

3 Bn, 1 Marines S&C No. 1029-68  
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HEADQUARTERS  
Battalion Landing Team 3/1  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/THS/rmh  
3000  
31 Mar 68  
0006-68

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commander, Special Landing Force Bravo

Subj: Command Chronology for period 4 March 1968 - 31 March 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8  
(c) 9th Mar BrigO 5750.1B

Encl: ✓(1) Battalion Landing Team 3/1 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c) enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

*M. McQuown*  
M. MCQUOWN

-LF TaskGroup 79.5  
S&C Control No 0010159

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PERIOD COVERED

4 March 1968 - 31 March 1968

A. UNIT DESIGNATION

1. Battalion Landing Team 3/1

LtCol M. MCQUOWN

Company I

Capt. L.R. MORAN

Company K

Capt. J.E. REGAL

Company L

Capt. E.S. HEMPEL

Company M

Capt. R.B. LEWIS

H&S Co (-) (Rein)

Capt. R.J. FISHER

3rd Plt (Rein), Co C, 1st Tank Bn

Lt. R.E. PARRISH

3rd Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th AT Bn

Lt. D.L. BROWN

1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 1st MT Bn

Lt. T.B. VOGEL

3rd Plt (Rein), Co A, 1st Eng Bn

Lt. C.J. MALONEY Jr

4th Plt (Rein), Co B, 3rd AmTrac Bn

Lt. E.L. METZIGER

04-08 Mar 68

1st Plt (Rein), Co D, 1st Recon Bn

Lt. D.D. BROYLES

09-31 Mar 68

1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 1st Med Bn

Sgt. D.M. WOO

04-26 Mar 68

Det, Co A, 1st SP Bn

Lt. J.W. COCKRELL

27-31 Mar 68

Det, Hq Bn, 1st Mar Div

Lt. M.R. POMERANTZ

Det, LSU, For Log Cmd

Lt. R.J. HEXUM

Lt. R.W. RIPP

Lt. A.M. COWARD

2. Attached Units

Btry C, 1st Bn, 11th Mar

Capt. P.A. MCLAUGHLIN

Btry W, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar

Capt. J.T. WINKLER

B. STAFF OFFICERS

XO

Maj. W.M. THURMAN

04-16 Mar 68

Maj. J.V. KNAPP

17-31 Mar 68

S-1

Lt. S.E. GRIFFIN

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S-2  
 S-3  
 S-4  
 Embarkation Officer  
 Communications Officer  
 Air Liaison Officer  
 Supply Officer  
 Motor Transport Officer  
 Chaplain  
 Medical Officer

Lt. R.D. TEMPLETON  
 Maj. T.H. SHANNON  
 Capt. D.E. NEWELL  
 Lt. C.D. EMBREY  
 Capt. R.G. SKINNER  
 Capt. C.E. FLEMING Jr  
 Lt. P.G. MCCARTHY  
 Lt. G.A. LAUTZ  
 Lt. A.A. GUETTERMAN  
 Lt. G.F. CARLOMAGNO

C. LOCATION

1. 04 Mar 68 - 051130H Mar 68: Operation NAPOLEON-SALINE, see PART IV.
2. 051130H Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68: Operation LANCASTER II.
  - (a) BLT 3/1 CP: Hill 91 (YD 038557), 2000 meters NW of Camp Carroll.
    - (1) Co size bridge security position: YD 026562.
    - (2) Plt size bridge security position: YD 042566.
  - (b) Unit detachments
    - (1) Co K: OPCON 2/9, 051135H Mar 68 - 111500H Mar 68.
    - (2) Co M: OPCON 3/9, 051135H Mar 68 - 231800H Mar 68.
    - (3) Co L: OPCON 2/9, 111500H Mar 68 - OPCON 3/9, 161500H Mar 68 - OPCON 9th Marines, 241700H Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68.
    - (4) Co I: OPCON 2/9, 231800H Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68.
    - (5) Btry W: OPCON 12th Marines, direct support 3rd Marines 04 Mar 68 - OPCON 1/12, direct support 4th Marines 160900H Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68.
    - (6) Btry C: OPCON 12th Marines, direct support 3rd Marines, 04 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68.
    - (7) Elements of the following units OPCON 3rd Marines, 04 Mar 68 31 Mar 68: 3rd Plt, Co C, 1st Tk Bn; 3rd Plt, Co A, 5th AT Bn; 4th Plt, Co B, 3rd AmTrac Bn.
  - (c) Unit attachments
    - Co L, 3/9 (-): OPCON BLT 3/1, 310900H Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68.

D. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
56	1462	8	98

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

For the first 1½ days of the reported period Battalion Landing Team 3/1 was engaged in operation NAPOLEON-SALINE in Quang Tri Province, RVN under the operational control of the 3rd Marine Regiment. This operation is covered in detail in PART IV (Combat After Action Report).

At 051130H Mar 68 BLT 3/1 was placed under the operational control of the 4th Marine Regiment and switched operation areas with BLT 2/4. Since this change, BLT 3/1 has remained in the Camp Carroll area in a defensive posture with a mission of providing security for Camp Carroll and two key bridge locations along route #9. In general the situation has placed the BLT CP, provisional company and 2 rifle companies in positions just northwest of Camp Carroll along route #9. A 3rd company has been OPCON to 2/9 at Camp Carroll. The 4th company was OPCON to 3/9 at Ca Lu from 05-24 Mar 68 and OPCON to the 9th Marine Regiment from 24-31 Mar 68.

BLT operations in the Camp Carroll area were conducted as part of operation LANCASTER II. Enemy contact consisted of a small number of enemy sniper rounds and several long range sightings of small numbers of enemy troops. The BLT was assigned an extensive area of operations. See PART IV (Operation Overlay). However, actual operations were confined to a small area adjacent to route #9 and Camp Carroll.

As of the last day of the reported period BLT 3/1 has commenced a two company search and clear operation in the vicinity of Camp Carroll. Results are unknown at this time.

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PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

See PART IV (Combat After Action Report) for missions assigned through 051130H Mar 68. From 051130H Mar 68 through 31 Mar 68, the mission assigned was to maintain defensive positions consistent with the security of Camp Carroll and two key bridge locations along route #9. Within the area of operations the mission included implementation of an anti-mechanized plan and reinforcement of Camp Carroll should it be attacked. Daily activities consisted of providing security elements for mine sweeps and convoys along route #9. Extensive reconnaissance patrolling was conducted to maintain security of BLT fixed positions.

B. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE - Quang Tri Province, RVN, 290600H Feb 68 - 051130H Mar 68.

C. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY

None.

D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

8 KIA and 54 WIA of those indicated below were resultant from action occurring at the end of the reported period 01 Feb 68 - 03 Mar 68. They were not included in the earlier report because they died of wounds or were not verified until a later date.

1. USMC

<u>Officer</u>			<u>Enlisted</u>		
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
0	7	0	9	57	0

2. USN

<u>Officer</u>			<u>Enlisted</u>		
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
0	0	0	2	10	0

E. NEW TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED

None.

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F. COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS

BLT 3/1 was under operational control of the 3rd Marine Regiment until 051130H Mar 68. At that time BLT 3/1 changed areas of operation with BLT 2/4 and came under operational control of the 4th Marine Regiment. The BLT remained OPCON to the 4th Marine Regiment through the end of the reported period.

G. EQUIPMENT

Equipment which proved to be in need of repair was off loaded in DaNang on 08 Mar 68 and moved to Maintenance Battalion FLC for repairs. Equipment moved ashore for repair included 19 - M422, Mighty Mites; and 7 - M35, 2½ ton 6X6 trucks.

H. LOGISTICS

1. Supply

(a) To meet changes resulting from BLT 3/1's move to the Camp Carroll area a LSA was established at Dong Ha Combat Base re-orienting the flow of all classes of supply except for Class II. Requests for Class II items were filled from the BLT assets aboard LPH-8.

(b) Shortages of Class II items exist, especially jungle utilities and gas masks. Requisitions are pending to satisfy all BLT requirements of this type.

(c) An inventory of serialized items was completed on 31 Mar 68 and will serve as a basis for making up any deficiencies in this area.

2. Transportation

(a) Supplies were moved from the LSA to the Camp Carroll area by two trucks from the BLT motor transport platoon. These trucks were stationed at Dong Ha.

