

## November 1966

### **First Tanks:**

*Commanding Officer: LtCol J.W. Clayborne*

*Executive Officer: Maj R.D. McKee*

*Operations Officer: Capt F.U. Salas*

*Logistics Officer: Capt G.E. Hooker*

### Location & Operations Summary: Battalion CP Da Nang (AT 998722)

*In addition to supporting the Chu Lai Defense Command during the month of October, a unit of this command participated in one major operation.*

### **Operation Lee (030710-121330)**

*2nd Plt, Co C, 1st Tank Bn*

*On 030710, the 2nd Platoon, Company C, supported by 1 M51 VTR from Company B, departed the Battalion CP for participation in **Operation Lee** in support of the 2nd ROKMC Brigade.*

*H&S Company provided one rifle squad for participation in **Operation Lee**, and the assistant S-3 Officer was assigned to Headquarters, 2nd ROKMC Brigade as Tank Liaison Office.*

*On 041500, while, moving south to join the 2nd ROKMC Brigade, 2nd Platoon, Company C received sniper fire from (BS 728894). 30 rounds caliber .50 were returned resulting in one VC KIA confirmed.*

*On 101600, 2nd Platoon, Company C secured from **Operation Lee** and returned to the Battalion CP at 121330.*

### *LESSONS LEARNED:*

*During normal platoon size operations, the M51 VTR is not employed. Based on previous experience and information obtained via an aerial reconnaissance on 030915, which disclosed the remoteness of the area to be encountered, the decision was made to employ the VTR.*

*During **Operation Lee**, the VTR employed proved to be a tremendous asset to all tracked vehicles operating in the area. Of particular significance was its continued assistance to the vehicles belonging to the 1st Anti-Tank Battalion.*

*H&S C.O.: Maj J.P. McGill*

### Location & Operations Summary: Same as Bn CP

*H&S Company provided logistical and maintenance support for two gun companies. H&S Company provided one rifle squad nightly as additional security for the Naval Supply Activity Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants Dump at (AT 987732). In addition, a ten man security detail was assigned on a temporary additional duty basis to Ammunition Supply Point. This commitment was changed to one officer and four enlisted on 29 Nov 1966.*

*At 200330H, the 1st Tank Battalion provided a rifle platoon to the Southern Sector Area Defense Coordinator for participation in "**Operation BALTIMORE**". The rifle platoon assumed blocking positions at the North (AT 994728) and South (AT 993715) entrances to PHONG BAC Hamlet. The operation concluded at 201545H and the results were four Viet Cong captured.*

*C.O. Company "A": Capt C.R. Brabec*

### Location & Operations Summary: Chu Lai (BT 515040)

*During the month of November 1966, Company "A" (Rein) remained under the operational control of Task Force X-ray and supported the Chu Lai Defense Command.*

*C.O. Company "B": Capt L.E. Cherico*

### Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 945763)

*Company "B" remained in direct support of 4th Battalion, 303rd Airborne Infantry, 173rd Brigade. On 8 Nov 1966, Company "B" provided 2 tanks in direct support of Company "E", 2nd*

*Battalion, 3rd Marines, at (AT 935664) and (AT 954666), relieving 2 tanks from Company "C", 1st Tank Battalion.*

*On 1 November the 2nd Platoon, Company B, fired 46 rounds of harassing and interdiction fire in support of the 4th Battalion, 503rd Airborne Infantry. The rounds were fired from platoon positions at (AT 895821) and (AT 892771)*

*On 18 November, a dozer tank from Company B conducted mine sweeping operations near the DaNang Airfield. The dozer tank utilized a locally constructed mine-exploding device. Eleven M-16 and 89 M-14 anti-personnel mines were destroyed.*

*At 241810H, a fireteam sized outpost manned by 7th Engineer Battalion personnel was attacked by an estimated squad of Viet Cong. The outpost, located in the vicinity of (BT 936767), placed a call for assistance over the Zone B Defensive Net. Company B, 1st Tank Battalion, monitors this net and immediately upon hearing the call for assistance Company B activated its reaction squad and two tanks. As soon as the 11th Marine Regiment granted permission the reaction squad and tanks were dispatched to assist the outmanned fireteam. The reaction squad was successful in driving off the Viet Cong and as they did so another relief unit managed to contact the outpost. The Company B reaction squad received no casualties and was commended for its prompt and efficient response.*

*C.O.s Company "C": 1stLt C.E. Barnett & Capt P.S. Weigand*

**Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang (BT 066715)**

*Company "C" remained in direct support of the 1st Marines. The 3rd Platoon furnished 2 tanks in direct support of Company "E", 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, from 1 – 8 November 1966.*

*At 051400H a section of two tanks from Company C participated in a search and destroy operation with elements of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. The tank section was credited with two Viet Cong killed at (BT 038664) confirmed by the infantry unit.*

*At 251215H, a section of three tanks from the 3rd Platoon, Company C, established a blocking position at (BT 094613). This section, in support of Company D, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, fired upon four Viet Cong as they fled from the sweeping force. A search of the area resulted in one Viet Cong killed in action confirmed.*

*At 261100H, a section of three tanks from the 1st Platoon, Company C, participated in a sweep operation with elements of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. One Viet Cong was observed running toward a bridge at (BT 106638). The Viet Cong was fired upon and a search revealed one Viet Cong killed in action confirmed.*

## **November 1967**

### **First Tanks:**

*Commanding Officers: LtCol's R.M. Taylor & V.J. Gentile*

*Executive Officer: LtCol V.J. Gentile & Vacant*

*Operations Officer: Maj R.M. Croll*

*Logistics Officer: Maj J.A. Schuyler*

**Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 977723)**

*During the month of November, the 1st Tank Battalion participated in one major operation. On 13 November, a light section from Company B, 1st Tank Battalion moved into position at (AT 807545) as a blocking force for **Operation Foster**. Throughout the operation, elements of Company B were called upon to provide direct-fire support, blocking positions and react to enemy sightings.*

The operation began at 0900 on 13 November. BLT 2/3 landed by helicopter west of An Hoa, and two hours later Barnard's Marines landed northwest of the complex near Dai Loc. Initially there were numerous contacts with small groups of VC trying to escape. The Marines uncovered many VC bunkers and logistic areas. With the exception of one company-size

fight on 29 November, the enemy concentrated on escaping. Marine reconnaissance and air observers sighted numerous fleeing enemy groups; artillery and air strikes directed against these groups caused the majority of enemy casualties inflicted during Foster. For the Marine infantry units, the operation was more successful in terms of destruction of enemy supplies and installations than enemy killed. The Marines destroyed 6,000 enemy buildings, bunkers, tunnels, and shelters and uncovered rice caches totaling 87 tons. By the end of the operation, 30 November, reported enemy casualties totaled 125 killed and eight captured. More important than the personnel losses inflicted on the enemy, the Marines evacuated more than 11,500 refugees from the Communist-dominated Area. (GB67)

According to E.F. Murphy in "Semper Fi Vietnam":

"One of the major operations launched to accomplish this (i.e., rocket attacks on Da Nang) was Foster, beginning on 13 November. It was conceived after the VC viciously attacked a refugee settlement village just twenty kilometers south of Da Nang, killing and wounding more than one hundred civilians. Supported by BLT 2/3 from the Special Landing Force, the 3d Battalion, 7th Marines landed by helicopter west of An Hoa at 0900 that day." The small bands of fleeing VC were run down and killed.

