

HEADQUARTERS
2d Battalion, 11th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMP
APO San Francisco, California 96602

3/DJB/jbl
5750
Ser: 003A31268
5 October 1968
NOVEMBER

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 11th Marines (S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 October to 31 October 1968

Ref: (a) RegtO 5750.2

Encl: (1) 2d Battalion, 11th Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

R. D. Jameson
R. D. JAMESON

2dBn, 11th Mar
S&C
Control # 4279-68
Copy 1 of 10 copies

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

2DBN/11TH MAR

CMD CHRON

ANNEX H

OCT 1968

HEADQUARTERS
2d Battalion, 11th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 October to 31 October 1968

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5750**UNCLASSIFIED**PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

2d Battalion, 11th Marines LtCol R.D. JAMESON

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Battery	CWO2 G.D. PECK	1-31 Oct 1968
Battery D	Capt C.G. BLASI 1stLt F.A. MAURO	1-10 Oct 1968 11-31 Oct 1968
Battery E	Capt J.M. CAVANAUGH	1-31 Oct 1968
Battery F	1stLt J.L. BILODEAU	1-31 Oct 1968
Mortar Battery	1stLt T.A. CURD II	1-31 Oct 1968
Provisional Battery, 2/11	2dLt J.H. REINHART	15-31 Oct 1968
* Provisional Battery, 11th Mar	1stLt J.M. CANARIO Capt D.L. BERMAN	1-29 Oct 1968 30-31 Oct 1968

2. LOCATIONS

2d Bn, 11th Mar	1-31 Oct	An Hoa	AT 866472
Hq Battery	1-31 Oct	An Hoa	AT 866472
Battery D	1-31 Oct	Liberty Bridge	AT 925525
Battery E	1-2 Oct	An Hoa	AT 865471
	3-21 Oct	Hill 52	ZC 789553
	22-31 Oct	An Hoa	AT 865471
Battery F	1-31 Oct	An Hoa	AT 865471
Mortar Battery	1-31 Oct	An Hoa	AT 878479
** Prov Battery, 2/11	1-6 Oct	An Hoa	AT 877476
	Mar 7-31 Oct	An Hoa	AT 868471
* Prov Battery, 11th Mar	1-31 Oct	An Hoa	AT 877476

** Indicates Area while Prov Battery, 11th Mar

* OpCon, 2d Bn, 11th Mar

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57503. STAFF OFFICERS

BnExecO	1-31 Oct	Maj R.F. SCOTT JR.
BnSgtMaj	1-31 Oct	SgtMaj B.A. ANDERSON
Bn S-1	1-31 Oct	1stLt J.S. PAULK
Bn S-2	22-31 Oct	1stLt D.M. SAUER
Bn S-3	1-31 Oct	Maj D.J. BLAUL
Bn S-4	1-31 Oct	1stLt M.A.C NELSON
Bn S-5	22-31 Oct	1stLt D.M. SAUER
CommO	1-31 Oct	1stLt J.F. DWINELL
MtO	1-31 Oct	1stLt L.L. STRAUCH
SupplyO	1-8 Oct	1stLt K.A. POUCH
	9-31 Oct	2dLt H.O. HARNESS
OrdO	1-31 Oct	CWO2 H.W. CUTLER
Surv/MetroO	1-31 Oct	CWO2 C.D. PECK
LnO	1-31 Oct	Maj L. MICHAEL

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
43	605	4	13	0	0

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. The battalion provided fire support to the 5th Marine Regiment while engaged in Operation Mamaluke Thrust and Henderson Hill. On 050615HOCT68 Battery E was chopped OpCon to 3/11 for participation in Operation Maui Peak and remained until 212020HOCT68.

Increased sightings and intelligence sources initiated the commencement of Operation Henderson Hill on 231200HOCT68 and termination of Mamaluke Thrust on 231159HOCT68.

The battalion continues to produce its own met data but with the expected low visibility to be caused in the forth coming monsoon season a more reliable method will be required. It is worthy of note that during periods of low visibility, referenced else where in this report, an electronic met was not received from higher headquarters with any degree of reliability. High burst registrations continue to remain the primary means of determining corrections by firing with Met plus VE applied to keep correction current. An observation post was established by survey on Hill 200 (ZC 797528) in coordination with 11th Marines Survey Section. The battalion now has the ability to conduct registrations in the major portion of the 5th Marines AO.