(b) Administrative transportation in the Camp Carroll area was provided by vehicles organic to the BLT and augmented by two "Otters" from 9th Motor Transport at Camp Carroll.

(c) Movement of personnel and Class II supplies from LPH-8 to Camp Carroll was provided by CH-46's from HMM-164.

3. Mess

On 20 March the BLT began feeding one hot meal a day to the troops in the Camp Carroll area. This was done by augmenting the 4th Marine Regiment Headquarters Company mess with cooks and equipment from the BLT. The meals were served at noon and were well received by the troops. "C" Rations were distributed for the remaining meals.

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## I. ADMINISTRATIVE

### 1. Awards

(a) Two Bronze Star Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, one Navy Achievement Medal and seven Purple Heart Medals were awarded to individual Marines. Presentation of awards was made by Brigadier General Chip, Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade in ceremonies held aboard USS VALLEY FORGE.

(b) BLT 3/1 recommended five Silver Star Medals, twenty Bronze Star Medals and two Navy Commendation Medals during the reported period with additional recommendations to follow.

(c) All award recommendations for operations FORTRESS RIDGE and BADGER TOOTH have been approved.

### 2. Legal and Discipline

During the reported period five investigations were initiated, three cases of non-judicial punishment and two Special Court-Martials were awarded. One Marine was declared a deserter and one has been in a "UA" status since failing to return from R&R. Overall discipline remains excellent.

### 3. Postal

Mail delivery has improved during this reported period; however, occasional delays are still encountered. One rerouting was required during the period. Space available for sorting and storing has improved; however, a problem still exists when large volumes of mail are to be handled.

### 4. R&R Quotas

BLT 3/1 received one hundred R&R quotas for the month of March. A few problems were encountered obtaining proper uniform for R&R personnel while the ARG was in Subic Bay with BLT personnel belongings aboard. Included were quotas to Bangkok, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Sidney, Taipei, Tokyo, Manila, Penang, Singapore, and Okinawa.

### 5. Promotions

There were sixty regular promotions to Corporal, eighty to Lance Corporal, and twelve to Private First Class during the reported period. One Sergeant, one Corporal, and three Lance Corporal Meritorious Combat promotions were awarded. There were three promotions to 1st Lieutenant and one permanent promotion to Captain.

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6. Pay and Allowances

All men in the field were given an opportunity to send pay to their relatives by endorsed government checks. Health and comfort pay was provided for use at local post exchange facilities. In addition personnel being transferred, going home on emergency leave, or filling R&R quotas were paid prior to their departure.

7. Post Exchange

Post exchange facilities were available on a limited basis at Camp Carroll. In addition, sundry packs were issued to meet most health and comfort needs.

8. Religious Services

(a) Divine Services

On 26 March, three Memorial Services were conducted near Camp Carroll for the men killed in action since 23 January. 254 men attended these services. The BLT Chaplain conducted 11 Protestant Services with 271 attending. There were 4 Protestant Lay Services with 115 attending. Catholic Mass was said 4 times by Chaplain McMerrill of 1/12 for our BLT, with 101 attending. There were 2 Catholic Lay Services with 72 attending.

(b) Personnel Response Program

The BLT Chaplain made 20 pastoral visits in the Valley Forge sick bay and had 21 counseling sessions, and made 4 brig visits. The BLT Chaplain wrote and had reproduced a twelve page booklet to be sent to the next of kin of men killed in action. Seven "care" packages from the states were delivered. Over 200 letters were written concerning personal problems, family counseling, and Chaplain functions.

9. Personnel Changes

	USMC		USN	
	Officer	Enlisted	Officer	Enlisted
(a) <u>Losses</u>				
Battle	2	21	0	2
Administrative	8	254	0	6
(b) <u>Replacements</u>	6	100	0	15

J. MEDICAL/DENTAL AFFAIRS

1. Personnel

Throughout the reported period the BAS was maintained in the field to administer to the medical needs of the BLT in the Camp Carroll area. The Clearing Plt and the Dental Det remained aboard USS VALLEY FORCE to handle afloat, hospitalized, and medevac patients.

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2. Patient Load

(a) During the month, 387 patients were seen at sick call for an average of twelve per day. The majority were treated by the BAS in the field.

(b) 158 patients were seen at dental sick call during the period.