Editor's Note: The tank platoon that was instrumental in the destruction of the bunkers, tunnels, and buildings was the 2dPlt, Company A, 3d Tanks. After the Operation Foster it was detached from the OpCon of BLT 2/3 and proceeded to the 1st Tanks C.P. where on 1 Dec the platoon was redesignated the 2dPlt, Company A, 1st Tanks and placed in DS of 2/5 at An Hoa.

*The location of the gun companies and their supported units are as follows:*

*Company A (-), GS 1stMarDiv (Da Nang)*

*2nd Platoon, Company A, DS 2nd Bn, 5th Marines (An Hoa)*

*Company B (Rein), DS 7th Marines (Da Nang)*

*Company C (-), DS 5th Marines (Da Nang)*

*The Combat Operations Center of the 1st Tank Battalion continues to initiate, control and direct defensive activities within the Southern Sector. During the month 840 activities were conducted by the SSDC tenant units.*

*1st Tank Battalion conducted 60 patrols and ambushes and responded with 3 special activities of platoon-size in the SSDC TAOR.*

*Three significant events occurred in the 1st Tank Battalion during November. At 051925Z a Marine loading ammunition onto a tank was struck in the right leg by a sniper round resulting in one USMC WIA (med-evac). At 000100H two tanks from Company B were in position as a reaction force for 3/7 at (AT 920577) when they received one incoming RPG round and mortar fire. At the same time they were requested to move to assist an infantry unit which was under heavy attack. Enroute to the scene the tanks were ambushed by an estimated 30 NVA and received 3 RPG rockets and automatic weapons fire. The tanks were not hit.*

*On 221800H approximately 100 V.C. were spotted in the open at (AT 904666) by a 7th Marines' patrol. B-34 fired direct supporting fire and was credited with 25 V.C. KIA (probable). A secondary explosion was also obtained by the fire, indicating the possibility of a V.C. rocket or mortar team.*

*H&S C.O.: Capt C.R. Casey*

*Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 997723) Same as Bn CP.*

C.O. Company "A": Capt R.W. Maddox

Location and Operations Summary: Da Nang (977723)

Company A (-) continues as security for the two top-priority bridges in the Southern Sector Defense Command AOR, the Song Cau Do Bridge and the Song Tuy Loan Bridge. One platoon of tanks is located at each bridge.

On 29 November, the 2nd Platoon, Company A, 3d Tank Battalion, from BLT 2/3, SLF BRAVO, entered the 1st Tank Battalion C.P. On 1 December the platoon will be redesignated the 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Tank Battalion.

C.O. Company "B": Capt R.E. Roemer

Location and Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 962621)

Company B (Rein) continues in direct support of the 7th Marines. Poor trafficability in the 7th Marines TAOR has limited tank operating capabilities and restricted movement to the roads.



*Matye on left receiving the award*



In November 1998 MajGen. Hanlon, Commanding General of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton presented Sgt. Clemence "Tim" Matye, USMC (Ret.) with the Silver Star for action and bravery that took place on 12 November 1968 in the Republic of South Vietnam. Here is Tim Matye's account of that day.

Then Cpl. Matye was with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Tanks. His platoon was located on Hill 37 southeast of Da Nang; one tank of 3rd Platoon was supporting 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines on a daily road sweep on Liberty Road between Hill 37 and Hill 55. The road sweeps were rotated between the tanks and crews that were available at the time within the platoon. Cpl. Matye was the Tank Commander on B-3, but on 12 November 68 he volunteered to go out on B-33 because they were short a crewman. Cpl. Matye also wanted to meet a friend at Hill 55 who was returning from R&R. The road sweep was pretty much routine as the road squad proceeded without detecting any booby traps, and took sniper fire. They met the road sweep team coming from the other direction from Hill 55 just below Hill 55. The road was declared clear and the combat engineers and some of the grunts jumped up on the tank as they always did for the return trip to Hill 37.

*From this point, the rest is described in Sgt Matye's citation for his Silver Star.*

For service as set forth in the following:

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Sergeant [then Corporal Clemence T. Matye, United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action in connection with operations against Viet Cong forces while a tank crewman with 3d Platoon, Company B, First Tank Battalion, supporting Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, FIRST Marine Division (Rein.), in the DaNang area of the Republic of Vietnam on 12 November 1968. After completing a road mine sweep operation, Sergeant Matye's tank embarked seven infantrymen before returning to their base camp. Shortly after,

the Viet Cong command detonated a forty pound fragmentation mine beside the moving tank. This explosion killed four Marines outright and wounded six others. Sergeant Matye found that his leg was severed at the knee and bleeding profusely. He also had shrapnel protruding from his eye. Displaying cool deliberation, Sergeant Matye removed his belt and applied it to his leg as a tourniquet on his severed leg. Small arms fire then broke out, but Sergeant Matye refused evacuation from his exposed position and remained at the tank's fifty caliber machine gun while his wounded tank commander went inside the tank to summon help on the radio. During the time remaining before help arrived, Sergeant Matye's calm reassuring manner and continuing soothing monologue to those present was a source of great strength to the other wounded Marines, especially considering the very apparent devastating wounds that he had suffered. When the medical evacuation helicopter arrived, Sergeant Matye only agreed to evacuation after all other wounded Marines were loaded aboard the aircraft. By his courageous actions, personal initiative, and complete dedication to duty, Sergeant Matye reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

*C.O. Company "C": Capt R.D. Gunselman*

Location and Operations Summary: Da Nang (BT072644)

*Company C continues in direct support of the 5th Marines in the Marble Mountain area.*

*Trafficability in the Marble Mountain area is good because of the sandy terrain.*

*On 26 November, the 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Tank Battalion was transferred to BLT 3/1, SLF BRAVO.*

### November 1968

#### **First Tanks:**

*Commanding Officer: LtCol M.C. Ashley, Jr*



**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star Medal to Maurice C. Ashley, Jr. (0-45707), Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with Commanding Officer, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Rein.), FME, in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on November 17, 1968. By his courage, aggressive fighting spirit and steadfast devotion to duty in the face of extreme personal danger, Lieutenant Colonel Ashley upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.**

*Executive Officer: Maj R.H. Graham*

*Operations Officer: Maj J.B. Terpak*

*Logistics Officer: Maj D.R. Sparks*

Location and Operations Summary: CP (AT 997723)

Task Organization.

