

HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 11th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3/11 Control 008-67
Copy 1 of 15
3/PGS/mlt
5750.
003A006167
2 March 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Division
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 1st Field Artillery Group
(2) Commanding Officer, 11th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for period 01 February to 28 February 1967

Ref: (a) MCC 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: ✓(1) 3d Battalion, 11th Marines Command Chronology

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

H. R. Anker
H. R. ANKER
By direction

3rd Bn - 11th MAR - CMD CHRON

UNCLASSIFIED

FE 13 1967

HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 11th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

5750
2 March 1967

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
01 Feb 67 to 28 Feb 67

INDEX

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

5750
2 March 1967

PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

3d Battalion, 11th Marines

COMMANDER

Lt Col A. S. RUGGIERO
1-28Feb

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Battery

1st Lt K. J. EGE
1-28Feb

Battery G

Capt J. D. KELLEY
1-28Feb

Battery H

Capt H. F. GOTARD
1-28Feb

Battery I

Capt P. J. MORGAN
1-28Feb

107mm Mortar Battery

Capt R. A. HEATH
1-28Feb

2. LOCATION

1-28Feb: Chu Lai Combat Base, Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Battalion Executive Officer

Maj H. R. ANKER
1-28Feb

Battalion Liaison Officer

Capt P. G. SCHARF
1-3Feb

Maj M. D. JULIAN
4-28Feb

S-1/Personnel Officer

WO J. D. CURLEE
1-28Feb

S-2

1st Lt J. D. SINGER
1-28Feb

S-3

Maj T. F. GRAY
1-28Feb

S-3A

Capt P. G. SCHARF
1-28Feb

UNCLASSIFIED

5750

2 March 1967

S-4/Ordnance Officer

Capt T. R. MCELROY
1-28Feb

Survey/Metro Officer

1stLt K. J. EGE
1-28Feb

Supply Officer

2ndLt B. T. ERICSSON
1-28Feb

Motor Transport Officer

2ndLt J. W. EVANS
1-28Feb

Communications Officer

Capt R. A. MATHIESEN
1-28Feb

Medical Officer

Lt M. L. FLALOO USN
1-28Feb

Regimental Naval Gunfire LnO

Lt R. W. KEELER USN
1-28Feb

Battalion Naval Gunfire LnO

Lt(jg) J. E. NANFITO USN
1-28Feb4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	
45	492	4	11	NONE

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The 3d Battalion, 11th Marines, during the period 1 February to 28 February was in direct support of the 7th Marine Regiment in that area of the Chu Lai Combat Base occupied by battalions of the 7th Marines. As the month began, Battery "I" (-) was still located in the vicinity of Nui Dang, grid (BS 317382) where they are participating in Operation "DeSoto" which commenced on 26 January 1967. As of this date, their location remains the same. Two guns from the 107mm Mortar Battery had been at Minh Long, grid (BS 534514) in support of CIDG Forces since 9 January 1967. On 3 February 1967 the Battery "H" firing position at grid (BT 500033) was permanently closed down. Battery "H" CP moved to the former Battery "I" position at grid (BS 568957). The two remaining howitzers from Battery "I" occupied a position at grid (BT 548011). On 6 February 1967 the platoon of Howtars that had been supporting CIDG Forces at Minh Long was helilifted back to the 107mm Mortar Battery position at grid (BS 551009). From 170001H February 1967 to 211300H February 1967, a Battalion Command Group, Battery "H" (=) Battery "I", 4th Battalion, 11th Marines, and a platoon of Howtars from the 107mm Mortar Battery participated in Operation "RIO GRANDE" in the area west of Quang Ngai. At 211300H the Battalion Command Group and

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (1)

5750
2 March 1967

Battery "G" (-), (2 Howitzers and a headquarters from Battery "G", and 2 howitzers from Battery "I" (rear)) departed from the Chu Lai Base by convoy for Quang Ngai. The following morning they were helilifted to the vicinity of Nui Dang, grid (BS 812382) and Battery "G" (-) was ready to fire at 251200H. Battery "D" (-) 2d Battalion, 11th Marines was placed under the operational control of this Command Group and was helilifted to grid (BS 760470) on the morning of 26 February 1967. These movements were all in conjunction with Operation "DE SOTO" and "DECKHOUSE VI" which will continue into the month of March.