3. MEDCAP/DENTCAP

There were no MEDCAP/DENTCAP evolutions during the reported period.

4. Sanitation

A campaign was initiated to deal with a rodent problem which developed at the BLT Camp Carroll positions. Rat poison was distributed, trash was disposed of daily, and instruction was given on the importance of not leaving foodstuffs scattered about the area. The heads and urinals were inspected daily. In addition, the area outside and inside the BLT perimeter was sprayed with insecticide.

K. INTELLIGENCE

During the period, S-2 personnel conducted daily intelligence briefings with local intelligence developed in detail and intelligence from other operational areas presented in general. Daily liaison was maintained with S-2, 4th Marine Regiment.

The BLT began to use several anti-intrusion devices, including seismic intrusion devices and the PPS-6 radar set. A continuing evaluation of these devices is being made.

Aerial photographs, both oblique and vertical sets, were obtained through 3rd Marine Division covering the trace of National Route #9 from Dong Ha to Khe Sanh. Photos were plotted on a tactical map and set up as an additional reference source for briefing of patrols and for use in regular intelligence briefings. A similar project is underway for the operational area north of the Cua Viet River.

L. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Training

The following training was accomplished by the Communications Platoon during this reported period.

(a) Radio school was held for all Communications Plt and company radio operators. Subjects stressed were preventative maintenance, communications security, proper operating procedures and field expedient communications.

(b) School for officers and staff NCO's was conducted on communication security and the use of the KAC-OX and PX operational codes.

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(c) The 4th Marine Regiment conducted class on the PPS-6 Battlefield Surveillance Radar set and the Patrol Seismic Intrusion Device. Classes were attended by Communication Plt personnel who then gave instruction to the BLT on the use of these devices.

2. General Communications

Radio communication with the companies and the 4th Marine Regiment has been good. Some difficulty was encountered when mine sweep teams were not able to communicate with the 4th Marine Regiment using the PRC-25. A MRC-109 is now being sent with the sweep teams and the problem has been eliminated.

Wire lines are being utilized to supplement radio communications. Constant trouble shooting is required to keep these lines in service due to the great amount of vehicular traffic, especially tracked vehicles. Seismic intrusion devices and battlefield surveillance radar are being utilized to supplement the BLT's defensive capabilities. No difficulty has been encountered in employing this equipment to date. A review of the KAC-QX and PX codes as directed by CTG 79.5 was completed and recommended changes were forwarded.

3. Maintenance

The movement of the LSU aboard USS VALLEY FORGE improved our maintenance capability. The Communications Plt also has two technicians aboard ship to speed the return of damaged or inoperative communication equipment. All equipment that cannot be repaired in the field is sent to our repair shop aboard ship and then evacuated to 1st FSR for repair if necessary.

4. Supply

We are still receiving BA-386's for the PRC-25 manufactured by the Crown Battery Corp. of Okinawa. These batteries are completely unsatisfactory. Normal operating life of these batteries continues to be from 6 to 8 hours as compared to approximately 72 hours with American made BA-386's. The contract number of the latest resupply of Crown batteries was M-67436-68-L-0039.

Certain items of communications equipment continue to be in short supply. Handsets, whip antennas, tape antennas, antenna bases, and packboards are the most needed items at this time.

M. FIRE SUPPORT

For operation NAPOLEON/SALINE see PART IV. When BLT 3/1 moved to the Camp Carroll area Btry C and Btry W remained behind GPCON to the 3rd Marine Regiment. During this period the BLT was dependent on 4th Marine Regiment direct support batteries for fire support.

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During this period the BLT has called sixteen observed fire missions on enemy and suspected enemy activities. Ten H&I targets have been selected and fired nightly. The BLT has registered thirteen night defensive targets and placed several anti-mechanized targets on call. Eight missions were called to provide training in FO procedures and classes were conducted on "CoFram" ammunition.

N. AIR SUPPORT

The nature of BLT 3/1 activities throughout the reported period provided no requirements for close air support.

HMM-164 provided CH-46 helicopters for administrative, and medevac transportation. Two troop lifts were conducted. The BLT was transported by helicopter from operation NAPOLEON/SALINE to the Camp Carroll area. On 31 Mar 68 two companies and the BLT CP were lifted into the search and clear operation beginning on that date.