Provisional Battery, 11th Marines (155How TD) was disbanded on 151200H AUG68 and reformed under 2/11 with personnel and equipment assets transferred to this battalion.

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Provisional Battery, 11th Marines (155 Gun SP) was formed into a Battery Group with the addition of two 8" How SP on 301500HOCT68 remaining OpCon 2/11 with a tactical mission of reinforcing 2/11.

AMMUNITION EXPENDITURES

<u>CALIBER</u>	<u>5th MARINES</u>	<u>RECON</u>	<u>ARVN</u>
105 How Td	19026	2439	
4.2 Mortar	1205	7	9
155 How Td	1798	740	12
155 Gun Sp	360	178	
8" How Sp	52	6	

MISSIONS FIRED

<u>OBSERVED</u>	<u>UNOBSERVED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
661	1193	1854

HARRASSMENT AND INTERDICTION

<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>ROUNDS</u>
1291	9595

TOTAL ROUNDS OCT: 35481 TOTAL MISSIONS OCT: 3145

CONSOLIDATED SURVEILLANCES

During the month of October 1968 elements of the battalion, were credited with 210 KIA (conf), 14 KIA (prob), 12 WIA and several secondary explosions. Elements of the 5th Marines reported finding graves of 2 NVA/VC killed by artillery fire. This is not included in the above figures.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSTOPICSa. Personnel and Administration

(1) Losses

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Administrative	2	12	0	1
Battle KIA	0	2	0	0
Battle WIA (Evac)	1	2	0	0
Battle WIA (Non-Evac)	1	1	0	0

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Battle MIA	0	0	0	0
Battle Dow	0	0	0	0
Non-Battle (Evac)	0	2	0	0
Non-Battle (Death)	0	1	0	0
(2) Replacements	4	50	0	4
(3) Loss	4	20	0	1
(4) Gain	4	50	0	4
(5) Promotions	1	15	0	5
(6) Awards				
Purple Heart Medal	2	6	0	0

b. Intelligence - The intelligence section was able to acquire many lucrative targets for the firing batteries. Of special note is the increasing number of unidentified radio signals which were discovered almost daily and fired upon as soon as discovered. Also noteworthy was the large amount of sightings of NVA/VC in the AT 8152 grid square by reconnaissance units which seemingly indicate a major route of approach into the An Hoa Basin. Early the morning of the 29th, 1st Platoon, 155 Gun Battery received approximately 16 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. One of the battalion observation towers was able to obtain an azimuth to a muzzle flash from one of the mortars. Artillery fire was brought to bear quickly on this target and it was silenced. The crater analysis made a few hours later indicated two possible mortar sites which were subsequently added to the counter mortar plan.

c. Organization and Operation - During the month covered by this report the battalion participated in Operation Mamaluke Thrust and Henderson Hill. Operation Mamaluke Thrust terminated during the month (After Action Report attached). In addition E 2/11 participated in Operation Maui Peak under OpCon of 3/11. Operation Maui Peak terminated during the month.

d. Training - The battalion has been able to increase the amount of time spent on training to a significant degree.

Continued improvement of the position areas still requires a considerable amount of time but not in the amount of the previous months. Emphasis continues to be placed upon position defense and all units of the battalion conducted drills in position defense procedures. A gas chamber exercise was conducted in conjunction with the 5th Marines.

c. Logistics - The reporting period was characterized by continued development of battery positions throughout the battalion. The S-4 coordinated with the 5th Marines in the use of scarce engineer equipment and material assets in many construction projects. The development of a new battery area for Provisional Battery 2/11 was accomplished despite heavy rains.

The S-5 initiated a program to acquire Vietnamese laborers on a regular basis.

Much work was accomplished through temporary loans of equipment by Company B, 1st Engineers and MCB 301. The tactical heli-lift of E Battery to hill 52 was accomplished and resupply was provided by 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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The reporting function of the S-4 section was accomplished with the required reports submitted by the prescribed due dates.

