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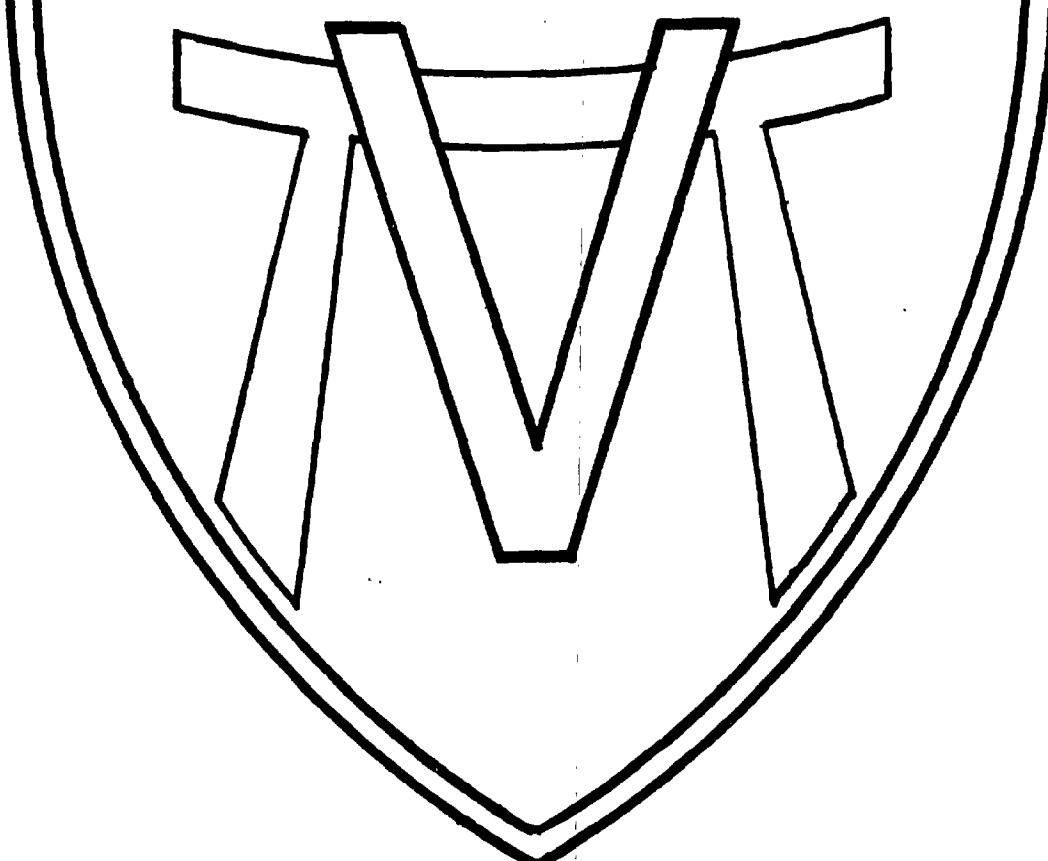
REG. #12241

UNCLASSIFIED

2ND BATTALION 26TH MARINES

CIG 79.

00217-68



COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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OCT 1968

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HEADQUARTERS
 Battalion Landing Team 2/26
 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
 FPO San Francisco, 96602

3/JDL/ccc
 5750
 04 NOVEMBER, 1968
 Serial No. 0130968

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commander Task Group 79.4

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

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
 (b) FMFPACO 5750.8
 (c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: ✓ (1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

D.H. Clark

D.H. CLARK
 By direction

DISTRIBUTION: CTG 79.4 01-15
 CG 3rd MAF 16
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BLT 2/26 74 21 Nov

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HEADQUARTERS

Battalion Landing Team 2/26
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
FPO San Francisco, 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 OCT TO 31 OCT 1968

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Enclosure (1)

PART I

UNCLASSIFIED1. DESIGNATIONBattalion Landing Team 2/26
2d Battalion, 26th MarinesCOMMANDERLtCol W.F. SPARKS
LtCol W.F. SPARKS1-31 Oct
1-31 OctSUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co

1stLt D.S. HARRINGTON 1-31 Oct

E Co

Capt J.C. CREGAN 1-31 Oct

F Co

Capt S.M. HARTMAN 1-31 Oct

G Co

1stLt P.A. POST 1-26 Oct
1stLt T.G. DOMOGALA 26-31 Oct

H Co

1stLt T.P. RUDD 1-28 Oct
2ndLt H.H. HEISTEN III 28-31 Oct
Capt F.E. FARMER 31-31 OctATTACHMENTS

Btry B (-), 1st Bn, 13th Mar

Capt F.R. FRANZEN 1-31 Oct

Mortar Btry, 1st Bn, 12th Mar

1stLt R.H. SAUNDERS 1-31 Oct

1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th AmFrac Bn

1stLt E.E. COX 1-31 Oct

1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th AF Bn

1stLt H.E. LINNEWELT, JR. 1-31 Oct

2d Plt (Rein), Co C, 3d Engr Bn

1stLt J.J. ASHGROFT II 1-31 Oct

2d Plt (Rein), H&S Co, 3d SP Bn

1stLt S.J. O'NEILL 1-31 Oct

1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th Recon Bn

1stLt P.J. MCDONALD, JR. 1-31 Oct

4th Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th TK Bn

2ndLt D.M. MURPHY 1-31 Oct

2d Plt (Rein), Co C, 3d MT Bn

1stLt B.L. LAMBIN 1-31 Oct

LSU, BLT 2/26

1stLt P.A. BURNS 1-31 Oct

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Det, HQ Bn, (Postal, Disb & Photo)	1stLt R.J. LOVELACE	1-31 Oct
1st Clearing Plt (Rein), Co D, 5th Med Bn.	Lt(USN) D.A. BALLING	1-31 Oct
Security Det, HQ Co, 9th MAB	Cpl R.L. MARKHAM	1-31 Oct
Naval Gunfire Liaison Team	Lt(JG) J. CARROLL	1-31 Oct
Det, Radio Relay, HQ Co, 26th Mar	Sgt J.W. BUFFA	1-31 Oct

2. LOCATION

1 - 011100H Oct:	Vic XD 899617
011101H - 17 Oct:	Vic XD 998681
17 - 19 Oct:	Vic YD 302722 and Vic YD 315687
19 - 25 Oct:	ARG Shipping
25 - 31 Oct:	Vic BT 077654

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj C. TYE	1-14 Oct
	Maj D.H. CLARK	14-31 Oct
S-1	1stLt J.W. SEAL	1-31 Oct
S-2	SSgt H.E. ROLAND	1-31 Oct
S-3	Maj J.D. LYNCH	1-31 Oct
S-4	Capt C.O. BROUGHTON	1-31 Oct

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>			
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
59	1664	9	89	0	0

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 1 October, the BLT (-) was participating in Operation LANCASTER II, TROUSDALE NORTH under the operational control of the 9th Marines. The BLT (-) was located in the vicinity of XD 899617 in the western portion of the LANCASTER II Area of Operation.

At 0930H on 1 October, the BLT (-) was helilifted to the southern portion of the IMZ in vicinity of XD 9867 and XD 9968 grid squares to participate in Operation LANCASTER II. During this part of the reporting period, the BLT (-) was under the operational control of the 3d Marines and conducted search and destroy operations in the aforementioned grid squares.

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The BLT (-) was employed as follows: 1 Company provided security initially to the BLT Rear and subsequently on the southern flank; 2 Companies attacked while 1 Company remained in reserve until enemy resistance was destroyed; during latter phases of the operation, 3 Companies conducted Search and Destroy Operations.

On 17 October, the BLT (-) was helilifted to the Cua Viet area to participate in two separate operations in the NAPOLEAN - SALINE A.O. The operations, conducted 18 October, involved the employment of two Companies in a cordon of a resettlement village on the north bank of the Cua Viet River and a two company Search and Destroy Operation from the Ocean View position to the DMZ.

At 1300H on 19 October, the BLT (-) commenced re-embarkation upon assigned ARG shipping.

At 0800H on 25 October, the BLT (-) conducted a heliborne amphibious assault to conduct cordon and search operations in the 1st Marines TAOR. At 1530H on 25 October, operational control of the BLT (-) was passed to 1st Marines and the BLT (-) continued cordon and search, and search and destroy operations in the 1st Marines TAOR. On 27 October the remainder of the BLT was off-loaded and proceeded to FLC Da Nang to establish a BLT Rear ashore and conduct extensive rehabilitation of equipment.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. MISSION. During the month the BLT was assigned the following missions:
 - a. 1 October, 1968 (Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE NORTH).
 - (1) Prepare for helilift and participation in Operation LANCASTER II under OPCON of 3d Marines.
 - b. 1 to 17 October, 1968 (Operation LANCASTER II).
 - (1) Conduct Search and Destroy Operations in the northern LANCASTER II Area of Operations to destroy enemy fortifications, supplies, and equipment.
 - (2) Conduct Search and Destroy Operations along known road in vicinity of XD 9667 to the Ben Hai River for the purpose of locating and destroying enemy caches, supplies and equipment.
 - c. 17 to 19 October, 1968 (Operation NAPOLEAN - SALINE).
 - (1) Conduct a Cordon and Search of Xuan Khanh Resettlement Village with two rifle companies.
 - (2) Conduct a Search and Destroy Operation of two company strength from the Ocean View position to the DMZ.
 - d. 25 October, 1968 (Operation EAGER HUNTER).
 - (1) Conduct Amphibious Assault to find, fix and destroy enemy forces, caches, and installations in the AOA and withdraw on order.

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e. 26 to 31 October, 1968 (Operation GARRARD BAY).

(1) Conduct a Cordon and Search Operation of the Viem Dong Village Complex.

(2) On order, conduct Search and Destroy Operations in the Phong Ho Village ruins area.

(3) On order, conduct Cordon and Search Operations in the Tra Khe (2) and Tra Lo Village Complexes.

(4) On order, conduct Cordon and Search Operations in the Mai Kim Son (Marble Mountain) Village Complex.

2. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

01 Oct At 010900H, Operational Control of BLT 2/26 passed from 9th to 3rd Marines for a special operation in the DMZ.

Ref: Journal No. 2
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

01 Oct At 011530H, 81mm Mortar Platoon received 18-20 rounds of NVA 130mm at XD 969678 resulting in 2 USMC KIA and 21 USMC WIA.

01 Oct At 011700H, JBG engaged 10-12 NVA at XD 981662 resulting in 2 USMC KIA, 3 USMC WIA and 3 NVA KIA(C).

Ref: Journal No. 4
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

02 Oct At 021320H, JBG made contact with 11 NVA in a bunker complex at XD 979688. 2 USMC were KIA during the initial contact. Subsequent Fixed Wing mission resulted in 2 NVA KIA(C) and approximately 5 bunkers destroyed.

Ref: Journal No. 27
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

02 Oct At 021440H, JBG found 7 living bunkers capable of sleeping 8 to 9 people. Bunkers appeared not to have been used in some time. The bunkers were destroyed.

Ref: Journal No. 14
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

02 Oct At 022330H, JBG at XD 974687 heard tracked vehicles, voices and screaming 500 to a 1000 meters from their position. Artillery missions were conducted with excellent target coverage. An attempt was made to conduct Fixed Wing missions but the BLT was unable to illuminate the target for pilot orientation purposes since no arty battery available was within illumination range.

Ref: Journal No. 18
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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03 Oct At 030130H, JBF received 4 rounds of 130mm artillery resulting in 2 USMC KIA and 5 USMC WIA. Artillery came from an unknown direction and range. No action was possible.

Ref: Journal No. 20
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

03 Oct At 031140H, an AO under JB control detected two underwater bridges at XD 994704. AO directed 2 flights of Fixed Wing resulting in the destruction of the bridges, one additional culvert type bridge on the road being searched was destroyed and the road was cut in three places.

