HEADQUARTE IS 1st Battalion, 3d M rines 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF FPO, San Francisco 96602

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From: Commanding Officer

Commandant of Marine Corps (Code A05D) To:

Via:

Commanding General, 3d Marine Division Commanding General, III MAF Commanding General, FMF, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period of 1 May to 31 May 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A

MITTAGO 5750.8 (b) Div0.5750.1A

Encl: (1) Subject Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c) enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. Downgrade at 3 year intervals, declassified after 12 years, DOD Directive 5200.10.

V. JARMAN

DECLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS lst Battalion, 3d Marines 3d Marine Division, (Rein), MMF

COLMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May to 31 May 1968

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PART I

Organizational Data

1. DISIGNATION	COMMANDERS	
lot Battalion, 3d Marines	LtCol C. V. JARMAN	(1-31 May6
	Subordinate Units	
H&S Co Co A Co B	Capt W. H. OSGCOD Capt D. W. DADISMAN lstLt G. G. NORRIS lstLt T. A. BROWN	(1-31 May6 (1-31 May6 (1 May63) (2 May68)
Co C Co D	lstLt G. S. FORD Capt G. D. DOCKENDORFF Capt K. E. FOX	(3-31 May6 (1-31 May6 (1-31 May6
2. TOCATION		•

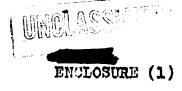
1-31 May: CUA VIET Waterway Complex, RVN

STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj E. J. ROCHFORD JR.	(1-31 May6)
S-1	lstLt R. J. BARNES	(1-31 May6)
S-2	lstLt W. C. BEBRULER	(1-27 May6)
S-3 S-4 S-5	Gysgt R. C. Kunsaitis Haj R. G. MC CORMICK Capt T. V. RICHARDSON lstLt W. C. HUBRULER SSgt P. H. MOHR	(28-31 May (1-31 May6) (1-31 May6) (1-27 May6) (28-31 May6)

AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

usmo		US	SN
OFF	EML	OFF	ENL
30	1063	2	60





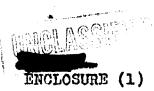
PART II

Narrative Summary

From 1-31 May 1968 the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines partipated in operation NAPOLEON/SALINE within the Cua Viet River Area The Battalion's overall mission during this period was to deny the enemy access to the river and ensure uninterrupted traffic on the river. This was accomplished by conducting sysbematic Company and Platoon Search and Destroy operations along the south bank of the river within the Battalion AO on a recurring basis and Battalion Search and Destroy operations within the Rogimential AC. During the period 3-9 May 1968 a Battalion Search and Destroy operation was conducted through Dia Do (YD 2530 Thuona Do (YD 247634) and True Kinh (YD 389645). Due to the rapidly changing tactical situation north of the Cua Viet River the Battalion was redeployed by helicopter to an LZ in the vicinity of Mai Xa Thi (YD 279664), given OPCON of Company F, 2nd Bn, 4th Marines and Company A, 1st Bn, 9th Marines, and conducted a Search and Destroy operation to the north through Lan Xuan (YD 269700), Pho Con (YD 250708) and the southern limits of Lai An (YD 247732). This operation terminated 31 May 196 and the Battalion returned to its' operating base at Giao Lien (YD 291644).

Activity throughout the period was characterized by negative enemy contact on the south bank of the Cua Viet River and heavy contact against NVA Forces while operating to the north of the river. Numerous chaches of enemy ordance were located and destroyed and a large quanity of enemy weapons and

equipment was captured.





PART III

Sequential Listing of Significant Events

1. Combat Missions Assigned

Basic Mission: NAPOLEON/SALINE

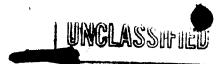
- a. With assigned forces, conduct aggressive ground surveilant Search and Destroy operations and Spoiling Attacks in assigned are of operations to ensure uninterrupted traffic on the CUA VIET Rive and to detect and interdict NVA/VC infiltration routes.
- b. Initially conduct systematic Search and Destroy operations along south bank of CUA VIET River in area of operations to deny enemy direct fire capability against river traffic.
- c. Be prepared, on order, for rapid redeployment anywhere in Third Marines area of operations.
- d. Be prepared, on order, to extend operations to the souther western portions of area of operations to deny enemy's capability to deliver indirect fire against river traffic, DONG HA, CUA VIET, and QUANG TRI.
- e. Maintain reaction forces as prescribed by CG Third Divisio Operation Order 2-68 (Sparrow Hawk).

