1ST BATTALION 9TH MARINES

COMMAND DIARY/CHRONOLOGY

MAY 1969

PAGES 23 OF 197
(NO S-1 JOURNAL)
****

ON FILE BUT NOT INCLUDED

DAILY MESSAGES

OPERATION ORDERS

AAR APACHE SNOW

AAR CAMERON FALLS

DECLASSIFIED

3d MARDIV S&C FILE
BT# 198169

[redacted]

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

3/TJC/lrl
001969
2 June 1969

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein)
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 May to 31 May 1969

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8
(c) 3d MarDivO 5750.1A w/ch #1

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, May 1969

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

2. The security classification of this document is downgraded at three (3) year intervals and declassified after twelve (12) years.

T. J. CULLIN

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Unclassified when enclosure(1) is removed.

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1st Battalion, 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May to 31 May 1969

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YR INTERVALS
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ENCLOSURE (1)
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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation	Commander	Date
1st Battalion, 9th Marines	LtCol T.J. CULLEN	1-31 May 69
Company A	Capt W.L. FOX 1stLt E.J. COUGHLIN III	3-10 May 69 11-31 May 69
Company B	Capt R.E. JUSTINS	1-31 May 69
Company C	Capt J. [illegible]	1-31 May 69
Company D	Capt L.F. CHAPMAN III	1-31 May 69

2. Location.

a. On 1 and 2 May the battalion was at Cam Lo with companies spread throughout Mai Loc, Cam Lo Bridge, Cam Lo Refugee Village, Cam Lo District Headquarters, C-2 and Con Thien.

b. From 3 - 10 May the battalion was on Operation Cameron Falls in the lower Da Krong River Valley.

c. From 10 - 28 May the Battalion was on Operation Apache Snow, south of the lower Da Krong River Valley.

d. From 29 - 31 May the Battalion was at Vandegrift Combat Base.

3. Staff Officers.

Executive Officer	Major J. GOODWIN	1-31 May 69
S-1	Capt W. [illegible]	1-31 May 69
S-3	Major J.P. McWILLIAMS	1-31 May 69
S-3A	1stLt J.H. HARWOOD II	1-31 May 69
FSCC	1stLt W. [illegible]	1-31 May 69
FAC	1stLt F.E. LITTLEBURY 1stLt T.J. BILLISON	1-20 May 69 21-31 May 69
ALO	1stLt W.R. HUNT 1stLt M.D. OSBORN	1-5 May 69 6-31 May 69
S-4	1stLt R. [illegible]	1-31 May 69
CommO	1stLt T.G. JACKSON	1-28 May 69
Supply	1stLt E.L. SUMMERS	1-31 May 69

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LTO	1stLt D.P. SULLIVAN	1-31 May 69
Chaplain	Lt J.E. SHAY	1-31 May 69
Medical Officer	Lt R.N. PASKER	1-31 May 69

4. Average Monthly Strength.

USMC		USN		OTHER	
OFF	E L	OFF	EML	OFF	EML
35	1150	2	45	0	0

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PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

From 1-2 May the battalion continued to maintain static defensive positions in the Cam Lo and Mai Loc TAOR's, C-2 and Con Thien. On 3 May the battalion commenced Operation Cameron Falls, and on 10 May moved into Operation Apache Snow. On 28 May the battalion was extracted from Operation Apache Snow and remained on a standby status for the remainder of the month at VCB.

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PART III
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Combat Mission Assigned.

The mission for the Battalion on Operation Cameron Falls: on 3 May helilift to and relieve 3/3 elements on FSB GAUCHO-TARAWA and initiate RIF overland to FSB RAZOR to secure FSB and provide terminal guidance for the 7 May landing of 2/9. On 3 May provide forces to relieve one of 3/3 securing FSB MCCLINTOCK. The mission for the Battalion on Operation Apache Snow: on 10 May conduct a heliborne assault to secure FSB ERSKINE; upon which deploy a minimum force of one company to block the South Vietnam extention of Rt. 9221 SW of ERSKINE to prevent enemy escape from the southern Da Krong Valley into Laos, as well as to deny his movement along that route to reinforce committed forces in RVN: subsequent to 10 May, with uncommitted forces, conduct RIF operations in AO to destroy enemy and his caches.

a. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Frag Order 8-69 3 May 1969.