*The task organization of the 1st Tank Battalion as of 30 November is:*

*Company A (-) (Rein): D/S 26th Marine Regiment*

*Company B (Rein): 2 platoons D/S 5th Marine Regiment  
2 platoons D/S 7th Marine Regiment*

*Company C (Rein): D/S 1st Marine Regiment  
1 platoon D/S 2nd ROKMC Brigade*

*Company A (Rein), 1st Antitank Bn: Co A (-) G/S 1st MarDiv  
1 platoon D/S task force kilo  
Heavy Section D/S 3/1  
Light Section D/S 1/7*

*H&S Company C.O.'s : Maj B.E. Davidson & Capt M.P. Sams  
Location and Operations Summary: CP (AT 997723)*

*C.O. Company "A": Capt B.R. Montgomery  
Location and Operations Summary: CP (AT 936782)*

*Company A (-) (Rein) remained in direct support of the 26th Marines with its command post co-located with that of the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines. At various times during the month tanks from the 2nd and 3rd Platoons assumed a major role in the defense of Namu Bridge and cantonment security for Hill 190. Throughout the month tanks at Namu Bridge and Hill 190 were called upon to fire missions at an increasingly high number of enemy sightings as well as numerous H&I missions against suspected enemy staging areas, routes of advance, and routes of egress. The 3rd Platoon supported the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines on **Operation Nicollet Bay** providing supplementary fire power to the defensive perimeter of Hill 358 as well as firing numerous H&I and aerial observer controlled fire missions against suspected enemy targets. At the conclusion of Operation Nicollet Bay, the 3rd Platoon returned to the company CP to support the battalions of the 26th Marines as needed.*

### **November 1969**

#### **First Tanks:**

*Commanding Officers: LtCol L.R. Butler & Maj J.J. Louder*

*Executive Officer: Maj R.D. Becker*

*Operations Officers: Maj J.P. Senik & Capt T.F. Howe*

*Logistics Officers: Maj's G.E. Berbaum & J.P. Senik*

**Location and Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 997723)**

**Operations.** *During the month of November the 1st Tank Battalion continued to support the infantry regiments of the 1st Marine Division and the 2nd Brigade ROKMC throughout the Southern I Corps by providing close direct fire support to infantry search and clear and search and destroy operations as well as road sweeps and convoy security, counter-rocket and mortar fire, perimeter defense and armored mobile reaction force operations.*

**Task Organization.** *The task organization of the 1st Tank Battalion as of 30 November 1969 was:*

*Company A (-): Cadre*

*Company B (Rein): 2 platoons and Company Headquarters D/S 1st Marine Regiment*

*2 platoons and forward Command Post D/S 5th Marine Regiment*

*Company C (Rein): 2 platoons and Company Headquarters D/S 7th Marine Regiment*

*1 platoon, D/S 2nd Brigade ROKMC*

*Company A, 5th Tank Bn: 2 platoons D/S 26th Marine Regiment*

*1 platoon 1st Tank Bn for maintenance*

*H&S C.O.: Maj H.G. Duncan*

**Location and Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 997723) Same as Bn CP.**

*The tanks of H&S Company have been used to provide counter-rocket fire, and to provide General Support to the 1st Marine Division as a Tank Reserve. One section continued operations with the ROKMC on Barrier Island in support of **Operations Victory Dragon 17-31**. Flame tanks were used extensively throughout the Division TAOR to burn possible ingress areas to cantonments.*

130800H Nov 1969: One tank from H&S Co, 1st Tank Bn while in support of ROKMC was hit by one RPG in front of tank, resulting in one (1) USMC WIA MED-EVAC.

161000H Nov 1969: One tank from H&S Co, 1st Tank Bn in support of ROKMC spotted 20 VC. Tank fired 90mm resulting in four (4) VC KIA.

171200H Nov 1969: One tank from H&S Co, 1st Tank Bn while in support of ROKMC spotted 4 VC running to treeline. Took under fire with 90mm resulting in 2 VC KIA.

## **October 1965**

### **First Antitanks:**

*Commanding Officer: LtCol W. Moore*

*Executive Officer: Maj R.E. Harris*

*Operations Officer: Maj A.J. Eagan*

*Logistics Officer: Maj J.J. Keefe*

*Location & Operations Summary: Camp Pendleton, CA*

*H&S Company C.O.: Capt J.W. Schroeder*

*Location: Camp Pendleton, CA*

*C.O. Company "A", 1st AT Bn: 1stLt D.S. Feeney*

*Location: Okinawa*

*C.O. Company "B", 1st AT Bn: Capt J.;E. Felker*

*Location: Camp Pendleton, CA*

*C.O. Company "C" 1st AT Bn: 1stLt W.F. Snyder*

*Location: RVN*

*Editor's Note: The month of November is included in the un-formatted "Command Chronology - July thru December 1965". The document is a narrative with no specific format making it difficult to summarize. However, the narrative style is quite comprehensive and covers much more detail than the standard formatted CC. Plus the chains of command often include the platoon leaders which is largely absent from the norm for CC's. For those interested in details of this period of 1st AT you are encouraged to access the Foundation's web site at <http://www.mcvthf.org> go to the Command Chronologies page and follow the prompts to the applicable chronology.*

## **October 1966**

### **First Antitanks:**

*Commanding Officers: Maj's R.E. Harris (KIA 9 November) & J.J. Keefe*

*Executive Officer: Maj M.F. Manning*

*Operations Officer: Maj J.J. Burke, Jr.*

*Logistics Officer: Capt C.R. Vanhorn*

*Location & Operations Summary:*

*Company A, Direct Support of 1st Marines*

*Company B (-), Direct Support of 4th Bn, 503d Infantry, 173d Brigade*

*Company C (Rein), Direct Support 7th Marines*

*Editor's Note: To attempt to summarize the Command Chronology of 1st AT's is an injustice. The Ontos were everywhere! There was no job too large or too small for the Ontos to be involved. The command chronologies are often detailed down to names of crewmen. This level of detail is found nowhere else in the archives of command chronologies. If you want to research further into the actions of Ontos you are encouraged to read the complete command chronologies, accessed through the Foundation's web site. Tank CCs are up to 500+ pages much of which is of slight interest (being generous) to most. However, the Ontos CCs are often but 23+ pages long and they are action filled and detailed. To complicate reporting, the Ontos Battalions were phased out halfway through the war and their actions strained through the sieve of the supporting respective Tank Battalions. From that point on, Tank's CCs mostly mentioned the attached Ontos units "in passing" and very little of what the Ontos did was reported in any great detail.*

*H&S Company C.O.: Capt M.H. Collier  
Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 991675)*

*C.O. Company "A"(-): Capt D.M. Hutson  
Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 991675)*