Rof: Third Marines Opno 2-C8 (050801H Mar68)

2. Significant Operations Conducted

- a. During the period 1-31 May 1968 1st Bn, 3d Marines expended the major portion of its energies in aggressive Search and Destroy Missions through the villages located near the southern bank of the GUA VIET River to deny the enemy base camps.
- b. During the period 3-9 May 1968 the 1st Bn, 3d Marines (-) executed a passage of lines through 2nd Bn, 4th Marines and continued to conduct a Battalien size Search and Destroy operation in the vicinity of Dai Do (YD 253628) Thuong Do (YD 247634) and Xonsoi (YD 248648). On 5 May 1968 1st Bn, 3d Marines were given OPCON of Company I and Company M, 3d Bn, 4th Marines.
- c. During the period 25-31 May the 1st Bn, 3d Marines (-) conducted a two Company Search and Destroy operation in the vicinity of Thanh Hoi (YD 389645). Due to change in the situation the Battalion was redeployed north of the CUA VIET River and given OPCON of "F" Company, 2nd Bn, 4th Marines and





"A" Company 1st Bn, 9th Marines. 1st Bn, 3d Morines then conducted a Search and Destroy operation to the north in vicinity of Lay Xuan (YD 269700) Pho Con (YD 250708) and Lan An (YD 247732) against large organized NVA Forces.

- General patrolling was conducted throughout the reporting period.
- Casualties Inflicted On The Enemy

VC/NVA KIA

- Casualties Sustained
 - 44 USMC KIA
 - USN KIA
 - USMC WIA (Med Evac)
 USMC WIA (Minor) 190

 - USN WIA (Mcd Evac)
- Command Relations

ADCON

1-31 May 1968 - Third Marine Division

OPCON

1-31 May 1968 - Third Marine Regiment

- 6. Logistics. During the month on May, the Battalion Rear was relocated within the Quang Tri Combat Base. The Battalion Logistic Sup ort Area (LSA) established at (YD 296654) in March continued to function. The LSA stocked three days Class I, seven days Class III (gasoline), and three days Class V. Class II and IV items were provided upon request from the Battalion Rear. Supplies were transported from Quang Tri Combat Base and FLSG-B at Dong Ha Combat Base to the LOU Ramp at NSAO Dong Ha bby truck. and on the Cue Viet Waterway by LCM-8's, multi-purpose barges, and fire team assualt crafts. Resupply was effected from the LSA by LVTP-5's and OTTERS. During the periods 3-7 May and 25-31 May operational commitments north of the Gua Vict Waterway necessitated effecting resupply for part of the Battalion by helicopters. During these periods all resupplies were provided directly from the Battalion Rear for those units north of the Cua Viet Waterway while those units south of the Cua Viet Waterway continued to receive their supplies from the LSA as outlined above.
- Sundly. During the month of May 202 requisitions were submitte Of those, 119 were filled.

8. Motor. Transport. The deadline rate for May was 17%. On 21 May twenty M151Al's were received, and four M151Al's were operational by the end of the month. All M422's were retained and continued in operation.

9. Administration

a. The usual administrative problems were encountered during this time, however, overall administration was considered to be satisfactory.

(1) Awards Recommended

- 1 Navy Cross
- 5 Bronze Star Medals
- 258 Purple Heart Medals
 - 2 Navy Commondation Medals
 - 2 Navy Achievement Medals
 - 23 Victnamese Cross of Gallantry Medals

(2) Awards Presented

- 1 Silver Star Medal
- 1 Bronze Star Modal

(3) Promotions Effected

- 1 Gunnery Sergeant
- 1 Staff Sorgeant
- 72 Corporals
- 105 Lance derporals
 - 22 Privates First Class

b. Postal. Mail service was considered to be satisfactory, however, mail continued to be received sporadically.

10. Personnel

a. Administrative Gains

- 2 Officers
- 152 Enlisted

b. Administrative Losses

2 Officers

Ay 1

189 Enlisted

11. Intelligence. During the month of May two heavy contacts with NVA units took place north of the GUA VIET Waterway. The first occurred from 3-9 May in the vicinity of Dai Do (YD 254649) and Som Soi (YD 248648). Heavily fortified positions consisting of bunkers, trench lines, and spider holes strengthened by concertina wire and claymore mines were defended tenaciously. Among 189 weapons captured were (2) 82mm recoilless field guns, (4) 82mm mortars, (2) 60mm mortars, and (2) heavy machine guns,

as well as 27 individual weapons in one cache. Our units .

inflicted 338 KIA!s and captured 6 PW's.

