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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 1/3
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
FPO, San Francisco 96602

15 September 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commander, Task Group 79.4

Subj: Combat After Action Report

1stBn, 3dMar S & C No. 00389-67
Copy No. 1 of 65 Copies

Ref: (a) CTG 79.4 Op Plan 120-67
(b) CTG 79.4 Frag Order #1 for Operation Beacon Point
(c) BLT 1/3 Frag Order #1 for Operation Beacon Point to Operation Order 75-67
(d) Map reference: VIETNAM, AMS Series 7014 Sheet 6442 II

Encl: (1) Map Overlay to Operation Beacon Point

1. Code Name, Beacon Point, Search and Destroy operation.
2. Inclusive Dates and Location of Operation, 1-6 September 1967, Thua Thien Province, RVN.
3. Command Headquarters, CTG 79.4.

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	Captain MACK
Company A	Captain LARIMORE
Company B	Captain LANDES
Company C	Captain RECZEK
Company D	Captain RICHARDSON
Battery A/1/12	Captain KENYON

4. Task Organization

<u>BLT 1/3 (-)</u>	LtCol THOMAS
<u>H&S Co (-)(Rein)</u>	Capt MACK
H&S Co (-)	Lt PARKER
81mmMortPlt(-)	Lt JOHNSON
Det Btry A, 1stBn, 12thMar (LnTm)	Lt COLE (USN)
Det HqBtry, 1stBn, 12thMar (NGFTm)	

<u>Co A (Rein)</u>	Capt LARIMORE
CoA	
FOTm, Btry A, 1stBn, 12thMar	

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Det 2dPlt(Rein) CoB, 3d SPBn(HST)
 Det 2dPlt(Rein) CoA, 3d Engr Bn
 Det H&S Co
 Det Intel Sect
 Det CommPlt
 Det MedPlt
 Det TACP
 1st Sect, 81mmMortPlt
 Det AP Tm, 3dMarDiv

Co B (Rein)

Capt LANDES

CoB
 FOIm, Btry A, 1stBn, 12thMar
 Det 2dPlt(Rein) CoB, 3dSPBn(HST)
 Det 2dPlt(Rein) CoA, 3dEngrBn
 Det H&S Co
 Det Intel Sect
 Det CommPlt
 Det MedPlt
 Det TACP
 2dSect, 81mmMortPlt
 Det AP Tm, 3dMarDiv
 Art Recon Party

Co D (Rein)

Capt RICHARDSON

CoD
 FOIm, Btry A, 1stBn, 12thMar
 Det 2dPlt(Rein) CoB, 3dSPBn(HST)
 Det 2dPlt(Rein) CoA, 3dEngrBn
 Det H&S Co
 Det Intel Sect
 Det CommPlt
 Det MedPlt
 Det TACP
 3d & 4thSect, 81mmMortPlt

Btry A (-) (Rein), 1stBn, 12thMar

Capt KENYON

Btry A
 Det HqBtry, 1stBn, 12thMar

4th Plt (Rein), CoA, 5th AMTracBn

Lt KAUFMAN

4thPlt, CoA, 3dEngrBn
 Det H&SCo, 5th AMTracBn

2d Plt (-) (Rein), CoA, 3dEngrBn

Lt WENTWORTH

2dPlt, CoA, 3dEngrBn
 Det H&SCo, 3dEngrBn
 Det EngrSuptCo, 3dEngrBn

1st Plt, Co B, 3dReconBn

Lt MATSUMOTO

2d Plt (-) (Rein), Co B, 3dSPBn

2dPlt, CoB, 3dSPBn
 Det H&S Co, 3dSPBn
 Det BMU, N&G (Provided from Navy Sources)

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BLT ReserveCo C (Rein)

Capt RECZEK

CoC

FOtM, Btry A, 1stBn, 12thMar

Det 2dPlt(Rein), CoB, 3dSPBn(HST)

Det 2dPlt(Rein), CoA, 3dEngrBn

Det H&S Co

Det Intel Sect

Det CommPlt

Det MedPlt

Det TAGP

Det AP Tm, 3dMarDiv

5. Supporting Forcesa. Artillery and Naval Gunfire Support

(1) Direct fire artillery support fire was provided by Battery A-1/12 located at coordinates 593487. General support reinforcing fires were provided by the 2d Provisional 155mm Battery Detachment, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines located at 543323.

Missions Fired

A-1-12		2d 155 Prov, 3-12
25	Observed	1
1	Unobserved	0
129	H&I	0

Ammunition Expended

A-1-12		2d 155 Prov, 3-12
967	HE	20
2	Illum	0
48	WP	6

(2) Naval gunfire support was furnished by the USS WALDRON (DD-699) which was armed with six 5" 38 guns, and the USS ROBINSON (DDG-12) which was armed with two 5" 54 guns. The USS ROBINSON was detached at H+120 minutes on D-Day after firing 82 rounds of preparation fire into the area around LZ Sparrow. The USS WALDRON was detached on D+2 after firing 133 rounds of preparation fire into the area of LZ Sparrow on D-Day and firing 11 rounds of H&I fire that night.

Navigation was extremely difficult for the Naval gunfire support ships during the operation and this limited their effectiveness.

b. Air Support

There were three fixed wing strike sorties utilized on 2 September 1967. The [redacted] at YD 588419 with a BDA of two bunkers destroyed and 100% of [redacted] of an area of fighting holes which were interconnected by trenches.

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Aerial observation and TAC(A) were provided by three UH-1H helicopters. They flew 23 sorties 9 of which were fire suppression sorties. They expedited the movement of the battalion from objective to objective as they were able to suppress sniper fire and provide the battalion commander with a description of enemy movement and obstacles. Helicopters were utilized to transport three rifle companies and H&S Company (-) into LZ Sparrow on D-Day.

Helicopters also provided resupply, C&C, medevacs and extracted 41,500 lbs of rice.

Six emergency and twelve priority medevac missions were requested with twelve emergency and twenty-five priority and five routine medevacs being extracted. The extraction time for emergency medevacs was 25 minutes and for priority medevacs was 28 minutes.

6. Intelligence

a. The enemy adopted delaying and harassing tactics against BLT 1/3 within the AOA. The enemy made frequent use of mines and surprise firing devices to delay the advance of friendly forces.

Approximately 71,500 lbs of rice were found cached. Most of the rice was found in the vicinity of objective #4 (Encl 1). 41,500 lbs of the rice were evacuated and the remaining 30,000 lbs were destroyed by burning as further evacuation efforts could have jeopardized the tactical situation.

The Armed Propaganda Teams provided invaluable assistance in handling detainees and communicating with the civilian populace.

It is felt that any enemy forces in the area either exfiltrated the area or went underground.

7. Mission. BLT conducts an amphibious assault at H-hour and L-hour on D-day to conduct search and destroy operations within designated portion of AOA to prevent enemy disruption of Vietnamese National Election.

8. Execution

a. Concept of Operations. At H-hour 010700H one rifle company landed over green beach and secured a position for a 105 Howitzer Battery. At L-hour 010700H two rifle companies conducted a heliborne assault on landing zone Sparrow and were followed by the Alpha Command and reserve rifle company. Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 were secured on D-day and search and destroy operations were then conducted in a southerly direction with two companies abreast and the Alpha Command and one company following in trace.

b. Chronological Sequence of Events. -010615H through 060600H September 1967.

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- 010615 Operation Beacon Point commenced with the first elements of Co D lifting off.
- 010700 Company B landed on Green Beach with no opposition.
- 010706 Company D assault elements landed at Landing Zone Sparrow. Sporadic sniper fire was directed at the helicopters from objective 3 (Encl 1).
- 010850 Company A was landed in LZ Sparrow.
- 010912 CO BLT 1/3 landed at LZ Sparrow with the Alpha Command.
- 010917 Battery A, 1-12, had been landed over Green Beach and reported the guns were up and ready to fire.
- 010940 H&S Co (-) was landed in LZ Sparrow.
- 011006 Company C landed in LZ Sparrow.
- 011030 Company D received small arms and automatic weapons fire from objective #2 (Encl 1).
- 011050 Company A secured objective #1. Eight ChiCom grenades and assorted small arms ammunition were found in a drain culvert in the objective area.
- 011135 Company D apprehended 1 woman who had been selling rice to the VC.
- 011154 Company D uncovered between 2 and 3 tons of rice on objective #2 (Encl 1).
- 011200 Company D received sniper fire from their front and sustained 1 WIA.
- 011225 Company A secured objective #3 with negative contact (Encl 1).
- 011325 Company A found an extensive mine field at 528438 while attacking to objective #4.
- 011330 Company C found 150 .30cal rounds hidden in a bush and destroyed them.
- 011440 Company A found 2 VCS hiding in a pagoda at coord 532452.
- 011550 Company B discovered an M-16 AP mine at coord 603474 and destroyed it.
- 011700 Company C destroyed 150 assorted AP mines, 105mm rounds, M-79 rounds, and 60mm rounds. The rounds were found in conjunction with Company A at coord 528440.
- 011715 Company A located several large rice caches at coord 536453.
- 011723 Company B found 1 VCS hiding in the brush at coord 597482.
- 011730 Company A found 2 VCS who were interrogated by APT personnel and were verified to be VC.
- 011745 Company A secured objective #4 (Encl 1)
- 011800 Company positions: CoA 536456; CoB 583496; CoC 588440; CoD 505437; H&S (-) 588440.
- 011830 Company D received sniper fire and one USMC WIA was sustained.
- 012300 Company A ambush fired at 2 VC. The area was searched but the results were negative.
- 020100 Company A received 6 incoming 60mm rounds but no casualties were sustained.
- 020825 Company D received small arms fire from coord 514437 and called in an armed UH-1E to fire suppressive fire.
- 021003 A VC was taken under fire by Company D's APT personnel resulting in 1 VC KIA(conf).
- 021045 Company D evacuated 7,500 lbs of rice by helicopter from objective #2 (Encl 1).
- 021227 Company A apprehended 3 VCS at coord 542452. They pointed out a rice cache and provided names of local