*C.O. Company "B" (Rein): Capt T.F. Dempsey  
Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang*

*C.O. Company "C": Capt R.J. Esposito  
Location & Operations Summary: Chu Lai*

## **November 1967**

### **First Antitanks:**

*Commanding Officer: LtCol P.D. Reissner, Jr.*

*Executive Officer: Maj P.G. Radke*

*Operations Officers: Capt G.K. Robinson, Jr. & Maj W.E. Wright*

*Logistics Officers: 1stLt V.C. Davis & Capt B.A. Vredevelde*

**Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang**

*Company B was assigned in direct support of 5th Marines and Company C in direct support of 7th Marines during the entire reporting period. Company A (-) was attached to 1st Marines throughout the reporting period.*

*1-30 Nov 1967. The Battalion continued its mission of supporting the Southern Sector Rear Area Defense by running both day and night patrols in the assigned SOR. In addition, an augmentation squad was furnished for the bridge security forces on a regularly scheduled basis. OP Tiger was maintained as an integral part of local cantonment security.*

*1-30 Nov 1967. The operational firing standdown on the Ontos-mounted 106mm Recoilless Rifle remained in effect for all units OPCON to 1st MarDiv. A Co (-) (OPCON 3rd MarDiv) fired upon request in support of 1st Marines. All other 106mm firing was conducted as live firing exercises for the purpose of maintaining gunnery skills and safety procedures.*

*1-30 Nov 1967. The Battalion continued to provide Ontos for escort missions, mechanized patrols and defensive positions.*

*Editor's Note: Unique to the Ontos Battalion was its approach to producing the monthly command chronologies. First, they are more narrative and reader-friendly. Second, the companies submit their command chronologies and they appear in whole as annexes to the battalion's.*

*H&S Company C.O.s: Capt B.A. Vredeveld & 1stLt R.E. Bailey*

Location: Da Nang

*C.O. Company "A"(-): Capt C.E. Woods*

Location & Operations Summary: Quang Tri

*1-30 November 1967. The Ontos were attached to the 1st Marines. Company A (-) continued to provide Ontos for, mechanized patrols, sweeping forces and maintain defensive positions within the 1st Marines' tactical area of responsibility. Company A (-) participated in no major operations during this period.*

*1 November Company A, Four VC spotted moving into treeline in vicinity (YD 288533). A-11 expended three 106mm rounds. Unable to search.*

*1 November Company A. Received five rounds sniper fire at (YD 287534) and spotted 1 VC moving with rifle. A-11 and A-25 expended total of two 106mm rounds. Negative results.*

*5 November Company A. Received six rounds sniper fire at (YD 285528). Returned four 106mm rounds. Search conducted with negative results.*

*11 November Company A. First platoon commander detonated delay-fuzed device 15 feet to his rear. No casualties.*

*24 November Company A. A-11 and A-13 received 15 rounds automatic weapons fire at (YD 277521). Expended total of ten 106mm rounds. Search conducted with negative results.*

*26 November Company A. A-13 detonated 50-60 Lb. Box mine at (YD 293523). Tracks and road wheels destroyed, hull bent, engine compartment floor split. 2 USMC WIA (NE)*

*26 November Company A. A-11 received five rounds sniper fire from vicinity (YD 284514). Expended one 106mm round and 50 rounds caliber .30.*

*Editor's Note: Company "A" was absorbed into and reported by the 1st Tanks for 1968 and 1969.*

*C.O.s Company "B" (Rein): Capt's A.R. Green, Jr. & J.K. Robinson, Jr.*

Location & Operations Summary: Hill 63, Quang Tin & Duong Son

*9 November Company B. B-24 detonated 40 Lb. mine while on road sweep escort at (AT 909507). Three road wheels and track destroyed, Hull split. Two USMC WIA (NE).*

*16 November Company B. B-11 and B-12 fired on by three automatic weapons from (AT 990630). Returned fire with caliber .30. No search conducted.*

*21 November Company B. B-12 received approximately 100 rounds automatic weapons fire from vicinity (AT 988638). Returned fire with caliber .30. No search conducted.*

*C.O. Company "C": Capt W.E Nelson*

Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang

*8 November Company C. Received one unknown caliber rocket inside wire and five outside wire at (AT 863574). C-33 returned 30 rounds caliber .30. Negative results.*

*8 November Company C. Third platoon CP received unknown quantity of mortar fire in conjunction with heavy small arms fire from vicinity (AT 918578). C-35 returned 200 rounds caliber .30. Results unknown.*

## **November 1965**

### **Third Tanks**

*Commanding Officer: LtCol M.L. Raphael*

*Executive Officer: Maj J.G. Doss, Jr.*

*Operations Officer: Maj H.L. Maxwell*

*Logistics Officer: Maj F.W. Coates*

**Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 989708)**

*The 3d Tank Battalion is reinforced with B Company, 1st Tank Battalion. Two companies are attached to regiments in the Chu Lai enclave and one platoon is attached to the infantry battalion in the Hue Phu Bai enclave. The other two gun companies are in direct support of the regiments in the Da Nang enclave.*

*The battalion commander maintains administrative control of the reinforced battalion and exercises logistic control and/or supervision of all units regardless of location or support status. Tactical control of the gun companies are for the most part in the hands of the supported infantry commander.*

*H&S Company C.O.: Capt H.A. Bertrand Jr.*

**Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 989708)**

*Special operations were conducted by H&S Company during the month of November in areas adjacent to the Battalion CP. Seven patrols and five ambushes were conducted resulting in the capture of three VCS and the discovery of several holes and caves which were destroyed.*

*One sweep and clear operation covering one thousand meters between the southern perimeter of the Battalion CP and the Song Cau Do river was conducted.*

*On 19 November 1965 Marines manning positions along the CP perimeter observed a VC hiding a weapon 100 meters outside the perimeter. A patrol was dispatched and the VC was killed. Several documents were found on the body and forwarded to Division G-2.*

*C.O. Company "A": Capt F.W. Jarnot*

**Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 946762)**

*"A" Company in direct support of 3d Marines occupied strong points along the MLR and supported two infantry company sized isolated strong points, and provided rapid reaction alert forces. One platoon protects the bridge at a strong point in the extreme north and west section of the TAOR.*

*C.O. Company "B": Capt A.E. Lee*

**Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 067719)**

*Throughout the month of November 1965 the majority of tank operations were conducted by "B" Company in support of 9th Marines, on the coastal plain southeast of Danang. "B" Company participated in 17 offensive operations in which from two to ten tanks were committed. Patrol reaction force, patrols, blocking and reaction force in search and clear operations, support of company and battalion offensive operations are inclusive in the operations participated in. On one occasion "B" Company tanks were requested and were successful in extricating an infantry squad from an area infested with booby traps. Approximately 110 90mm, 1000 .50 caliber, and 4300 .30 caliber rounds were expended against enemy positions, destroying over 15 enemy emplacements. One Viet Cong was killed (body count) and estimated ten additional Viet Cong killed however no bodies were located.*