MISSIONS FIRED AT CHU LAI COMBAT BASE

TOTAL MISSIONS FIRED DURING FEBRUARY	-701
TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY	- 58
HARASSING AND INTERDICTION	- 573
REGISTRATIONS	- 4
DEFENSIVE TARGETS	- 10
FIRE-FOR-EFFECT MISSIONS	- 50
PREP FIRES	- 6
TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED	-4381

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

I. Topics

a. Personnel and Administration

	USMC		USN	
	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
Losses				
Battle	0	0	0	0
Non Battle	0	3	0	0
Administrative	3	32	0	0
Replacements	2	12	0	0

Prisoners of War. None

Morale and Personnel Service. Morale remains at a high level. Mail service is good and movies are shown six nights a week.

Promotions

Sgt to SSgt	- 2
Cpl to Sgt	- 1
LCpl to Cpl	- 41
Pfc to LCpl	- 7
Pvt to Pfc	- 2

UNCLASSIFIED

5750

2 March 1967

Awards and Decorations

Silver Star - 1
 Purple Hearts - 2 (Forwarded)
 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry - 1 (Forwarded)
 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry - 2

Discipline. 3 Special Courts-Martial.

2-67 Violation Articles 86, 134 (Charges Dismissed)
 3-67 Violation Articles 86, 134 (Finding of not Guilty)
 4-67 Violation Articles 86, 91 (Finding of Guilty)

b. Intelligence. Nothing Significant to report.

c. Organization and Operations. Operation "DE SOTO" continued through the month of February in the Nui Deng area (BS 817383) with Battery "I" (-) supporting the forces involved. A battalion command group and Battery "G" (-) began participation in the Operation on 25 February 1967, and Battery "D" (-) came under the operational control of the 3d Battalion, 11th Marines and began supporting the operation on 26 February 1967.

Operation "RIO GRANDE", a joint USMC, ROK, RVN, Search and Destroy Operation was conducted on 17-21 February 1967 in the area west of Quang Ngai. A command group from this battalion, Battery "H" (-), a 2 gun platoon from the 107mm Mortar Battery, and Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 11th Marines, participated. (See enclosed After Action Report Appendix A Tab 5).

d. Training. A cross training program of field artillery men (0811) which is in effect within the Regiment in order to familiarize canoneers with several types of artillery weapons continued through the month of February. This Battalion cross trained 24 canoneers during this period. A field firing range which was constructed with the aid of the 1st Engineer Battalion was put into operation during February. It is designed for the fam-firing of the pistol, M-14, M-16, and M-60 machine gun.

e. Supply, Motor Transport and Logistics. There was nothing significant to report in these areas.

f. Medical, Messing and Other Services. There was nothing significant to report in these areas.

g. Civil Affairs/Civic Action. The hamlet of Tri Binh I, grid (BS 553988) was visited 5 times during the month of February, and MEDCAPS were held on each visit. Approximately 40 to 50 Vietnamese were treated per visit for various afflictions. Approximately one cord of wood which was cut down during the clearing of fields of fire around the Battalion's defensive perimeter was turned over to the S-5 of the 7th Marines for distribution to the Vietnamese people. The Vietnamese of Tri Binh I have completed the re-construction of a three room school house. Road improvements have been a continuous task in which this command has assisted by providing transportation for materials and supplies. The hamlet is in the process of building a local hospital for the

ENCLOSURE (1)
 UNCLASSIFIED

5750
2 March 1967

area. This command has offered its help whenever requested to assist in this project.