Ref: Journal No. 25
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

03 Oct At 031300H, JBG made contact with NVA in bunkers on top of the company objective at XD 979688. JBH at XD 976684 has made no contact and is continuing to move to a flanking position. JBE found a complex of vehicle revetments at XD 978676, they also found a vehicle parking area at XD 983670. Both were destroyed.

Ref: Journal No. 26
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

03 Oct At 032005H, JBG while directing artillery fire on a bunker complex at XD 979688 observed 6 secondary explosions.

Ref: Journal No. 32
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

04 Oct At 041325H, JBH found a 152mm gun position and 10-12 rounds of 152mm ammo at XD 984688. This finding occurred as JBH was moving to a position from which to attack the flank and rear of the bunker complex that JBG was engaging.

Ref: Journal No. 35
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

04 Oct At 041500H, JBH made contact with an estimated 25 NVA. JBH destroyed 3 machine gun bunkers and 1 60mm position. JBH also captured documents, small arms ammunition, RPG rounds and 1 60mm Mortar that was physically wrestled from its crew. Action resulted in 3 NVA KIA(C) and 14 USMC WIA.

Ref: Journal No. 38
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

04 Oct At 041800H, JBG encountered an NVA machine gun position and several bunkers at XD 979688. JBG maneuvered and threw grenades into the bunkers. Results of the action were 1 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA and 2 NVA KIA(C).

Ref: Journal No. 39
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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05 Oct At 050001H, JOHN BROWN's (BLT 2/26) call sign was changed to SNUB NOSE.

Ref: Journal No. 41
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

05 Oct At 050730H, 81mm Mortar Platoon Forward Observer spotted an enemy bunker and truck at XD 996697. An Artillery mission was fired resulting in 3 secondary explosions.

Ref: Journal No. 43
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

05 Oct At 051745H, SNH at XD 958698 received 6 to 8 rounds of 130mm. A counter-artillery mission was fired on XD 984704. SNH reported 3 secondary explosions.

Ref: Journal No. 49
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

06 Oct At 061140H, SNF and SNH heard enemy artillery firing from approximately XD 982704 and XD 025738. Counter-Artillery mission was conducted resulting in 2 secondary explosions.

Ref: Journal No. 58
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

06 Oct At 061245H, SNH found 150 rounds of 152mm at XD 985686. Awaiting further instructions from HALL MARK.

Ref: Journal No. 59
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

06 Oct At 062045H, SNE F.O. conducting prep fires on XD 991692 observed 30 to 35 secondary explosions.

Ref: Journal No. 68
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

07 Oct At 070900H, A.O. working for SNUB NOSE observed an oil slick on the Ben Hai River at XD 994704. Oil slick believed to be from enemy fuel drums that were ruptured by Close Air Support strikes conducted on bridges and dikes in the area.

Ref: Journal No. 73
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

07 Oct At 071345H, SNE received 12 rounds of 82mm from XD 997687. Artillery and Air will be directed on suspected mortar sites.

Ref: Journal No. 78
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

07 Oct At 071620H, SNE reported receiving approximately 5 rounds of 82mm incoming from XD 997688, resulting in 2 USMC WIA (minor). Counter-mortar fires being conducted.

Ref: Journal No. 80
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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07 Oct At 071415H, SNE while moving on a road at XD 985686 incurred 4 USMC WIA due to a command detonated device. Also received 130mm incoming at the same time from XD 984702. SNE withdrew and directed an artillery mission on the enemy positions.

Ref: Journal No. 82
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

07 Oct At 071710H, SNH found a Soviet made 6 cylinder diesel, full track prime mover at XD 988689. Vehicle was partially burned. Appeared to have been hit by a 105mm round. There was a winch on the front bumper similar to our 6 X 6. On the rear a coupling device for pulling an artillery piece or something of that nature.

Ref: Journal No. 86
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

07 Oct At 071716H, SNH discovered 85mm gun pits with ammo bunkers containing 40 rounds of 85mm ammo. Pits, bunkers and ammo were destroyed. This finding occurred as SNH was being maneuvered to the flank of an enemy position at XD 988689.

Ref: Journal No. 87
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

2/26

08 Oct At 081025H, an A.O. controlled by SNUB NOSE observed 200 to 300 meters of trench line and bunkers at XD 988693. C.A.S was committed resulting in 3 NVA KBA(C).

Ref: Journal No. 92
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

08 Oct At 081110H, SN received 3 rounds of 75mm fired from the vicinity of XD 988693. C.A.S. was committed resulting in the destruction of 3 bunkers, 1 truck revetment and 1 NVA KBA(C).

Ref: Journal No. 93
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

08 Oct At 081800H, SNH reported contact with enemy elements defending a hill at XD 988689 from 1400H to 1730H. Results of contact were: 2 USMC KIA, 11 USMC WIA and 17 NVA KIA(C). SNH also observed numerous bodies being dragged away. NVA equipment captured included U.S. 782 gear, 2 AK-47's and 2 AK-50's.

Ref: Journal No. 102
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

08 Oct At 081530H, SNE came under 82mm mortar attack at XD 987688. Results of attack were 1 USMC KIA and 17 USMC WIA.

Ref: Journal No. 105
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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08 Oct At 081725H, An A-0.. observed 8 to 10 freshly built 5'X8' bunkers spaced over a distance of 150 meters. Bunkers were destroyed by Air.

Ref: Journal No. 103
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

09 Oct At 091700H, SNH reported that enemy vehicles could be heard in the vicinity of XD 990693. Subsequent artillery mission resulted in one secondary explosion.

Ref: Journal No. 113
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

09 Oct At 091740H, SNG found 2 very fresh NVA bunkers at XD 981687. One bunker contained 6 82mm rounds with fuzes. Rounds and bunkers destroyed with demolitions.

Ref: Journal No. 115
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

10 Oct At 100925H, SNH reported that the enemy dead from the contact on 08 Oct at XD 987689 were left at the scene of the fire fight; 11 more NVA bodies and a .30 cal machinegun were found.

Ref: Journal No. 122
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

10 Oct At 101605H, SNG found 2 mortar pits, 1 "A" frame bunker, a .50 cal machine gun position and 6 spent .50 cal rounds at XD 994695. All were destroyed.

Ref: Journal No. 129
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

11 Oct At 110925H, SNG discovered 38 152mm canisters and charges at XD 993693. Rounds were in bunkers and well hidden.

Ref: Journal No. 134
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

11 Oct At 111015H, SNG found an additional 40 rounds of 152mm at XD 994694.

Ref: Journal No. 135
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

12 Oct At 121534H, SNF found a destroyed amphibious tractor at XD 997698. It had a 12 cylinder diesel engine with a winch on the rear. Presumably of USSR manufacture.

Ref: Journal No. 145
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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ENCLOSURE

Enclosure (1)

13 Oct At 131300H, SNF found a trail running east to southeast from XD 999697 to YD 003694. At YD 002695, they found 5 bunkers. Bunkers were destroyed.

Ref: Journal No. 148
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

15 Oct At 151130H, SN elements found 3 bags of 152mm increments, 14 bunkers, 19 RPG rounds, 13 82mm rounds, 400 rounds AK-47, 6 MVA gas masks, 1 canteen and 4 grenades at XD 976681. Destroyed all ammunition and equipment with demolitions.

Ref: Journal No. 158
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

25 Oct At 250001H, SNUB NOSE (BLT 2/26) call sign changed to WONDER WHY.

Ref: Journal No. 161A
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

25 Oct At 250825H, WW "A" Command Group departed the LPH-5 for Cordon and Search Operations (Operation EAGER HUNTER) in the A.O.A. prescribed by CTG 79.4. Arrived 250835H.

Ref: Journal No. 162
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

25 Oct At 251050H, an A.O. working with WVE directed G.A.S. on 15 VC at BT 078629. Direct hits with 250 lb bombs prevented an accurate body count. 1 VC KBA(G).

Ref: Journal No. 167
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

25 Oct At 251155H, WVE detained 5 adults, 1 teenager and 2 babies at BT 095657. 2 of the adults had no ID cards, all were female, all were detained.

Ref: Journal No. 170
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

25 Oct At 251300H, WVE detained 1 female at BT 109659. She was found to be listed on the 3d and 5th CIT Black List. She had \$9,275.20 VN on her person.

Ref: Journal No. 173
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

25 Oct At 251530H, Operational Control of WW (BLT 2/26) passed to PANAMA HAT (1st Marines). WW commenced Operation GARRARD BAY.

Ref: Journal No. 174
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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26 Oct At 261030H, WWH found 75 sheets of handwritten documents, mess gear, parts of NVA grenades and 3 sets of NVA uniforms at BT 097656. Documents and other gear was turned in to S-2; grenade parts were blown in place.

Ref: Journal No. 184
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

26 Oct At 260930H, WWF was approached by 3 female adults carrying a fourth and 2 male children at BT 089653. The woman being carried had a gunshot wound in her right foot. One of the women had no ID card and her name was on the IIT Black List. IIT released the others without authorization from WW2 or WW3. One female detainee forwarded to PH CP.

Ref: Journal No. 187
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

26 Oct At 261530H, WWF found a tunnel which had been previously booby trapped; booby trap had been removed. A 55 gal drum of rice was also found at BT 092658. The rice was scattered over a large area as a denial measure.

Ref: Journal No. 188
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

26 Oct At 262345H, a WVE LP was taken under fire by an unknown size enemy unit at BT 091647. Fire was returned and an 81mm mission was directed with unknown results. 2 USMC WIA (minor).

Ref: Journal No. 191
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

27 Oct At 270800H, WW helilift to Phong Ha (BT 072623) initiated.

Ref: Journal No. 192A
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

27 Oct At 270600H, WVE found a bunker complex and 2 huts which appeared to be a rest area/mine factory at BT 058624. Also discovered 150 lbs of rice, assorted clothing and small articles. Destroyed in place.

Ref: Journal No. 207
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

27 Oct At 271220H, WWH found and searched 1 bunker and 3 straw hooches at BT 072625. Search revealed 3 100 lb bags of flour and 135 lbs of rice. Destroyed in place.

Ref: Journal No. 205
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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27 Oct At 271500H, WWH found 1 to 3 tons of rice hidden in vases and stone containers made up to look like grave sites. Three individual M-26 grenades were employed as booby traps and 1 M-26 was hooked up with a 105mm round at BT 065628. Booby traps and rice was destroyed.

Ref: Journal No. 208
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

27 Oct At 271630H, WWG found 6 bunkers at BT 071620. Five of the bunkers were surrounded by spider holes. Bunkers and holes were destroyed. The bunkers had tin roofs and were lined with brick with concrete floors.

Ref: Journal No. 209
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

27 Oct At 271800H, WWF at BT 068625 found 2 booby trapped M-26 grenades. Pins were pulled and grenades placed in fruit cans with trip wires. Blown in place. A 25-lb box mine was found in the same vicinity. Pressure release device on mine was accidentally released detonating mine which resulted in 2 USMC WIA (medevaced).

Ref: Journal No. 203
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

28 Oct At 280110H, WWF at BT 065625 received 20 rounds of 82mm from BT 074632. Counter mortar fires were conducted. Incoming resulted in 5 USMC KIA and 15 USMC WIA (medevaced).

Ref: Journal No. 211
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

28 Oct At 280930H, WWF collected 94 civilians at BT 066628, mostly middle aged women and children. One child about 6 years old led a WWF element to a small cache of rice. About 90% of the collected civilians had ID cards.

Ref: Journal No. 215
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

28 Oct At 280930H, WWH sent 500 lbs of rice to be evacuated from LZ DEFEND. An additional 1000 lbs was destroyed as it was untransportable.

Ref: Journal No. 216
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

28 Oct At 281010H, WWF found 900 lbs of unhusked rice in urns at BT 066628. The rice was transported to LZ DEFEND for evacuation.

Ref: Journal No. 217
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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28 Oct At approximately 261200H, WW helilift to Tra Le (BT 086682) was initiated.