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- VC for the black list.
- 021307 A helicopter received sniper fire from coord 544456. Company A deployed an element to search the area but the results were negative.
- 021445 Company D had a man set off a surprise firing device at coord 538436 resulting in 1 USMC WIA and 1 USMC WIA (NE).
- 021500 Company C received sniper fire from objective #5 (Encl 1).
- 021506 Company C had a man trip an M-16 AP mine at coord 543438 resulting in 1 USMC KIA and 6 USMC WIA.
- 021530 Company C had a man trip a surprise firing device while moving out in the attack resulting in 1 USMC WIA.
- 021600 Company C secured objective #5.
- 021800 Unit positions: A 536456, B 585496, C 546434, D 547430, H&S (-) 547431.
- 021825 Company A located a tunnel at coord 539458 and a man entered it and found a VC holding a ChiCom grenade. The results were 1 VC KIA (conf), 4 VC detainees and 1 M-1 carbine, 1 ChiCom grenade, numerous rounds of ammunition and medical supplies captured.
- 022010 H&S Company (-) received 2 incoming 60mm rounds which resulted in 4 USMC WIA.
- 030800 Company D, LP, received sniper and automatic weapons fire from coord 550429 and returned the fire and called in an 81mm mortar fire mission. The results were one VC KIA (prob) and 1 USMC WIA.
- 030805 Company B found 8 metal punji stakes in pits at coord 598480 and destroyed same.
- 030830 BLT 1/3 chopped OPCON to the 4th Marines.
- 030930 Company B found one M-16 AP mine at 604475 on a trail with a mine detector. The mine had been marked with an 8" piece of bamboo.
- 031000 Company C patrol apprehended 6 VCS at coord 555433. Two of the VCS were carrying a sound powered loudspeaker.
- 031030 Company A reported they had evacuated a total of 31,500 lbs of rice by helicopter and destroyed 30,000 lbs of rice, that was found on objective #4.
- 031100 H&S Co(-) reported they had destroyed 3,000 lbs of rice that had been found on objective #5.
- 031135 Company A apprehended one VC with family who claimed he wanted to become a Chyeu Hoi. Results were 6 VCS apprehended and evacuated.
- 031800 Unit positions: A 544442, B 583496, C 548433, D 546427, H&S (-) 546430.
- 032210 Company D received sniper fire from coord 549420. Artillery was fired on the sniper's position with negative results.
- 040050 Company A received 2 incoming 60mm rounds. Counter-mortar fire was delivered to the suspected mortar position at coord 552442 with unknown results.
- 040230 Company C received one incoming friendly 105mm HE round which resulted in 1 USMC WIA (NE).
- 040745 Company D had their lead elements hit a surprise firing device at 555427 made from an artillery shell. The results were 2 USMC WIA.
- 040800 Company C received automatic weapons fire from obj 6 (Encl 1).

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- 040805 A man from Company D tripped a ChiCom grenade rigged as a surprise firing device at coord 559427 resulting in 1 USMC WIA.
- 040940 Company C secured objective #6 (Encl 1).
- 040945 A man from Company D triggered a ChiCom grenade rigged in a foot trap at coord 565424 resulting in 1 USMC WIA.
- 041030 A man from Company C tripped one surprise firing device resulting in 1 USMC WIA.
- 041245 Company D departed the AOA for the 4th Marines position.
- 041320 Company A received automatic weapons fire from coord 571420.
- 041505 A man from Company A triggered a surprise firing device at 573418 resulting in 1 USMC WIA.
- 041615 Company A secured objective #7.
- 041800 Unit position: A 585411, B 583496, C 581413, H&S(-) 582412.
- 041800 Company D chopped OPCON to the 4th Marines.
- 042220 Company C patrol received 25 sniper rounds fired at them from coord 577413.
- 050045 Company A received 4 rounds of incoming 60mm mortar fire. The Recon Plt directed 13 rounds of counter-mortar artillery with good target coverage.
- 050115 Company A spotted a VC to their front and fired at him. The VC returned fire which resulted in 1 USMC WIA.
- 050715 All units except Company B were moving to the 4th Marines area at Camp Evans.
- 050900 Company C's rear point received 100 rounds of small arms fire from coord 579409. Fire was returned with 250 rounds of M-16 and approximately 85 rounds of artillery was fired into the area. An armed UH-1E was utilized to fire suppressive fire.
- 051745 BLT 1/3(-) arrived at an assembly area near Camp Evans.
- 051800 Unit positions: A 534334, B 583496, C 538332, H&S (-) 537334.
- 051945 Company B and Battery A 1/12 were backloaded aboard the USS DULUTH from Green Beach.
- 060600 Operation Beacon Point was terminated.

9. Results

- a. Enemy Losses
 2 KIA Confirmed
 1 KIA Probable
 25 Detainees
- b. Weapons Captured
 1 M-2 Carbine
- c. Equipment Captured
 17 ChiCom Grenades
 1 French Grenade
 6 M-26 Grenades
 200 5.56mm rounds
 300 7.62mm rounds
 76 7.62mm rounds, linked
 360 .30cal rounds

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9 57mm R.R. rounds
 90 60mm Mortar rounds
 6 81mm Mortar rounds
 1 105mm Howitzer round
 1 82mm Mortar round
 60 40mm rounds
 82 M2A4 Bounding Mines
 71,500 lbs of Rice
 8 Spools of trip wire
 2 Maps
 Assorted medical supplies
 1 Poncho

d. Friendly Losses

2 KIA
 26 WIA
 8 WIA (NE)

e. Friendly Equipment Lost or Destroyed, None.

10. Administrative Matters

a. Postal. All mail was delivered to the BLT rear aboard ship, sorted by unit, passed to the LSA and delivered to the field on a daily basis via resupply helicopters. No difficulties were encountered.

b. Logistics. From 1-5 Sep all resupply was accomplished by helicopter from the 4th Marines LSA on a daily basis. All classes of supply were made available from the LSA with the exception of class II non-consumables which were furnished from BLT Op stocks. Resupply on 6 Sep was effected by truck convoy from 4th Marines LSA. No extreme difficulties were encountered.

c. Treatment of Casualties and Evacuation. Casualties were evacuated by helicopter from the operating area directly to the USS OKINAWA LPH-3 PCS. Unit casualties were reported via HST and Tac Log nets to BLT 1/3 S-1, to CTG 79.4 to CMC. No difficulties were encountered.

d. Communications. During the operation communications were generally satisfactory with the exception of occasional but continuing over-riding of one frequency upon another frequency.

11. Commander's Analysis

During Operation Beacon Point 71,500 lbs of rice were uncovered. 41,500 lbs were evacuated and the remainder was destroyed by burning as directed by higher authority. The requirement to evacuate the above amount of rice caused a considerable delay in the overall tactical scheme of maneuver and did limit the amount of time to complete the operation. In a previous operation under similar circumstances, refugee personnel were helilifted into the area to assist the tactical troops in bagging and evacuating a large rice cache. The delay in the tactical situation was held to a minimum period of time.

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As in most search and destroy type operations, the time allotted was not adequate for a thorough, extensive search and destroy of the area assigned. The results could have been considerably more conclusive.

It is suggested that plans for future operations consider the employment of indigenous personnel for the removal of extremely large rice caches and that sufficient time be allotted for the unit involved to conduct a thorough, detailed search and destroy operation.

A. I. Thomas
A. I. THOMAS

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Map Sheet 6442 II

P.L. BETTY

P.L. ALICE

AOA

SECTOR I

FFZ

A11
55

LZ SPARROW

P.L. JOAN

LZ HAWK

P.L. TONI

LZ EAGLE

GREEN BEACH
59249T



SECTOR II

P.L. JANE

AOA

P.L. SANDRA

6
A5

P.L. JILL

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AOA

Operation Beacon Point
BLT 1/3 150800 September 1967
1/50,000

FREE FIRE ZONE

79.4

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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 1/3
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
FPO, San Francisco 96602

14 September 1967

1stBr, 3dMar S & C No. 00387-47
Copy No. 1 of 35 Copies

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commander, Task Group 79.4

Subj: Combat After Action Report (Operation Fremont)

Ref: (a) 4th Mar Frag Order 43-67 (Operation Fremont)
(b) BLT 1/3 Oral Frag Order (See Operation Overlay)

Encl: (1) Overlay to Operation Fremont

1. Code Name. Fremont; Search and Destroy Operation.
2. Dates and Location of Operation. 6-9 September 1967, Thua Thien and Quang Tri Provinces, RVN.
3. Command Headquarters. Headquarters, Fourth Marine Regiment.