Company D secure FSB RAZOR prior to landing of 2/9 units.

b. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Frag Order 9-69 8 May 1969.

(1) Company A conduct helo-assault on and secure FSB ERSKINE.
(2) Company B lift to FSB ERSKINE, move to YD 147107, and conduct RIF operations.
(3) Company C lift to FSB ERSKINE, move to YD 164095 and conduct RIF operations.
(4) Company D lift to FSB ERSKINE, move to YD 179099 and conduct RIF operations.

c. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Frag Order 12-69 17 May 1969.

On order the battalion conducts RIF operations in the SW portion of AO.

d. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Frag Order 14-69 23 May 1969.

On order the battalion conducts RIF operations to the northeast end of AO, cut/block the Da Krong Valley road and seize Obj. 6 (from (YD 232157 to YD 244139) and Obj. 7 (YD 217176).

2. Operation.

01 MAY There were no significant events on this day.
02 MAY At 0215H a popular forces unit at YD 153606 made contact with an estimated NVA platoon. When the enemy pushed the Popular Forces unit towards Company B's position at the Cam Lo Bridge, Company B also took the enemy under fire with unknown results.

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03 MAY There were no significant events on this day.

04 MAY At 0540H Company B received 5 rounds of small arms from XD 098230 and returned fire with unknown results. At 0910H Company D received a short burst of automatic weapons fire on the rear of its tactical column at YD 096216 and returned fire with unknown results.

05 MAY At 1230H Company B found numerous old fighting holes and 5 man-constructed observation posts along a trail that stretches from YD 097232 to YD 096219. At 1955H Company B saw one NVA in green utilities at YD 103290 and took him under fire with 60mm mortars with unknown results.

06 MAY At 1600H Company A at YD 044299 received 12 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from the YD 0030 grid and fired counterbattery with 81mm mortars and artillery.

07 MAY At 2100H Company A heard talking and a transistor radio at YD 044301 and at 2130H a figure was seen at YD 044303. Company A called 60mm and 81mm mortar mission on the figure with unknown results.

08 MAY At 1000H Company B found a dud RPG at YD 100228 and blew it in place.

09 MAY There were no significant events on this day.

10 MAY At 1000H Company A at YD 163107 received 3 rounds of 61mm mortar fire and sniper fire from YD 166104 and fired a counter battery 60mm mortars, 81mm mortars and artillery with unknown results. At 1005H a CH46 helicopter from HMM 262, MAG-39, crashed killing 5 and injuring 6 men.

11 MAY There were no significant events on this day.

12 MAY At 1300H Company D discovered a complex of 5 bunkers at YD 181134. The bunkers had not been recently occupied. At 0630H Company C found an enemy base camp at YD 167095. The camp contained 40 bamboo thatched living structures, each of which had a bomb shelter/bunker under it, and the area was contained within a perimeter of fighting holes. The area had not been occupied, except by 2-3 individuals, for 3 months. Communications wire led out of the camp to YD 165090 where another small camp with 4 huts, 1 new bomb shelter, wet sneaker tracks, warm fires and fresh food was found. An estimated squad had just left the area, leaving behind 200 lbs of polished rice, 100 feet of detonating cord, 50 new AK-47 rounds and assorted gear, all of which was destroyed. The larger base camp at YD 167095 was also destroyed by an artillery mission. At 2120H a Company B listening post sighted 8-10 enemy at YD 150100, fired claymores and 60mm mortars at them, and killed 2 enemy, probable.