Ref: Journal No. 213A
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 290830H, a mine was set off by WWG at BT 080690 resulting in 1 USMC KIA and 1 USMC WIA.

Ref: Journal No. 225
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 291030H, WWH encountered 1 VN male at BT 087679. Individual had no ID Card. Sent to IIT at 2d Battalion, 1st Marines CP for interrogation.

Ref: Journal No. 223
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 291030H, a mine was set off by WWG at BT 080690 resulting in 2 USMC WIA (medevaced). 1 of the WIA's later died.

Ref: Journal No. 225
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 291100H, WWE found 7 brick lined bomb shelters at BT 076682, medical supplies at BT 075681, 4 detainees at BT 074683, red flag with gold hammer and sickle and several documents at BT 076682. Bunkers were blown, medical supplies given to the ARVN's and detainees, flag and documents were sent to WWJ's position.

Ref: Journal No. 229
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 291100H, WWG found 2 teenaged VN males who had been killed by shrapnel at BT 084687. WWG had not fired arty or mortars in that area. Bodies were left at that position.

Ref: Journal No. 233
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 291130H, a Marine from WWF detonated a small booby trap at BT 065690 resulting in 1 USMC WIA (minor).

Ref: Journal No. 226
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

29 Oct At 291515H, WWF during cordon of Tra Khe II at BT 067683 detained 18 VN, 6 of whom appeared on the Black List. Detainees delivered to 2/1 IIT.

Ref: Journal No. 231
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

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30 Oct At 301240H, a member of WWG at BT 080690 set off a M-26 booby trap resulting in 1 USMC WIA (medevaced).

Ref: Journal No. 237
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

31 Oct At approximately 310800H, WW elements were helilifted to the vicinity of Nui Kim Son (BT 073707) to conduct Cordon and Search of that village.

Ref: Journal No. 240A
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

31 Oct At 311030H, WWG found a cave containing 1 VN male skeleton which was wrapped in plastic and appeared to have been dead for at least 6 months. A tin of 7.62mm AK-47 ammo was also found in the cave which was located at BT 076704.

Ref: Journal No. 243
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

31 Oct At 311155H, GIT and ITT with security provided by WW elements, screened 122 VN at BT 073707 (Nui Kim Son) resulting in the detention of 1 VN male who had 30,000 Piastres on his person, 1 16 year old VN male who was pointed out by the afore mentioned VN who stated that the 16 year old was a guide for transient VC/NVA forces. 3 VN women whose names appear on the Black List were also detained.

Ref: Journal No's 245 & 255
(Tab A to Enclosure 1)

3. PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

a. Personnel

- (1) Number of replacements received: 5 Officers & 169 Enlisted.
- (2) Number of personnel lost through rotation: 6 Officers & 99 Enlisted.
- (3) Number of personnel lost through attrition other than rotation:

(a) KIA: Officers	0	Enlisted:	18
1 DMZ	0		9
2 Viem Dong	0		1
3 Nui Kim Son	0		6
* 4 Khe Sanh	0		2

Enclosure (1)

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(b) DOW: Officers: 0 Enlisted: 1

1 Nui Kim Son 0 1

(c) WIA: Officers: 2 Enlisted: 73

1 DMZ 1 56

2 Cua Viet 0 1

3 Viem Dong 0 1

4 Nui Kim Son 2 15

(d) NBC: Officers 0 Enlisted: 34

1 DMZ 0 22

2 Cua Viet 0 2

3 Viem Dong 0 5

4 Nui Kim Son 0 5

(e) Intra-MAB/Regiment Transfers: 49

* Previously listed MIA's from Khe Sanh (During March 1968).

(4) Number of personnel wounded, treated and returned to duty, and non-battle casualties returned to duty after treatment.

(a) WIA: Officers 1 Enlisted: 2

1 DMZ 0 8

2 Nui Kim Son 1 1

(b) NBC: Officers 0 Enlisted: 6

b. Administration

(1) Awards: One (1) Silver Star was awarded in the Battalion.

(2) Promotions:

1stLt - 3	Sgt - 2
2ndLt - 1	Cpl - 64
SSgt - 2	LCpl - 4
	PFC - 8

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(3) Postal Services: Mail service has been excellant with almost daily delivery to the troops in the field. Mail is initially sorted in the rear and couriered to the field for distribution.

(4) Post Exchange: Post exchange facilities were available only to the Battalion Rear except during the period 19-25 October, when the Battalion Landing Team was backloaded aboard ship.

(5) Special Services: Writing kits, games and sweatshirts were issued to all units. Special Services funds were used to purchase beer and soda for distribution to all personnel.

4. INTELLIGENCE

a. Enemy Situation at the Beginning of the Reporting Period. The suspected enemy units located within or adjacent to the operating area belonged to the 320th NVA Division. Elements of the 52d Regiment, 320th NVA Division were last reported as being located south of the Ben Hai River, within the southern boundary of the DMZ. The 48th Regiment, 320th NVA Division was thought to be located to the NW and West of the BLT 2/26 A.O. NVA artillery units were located just North of the Ben Hai River and also deep within the area of N. Vietnam. Although the location of two NVA artillery pieces (75mm Pack Howitzers) was known, the 130mm artillery locations remained undetected. The NVA units engaged by BLT 2/26 were also supported by a transportation unit, which did in fact, employ vehicles south of the Ben Hai River within the BLT 2/26 A.O. The vehicles were prime movers for 152mm artillery pieces, which were removed from the operating area, probably before insertion of BLT 2/26.

b. Enemy Initiated Incidents During the Reporting Period.

(1) Contacts: During the reporting period there were 11 ground contacts, the most significant of which occurred on 08 October. During this engagement, H/2/26 killed a minimum of 28 NVA (C).

(2) Sniper: During the reporting period there were 6 sniper incidents, all of which occurred while BLT 2/26 was OPCON to the 1st Marines.

(3) Mines/Booby-Traps: While operating under the OPCON of the 1st LVT Battalion, in the area north of OCEAN VIEW (YD 292752), BLT 2/26 located and destroyed 4 booby-traps. During this same period, two Amtracs and one Tank detonated mines of an unknown type while operating in conjunction with BLT 2/26. During the reporting period in which BLT 2/26 was operating in the 1st Marines A.O., BLT 2/26 elements encountered 14 mines and 18 booby-traps. Of that total only four were detonated and inflicted casualties.

(4) Artillery/Mortar Fire: During the reporting period, the enemy engaged BLT 2/26 with artillery on 12 occasions and with mortar fire 5 times. Following is a recapitulation of the number of rounds and caliber. Also provided are locations of known artillery and mortar positions that fired upon BLT 2/26.

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(a) Recapitulation of Rounds Received.

68 - 130mm Rds
 6 - 75mm Pack Howitzer Rds
 Unk - 107mm Recoilless Rifle Rds
 32 - 82mm Rds
 Unk - 60mm Rds
 51 - Unknown Type Arty Rds

(b) Known artillery and mortar positions are indicated below:

75mm Pack Howitzer XD 985704, XD 988693 & YD 001719
 107mm RR XD 993705
 82mm Mortar XD 997687 & BT 074632
 60mm Mortar XD 990692, XD 988691, XD 994688 & XD 998697
 Unk Type Mortar XD 998693, XD 994687 & XD 997688
 Pos/Susp Arty Pos XD 984694, XD 985740 & XD 984702
 152mm Gun position found at XD 984687.
 82mm Gun position found at XD 988698.

c. Summary of Enemy Casualties, Captured and Equipment Captured During Period.

(1) KIA (Ground) 34
 (2) KBA (Air) 7
 (3) KBA (Arty) 3
 (4) Detainees 18
 (5) Captured Equipment:

240 Rds 152mm
 20 Rds 82mm
 19 Rds 82mm
 02 AK-47 Rifles
 02 AK-50 Rifles
 01 .30 cal M.G.
 Small amounts of medical and 782 gear.

(6) Equipment Destroyed:

6335 lbs Rice
 30 lbs Flour
 19 Rds RPG
 05 Chi-Com Grenades
 01 Amphibious Tracked Vehicle
 01 Tracked Vehicle
 01 60mm Mortar Tube
 Small amounts of NVA uniforms.

(7) Destroyed Enemy Positions:

Bunkers	59
Bridges	1
Underwater Bridges	2
.50 cal Positions	1

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d. Significant Trends Noted During Reporting Period.

(1) The enemy artillery positions and a suspected command and control complex located within the Southern boundary of the DMZ were defended by an estimated NVA Infantry Battalion (Rein). The infantry assumed a series of defensive positions that were easily defended by platoon sized units. These defensive positions were of the classic reverse-slope defense, well concealed with dense underbrush and heavily bunkered. The NVA fought initially against the BLT 2/26 in a defensive nature, employing Small Arms, Automatic Weapons, Mortars, Direct Fire flat trajectory weapons and Artillery. The initial NVA unit engaged (estimated company size) was a determined and well trained soldier, however, after intensive friendly supporting arms were brought to bear on the NVA positions, the enemy unit withdrew, only to take up a defensive posture once again in prepared positions.

(2) The artillery gun pits and suspected command center was ringed with prepared mortar pits. It was noted that the majority of these positions were located to the rear and flanks of both the command center and gun pits. The mortar crews would often fire, move immediately to a new position, and resume firing.

e. Enemy Situation at the End of Period.

(1) During the sweep along the coastal area above Cua Viet and Ocean View, no known enemy units were reported as being located within the BLT 2/26 A.O.

(2) The areas of Phong Ho II (BT 0662), to Viem Dong (BT 0965) and Nui Kim Son (BT 0770) are major infiltration routes for enemy units moving along the coastal area. Enemy units known to move within this area are the R 20 Local Force Battalion, the T-89 Sapper Battalion and the Q-86 (HOA VANG) Local Force Company. The presence of the T-89 Sapper Battalion within the BLT 2/26 A.O. was indicated by the number of mines and booby-traps encountered. Although no major ground contact was established with the R 20 Battalion, it is highly probable that it was that unit which mortared F/2/26 on 28 October during early morning hours.

f. Weather: The Weather during the 1st part of the reporting period was poor and a definite handicap to air operation. However, the weather changed and was good during the latter portion of the reporting period.

5. OPERATIONS

a. Command Relations. The BLT was under the operational control of the following commands:

9th Marines	010001H to 011052H Oct 1968
3d Marines	011100H to 171559H Oct 1968
1st AmTrac Bn	171600H to 191259H Oct 1968
CTC 79.4	191300H to 251529H Oct 1968
1st Marines	251530H to 312400H Oct 1968

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b. Major Operations participated in were:

Operation LANCASTER II - TROUSDALE NORTH	1 Oct 1968
Operation LANCASTER II	1 to 17 Oct 1968
Operation NAPOLEON - SALINE	17 to 19 Oct 1968
Operation EAGER HUNTER	25 Oct 1968
Operation GARRARD BAY	25 to 31 Oct 1968

c. New Techniques.

(1) During the period of operations on the Ben Hai River, the BLT found itself in a position wherein the enemy could and did employ supporting arms to include general support artillery; in the defense of tactical positions. The most effective counter to the situation was to adopt a technique more frequently attributed to the NVA; that of operating cross-country and cross-compartment in order to take full advantage of the concealment afforded by the dense vegetation. It was found that the individual Marine adapted well to this technique while the NVA never seemed to grasp the fact that the main attack and bulk of the BLT forces were not moving along the easier ground on the trace of the road being searched.

(2) A second technique that is doubtless not new but one that proved sufficiently effective to warrant reaffirmation was that of locating LZ's remote from the command post or other positions. The LZ's proved to be a registration point for enemy artillery and, despite the additional effort and troop unit commitment involved in man-carrying supplies, the remote location of LZ's was considered valid in that the enemy wasted many artillery missions searching for what he assumed to be positions in the vicinity of LZ's.