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	Captain MACK
Company A	Captain LARIMORE
Company B	Captain LANDES
Company C	Captain BURLISON
Company D	Captain RICHARDSON

4. Task Organization.

<u>BLT 1/3 (-)</u>	LtCol THOMAS
H&S Co (-)(Rein)	Capt MACK
H&S Co (-)	
81mm Mortar Plt	Lt PARKER
Det Btry A, 1stBn, 12th Mar (LMA)	Lt JOHNSON
1st Clearing Plat (Rein) Co B 3d MedBn	Lt KANTER (USN)

1/3
a/a
FREMONT

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Det 15th Dental Co

Lt MCGINN

1st Plat (-) Co B 3d ReconBn

Lt MATSUMOTO

Co A (Rein)

Capt LARIMORE

Co A

FO Tm Btry A, 1st Bn 12th Mar

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SP Bn (HST)

Det H&S Co

Det Intel Sect

Det Med Plat

Det Comm Plat

Det IT Team

1st Sec, 81mm Mort Plat

Co B (Rein)

Capt LANDES

Co B

FO Tm Btry A, 1st Bn 12th Mar

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SP Bn (HST)

Det H&S Co

Det Intel Sect

Det Med Plat

Det IT Team

2d Sec, 81mm Mort Plat

Co C (Rein)

Capt BURLISON

Co C

FO Tm Btry A, 1st Bn 12th Mar

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn

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Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SP Bn (HST)

Det H&S Co

Det Intel Sect

Det Med Plat

Det Comm Plat

Det IT Team

3d Sec, 81mm Mort Plat

2d Plat (-)(Rein) Co A 3d Engr Bn

Lt WENTWORTH (6-7 Sep 67)

Lt GARDNER (8-9 Sep 67)

2d Plt, Co A, 3d Engr Bn

Det H&S Co, 3d Engr Bn

Det Engr Supt Co, 3d Engr Bn

2d Plat (-)(Rein) Co B 3d SP Bn

Lt WYMER

2d Plt, Co B, 3d SP Bn

Det H&S Co, 3d SP Bn

a. Attachments and Detachments(1) Detachments. Co D (Rein) to 2d Bn 4th Marines.(2) Attachments. See Task Organization.5. Supporting Forces

a. Artillery. General Support Reinforcing Fires were available and provided by the 1st Provisional 155mm Battery, 3d Bn 12th Marines and Battery H, 3d Bn 12th Marines, both located at Coord 468380. The 2d Provisional 155mm Battery, 3d Bn 12th Marines, located at Coord 535323 also provided reinforcing fires. No H&I missions were fired in support of the Battalion.

Ammunition Expenditure

137 HE (1st Prov Btry 36, 2d Prov Btry 2, H Btry 99)

8 WP (2d Prov Btry 7, H Btry 1)

9 Illum (H Btry 9)

Missions Fired

Observed	8 (1st Prov Btry 1, 2d Prov Btry 3, H Btry 4)
Unobserved	0
H&I	0

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b. Air Support. Air Support consisted of helicopter resupply and Medevac missions as requested from 4th Marines. No fixed wing aircraft were utilized.

6. Intelligence. Enemy action was limited to scattered sniper activity and small, team-sized encounters. Villagers in the area of operations were generally uncooperative.

Patrol activity encountered innumerable punji pits and stakes, both wooden and metal wire, frequently at ground level along trails and roads.

One noteworthy cache of weapons and documents was found in an outcropping of bamboo along a trail by Company B.

7. Mission. BLT 1/3 (-) establish blocking positions X and Y; provide security for forward artillery position utilizing platoon of tanks at vicinity of coord YD 461382; provide screening force north of 2/4 operating area vicinity of YD 400430 capable of reinforcing northern most 2/4 maneuver element located along axis blue on order (see enclosure (1)); maintain one rifle platoon on 15 minute alert as Sparrow Hawk with remainder of company prepared to follow on one hour notice to come to the aid of District Headquarters at Phong Dien, Huong Dien, Huong Tra and Quang Dien.

8. Execution. At 041800 September 1967, one company was attached to the 2d Bn, 4th Marines to participate in their search and destroy activities. Three companies and the Alpha Command Group moved by truck from Phong Dien to designated blocking positions. The operation terminated with a truck movement back to Camp Evans and then on to Colco Ramp for a waterborne backload to ARG Shipping.

a. Chronological Sequence of Events

060600H Operation Fremont commenced for BLT 1/3.
 061030H Company A and Alpha Command Group arrived at blocking position Y and consolidated positions with 105 and 155 artillery units.
 061245H Company C arrived at dismount point and commenced sweep to establish blocking position X.
 061540H Company C received small arms sniper fire at coord 443396.
 061545H Company B arrived at dismount point and commenced sweep to establish screening position.
 061720H Company B received small arms sniper fire at coord 422433. Returned fire with 3, M79 rounds and observed two VC running. Swept area with negative results.
 061730H Company B uncovered ten punji pits and approximately 150 punji stakes and destroyed same. Coord 422438.
 061815H Company B received small arms sniper fire from coord 415438 and requested an artillery mission but mission was not cleared. Returned fire with approximately 300 rounds 5.56, 250 rounds 7.62, and 6 rounds M79. Swept area with negative results.
 062045H Company B consolidated screening position.
 062400H Company positions: Co A 467379, Co B 410430, Co C 436404, H&S (-) 468382.

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- 070800H Company B discovered 30 wire punji stakes and 100 wooden stakes hidden in the brush at coord 410430. Destroyed same.
- 070855H Company B received small arms sniper fire from coord 408429. Returned approximately 20 rounds of 5.56 and maneuvered elements into the area. Searched with negative results.
- 071110H Company B resupply helicopters received sniper fire at coord 401429.
- 071115H Company B patrol detonated booby trapped ChiCom grenade at coord 410427. One USMC WIA sustained.
- 071220H Company B medevac helicopters received small arms sniper fire from coord 409433 and 408420. Fired 6 rounds 60mm mortar and 4 rounds 81mm mortar suppressive fire.
- 071245H Patrol from Company A received small arms sniper fire at coord 441383. Returned 10 rounds 5.56 and searched area with negative results.
- 071315H Patrol from Company A received small arms sniper fire from coord 435377 and returned 35 rounds 5.56 and 9 rounds of 81mm mortar. Searched area with negative results.
- 071700H Company C patrol conducted MEDCAP in friendly village at coord 405453. Treated 15 civilians.
- 072400H Company positions: Co A 467379, Co B 395434, Co C 436404, H&S (-) 468382
- 080915H Company B sustained one USMC WIA (NE) result of punji stake injury at coord 415432.
- 081045H Company B discovered weapons cache hidden in bamboo thicket at coord 417431. Found one automatic and four bolt action rifles, two ChiCom grenades, assorted small arms ammunition and propaganda.
- 081230H Company B patrol found military training documents, two hand drawn maps and propaganda at coord 409426.
- 081430H Company C patrol received small arms sniper fire from coord 442399. Returned two rounds M 79 and searched area with negative results.
- 081905H Company A patrol detonated booby trapped ChiCom grenade at coord 435377. Sustained one USMC WIA.
- 081945H Company C observed approximately 35 personnel preparing to establish positions at coord 424414. All appeared to be wearing similar dark clothing with some type of headgear. Artillery mission requested and fired 99 rounds 105 mm and 38 rounds 155mm. Patrols were dispatched to block area until first light. Search teams were moved into area at first light and found nothing.
- 082400H Company positions: Co A 467379, Co B 415420, Co C 436404, H&S (-) 468382.
- 091015H Company A and Alpha Command Group departed by truck for Camp Evans.
- 091045H Company A and Alpha Command Group arrived at Camp Evans.
- 091300H Companies B, C and D arrived at Camp Evans.
- 091330H Battalion departed Camp Evans by truck convoy for Golco Ramp.

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- 091520H Truck convoy arrives Colco ramp and waterborne backload commenced.
- 091530H Operational control of BLT 1/3 passed from 4th Mar to CTG 79.4 (CG 3d MarDiv Msg 091329Z Sep).

9. Resultsa. Enemy Losses

0 KIA Confirmed
0 KIA Probable
0 Detained

b. Weapons Captured

1 7.62 PPSS M1941 Russian SMG with drum magazine
3 AK40 Bolt action rifles
1 French bolt action rifle
2 ChiCom grenades
2 M1A2 grenade launchers
2 1/2 lb blocks of ChiCom TNT
88 rounds 7.62 ammunition
2 M-16 magazines (loaded)

c. Equipment Captured

1 Magazine pouch
2 Hand-drawn maps
assorted Documents and Propaganda

d. Friendly Losses

2 WIA
1 WIA (NE)

e. Friendly Equipment Lost or Destroyed. None.10. Administrative Matters

a. Postal. Mail was delivered to the BLT rear aboard ship, sorted, and delivered to the field with no difficulties.

b. Logistics. Units were resupplied by helicopter and truck daily from the LSA at Camp Evans. No difficulties were encountered.

c. Treatment of Casualties and Evacuation. Casualties were evacuated by helicopter with priority and emergency medevacs being sent to the LPH and routine medevacs to Camp Evans. No problems were encountered.

d. Communications. Communications were good with no difficulties encountered.

11. Commander's Analysis

One of the missions assigned to BLT 1/3 was security of a forward artillery position that consisted of two batteries. The position selected by the artillery elements was almost on the military crest of the hill and

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it was considered necessary to have the artillery move to a lower portion of the hill where they could be better protected from enemy action and observation and still accomplish their mission.

In addition, this assisted the ground commander in accomplishing his mission by making the greatest utilization of the best defensive terrain available based on his personal strength.

The working relationship between the security and artillery organizations was outstanding but prior coordination in this case could have prevented a second move.

The above incident had no adverse effect on the overall operation. However, it is suggested that in future, similar operations the ground commander responsible for security and the artillery commander coordinate to the greatest extent possible to ensure the best utilization of the available terrain and the limited number of security personnel.