13 MAY At 0730H on FSB ERSKINE (at YD 163107) a fire was started in the gun and ammunition pit which went out of control and detonated and spread a great deal of ordnance over the entire base, injuring 28 battalion personnel. At 1400H Company C found at YD 157094 an enemy storage area containing (90) 100 lb bags of polished rice, 1 destroyed Russian truck, (153) 61mm mortar rounds, 69,150 AK-47 rounds, (900) 12.7mm AA gun rounds, and (39) 82mm mortar rounds. The ordnance and rice were either evacuated or destroyed. At 1630H Company B found at YD 148099 a fresh grave with 1 NVA body in it. The body had been dead and in the grave from 1 to 3 weeks. At 1625H Company B found a destroyed living area with huts at YD 144107.

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14 MAY At 1200H Company B suffered 1 MIA at YD 142099. The incident was not the result of contact with the enemy, and the man was recovered at 1200H on 16 May.

15 MAY From 0800H to 1700H Company D patrolled route 9221 from YD 103919 to YD 194115 and found: roadmark stakes numbered H-2, H-4, and H-5, 100 meters apart; 32 reinforced bunkers; 11 bamboo huts; 5 empty food boxes labelled "Brazed Pork" from the People's Republic of China; 1 concrete reinforced bunker; (5) 100 lb bags of potatoes; 10 U.S. 5 gallon water cans; 2 82mm mortar rounds; 2 sticks of TNT; and 1 water gourd full of food. All finds were destroyed.

16 MAY There were no significant events on this day.

17 MAY At 0915H at YD 162102 a CH47 U.S. Army helicopter crashed, injuring a Company B platoon commander. At 0945H a bamboo spike booby trap at YD 162102 was tripped and Company B suffered 1 WIA. At 1300H Company D found a 122mm rocket, complete, at YD 194102 and destroyed it. At 1500H Company D found at YD 179093 a suspected NVA supply trail, numerous bunkers with thatched roofing along the trail, a grave at YD 194093, (2) 122mm rocket canvas carrying cases, empty, and green communications wire running to a large bunker at YD 196094.

18 MAY At 1730H Company A heard and observed an enemy mortar firing from YD 19[illegible]10, and called 82mm mortar and artillery missions on the position with unknown results.

19 MAY At 1815H Company C's rear elements were taken under fire by 4-5 enemy using automatic weapons. The company returned fire, killing 2 enemy, while suffering 1 WIA. At 2115H an estimated 20 enemy probed Company A's perimeter at FSB ERSKINE at YD 163107. Company A suffered 1 WIA while killing 1 enemy.

20-21 MAY There were no significant events on these days.

22 MAY At 0930H Company B encountered a Montaguard woman at YD 129070 and extracted her during the afternoon for resettlement. At 1130H Company C found 2 graves at YD 124046. Each grave contained the body of an NVA wrapped in a parachute, and they had been buried from 3 to 6 months. Markers over the graves read:

K456 ETS
NGUYEN
NGOC
UYEN
21-2-69

At 1430H Company A at FSB ERSKINE (YD 163107) received 8-9 122mm artillery and 122mm rocket rounds (mixed) outside the perimeter. Artillery missions and fixed wing air strikes were run on the suspected enemy grid, YD 189007, with unknown results. At 1445H Company B observed a destroyed enemy armored tracked vehicle at YD 155025.

23 MAY At 0930H Company B found a fresh, well constructed trail and stairway system at YD 117048 with new, reinforced bunkers built along side every 50 or 60 meters. At 1115H Company B found 15 blocks of TNT in a bunker at YD 111044. At 1130H a Company D patrol was ambushed at its point by 8-10 enemy using LAAW's, RPG's, M-79's and automatic weapons. Company D suffered 2 KIA and 1 WIA, while inflicting 3 enemy killed, probable, and capturing 4 LAAW's, 1 RPG and 4 M-79 rounds. At 1400H Company D suffered an MIA, not recovered.

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24 MAY At 2030H Company B sighted 2 enemy outside their lines at FSB ERSKINE (YD 163107), and took them under fire with unknown results.