During most of October, An Hoa was closed to all but air transportation. The heavy rains and cloud cover closed An Hoa to air traffic several times causing rationing of such basic supply items as food and fuel. Acquiring transportation for routine items of supply was very difficult. Increased availability of C-130 aircraft and the resumption of convoy traffic to An Hoa has relieved the problem.

f. Civic Action/Civil Affairs - The major effort of the civil affairs program was directed toward providing a number of Vietnamese civilians with profitable jobs in the battery areas. The scope of the civil affairs program is being expanded with plans being laid for more Medcap and continued education of the enlisted personnel concerning the problems facing the people of the Republic of Vietnam. Also included in these plans are preparation for the inclusion of a civilian laundry in the area and a civilian barber to move from battery to battery. A more valid foundation was laid for the payment of VIP fund with the distribution of numerous leaflets to civilians in the outlying areas.

g. None

h. Combined Action Company Program - Reported in accordance with RegtO 3121.1 on 1 November 1968.

ENCLOSURE (1)

JOURNAL

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

UNCLASSIFIED OF SECTION
 Section, 2/11

PLACE
 Republic of Vietnam
 FROM (Date and hour) 0001 01Oct68 TO (Date and hour) 2400 31Oct68

(Classification)

TIME		SERIAL NO.	DATE TIME GROUP	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN	
IN	OUT				M-Maps S-Staff	T-Troops F-File
		011600		Jd 1 MARCOR Enl fr 11thMar; 2 MarCor Enl KIA		
		021600		Jd 1 MARCOR Off fr CONUS; Tr 1 MARCOR Enl to CONUS		
		041600		MEDEVAC 1 MARCOR Enl; Jd 3 MARCOR Enl fr CONUS		
		051500		Jd 1 MARCOR Off fr CONUS; Tr 1 MARCOR Enl to CONUS		
		061600		Tr 1 MARCOR Enl to CONUS		
		081530		MEDEVAC 1 MARCOR Off; Tr 1 MARCOR Enl to CONUS		
		091500		Jd 1 MARCOR Enl fr CONUS		
		101600		Tr 3 MARCOR Enl to CONUS; Tr 1 MARCOR Off to CONUS; Tr 1 MARCOR Off to 4/11; Tr 2 MARCOR Enl to HQBN 1stDiv		
		111400		Jd 3 MARCOR Enl fr CONUS; Tr 1 MARCOR Enl to CONUS		
		141100		Jd 1 MARCOR Enl fr 5thMar; Tr 1 MARCOR Enl to CONUS		
		151600		Jd 1 MARCOR Off fr CONUS; Jd 31 MARCOR Enl fr 31 4/11		
		160900		Tr 2 MARCOR Enl to CONUS		
		170830		Tr 1 MARCOR Enl Off to CONUS		
		181800		Drop died 1 MARCOR Enl - Non hostile		
		190800		Tr 1 MARCOR Enl to CONUS		
		211400		Jd 1 MARCOR Enl fr 11thMar; Jd 1 MARCOR Off fr 3/11		
		221500		Jd 2 MARCOR Enl fr CONUS; Jd 1 MARCOR Enl fr 2/13		
		241400		Tr 1 MARCOR Enl to CONUS; Jd 1 MARCOR Enl fr 11thMar		
		260800		Jd 1 MARCOR Enl fr CONUS		
		271500		MEDEVAC 1 MARCOR Enl; Jd 1 MARCOR Enl fr 11thMar		
		291400		Jd 2 MARCOR Enl fr CONUS; Tr 3 MARCOR Enl to CONUS		
		301600		Tr 2 MARCOR Enl to CONUS		
		312000		1 MARCOR Off WIA		

(See reverse side for instructions)
 ANNEX A to enclosure (1)

PAGE NO.
 1

(Classification)

JOURNAL

NAVMC 219-65 (REV. 5-63)
SUPERSEDES 2-52 AND 8-56 EDITIONS WHICH WILL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNIT OR SECTION	S-3
PLACE	AN HOA, RVN
FROM (Date and hour)	010001HOCT68
TO (Date and hour)	312400HOCT68

(Classification)