AI Thomas

A. I. THOMAS

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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 1/3
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
FPO, San Francisco 96602

3/PDF/des
5050
27 September 1967

1stBr, 3dMar B & C No. 00419-67
Copy No. 1 of 55 Copies

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commander, Task Group 79.4

Subj: Combat After Action Report (Operation BALLISTIC CHARGE)

- Ref: (a) CTG 79.4 OpPlan 120A-67
- (b) CTG 79.4 Frag Order #1 for Operation BALLISTIC CHARGE
- (c) BLT 1/3 Frag Order #1 for Operation BALLISTIC CHARGE
- (d) Maps: Vietnam AMS 1:50,000 Series L7014 Sheets 6640I and 6640II

Encl: (1) Overlay to Operation BALLISTIC CHARGE

1. Code Name. BALLISTIC CHARGE, Search and Destroy Operation.
2. Dates and Location of Operation. 16-20 September 1967. Tinh Quang Nam and Tinh Quang Tin Provinces, RVN.
3. Command Headquarters. CTG 79.4

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	Captain MACK
Company A	Captain LARIMORE
Company B	Captain LANDES
Company C	Captain BURLESON
Company D	Captain RICHARDSON
4.2" Mortar Battery	Captain PATTERSON

4. Task Organization

<u>BLT 1/3 (-)</u>	LtCol THOMAS
<u>H&S Co (-)(Rein)</u>	Captain MACK
<u>H&S Co (-)</u>	Lt PARKER
Det Btry A, 1stBn. 12thMar (LnTm)	Lt JOHNSON
Det Hq Btry 1stBn. 12thMar (NGF LnTm)	Ltjg COLE

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1st Plt (-) Co B 3d ReconBn

1st FRANCIS

Det Interpreter Team

Det Interrogator Translator Team

Co A (Rein)

Capt LARIMORE

Co A

FO Tm Btry A, 1st Bn 12th Mar

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B 3d SP Bn (HST)

Det H&S Co

Det Intel Sect

Det Med Plat

Det Comm Plat

1st&2d Sect 81mm Mortar Plat

Det Interrogator Translator Team

Co B (Rein)

Capt LANDES

Co B

FO Tm Btry A, 1st Bn 12th Marines

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SP Bn (HST)

Det H&S Co

Det Intel Sect

Det Med Plat

Det Comm Plat

Det Interrogator Translator Team

Co C (Rein)

Capt BURLERSON

Co C

FO Tm Btry A, 1st Bn 12th Marines

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn

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[REDACTED] Sect 81ma [REDACTED] Plat

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SP Bn (HST)

Det H&S Co

Det Intel Sect

Det Med Plat

Det Comm Plat

Det Interrogator Translator Team

4.2" Mortar Btry 2dBn 12th Marines Capt PATTERSON

2d Plat (-)(Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn Lt GARDNER

2d Plat, Co A, 3d Engr Bn

Det H&S Co, 3d Engr Bn

Det Engr Supt Co, 3d Engr Bn

2d Plat (-)(Rein) Co B, 3d SP Bn Lt WYMER

2d Plat, Co B, 3d SP Bn

Det H&S Co, 3d SP Bn

4th Plat (Rein) Co A, 5th AmTracBn Lt KAUFMAN

4th Plat Co A, 5th AmTracBn

Det H&S Co 5th AmTracBn

3d Plat (Rein) Co C, 3d Tank Bn Lt BUCKLEY

3d Plat Co C, 3d Tank Bn

Det H&S Co 3d Tank Bn

1st Plat (-) Co B, 3d Recon Bn Lt FRANCIS

BLT RESERVE

Co D (Rein) Capt RICHARSON

Co D

FO Tm Btry A, 1stBn 12thMar

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SP Bn (HST)

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Det H&S Co

Det Intel Sect

Det Med Plat

Det Comm Plat

Det Interrogator Translator Team

5. Supporting Forces

a. Artillery:

- (1) Direct artillery support was furnished by 4.2" Mortar Battery 2d Bn 12th Marines, which was displaced with the Alpha Command Group by LVT's so that it could continuously support the battalion.
- (2) General support reinforcing fires were available from units located at HOI-AN.
- (3) Ammunition Expenditures

841 HE
73 WP
85 Illum

- (4) Missions Fired

Observed	20
Unobserved	1
H & I	293

b. Naval Gunfire Support

- (1) Naval gunfire support was provided by the USS WALDRON (DD-699) which is armed with three twin 5"/38 caliber mounts, the USS SMALL (DDR-838) which is armed with three twin 5"/38 caliber mounts, and the USS HOPEWELL (DD-681) which is armed with four single 5"/38 caliber mounts.
- (2) The USS WALDRON was in support during 16 September to 18 September. The ship fired 232 rounds of preparation fire at 9 targets, and 35 rounds of night H&I fires at 6 targets.
- (3) The USS HOPEWELL was in support from 16 September to 21 September. The ship fired 211 rounds of preparation fire at 6 targets, 61 rounds of called fire at 3 targets (resulting in 5 VC KIA Prob.), and 712 rounds of night H&I fires at 137 targets.
- (4) The USS SMALL was in support from 21 September to 22 September. The ship fired 120 rounds of night fires at 20 targets.
- (5) A total of 1,371 rounds were fired at 194 targets.

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Ammunition Expended

USS SMALL	USS WALDRON	USS H. PEWELL
120-HC	238-HC	901-HC
	25-WP	29-WP
	<u>4-Illum</u>	39-AAC
	267	<u>15-AAC (3"/50)</u>
		984

c. Air Support.

- (1) Tactical close air support was sparingly used during Operation BALLISTIC CHARGE. Four sorties were used to prep the LZ prior to the heliborne assault. One flight of fixed wing ran a strike at positions indicated at BT-221459 with a BDA of 5 structures destroyed and 5 damaged.
- (2) UH-1E's ran 6 sorties with an unknown BDA. Troops moving into the fire suppression areas found blood and bandages but no VC bodies.
- (3) Aerial observers were used approximately 5 hours each day giving the battalion useful information as to enemy troop movement and disposition. Helicopters were used to transport two companies and H&S Company (-) in the LZ on D-Day.
- (4) Four C&C aircraft were used by the battalion which gave the Battalion Commander an airborne tactical evaluation of the conduct of Operation BALLISTIC CHARGE.
- (5) There were 9 priority medevacs during the operation.

6. Intelligence

- a. Initially, the enemy employed aggressive delaying action characterized by sniping and ambushing tactics. During the later search phase, enemy contact diminished to isolated small unit incidents. Scattered mines and punji traps were found throughout the AOA.
- b. Guided by indigenous officials and informants, thorough searches turned up many bunkers, caves, and false tunnels but few objects of intelligence value. One prisoner captured, claimed to be a National Liberation Front Cadreman at District level.
- c. Less than satisfactory results were achieved through the indigenous informants who frequently changed reports of what they knew of the area. On two occasions they refused to accompany BLT patrols. Conversely, the interpreters assigned proved invaluable in obtaining intelligence of immediate tactical value.

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7. Mission. BLT 1/3 at 1-Hour on D-Day conduct a helo assault into LZ CROW, center coordinate 199474 (alternate LZ coordinate 206477) at H- (Hour) conduct an amphibious assault over Red Beach center coordinate 234507. Designate reserve company to be committed on order OTG 7914. Reserve company to maintain platoon size Sparrow Hawk force IAW Reference B while embarked. Conduct search and destroy operations to the North.

8. Execution. At H-Hour, 160700 H September 1967, two rifle companies conducted an amphibious assault across Red Beach in successive waves. They immediately deployed and seized Objectives #2 and #3. At L-Hour, 160700-H September 1967, one company conducted a heliborne assault on the alternate Landing Zone GOOSE and proceeded to seize Objective #1. The Alpha Command Group and the reserve company landed in an LZ at coordinates 227498 after it had been secured by forces who landed over Red Beach. Three companies then conducted a rapid area sweep in a Northerly direction with the Alpha Command Group and one company following in trace. Following the rapid sweep, the BLT moved South in the AQA conducting a deliberate search and destroy operation.

a. Chronological Sequence of Events

- 160600H Operation BALLISTIC CHARGE commenced for BLT 1/3.
- 160704H The first two waves of Company A had landed on Red Beach.
- 160710H Company B had landed on Red Beach.
- 160715H The first elements of Company C received small arms fire from LZ GOOSE.
- 160720H The first elements of Company C landed in LZ GOOSE.
- 160727H Company C received light small arms sniper fire from coordinates 202478.
- 160730H One helicopter received small arms sniper fire coming into LZ GOOSE and Company C sustained 1 USN WIA.
- 160755H Elements of the Alpha Command had landed in an LZ at coordinates 227498.
- 160816H Company A captured 2 VCS at coordinates 221503.
- 160820H Company A captured one VCS hiding in a hut at coordinates 220504.
- 160825H Company A seized Objective #2.
- 160828H Company B seized Objective #3.
- 160829H Company C seized Objective #1.
- 160830H Company A captured 1 VCS in a hut with a cartridge belt and grenade near the entrance at coordinates 218504.
- 160849H Company B discovered punji pits at coordinates 234492 and 234488. They were marked with stakes at the corners pointing toward the center.
- 160900H Company C captured 2 VCS at coordinates 207473.
- 161000H Recon platoon captured 5 VCS at coordinates 218506.
- 161030H Company C sustained 1 USMC WIA as a result of incoming sniper rounds at coordinates 207473.
- 161030H Company A sustained 1 USMC WIA due to sniper fire at coordinates 220507.
- 161055H Company B received sniper fire at coordinates 217486. They also picked up 2 VCS in the same area.
- 161100H Company D picked up 1 VCS at coordinates 216507.
- 161100H Company A had found 1 VCS without an identification card at coordinates 213511.
- 161100H Company C captured 1 female VCS at coordinates 207473.
- 161200H Company A received sniper fire at coordinates 215516.
- 161315H Company D discovered 5 butterfly mines at coordinates 212518. They were destroyed.
- 161330H Company C received sniper fire at coordinates 195481 and 194484. They returned fire with M-16 and M-79 rounds with negative results.