The 4th Marine Regiment "working birds" were utilized for reconnaissance flights.

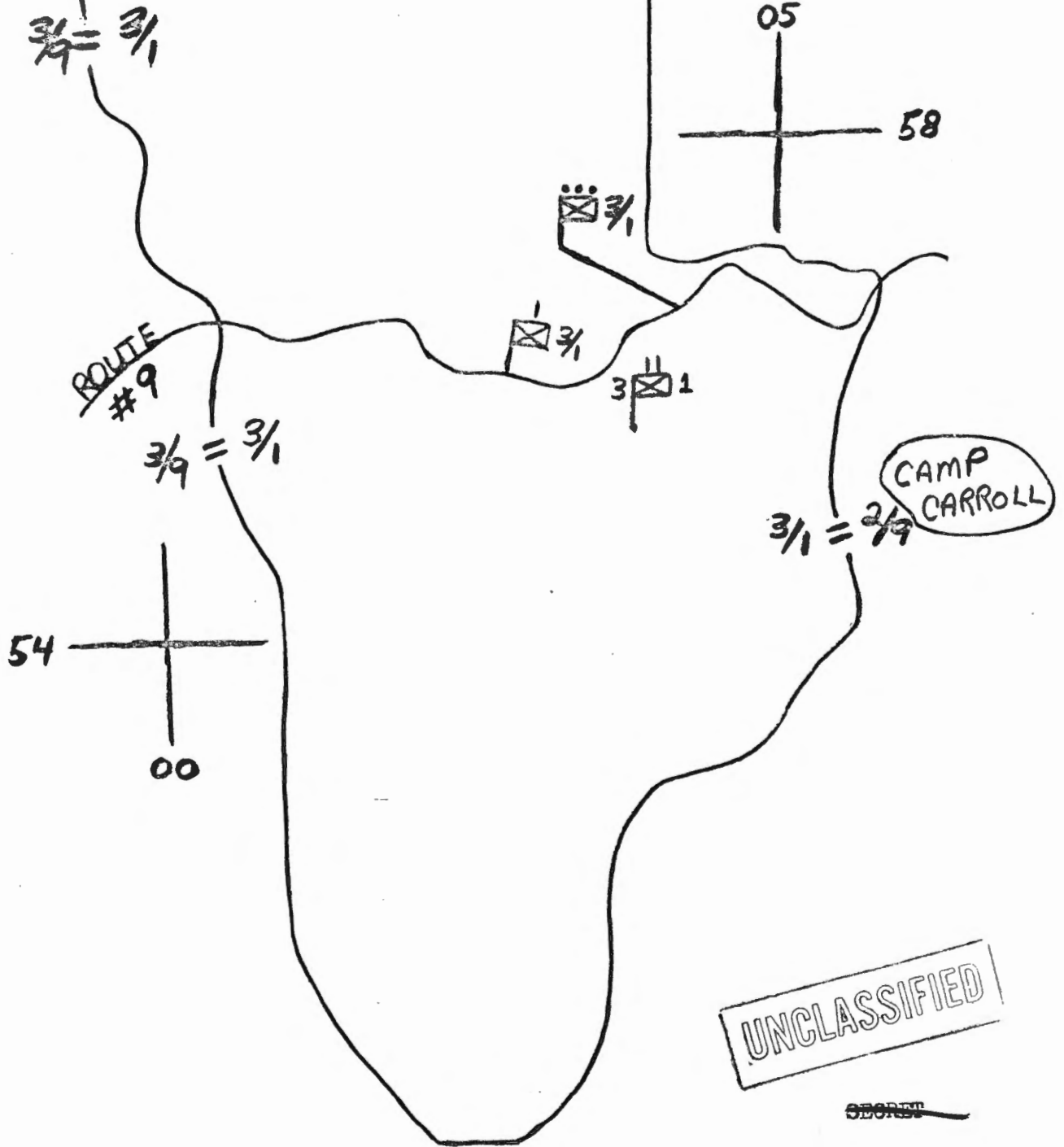
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EXTENDS NORTH TO DMZ

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BLT 3/1 OPERATION OVERLAY  
OPERATION LANCASTER II  
MAP: VIETNAM; 1:50,000;  
AMS SERIES 6342 I



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