*C.O. Company "C": Capt E.L. Erickson*

**Location & Operations Summary: Chu Lai (BT 531094)**

*"C" Company, attached to 4th Marine, continued to maintain positions at strong points along the Regimental MLR. The company provides one tank platoon as part of the alert force near the Chu Lai airfield, and participates in beach patrols along their sector of the perimeter. One hundred fifty gallons of napalm was expended destroying enemy positions.*

*C.O. Company "B", 1st Tanks: Maj A.L. Lamb*

**Location & Operations Summary: Chu Lai (BT 548060)**

*“B” Company, 1st Tank Battalion, attached to the 7th Marines, supported operations within the TAOR participating in sweep and clear operations and support of patrols. “B” Company conducted beach patrols in the TAOR and provides one platoon for the defense of the Chu Lai airfield.*

**November 1966**

**Third Tanks**

*Commanding Officer: LtCol W.R. Corson*

*Executive Officer: Maj E.R. Larson*

*Operations Officer: Maj E.L. Tunget*

*Logistics Officer: 2ndLt R.J. Bright*

**Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 989708)**

*Tank combat operations during the month of November were in support of two major operations, Macon and Prairie, and other operations in the TAOR's. These operations accounted for 26 VC/NVA KBGF confirmed, 13 VC/KBGF probable, 1 VC WBGF confirmed, 4VCC and 18 VCS apprehended. Additionally, tank action was responsible for the sinking of 7 boats, the destruction of 24 caves/tunnels, and the capture of 3 individual weapons, 2 Chinese hand grenades, and numerous medical supplies.*

**Operation Macon**

The Fourth of July also saw the beginning of Operation Macon . The principal adversary of the 9th Marines had been the Doc Lap Battalion, a Main Force battalion of great tenacity and skill, particularly adept at ambushes, mine warfare, and sudden, sharp ripostes against unwary units up to company size. The Doc Lap Battalion was now north of An Hoa and south of the Thu Bon River. Operation Macon was an open-ended operation that went on for three months . At one time or another, five Marine battalions had a crack at it, and at the end 507 dead VC had been counted. (GBAA)

*During the month of November 1966, the Battalion remained in support of both the 1st and 3d Marine Divisions with elements located in both the Danang and Dong Ha TAOR's.*

*The following is a recapitulation of the operational control status of 3d Tank Battalion as of 30 November 1966:*

*1st Marine Division: 3d Tank Battalion (-) (Da Nang)*

*H&S Company (-) (Da Nang)*

*Company “B” (Rein) (Da Nang)*

*3d Marine Division: Det H&S Company (Liaison Team) (Phu Bai)*

*Company “A” (Rein) (Dong Ha TAOR)*

*Company “C” (Rein) (Dong Ha TAOR)*

*Administrative control of 3d Tank Battalion remained with the 3d Marine Division.*

*H&S Company C.O.: 1stLt R.D. McDaniel*

*Location & Operations Summary: DaNang (AT 989708)*

*C.O. Company “A”: Capt A.W. Facklam Jr.*

*Location & Operations Summary: Dong Ha (YD 061545)*

**OPERATION PRAIRIE**

*Company “A”, 3d Tank Battalion remained in direct support of the 3d Marines. Company “C”, 3d Tank Battalion remained in direct support of the 4th Marines. The tanks of both companies*

were actively engaged against VC/NVA forces, primarily conducting H&I type fire missions against known or suspected enemy positions.

C.O. Company "B": 1stLt D.B. Garner

Location & Operations Summary: Da Nang (AT 962611)

#### **OPERATION MACON**

The 2nd Platoon of Company "B" remained in direct support of 3/9 throughout the month of November on **Operation Macon**. Although the tanks were actively engaged, enemy contacts were negligible with no known casualties inflicted through tank action.

Company "C": Capt P.F. Lassard

Location & Operations Summary: Dong Ha (YD 234582)

*Editor's Note: Refer to the Command Chronologies accessed at our web site. They are detailed down to the locations from which tanks fired, where the rounds impacted, and the results of the engagement. The Battalion "Significant Events", routinely found in the CCs is absent from this month's chronology.*

### **November 1967**

#### **Third Tanks**

Commanding Officer: LtCol F.D. Chapman

Executive

Officer: Maj B.M. MacLaren

Operations Officer: Maj C.J. Samuelsen

Logistics Officer: Maj R.E. Finney

Location & Operations Summary: Gia Le Combat Base

*On 1 November the following operations in which tanks of this Battalion were participating were terminated.*

**Fremont** (Covered the approaches to Hue) To the south in Thua Thien Province, another 3dMarine Division operation, Fremont, which had begun on 10 July, also terminated on 31 October . Conducted in two-battalion strength for most of its duration, Fremont screened the western approaches to the Hue-Phu Bai area. It accounted for 123 enemy killed . Marine losses were 17 dead, 260 wounded. (GBAA)

**Ardmore** (Re-named "Scotland")

**Kingfisher** (17 July to 31 October) 1,117 enemy KIA. 340 Marine KIA, 1,461 WIA.

*The location of the gun companies and their supported units were as follows.*

*Company "A" (Rein)- D/S 9th MarRegt (Dong Ha)*

*Company "B" (Rein) (-)-D/S 3d MarRegt (Camp Carroll)*

*Company "B"- D/S 26th MarRegt (Khe Sanh)*

*Company "C"- D/S 4th MarRegt (Camp Evans)*

A new series of operations began in November. Only Osceola continued from October. The 3dMarine Division split the Kingfisher TAOR in two: Kentucky, embracing the region including Gio Linh, Con Thien, Cam Lo, and Dong Ha came under the control of Colonel Richard B . Smith's 9th Marines; and Lancaster, to the west, covered Camp Carroll, the Rockpile, and Ca Lu under Colonel Joseph E . Lo Prete's 3d Marines. The division re-named Operation Ardmore at Khe Sanh to Scotland and continued it as a one-battalion operation under the control of Colonel David E . Lownds' 26th Marines . On the coast, the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion conducted Operation Napoleon north of the Cua Viet River. In Thua Thien Province, Colonel William L. Dick's 4th Marines continued to cover approaches to Hue City west of Route 1 as Operation Neosho replaced Fremont. The 3d Marine Division had tactical responsibility for all territory west of Highway 1 in the northern two provinces of Quang Tri

and Thua Thien, while the 1st ARVN Division was responsible for all terrain east of the road except for the Napoleon operational area north of the Cua Viet River. (GB67)

*H&S Company C.O.: 2ndLt J.E. Georgaklis*

Location & Operations Summary: Gia Le Combat Base

### The Silent Enemy

By Corporal Harry C. Christensen  
HQ & Bravo Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tanks, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division  
September 1967- January 24, 1968



With a sense of recognition, yearning, and memory I perused Bob Peavey's observations in the most recent edition of the Sponson Box. His recollections dealt with a silent enemy that we all observed but few recognized... the tedium, weariness, and doldrums associated with being far from home and the anticipation of not returning.