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- 161400H Company A had found a young boy with 1,500 piasters, at coordinates 208522. He was detained as a VCS.
- 161405H Company A located 2 VCS at coordinates 210518.
- 161500H Company C sustained 1 USMC WIA as a result of a punji pit injury at coordinates 185492.
- 161630H Recon received approximately 50 rounds of small arms fire from 9 VC at coordinates 213526 and 212528. They returned fire with the M-16 and M-79 resulting in 1 VC KIA confirmed and 1 VC KIA probable.
- 161730H Company D captured 1 VCS as he was running away at coordinates 210520.
- 161739H Company C seized Objective #4.
- 161800H Company C picked up 1 VCS male hiking at coordinates 211476. Another VCS was picked up at coordinates 185495.
- 161800H Company positions: Co A 205520, Co B 188512, Co C 180498 Co D 208517, H&S (-) 207519.
- 161815H Company D captured a VCS hiding in a bunker at coordinates 210519.
- 161840H Company A picked up 1 VCS at coordinates 207522.
- 162100H Company C observed approximately 100 indigenous personnel crossing the Truang Giang River at coordinates 175505. They called supporting arms on them from Mortar Battery 2/12. The results were unknown.
- 162110H Company B received 30 rounds of enemy small arms fire at coordinates 193514.
- 162115H Company D received sniper fire at coordinates 207519.
- 162130H Company A had a listening post receiving 6 automatic rounds at coordinates 203521. They threw a grenade and returned to the lines.
- 162155H Company A had 1 VC sneaking toward the lines at coordinates 208522. He was taken under fire with M-16's. The result was 1 VC KIA confirmed.
- 162330H Company C received approximately 20-30 rounds of small arms fire at coordinates 178502.
- 162330H Company B sustained 1 USMC WIA as a result of shrapnel from unidentified incoming bombs at coordinates 194512.
- 170745H Company A received 10 rounds of incoming sniper fire at coordinates 205524.
- 170820H Recon picked up 1 VCS with an amputated leg at coordinates 209538.
- 170825H Recon received sniper fire from coordinates 209539.
- 170830H Company A sustained 2 USMC WIA from unidentified incoming large caliber rounds at coordinates 211515.
- 170855H Company B had secured Objective #6.
- 170900H Company C received 20 rounds of sniper fire at coordinates 177510. They returned fire and called a 60mm mortar mission with negative results.
- 170910H Company C reported that Objective #5 was secured.
- 170930H Company C discovered 1,000 punji stakes and 1,000 pounds of rice at coordinates 167515. These were destroyed. They also captured 1 VCS.
- 170930H Company A discovered a fresh grave with a body at coordinates 208544. One VC KIA confirmed was credited.
- 170945H Company A picked up 8 VCS in a hut at coordinates 208544.

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- 171000H Company B picked up 1 VCS at coordinates 180536.
- 171035H Company A located 4 VCS in a hut at coordinates 208548.
- 171140H Company A had found 19 US 2.75" rockets at coordinates 212562. They were destroyed.
- 171215H Recon took 4 VC under fire at coordinates 212557 with negative results.
- 171230H Company A seized Objective #8.
- 171305H Recon had seen 4 VC with weapons at coordinates 209538. They were taken under fire with negative results.
- 171400H Company C discovered an assortment of medical supplies at coordinates 171516.
- 171400H Company A had secured Objective #7.
- 171430H Company B discovered 150 punji sticks at coordinates 182536. They were destroyed.
- 171510H Recon took 4 VC with weapons under fire at coordinates 211-510. The results were 1 VC KIA confirmed.
- 171530H A patrol from Company C killed 1 VC as he tried to run away from them at coordinates 175509.
- 171630H Company B had an outpost receiving from 150-200 rounds of small arms fire at coordinates 190535. A platoon with 2 tanks in support was dispatched to help out.
- 171640H Company A located 1 VCS hiding in a bunker at coordinates 197544.
- 171800H Company positions: Co A 205537, Co B 192532, Co C 173515, Co D 203537, and H&S (-) 204537.
- 171900H Company A fired upon 1 VC carrying a carbine at coordinates 204544 with negative results.
- 172005H A Company B listening post received 5 rounds of incoming small arms fire at coordinates 191530.
- 172007H Company A wounded a VC as he ran from the lines at coordinates 201544.
- 172035H A listening post from Company A was probed at coordinates 205538. Two hand grenades were thrown by the LP with negative results.
- 180900H A patrol from Company C called an 81mm Mortar Mission on snipers at coordinates 184504. One VC was seen in the area where the mortar rounds landed. 1 VC KIA probable was claimed.
- 180930H Company D sustained 2 WIA when an 81mm mortar round landed at coordinates 201520530.
- 181100H Company C killed 1 VC as he tried to swim away from them at coordinates 164517.
- 181100H A patrol from Company C fired upon 6 VC who appeared to be carrying something at coordinates 173514. One VC fell and was carried away by the others. 1 KIA probable was credited.
- 181115H Company A had found a village with appearances of small pox at coordinates 219540.
- 181230H Company D discovered 1 wounded VC hiding in a cave at coordinates 205515. He said that 2 of his buddies were killed at coordinates 192531 on the 17th. Company B, who engaged in a fire fight with VC in that area, received credit for 2 VC KIA confirmed.

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- 181235H Company A picked up 8 VCS hiding in various huts and bunkers at coordinates 215546.
- 181410H Company A searched through bunkers and huts at coordinates 221535 and rounded up 7 VCS.
- 181430H Alpha Command picked up 1 VCS who was pointed out by the village chief at coordinates 201519.
- 181520H Company A received 5 rounds of sniper fire from coordinates 204516.
- 181655H Company A fired upon 1 VC who was shooting at helicopters at coordinates 202522. The results were negative.
- 181730H Company C called an Army aerial observer to check out numerous indigenous personnel at coordinates 174485. An air strike was called when the aerial observer received sniper fire. The Army TAO reported 135 KIA probable as BDA, however since area was outside assigned AOA a verification of this BDA was not accomplished.
- 181800H Company positions: Co A 203519, Co B 192512, Co C 186494, Co D 200518, H&S (-) 201519.
- 182000H An ambush patrol from Company B received approximately 30 rounds of small arms fire at coordinates 189522.
- 182130H Company C had a listening post fired upon at coordinates 186498. They sustained 1 USMC WIA.
- 182230H Company A called an 81mm Mortar Mission on approximately 20 VC at coordinates 212520. The results were negative.
- 190300H The ITT Team released 9 detainees as innocent civilians at coordinates 201524.
- 190745H Company A captured 1 indigenous person (at coordinates 205516) who stated that he was a VC.
- 190930H Company A received 2 rounds of sniper fire at coordinates 205517.
- 190940H Company D sustained 1 USMC WIA from shrapnel at coordinates 207506.
- 190940H Company D received sniper fire from coordinates 207506. They picked up 1 VCS near this area.
- 191015H Company A received sniper fire from a tree line at coordinates 213522. They advanced by fire and movement and found 1 VC KIA confirmed.
- 191315H Company A located 2 indigenous personnel in a bomb shelter who admitted being VC. They also uncovered a 9mm pistol, 1 transistor radio, 3 wrist watches, 2 cartridge belts, and documents. These were at coordinates 207517.
- 191415H UH-1E's fired on 6 VC after they took sniper rounds at coordinates 202543. Company B swept the area and found a bloody piece of clothing. 1 VC KIA probable was credited.
- 191430H Recon found 1 VCS rolled up in a mat at coordinates 204525.
- 191600H Company C captured 1 male VCS carrying medical supplies at coordinates 185488.
- 191640H Company C spotted 5 VC carrying what appeared to be a mortar at coordinates 185483. Naval gunfire was called with excellent coverage. Five VC KIA probable were credited.
- 191800H Company positions: Co A 203519, Co B 192512, Co C 186494, Co D 200518, H&S Co (-) 201519.
- 191900H Company A called an 81mm Mortar Mission on 4 VC at coordinates 209523 with negative results.

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- 192123H A listening post from Company A was probed at coordinates 203536. They threw 2 grenades and moved back to the lines.
- 192130H Company C was hit on 3 sides by VC elements at coordinates 186493. During the encounter four USMC WIA were sustained and one VC KIA was confirmed. One VC escaped during the fight.
- 192145H Company D received incoming small arms fire from coordinates 200520.
- 192215H Mortar Battery 2/12 sustained 1 USMC WIA at coordinates 200520 when an HE round exploded seconds after leaving the tube due to a faulty fuze.
- 192230H Company B received 20 rounds of small arms fire from coordinates 192512.
- 200830H Company A received 2 rounds of sniper fire from coordinates 211517.
- 200947H Company A killed 1 VC at coordinates 223508 as he was running away from an area of sniper fire.
- 201000H Company C sustained 1 USMC WIA as a result of a booby trap at coordinates 195483.
- 201000H Company C had taken 6-8 VC under fire at coordinates 205473. One VC KIA probable was credited. They also captured a homemade pistol.
- 201600H Company C captured 1 VCS with a bullet wound in his foot at coordinates 234487.
- 201800H Company positions: Co A 228516, Co B 219502, Co C 235489, Co D 223503, H&S Co(-), 221503.
- 201945H Company B fired at 3 VC with negative results at coordinates 217506.
- 201945H Recon had taken 3 VC under fire at coordinates 210505, They got credit for 1 VC KIA probable when a scream of pain was heard from 1 of the VC. Recon also sustained 1 USMC WIA.
- 210800H Company B discovered 3-60mm mortar rounds and 1 trip wire at coordinates 215497. The mortar rounds were destroyed.
- 210810H LVT's sustained 1 USMC WIA from a stray sniper round at coordinates 215504.
- 210820H Company B picked up 2 VCS hiding behind a hut at coordinates 218496.
- 211015H Company A had 2 VC KIA confirmed by an ambush at coordinates 224524.
- 211045H Company B received 10-20 rounds of sniper fire from coordinates 212499.
- 211100H A platoon from Company B swept the area where they received sniper fire at coordinates 212498. They flushed 2 VC and killed one of them.
- 211145H Company B took 3 VC under fire at coordinates 210498 with negative results.
- 211200H Company C sustained 1 USMC WIA when a booby trap was set off at coordinates 235488.
- 211445H Two engineers from Company C were killed when a mine that they were probing with combat knives blew up at coordinates 232495.
- 211800H Company positions: Co A 228516, Co B 219502, Co C 235489, Co D 223503, H&S Co(-) 221503.
- 212320H Company C received incoming small arms fire and 4 hand grenades at coordinates 237493.
- 220545H All units departed for the LZ at coordinates 233501.