(3) When enemy artillery or mortars did impact into a friendly position, no early attempts were made to medevac wounded unless the wounded were of the emergency category. It was noted early that much of the enemy artillery fire was brought to bear on areas that he suspected were occupied by BLT 2/26. In view of the fact that, for no apparent reason, the enemy would fire a few rounds into a terrain feature and then cease fire. It was felt that the cease fire period was used to detect the approach of Medevac aircraft. Consequently, so long as the lives of individual Marines were not endangered, evacuation took place hours later, normally from an LZ remote from the point of injury. The enemy appeared unable to react quickly to the sudden appearance of Medevac aircraft in an unsuspected area and seems to have not associated the evacuations with his previous artillery missions.

(4) The standard enemy defense encountered on the Ben Hai operation was a series of mutually supporting reverse slope bunkers covering more than one piece of defensible terrain. In one instance, the complex covered a series of three small hills astride the road being searched. When air strikes were initially employed on the first reverse slope it was noticed that the enemy resistance was not substantially

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weakened despite the fact that ten flights, some armed with 750 lb bombs were committed. It was decided that the enemy, taking advantage of the thick vegetation and time lapse between the Aerial Observer's marking round and roll-in of the first attacking aircraft, were abandoning the positions and observing the air attack from the next rearward position. Accordingly, on the next day after detailed briefings of pilots and the Aerial Observer, air strikes were conducted on targets other than those marked by the Aerial Observer's rockets. Enemy resistance was noticeably and almost immediately reduced.

(5) While hardly a new technique, it should be noted that the NVA defenders were particularly unmindful of the flanks or incapable of early detection and reaction to a flanking attack. On two separate occasions, the defenders were concentrating upon the secondary attack moving on the trace of the road and were completely surprised by attacks from the left and left rear. Whether this is an inherent weakness in NVA defensive doctrine or a reflection of our normal tendency to attack astride lines of communication cannot be accurately assessed.

(6) Lastly, no new techniques were found when physically attacking fortified positions; however, mention should be made of the fact that the Marine Corps doctrinal method of attacking fortified positions remains sound. Flame throwers were not available to the BLT nor were satchel charges. There is no substitute for the former, while grenades and field-manufactured devices were substituted for the latter. In all other respects, the bunkers were successfully attacked in accordance with Marine Corps Doctrine.

d. Training. On-the-job-training was conducted by all elements of the BLT during the month. All rifle companies, the 81mm Mortar Plt, Engineers and the 106mm RR Plt also received 2 hours of instruction on enemy mines and booby-traps presented by a 1st Engineer Battalion contact team.

e. Fire Support.

(1) Artillery. From 1 October to 17 October, 1968, BLT 2/26 received artillery support from 1st Battalion, 12th Marines located at Camp Carroll.

- (a) 165 H&I's were fired.
- (b) 157 HE missions were fired.
- (c) 4 Illumination missions were fired.
- (d) 6 significant missions were fired during the period.

1. At 032000H, Company G's F.O. called in a fire mission for prep fires at grid XD 979688 resulting in 7-8 secondary explosions.

2. At 041515H, Company E's F.O. called in a fire mission on active enemy mortar at grid XD 982682 resulting in excellent coverage and mortar silenced.

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3 At 052110H, Company H's F.O. called in a fire mission on suspected enemy movement at grid XD 980699 resulting in 1 possible secondary and cessation of movement.

4 At 080030H, Company H's F.O. called in a fire mission on a suspected enemy position at grid YD 005696, resulting in 3 secondary explosions.

5 At 080100H, Company G's F.O. called in a fire mission on suspected active arty at XD 973704, resulting in 6 secondary explosions.

6 At 092130H, Company G's F.O. called in a fire mission on a known enemy position and prep fire at XD 987693, resulting in 6 secondary explosions.

(2) From 25 to 31 October, 1968, the BLT received artillery support from 1st Bn, 11th Marines located at Da Nang.

- (a) No H&I's were fired.
- (b) 20 HE missions were fired.
- (c) 3 Illumination missions were fired.
- (d) There were no significant missions.

(3) 81mm Mortar Plt.

1 The 81mm Mortar Platoon supported the BLT throughout the period 1 to 17 and 25 to 31 October, 1968. The platoon was located at the BLT CP in the field.

- 1 20 HE missions were fired.
- 2 12 WP missions were fired.
- 3 No illumination missions were fired.
- 4 One significant mission was fired.

5 At 081530H, the platoon conducted a mission in support of Companies E and H at XD 994692. One enemy 60mm mortar was destroyed and the Platoon was credited with thwarting an attempted enemy counter-attack while inflicting numerous casualties upon the enemy force.

(4) 106mm RR Plt. The Platoon supported the BLT during the period 27 to 31 October, 1968.

(a) 8 rounds of HEAT and 8 rounds of HEPI were fired at an active enemy mortar site destroying two buildings.

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f. Air Support. During October, BLT 2/26 made eight Battalion size helilifts consisting of Rifle Companies, the "A" Command Group, 81mm Mortar Platoon and the 106mm RR Platoon. Of these, six were tactical and two were administrative. The lifts involved 4,290 troops and over 80,000 lbs of cargo. Particularly note-worthy was the period 25 to 31 October during which BLT 2/26 made four tactical helilifts within seven days. Fixed Wing support was hampered by poor weather early in the month while the BLT was in the DMZ. During the latter part of the month, although good weather prevailed, extensive use of Fixed Wing support was precluded by the cordon and search missions assigned the BLT. As a result, only 33 Fixed Wing sorties were flown in support of the BLT. Offsetting this was the large number (80) of Aerial Observers, in support of the BLT. On several days Aerial Observation was provided almost continuously from 0700 to 1800. 163 troops were medevaced by helicopter during the month. The most significant single mission was the extraction of 20 personnel wounded by a mortar barrage during the night of 27-28 October. C-130 Flareships, AC-47 Flare/Gunships, Huey Gunships and UH-34D Medevac helicopters were all employed.

6. LOGISTICS.

a. Source of Supply and Maintenance. The source of supply and 3d/4th echelon maintenance support for the BLT during the period was PLSC-B Dong Ha and PLG Da Nang.

b. Status of Supplies.

(1) During the reported period, the BLT underwent an extensive rehab of clothing and 782 gear. The source of rehab was organic supply, it was carried out on ARG Shipping.

(2) Gas masks and upper body torso armor are no longer in critical short supply. M-16 rifle cleaning rods are now available in moderate quantities.

(3) There are still shortages of 2d echelon repair parts. This situation is compounded by a lack of SL-3 and SL-4 publications. These publications have been ordered however, the lead time required is approximately 3 months.

(4) Resupply. Resupply was accomplished through Vandegrift; Class II and Medical Supplies were sent from Dong Ha to Vandegrift. Upon commencement of Operation EAGER HUNTER, initial resupply was accomplished from the USS PRINCETON. Upon completion of debarkation and establishment of the BLT Rear in Da Nang, resupply was accomplished by truck convoy to the forward elements of the Battalion.

c. Transportation.

(1) Surface. Surface transportation was utilized to transport supplies from Dong Ha to Vandegrift and from Da Nang to the Battalion forward position.

(2) Air. Resupply was accomplished by helicopter from Vandegrift and the USS PRINCETON and Pad 23 Da Nang.

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d. Service.

(1) Water. The Battalion relied on water resupply by helicopter and surface transportation, natural sources were utilized when available.

(2) Laundry. Facilities were available at Vandegrift and were utilized by BLT Support personnel. While embarked aboard ARG Shipping, facilities were utilized by all BLT personnel.

(3) Food Services. The tactical elements of the Battalion subsisted mainly on "C" rations, supplemented by hot meals provided by host units. The rear elements of the Battalion subsisted in messes at Camp Carroll, Dong Ha and Da Nang. Cooks and messmen were provided as required.

e. Maintenance. During the reporting period, the BLT underwent an extensive rehab of its' Motor Transport, Ordnance, Engineer and Communication/Electronic equipment. This rehab was accomplished at the facilities of Maintenance Battalion, FLC Da Nang. During rehab, 1st and 2d echelon maintenance was carried out by BLT personnel. BLT personnel also assisted FLC personnel in 3d and 4th echelon maintenance.

7. CIVIL AFFAIRS. No Civil Affairs projects were conducted during the reporting period.

8. COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS.

a. General. During the past month, the BLT Communications Platoon provided communications support for the BLT for Operations conducted during the reporting period.

b. Radio.

(1) Constant radio communications were maintained between the BLT and Higher Headquarters, Rifle Companies and Supporting Arms. The Tactical Air Control Party continued using UHF and VHF radio equipment in the support of the BLT.

(2) A covered radio circuit employing a KY-8 and a KY-38 was used for ciphered traffic to Higher Headquarters.

c. Wire. A switching central was employed by the BLT aboard the USS PRINCETON (LPH-5) in order to provide communications between the BLT and SLF staffs. During operations ashore, wire communications was used sparingly due to the rapid movement of the BLT. Wire communications in the Alpha Command Group consisted of "hot lines" from supporting units to the Command Post. Upon landing the entire BLT on 27 October, a switching central with trunk lines to Force Logistics Command and units within the BLT was installed.

d. Message Center. During the past month, a total of 2,458 messages were processed. Communications Guard was maintained aboard the USS PRINCETON until 28 October and then was maintained by Force Logistics Command.

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e. Radio Relay. The two AN/TRC-27 terminals were not employed due to the dead-lining of one RT-252.

f. Maintenance and Supply. Upon reembarking, a Limited Technical Inspection was performed on all communications equipment that had been employed by the BLT when ashore. AN/PRC-25 accessories were received during the past month which temporarily alleviated the existing shortages. An RT-252 was placed on "Red Ball" in an attempt to remove the two AN/TRC-27 terminals from deadline.

9. MEDICAL SUPPORT.

a. The BAS treated 911 patients during the month of October, 1968. Dr. G.R. ROWAN arrived on board 17 October, 1968 as Dr. G.S. PATRICK's relief.

b. Diseases encountered during the month are as follows:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>No. of Occurrences</u>
URI	28
GC	6
FLU	15
DIARRHEA	25
DEMATOLOGY	128
HEAT CASUALTIES	4
GASTROENTERITIS	12
EYE DISEASE	28

c. Medical Support for the Battalion was provided by the Clearing Platoon aboard the USS PRINCETON until 25 October when support was provided by the Force Logistics Command's Medical Department.

d. Supply source was from the Clearing Platoon and the organic BAS until 25 October when the source became FLC and the organic BAS.

10. RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

a. Name of Chaplain assigned: Lt. Jerry A. ZANDSTRA, CHC, USNR.

b. Services conducted:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Sunday Worship - Protestant	7	301
Sunday Mass - Catholic	4	142
Weekday Worship - Protestant	6	347
Weekday Mass - Catholic	7	56
Holy Communion - Protestant	2	64
Daily Devotions	6	122
Battalion Memorial Service	1	400

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9. Personnel receiving counsel:

- (1) Professional counselling cases - 48.
- (2) American Red Cross cases - 16.
- (3) Cases utilizing MARS radiotelephone - 17.

d. Significant activities:

- (1) Received and distributed 21 cartons of health and comfort items. Letters were written on behalf of the Command to the donors.
- (2) Writing gear, sweat shirts, shorts, socks and personal items were acquired from Special Services and distributed to members of the BLT.
- (3) Sponsored hymn sings for the men on the PRINCETON. Seven such services were held with a total attendance of 97.
- (4) Visits were made to wounded in 3rd Med facilities at Quang Tri, 1st Med at Da Nang, the REPOSE, the SANCTUARY, and daily when aboard the PRINCETON.