The poet has often described war as "Weeks of inactivity and boredom, marked and punctuated by moments of sheer terror". My good comrade, Ron Shuppy, put it better than most with an eloquence only he was capable of, on a lackluster day late in 1967, while serving together at Camp Carroll. As he tossed to me the September, 1967, issue of "Life Magazine", he chuckled at the covers bold type ... "INSIDE THE CONE OF FIRE AT CON THIEN" it reported "AND HERE ENDURE WE", he lamented, "Inside the conex box at Camp Carroll." We all laughed, most missing the point, and the silent enemy we shared but to a great degree we did not recognize.

Today, as I recall the incident I am mindful of a similar accounting rendered by Henry Fonda, in that great film, "Mister Roberts". Aboard the USS *Reluctant* he advised his crew, "To all the guys everywhere, who sailed from tedium to apathy and back again, with a side trip to monotony... I have discovered that the unseen enemy of this war is the boredom that eventually becomes a faith, and therefore a terrible sort of suicide... and I know now that the ones who refuse to surrender to it are the strongest of all."

The contrast and duality of these thoughts would affect me many times during my short tour of duty in Vietnam... and I guess for the many years that have passed since that time. One such memory occurred sometime later in November of 1967, as we all prepared for the pending monsoon season and the incessant rain that would follow. On a dismal day toward the end of the month we began to receive occasional incoming enemy artillery rounds, intermittent but sufficient to disrupt the customary routine of our daily efforts. As tank commander of the Blade tank (H.Q. 42) I was making every effort to maintain a combat ready vehicle. As such, along with the help of my crew, I was in the process of changing one or two road wheels that needed attention. The incoming rounds seemed to be an obvious attempt to harass rather than a significant attack, but nevertheless we took cover beneath the vehicle. After considerable time beneath the tank, I became bored and left its safety to complete the road wheel project. As I began to tighten the lug nuts on the last wheel, I heard the distinct voice of "our own" Gunny Davis, "Get the fuck back under that tank, you god damned fool." I

scrambled back after a retort of my own and waited for what seemed like hours until the all clear was rendered.

As the incoming abated, I began to make my way up the hill to the "slot" where my tank was assigned, the rear gate at Camp Carroll. Nearing the Heights I was surprised to find a foreign object lying in the center of the path. As I bent to retrieve it, my fingers were burned as the object obviously continued to retain its incredible heat. I couldn't believe it!! I cooled it with the only available process that was available to a field Marine and carried the six to seven pound projectile to the bunker with much amazement and joy. I examined its very sharp edges (and in fact sustained several cuts to my hands from the razor sharp edges), and suddenly my hands began to tremble. A portion of me was elated as I envisioned the piece being a subject of conversation in years to come ... what an appropriate paperweight for an old Lance Corporal with delusions of grandeur, having suffered through a great adventure. But as I held that promise of death for some unsuspecting individual, I was suddenly cognizant that it was discovered on a well-worn path used by us all. The essence of such a missile falling from its own appointed arc would have turned the head of any unsuspecting Marine to guava jelly. Instantly I was seized by a trembling, which I could not control.

For the remainder of my tour I dealt with the monotony of our existence in that hellish place but was also constantly and vividly aware of an anticipation, from which I will never recover, of those horrible moments of terror. I suspect that such memories will haunt me and many of us forever. I also take a moment to wonder at the name and history of the "lifer" who surveyed my possessions after I was medevaced from "country"... and whose desk now adorns that fragment which to me illustrated those terrible moments of terror... and with the great hope that he appreciates the significance which it truly represents.

With the hope that all of us will remember and never forget the great cost of our efforts, and with gratitude to then 2"d Lt. Harris Himes, who brought many of us through this Hell and without whom many of us would not have survived. His valor and relationship with his men was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps.

*The Battalion Reconnaissance Patrol continued its activities around the Command Post. There were no contacts. On 8 November a hand grenade was thrown at one of the Battalion's perimeter bunkers. No casualties were sustained and no action was taken due to the unknown enemy position.*

*C.O. Company "A": Capt G.W. Baker*

Location & Operations Summary: Dong Ha

**Operation Kentucky.** (Ballistic Arch/ Kentucky V/Osceola, 24 November-31 December)

*This Operation, which encompasses the area (referred to as "Leatherneck Square) including Con Thien, Gio Linh and Cam Lo, commenced on 1 November. Tanks of "A" Company were in direct support of 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 3d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment, 3d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment and the 12th Provisional Artillery Battalion. The support rendered included indirect 90MM HE and WP H&I fires, indirect 90MM HE and WP fire against suspected and known enemy gun emplacements, direct 90MM HE and WP H&I fire, direct 90MM HE, WP and canister fires at suspected enemy mortar positions, direct 90MM HE, SP and canister and .30 and .50 caliber machine gun fires at enemy movement around the various perimeters, and participation in eight road sweeps with infantry and engineer elements. H&I counterbattery fires were directed at positions north of within and south of the DMZ. On 2 November one tank at the Washout position (YD 128678) took a direct 60MM mortar hit on the gunshield. The hit damaged the M31 periscope, M105 telescope, 2 vision blocks and the xenon light.*

C.O. Company "B": Capt D.W. Kent

Location & Operations Summary: Camp J.J. Carroll

**Operation Lancaster.** *From its beginning on 1 November tanks of "B" Company participated in this Operation in support of 2d Battalion and 3d Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment and 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. This operation includes positions in the Camp Carroll-Rock Pile (Ca Lu) areas. The support provided consisted of participating in eight rough rider convoys from the Thon Son La position (YD 545984) to Chu Lu during which 90MM HE and canister and .30 and .50 caliber machine guns were used in reconnaissance by fire, indirect 90MM HE and WP H&I fires and 90MM HE and WP fires at suspected enemy positions.*

**Tankers Didn't Do It!**

By Lloyd G. "Pappy" Reynolds

As I recall this happened sometime in late 1967 at a Battalion position called "Payable" astride route 9 in northern I Corps. I was with "B" Company, 3rd Tanks and I think we were attached to 2/9 at the time. Well anyway this has to do with showers. There weren't any. There was a river running alongside the position but there were no shower facilities. We were washing in the river and it was cold.