220615H H&S Co(-) and Company D arrived at LZ at coordinates 233501.
 220700H Operation BALLISTIC CHARGE was concluded and BLT 1/3 was
 chopped to the 1st Marines. (Blackwell).

9. Results

- a. Enemy Losses
 - 14 KIA Confirmed
 - 11 KIA Probable
 - 55 Detainees
 - 3 POW's
- b. Weapons Captured
 - 1 9mm Browning Pistol
 - 1 Homemade Pistol
- c. Equipment Captured
 - 2 ChiCom Grenades
 - 5 Butterfly Mines
 - 1 M-26 Grenade
 - 3 60mm Mortar Rounds
 - 2 Cartridge Belts
 - 1 Poncho
 - 1 Transistor Radio
 - 3 Wrist Watches
 - \$1,500 VN
 - Assorted Medical Supplies
 - Assorted Documents
 - 1,000 Pounds of Rice
 - 3,000 Punji Stakes
- d. Friendly Losses
 - 2 KIA
 - 20 WIA
- e. Friendly Equipment Lost or Destroyed
 - None

10. Administrative Matters

- a. Postal. Mail delivery was effected via resupply helo's to units commencing D+2 and daily thereafter. No difficulties were encountered.
- b. Logistics. Logistical support was provided from ARG-A shipping. Resupply was accomplished daily beginning D+1 utilizing helo's and LVT's. The weather was a major factor in planning and coordinating time of resupply via helo's. Resupply requests were made from BLT S-4 direct to the LSA established aboard the USS DULUTH. No particular problems or difficulties were encountered.
- c. Treatment of Casualties and Evacuation. All casualties and their equipment were evacuated to the USS OKINAWA. Casualty reports were made direct to BLT S-1 aboard USS OKINAWA. No difficulties were encountered.

- d. Communications. Logistics communications were effected via HST and TAG-LOG nets. Communications with Helo's in the LZ were made over HST/LZ control nets. No extreme difficulties were encountered.

11. Commander's Analysis

Operation BALLISTIC CHARGE was characterized by a simultaneous surface and helicopterborne assault into the Southern portion of the AOA, a rapid sweep to the Northern limits of the AOA, and then a deliberate search and destroy back to the South. Operation BALLISTIC CHARGE was the first operation for this commander where sufficient time was allowed for a thorough, deliberate search and destroy. It is considered that the area of operation was fully covered.

The transition from Operation BALLISTIC CHARGE to Operation SHELBY-VILLE was accomplished by a simultaneous heliborne withdrawal/assault of three rifle companies plus the command group into the new operating area and the tactical withdrawal of one rifle company, a mortar battery, an LVT platoon, and a tank platoon to the USS DULUTH was accomplished with minimum delay. In view of the helicopter availability, the rifle company was subsequently lifted from the USS DULUTH into the new operating area on a timely basis.

An amphibious withdrawal is a complicated maneuver at it's best and when combined with a simultaneous heliborne withdrawal/assault the maneuver requires extremely close coordination between the Navy and Marine Corps forces involved. Operation BALLISTIC CHARGE is an excellent example of the close cooperation enjoyed by the Navy-Marine Corps Team.

A new technique was used in this operation in that during the initial preparation fires for the LZ and during the initial heliborne assault, the BLT commander and the HMM commander were airborne in a UH-1E helicopter to observe and direct the initial phases of the operation. During the preparation fires for the primary LZ it became evident that the primary LZ could not be properly prepared with the scheduled fires so the alternate LZ was selected by the BLT commander and concurred with by the HMM commander. The preparation fires were shifted to the alternate LZ which could be more easily prepared. The initial wave of the heliborne assault was guided to the alternate LZ and the heliborne assault progressed satisfactorily.

Being airborne gave the commanders the capabilities to:

- a. Shift preparation fires to likely areas of enemy concentration from the view point of the ground commanders.
- b. Guide the initial heliborne assault wave to the exact LZ desired.
- c. Make adjustments to subsequent helicopter landing sites as dictated by the enemy and terrain.
- d. Influence the attack by having complete observation and the most current information available of the situation.
- e. Adjust helicopter approach and retirement lanes as dictated by the situation.

One problem encountered was communications between the BLT commander and the SLF commander. Possible solutions are:

- a. Passing information through HDC.
- b. Carrying an extra AN/PRC-25 radio.
- c. Changing frequencies of the Battalion tactical radio carried in the UH-1E.

The communications problem will be worked out during future operations.

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It is highly recommended that the immediate commander of the ground forces and the immediate commander of the helicopter forces involved in a heliborne assault be airborne, in direct communications with each other, in order that they can have current information and be in a better position to make timely decisions regarding the employment of their forces.

A. I. Thomas
A. I. THOMAS

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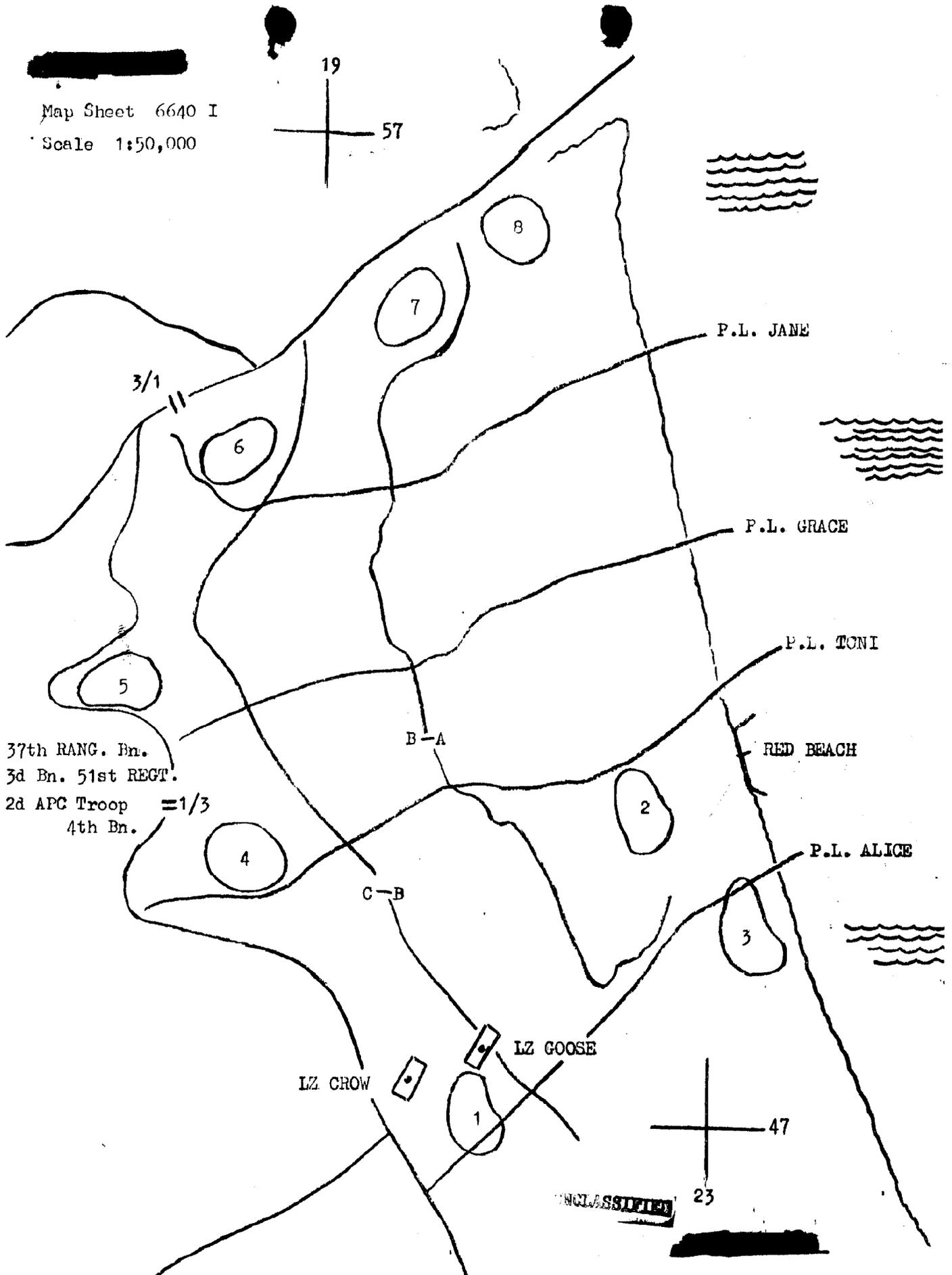
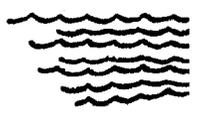
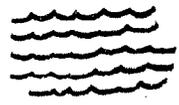
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Map Sheet 6640 I

Scale 1:50,000

19

57



37th RANG. Bn.
 3d Bn. 51st REGT.
 2d APC Troop = 1/3
 4th Bn.

P.L. JANE

P.L. GRACE

P.L. TONI

RED BEACH

P.L. ALICE

LZ GOOSE

LZ CHOW

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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 1/3
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
FPO, San Francisco 96602

3/PBF/des
5050
2 October 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Subj: Combat After Action Report (Operation SHELBYVILLE).

