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HEADQUARTERS  
 III Marine Amphibious Force  
 Military Assistance Command, Vietnam  
 c/o FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

2/ewk  
 3460  
 2 August 1966

## MEMORANDUM

From: Combat Intelligence Officer  
 To: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2  
 Subj: Captured Material, Operation HASTINGS

1. Based upon the record of dispatches available at this headquarters the following weapons, equipment, etc. were captured as a result of Operation HASTINGS:

Pistols	2
Rifles (Auto & Semi)	114
Machine Guns: Light/Heavy	14
50 cal.	5
12.7mm	2
AA Gun (Unident)	1
Mortars: 60mm/80mm, 1 ea	2
Rocket Launchers (40mm)	1
Recoilless Rockets (50mm)	1
Grenades	370
Ammo:	
(SA)	15,465 rds
(12.7)	12,665 rds
(Mortars) 12-82mm, 6-80mm, 5-60mm	23 rds
Explosives/Accessories:	
Explosives	327 lbs
Blasting Caps	1,037
Detonating Cord/Fuse	90 ft

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	Pressure Pole Fuses	88
	Ignition Cord Packets	4
Mines: Various types		65
Tools:	Shovels	21
	Picks	11
	Entrenching tools	28
	Machettes	268
	Mattocks	7
	Bush Knives	2
	Buck Saws	1
	Hand Drills	1
782 Gear:	Packs	294
	Map Cases	14
	Ruck Sacks	317
	Canteens	21
	Mosquito Nets	92
	Shelter Halves	435
	Ponches	20
	Hammocks	31
Clothing:	Uniforms	36
	Trousers	598
	Shirts	570
	Sweat Shirts	378
	Sandles, Ho Chi Min	297
	Various other items	24

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Medical Supplies:	Medical Bags	6
	First Aid Kits	2
	Dr. Medical Kit	1

Two other reports indicating numerous medical supplies, no further identification.

Food:	Rice	60 lbs
	Fish	60 lbs

Other Items: Misc: Including 9 Gas Masks, 50 Cook Pots, various weapons parts, etc.

2. These figures are in no way considered to be all inclusive. However, they are based upon those reports in which it was possible to identify the specific items. There were many reports that are considered poor and in which numbers and/or identification was lacking. For example, much rice, fish, numerous medical supplies, many weapons.

H. D. FRENCH

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C-2  
CHRONOLOGY  
HASTINGS

U.S. Marine Recon. Operation CAM LO DONG HA Area designated as Operation HASTINGS as of 071600 Units participating: Control Hq 1d Bn, 1st Mar Regt Companies, one Btry Reinf H/3/12 and one Recon Co.

081000H Vic 071449 2d Plt force Recon extracted had conducted 5 sqd patrols and 9 CPs.

140445Z 803d NVA Regt loc vic (YD063693) to (YD118372) with one Bn at (YD10545) 812th NVA Regt loc vic (YD023513). 812th confirmed with est strength 1,500.

140245Z 3d MAF Issued Intel Est of CAM LO Area.

140805Z Spt Rpt announced continuation of HASTINGS on an expanded scale-4th Mar Regt (Reinf).

140953Z Recon elements vic (YD038638) reported VC units infiltrating from the north. Est 6 groups composed of (10), (20), (15), (150), (30), and (10) persons. All groups stopped for rest vic (YD035635) then moved on. A large group seemed to be carrying heavy equipment.

151015Z K/3/4 discovered 57 cases 7.62, 183 rds 82mm Mort ammo at (YD037543)

151015Z 151310H 2/4 rptd discovered enemy emplacements at (YD069651) large enough to encompass 1 VC company. Position est at least 6 months old.

151315Z Force Recon team killed 13 of 55 armed VC and captured considerable equipment (YD082485). ARVN translation indicates 812th NVA Regt in area and 1 Bn (Poss 8th) of 803d NVA Regt loc (YD9658)-(YD9955)-(YD9761)-and (YD0058).

160622Z Interrogation of VCC captured by 3/4 (YD0364) indicates he was member of 1st Plt, C-3 Co, 7th Bn, 90th Regt, 37th Div.

180249Z Commanders CoK and CoB 3/4 rptd that either a battalion or regimental CP and hospital are loc vic (YD035639) believes VC had returned to recover ammo and med supplies.

180501Z Units Co H swept area and captured one MG vic (YD982578) and 500 rds ammo (YD992578) and assorted web gear at (YD992578). Discovered a company battalion size camp site w/numerous fighting holes, bomb shelters, tables, chairs and an alter vic (YD982582). Est last occupied 2 days ago.

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180845Z 181220H-K/3/4 rptd 25 fighting holes probable a Bn or Regt'l CP in vic (YD039646).

181750H K/3/4 moving out, bringing up rear of column was fired upon by mort. Fire was walked up column cutting it in several spots. Column also received small arms fire. Arty and Air mortars in LZ (YD038648). VC were hit by napalm. 2/4 established psn on high ground and gave security for further movement. USMC 48 KIA, 15 MIA (later changed 14 KIA, 1 WIA).

181205H K/3/4 Rptd approx 2,500 fighting holes between (YD039646). Est complex to be Bn/Regt CP.

181130H E/2/1 loc what appears to be VC command bunker (XD985584). Bunker 10x10x5 w/6 fighting holes surrounding it. Discovered one ammo bunker 10x10x4. Found numerous trails to the East.

