on 18 November 1968.

b. Operation DAWSON RIVER, AFTON. H&S Company furnished the necessary men and equipment to provide effective control of the battalion units during the period 28 November to 30 November 1968. On 28 November 1968 Operation SCOTLAND II - AFTON was renamed DANEON RIVER, AFTON with the operating area remaining the same. Second Battalion, Ninth Marines assumed OPCON of B/1/9 for the period 28 November to 30 November 1968.

7. Close Combat. During the month of November, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines conducted 3 company, 121 platoon and 63 squad size patrols. There were also 5 platoon and 39 squad size ambushes conducted.

8. Training. Due to Operational commitments, very little formal training was conducted. There were 65 replacement personnel who received training in accordance with Division Order 1510.3B.

9. Fire Support and Fire Support Coordination.

a. Second Battalion, Ninth Marines was provided with direct fire support for the month of November by 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines batteries "D", "E", "F" and "W". General support was provided by 1st Battalion, 11th Marines battery "P". Tactical and Technical control was provided by 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines.

b. Second Battalion, Ninth Marines employment of artillery for the month of November resulted in the following round expenditure: 6854 HE, 114 WP, 8 Illumination, 171 firecracker and 10 HE Smoke. Nature of targets included active mortars, automatic weapons, NVA observation posts, suspected enemy movement, suspected enemy positions, NVA rally positions, TOT's, H&I's and prep fires.

c. The artillery fire support for the month was considered satisfactory.

10. Air Support.

a. Medevacs. A total of 47 personnel were medevaced during the month of November, 6 WIA and 41 NBC.

b. Command and Control. During the month of November 10 visual reconnaissance flights were performed.

c. Resupply. During the month of November 933,215 pounds of supplies were delivered to units in the field.

d. Troop Lifts. During the month 31 troop lifts were employed.

e. Fixed Wing. No fixed wing flights were controlled by Second Battalion, Ninth Marines during the month of November.

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Section V-S-4 Chronology

1. General. Resupply during November was generally excellent except for brief periods of inclement weather. No major shortages of clothing or equipment were experienced. Support from supply in Quang Tri has been excellent. Some items have not been in stock but this has not materially effected the combat readiness or efficiency of the battalion. Motor Transport is in excellent shape and with delivery of starters, will have nearly 100% of the vehicles operational. The battalion messhall and galley is fully operational at Vandegrift Combat Base and is able to serve three hot meals to the battalion daily.

2. Supply

a. The supply situation was considered excellent. However the below listed items were in short supply during this period:

BA 30's	3 Ring Binders
Bond Paper	Envelopes
Carbon, Prismics	Memo Books
Lined Tablets	Log Books
NAVMC 10123	BA 200's
Helments: Steel	Wheel Cylinders
Helment Liners	Starters f/M274A2
Camouflage Covers, f/hamont	Tool Kit f/PRC-41
Ponchos	Compasses
Pens	K-Bars
Duplicating Fluid	Sleeping Shirts
Fan Bolts	Hair Clippers
Water Proofing Kit f/PRC-25	Antenna AB 24
Tires 900x16	Antennae AB 719
Tires 700x16	Antennae AB 514
Inner Tubes w/valve cores	X-Med Cable
Regulators f/M151A1	Brake Shoes M151A1
Antenna 292	Parts Kit M151A1
Antenna AB 21	Carburetor M151A1
Antenna AB 22	Spark Plugs M151A1
Antenna AB 23	Spark Plugs M274A2

b. The situation on BA 386's was considered satisfactory during this period due to the receipt of 1140 BA 386's.

c. Items of significant importance received during the month are as follows:

ITEMS	QTY
BA 386's	1140
Camouflage Trousers	1075
Camouflage Jackets	140
Canteens	750

3. Ordnance

a. The ordnance situation was considered satisfactory. However the battalion has 23 pistols cal .45 on order. The battalion also has three 106 RR on order.

b. The following items of Ordnance Type Combat Essential Equipment are on 3rd Echelon Maintenance.

