

285968

4th Bn, 12th Mar  
S&C 258-68~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## HEADQUARTERS

4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) MAF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

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3/FJM/rgt  
5750  
Ser: 03A157-60  
5 June 1968

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)  
 VIA: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division  
 (2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
 (3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 31 May 1968 (U)

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1A  
 (b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
 (c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) 4th Battalion, 12th Marines Command Chronology

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

2. This document is to be downgraded at three year intervals and declassified after 12 years in accordance with DOD Directive 5200.10.

*B. F. Stewart*  
 B. F. STEWART

Copy to:  
 CO, 12th Marines

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COM LHMAR

MAY 1968

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HEADQUARTERS  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May to 31 May

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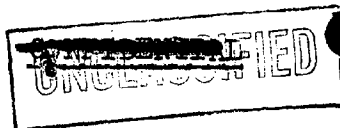
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(1)

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PART I  
ORGANIZATION DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

4th Battalion(-) 12th Marine Division Maj. B. F. STEWART (1-31 MAY)  
3d Marine Division

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Battery  
Battery L

1st Lt. R.P. FOSTER (1-31 MAY)

Capt. P.B. GALLOR (1-3 MAY)

1st Lt. J.H. TATE (3-31 MAY)

Battery M

Capt. H.W. KERN (1-19 MAY)

Capt. W.D. JONES (19-31 MAY)

Battery B, 1st Battalion  
13th Marines

Capt. J.C. UECKER (1-31 MAY)

Battery K, 4th Battalion  
13th Marines

1st Lt. G.W. WOOD (1-31 MAY)

2. LOCATION

1-31 May: DONG HA, RVN (YD 214597)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

XO

Maj. G.O. KENNEDY JR. (1-31 MAY)

Sgt Maj

SgtMaj. M. C. McMANUS (1-31 MAY)

S-1

1st Lt. A.L. THORNTON (1-31 MAY)

S-2

1st Lt. F.J. McGRATH (1-31 MAY)

S-3

Capt. D.G. PURDY (1-31 MAY)

S-3A

Capt. F.R. FRANZEN (1-18 MAY)

S-4

1st Lt. F.J. McGRATH (1-31 MAY)

Capt. W.D. JONES (1-19 MAY)

CommO

Capt. F.R. FRANZEN (19-31 MAY)

MTO

Capt. B.F. METCALFE (1-31 MAY)

MaintO

2nd Lt. B.J. RENFROW (1-31 MAY)

SupplyO

1st Lt. R.P. FOSTER (1-31 MAY)

1st Lt. H.J. RADOW (1-31 MAY)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>Officer</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
32		541

<u>Officer</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
0		13

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the initial week of May, the 4th Battalion, in performing its mission of general support of the 3d Marine Division/ reinforcing the 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines, fired an unusually large number of prep fires, rolling barrages, and observed fire missions. These were fired in support of U.S. Marine, U.S. Army, and ARVN units in the field. Aerial observers continued to call in a significant number of observed missions.

The 1st Platoon of Battery "M" replaced the 1st Platoon of Battery "L" at Die Marker site C-1 (YD 299673) in early May. It remained in position for the duration of the month. K/4/13 (OPCON to 2/12) remained at Die Marker site C-2 (YD 1364). B/1/13 (formerly OPCON to 4/12, 1/13, 3/12, and now to 2/12) moved from CA LU to QUANG TRI. On the 29th of May they moved to DONG HA for further displacement. Battery "L" (ADCON, OPCON 4/12) was chopped OPCON to Task Force Hotel on 26 May, as a general support/reinforcing unit to said Task Force. Area of operations is presently KHE SANH.

Construction continued on the perimeter bunker system. One post and one M-109 received hits from an RPG-2, B-40 rocket launcher. The attack occurred at 0030 on 11 May. No injuries resulted. The M-109 remained operational. Battery "M" area received several rounds of 130mm artillery at 0530 on 10 May. Again no injuries were sustained. No appreciable damage resulted.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

1-31 May: 4th Battalion(-), 12th Marines - general support of 3d Marine Division - reinforcing the 2d Battalion, 12th Marines.

2. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS SUPPORTED (OPCON Units)

During the month of May, the 4th Battalion participated in the following operations: LANCASTER II (1-31 May); KENTUCKY (1-31 May); HIGHRISE (1-31 May); SALINE II (1-31 May); RICE (1-17 May); CONCORDIA SQUARE (9-17 May); LEATHERNECK SQUARE-NE QUANG TRI-PHASE I (8-17 May).