25 MAY There were no significant events on this date.

26 MAY At 1200H Company G, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines had a chance contact on its rear with 1 enemy at YD 191168. After a short exchange of fire, Company G pursued with negative results. At 1400H Company G at YD 19[illegible] received 1 sniper round and suffered 1 WIA.

27 MAY At 1530H Company B at FSB ERSKINE (YD 163107) received 38 61mm mortar rounds outside its perimeter, fired from YD 180087 and YD 167079. Counterbattery was fired with artillery, 81mm mortars and 106 recoilless rifles. At 18[illegible]H Company B received 4 122mm rockets, suffered 1 WIA, and fired counterbattery with artillery.

28 MAY At 1[illegible]5H Company B while extracting from FSB ERSKINE (YD 163[illegible]) received 12 rounds of 61mm mortar fire. UH-1E gunships and OV-10 gunships fired suppressive fires on the suspected enemy positions.

29-31 MAY There were no significant events on these days.

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3. Casualties and damages inflicted on the enemy

a. Personnel.

(1) NVA KIA (Confirmed) - 6
(2) NVA KIA (Probable) - 5
(3) Brou Detainees - 9

b. Weapons/Ordnance captured or destroyed.

(1) [illegible] feet detonating cord
(2) [illegible] 200 AK47 rounds
(3) [illegible] 12.7mm AA rounds
(4) [illegible] 61mm mortar rounds
(5) [illegible] 82mm mortar rounds
(6) [illegible] sticks of TNT
(7) [illegible] 122mm rocket (complete)
(8) [illegible] RPG's

c. Structures destroyed.

70 bamboo huts with bunkers.

d. Foodstuffs captured/destroyed.

(1) 9[illegible]0 lbs of polished rice.
(2) 5[illegible] lbs of potatoes.

e. Vehicles destroyed.

(1) 1 Russian truck
(2) 1 Armored tracked vehicle

f. Material of U.S. origins recovered.

(1) 4 LAW's
(2) 4 M-79 rounds
(3) 10 U.S. 5 gallon water cans

4. Friendly casualties sustained during the reporting period.

KIA - [illegible]
WIAE - 9
WIANE - 3
NBC -(1[illegible])
MIA - 1

5. New Techniques employed. None

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6. Equipment.

a. The following is a report of the readiness of major items of combat essential equipment:

(1) MOTOR TRANSPORT

MOTOR TRANSPORT	ALLOWANCE	OH	OP-READY
M-[illegible]A1	20	18	17
M-[illegible]1	4	5	3
[illegible]09	2	1	0
[illegible]3	2	1	1
[illegible]	1	1	1
[illegible]	1	1	1
[illegible]A2	30	31	29
[illegible] (M-[illegible]49)	5	4	4
[illegible]	1	1	1
[illegible]	1	1	0
[illegible]	1	1	0
M-[illegible]1	4	2	0
M-[illegible]B1	18	16	16

(2) Communications

ITEM	ALLOWANCE	OH	OP-READY
PP-[illegible]67/[illegible] A0[illegible]	5	2	1
PP-[illegible]/U A12[illegible]	1	1	1
AN/[illegible] A14[illegible]	0	7	0
AN/[illegible] A17[illegible]	12	12	12
AN/[illegible] A18[illegible]	7	7	7
AN/[illegible] A19[illegible]	2	1	1
AN/MRC-87 A1910	1	1	1
AN/MRC-109 A1920	2	1	0

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AN/PRC-25 A2000	75	71	61
AN/PRC-41 A2010	3	3	3
AN/PRC-47 A2020	5	2	2
AN/[illegible]-77 [illegible]	19	1	1
[illegible]-88 [illegible]	180 180	100 180	90 180
[illegible]-25A [illegible]	1	1	1
[illegible]/PT A2[illegible]	5	5	5
AN/[illegible]C-14 A[illegible]	3	3	2
[illegible]/PT A2[illegible]	44	33	33
[illegible]/P A26[illegible]	35	34	34
AN/[illegible]-3 A26[illegible]	1	1	1
AN/[illegible]-12 A26[illegible]	2	1	1
KY-[illegible]	3	3	2
KY-[illegible]	22	22	20
PU-[illegible] B08[illegible]	1	1	0

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b. Major end items previously evacuated to higher echelon maintenance facilities that have not been returned:

(1) Motor Transport.

