

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

6/AN/ceb  
5750  
2 Nov 1968  
Ser: 0011A31368

# SECRET

SECRET (Unclassified Upon Removal of Enclosure (1))

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

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

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPaco 5750.3

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith. Enclosure (1) omits a separate chronology for 6/11/68. Future submission will include this chronology.

*A. Novak*  
A. NOVAK

Copy to: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division  
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division  
Commanding Officer, 11th Marines

LCN: 00871

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1ST BN/13TH MAR  
CMD CHRON

OCT 1968

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

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Command Chronology  
1 October 1968 to 31 October 1968  
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Enclosure (1)

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## Part I

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Commander

LtCol A. NOVAK

Subordinate UnitsAdministrative ControlHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,  
13th Marines

Capt M. E. POPELKA

5th 155 Gun Battery (SP)(Rein)

Maj W. M. STEPHANS

Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Capt A. J. SWETT

Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

1stLt A. L. HARDING

Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

1stLt R. P. CIPRIANI

Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 13th Marines

Capt R. K. PETERSON

Operational ControlHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,  
13th Marines

Capt M. E. POPELKA

Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Capt A. J. SWETT

Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

1stLt A. L. HARDING

Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

1stLt R. P. CIPRIANI

2. LocationHeadquarters Battery, 1st Battalion,  
13th Marines

Danang, RVN

Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

N. Cantonment Area  
Danang, RVN

Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Phu Gia, RVN  
10Oct68 to 16Oct68  
Dai La Pass, RVN  
17Oct68 to 31Oct68

Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines

Phu Gia, RVN  
10Oct68 to 16Oct68  
Dai La Pass**SECRET**

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5th 155 Gun Battery (SP)(Rein)

1st Platoon

3d Platoon

8th Platoon

Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 13th Marines

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

S-1

S-2

S-3

S-4

4. Average Monthly Strength

Danang, RVN  
17Oct68 to 26Oct68  
Hai Van Pass, RVN  
27Oct68 to 31Oct68

Camp Carroll

Ca Lu

Rock Pile

Ca Lu

Phu Bai, RVN  
1Oct68 to 31Oct68

LtCol J. B. CANTIERNY

Capt B. D. NICHOLAS

1stLt J. R. RYAN

Maj G. R. HOUCHIN

1stLt M. C. BUNTON

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
HqBtry, 1stBn, 13thMar	16	170	2	2
Btry "A", 1stBn, 13thMar	7	134	0	2
Btry "C", 1stBn, 13thMar	7	138	0	2
Mortar Btry, 1stBn, 13thMar	4	87	0	3
5th 155 Gun Btry (SP)(Rein)	9	185	0	7
Btry "K", 4thBn, 13thMar	4	110	0	2

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## Part II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the period 1-31 October 1968, the 1st Battalion, 13th Marines, less Battery "A", participated in Operation OWEN MESA under the operational control of the 11th Marines, in direct support of the 26th Marines. Battery "A" supported 1st Battalion, 26th Marines in their assigned area of operations.

At 010800H October 1968, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines assumed command less OPCON of Battery "A", Battery "C", Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines and Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 13th Marines. At the same time, command less OPCON of Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 12th Marines was passed to CG, Third Marine Division.

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.

On 11 October 1968, Battery "C" (Rein), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 81 rounds in support of a 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.

At 161200H October 1968, the three 155mm Howitzers of Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from Hill 88, Phu Loc District; to the Danang area where OPCON passed to 4th Battalion, 11th Marines.

Operation OWEN MESA terminated at 141200H October 1968.

On 13 October 1968, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines CP displaced from the 35th Engineer Battalion, USA, Nam-O bridge area, to Camp Perdue, Danang.

On 17 October 1968, Battery "C" and Mortar Battery (-), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from their position at the Phu Gia Sand Spit, Phu Loc District and went into position in the vicinity of Dai La Pass, Danang.

On 22 October 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 40 rounds on 10 intelligence targets and received credit for two NVA KIA.

On 27 October 1968, Mortar Battery (-), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displaced from their position in the Dai La Pass and went into position in the vicinity of Hai Van Pass, Danang, in order to support a 3d Battalion, 26th Marines operations.

On 30 October 1968, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 21 rounds in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines and was credited with two NVA KIA and eight NVA KIA (P).

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Ammunition expended during the month of October is as follows:

<u>MISSIONS</u>			<u>AMMUNITION</u>			
<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>4.2</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
201	5518	5719	15,342	2534	963	18,839

Friendly casualties during the month:

<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIAE</u>	<u>WIANE</u>
0	0	0

Enemy losses during the month credited to 1st Battalion, 13th Marines:

<u>KIA(C)</u>	<u>KIA(P)</u>
4	18

Secondaries: 17

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## Part III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1 October 1968- Command less OPCON of Battery "A", Battery "C", and Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines and Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 13th Marines assumed by 1st Battalion, 13th Marines.
- Command less OPCON of Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 12th Marines passed to Commanding General, Third Marine Division.
- 2 October 1968- 17 secondary explosions reported as Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired 154 rounds in support of 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines.
- 11 October 1968- 10 enemy KIA, probable, were reported as Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines fired in support of 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines.
- 13 October 1968- 1st Battalion, 13th Marines CP displaces to Camp Perdue, Danang from 35th Engineer Battalion, USA, NAMO bridge area.
- 14 October 1968- Operation OWEN MESA terminates.
- 16 October 1968- OPCON of 3 155mm Howitzers, Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines passed to 4th Battalion, 11th Marines.
- 17 October 1968- Battery "C" and Mortar Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displace from Phu Gia Sand Spt and go into position at Dai La Pass, Danang.
- 22 October 1968- Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 13th Marines credited with 2 enemy KIA as numerous rounds are fired on intelligence targets.
- 27 October 1968- Mortar Battery(-), 1st Battalion, 13th Marines displace from Dai La Pass position and go into position in vicinity Hai Van Pass, Danang.
- 30 October 1968- 2 enemy KIA and 8 enemy KIA, probable credited to 1st Battalion, 13th Marines as Battery "A", fired in support of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines.

Enclosure (1)  
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PART IV

## Supporting Documents

*Filed  
sep* 1. Command Chronology for October 1968 from 5th 155 Gun Battery (SP)  
(Rein).

2. a/a Rpt. Opn. OWEN MESA, 18 Sep - 14 Oct 68

ENCLOSURE (2)