3. FIRE SUPPORT PROVIDEDa. Recapitulation of Fire Missions (OPCON Units)

<u>TARGET TYPE</u>	<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL ROUNDS</u>
CONFIRMED	261	4366
ACQUIRED	227	1268
COUNTERBATTERY	67	303
PREPARATION	379	3486
HARASSING AND INTERDICTION	412	910
SPECIAL PURPOSE	67	607
SUPPORT OF ARVN	(3)	(12)
GRAND TOTAL	1416	10952
HE TOTAL		9957
WP TOTAL		338
ILLUM TOTAL		443
M449 TOTAL		214

b. The 4th Battalion supported numerous patrols of the 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, and provided reinforcing fires to the following direct support artillery battalions: 2d Battalion, 12th Marines; 3d Battalion, 12th Marines; 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery (U.S.A.); and 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery (U.S.A.).

4. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY (OPCON Units)

a. KIA: 498 (Note: Figures reflect total casualties resulting from missions fired by 4/12. In some instances, other units fired on the same targets.)

b. WIA: 75

5. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED (ADCON Units)

a. Hostile - KIA, 0; WIA, 13

b. Non-Hostile - Death, 1; Injury, 1

6. COMMAND RELATIONS

a. 4th Battalion(-) (Rein), 12th Marines  
1-31 May: OPCON/ADCON to 12th Marines  
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## 7. EQUIPMENT

Major items of T/E equipment received during May included the two replacement M109 155mm howitzers required to give M/4/12 and L/4/12 their full allowances of six each. The weapons were depot rebuilt models and were received with a complete issue of section equipment.

Two additional M109 155mm howitzers were made available as "float" replacements for the 4th Battalion by the U.S. Army. These weapons, due for rebuild, were temporarily loaned to allow additional flexibility in the maintenance program and to maintain a high level of operational readiness in the M109 howitzer batteries.

As the month closed, the battalion was awaiting receipt of an initial allowance of 29 M151 1/4-ton trucks to fill T/E shortages.

## 8. LOGISTICS

During mid-May the available supply rate (ASR) for 155mm howitzer HE ammunition was reduced from 34.7 to 27.8 rounds per weapon per day. The heavy ammunition expenditure early in the month resulted in several temporary shortages of ammunition, particularly HE, green bag propellant, primers, and PD fuzes. By month's end, the situation had been brought back into balance except for a continuing shortage of PD fuzes.

The flow of repair parts for the M109 continued to grow during the month, and an overall improvement in the maintenance status resulted in spite of the increased firing. Motor transport maintenance was also satisfactory, even though rolling stock was more heavily committed than in previous months.

Water continued to be trucked from the 12th Marines water point in DONG HA, but other sources are being investigated.

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## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The following significant entries were taken from the S-3 Work Sheet (Record of Mission) and the Artillery Counterfire Information Form for May:

- 010001H - 4th Battalion began to fire a large series of prep fires in support of units in SALINE AO and KENTUCKY AO.
- 011244H - YD 217624 Battery "M" fired on 10 NVA in village, observed by American Beauty "G". 5 KIA (c) and 3 structures destroyed. 27 rounds expended.
- 020620H - YD 255625 Battery "M" fired on confirmed enemy movement, observed by Dixie Diner 64. There was negative surveillance due to SAF. 125 rounds were expended.
- 030630H - YD 250630 Batteries "M" and "L" fired a mission on 150 NVA, observed by Dixie Diner 63. A surveillance of 137 KIA (c) and 7 POW's given. A total of 201 rounds expended.
- 050100H - YD 260720 4th Battalion fired on a reinforced company of NVA, observed by Early Flower Bravo 63. He gave "Excellent job, excellent shooting." 36 rounds expended.
- 050610H - YD 255715 Batteries "M" and "L" fired a mission on NVA in village, observed by American Beauty "D". Four bunkers destroyed, M49 looked very good. Seven M49, thirty HE expended.
- 051350H - YD 210646 Battery "M" fired on unknown number of NVA in the open, observed by Early Flower 13. 62 rounds expended.
- 070612H - YD 245783 1st Platoon of Battery "L" fired on 2 NVA in the open. 1 KIA (c) or 50% casualties inflicted.
- 071840H - YD 255714 Batteries "M" and "L" fired a mission on 150 NVA in the open, observed by Pinpoint 51. Excellent coverage and 155 KIA (c) given. Rounds expended: 1 WP, 74 HE, 33 M49.
- 080900H - YD 255741 Battery "M" fired on a bunker complex for Holia 15. 55 rounds expended with 100% of rounds in target area.