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ITEM	QTY	LOCATION
M-37B1	1	FLSG-B

[redacted]

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ITEM	QTY	LOCATION
M-274/2	1	FLSG-B
M-42	1	FLSG-B
[illegible]	1	FLSG-B (to FSR)

7. Logistics

a. Supply and Distribution.

(1) The primary source of supply for the battalion is FLSG-B.

(2) The significant items in short supply are water cans, canteens and entrenching tools.

(3) The battalion employs unit distribution.

b. Resupply

(1) Resupply figures, (by class) to the companies in the battalion:

CLASS	NUMBER POUNDS
I	315,827
II	2,237
III	3,000
IV	400
V	61,515

(2) Total resupply figures for companies in the battalion:

UNIT	NUMBER POUNDS
H&S	87,294
A	70,519
B	57,437
C	99,783
D	67,946

(3) The battalion had hot meals only during the last 3 days of the month at VCB.

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c. Transportation

(1) Vehicles made administrative, troop moving and resupply trips between Quang Tri and VCB.

(2) The following vehicles have been coded "H": (1) M-274/2, and (1) M-149.

(3) Helicopters during the month were provided by the 145th U.S. ARMY.

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(4) 382,979 pounds of supplies were moved by helicopter during the month.

[illegible] Engineer Support.

[illegible] Platoon, Company C, 3d Engineer Battalion was used on 2[illegible] occasions during the month to cut the NVA supply road, Rt 9221. One cut will require 45 hours work with a TD-18 and the other will [illegible] be repaired by hand. Work - hours to repair the second [illegible] not be estimated.

[illegible] Situation.

(1) [illegible] showers, bakery and ice facilities at VCB were only [illegible] by the battalion rear due to the absence of the battalion throughout the month.

[illegible] Medical. During the month of May there were 510 patients seen at the [illegible] in Quang Tri and 174 at the R[illegible]S at VCB. During Operation Cameron Falls a fever of unknown origin case and a WI[illegible] were medevaced. From the period of 10-28 May a total of 14 individuals were medevac'd for fevers of unknown origins, and two WIA were evacuated.

There were several medical problems encountered in the field during Operation Apache Snow. There were 35 cases of diarrhea which was attributed to receiving contaminated water in one resupply from Fire Support Base Razor. The patients were put on medications and responded satisfactorily to treatment.

Also during the operation the battalion suffered a high number of additional fevers of unknown origin who were not medevac'd. The great majority of these individuals have been diagnosed as falciparum malaria. The daily prophylactic program of dapsone was strictly followed, as was that of the Sunday C-P. At the end of the operation there were 56 cases of FUO diagnosed as malaria.

The high incidence of malaria can be attributed to the area of operations which was predominantly low, wet, jungled terrain and therefore a most viable area for malaria. Furthermore, battalion personnel were physically exhausted by their efforts to accomplish the military mission, and this made them particularly susceptible to disease of any kind. By the time the incubation period (7-21 days) is over, the number of confirmed cases of malaria will probably be significantly higher.

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8. Personnel and Administration.