Ref: (a) 1st Marines OpOrder 127-67 (Operation SHELBYVILLE)
(b) Maps: 1:50,000 VIETNAM Series L7014, Sheets 6640I, II, III, and IV.
(c) BLT 1/3 Frag Orders #1 and #2 (See operation overlay)

Encl: (1) Overlay to OpOrder 127-67

- Code Name. SHELBYVILLE; Search and Destroy Operation.
- Dates and Location of Operation. 220700H September 1967 through 280700H September 1967, Tinh Quang Nam Province, Quan Dien Ban Sector, RVN.
- Command Headquarters. Headquarters, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF.

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company	Captain MACK
Company A	Captain LARIMORE
Company B	Captain LANDES
Company C	Captain BURLISON
Company D	Captain RICHARDSON

1stBn, 3dMar S & C No. 00420-67
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4. Task Organization

<u>BLT 1/3 (-)</u>	LtCol THOMAS
<u>H&S Co (-)(Rein)</u>	Capt MACK
<u>H&S Co (-)</u>	
Det Btry A, 1stBn, 12th Mar (LbTm)	Lt JOHNSON
1st Clearing Plat (Rein) Co B 3d MedBn	Lt KANTER (USN)
Det 15th Dental Co	Lt MCGINN
1st Plat (-) Co B 3d ReconBn	Lt FRANCIS
<u>Co B (Rein)</u>	Capt LANDES
Co B	
FO Tm Btry A, 1stBn 12th Mar	
Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn	
Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SP Bn (HST)	
Det H&S Co	
Det Intel Sect	
Det Med Plat	
Det IT Team	
2d Sect 81mm Mortar Plat	
Det Comm Plt	

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Co C (Rein)

Co C

FO Tm Btry A, 1stBn 12th Mar

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SP Bn (HST)

Det H&S Co

Det Intel Sect

Det Med Plat

Det Comm Plat

Det IT Team

3d Sect 81mm Mortar Plat

Capt BURLESON

Co D (Rein)

Co D

FO Tm Btry A, 1stBn 12th Mar

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SP Bn (HST)

Det H&S Co

Det Intel Sect

Det Med Plat

Det Comm Plat

Det IT Team

4th Sect 81mm Mortar Plat

Capt RICHARDSON

2d Plat (-) (Rein) Co A 3d Engr Bn

2d Plat Co A, 3d Engr Bn

Det H&S Co, 3d Engr Bn

Det Engr Supt Co, 3d Engr Bn

Lt GARDNER

2d Plat (-)(Rein) Co B 3d SP Bn

2d Plat Co B, 3d SP Bn

Det H&S Co, 3d SP Bn

Lt WYMER

BLT RESERVECo A (Rein)

Co A

FO Tm Btry A, 1stBn 12th Mar

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co A, 3d Engr Bn

Det 2d Plat (Rein) Co B, 3d SP Bn

Det H&S Co

Det Intel Sect

Det Med Plat

Det Comm Plat

Det IT Team

1st Sect 81mm Mortar Plat

Capt LARIMORE

Attachments and Detachments

a. Attachments. Co E, 2d Bn, 1st Mar, 210700H September 1967 through 220700H September 1967.

b. Detachments. None.

5. Supporting Forces

a. Artillery. General Support Fires were provided by the 1st Bn, 11th Marines; with Btry A, 1st Bn 11th Marines; Btry B, 1st Bn 11th Marines; and Btry C, 1st Bn, 11th Marines; located at coordinates 105582, 065582, and 105582

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respectively. Btry A, 1st Bn 11th Marines and Btry B, 1st Bn 11th Marines, were displaced for Phase II of the Operation to new locations in the vicinity of coordinates 9661 and 0161 respectively.

Ammunition Expenditure

1136 HE
44 WP
20 Illum
16 Smoke

Missions Fired

Prep 8
Observed 28
H&I 194

b. Naval Gunfire. The USS GOLDSBOROUGH, armed with two, single five-inch 54 mounts, was on station on D-Day from 220700H through 221630H, although no fires were utilized.

c. Air Support. Both fixed wing and helicopter support were readily available and utilized as indicated below. HMM 163 provided helicopter support for medevac and resupply missions in support of the Operation.

Fixed Wing Support - 39 Sorties flown

BDA - 61 Structures destroyed, 2 bunkers destroyed, 2 KBA confirmed and 5 KBA probable.

Helicopter Support - 6 UH-1E Sorties, 13 medevac missions, 2 C&C missions flown.

6. Intelligence. The enemy avoided sustained contact, preferring to exfiltrate the area of operations while harassing and delaying friendly forces by sniping, isolated mortar attacks, mines, punji and booby traps. Only on 26 September 1967, was the enemy engaged in force, and even then they immediately broke contact.

Relatively few indigenous personnel were found in the objective area. Those encountered were generally uncooperative and expressed pro-Viet Cong sympathies. No combatants were captured.

Generally, the terrain was thickly vegetated and enhanced concealment. Bunkers, fighting holes and trench lines were ubiquitous throughout the sparsely populated hamlets.

Particularly noteworthy was the invaluable aid provided by three Vietnamese interpreters from the 1st Marine Division to the BLT's intelligence collection effort. Their aggressiveness in communicating with local inhabitants provided timely information at the company level.

7. Mission. BLT 1/3 (-) at 220730H, conduct heliborne landing in designated LZ's, seize assigned objectives and be prepared to continue main attack to the east (Phase I). Be prepared to conduct search and destroy operations in western sector on order (Phase II).

8. Execution. BLT 1/3 (-) landed in LZ Hawk, secured the LZ, Battalion objectives #1 and #2 and Regimental objectives A and B. Thorough search and destroy was conducted in the vicinity of objectives A and B and then the BLT continued the attack to the Phase II objective area.

- a. Chronological Sequence of Events

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220700H BLT 1/3 (-) OpCon to 1st Marine Regiment and commenced Operation SHELBYVILLE with heliborne lift of Company B into LZ HAWK, coordinates 002548.

220808H Company B helilift completed.

220835H Company B received sporadic sniper fire from coordinates 004548.

220835H Company D helilift commenced.

220915H Company D helilift completed.

220915H Objective #1 secured by Company B. Coordinates 003544.

220915H Alpha Command Group helilift commenced.

221010H Alpha Command Group helilift completed.

221037H Objective #2 secured by Company D. Coordinates 008540.

221045H Company A detained a VCS found hiding in a bunker at coordinates 229489.

221200H Company D sustained one USMC WIA as a result of stepping into a punji trap at coordinates 008532.

221330H Company C in LZ HAWK and moving to clear area West of the railroad embankment in the vicinity of village at coordinates 996534.

221400H Company C detained one VCS found at coordinates 996545. Later released as an innocent civilian.

221430H Company A helilift completed.

221545H Company D detained one VCS and wounded one VC as both were discovered in a hole at coordinates 007527. VC was wounded by rifle fire as he attempted to flee. VC were clothed in green shorts and khaki shirts.

221600H Companies A and B and Alpha Command Group continued attack to Regimental Objective A.

221630H Company D sustained one USMC WIA as a result of stepping into a punji trap at coordinates 012528.

221845H Companies A, B and Alpha Command Group arrived at Regimental Objective A and consolidated positions at coordinates 017548.

221940H Company A sustained one USMC WIA as a result of stepping into a punji trap at coordinates 014547.

222400H Company positions: Co A 014547, Co B 015547, Co C 016530, Co D 018531,, and H&S Co (-) 014547.

230400H Company D sustained one USMC WIA at coordinates 018531 when company perimeter received incoming small arms fire.

230600H Wounded VC held by Company D died of wounds.

230645H Company A detained one VCS found hiding in hut at coordinates 011546.

230800H Alpha Command Group detained one VCS hiding in bunker at coordinates 011547.

230900H Company A found one, 4 cylinder engine at coordinates 014548, and destroyed same.

230910H Company D sustained three USMC WIA when anti-personnel mine was detonated at coordinates 021531.

231200H Companies A, B and Alpha Command Group consolidated positions on BLT Objective #6 at coordinates 024553. Companies C and D consolidated positions on BLT Objective #7 at coordinates 020550.

231345H Recon platoon destroyed five boats at coordinates 020550.

231500H Company C found approximately 17 Vietnamese women and five children hiding in a village at coordinates 030533, some of which were wounded by air strikes. The Vietnamese said that the VC ran them out of their family bunkers and used them for themselves when the air strike came. The injured requiring further medical treatment were medevaced. The refugees reported that five civilians had been killed during air strike.

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- 231630H Company D patrol wounded a VC at coordinates 018529. Upon search of the area, found one bloody cartridge belt and one Thompson sub-machine gun. The patrol pursued following a heavy blood trail and ran into a VC ambush. 60mm Mortar fire support was provided, a reaction force was dispatched, and the patrol was extracted with no USMC casualties as the VC broke contact. One VC KIA probable.
- 231710H Company A sustained one USMC WIA when stepped into punji trap and steel spike penetrated boot and foot at coordinates 023551.
- 231830H Alpha Command Group found one flag with hammer and sickle on it and documents containing names and uniform sizes of local VC at coordinates 024551.
- 231905H Company A sustained two USMC WIA as a result of punji trap at coordinates 024552.
- 231915H Alpha Command Group detained three women in area possessing sewing kits and khaki and green uniform material at coordinates 024551. Upon interrogation, one woman stated that approximately 300 NVA passed West to East past her house 10 days ago. She further stated that they carried three rocket launchers so large that it required three men to carry each one.
- 232330H Company A listening post received approximately 15 rounds of automatic weapons fire resulting in one USMC KIA at coordinates 021550.
- 232400H Company positions: Co A 024551, Co B 028553, Co C 031534, Co D 032533, and H&S Co (-) 024552.
- 240230H Company A listening post received incoming automatic weapons fire at coordinates 021550. Listening post returned fire and adjusted 81mm mortar and artillery fire into the area. Area searched at first light with negative results.
- 240430H Company A listening post observed movement in front of its position and fired into the area. Received six rounds in return at coordinates 022550.
- 240620H Company D commenced movement back to BLT Objective #3 at coordinates 010527 to screen for river crossing of 3d Bn 5th Marine.
- 241030H Company D engaged approximately 15 to 20 armed VC wearing camouflage at coordinates 019632. Four VC KIA probable as a result of contact.
- 241200H Company C detained one VCS at coordinates 028537.
- 241215H Alpha Command Group detained four female VCS at coordinates 028537.
- 241305H H&S Company (-) sustained one USN WIA as a result of punji trap at coordinates 018548.
- 241330H Company D detained six female VCS carrying a homemade stretcher and a basket of rags at coordinates 023532.
- 241432H Recon platoon found a body of M-26 grenade, one fuze lighter and two carbine magazines in a prayer altar at coordinates 025-549. Also found a dud M-26 grenade in a punji trap at same coordinates.
- 241525H Company A patrol received incoming sniper fire at coordinates 020550. Searched area and found nothing.
- 241615H Company D detained one VCS with gunshot wound in the shoulder at coordinates 013527.
- 241630H Company D detained one VCS at coordinates 013527.
- 241740H Company A patrol observed approximately six armed VC wearing black clothing at coordinates 016548 and fired an 81mm mortar mission into the area. The patrol then extracted.