6. Facilities: While aboard ARG shipping, ships facilities were utilized. While ashore, services were held in the field.

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

✓ TAB B ALARPT (DAN LANCASTER II/TROUSDALE NORTH

Enclosure (1)

0530-68

CTG 79.4

2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

Reg No. 12238

BT 0237168

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IN.	OUT	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	0520	1	010430H	SITREP # 1	FR
	0900	2	010900H	BLT 2/26 CHOPPED to 3d Marines for special operation in the DMZ.	FST
	1735	3	011700H	SITREP # 2	FR
	1825	4	011100H	SptRpt Summary: Period 011000H to 011800H; Received approx 50 130mm Arty at 969679. Fired counter-artillery with unknown results. JBG made contact with 10-12 NVA at 981662 resulting in 2 USMC KIA, 3 USMC WIA and 3 NVA(C).	FSR
	2040	5	012030H	SptRpt: JB CP at 967686 received 2 rds of suspected 130mm. Fired counter- Arty with unknown results.	FSR
	2505	6	012300H	SITREP # 3	FR
	0430	7	020430H	SITREP # 4	FR
	0730	8	020708H	SptRpt: JBG heard heavy movement at 992704; movement appeared to be moving N to S. Diesel engines were believed to have been heard. Keeping area under observation.	FSR
	0800	9	020600E	SptRpt: JB CP received 2 rds of suspected 130mm at 967686, fired counter-Arty with unknown results.	FSR
	1000	10	021000H	SITREP # 5	FR
	1200	11	021140H	FM to JB: Boundary Change effective 021300H.	FST

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TAB-D

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IN.	OUT.	SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1240	12	021225		FM to JB: Operation Requirements	FSR
1600	13	021320		SptRpt: JBG made contact with 11 NVA and a bunker complex at XD 979688.	
				Called for A.O. and fixed wing.	FSR
1610	14	021440		SptRpt: H2p at XD 966687 found 7 living bunkers capable of sleeping 8-9 people. The area had not been used in some time. Bunkers were destroyed.	FSR
1640	15	021600		SITREP: #6	FR
2200	16	022200		SptRpt: Company G heard noises sounding like diesel or heavy equipment running at 15 to 20 second interval at approx enemy grid 9697. Will continue to keep area under surveillance.	FSR
2300	17	022300		SITREP # 7	FR
0010	18	022330		SptRpt: Company G at XD 974687 heard suspected tracked vehicles, voices and screaming on the trail 500 to 1000 meters away and moving toward their post.	
				Requested flare ship. Fixed wing and arty missions were conducted with excellent target coverage and unknown results.	FSR
0200	19	030130		SptRpt: Companies F and H in vicinity of XD 978678 and XD 968678, heard what sounded like an engine, further to the east than the first engine report. Company H also heard an engine starting. An arty rd impacted in vicinity of	

2d Battalion, 26th Marines

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IN.	OUT.	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
				noises ceasing all movement. Arty missions continued throughout the night with excellent target coverage.	FSR
0230	20	030130H	SptRpt: Company F received approx 4 rds of suspected 130mm arty resulting in 2 USMC KIA and 5 USMC WIA. Enemy arty rds came from unknown direction, no action taken.	FSR	
0352	21	030215H	SptRpt: Company G at XD 974684 heard what sounded like truck doors being closed to their front. Voices were also heard. Fixed wing was on station, but did not attack because AO could not locate target.	FSR	
0600	22	030800H	Col THOMAS from SLF Staff and Col MICHAELS visited JBCP.	FS	
1155	23	031045H	An AO in support of BLT 2/26 spotted 2 NVA in the open in vicinity of XD 994691. Arty mission was fired and adjusted by AO with unknown results.	FSR	
1216	24	031100H	SITREP # 8	FR	
1235	25	031140H	SptRpt: AO under JB control spotted two under-water bridges at XD 994704. Directed 2 flights of Fixed Wing resulting in the destruction of the two under-water bridges, one culvert type bridge and Route # 5 being cut in three places.	FSR	

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2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN.	OUT.	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1318	26	031300H		<p>Special Sitrep: Company G made contact with NVA at XD 979688. NVA are in bunkers at the top of Company G's objective. BLT 2/26 is attempting to work around bunkers to seize the objective. Company H at XD 976684 had made no contact and continue to move to a flanking position. Co E found a complex which appears to be revetments for NVA vehicles at XD 978676, they also found a garage at XD 983670. Both were destroyed by E Co.</p>	XD FR
1515	27	031330H		SptRpt: JBG made contact with NVA at XD 980688 incurring 2 USMC MIA. Requested and directed an A0 and 3 flights of Fixed Wing resulting in 2 NVA KIA (C). FSR	
1715	28	031645H		SptRpt: JBG at XD 979688, while in the attack on their objective tripped a booby trap which released a white smoke. JBG donned gas masks and continued the attack.	FSR
1725	29	031700H		SITREP # 9	FR
1730	30	031355H		SptRpt: JBG at XD 979688 while moving to their objective, spotted 1 NVA, later they were taken under fire by a MG. JBG then pulled back and directed fixed Wing with unknown results. (MG was silenced.)	FSR
2010	31	032000H		SptRpt: JBF spotted red blinking lights 3300 to 3400 mils from their posit at XD 993628. Lights appeared to be on the deck moving 5 mph.	FSR

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IN.	OUT.	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
2015 2015		32	032005H 032005H	SptRpt: SICKER JBG's FO while directing arty on a bunker complex at XD 979688, observed 6 secondary explosions.	FSR
2305	33		032300H	SITREP # 10	FR
0430	34		040430H	SITREP # 11	FR
1430	35		041325H	SptRpt: JBH at XD 984688 found a 152mm gun pit and approx 10-12 rds of ammo in a bunker at the same position.	FS R
1435	36		041400H	SptRpt: JBF at XD 992686 spotted two people wearing utilities and bush hats carrying carbines at XD 993677. They did not see Co F patrol. Thought to be friendlies.	FSR
1445	37		041400H	Frag Order 52-68 effective 051600H.	FS
2220	38		041500H	SptRpt: JBH at XD 982688 made contact with approx 25 NVA. JBH knocked out 3 MG bunkers and 1 60mm position. JBH also captured documents, small arms rounds and RPG rounds. 3 NVA KIA(C) and 14 USMC WIA.	FS R
2225	39		041800H	SptRpt: JBG at XD 979688 encountered an NVA MG position with bunkers. JBG elements maneuvered and threw grenades into the bunkers blowing NVA helmets and gear out of the bunkers. 1 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA and 2 NVA KIA(C).	FSR
2315	40		042300H	SITREP # 12	FR

2d Battalion, 26th Marines

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IN.	OUT	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	0401	41	050001H	JB changed callsign to SNUB NOSE.	FTR
	0550	42	050430H	SITREP # 13.	FR
	1035	43	050730H	SptRpt: SN "W" FO observed an enemy bunker and a truck at XD 99586970. Arty mission was fired resulting in 3 secondary explosions.	FSR
	1055	44	051030H	SptRpt: AO reports the underwater bridge at XD 994704 has been repaired. AO requested TPQ.	FSR
	1100	45	051030H	SITREP # 14.	FR
	1432	46	051410H	SptRpt: SN G & H seized their objectives.	FR
	1649	47	051630H	SITREP # 15.	FR
	1855	48	051630H	SptRpt: SNH at XD 955698 reports a helicopter received automatic weapons fire from XD 985688 while extracting medevacs. Arty and organic weapons were fired on enemy coordinates with unknown results.	FSR
	1903	49	051745H	SptRpt: SNH received 6 to 8 rds of 130mm at XD 958698. Counter-artillery was fired on XD 984704; SNH FO reported having 3 secondary explosions.	FSR
	1910	50	051830H	HM to SN: Boundary Change.	FST
	2100	51	052045H	SptRpt: SNG moved back up their objective at XD 979688 with no enemy resistance. Found mortar pits and bunkers with much blood in them.	FSR

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IN.	OUT.	SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	2310	52	052300H	SITREP # 16	FR
	0435	53	060430H	SITREP # 17	FR
	0844	54	060740H	SptRpt: AO was fired on by automatic weapons from XD 988690. No damage to AO. Continuing to observe area.	FSR
	0940	55	060900H	SptRpt: AO spotted comm wire crossing the Big Blue at XD 958698 to XD 988699. Attempting to cut line with arty missions	FSR
	0940	56	060908H	SptRpt: AO observed 2 fording dikes at XD 994703. Dikes had bomb craters at either end, but are still possible. Fixed wing requested.	FSR
	1107	57	061100H	SITREP # 18	FR
	1220	58	061140H	SptRpt: Sn F and H heard enemy arty firing from approx XD 982704 and XD 025738. Arty mission conducted resulting in 2 secondary explosions.	FSR
	1249	59	061245H	SptRpt: Sn H found 150 rounds of 152mm at XD 985686. Awaiting further instructions of HM.	FSR
	1445	60	061430H	SptRpt: Observed active enemy arty at XD 987704. Requesting arty and air.	FSR
	1512	61	061500H	SptRpt: AO and Sn H spotted active arty at XD 985704. Arty and fixed wing requested.	FSR

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IN.	OUT	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	1630	62	061540H	SPTREP: AO reports sighting probable ammo-fuel storage area, revetment, possible truck park, and well used trails at XD 997706. Requesting arty and air.	
	1715	63	061600H	SITREP # 19	FR
	1720	64	061650H	SN3 to HM3: SPECIAL SITREP	FR
	1836	65	061530H	SptRpt: SNE found 1 demolished half track at XD 987687 which had been destroyed by arty or air.	FR
	1845	66	061330H	Intelligence Summary	FR
	1945	67	061812H	SptRpt: SN lines heard em fire 3 rds of suspected 75 mm from XD 001719. F/w being directed.	FR
	2140	68	062045H	SptRpt: While firing prep fires for SNE the FO believes he observed 30 to 35 secondary explosions at XD 991692. Will H & I.	FR
	2305	69	062300H	SITREP # 20	FR
	0435	70	070430H	SITREP # 21	FR
	0935	71	070840H	SptRpt: Lead elements of SNE at XD 989688 report intersection of Route # 5 which is larger and more heavily traveled. Will be checked.	FR

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	0940	72	070915H	SptRpt: SNE at XD 984685 observed an air burst or flack exploding in vicinity of an A.O. at an AZ of 0330 Mils and an undetermined range. Arranging for a flack suppression program.	FSR
	1055	73	070900H	SptRpt: A.O. observed what appeared to be an oil slick on the Ben Hai at XD 994704. Oil slick believed to be ruptured enemy fuel drums, as a result of fixed wing being run on bridges and dikes in the area.	FSR
	1102	74	070815H	SptRpt: A.O. reports arty destroyed camouflage at XD 995695 revealing many enemy bunkers. Fixed wing and arty missions will continue.	FSR
	1232	75	071145H	SptRpt: An A.O. observed tracks of a track vehicle on a bridge that was bombed yesterday by fixed wing at XD 994704. Additional fixed wing has been requested.	FSR
	1245	76	071430H	SITREP # 22	FR
	1346	77	071200H	SptRpt: A.O. observed a new trail that appears to be heavily used at from YD 010685 to YU 015692. Continueing to observe.	FSR
	1413	78	071345H	SptRpt: SNE received 12 82mm rounds from XD 997687. Arty and air will be directed.	FSR

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	1500	79	071422H	SptRpt: SNH received 37 rds of heavy caliber incoming from XD 984694 and XD 985740. Fixed wing requested.	FSR
	1645	80	071620H	SPtRpt: SNE reported receiving 82mm incoming from XD 997688. 2 U.S.M.C. WIA (minor). Arty mission requested.	FSR
	1705	81	071700H	SITREP # 23	FR
	1737	82	071415H	SptRpt: SNE while moving on turnpike at XD 985686 incurred 4 USMC WIA by a command detonated device. The explosion was accompanied by a large orange flash. Received 130mm incoming at the same time from XD 984702. Withdrew and directed arty msn on enemy positions.	FSR
	2230	83	072030H	SN3 to HM3: MSG. stating LZ completed.	FR
	2330	84	071700H	SptRpt: SNH observed 60mm fire from XD 994688. Arty being directed.	FSR
	2330	85	072300H	SITREP # 24.	FR
	0005	86	071710H	SptRpt: SNH at XD 988689 found a Soviet made, 6 cylinder, diesel, full track prime mover, hit by a 105 round in the engine. Part of the vehicle was burned. Winch on front bumper like 6x6. Rear had coupling device for pulling arty piece or something of that nature.	FSR