MOS	RANK	SHORTAGE
[illegible]	Sgt	3
	LCpl	3
[illegible]	GySgt	1
[illegible]	Sgt	33
	Cpl	75
	LCpl	16
[illegible]	Sgt	6
	Cpl	9
[illegible]	Sgt	5
	Cpl	12
	LCpl	22
[illegible]	GySgt	3
	SSgt	5
[illegible]	Sgt	1
[illegible]	Sgt	1
	LCpl	1
[illegible]	GySgt	1
[illegible]	LCpl	1
[illegible]	LCpl	1
[illegible]	Cpl	1
	LCpl	1
[illegible]	Sgt	1
[illegible]	PFC	11
[illegible]	Cpl	1
	LCpl	3
[illegible]	Cpl	2
[illegible]	SSgt	1
[illegible]	1stSgt	1
[illegible]	Cpl	1
[illegible]	SSgt	1
[illegible]	Cpl	1
[illegible]	LCpl	1
	Pvt & PFC	1
[illegible]	SSgt	1
	Sgt	1
	LCpl	8
[illegible]	GySgt	1
[illegible]	GySgt	1
	Sgt	1
	LCpl	1
3531	Sgt	1
5591	PFC	1
5711	Sgt	1
5931	Sgt	2
8421	SSgt	1

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(2) Rotations during month (CONUS)

MC OFF	MC ENL	NAV OFF	NAV ENL
1	80	0	4

(3) Replacements received during the month.

MC OFF	MC ENL	NAV OFF	NAV ENL
5	125	0	4

(4) Casualties.

KIA - 6
WIAE - 8
WIANE - 4
DOD 0
DOW - 1
MIA - 1
NBC - 74

(5) Promotions.

Corporals - 96
Lance Corporals - 30
PFC - 30

(6) Awards.

Bronze Star Medal - 1
Navy Commendation Medal - 1
Navy Achievement Medal - 3

b. Administration.

(1) Discipline.

(a) Art 86, Art 134

(b) Courts-Martials

	Completed	Pending
[illegible]	0	2
SPCM	2	5
SCM	1	0

(c) Battalion Commanders Office Hours, 3
(d) Company Commanders Office Hours, 9

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(2) Marine P.X., Postal Affairs and R&R.

(a) P.X. is available at VCB.
(b) Postal. facilities are available at VCB.
(c) R&R Quotas.

Bangkok - 18
Hawaii - 21
Hong Kong - 12
Kuala Lumpur - 2
Singapore - 5
Taipei - 8
Tokyo - 6
Sydney - 15
Manila - 2
Okinawa - 3

Chaplain Services.

Protestant - 7
Catholic - 23
Memorial Services - 3

9. Intelligence.

1-2 May 1969 there were no significant events.

On 3 May 1969 the battalion embarked on Operation Cameron Falls. Between 5-10 May 1969 there was no significant contact with the enemy. FSB GAUCHO was secured from the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines and reconnaissance in force was conducted in the area. No intelligence was developed. Estimated enemy strength, location and disposition in objective areas prior to the operation:

BASE AREA 101

[illegible] Bn, [illegible] Regt
Elements [illegible]
Elements [illegible] Bn

[illegible] BORDER AREA

Elements [illegible]
Elements [illegible] Bn
Elements [illegible] Bn

BASE AREA 611

Hq Military Region Tri Tien Hue (MRITTH)
675th Artillery Regt
4th Engineer/559th Transportation Group
Elements of Bin Tram 42 (55th Transportation Bn, 3d AA Bn, 14th Comm Laison Bn)

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9th NVA Regt
6th NVA Regt

On 7 May 1969, 8 Montagards were apprehended at YD 099235 as they approached that position. These people were interrogated by personnel from the 15th ITT and evacuated to the rear for further interrogation and resettlement. These people spoke very little Vietnamese and no information of immediate tactical value was extracted from them. Due to the lack of contact no positive identification or location of units was made. 10 May 1969 the battalion began participation in Operation Apache Snow. Between 10-28 May 1969 there was no significant contact with the enemy. FSB ERSKINE was secured and reconnaissance in force conducted in the area with the following results: On 19 May 1969 at YD 151071 the Battalion was hit by an estimated force of 4-5 enemy armed with automatic weapons. There were 2 confirmed enemy KIA and no confirmed enemy WIA's. On 2[illegible] May 1969 at YD 158038 the battalion was hit by an estimated force of 8-10 enemy armed with LAAW's, RPG's and M-79's. There were no confirmed enemy KIA or WIA's. Route 9221 was covered by this battalion from YD 115[illegible] to YD 232148. The road was in disuse as evidenced by the trees and underbrush found lying on the roadbed and numerous craters where the road had been interdicted by air. There were no signs of an attempt to repair the road. Numerous bunker complexes and base areas were found and all indications are that they had been in disuse for at least 3-4 weeks. Prior to the operation the following enemy forces had been estimated to be in the objective area in the following locations and dispositions:

[illegible] AREA 101

6th Bn, 812th Regt
Elements K-10 Bn
Elements K-32 Bn

QUANG TRI LAOS BORDER AREA

Elements K-8 Bn
Elements K-10 Bn
Elements [illegible] Bn

BASE AREA [illegible]

[illegible] Division Tri Tien Hue (DRITTH)
6[illegible]th Artillery Regt
[illegible] Engineer/69th Transportation Group
Elements of Bn Tram 42 (55th Transportation Bn, 3rd AA Bn, 14th Corps Ln Bn)
9th NVA Regt
6th NVA Regt

Due to the limited contact no positive identification or location of enemy units were made. The weather during the month remained steady with the daily temperature averaging 97 - 104 degrees with occasional afternoon or evening showers. Civil Affairs or psychological operations were not employed by this battalion during the period covered by this report.

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10. Air Support

a. Fixed Wing Support.

During the month of May 1969 the following fixed wing support was utilized by 1/9.

Date	FLTS	Grid	BDA	A/O Support
4 May	3	YD 1224	UK-Suspected Enemy positions	N/A
10 May	4	YD 138108	Several Bunkers dest.	N/A
19 May	1	YD 164060	Unknown	Smitty Zulu
22 May	1	YD 194952	80/100 3 trucks damaged	Smitty Fox
23 May	3	YD 182953	58/45 2 trucks damaged	Smitty "/"
	1	YD 1603	90/90 5 bunkers dest.	Killer "L"
	1	YD 1603	100/100 1 bunker dest. 1 crew served wpn site uncovered	Killer "L"

b. Helicopter Support.

During the month of May the following helicopter support was utilized by 1/9.

Date	Units Lifted	From	To	A/O Utilized
3 May	H&S, CoC, CoA, CoB	VCB	FSB GAUCHO	10CH46; 2UH-1E
	and CoD	VCB	LZ TARAWA	10CH46, 2UH-1E
8 May	Co H	FSB RAZOR	LZ TARAWA	8CH46, 2UH-1E
10 May	H&S, CoC, [illegible]	FSB GAUCHO	FSB ERSKINE	8CH46; 2 UH-1E
	[illegible]	LZ TARAWA	FSB ERSKINE	8CH46, 2 UH-1E
24 May	Co E	YD 114047	FSB ERSKINE	4 CH46, 2UH-1E
28 May	H&S, CoA, [illegible] and CoD	YD 236150	VCB	5CH46; 2CH53, 1CH47, 2 UH-1E
	Co E	FSB ERSKINE	VCB	2CH53, 2CH47 2UH-1E

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c. AO Support: During the month of May 1969 the following AO Support was utilized by 1/9.