TIME		SERIAL NO.	DATE TIME GROUP	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN	
IN	OUT				M-Maps S-Staff	T-Troops F-File
		1	012300H	BTRY E REPORTS GUN # 5474 DOWN FOR BROKEN BREACH HANDLE AND BAD EXTRACTER.		
		2	032100H	BTRY W REPORTS GUN #12904 BACK IN ACTION.		
		3	050615H	BTRY E, CSMO FOR HELI-LIFT TO POSITION ON HILL 52 GRID 789553.		
		4	050800H	BTRY E 2/11 CHOPPED OPCON 3/11.		
		5	051830H	TANGO BTRY CREDITED WITH 2 KIA AND 8 PROBABLES ON TGT # UT 0917 FIRED FOR RECON.		
		6	060720H	TANGO BTRY CREDITED WITH 2 KIA ON TGT # UT 0921.		
		7	060720H	BTRY F CREDITED WITH 3 KIA ON TGT # SF 709.		
		8	061345H	TANGO BTRY CREDITED WITH 1 KIA ON TGT # UT 0923.		
		9	061740H	TANGO BTRY CREDITED WITH 1 KIA ON TGT #UT 0924.		
		10	061820H	BTRY F CREDITED WITH 4 KIA ON TGT # SF 713.		
		11	061854H	TANGO BTRY CREDITED WITH 3 KIA ON TGT # UT 0926.		
		12	071000H	MOVEREP A. LPT B. 071000HOCT68 C. 868471.		
		13	071515H	BTRY D CREDITED WITH 5 PROBABLE KIA ON TGT # SX348.		
		14	071515H	BTRY D CREDITED WITH 46 KIA ON TGT # SD 738.		
		15	081030H	BTRY F REPORTS 5 PROP, 1 CONF KIA, 1 SECONDARY EXPLOSION ON TGT # SX 358, 359.		
		16	081820H	BTRY F CREDITED WITH 1 KIA ON TGT # SX 393.		
		17	090905H	BTRY D REPORTS 4 KIA, 12 WIA ON TGT # SD 750.		
		18	091117H	BTRY D REPORTS 5 KIA ON TGT # SD 751.		
		19	091125H	BTRY F REPORTS 4 KIA ON TGT # SX 363.		
		20	091500H	BTRY F REPORTS 2 KIA ON TGT # SX 366.		
		21	091515H	BTRY F REPORTS 1 KIA ON TGT # SX 367.		
		22	091815H	BTRY F REPORTS 9 KIA ON TGT # SX371.		
		23	091820H	BTRY TANGO REPORTS 9 KIA ON TGT # SX 371.		
		24	101045H	BTRY F REPORTS GUN # 22151 DOWN FOR SIX MONTHS MAINT.		
		25	101700H	BTRY D REPORTS 11 KIA ON TGT # SD 749.		
		26	111815H	BTRY F REPORTS 4 KIA ON TGT # SX 380.		
				BTRY T REPORTS 5 KIA ON TGT # SX 380.		
				BTRY LUNGA POINT KILO REPORTS 5 KIA ON TGT # UK 0620.		
		27	121300H	BTRY T REPORTS 2 KIA ON TGT # SX 382.		
		28	121800H	BTRY F CREDITED WITH 1 KIA ON TGT # SX 384.		
		29	131400H	BTRY F CREDITED WITH 1 KIA ON TGT # SX 387.		
		30	131700H	BTRY D CREDITED WITH 1 KIA ON TGT # SD 767.		
		31	141030H	BTRY F REPORTS GUN # 6075 DOWN FOR REPLACEMENT OF TUBE.		
		32	141530H	BTRY F REPORTS GUN # 6075 BACK IN ACTION.		
		33	141800H	BTRY D REPORTS GUN # 11435 DOWN FOR FAULTY RECOIL SYSTEM.		
		34	151200H	PROVISIONAL BATTERY 11TH MARINES DISBANDED, 4 155 HOW TD WITH CREWS TRANSFERRED TO 2/11. 2/11 FORMS PROVISIONAL BATTERY 2/11 FROM THE ABOVE MENTIONED WEAPONS AND CREWS.		
		35	151730H	BTRY D REPORTS GUN # 11435 BACK IN ACTION.		
		36	191300H	BTRY F REPORTS GUN # 22151 BACK IN ACTION.		
		37	192325H	BASE PLATE FROM ILLUM CANISTER HIT AND KILLED A MARINE		

(See reverse side for instructions)

ANNEX C to enclosure (1)

PAGE NO.