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IN.	OUT.	SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	0015	87	071716H	SptRpt: SMI discovered 85mm gun pits at XD 988688. Also found ammo bunkers with 40 rounds of 85mm. Pits well camouflaged. Will destroy.	FSR
	0430	88	080430H	SITREP # 25	FR
0912	89	060025H		HM3 to SN3: Ordnance man coming to LZ DUSTY to check 152mm rounds and organize extraction.	FS
0921	90	080830H		SptRpt: SN FO's located an active enemy mortar at XD 998693. 81mm being directed.	FSR
0940	91	080910H		SptRpt: SN FO heard artillery rounds being fired during a friendly arty mission. Fire requested on possible enemy grid XD 991706.	FSR
1055	92	081025H		SptRpt: An AO observed 200 to 300 meters of trench line and covered bunkers at XD 988693. Fixed wing was run. 3 NVA confirmed KIA.	FSR
1122	93	081110H		SptRpt: 3 enemy rounds of suspected 75mm were fired from XD 988693. Fixed wing was run resulting in the destruction of 3 bunkers and 1 truck revetment. 1 NVA - KIA.	FSR
1126	94	081115H		SNE observed several NVA in the open at XD 990693. Fixed wing requested. Arty mission called.	FSR

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	1147	95	081150H	SETREP # 26	FR
	1215	96	081200H	SptRpt: SNE received 6 rounds of 60mm from vicinity of XD 998697. Arty support requested.	FSR
	1350	97	081255H	SptRpt: SN reports that several rounds impacted at XD 977670. Rounds suspected to be mortar. No action taken.	FSR
	1400	98	081255H	Intelligence Summary.	FSR
	1624	99	081430H	SptRpt: SNH made contact with enemy elements from XD 986690 to XD 988689. Left flank of SNE also made contact. Arty mission being directed at this time.	FSR
	1641	100	081700H	SITREP # 27	FR
	1900	101	081825H	SptRpt: Enemy fired approximately 10 rounds of unknown large caliber arty from vicinity of YD 016718. AO spotted tube and is adjusting arty mission.	FSR
	1920	102	081800H	SptRpt: SNH made contact with enemy elements defending a hill at XD 988689, from 081400 to 081730H. Results of the contact were: 2 USMC KIA, 11 USMC WIA, 17 NVA KIA (c), SNH also observed numerous bodies being drug away. NVA equipment captured included: 7.62 gear, 2 AK47, and 2 AK50. Far	

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	2105	103	081725H	SptRpt: At XD 990689 an AO observed 8 to 10 freshly built 5 X 8 bunkers which stretched for 100 to 150 meters. Were destroyed by air.	FSR
	2250	104	082010H	SN2 to HM2: INTSUM	FR
	2340	105	081530H	SptRpt: At 081130 SNE made contact with enemy elements at XD 987688. Results of contact were as follows: 1 USMC KIA, 17 USMC WIA	FSR
	2345	106	082300H	SITREP # 28	FR
	0433	107	090430H	SITREP # 29	FR
	0815	108	090800H	SptRpt: Under the cover of friendly arty, NVA at XD 993705 were firing a 105 RR in the vicinity of SN. AO now on station.	FSR
	0932	109	090730H	SptRpt: SNH heard movement 75 meters north of lines at XD 989688, sent squad to investigate and spotted 1 NVA. NVA was taken under fire, but escaped. One of the rounds fired at NVA struck a Marine on line watch, medivaced. Investigation initiated.	FSR
	0942	110	090916H	SptRpt: Several rounds of 102mm RR were fired at SN units from suspected grid of XD 993705. AO keeping the area under surveillance.	FSR
	1028	111	090900H	SN2 to HM2: INTSUM	FR

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1445	112	091204H	SptRpt: An AO observed enemy bunkers complex with comm wire leading to river at XD 984694. Wing fired on bunkers.	FSR	
1740	113	091700H	SptRpt: SNH reports that enemy vehicle engines can be heard in the vicinity 990693. AO and arty requested subsequent fire mission resulting in one secondary.	FSR	
1815	114	091730H	SITREP # 30	FR	
1815	115	091740H	SptRpt: SNG at XD 981687 found ^{two} very fresh NVA bunkers, 1 bunker was used for ammo storage, also found was a 82mm pot with 682mm rds/fuses.	FSR	
2215	116	092045H	SptRpt: F1 heard vehicle noises at XD 977704, noises appeared to be moving toward the river. Arty mission being arranged.	FSR	
2300	117	092300H	SITREP # 31	FR	
0438	118	100430H	SITREP # 32	FR	
0745	119	100630H	SptRpt: All SN elements heard the sounds of more than one vehicle in the vicinity of XD 995688, 995673, and YD 000695. Unable to establish vehicle positions due to hill masses. Requested AO this had normal effect of shutting off vehicle.	FSR	

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	0830	120	100815H	SptRpt: SNH reports that occasionally can still be heard in the vicinity of XD 995687. Will run fixed wing.	FSR
	0900	121	100834H	SptRpt: An AO spotted four bunkers in vic. of XD 988691 Bunkers were all destroyed by fixed wing.	FSR
	1005	122	00925H	SN reports that the enemy dead from contact on 8 Oct. at XD 987689 were left at the scene of the fire fight. 11 more NVA bodies and a 30 cal MG were found.	FSR
	1025	123	100915H	SptRpt: Fixed wing ran strikes on enemy bunker complex at XD 995696. 1 secondary explosion observed.	FSR
	1140	124	101130H	SITREP # 33	FSR
	1322	125	101300H	SptRpt: AO directed wing strikes on NVA at XD 996694 to XD 995697.	FSR
	1545	126	101530H	SptRpt An AO spotted a bunker complex at XD 997704. AO ran a flight of fixed wing damaging bunkers.	FSR
	1720	127	101600H	SN2 to HM2: captured weapons and documents ready for evacuation.	FR
	1740	128	101605H	SptRpt: SN2 found a vehicle parked and run into the side of a hill at 992693. SN2 also found 4 empty drums of diesel fuel with no markings.	FSR

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IN.	OUT	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	1715	129	101605H	SptRpt: SNG found 4 2 mortar pits, 1 A frame bunker, a 50 cal position and 8 spent rounds at XD 994695. Destroyed positions.	FSR
	1700	130	101700H	SITREP # 34	FSR
	2319	131	102300H	SITREP # 35	FSR
	0435	132	110430H	SITREP # 36.	FSR
	0948	133	110905H	SptRpt: An AO controlling fixed wing and a daisy cutter mission uncovered 8 bunkers at XD 997708.	FSR
	0950	134	110925H	SptRpt: SNG discovered 38 152mm with cannisters and charges at XD 993693. Rounds were in bunkers and well camouflaged.	FSR
	1225	135	111015H	SptRpt: SNG found an additional 40 152mm rounds at XD 994694.	FSR
	1230	136	111130H	SITREP # 37	FR
	1745	137	111700H	SITREP # 38	FR
	1750	138	111710H	SptRpt: SNG observed 4 enemy arty rds of unknown caliber impact in vic of XD 0068. Rounds came from an unknown direction N of the Blue Line.	FSR
	2310	139	112300H	SITREP # 39	FR
	0430	140	120430H	SITREP # 40	FR
	1115	141	121100H	SITREP # 41	FR

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IN.	OUT.	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	1725	142	121700H	SITREP # 42	FR
	2150	143	121534H	SptRpt: SNF found a destroyed amphibious tractor at XD 997698. 12 cylinder diesel engine with a winch on the rear.	FSR
	2310	144	122300H	SITREP # 43	FR
	0438	145	130430H	SITREP # 44	FR
	1115	146	131100H	SITREP # 45	FR
	1705	147	131700H	SITREP # 46	FR
	2145	148	131300H	SptRpt: SNF found a trail running E to SE from XD 999697 to YD 003694. At YD 002695 they found 5 reinforced bunkers. Bunkers were destroyed.	FSR
	2305	149	132300H	SITREP # 47	FR
	0435	150	140430H	SITREP # 48	FR
	0930	151	131730H	Spt Rpt: While walking in column, a Marine from SNF was struck in the left leg by some type of NVA booby-trap at XD 981689. Appeared to be a gunshot wound although no firing device could be located. Check of weapon revealed no accidental discharge. 1 USMC WIA (Medevaced).	FSR
	1130	152	141130H	SITREP # 49	FR

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IN.	OUT.	SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	1215	153	1411150H	SptRpt: SNF at XD 996696 heard vehicle noise 4 to 5 thousand meters at 1600 mils from their position. Were unable to determine approx location.	FSR
	1710	154	141700H	SITREP # 50	FR
	2305	155	142300H	SITREP # 51	FR
	0435	156	150430H	SITREP # 52	FR
	1135	157	151130H	SITREP # 53	FR
	1320	158	151130H	SptRpt: SN elements found 3 bags of 152mm increments, a trail complex, 14 bunkers, 19 RPG rds, 13 82mm mortar rds, 400 rds AK47 ammo, 6 NVA gas masks, 1 canteen and 4 grenades at XD 976681. Destroyed with demo.	FSR
	1705	159	151700H	SITREP # 54	FR
	2305	160	152300H	SITREP # 55	FR
0500 0001	161 161A	160430H 250001H		SITREP # 56 SNUB NOSE (BLT 2/26) CALL SIGN CHANGED TO WONDER WHY.	FR EST
	0905	162	250900H	"A" Command Group departed LPH-5 at 250825H for Cordon & Search Operations (OPERATION EAGER HUNTER) IN THE A.O.A. PRESCRIBED BY CTG 79.4. Arrived 250835H.	FSR
	0920	163	250915H	SptRpt: WME received small arms fire from BT 083639. Arty mission was conducted with good target coverage but unknown results.	FSR
	0925	164	250915H	SptRpt: (Followup) to Journal # 163: A.O. directed Huey gunships with good coverage of target. Enemy fire ceased.	FSR

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	0935	165	250930H	SITREP # 1B	FR
	0940	166	250930H	SptRpt: WWH2 found 1 metal AP mine at BT 112650. Believe an AT mine was emplaced beneath due to size of explosion and size of crater. H2 also found 1-18 in. concrete AT mine and 1 large metal AT mine weighing about 50 lbs at BT 108653. Mines were blown in place.	FSR
	1055	167	251050H	SptRpt: An A.O. working with WVE directed Fixed Wing on 15 VC at BT 078629. Direct hits with 250 lb. bombs prevented accurate body count. 1 VC KIA.	FSR
	1135	168	251130H	SITREP # 2B	FR
	1200	169	251155H	SptRpt: WVE detained 5 adults, 1 teenager and 2 babies at BT 095657. 2 of the adults had no ID cards, all were female, all were detained.	FSR
	1230	170	251225H	SptRpt: W WG detained 8 people, 5 adult and 3 children all female. ITT interrogated and later released them. They were picked up at BT 096656.	FSR
	1240	171	251230H	SptRpt: WG found a buried concrete mine at BT 096656. Sample of explosive taken; mine blown in place.	FSR
	1325	172	251300H	SptRpt: Engineer team found a small AP mine at BT 109659. Blew in place.	FSR
	1340	173	251300H	SptRpt: WG detained 1 female VC at BT 095654. She was found to be listed on the CIT 3d & 5th Black List. She had 9,275.20 \$ VN on her person.	FSR