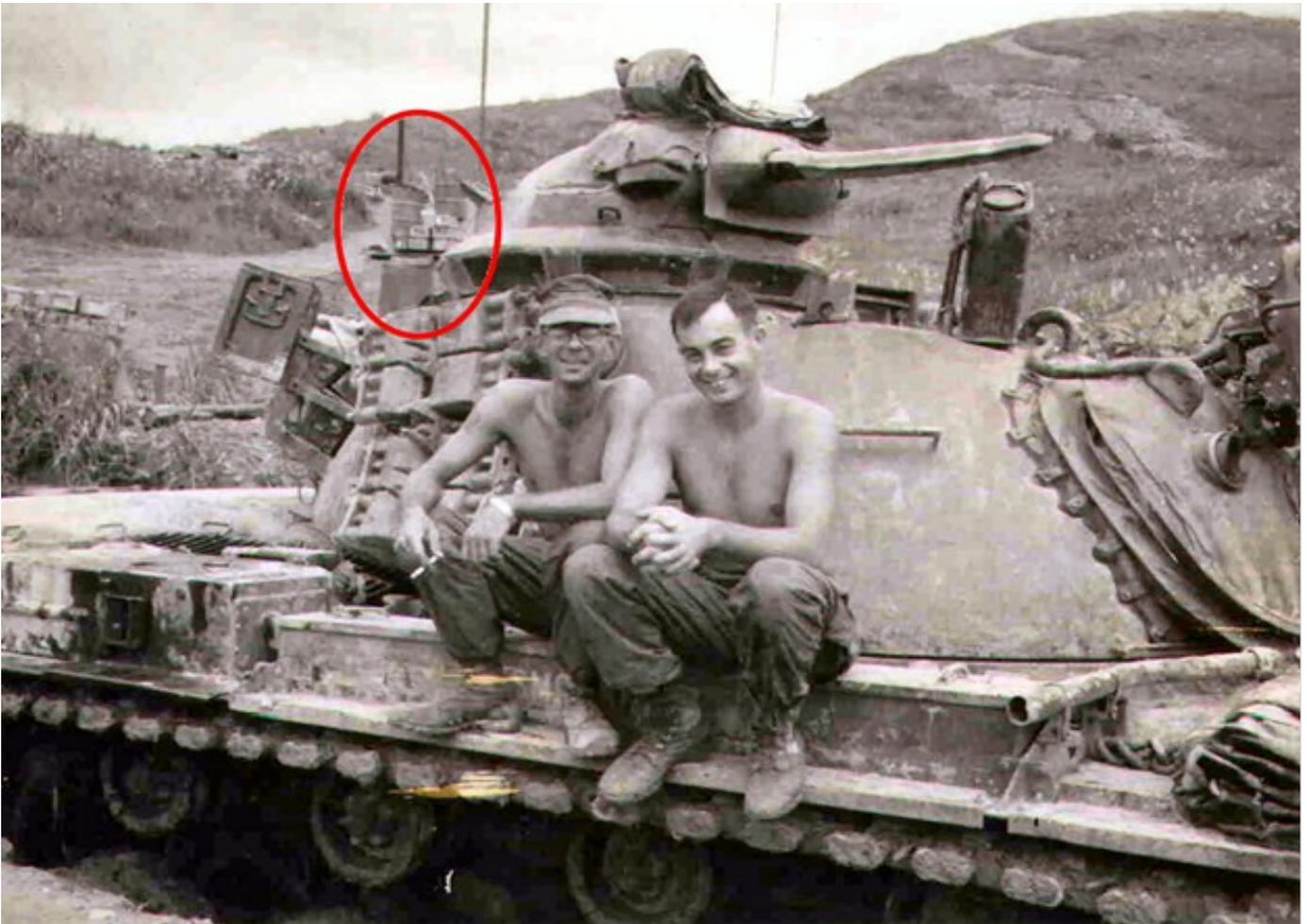
Now Tankers being normal scroungers, and being able to carry more gear than the grunts, we unofficially agreed that when any of us got a chance to get to the rear at Dong Ha (our Battalion forward maintenance area) we would endeavor to acquire some shower building material.

Well it wasn't long before we had enough wood to build a shower stall a little bigger than a phone booth with two pallets for the floor so we didn't have to stand in the mud: even had a spring closing door. Regular down home country living.

Next came two 55-gallon drums from some source and a 175mm metal powder canister. We had our Battalion welder cut holes in the two drums and welded the canister between the two giving us the capacity of a 110-gallon shower. (It was a sturdy shower building.) The Sea Bees (unknowingly) donated a shower head with a pull release, and the Army mess hall at Dong Ha generously "gave" to the Tankers hygiene effort (late one night) an immersion burner.

Now we had our shower. Carefully fire up the burner; wait about 5 to 10 minutes; shower; and replace your water.

All the above took about a month to accomplish. Meanwhile the Grunts were still washing in the cold river.



(The Stack from the immersion burner can just be seen behind the tank.)  
"Pappy" and Ron Shuppy in our tank slot. *"Pappy" Reynolds photo.*

Well it wasn't long before the word got out, and next thing you know the Grunt Battalion Commander asked us if we could build him a shower. Our industrious Tankers managed to acquire him a shower head, immersion burner, and one drum (from the same generous sources). Now he had his own shower. Meanwhile the Grunts were still washing in the cold river.

Late one night "he" went out to take a shower. Not having lights in the shower "he" took it in the dark, went back to his hooch and hit the rack. In the morning, upon waking up and looking in the mirror to shave he saw a Smurf looking back at "him". It seems that someone had put a load of grape Cool Aid in the water and being hot it stained and stuck! THE TANKERS DIDN'T DO IT.

Coincidence? Maybe but by the time the color wore off there was a hot shower unit in operation down by the river for the rest of the Battalion.



The position of the shower can be seen just above the Marine walking in front of the trucks, and my tanks position is just behind the trucks. Just to the right of the second truck is our tank slot, then our living bunker and another tank just off the road. *Jack Butcher photo*

**Operation Scotland.** *Tanks of the 3d platoon of Company "B" supported units of the 26th Marine Regiment in **Operation Scotland** from its beginning on 1 November. The operation encompasses the Khe Sanh area.*

*C.O. Company "C": Capt W.J. O'Buch*

**Location & Operations Summary: Camp Evans**

**Operation Granite.** *From 1 November until the termination of the Operation on 6 November tanks of "C" Company supported operations by the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment with 90MM and machine gun fire at suspected enemy positions outside the Battalion's defensive perimeter.*

**Operation Neosho.** (Covering the approaches to Hue) *Tanks of Company "C" operated in the Neosho area of operations since the operation began on 1 November. The units supported were 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3d Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment and the 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment. Tanks provided support by firing 90MM H&I fires and by participating in two sweeps with infantry. The first sweep, on 24 November, was with 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment and was conducted without contact. The second sweep was also with the 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment and was conducted on 28 November. During this action tank C-14 detonated a mine. There were no injuries to the crewmen but on infantry crewman was Med Evaced. Tank C-14 received serious damage.*