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- 091443H - YD 243693 1st Platoon of Battery "L" fired a mission in support of Birth Control 48.
- 100545H - The 4th Battalion area at DONG HA received 7 incoming 130mm. gun rounds from azimuth 5300 mils. Negligible damage resulted.
- 102250H - YD 250705 4th Battalion fired blocking fire for Birth Control 22. For all firing units a count of 21 KIA (c) given.
- 121258H - YD 249668 4th Battalion fired a mission on NVA in fortified positions, observed by Birth Control 16. 188 rounds were expended.
- 121740H - YD 230778 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired a mission on NVA in bunkers, observed by American Beauty "C". AO gave one bunker destroyed, two damaged.
- 130942H - YD 164802 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on 8 NVA in the open, observed by American Beauty 62. 1 hooch destroyed, 1 hooch damaged, 1 KIA (c).
- 140014H - YD 253691 Battery "L" fired an illumination mission for Birth Control 29. 55 rounds were expended.
- 140350H - YD 253691 Batteries "M" and "L" fired continuous illumination for Birth Control 17. 149 rounds were expended in this 2 hour and 10 minute mission.
- 141837H - YD 192788 1st Platoon, Battery "M" fired on a boat with 2 NVA, observed by American Beauty 62. The boat was destroyed and the enemy dispatched. 7 rounds expended.
- 170600H - YD 237800 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on 5 NVA on river bank. 3 KIA (c) and 2 KIA(p). 6 rounds were expended.
- 171140H - YD 253720 Battery "L" fired on NVA in the open, observed by American Beauty "B". 2 KIA (c) and excellent coverage given. Southern Delta also observed.
- 190612H - YD 238774 1st Platoon "M" fired on 4 NVA in the open, observed by American Beauty 62. 2 KIA (c) given.
- 191730H - YD 105757 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on 5-6 NVA in open, observed by American Beauty "B". 2 KIA (c) given.
- 191941H - YD 192788 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on 5 NVA on river bank. 1st round target hit. 5 KIA (c).

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- 210940H - YD 205717 Battery "L" fired a mission on a suspected assembly area. It was called in by Fighting Mad 64. 38 rounds were expended.
- 221932H - YD 165785 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired a mission on active artillery. 15 rounds were expended. Two secondaries were observed.
- 230955H - YD 119769 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on 5 NVA in treeline. 19 rounds expended. Were adjusted by American Beauty "C". 1 KIA (c).
- 251110H - YD 245669 Batteries "M" and "L" fired on NVA and bunkers for Early Flower "C" 62. 50 rounds were expended. Results: 5 KIA (c) and 2 POW's.
- 260015H - YD 25057232 Battery "L" fired for Early Flower Bravo 63 on NVA infiltrating. 60 rounds were expended. Results: 15 KIA.
- 260335H - YD 24826512 Battery "M" fired for Fighting Mad 24. He was taking small arms fire. We expended 31 rounds.
- 261030H - Battery "L" chopped OPCON to Task Force HOTEL and displaced to KHE SANH.
- 261130H - YD 241660 Battery "M" fired on NVA in contact with friendlies. Fighting Mad 64 and Southern Delta observed. 78 rounds were expended.
- 271810H - YD 247657 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on Heavy NVA movements. We fired 100 rounds, with five KIA (c).
- 290855H - YD 247663 Battery "M" fired on NVA in bunkers. 45 rounds were expended; several bunkers damaged.
- 291130H - YD 250665 Battery "M" fired on a bunker complex. 41 rounds were expended. 3 bunkers were destroyed, 1 secondary explosion, excellent coverage.
- 291600-2200H - Battery "M" adjusted in on a bunker complex for Fighting Mad 24A. These same targets were fired again during the night.
- 310936H - YD 18788132 1st Platoon Battery "M" fired on personnel in the open for Belmont Tones 63. 10 rounds expended, 7 KIA (c).

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**SECRET**

BATTERY "K"  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

PMB:jee  
3 Jun 1968  
Ser: 005A15268

SECRET (Unclassified upon removal of Enclosure (1) )

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines  
(2) Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for 1May to 31May 1968 (U)

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

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

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

*P. M. Burton*  
P. M. BURTON

SECRET (Unclassified upon removal  
of enclosure (1) )

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SECRET

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BATTERY "K"  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May 1968 to 31 May 1968

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Part II - Narrative Summary

Part III- Sequential Listing of Significant Events

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Designation

"K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines

Commander

Capt. P. M. BURTON

Subordinate Units

None

2. Location

Camp Carroll, RVN

3. Battery Officers

Date

Executive Officer

1stLt R. N. BARSNESS

Assistant Executive Officer

2ndLt L. BOYD

Fire Direction Officer

1stLt R. E. ABOLT

Liaison/Forward Observer

Battery Officers

1May-9May

1stLt J. C. HOWELL

1May-9May

1stLt R. H. FREEMAN

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
5	130	0	2

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## PART II

COMMANDER'S NARRATIVE

During the month of May 1968, K Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines continued supporting 1st Battalion, 12th Marines in Operations LANCASTER II, HIGH RISE, KENTUCKY, DYE MARKER, and SCOTLAND II.