Date	FLTS	TOS-HRS	Work Accomplished
3 May	3	5½	VR for troop lift
4 May	2	1½	Ran air on possible enemy position
5 May	2	2	VR for D1/9
6May	1	2	VR for D1/9
7 May	1	1	VR for D1/9
8 May	2	5½	VR for troop lift
10 May	4	6	Ran air in support of assault
11 May	2	2	VR for B1/9
12 May	2	3½	VR for B1/9; C1/9
13 May	3	2½	VR for B1/9; C1/9, D1/9
14 May	3	2½	VR for C1/9, and for MLA from B1/9
15 May	1	2	VR for D1/9
16 May	2	2	VR for B1/9; C1/9, D1/9
17 May	1	1½	VR for B1/9; C1/9
18 May	3	2½	VR for B1/9, C1/9
19 May	1	1 3/4	Ran air strike
20 May	2	1	VR for C1/9
21 May	3	3½	VR for C1/9
22 May	3	4	Ran air strike, VR for B1/9
23 May	6	6	VR for 1/9, Ran air strike
24 May	1	½	VR for C1/9
25 May	1	1	VR for A1/9, C1/9
26 May	1	2½	VR for D1/9
27 May	1	1	VR for B1/9
28 May	3	5½	VR for troop lift attempted to locate source of mortars hitting ERSKINE

d. Personnel. The air section of 1/9 consisted of (2) officers and 6 enlisted men during this month. In conjunction, (4) HST teams were also employed.

e. Equipment. The section employed the PRC-47 and PRC-25 on Operation Cameron Falls and only the PRC-25 on Operation Apache Snow.

11. [illegible] Artillery

a) General. During the period 1-31 May 1969, more than 10,500 rounds of [illegible] were fired on H&I's, TOT's and active fire missions. From 1-28 May, 2/12 supported 1st Battalion, 9th Marines and from 29-31 May, 3/12 supported 1st Battalion, 9th Marines. Few active fire missions were fired from 1-9 May. Most of the missions fired during this period were suspected enemy positions and were fired in support of Operation Cameron Falls. During Operation Apache Snow, from 10-28 May, there were a number of counter-battery fire missions shot on active artillery, rocket, and mortar positions. Only one fire mission was fired during the period of 29-31 May.

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For the first time H&I's and TOT's were submitted with a nature of target included. Even though there were few contact missions during the month, fire support was considered satisfactory.

(b) Significant Events: On 13 May all six guns of D 2/12 were destroyed by fire and explosions, when a fire that accidentally started in a gun parapit went out of control. E 2/12 replaced D 2/12 at FSB ERSKINE on 17 May. Fire missions were kept at a minimum during the four day period between the fire and the arrival of the replacing battery.

The ARVN Batteries at FSB TURNAGE were used several times to suppress enemy artillery, rocket and mortar attacks directed at FSB ERSKINE. Their response was extremely fast and coordination with their liaison officer was extremely good.

c) Type mission fired.

	Number
Observed	408
H&I	625
TOT's	105

d) Number of rounds

	Number (approx)
105	7,000
155	3,500

e) Significant Surveillance

	Number
Bunkers	15
Secondaries	4

12. Communication/Electronics.

a. General. On 2 May the battalion returned from Cam Lo to VCB and on 3 May commenced Operation Cameron Falls and Apache Snow. Communication responsibility was strained on Operation Apache Snow due to the accidents described in sub-paragraph D.

b. Message Center. The message center functions as per standard operating procedure. One man was utilized on the operations to [illegible] and handle message logs and administrative matters.

c. Wire. Approximately two miles of wire was required to rewire the [illegible] area at VCB because of damages caused by high winds.

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d. Extensive communications equipment was lost on Operation Apache Snow due to the crash of a CH-46 helicopter and the fire and explosions in the artillery area at Fire Support Base ERSKINE. This gear is listed as combat lost and new equipment is being requisitioned at the present time. Communications during Apache Snow was good except when the battalion was located on low ground with high hill mass surrounding.

e. Radio Relay: Radio Relay was not used except for the two days at the beginning of the month when the battalion was located at Cam Lo. During those two days the Cam Lo end of the shot was manned by a team supplied by Headquarters 9th Marines and the Dong Ha end was manned by a team from Division Communication Company.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

TAB "A"	1stBn 9th Marines Operation Orders
TAB "B"	1stBn, 9th Marines Frag Orders
TAB "C"	A/A Rpt (Opn Apache Snow)
TAB "D"	A/A Rpt (Opn Cameron Falls)
TAB "E"	Messages #1-437

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