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ITEM	QTY
*Compressor M-3	1

The above compressor for our flames section has been in FLSG-B since September 1968. The other compressor which is in the battalion inventory, has too many parts missing and FLSG-B will not accept it. With both compressors down this battalion has a flame section which

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is not in a ready status.

c. The following items of Ordnance Type Combat Essential Equipment are on 2nd Echelon Maintenance:

ITEMS	QTY
Flamethrower Portable	2
Mortar 81mm	1
Compressor Flame M-3	1

The above 81mm mortar is presently on 2nd Echelon Maintenance due to the fact that the sight for the 81mm mortar is on 3rd Echelon Maintenance.

d. The following items of Ordnance Type Combat Essential Equipment are on order:

ITEM	DOCUMENT NUMBER	QTY
Pistol Cal .45	8320-1966	19
Pistol Cal .45	8325-1998	4
Rifle 106 RR	8247-0884	1
Rifle 106 RR	8307-1839	2

4. Comm/Elect.

a. The situation in the communications section during this period was considered barely satisfactory due to the maintenance of equipment in 3rd Echelon Repair and the non-availability of spare parts.

b. The following items of Comm/Elect Combat Essential Equipment are on 3rd Echelon Repair:

ITEM	QTY
PRC-41	1
PRC-47	1
PRC-25	4
Speech Security Device KY-8	1

c. The following items of Comm/Elect Essential Equipment are on 2nd Echelon Maintenance:

ITEM	QTY
PRC-125	5
Speech Security Device KY-8	1

d. The following items of Comm/Elect Combat Essential Equipment are on order:

ITEM	DOCUMENT NUMBER	QTY
PRC-47	8179-2275	1
PRC-47	8224-0522	1
4-MOD Cable f/KY-8	8162-2210	4
47/AUR-23A	8318-1947	1
PRC-87	8232-0679	1

5. Motor Transport

a. The maintenance situation was considered satisfactory. At present this battalion has 18 M274A2's on 2nd Echelon Maintenance for lack of starter FSN 2920-570-3057. The situation on the M274A2's remains critical, as it has been for the past six months.

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b. The below listed items of organic Motor Transport Combat Essential Equipment are on 3rd Echelon Maintenance:

ITEM	QTY
Trk Platform M274	1

c. The below listed items of Organic Motor Transport Combat Essential Equipment are on Order:

ITEMS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	QTY
Starter/M274A2	0079-0960	1
Starter/M274A2	8086-2076	1
Starter/M274A2	8128-1681	6
Starter/M274A2	8206-0309	5
Regulators M151A1	8023-0220	1
Regulators M151A1	8179-2287	5

c. Non-organic Transportation. Was considered satisfactory both at Quang Tri and Vandegrift Combat Base.

6. Other Logistical Support. N/A

7. Operations. See S-3 Chronology

8. Logistical Lifts

a. Primary means of resupply was by CH-46 and CH-53 helicopters. The status of lifts are as follows:

LIFTS	CARGO	PERSONNEL
221	933,215 LBS	196

b. Vehicular Support. NO Commit. The status of lifts are as follows:

LIFTS	CARGO	PERSONNEL
27	13,500 LBS	329

9. Ammunition expenditures for the month are as follows:

DDPAC	NOMENCLATURE	QTY
1086	81mm HE	15,02 rds
1083	81mm WP	360 rds
1086	81mm ILLUM	273 rds
8868	60mm HE	2909 rds
8630	60mm WP	236 rds
8627	60mm ILLUM	360 rds
1027	M-79	254 rds
1027	7.62 Linked	24,660 rds
1071	7.62 Ball	5000 rds
1071	5.56 Ball	27,520 rds
1071	M-36	270 rds
8113	LAAM	60 rds
8113	Claymore	40 rds
8113	Tripwire	536 rds
8113	Sig Yellow Star Cluster	400 rds
8113	.45 Cal Ball	4200 rds
8115	Sig Grn Star Cluster	64 rds
8116	C-4 Demo Kit	74 Kits
8156	Blasting Caps	1100 caps
8156	Det Cord	1900 ft.
8132	TNT	2550 lbs.
8132	Timefuse	600 ft.

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<u>NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Incendiary Grenades	16
Thermite Grenades	16
WP Grenade	16
106 Hept	60 rds
106 Bee Hives	20 rds
Pupups	25 rds

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Section VI. S-5 Chronology

1. General. Due to Operational commitments and tactical employments, Civic Actions were curtailed. No medcaps were conducted but steps are being taken through S-5 to begin projects as soon as Operational commitments allow.

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1. General. The communications platoon was divided into three sections during the month of November. The rear section consisting of approximately 20 men, provided radio, wire, message center and repair support at Quang Tri. The S-4 at Vandegrift Combat Base was supported by 8-10 men of this section. The remainder of the platoon provided normal communications support to the Battalion in the field on the following operations:

SCOTLAND II - AFTON
DAWSON RIVER, AFTON

1 November to 28 November
28 November to 30 November

2. Wire. Normal wire was used at Quang Tri and Vandegrift Combat Base.

3. Radio. Normal radio communications was established at all Battalion locations. A field expedient half rhombic antenna was used on operation SCOTLAND II - AFTON with excellent results.