As of 31 May 1968 the battery has five M109 howitzers operating including one float howitzer on loan for 180 days. One howitzer is at FLSC-B for engine repairs. The howitzer destroyed 19 February 1968 has yet to be replaced. For a period of one week, K Battery had a maintenance team from 4th Battalion, 12th Marines in our position, who upon completion of their stay made suggestions for additional improvements on our maintenance program.

Due to age, usage, a lack of parts, rolling stock is presently barely able to keep up to the ammunition requirements of the battery. As of 31 May we have one 5 ton up, two at FLSC-B, and two awaiting 2nd echelon parts. The status of 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tons is 3 up and one waiting evacuation to FLSC-B for a clutch. We are still awaiting a disposal order for one 5 ton destroyed by a mine and replacement of one MRC 110 radio vehicle destroyed by a RRG.

Ammunition Expended during the month of May 1968 is as follows:

<u>MISSIONS</u>				<u>AMMUNITION EXPENDED</u>			
<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>H&amp;I</u>	<u>HE</u>	<u>WP</u>	<u>ILLUM</u>	<u>FC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
85	228	654	4935	136	37	19	5127

Damage credited to Kilo Battery:

Secondary explosions	5
Bunkers destroyed	19
Rocket sites	7
Tunnel entrance closed	1

Friendly casualties for the month were:

3 WIA (non-serious)	Result of hostile action
1 WIA (Serious)	Result of hostile action
2 WIA (non-serious)	Not a result of hostile action

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## PART III

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 1 May 1968 Four howitzers, 2, 4, 5, 6, in position and operable. Gun 3 at FLSC-B for engine repairs.
- 2 May 1968 One pack 75 round in front of XO pit. Negative damage or casualties.
- 4 May 1968 2 pack 75 rounds in motor pool. Schrapnel in three trailers and two tires blown.
- 5 May 1968 K Battery credited with one secondary explosion on a mission fired against bunkers.
- 8 May 1968 Gun 5 down for fuel leak as a result of FLSC-B improperly replacing engine. Three guns in action.
- 9 May 1968 K Battery credited with 3 secondary explosions on a mission fired against a rocket sight.
- 10 May 1968 Gun #5 back in action. Four guns in action.
- 11 May 1968 K Battery credited with four rocket sights destroyed and numerous fires started.
- 12 May 1968 K Battery credited with destroying 3 rocket sights.
- 13 May 1968 Gun #6 down for hydraulics. Three guns in action.
- 14 May 1968 Gun #6 in action. Four guns up.
- 16 May 1968 One pack 75 round landed to the rear of the XO pit, causing damage to gun #4 tent. K Battery credited with 4 bunkers destroyed, 1 secondary explosion and numerous fires started. One mission fired for A.O., entrance to tunnel closed possibly location of 75 pack howitzer.
- 17 May 1968 K Battery used firecracker round for first time at NVA unit. Mission was unobserved.
- 18 May 1968 K Battery credited with 10 bunkers damaged or destroyed.
- 23 May 1968 Gun #4 to FLSC-B for modification and turbo-charger. Three guns in action.

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- 24 May 1968 K Battery credited with five bunkers destroyed. Guns #5 & 6 down for condemned tubes. Pullover gauge readings of 6.190 and 6.185 respectively. Two guns in action. Three pack 75 rounds landed around gun three's pit. One round landed on gun three's ammo bunker and injuring two personnel and causing extensive damage to the bunker. Result was two WIA medivacs, one bunker destroyed, 46 HE and 20 Firecracker rounds rendered grade three.
- 26 May 1968 Gun # 5 sent to FLSC-B for a new tube. Two guns in action. K Battery received three incoming 75 pack rounds. One round landed in front of the XO pit causing two WIA medivacs. Gun # 5 returned from FLSC-B.
- 27 May 1968 Three guns in action. Gun # 6 sent to FLSC-B for new tube and breach ring.
- 28 May 1968 K Battery received an Army float gun through FLSC-B. Four guns in action.
- 31 May 1968 Gun # 6 returned from FLSC-B with new tube and breach ring. Five guns in action.

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