PART IV
CHRONOLOGY OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Appendix A (Documentation to Enclosure (I))

- ✓TAB (1) S-1 Journal
- ✓TAB (2) S-2 Journal
- ✓TAB (3) S-3 Journal
- ✓TAB (4) S-4 Journal
- ✓TAB (5) Operation "RIO GRANDE" After Action Report.
- ✓TAB (6) Operation "RIO GRANDE" position overlays

1-A-1

UNCLASSIFIED

S-4 3d Battalion, 11th Marines
Chu Lai Combat Base
010001H Feb 67 to 282400H Feb 67

010001H Journal Opened

011500H 34 rounds 107mm HE and clothing resupplied to Minh Long

021430H 66 rounds 107mm HE resupplied to Minh Long

041030H 120 rounds 107mm HE and 26 rounds 107mm Illum resupplied to Minh Long

050800H 1 Pan. Sight # 23927 resupplied to Battery "I"(-) at Nui Dang

061500H 107mm Mortar platoon returned from Minh Long

170100H Convoy departed for Opn "RIO GRANDE"

170800H 2 Howtars from 107mm Mortar Battery flown to An Hoa

181400H 50 rounds 107mm HE resupplied to An Hoa

191200H Mess Hall supplies and mail resupplied to Battery "I"(-)

211900H Convoy returned from Opn "RIO GRANDE"

211300H Convoy departed for Quang Ngai

251300H Convoy returned from Quang Ngai

270800H Helilifted one M422A1 to Bn Cnd Group vicinity of Nui Dang

282400H Journal Closed

1-A-4-1

ENCLOSURE (1)

S-1 3d Battalion, 11th Marines
Chu Lai Combat Base
010001H Feb 67 to 282400 Feb 67

010001H Journal Opened.
040800H Forwarded Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Award
130800H Forwarded 2 Purple Heart Awards
141400H Awarded Silver Star Medal to 2ndLt T. E. BICKFORD
192330H Pfc BRAZIER MORTON 2232204 WIA
192331H SSgt LEWIS H. CHASE 1515472 WIA
192235H LCol WESLEY A. HACKWORTH 2221743 WIA
231400H Awarded Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry to LtCol A. S.
RUGGLIERO and SgtMaj F. W. AYRES
282400H Journal Closed

1-A-1-1

ENCLOSURE (1)

S-2 3d Battalion, 11th Marines
Chu Lai Combat Base
010001H Feb 67 to 282400 Feb 67

010001H Journal Opened

011200H-281200H Promulgated challenge and password

041900H 107mm Mortar Battery sent 6 man patrol to investigate 3 small arms rounds fired from undetermined location at 2 vehicles on Highway #1 in the vicinity of grid (BT 555009). Negative results.

090120H Battery "H" reported hearing S/A fire. Rounds were observed ricocheting to the rear of the battery position. Fire appeared to be coming from vicinity of grid (BS 575970). Battery was put on 100 percent alert and 3 rounds of 105 illumination were requested. Firing ceased and no movement was sighted.

121500H Battery "G" patrol located possible VC aiming device. A hole $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter, and 2 feet deep. A stake 2 feet high with burned top 3 feet away and a small tree trimmed 30 inches high with a burned top, all pointing toward Battery "G" CP. All devices were destroyed.

142330H Battery "H" received 3 incoming M-26 grenades, one of which was a dud. They called for 81mm mortar illumination. No movement was sighted. Returned 3 rifle grenades toward suspected enemy position with negative results.

151030H Follow up on 142330H: Battery "H" patrol inspecting wire found a VC claymore-type mine secured to the protective wire. EOD disarmed and removed the mine.

171015H Battery "H" patrol found 1 ChiCom grenade outside of protective wire.

172300H Battery "H" CP sighted movement on the wire. 81mm mortar illumination was fired, and one M-26 grenade was thrown. The following morning a patrol found negative results.

282400H Journal Closed.

1-A-2-1

ENCLOSURE (1)

S-3 3d Battalion, 11th Marines
Chu Lai Combat Base
010001H Feb 67 to 282400H Feb 67

010001H Journal Opened

012400H Fired 50 missions expending 431 rounds

022400H Fired 19 missions expending 80 rounds

030855H 2 guns from Btry "H" displaced from (BT 500033)

031100H 2 guns from Btry "H" laid at (BT 547011)

032400H Fired 36 missions expending 265 rounds

042400H Fired 39 missions expending 203 rounds

052400H Fired 38 missions expending 220 rounds

061445H 2 guns from 107mm Mortar Battery Helilifted from Minh Long back to permanent position

062400H Fired 28 missions expending 164 rounds

072400H Fired 35 missions expending 341 rounds

082400H Fired 19 missions expending 120 rounds

090820H 2 guns from Btry "H" displaced from (BT 547011) and were laid at (BS 568958)