1

(Classification)

JOURNAL

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

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

UNIT OR SECTION S-3	
PLACE AN HOA, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour) 0100010CT68	TO (Date and hour) 3124000CT68

TIME		SERIAL NO.	DATE TIME GROUP	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN	
IN	OUT				M-Maps S-Staff	T-Troops F-File
				FROM 1/5. BTRY F FIRED A MISSION AT GRID 934505 IMPACT 939509 REINFORCING FIRES FOR DELTA. ALL DATA CONNECTED TO SPOT REP SENT TO 11TH MARINES. FSCC ALSO INFORMED.		
		38	211200H	BTRY E 2/11 CHOPPED FROM OPCON 3/11 TO 2/11.		
		39	211200H	MOVEREP A. E B. 211020H C. (EXWPZEY).		
		40	21410H	FIRECAP A. E B. 877472 C. 1000 D. 5 GUNS UP		
		41	221120H	BTRY T REPORTS GUNS # 7972, 11441, 8332. DUE TO FOGGED SITES.		
		42	221420H	BTRY F CREDITED WITH 5 KIA ON TGT # SX 430.		
		43	221448H	BTRY F CREDITED WITH 3 KIA ON TGT # SX 426.		
		44	221450H	BTRY T CREDITED WITH 1 KIA ON TGT # SX 428.		
		45	221515H	BTRY T REPORTS GUNS # 7972, 11441, 8332 BACK IN ACTION.		
		46	221515H	BTRY T CREDITED WITH 1 KIA ON TGT # SX 431.		
		47	222100H	BTRY F REPORTS GUN # 6075 DOWN FOR BROKEN HANDLE.		
		48	230900H	BTRYS F,E,T,SPA, CREDITED WITH 62 KIA ON TGT # SX 443, SX 441, SX 444, SX 445, FZ 0442.		
		49	231000H	BTRY E CREDITED WITH 6 KIA ON TGT # SX 447.		
		50	231200H	OPERATION MAMALUKE THRUST TERMINATED.		
		51	231200H	OPERATION HENDERSON HILL COMMENCED.		
		52	241100H	BTRY SPA REPORTS GUN # 62 DOWN FOR NEW TUBE.		
		53	241200H	BTRY T CREDITED WITH 3 KIA ON TGT # SX 488.		
		54	261050H	H 2/5 REPORTS FINDING THE GRAVES OF 2 NVA KILLED BY ARTILLERY FIRE.		
		55	291800H	BTRY F&E CREDITED WITH 5 KIA ON GRIDS 818529, 813528.		
		56	301210H	BTRY T CREDITED WITH 1 KIA ON GRID 940499.		
		57	301235H	BTRY D CREDITED WITH 3 KIA ON TGT # SD 897.		
		58	301455H	FIRECAP A FUDGE DAKE A B. 87678 47556 C. 1400 D. 301400H		
		59	301500H	1ST PLT 3RD 8" HOW BTRY ARRIVES AN HOA ASSUMES CONTROL OF 1ST PLT 3RD 155 GUN BTRY. FORME BTRY GROUP OPCON TO 2/11.		
		60	301600H	APPROX 20 ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTARS (INCOMING) WERE RECEIVED ALONG PERIMETER OF W, E 2/11 AND 1 ST PLT 155 GUNS. MUZZLE FLASH OBSERVED BY BATTALION OBSERVATION TOWER. FIRED SURVIELLIENCE ROUNDS ON TGT. BATTALION COUNTER MORTAR PLAN SECTOR ONE ALSO FIRED.		
		61	311200H	CRATER ANALYSIS OF INCOMING ROUNDS MENTIONED IN SERIAL # 60 PLUS SIGHTING BY BATTALION OBSERVATION TOWER RESULTED IN ONE ADDITIONAL GRID ADDED TO BATTALION COUNTER MORTAR PLAN.		

(See reverse side for instructions)

PAGE NO.