4. Message Center. The message center processed 420 incoming and 15 outgoing messages. Normal shackles and brevity code deliveries were made to the field. Approximately 1200 radio messages were processed by the Battalion message center at Quang Tri on the Battalion admin radio net.

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~~DECLASSIFIED~~Section VIII - Medical Chronology

1. General. During the month of November, the BAS held sick call for 597 Navy and Marine Corps personnel. No medical civic action program was held.

2. Sanitation. Routine daily inspections were made of the Battalion area.

3. Disease, Injuries and Treatment in General. FUO's and diarrhea increased substantially this month. Company corpsmen were instructed to initiate educational programs regarding malaria prevention and personal hygiene. Poor sanitation is the major reason for the increase in diarrhea and measures were taken to gradually replace unsanitary water cans. At Vandegrift Combat Base, food preparations and serving areas were screened and the trash barrels were covered. Company corpsmen were instructed in treatment of skin rashes to hopefully reduce the necessity of evacuation. Immunizations were given to the entire battalion in the field.

4. Casualties and Hospitalization. There were no KIA's, 8 WIA's, no WIA's, and 142 NBC's. Outpatient treatment consisted of: 8 shrapnel wounds, 55 FUO, 166 dermatology conditions, 25 G.U. infections, 72 ENT, 7 N.P., 38 diarrhea conditions, 92 misc. injuries, 43 misc. diseases, 54 Rabies injections and 37 orthopedic conditions.

5. Training. Orientation lectures were given to 65 personnel. The subject matter included personal hygiene, self and buddy aid, Malaria with the preventive measures of, venereal diseases, care of the feet and the snake problem in Vietnam. On the job training and lectures were given periodically for the corpsmen.

6. Complement of BAS. At the close of the month, the BAS had a complement of one Medical Officer and 50 Hospital Corpsmen. There were 4 SNCO's attached, 7 personnel joined, 6 transferred and 11 non-effectives in the battalion.

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~~CLASSIFIED~~Section IX Chaplain's Chronology

1. General. During the month of November Protestant, Catholic and Jewish services were provided for the men of the Battalion.

2. Protestant: Protestant services were conducted by the Battalion Chaplain. The wide spread unit dispersion necessitated that the services be conducted for each individual company.

3. Catholic. Catholic services were provided by various Catholic Chaplains in the neighborhood of the Battalion units; in the absence of the Chaplain, services were conducted by unit layleaders.

4. Jewish. Jewish services were conducted whenever a Chaplain of the Jewish faith was available.

5. Personal Services. The Battalion Chaplain conducted such interviews and counselling services as required by individuals of the Battalion.

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

th Mar. Regt.
 Control No. 00524-68
 Copy No. 1 of 13

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3:JMS:trt
 11 October 1968

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines
 Subj: Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE After Action Report
 Ref: (a) DivO 3100.1D

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 1 October to 2 October 1968.

3. Location! Cam Lo District, Quang Tri Province, Republic of South Vietnam.

4. Task Organization.

Second Battalion, Ninth Marines

Company "E"	1 October to 2 October
Company "F"	1 October to 2 October
Company "G"	1 October to 2 October
Company "H"	1 October to 2 October
Det. Co. "C" 3rd Engr Bn	1 October to 2 October
Det. Co. "C" 3rd Shore Ptry Bn	1 October to 2 October

5. Supporting Forces.

a. Artillery.

(1) Second Battalion, Ninth Marines employed no direct artillery support on Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE.

(2) Second Battalion, Ninth Marines employed no general artillery support during Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE.

(3) No targets of opportunity were fired on.

(4) No round expenditure resulted on Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE.

b. Air Support.

- (1) Medevacs. None.
- (2) Command and Control. None.
- (3) Resupply. None.
- (4) Troop Lifts. None.
- (5) Fixed Wing. None.

6. Intelligence.

TAB -A

I GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF AREA:

The operating area during OPERATION LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE was the area 2,000 meters south-east of Camp J. J. Carroll. The area consisted of rolling grazing land, large rice paddies, and wooded villages.

1-2 OCT 1968

2/9

A/2 RPT (OPN LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE)

1-2 OCT 1968

II TERRAIN FEATURES: Prominent terrain features in the area included Camp J. J. Carroll's OP 250 (XD 069555), Hill 158 (XD 092561), and the

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Camp J.J. CARROLL Plateau (YD 0654).