181038H Trenches in treeline on military crest with fighting holes on top of ridge loc vic (XD988582) (XD999550 to 999547). Est two plts located this area.  
1410H

181500 K/3/4 65 Marines engaged 1000 VC/NVA dressed in Green Khaki steel helmets and tennis shoes. VC controlled by bugles arm and hand signals. VC tend to bunch up in large groups and did not physically pursue Co K upon disengagement. VC initiated typically attack w/mortars and attacking from four separate avenues of approach.

190300H E/2/1 found aid station vic (YD005562) containing many bloody bandages, entrenching tools and picks. Also vic (YD010555) numerous fighting holes, approx 20 of which were new. One medical bunker w/numerous fighting holes hastily dug (YD007554). Area obs to be holding place for casualties as bunker equipped with limited eqpt for operating. The trail in this area showed heavy usage (approx 4' wide) and was not visable through canopy a company size harboring site loc (YD007551).  
191100H

191040H E/2/1 located extensive harboring site and fresh foxholes that were not in area yesterday (YD001559).

191213H L/3/5 made contact w/est plt. The position had been occupied w/est 50 men. En withdrew to N. (YD045623).

191450H L/3/5 found 95 fighting holes about 1 wk. old (YD041623).

191620H L/3/5 discovered battalion size CP (YD040620); 3 bldgs, numerous fighting holes that had been recently dug,

191815H K/3/5 uncovered a large caches of eqpt vic (YD049604).

201120H E/2/1 discovered foxholes and bunker vic (YD937547).

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201130H K/3/5 captured two wps, 70 packs, eqpt, 15 boxes ammo and many documents.

201310H A/3/5 Plt uncovered a bivouac site; one hut, seven holes, 50 lbs rice, fresh bread fruit and many propaganda items. Appeared to be reception center for incoming NVA. The whole valley appears to be an infiltration route and a supply point (YD098619).

201430H K/2/4 found tunnel and bunker complex vic (YD0464). Appears to be company defensive psn.

201625H H/2/1 Plt discovered a 2 man trail extending (XD999578 to 997583). It had been well used and covered. Overhead canopy offer complete freedom of movement.

201625H K/3/5 have found odd items: 312 Ruck Sacks, packs, 560 uniform shirts, 513 uniform trousers, 323 blue sweatshirts, 435 shelterhalves, 297 pr. Ho Chi Minh sandals, 268 Machettes, 32 cooking pots, 10 map cases, 2 mag carriers, 6 crew serve wps mag, 67 mosquito nets, wheels for crew serve wpn 50 cal. Presumably a hyv wps outfit CP.

211100H D/1/1 discovered a large bivouac area, many individual holes. Possibly 2 VC companies or battalion. There was much rice, shelters and ponchos left in area.

220700H H/2/1 discovered two freshly dug deep graves. Four dead NVA. Also discovered numerous tunnels and trenches vic (XD993588) that had been used within the last 48 hrs.

220800H M/3/4 discovered fighting holes vic (XD978585). The area was covered with tracks. There were 30 fighting holes on hill vic (XD982588).

231555H I/3/5 found a large cache of equipment vic (YD017607) and 80 shelter holes this area.

231700H H/2/1 VC plt size base camp at (XD993589), numerous spider holes and cooking area. Four mort psns at (XD982588). There were 100 to 150 spider holes along ridge line, abandoned about six days.

231700H B/1/3 found large quantities of clothing, 782 gear, ammo, one 12.7 AA Gun w/mount and 2 sights vic (YD052656).

241030H Arty Btry attached 3/5 discovered battalion site area contained 4-5 lean to's, 40 fighting holes and trenches.

241200H 3/5 found 150 2-4 man bunkers, reinf with logs vic (YD064605). Area could accommodate over 200 persons. Abandoned for approx 1 week.

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240300H 2/3/5 Conducted detailed search of NVA camp, found documents, mess cans etc vic (YD053625).

241545H 1810H I/3/5 made contact w/100 NVA vic (YD0161). NVA moving NE toward (YD0262).

250909H Extensive foot and veh. acy w/trench system vic (YD095675) to (YD025634). Camp sites and strong points throughout area. Entire area covers approx 2,000-8,000 meters extending SW along stream. Strong point contains approx 200 foxholes vic (YD053648). Weapons and supplies throughout area.

251015H Civilian NE on Rt #9 detained by F/2/1. Preliminary interrogation revealed that 18 families of Montagnard village from CAM LE Area were moving to CAM LO. Village head man had letter of introduction from CALU to CAM LO District. Headman states NVA were obs Sat and Sun moving crossed river in small groups.

251030H Uncovered numerous bunkers and trenches vic (YD020623).

252237H X/3/5 area occupied by NVA yesterday (YD018617) revealed body drag trail and considerable eqpt. I/3/5 search of area revealed 11 NVA bodies, numerous drag trail and several weapons.

271850H 1/3 reports fortified psn Hill 162 vic (YD0763) with many fight holes. Psn covered with logs and dirt and are all in tree line or high grass.

281005Z 280750H Recon team while observing in vic (XD929528) called arty fire on NVA appears to have no weapons but were carrying woven baskets filled with supply 15 NVA in area. 280930H Recon team reported 150 to 250 NVA in area. Called arty fire vic (XD919522), then call air strike. 65 NVA KIA, 20 WIA.

281613Z 281215 M/3/5 found large cache of gear at (XD999593), apparently supply cache. 281330 found another cache same area.

## Cumulated Casualties:

KIA Conf 785, KIA (Prob) 864, 11 NVAC, 3 Returnees, 189 individual and 25 crew served weapons.

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