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IN.	OUT.	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1600	174		251530H	WW officially CHOPPED to PH at 251530H. (BLT 2/26 to 1st Marines)	FS
1655	175		251650H	SptRpt: WME2 discovered two booby traps approx 2 ft long, 2 ft wide and 10 inches deep at BT 099646. Black powder filler. Blown in place.	FSR
1705	176		251700H	SptRpt: WME at BT 091649 received two rounds suspected carbine fire from BT 093654. Arty mission fired with unknown results.	FSR
1740	177		251730H	SITREP # 3B	FR
1825	178		251800H	WW2 to PH2: INTSUM	FR
1850	179		251845H	SptRpt: WWF found a booby trap and a 105mm dud at BT 089657. Both were blown in place.	FSR
2315	180		252300H	SITREP # 4B	FR
0540	181		260530H	SITREP # 5B	FR
0755	182		260745H	SptRpt: WME patrol at BT 092644 received about 20 rds sniper fire from a treeline at BT 092643. Small arms fire, M-79 and 81mm mortars were returned. AO directed Fixed Wing with unknown results.	FSR
0955	183		260935H	SptRpt: WWH3 found two bunkers at BT 100657. Bunkers were very well built but appeared unused for a long period of time. Bunkers destroyed.	FSR

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IN.	OUT.	SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1040	184	261030H		SptRpt: WWH3 found 75 sheets of handwritten documents, mass gear, parts of NVA grenades and 3 sets of NVA uniforms at BT 097656. Documents and other gear turned in to S-2; grenade parts were blown in place.	FSR
1150	185	261130H		SITREP # 6B	FR
1200	186	261020H		SptRpt: WWF3 at BT 089653 received sniper fire from BT 082652. Were unable to return fire due to the number of civilians in the area.	FSR
1530	187	260930H		SptRpt: WWF3 was approached by 3 female adults carrying a fourth and 2 male children at BT 089653. The woman being carried was wounded in the right foot (gunshot). One of the women had no I.D. card; name furnished was on the ITT Black List. ITT released the others without authorization from WW3 or WW2. 1 female detainee forwarded to PH CP.	FSR
1600	188	261530H		SptRpt: WWF3 found a tunnel which had been previously booby trapped; booby trap had been removed. A 55 gal. drum of rice was also found. Find was located at BT 092658. Rice was scattered over a large area as a denial measure.	FSR
2120	189	261930H		SptRpt: WWF LP1 at BT 089658 spotted a stationary, red light at BT 084659. Fired 10 rds M-79 on light and adjacent area with unknown results.	FSR

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IN.	OUT	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	2310	190	262300H	SITREP # 8B	FR
	2355	191	262345H	SptRpt: A WME LP at BT 091647 was taken under fire by an unknown size enemy force at these coordinates. Fire was returned and an 81mm mission was directed with unknown results. 2 USMC WIA (minor).	FSR
0800	0555	192	270530H	SITREP # 8B	FR
	192A		270800H	WW HELI LIFT T. PHONG HO (BT 072623) INITIATED.	FA
	0930	193	270900H	SptRpt: WWG halio team in the air at BT 103660 received small arms fire from an unknown location. 1 st WIA (minor).	FSR
	1030	194	271020H	SptRpt: WME found 9 bunkers lined with brick at BT 072623. Bunkers appeared not to have been lived in for some time. Destroyed with demolitions.	FSR
	1140	195	271130H	SITREP # 9B	FR
	1200	196	271022H	SptRpt: WME found 7 bunkers lined with brick at BT 074633. Bunkers were living type with room for 3 men. Destroyed with demolitions.	FSR
	1210	197	271022H	SptRpt: Elements of WME found 2 living bunkers lined with brick at BT 070623. Destroyed with demolitions.	FSR
	1227	198	271020H	SptRpt: Elements of WME found 3 living bunkers lined with brick apparently unoccupied for a long time at BT 039664. Destroyed with demolitions.	FSR
	1437	199	271245H	SptRpt: Elements of WME found 150 lbs of rice in two bags and a large metal container at BT 068628. Rice was destroyed.	FSR

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IN.	OUT.	SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	1745	200	271700H	SITREP # 10B	FR
	1749	201	271725H	SptRpt: WNG found an enemy booby trap at BT 068676. Device used a M-79 round and a nail as a firing pin setting on top of a 25 lb box mine. Mine was blown in place.	FSR
	1900	202	271600H	SptRpt: WNG found an enemy sign at BT 070625 indicating dangerous mines and booby traps in the entire area.	FSR
	2140	203	271800H	SptRpt: WNG at BT 068625 found 2 booby trapped M-26 grenades. Pins were pulled and grenades placed in fruit cans with trip wire. Blew in place. A 25 lb box mine was found in the same vicinity. Pressure release device on mine was accidentally released detonating mine which resulted in 2 USMC WIA (Medevaced).	FSR
	2200	204	271500H	SptRpt: 1 40-50 yr old VN male and 1 40-50 yr old VN female were killed when WNG after shouting a warning to stop running twice and firing warning rounds fired on them. Incident took place at BT 065628. 1 other VN male was wounded in the same encounter; WIA was medevaced with his wife who was not injured. Ville being searched had 21 males, 4 females and 3 children. 1 female was detained.	FSR

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IN.	OUT.	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	2217	205	271220H	SptRpt: WH2 found and searched 1 bunker and 3 straw hooches at BT 072625. Search revealed 3 bags of flour 10 lbs each, 135 lbs of rice and assorted clothing and small articles. Destroyed in place.	FSR
	2226	206	271600H	SptRpt: WME found 3 sets of fresh footprints leading to a river at BT 058625. River bank had marks left by a beached boat.	FSR
	2230	207	270600H	SptRpt (Final): WME found a bunker complex and 2 huts which appears to be a rest area/mine factory at BT 058625. 150 lbs of rice, assorted small booby traps and XXX supplies. Destroyed in place.	FSR
	2235	208	271500H	SptRpt: WH found 1 to 3 tons of rice hidden in vases and stone containers made up to look like grave sites. 3 individual M-26 grenades were employed as booby traps and 1 M-26 was hooked up with a 105mm rd. 4 toe poppers were also found in the area at BT 065628. Booby traps and rice destroyed.	FSR
	2240	209	271630H	SptRpt: WG1 found 6 bunkers at BT 071620. 5 of the bunkers were surrounded by spider holes. Bunkers and holes destroyed. Bunkers had tin roofs and were lined with brick and had concrete floors.	FSR
	2310	210	272300H	SITREP # 11B	FR

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IN.	OUT	SER #.	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	0348	211	280110H	SptRpt: WWF at BT 065625 received a total of 20 incoming 82mm mortar rds from BT 074632 resulting in 5 USMC KIA & 15 USMC WIA (Medevaced). Counter-mortar fires were conducted and SPOOKIE was brought on station and directed with unknown results.	FSR
	0535	212	280530H	SITREP # 12B	FR
1900	1030	213	281010H	SptRpt: WME found a Bouncing Betty mine at BT 059628. Blew in place.	FSR
	213A		281200H	WW HELILIFT TO TRALO (BT 086682) WAS INITIATED.	FR
	1220	214	281130H	SITREP # 13B	FR
	1230	215	280930H	SptRpt: WWF has collected 94 civilians at BT 066628. Middle aged women & children. About 90% have I.D. cards. One 6 yr old child left a WWF element to a small cache of rice. Child will be rewarded.	FSR
	1250	216	281230H	SptRpt: WWH has 500 lbs of rice to be evacuated at LZ DEFEND. 1000 lbs of untransportable rice was destroyed.	FSR
	1400	217	281010H	SptRpt: WWF at BT 066628 found 900 lbs of unhusked rice in urns. Rice transported to DEFEND LZ.	FSR
	1440	218	281430H	SptRpt: WNG found a sign warning of mines at BT 070625. Checked w/neg results	FSR
	1730	219	281730H	SITREP # 14B	FR
	2330	220	282300H	SITREP # 15B	FR

2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN.	OUT	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	0535	221	290500H	SITREP # 16B	FR
	0840	222	281400H	SptRpt: WWH found 2 enemy 1½ lb mines at BT 065629. Mines blown in place.	FSR
	1050	223	291030H	SptRpt: WWH encountered 1 VN male at BT 087679. Individual had no I.D. card; sent to ITT at SF CP for interrogation. 1 Detainee.	FSR
	1115	224	291030H	SptRpt: WWH-6 set off pressure type mine X# in vic of BT 087679. 2 USMC WIA (Medevaced).	FSR
	1130	225	290830H	SptRpt: A mine was set off by WWH at BT 080690. 1 USMC KIA, 1 USMC WIA. 105mm rd was found in vic; explosives missing.	FSR
	1215	226	291130H	SptRpt: A Marine from WWH detonated a small booby trap at BT 065690 bruising left leg. 1 USMC WIA (minor).	FSR
	1229	227	291130H	SITREP # 17B	FR
	1308	228	291040H	SptRpt: WWH encountered 2 VN males 40 & 42 yrs of age riding bicycles on RT 538 at BT 093677. CIT determined that one of the men was on the Black List. 2 Detainees delivered to ITT at SF position. 2 bicycles captured.	FSR
	1815	229	291000H	SptRpt: WWH found 7 bomb shelters lined with brick at BT 076682, medical supplies at BT 075681, 4 detainees at BT 074683, Red flag with gold hammer and sickle and several documents resembling unit diaries at BT 076682.	

Bunkers were blown, medical supplies given to ARVN's, detainees to WWH position along with flag and documents.

FSR

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JOURNAL

IN.	OUT.	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	1820	230	291730H	SITREP # 18B	FR
	1910	231	291515H	SptRpt: WNG during cordon of Tra Khe II at BT 067683, detained 18 VN 6 of whom appear on the Black List. Detainees delivered to SF IIT.	FSR
	2032	232	291030H	SptRpt: WNG found 2 M-26 & 1 60mm booby traps at BT 084688. Blown in place.	FSR
	2045	233	291100H	SptRpt: WNG found 2 teenaged VN males who had been killed by shrapnel at BT 084687. WNG had not fired Arty or Mortars in that area. Bodies were left at that position.	FSR
	2341	234	292300H	SITREP # 19B	FR
	0550	235	300530H	SITREP # 20 B	FR
	1132	236	301130H	SITREP # 21B	FR
	1340	237	301240H	SptRpt: A Marine with WNG at BT 080690 set off a M-26 booby trap. 1 USMC WIA (Medevaced).	FSR
	1820	238	301730H	SITREP # 22B	FR
	1838	239	301700H	SptRpt: WNG found 1 RPG round with blood on it at BT 091672 in the open. Blown in place.	FSR
0800	2345	240	302300H 310800H	SITREP # 23B J.W. ELEMENTS WERE HELICOPTERED TO VIC. OF NAM KHE SON (BT 073707) TO CONDUCT A SEARCH & COORDON OF THAT VILLAGE	FR
	1145	241	311100H	SptRpt: PF's searching village at BT 072707 apprehended the father of a known VC, who states son with 11 other VC located in caves & tunnels at BT 065711. WNG to attack and conduct search.	FSR

2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN.	OUT.	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
1220	242	311135H		SptRpt: Ref. Journal # 241. Father of VC at BT 072707 volunteered to lead 1 Plt from WVE & PF's to a cache located at AN TRA I.	FSR
1240	243	311030H		SptRpt: WVG found a cave containing 1 male skeleton (wrapped in plastic) and 1 can of VC/NVA 7.62mm ammo at BT 076704. Skeleton at least 6 months old.	FSR
1259	244	311235H		SptRpt: WWH2 at BT 077696 received 2 rounds of sniper fire. No casualties. Rounds came from an unknown range and direction. No action taken.	FS
1300	245	311155H		SptRpt: CIT & ITT with security screened 122 VN at BT 073707 detaining 1 male VN with large amount of P's and 1 16 yr old VN male who is a suspected guide for VC/NVA. 3 VN women whose names appear on Black List were also detained.	FSR
1420	246	311200H		SITREP # 24B	FR
1430	247	311415H		SptRpt: WVE found 1 "Toe Popper" booby trap in brush (not set in) at BT 071704. Blown in place.	FSR
1600	248	311530H		SptRpt: PFF, CIT & ITT swept area from BT 075707 to BT 077708 picking up 62 males and 262 women & children. Screening presently being conducted.	FSR
1700	249	311445H		MSG from PH requires WW submit SITREPs with significant events instead of SPOT REPORTS. SITREP due at 4 hour intervals. OPSUM required at end of mission only.	FS