III. TRAFFICABILITY. Trafficability in this area is excellent for both ground troop and vehicles. Open pastures dotted with small bushes and sectioned off by thin hedgerows or single strands of barbed wire offer no impediment. The area is moderately populated and is criss-crossed with numerous well used trails. Provincial Rt 558 runs through this area and provides excellent accessibility to the eastern section of the operating area.

IV. AVENUES OF APPROACH. Friendly avenues of approach include Provincial RT 558 running south from Cam Lo, the access road connecting Camp J.J. CARROLL with the Popular Forces Camp at D-5 (YD 094515), additional well-used trails running south-east from Camp J.J. CARROLL to Thon Bang Son Village complex (YD 093538) and the flat open pastures that can provide excellent H LZ's.

Enemy avenues of approach include Provincial RT 558 running north from the Ba Long Valley (YD 0942), the stream bed of the Khe Tro Do Stream running eastward from the Thon Dong Son Village complex and numerous trails frequented by indigenous civilians leading east and southeast to suspected base camp areas.

V. STREAM FORDING POINTS. Streams in this area are of insufficient size to hamper either foot or vehicular traffic. Rt 558 crosses Khe Tro Do Stream vic (YD 102538) on a wood frame bridge suitable for foot or light vehicular traffic.

VI. VEGETATION. The operating area consisted of light vegetation. The majority of the area is pasture land and on the higher less frequented ground the scrub is more profuse but still does not restrict direct cross-country travel. The rice paddy areas are of the typical design.

VII. ROAD AND TRAIL CONDITIONS. Provincial RT 558 has all weather capabilities in most places. The Camp J. J. CARROLL - D-5 access road has limited all weather capability but will accommodate all vehicles when dry. Trails in the area vary from narrow footpaths to small roads suitable for limited vehicular traffic. The trails leading south and southeast out of the area can support heavy and rapid movement of enemy forces.

VIII. HELICOPTER LANDING ZONES. The operating area, being primarily an agricultural one, is rich in open, flat unobstructed terrain suitable for helicopters of all sizes.

IX. ENEMY FORCES ENCOUNTERED. None.

X. ENEMY INSTALLATIONS ENCOUNTERED. None.

XI. CUMULATIVE ENEMY LOSSES. None.

XII. REMARKS. None.

7. Mission. At L-Hour on D-Day Second Battalion, Ninth Marines will move into blocking positions to the west of Thon Bang Son vic (YD 091535) and Thon Doc Kinh vic (YD 099526).

8. Concept of Operation. Blocking positions were established by 020000H October 1968 where they were maintained until 021600H on 01 October 1968.

9. Execution.

(a) 1 October 1968.

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~~DECLASSIFIED~~(1) Disposition of Forces.

E/2/9 - Chopped from 4th Marines to 9th Marines and was trucked to Camp J.J. CARROLL.

F/2/9 - Chopped from 4th Marines to 9th Marines and was trucked to Camp J.J. CARROLL.

G/2/9 - Chopped from 4th Marines to 9th Marines and was trucked to Camp J.J. CARROLL.

H/2/9 - Chopped from 4th Marines to 9th Marines and was trucked to Camp J.J. CARROLL.

Command Group - Chopped from 4th Marines to 9th Marines and was trucked to Camp J.J. CARROLL.

(2) Enemy Contacts and Significant Events.

011200H - Second Battalion, Ninth Marines chopped OPCON from 4th Marines to 9th Marines.

011645H - Companies "G", "F" and 81mm mortar section left for Camp J.J. CARROLL.

011825H - Companies "E", "H" and Command Group left for Camp J.J. CARROLL.

012050H - Second Battalion, Ninth Marines left Camp J.J. CARROLL to establish blocking positions.

(b) 2 October 1968.(1) Disposition of Forces.

E/2/9 - Established blocking position.

F/2/9 - Established blocking position.

G/2/9 - Established blocking position.

H/2/9 - Established blocking position.

(2) Enemy Contacts and Significant Events.

020200H - All units tied in together.

020700H - Second Battalion, Ninth Marines units made a minor shift in blocking positions.

021230H - All companies given warning to be ready to leave.

021610H - Second Battalion, Ninth Marines started lift to Vandegrift Combat Base.

021630H - Second Battalion, Ninth Marines chopped from 9th Marines to 4th Marines.

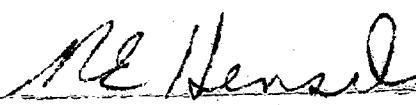
10. Results.

a. Friendly Personnel Losses. None.

b. Enemy Losses. (See Intelligence Portion of Report.)

11. Administrative Matters. None.12. Special Equipment. None.13. Commanders Analysis. None.14. Recommendations. None.

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R. E. HENSEL
Major, USMC