091035H 2 Guns from Btry "I" (rear) displaced from (BS 568958) and were laid at (BT 547011)

092400H Fired 10 missions expending 24 rounds

102400H Fired 11 missions expending 37 rounds

112400H Fired 11 missions expending 37 rounds

122400H Fired 12 missions expending 55 rounds

132400H Fired 20 missions expending 112 rounds

142400H Fired 19 missions expending 122 rounds

152400H Fired 25 Missions expending 156 rounds

162359H 2 guns from Btry "H" and 2 guns from Btry "I" (rear) displaced in order to participate in Opn "RIO GRANDE"

1-A-3-1

ENCLOSURE (1)

S-3 3d Battalion, 11th Marines
 Chu Lai Combat Base
 010001H Feb 67 to 282400H Feb 67

162400H Fired 23 missions expending 164 rounds

170100H Bn Cmd Group and Battery "H"(-) and Battery "K" 4th Battalion, 11th Marines departed by convoy for Quang Ngai.

170800H 2 guns from 107mm Mortar Battery helilifted to An Hoa for Opn "RIO GRANDE"

171035H 2 guns from 107mm Mortar Battery laid at (BS 473863)

171730H Btry "H"(-) and Btry "K" laid and in action at (BS 568727) Opn "RIO GRANDE"

172400H Fired 19 missions expending 112 rounds

181505H Btry "H"(-) and Btry "K" laid and in action at (BS 547733)

182400H Fired 30 missions expending 238 rounds

191845H 2 guns from 107mm Mortar Battery completed helilift from An Hoa to (BS 547734)

192400H Fired 22 missions expending 99 rounds

202400H Fired 24 missions expending 157 rounds

211400H Units participating in Opn "RIO GRANDE" displaced for return to Chu Lai.

211900H Command Group, Btry "H"(-), and 2 107mm Mortars back in Combat Base after return from Opn "RIO GRANDE", Btry "K" remained at Quang Ngai.

212400H Fired 27 missions expending 182 rounds

222400H Fired 20 missions expending 122 rounds

232400H Fired 22 missions expending 134 rounds

241300H Battalion Command Group and Btry "G"(-) departed by convoy to Quang Ngai.

241630H Convoy arrived at Quang Ngai

242400H Fired 29 Missions expending 191 rounds

1-A-3-2

ENCLOSURE (1)

S-3 3d Battalion, 11th Marines
Chu Lai Combat Base
010001H Feb 67 to 282400H Feb 67

251200H Helilift completed, Btry "G"(-) ready to fire at grid
(BS 812382) Bn Qnd Group co-located with "G"(-) and in
operation

252400H 24 missions fired expending 124 rounds

261430H Btry "D"(-) helilift completed. Ready to fire at grid
(BS 760470)

262400H 33 missions fired expending 165 rounds

272400H 27 missions fired expending 131 rounds

282359H 31 missions fired expending 195 rounds

282400H Journal Closed.

1-A-3-3

ENCLOSURE (1)

HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 11th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
APO, San Francisco, California 96602

3A/PGS/lgd
03A05767
24 Feb 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines
Via: Commanding Officer, 1st Field Artillery Group

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1

3d BN 11th MARINES
S&C FILES

06-67

Copy No. 65 of 68

1. Code Name. Search and Destroy Operation "RIO GRANDE".
2. Date of Operation. 170001H FEB 1967 to 211300H FEB 1967.
3. Location. Quang Ngai Province, RVN, Map Sheets AMS Series L7014, Sheets (I-IV).
4. Command and Control Headquarters. 7th Marines.
5. Reporting Officer. Lt Col A. S. RUGGIERO
Commanding Officer
3d Battalion, 11th Marines
6. Task Organization
Detachment, Headquarters Battery, 3d Battalion, 11th Marines
Lt Col A. S. RUGGIERO
Battery "H", 3d Battalion, 11th Marines (-)
1st Lt S. L. SHIMAN
Platoon, 107mm Mortar Battery, 3d Battalion, 11th Marines
2d Lt D. P. BURNS
Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 11th Marines
1st Lt C. E. ASH
7. Supporting Forces
Battery "M", 4th Battalion, 11th Marines
Platoon "B", 3d 155mm Gun Battery (SP), 11th Marines
Platoon "B", 3d 8" Howitzer Battery (SP), 11th Marines
Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, 94th Field Artillery (USA)
8. Intelligence. 7th Marines ISUM.
9. Mission. Provide artillery fire support to USMC and ARVN forces in the area of operations.