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- six to ten more armed VC in the same area and called an artillery mission into the area. The Company A patrol then received heavy caliber automatic weapons fire, believed to be .50 caliber, and fired another artillery mission into the area. The area was searched at first light with negative results.
- 242050H Company A observed approximately four VC on trail moving West at coordinates 020549 and fired an 81mm mortar mission. Negative results.
- 242400H Company positions: Co A 024551, Co B 028553, Co C 031534, Co D 032533, and H&S (-) 024552.
- 250845H Alpha Command Group detained two VCS found hiding in roof of house at coordinates 024551. One stated that he was a tailor for the VC; the other claimed to be an accountant for an economic cadre.
- 251000H Company A destroyed a six cylinder gasoline engine found at coordinates 025553.
- 251200H Company D detained three VCS found in huts in village at coordinates 037534.
- 251505H Company C commenced movement to BLT Objective #5 at coordinates 017536.
- 251540H Company A detained one VCS found hiding at coordinates 029549. Upon interrogation, the VCS claimed he had prior knowledge of the Marine operation in the area.
- 251645H Company A found various items of clothing, food and medicine in homemade pack at coordinates 013548.
- 251830H Companies C and D commenced movement to BLT Objective #2 at coordinates 008540.
- 252025H Companies A and B, and Alpha Command Group commenced movement to BLT Objective #2.
- 252030H Companies C and D arrived at BLT Objective #2 and commenced consolidating and preparing to receive remainder of BLT.
- 252325H Companies A and B, and Alpha Command Group arrived at BLT Objective #2 and consolidated positions with Companies C and D.
- 252400H Company positions: Co A 010540, Co B 007538, Co C 007541, Co D 009543, and H&S Co (-) 008540.
- 260700H Company B on the Line of Departure at coordinates 003534 and ready to commence attack.
- 260746H Companies A, B and C commenced attack on BLT Objectives #8 and #9 located at coordinates 998533 and 997544 respectively.
- 260800H Company C found a pack containing medical supplies at coordinates 005544. At coordinates 998544, Company C sustained four USMC WIA as a result of tripping a booby trapped Chicom grenade.
- 260830H BLT Objectives #8 and #9 were secured.
- 260930H Company A detained two VCS found at coordinates 998533.
- 261030H Company B received incoming small arms, automatic weapons and 60 mm mortar fire at coordinates 990534. Aerial observer spotted an estimated VC company in northern portion of BLT Objective #10 at coordinates 984536 and an air strike was called.
- 261045H Company B fired upon two VC in treeline at coordinates 990534 and upon search of the area found two heavy pools of blood. Two VC KIA probable.
- 261130H Company D sustained two USMC WIA as a result of incoming mortar rounds at coordinates 996534.
- 261130H Alpha Command Group received approximately 20 rounds of incoming 81mm mortar fire at coordinates 990532 and sustained one USMC KIA, one USN KIA and nine USMC WIA.

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- 261145H Company D sustained three USMC WIA as a result of incoming mortar rounds at coordinates 993534.
- 261330H Alpha Command Group dug-up one VC KIA from a fresh grave at coordinates 989534.
- 261330H Company C found two VC KIA at coordinates 987535 and one badly damaged K-44 rifle. VC were wearing green shirts and shorts and carried grenades on their belts.
- 261400H Company D destroyed approximately 100 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition found at coordinates 988534.
- 261420H Company A found one VC KIA confirmed in trenchline at coordinates 985530. Also found two packs, BAR magazines and approximately 50 rounds of linked .30 caliber ammunition.
- 261530H Company D found one VC KIA confirmed at coordinates 985536.
- 261620H Company B received a heavy volume of machinegun and automatic weapons fire from coordinates 973536. Returned fire with small arms and artillery and called for an air strike. At the same time, Company A received the same type of incoming fire from coordinates 975530 and called in mortars, artillery and air on the area. The area was then swept by Company A and found one VC KIA confirmed, three packs and approximately five loaded BAR magazines. Company A sustained four USMC WIA during the engagement.
- 261800H Company C sustained three USMC WIA as a result of a booby trapped fragmentation grenade at coordinates 987535.
- 262400H Company positions: Co A 978534, Co B 977536, Co C 980537, Co D 982536, and H&S Co(-) 979535.
- 270850H Company A destroyed a homemade box-type mine at coordinates 975531. The mine contained approximately 20 pounds of TNT inside of a wood and cement body. Company A also found two VC KIA in a bunker at coordinates 974532. Also found were three homemade packs, a 60mm mortar pit with baseplate imprints still visible and one 60mm mortar round and five empty canisters.
- 271130H Company E, 2d Battalion, 1st Marines attached to BLT 1/3 after crossing the Song Ky Lam River at coordinates 986539.
- 271250H Company B found one VC KIA confirmed in a fresh grave at coordinates 973538.
- 271400H Recon platoon found one bottle containing 250,000 units of penicilin at coordinates 978534.
- 271800H Company positions: Co A 974544, Co B 975545, Co C 971549 Co D 969546, Co E 976547, H&S Co(-) 969545.
- 280700H BLT 1/3 (-) commenced withdrawal by foot march to Liberty Bridge at coordinates 928530, entrucking point for administrative waterborne backload at Tein Sha Ramp, DANANG.
- 281200H Company A sustained one USMC KIA and four USMC WIA as a result of tripping surprise firing device at coordinates 933523.
- 281300H BLT 1/3 (-) arrived at entrucking point at Liberty Bridge.
- 281715H BLT 1/3 (-) commenced administrative waterborne backload to ARG Shipping from Tiên Sha Ramp. CTG 79.4 assumed OpCon of BLT 1/3 as backload commenced.

9. Results

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a. Enemy Losses

- 10 KIA Confirmed
- 7 KIA Probable
- 28 Detainees
- 0 POW

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Weapons Captured

- 1 Thompson sub-machinegun
- 1 SKS carbine (destroyed)
- 1 M-26 grenade
- 8 Chicom grenades
- 100 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition
- 100 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition
- 9 BAR magazines
- 1 round of 60mm mortar ammunition

c. Equipment Captured

- 1 1931 type K gasoline engine
- 1 GMC 6 cylinder gasoline engine
- 1 4 cylinder gasoline engine
- 5 boats (destroyed)
- 300 pounds of rice
- 4 cartridge belts
- 2 ponchos
- 7 packs
- 1 homemade stretcher
- 1 flag
- assorted medical supplies and bandages
- assorted documents

d. Friendly Losses

- 4 KIA
- 27 WIA
- 13 WIA (NE)
- 0 MIA

e. Friendly Equipment Lost or Destroyed

None

10. Administrative Matters

a. Postal. Mail was delivered to the BLT rear aboard ship, sorted, and delivered to the field via resupply helicopters. No difficulties were encountered.

b. Logistics. Helicopter-delivered resupply was effected daily commencing on D+1 from the USS DULUTH, with the exception of Class I, Class II Type II, and Class V supplies, which were provided by the LSA established at the 1st Marines. No difficulties were encountered.

c. Treatment of Casualties and Evacuation. All casualties were evacuated by helicopter to the USS OKINAWA. No difficulties were encountered.

d. Communications. Communications were satisfactory with no difficulties encountered.

11. Commander's Analysis. Operation SHELBYVILLE included three US Marine Corps Infantry Battalions (-) and two Republic of Vietnam maneuver elements. It is considered that this was the first operation that this commander has been involved where there were sufficient forces to conduct a thorough search and destroy of the entire operating area. The close coordination and resources for an operation of this magnitude was enjoyed between all maneuver elements and supporting

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 and with this unit had the opportunity to perform both block and maneuver operations. The operation must be considered a success from the view of both coordination of forces and results. Even though the actual body count was low, it is considered that the Viet Cong operating in the Phu Ky Island Area have been dealt a damaging blow.

A new technique was used in that during the preparation of the LZ and the landing of the initial heliborne assault waves the BLT Commander and the HMM Commander were airborne in a UH-1E helicopter to observe and influence the action as required. By being airborne the BLT Commander was able to adjust the LZ preparation, with the concurrence of the HMM Commander to ensure complete LZ preparation. This adjustment included air strikes on tree lines that were not evident on the map and were not being fired on by the fixed wing aircraft preparing the LZ. The initial landing site for the heliborne assault waves was adjusted and marked in an area where the assault waves were least likely to receive fire. As the landing progressed the helicopter landing site was adjusted nearer to the objective as the assault troops swept through the initial objective.

By being airborne the BLT Commander and the HMM Commander had the latest information available and complete observation and were able to make timely decisions regarding the employment of their forces.

AE Thomas
 A. I. THOMAS