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ANNEX C to enclosure (1)

JOURNAL

NAVMC 219-65 (REV. 5-63)
SUPERSEDES 2-52 AND 8-56 EDITIONS WHICH WILL BE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNIT OR SECTION	PLACE
Air Hoa, RVN	
FROM (Date and hour)	TO (Date and hour)
010800H Oct 68	311000H Oct 68

(Classification)

TIME		SERIAL NO.	DATE TIME GROUP	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS	ACTION TAKEN	
IN	OUT				M-Maps S-Staff	T-Troops F-File
			010800H	Monthly Minor Injury Report Submitted.		
			030900H	Wheeled Vehicle, Mileage, Cargo, & Passenger Report submitted.		
			031300H	Combat Loss of Equipment Report submitted.		
			040800H	Motor Transport Deadline Report submitted & Engineer Support Equipment Report.		
			070900H	Conex Report, Density of Prime Movers, Trailers and Shop Sets, & Special Munitions Report Submitted.		
			101045H	Engineer Support Equipment Report submitted.		
			120800H	Weekly Motor Transport Deadline Report submitted.		
			171100H	Engineer Support Equipment Report submitted.		
			190800H	Motor Transport Deadline Report submitted.		
			201000H	Special Munitions Report submitted.		
			220800H	Tactical Support Functional Components Report, and Monthly Engineer Report was submitted.		
			231200H	Engineer Support Equipment Report submitted.		
			260800H	Weekly Motor Transport Deadline Report was submitted.		
			311000H	Logistics Summary Report was Submitted.		

(See reverse side for instructions)
ANNEX D to enclosure (1)

(Classification)

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
2d Battalion, 11th Marines
1st Marine Division, (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

2/11 S+C
4245-68
10/10

3/DJB/jbl
3480
Ser:
3 Nov 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines (S-3)
Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report
Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1A
(b) 5th Marines Operation Order 301A-68

1. In compliance with reference (a) and (b), the following report is submitted.
 - a. Code Name. Mamaluke Thrust.
 - b. Dates of Operation. 251200HJUL68 - 231200HOCT68.
 - c. Location. Thua Thien and Quang Nam Provinces, RVN.
 - d. Command and Control Headquarters. 5th Marine Regiment.
 - e. Reporting Officer. Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 11th Marines.
 - f. Task Organization.
 - Headquarters Battery
 - Battery D
 - Battery E
 - Battery F
 - Battery W
 - Provisional Battery
 - g. Supporting Forces. Provisional Battery, 11th Marines, (1st Platoon 3rd 155 Gun Battery)
 - h. Intelligence. 5th Marines Intsums.
 - i. Mission. Direct Support of 5th Marines.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

Annex E

UNCLASSIFIED

3/DJB/jbl
3480
3 Nov 1968k. Execution.

At 261400HJUL68 1st FAG transferred OpCon of this battalion to the 11th Marines. The battalion displaced to the vicinity of An Hoa (AT 875475) arriving 271400HJUL68. Since arrival in An Hoa the battalion has provided fire support for the 5th Marines in Operation Mamaluke Thrust. In addition, Operation Susse Bay was conducted simultaneously during the period 290900H AUG68 to 091200HSEP68. This operation was the subject of a previous after action report.

On 050600HAUG68 E 2/11 was heli-lifted to a fire base at grid AT 8689 3601. The battery remained at this fire base, co-located with F 2/27 for security, until 200800HAUG68 when it was heli-lifted back to the An Hoa Combat Base. During this period of time E 2/11 did not engage any targets of significance, most of their firing being devoted to unobserved fires or in support of elements of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion. On 271200HSEP68 this battalion was given OpCon of Provisional Battery, 11th Marines. On 15 Oct 1968 Provisional Battery, 11th Marines was disbanded. The four 155mm Towed Howitzers of the Provisional Battery and their crews, were transferred to this battalion.

During Operation Mamaluke Thrust the 5th Marines concentrated the majority of their operations in the western two thirds of the Regimental AO. This allowed maximum artillery support to be available at all times. The battalion was able to mass in almost any area of infantry operation as well as call upon the general support elements of the 11th Marines to provide added reinforcing fires as required.

Increased infantry contacts and aggressive action by the 5th Marines resulted in increased effectiveness of artillery fire in regards to confirmed KIAS as well as the increasing use of general support artillery in firing preparation fires and targets developed by the intelligence sources of the 5th Marines.