1-A-5-1

10. Concept of Operation. The Commanding Officer, First Field Artillery Group, 11th Marines, directed 3d Battalion, 11th Marines to provide artillery fire support to ~~displaced~~ ^{deployed} forces in the area of operations.

11. Execution. At 0100 17 February the Battalion Command Group with Battery "H" (-), 3d Battalion, 11th Marines, (4 105mm howitzers), Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 11th Marines, (6 towed 155mm howitzers), a reinforced platoon from Company "L", 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, a detachment from Company "B", 1st Engineer Battalion, and a detachment from Company "C", 1st Anti Tank Battalion departed from the Chu Lai Combat Base to occupy a position area in the vicinity of grid BS546735 in support of Operation "RIO GRANDE". The group arrived at the Quang Ngai Airfield at 170700H. The Command Group and Battery "K" departed from the airfield at 170730H and were ready to fire from grid BS568728 at 170830H. At 171400 Battery "H" (-) was laid and ready to fire at grid BS569728. At 170830H a platoon from the 107mm Mortar Battery (2 howtars) was helilifted from MARION Pad, grid BS49013 to AN HOA grid BS473864. The 107mm Mortar platoon was laid and ready to fire at 171030H. At 181215H the Command Group and Battery "H" (-) displaced for grid BS547732. Battery "H" (-) was laid and ready to fire at 181330H. Battery "K" and a second echelon of the Command Group displaced from grid BS568728 at 181330H. Battery "K" was laid and ready to fire at grid BS546731 at 181630H. At 191200H the 107mm Mortar platoon was helilifted from AN HOA to grid BS547732. At 191200H the helilift was completed and the platoon was laid and ready to fire. On 10630H Battery "K" displaced for the Quang Ngai Airfield grid BS604721 and was laid and ready to fire at 211130H. Battery "H" (-), the 107mm Mortar Platoon, and the Battalion Command Group displaced for a motor march to the Chu Lai Combat Base at 211400H.

The group provided fire support to USMC, RVN, and ROK Forces until 211300H at which time Battery "K" was returned to the operational control of 4th Battalion, 11th Marines. The rifle platoon from Company "L", 3d Battalion, 5th Marines was left in support of Battery "K" at Quang Ngai.

The detachments from the 1st Engineer Battalion, and 1st Anti Tank Battalion were returned to operational control of their parent units at 211900H when the group arrived at the Chu Lai Combat Base.

MISSIONS FIRED

Targets of Opportunity	79
Harrassing & Interdiction	208
Defensive Targets	4
Prep Fires	12
Registrations	1

Total 304

AMMUNITION EXPENDED

105mm Howitzer	1694
107mm Mortar	487
155mm Howitzer (TD)	1358
155mm Howitzer (SP)	520
8" Howitzer (SP)	27

Total 4086

12. Results. 7 Confirmed KIA, 12 Probable KIA, 1 Secondary Explosion, 3 buildings destroyed. It is also noted that the ARVN Airborne Task Force attributed a Confirmed VC body count of over 800 to combined Air, Artillery and ground action during the operation.

13. Administrative Matters. Administrative Plan 301-66 applied to this operation.

a. Supplies. All classes of supply were provided from the 13A Quang Ngai with excellent results, with the exception of resupply for 107mm Mortar Battery in the AN HOA position. These supplies were provided by the battalion, and flown directly from the permanent position at Chu Lai.

b. Maintenance. No significant events.

c. Ammunition Handling. No significant events.

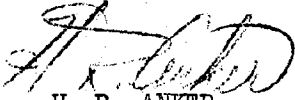
d. Communications. No significant events.