2d Battalion, 26th Marines

JOURNAL

IN.	OUT	SER #	DTG	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES & ORDERS	ACTION
	1735	250	311600H	SptRpt: WWF found a cave well camouflaged with natural vegetation and a natural fighting hole at BT 065711. Destroyed with demolitions.	FSR
	1740	251	311530H	SptRpt: WWF stopped a small boat with 1 VN male and 3 VN females at BT 065708. 2 reels of tape or film and bloody cloths in boat. I.D.'s valid. VNs released, tape confiscated.	FSR
	1835	252	311030H	SptRpt: WWG found 2 M-30 arming devices behind hootch in a village at BT 076709. Removed to a safe area and destroyed with demolition.	FS
	1950	253	311600H	SITREP # 25B includes: Visit to WW CP by DEFEND 6, 3 and 2. Also had PANAMA HAT 6 and SAILFISH 6 visit. Negative results on search for weapons cache (Ref: Journal # 242) and negative results on search for 12 VC reported in Journal # 241.	FR
	2000	254	312000H	SITREP # 26B includes no significant events.	FR
	0026	255	312400H	SITREP # 27B includes: During the day a total of 516 VN civilians were screened by CITT/ITT units resulting in 2 detainees; 1 self-admitted VC and 1 VN civilian who initially pointed out the other and who had 30,000 Piastres on his person. Refer to Journal # 245. Also detained were the previously reported 3 VN women who were on the Black List.	FR

BT 00239-68

150520

P.M. 12235

HEADQUARTERS
 Battalion Landing Team 2/26
 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF
 FMS San Francisco, 94602

3480

BU MARU IV SEC 11B
 0 JDL/nav
 5 November, 1968
 BT# 635568 Serial No. 00182068

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, Ninth Marines.

Subj: Combat After Action Report (Operation LANCASTER II TROUSDALE NORTH)

Ref: (a) Ninth Marine Frag 92-68

Enclo: ✓ (1) Operation Overlay, (Operation LANCASTER II TROUSDALE NORTH)

1. Name and Type of Operation. Operation LANCASTER II TROUSDALE NORTH; a multi-Battalion Search and Destroy Operation.

2. Inclusive Dates and Location. The Operation was conducted in the LANCASTER II Area of Operations during the period 16 September to 1 October.

3. Command Headquarters. Location of the BMT Command Headquarters was LZ MARGO and vicinity (XD 901611).

4. Task Organisation. The following elements of BMT 2/26 were employed during this operation:

BMT 2/26

LtCol SPARKS

2nd Bn, 26th Marines

LtCol SPARKS

H&S Co (-)
 Co E
 Co F
 Co G
 Co H
 81mm Mortar Plt.
 Btry B, 1st Bn, 13th Marines
 2nd Plt, Co C, 3rd Magr Bn
 1st Plt, Co A, 5th Recon Bn
 Det, 2nd Plt(Rein), H&S Co, 3rd AP Bn

16-28 Sept.	1stLt HARRINGTON
28-01 Oct.	Capt GREEN
	Capt HABERMAN
	1stLt RYAN
	1stLt RYAN
	1stLt GREEN
	Capt FRANZEN
	1stLt ASHROFT
	1stLt MCDONALD
	1stLt O'NEILL

5. Supporting Forces. Artillery Support for the Operation was provided by 2nd Bn, 12th Marines.

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TAB-B

6. Mission. The mission assigned to the BLT 2/26(-) was to attack north in the Area of Operations, search out enemy locations, kill or capture the enemy, and capture or destroy his equipment and supplies. BLT 2/26(-) was also eventually ordered to seize Task Force Hotel Objectives 1 and 2.

7. Concept of Operation. On D-Day, following completion of scheduled ARCLIGHTS, BLT 2/26 attacked on a Northerly Axis in the assigned area of operations while 1st Bn, 4th Marines and 1st Bn, 9th Marines conducted simultaneous Heliborne assaults into the DMZ on the south bank of the Ben Hai River and attacked in a southerly direction.

8. Execution. At 160000H BLT 2/26 was placed under the Operational Control of 9th Marines and was given an order to withdraw to the south of grid line XD 62 from previously secured positions in order to provide a safety margin for ARCLIGHTS that were conducted prior to the insertion of 1st Bn, 4th Marines and 1st Bn, 9th Marines. BLT 2/26 withdrew south to positions around vicinity of LZ MARGO (XD 901614). Company E and Company H had just returned to the BLT perimeter and began preparing positions when a heavy volume of 82mm mortar fire (approximately 158 rds.) was directed upon the BLT position. Counter-mortar and artillery missions were fired. At 1900H, a second barrage of 82mm was received on the positions. On this occasion 64 rounds were received. At 2030H movement was detected to the east of the position and "multi-engine" gun aircraft" was directed on the area along with firing of appropriate defensive fires. This aircraft and relief aircraft were utilized throughout the night in an attempt to prevent enemy movement on the reverse slopes of the high ground that dominated the BLT position in LZ MARGO. The total casualties received as a result of enemy mortar fire on this date were 21 KIAs and 135 WIAs.

On 17 September the BLT again received incoming 82mm Mortar fire on two occasions. A total of 130 rds. were received. Numerous patrols were conducted to deny close observation of the BLT's exact deployment. Additionally, after the last ARCLIGHT on 17 September, the BLT(-) was authorized to leave its positions in rear of the 62 grid line. Total casualties on 17 September as a result of enemy mortar fires were 1 KIA and 16 WIA's. At this time Company E was considered to be non-effective.

On 18 September, Co F and Co G continued the movement northward that had started late on 17 September toward positions that had been ordered vacated on 15 September. The BLT CP and Cos E and H moved to XD 899617. At 1350H, Co G made the first contact at close range with a small sized enemy unit at XD 897627, after which the enemy immediately broke contact. At 1730H, Co G found an area at XD 896627 where the enemy had recently evacuated wounded and changed battle dressings. The blood and battle dressings were fresh; evidence pointing toward enemy casualties sustained the same day from either Co G's brief contact or supporting artillery fires in the area. At 2100H a Co G listening post at XD 897626 fired on 3-4 NVA at a distance of approximately 20 meters and withdrew to the perimeter. 3 Chi-Com grenades were thrown by the enemy shortly thereafter and Co G fired small arms and threw frag grenades in return. No casualties were sustained by Company G.

At 0745H on the 19th, Co F observed and fired on 2 NVA from a distance of 200 meters, with no casualties sustained by either side. At 0830H, Co F found

a bunker complex totaling 25 bunkers at XD 098632. At 1730H, Co F observed and fired upon 3 NVA at a distance of approximately 100 meters with unknown results. At 1900H, Co F received approximately 3 rounds of friendly artillery which resulted in 2 USMC KIA and 14 USMC WIA.

At 0600H on 20 September, Co G directed artillery fire on XD 892639 prior to continuing the northward movement. Eleven secondaries resulted from these fires. At 0900H, Co F fired on 5-10 NVA at XD 901639 at a distance of 100 meters. Two NVA KIA's, 2 AK-47s and one carbine were found. At 1630H, Co G discovered a company sized bunker complex and two mortar pits at XD 897639. At 1645H, Co G received automatic weapons fire at XD 891638 from NVA bunkered positions. Two Marines were wounded in the engagement. At 1830H, Co F found two large bunker complexes at XD 891635 and XD 891651 (TFH Obj. 2). Copious blood trails were also found in the area. Co F at XD 897640 and Co G at XD 891651 held positions during the night. Other elements of BLT 2/26 in the field remained in the vicinity of XD 899617.

At 1425H on 21 September, Co H found 23 bunkers and 500 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition at XD 908633. At 1600H, Co G uncovered an ammunition cache at XD 891636 consisting of 11,475 .50 cal rounds, 705 82mm mortar rounds, 60 RPG rounds, 320 AT Mines, and 10 cases of TNT. At 1645H, Co G came under automatic weapons and RPG fire from an estimated NVA platoon as they reached the crest of hill 579 (TFH Obj. 1) at XD 892638. Contact was initiated by the NVA at close range. Co G returned fire with small arms and MG fire with an average distance of engagement of 15-20 meters. Co G then withdrew to permit use of artillery and 81mm mortar fires to be brought to bear on the enemy positions. Co G sustained 1 KIA and 4 WIA, while one enemy KIA was observed. At 1800H, Co G found a well used trail from XD 891635 to XD 891637. 17 bunkers and 30 fighting holes were also discovered and destroyed. Co F and Co G held night positions with no further contact.

On 22 September, Co H was moved northward to join Co F and Co G in attacking to the North. Co H remained behind to provide security for the BLT Cmd. Gp, the 81 mm mortar plt. and the LZ. At 1415H on 22 September, Co G found an extensive base camp at XD 890636. Facilities included 14 thatched huts, each with an adjoining bunker; a dispensary; a messing area; and what appeared to be a GP area. Four more bunkers were found at XD 892639. At 1600H, Co F found 30 bunkers at XD 898638. Cos F, G, and H held positions at nightfall.

On 23 September, Cos F, G, and H continued sweep in a northerly direction without meeting any resistance or finding any enemy installations. Co E moved and continued patrolling around the LZ MARGO area.

On 24 September, Co F was re-deployed to cover the BLT rear and to provide security for the BLT CP group at XD 899617. Co E moved westward to continue the search and destroy mission with Cos G and H.

At 1600H on 25 September, Co E found 3 heavy machine gun positions with adjoining bunkers at XD 890620. Companies E, G, and H held positions at night and continued the Search and Destroy mission with no significant contact until 28 September at which time BLT 2/26(-) assumed a posture awaiting helilift to a new operating area. Since the actual move was delayed until 01 October, the BLT adopted a vigorous program of patrolling during the interim period to deny the area to the enemy. Actual change of Operational Control from 9th to 3rd Marines occurred at 1100H on the 1st of October. The helilift was concluded without incident.

9. Results.

(a) The following materials were seized from the enemy.

I.W.C.	6
.30 cal	500 rounds
.50 cal	11,475 rounds
82mm Mortar	765 rounds
RPG	60 rounds
AT Mines	320
TNT	10 Cases

Also captured were small amounts of 782 gear, medicine, and documents.

(b) Both afternoon mortar attacks of 16 and 17 September were followed by infantry attacks that were quickly repulsed. Additional enemy movement, observed or heard, that was engaged with supporting arms, coupled with counter mortar fires are believed to have resulted in high enemy casualties. The terrain and vegetation precluded the finding of enemy bodies and attainment of any reasonably accurate body count.

10. Commander's Analysis.

(a) The operation unquestionably destroyed the enemy's capability to use the operating area as a monsoon base. It is felt, based upon a liberal use of supporting arms on enemy positions, that a large portion of one enemy battalion was destroyed.

(b) The ARCLIGHT safety factor, eg. 3000 meters that dictated return of the entire BLT (-) to the confining terrain of LZ MARGO was considered excessive and in retrospect was unwarranted. Only a few of the ARCLIGHT bombs could be seen impacting from LZ MARGO and the latter ARCLIGHTS could barely be heard. It appears that the accuracy of the ARCLIGHT was underestimated when the safety distance was established or the area destructive effects were overestimated. In any event, it is strongly recommended that safety margins not be inflexibly levied but, rather, that the potential dangers of the tactical situation be given weight. An additional factor that apparently received little consideration was that of terrain. The terrain could have been utilized to shield BLT (-) units from ARCLIGHT effects and the then deployed units could have controlled the area in a fashion that would have reduced the casualty-inflicting mortar attacks.

11. Lessons Learned. No new tactics or techniques were developed.

D. N. Clark

D. N. CLARK
By direction

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