At 010100HOCT68 2/5 chopped OpCon to the 7th Marines and at 060800HOCT68 3/5 chopped OpCon to the same regiment. In addition E 2/11 was chopped OpCon to 3/11. All of these units were involved in Operation Maui Peak.

This action resulted in a considerable reduction in the number of artillery missions fired in support of the operation Mamaluke Thrust. In addition, heavy rains from 12 thru 20 October 1968 reduced visibility and the number of observed missions. Ammunition expenditure remained at approximately 75% of normal due to an increase in the number of unobserved missions fired. Increased unobserved fires including daytime Harrassing and Interdiction fires were considered mandatory to discourage the freedom of movement available to NVA/VC forces under cover of the reduced visibility.

At 191415HOCT68 2/5 and 3/5 were returned to the control of the 5th Marines and E 2/11 was chopped to this battalion at 211200HOCT68. After two days of minor actions Operation Mamaluke Thrust was terminated.

Second Battalion units fired a total of 8379 missions expending 90686 rounds and accounting for 146 confirmed enemy kills.

l. Naval Gunfire. Naval Gunfire Support was not utilized during this operation.

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(1) Supply - There were minor problems and shortages in most area of supply during various periods of Mamaluke Thrust. The battalion move to An Hoa was accompanied by the usual problems of obtaining building materials in the large amounts required for developing a new area. At times transportation difficulties resulted in rationing of even such vital items as food and fuel. Overall, the battalion has been adequately supplied during the period with the one major exception of monsoon clothing.

(2) Maintenance. - Maintenance has been a problem for the battalion. The establishment of 3rd echelon facilities at the LSU facility relieved the problem, but its limited scope still results in the necessity of evacuation of deadlined equipment to Danang. Transportation difficulties result in frequent delays in evacuation of equipment and the return of repaired or replaced equipment.

(3) Transportation - Transportation has been the largest logistics problem for the battalion. The An Hoa Cantonment has frequently been closed to all but air transport. Bad weather and scarcity of aircraft has often delayed receipt of supplies and evacuation of equipment for 3rd echelon maintenance. The lack of a suitable river crossing facility of the Song Thu Bon (AT 925530) has imposed a tremendous handicap upon the conduct of Operation Mamaluke Thrust.

(4) Treatment of Casualties. - Medical support was provided by the 5th Marines at An Hoa. No problems were encountered.

n. Communications. The communications for Mamaluke Thrust were good for radio communications. Problems were encountered with radio relay and wire communications with higher headquarters. This may be attributed to the erratic behavior of ANTRC-27. Radio relay became more reliable during the last 30 days of the operation. The receipt and utilization of the antenna AS-2236/GNC improved radio communications to a considerable degree and is considered a definite asset to the communication capability of the battalion.

o. Special Equipment and Techniques. A visual device has been developed by personnel of this battalion allowing a radio operator to compute the maximum ordinate of a particular Quadrant Elevation by means of the operator listening to the announced charge and range during the conduct of a fire mission. This graphic device reduces the amount of voice traffic within the Battalion Fire Direction Center and saves an average of 20-30 seconds in the processing of a Sav-A-Plane data. While it is realized that such a device may not be appropriate to mention within the context of this type of report, it is felt worthy of note due to the fact it illustrates the contribution that individual Marines can make to the overall accomplishment of a units mission.

A battalion rear, logistics element, was established at the 11th Marines CP in Danang. This rear echelon consisting of maintenance and supply personnel has greatly facilitated the movement of supply and 3rd echelon repair items.

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p. Commanders Analysis.

The formation of a Provisional Battery, 155 mm Howitzer, within this battalion has given the battalion an extremely responsive reinforcing fire unit as well as enhancing the range capability of the direct support artillery unit. Although general support artillery units of the 11th Marines have been responsive to calls for reinforcing fires, the presence of a medium artillery fire unit controlled by the Battalion Fire Direction has proven to be a highly effective utilization of these weapons.

The lack of an adequate river crossing site and the resupply and maintenance problems caused by this situation, have been a matter of prime concern to this command. The inability of air resupply to function during heavy rains and other periods of low visibility points to the prime requirement of this command, (i.e., a suitable river crossing facility of the Song Thu Bon). It is with grave concern that this command prepares for future operations during the coming monsoon season.

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