14. Special Equipment and Techniques. No significant events.

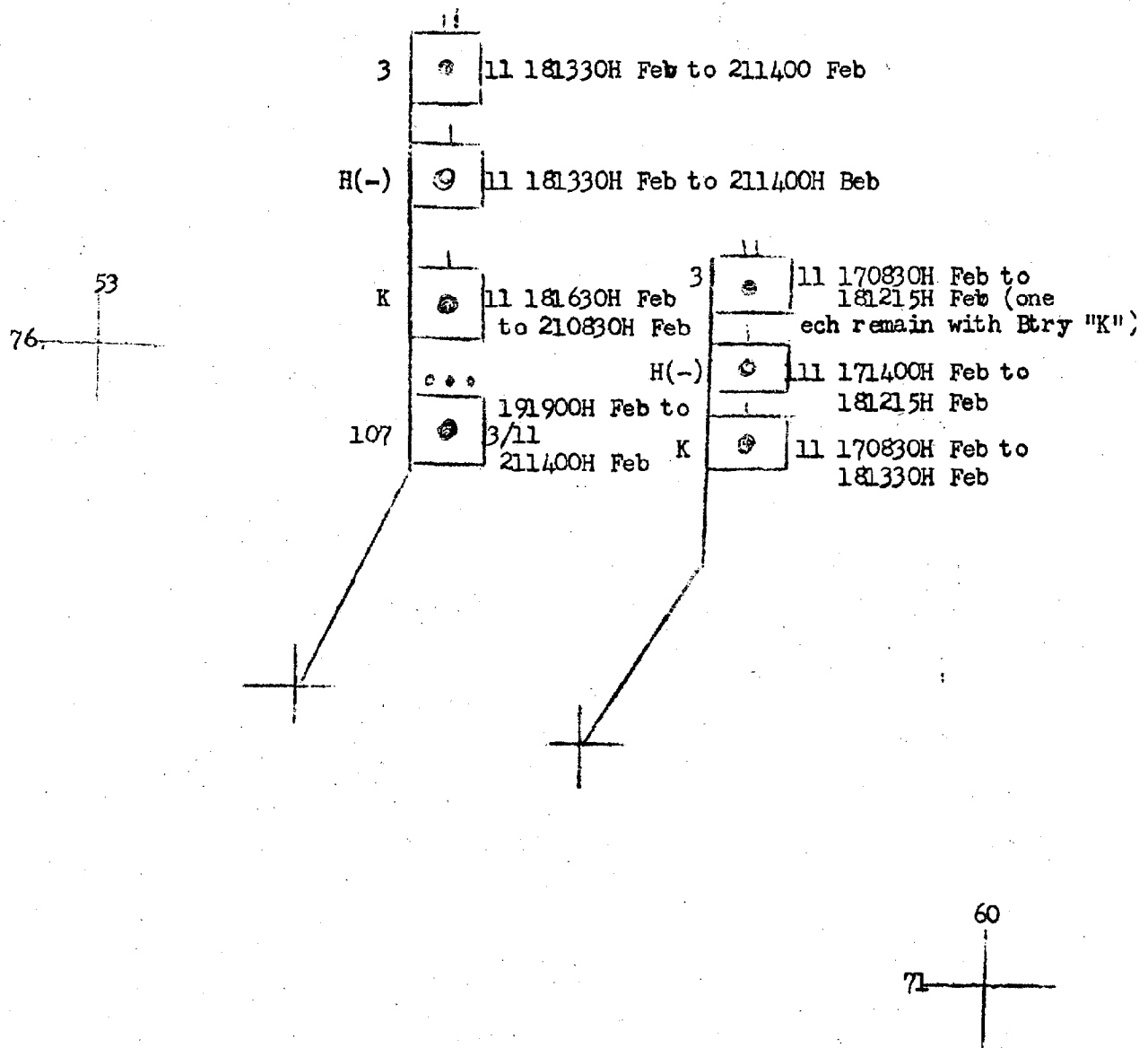
15. Commander's Analysis. The operation provided valuable experience in the following areas:

a. Displacement of the Battalion Command Group by echelon.

b. Close coordination of artillery fires with, and in support of, RVN Forces.


H. R. ANKER
By direction

1-A-5-2



Map Sheets 6739 II
6739 III

Series LL 7014

Operation "RIO GRANDE" Firing positions

1-A-6-1

ENCLOSURE (1)