

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion(Rein), 13th Marines
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/GRH/tap
3000
19 Oct 1968
Ser: 0010429668

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 26th Marines
Subj: Operation OWEN MESA, After Action Report (U)

Encl: (1) Artillery Support during Operation OWEN MESA

1. Paragraph 7a (Artillery Support) to the 26th Marines After Action Report for Operation OWEN MESA, is forwarded herewith as enclosure (1).

2. This letter is unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

A. Novak
A. NOVAK

Copy to:
CG, 9th MAB
CO, 11th Marines

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ENCLOSURE (2)

1/13
a/a
Opw OWEN MESA
of 18 days - 14 Oct 68

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7A. Artillery Support

(1) Units Providing

- (a) Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines
- (b) Battery C (Rein) 1st Battalion, 13th Marines
- (c) Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

(2) Missions Fired

<u>Observed</u>	<u>Unobserved/Intelligence</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
95	2357	2452

(3) Ammunition Expended

<u>105</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>4.2</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
3885	1925	4637	10,447

(4) Highlights of Missions Fired

(a) On 18 September 1968, three (3) Mortars positioned at Clay More Pass fired 18 rounds at an active mortar site; the surveillance for the mission included 3 bunkers and 2 enemy mortars destroyed.

(b) On 23 September 1968, Battery C (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 93 rounds at an enemy village and received a surveillance of 15 houses and 5 bunkers destroyed, 2 secondary explosions and 20 enemy KIA probable.

(c) On 2 October 1968, Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 154 rounds in support of an OPCON element of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines; 17 secondary explosions resulted from these fires.

(d) On 11 October 1968, Battery C (Rein) 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 81 rounds in support of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines element that observed several enemy in the open. A surveillance of 10 enemy KIA probable was received as a result of this mission.

(5) Summary of Artillery Support

(a) The artillery support provided by the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines can be characterized as being close, continuous, rapid and accurate.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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(b) The selective positioning of firing elements of 1st Battalion, 13th Marines proved invaluable to the successful accomplishment of the assigned mission. Mortar Battery elements positioned at Claymore and Hai Van passes provided close support to the infantry companies protecting the flanks of the OWEN MESA AO, while 3 155 Howitzers, Towed, positioned on Hill 88 provided the longer range and more destructive fires. These firing elements in conjunction with Battery C, provided in depth artillery coverage for the supported infantry units, and additionally, fired numerous counter mortar suppression missions in support of the daily motor convoys between DaNang and Phu Bai.

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ENCLOSURE (1)