There were three individual signific at incidents. First, on 21 May 2 NVA transportation soldiers were captured after swimming south across the Gua Viet Waterway vicinity (YD 258615). Second, one of our units in conjunction with the River Assualt Group Boats seized 10 individual weapons from 2 sampans on the Qua Viet Waterway vicinity (YD 263626). Finally, 2 detaines were taken on 25 May vicinity Thau Hoi (YD 385645) and sent to

regiment.

The second heavy contact took place from 27-31 May in the vicinity (YD 249712). On 27 May the Battalion (Rein) moved through 2/9's positions, receiving heavy mortar, receilless field gun and small arms fire from the heavily fortified enemy bunkers, trenches, and spider holes in addition to artillery rounds from North Victnam. After intensive air, artillery, and mortar preparation on 29 May the Battalion (Rein) seized most of the enemy positions. Early on 30 May the rest were occupied; 78 NVA KIA's confirmed; 6 PW's captured; 3 ChiCom radios, a ChiCom phone with a land line leading north, and a U.S. Army radio and 30 weapons taken. The Battalion(Rein) was directed to push forward to Lai An (YD 247723) before turning south, and 2/9 was given the mission of policing and collecting enemy equipment and getting enemy body counts.

During the month 1 ARVN liaison Officer, 5 interpreters, and 8 Kit Carson Scouts served the Battalion effectively.

12. Fire Support. From 1-31 May 1968 the following units fired in support of the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines:

UNIT	LOCATION
Btry A, lst of the 40th (U.S. Army) Btry C. lst Bn. 11th Marines	(YD 302558) (YD 313544) (YD 347694)
	(YD 323494)
	(YD 215673)
3d Plt (Rein) let Armored Amphib, 11th Marines	(YD 344699)

7



Missions Fired

Observed 22
Navigation 2
Registration 10
Prep 3
H&I 282
Total 319

Ammunition Expended

Type	No. Fired
HE	4268
WP	116
Illum	50
Smoke	88
Total	4522

3. Air Support. The month of May was highlighted by two periods of Field Operations which accounted for most of the air support received by the Battalian. The period of 1-10 May was the first Field Operation, and required mostly medevace and resupplies, and a large troop lift. During the action of 23-31 May the Battalian, in conjunction with 2nd Bn, 9th Marines and units of 2nd Bn, 4th Marines and lst Bn, 9th Marines OPCON to the Battalian utilized many medevace and trooplift missions, alsonumerous A.O. and Fixed Wing missions were utilized extensively. Weather in May was good for Air Support with the exception of 28 and 29 May when low ceilings hampered Fixed Wing support for part of each day.

MedEvacs	210
PAX	65
Resupply	38
Troop Lifts	95
V. R.	3
U & C	ī
Gunships	9
Λ. Ο.	60
Fixed Wing (CAS)	4 <u>Q</u>
TPQ	10
Flareships	4
Spooky	ĩ
Psyllor	

14. Communitions

- a. General. No unusual difficulties were encountered during the month of May.
- b. Radio Sec AM/PRC-25. The Handset H-189 is found to be more susceptable to water than was the H-138. Waterproofing the H-189 with the plastic bag from Battery BA-386 is a solution.

15. Training

a. Objective. To maintain and improve the high state of combat efficiency of the Battalion.

b. Highlights

6 May - One enlisted member attended Basic Organic Supply Accounting School held at Camp Brooks, Da Nang, RVN.

Ref: UG 3d MarDiv mag 250627Z Apr68

7 May - One enlisted member attended the 13th, Division Personal Response Course held at 3d MarDiv (Admin) OP Quang Tri, RVN.

Ref: CG 3d MarDiv mog 250851Z Apr68

11 May - Two Enlisted members attended NCO Le dership School held at Camp Hansen, Okinawa.

Ref: OG 3d MarDiv mag 020045Z Apr68

13 May - One enlisted member attended the Com Sec/Crypto School held at Yokosuka, Japan.

Rof: 0G 3d MarDiv mag 141435Z Apr68

CHARLES SIFIFM

BART IV

Supporting Documents

-1. 3d MarDiv msg 0211412 Mar68 (S) minim

THE PERSON