## **November 1968**

### **Third Tanks**

Commanding Officer: LtCol G.E. Hayward

Executive Officer: Maj J.P. Souders

Operations Officer: Maj H.L. Bauknight

Logistics Officer: Maj W.A. Grubbs

**Location & Operations Summary: Quang Tri**

*On 1 November 1968 the Tank Battalion assets were reassigned as follows:*

- Company A D/S Third Marines*
- Company B (-) D/S Third Marines*
  - Platoon B Co D/S Fourth Marines*
- Company C G/S Third MAR DIV*
  - Two Platoons Ontos D/S Third Marines*
  - One Platoon D/S Fourth Marines*
  - One Platoon Ontos G/S Third MAR DIV*

*The tanks and ontos of the battalion participated in two major operations, numerous small unit operations, road sweeps, provided road and bridge security and reinforced perimeter defenses. Tanks also provided a reaction force for the Quang Tri Combat Base.*

*Tanks and Ontos continued to support the regiments with armored mobility and accurate fire power, employing direct and indirect fire. Emphasis was placed on the use of tank search lights. Efforts were made to locate and develop new areas of operations for tracked vehicles so that the maximum support could be rendered to the infantry regiments. Exploration of these areas continue.*

*Company C.O.: Capt J.A. Rumbley*

**Location & Operations Summary: Quang Tri**

*The 3d Tank Battalion continued to defend its assigned sector (Indi) of the Quang Tri Combat Base, utilizing four bunker positions combined with patrols, ambushes and LP's.*

*On 9 November 1968, the Battalion was assigned the defense of Kilo sector when the base complex was enlarged. The new area is being defended with six bunker positions and a day guard. The new sector is in a low area laced with rice paddies and extensive bamboo cane breaks, trees and shrubs. A small river divides the sector in half. Clearing of the area was started and nears completion. Six permanent concrete bunkers will be emplaced during December. A fifty (50) foot steel tower will be constructed in the sector for the day guard.*

*During the month the battalion conducted 24 patrols, 2 ambushes and 20 LP's.*

*C.O. Company "A": Capt R.J. Patterson*

**Location & Operations Summary: Con Thien**

*Company A (Rein) was placed in direct support of the Third Marines and operated out of Con Thien supporting the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines. During the month Company A participated in three sweeps of the area surrounding Con Thien. Company A also fired H&I fires nightly during the month with several secondary explosions reported. The Company, in conjunction with dusters and infantry manned counter ambush sites along the road from C-3 to Con Thien. Company A had one flame tank damaged by a mine during the month. The tank was fourth in a column following a road sweep team. One Marine on the crew of the tank received back injuries.*

*04 November 1968 A Co. in support of M/3/3 conducted a sweep west of Con Thien. The tanks fired at an enemy bunker complex with negative results.*

*09 November 1968 Company A, supporting 3/3, conducted a sweep from Con Thien south to C-2, west to the 08 grid line, north to the 66 grid line, SW to C-2, then returning to A-4.*

*09 November 1968 Sweep completed with negative contact. While loading L/3/3 at C-2 for lift up to A-4 received 2 rounds of 152 artillery. No casualties or damage to vehicles.*

*10 November 1968 A Co. at A-4 reported receiving 10 82mm mortar rounds. All rounds landed outside the wire.*

- 10 November 1968 A Co. provided armor security for engineer sweep team, sweeping the road between A-4 and C-2. 2 mines were found between C-2 Bridge and C-2. Engineers blew in place.
- 10 November 1968 A Co. reported receiving incoming at C-3. 12 152mm rocket rounds landed with negative results.
- 13 November 1968 A12, at C-2, responded to reaction force call when a truck was ambushed between C-2 and C-2 Bridge. A12 fired 1000 rounds of 30 cal. at suspected sniper positions, results negative.
- 18 November 1968 A15, while on a road sweep between C-2 and C-3, fired into (YD 126617) where the sweep team was hit from both sides of the MSR along with taking 82mm mortar fire, negative casualties or damage.
- 24 November 1968 A Co. At C-2 received an estimated 20-25 60mm mortar rounds. No casualties.

C.O. Company "B": Capt J.T. Miller

Location & Operations Summary: Camp J.J. Carroll & Asphalt Plant

Company B (-) (Rein) remained in direct support of the 3d Marines, supporting the 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines. The Company participated in operation **RAO VINE**, a cordon and search operation in the Mai Loc area and a cordon and search of the village of Thon Vinh Dai. Also, elements of the Company conducted numerous armored patrols and sweeps during the month. One tank, B45, sustained mine damage to its suspension system while on an armored patrol north of the Cam Lo River. There were no personnel injuries sustained on the mined tank.

The 1st Platoon of Company B remained in direct support of the 4th Marines conducting road sweeps and armored patrols in the Lancaster AO.

During the month Company B moved its CP location from Camp Carroll to Asphalt Plant (YD 170586).

- 05 November 1968 B21, 22, conducted a sweep into the Mai Loc area supporting F/2/3.
- 07 November 1968 B Co. 2d Plt. moving into F/2/3 CP detected suspected enemy movement on nearby hill. Fired at enemy with unknown results.
- 10 November 1968 B-2A, in support of 2/3 in the Mai Loc area, fired at suspected enemy activity with unknown results.
- 19 November 1968 B11, 12 and 15 supported the 4th Marines on a patrol between Calu and Vandergrift.
- 27 November 1968 B Co. in support of G/2/3 received approximately RPG and 6 undetermined size mortar rounds. No casualties or damage to vehicles.
- 28 November 1968 B45, in support of E/2/3, hit a mine at (YD 132623). Four sets of road wheels blown off left side, housings sheared off, engine damage, fuel pump and radio out. VTR dispatched, No casualties.

C.O. Company "C": Capt L.C. Kutchma

Location & Operations Summary: My Loc & Quang Tri

Company C (-), in general support of the 3d Marine Division moved from the **Napoleon/Saline** AO to Quang Tri Combat Base. In its general support role, the Company supported the 3d Recon Battalion as a reaction force on one operation in the Recon AO southwest of Quang Tri Combat Base. The tanks were also used as part of a reaction force for the defense of the Quang Tri Combat Base.

One platoon of Company C remained at Oceanview in the **Napoleon/Saline** AO in direct support of the 1st AmTrac Battalion. The platoon fired numerous missions at sightings made by radar of enemy movement through the desert.

On 21 November 1968, Company C (-) was placed in direct support of the 1st Battalion 3d Marines to participate in **operation Nomad I and Nomad II (a continuation of LAM SON 271)**. The operation was a cordon and search made in conjunction with the 2nd ARVN Regiment. The Company remained in direct support of the 1st Battalion 3d Marines at the end of the month.

11 November 1968 1st Platoon C Co., supporting the 1st AmTrac Bn, sighted and fired at 10 NVA moving north west of Oceanview. Results unknown.

12 November 1968 C21, 23 and F31 were used as part of the QTCB Reaction Force operating west of the base. The gun tanks fired their main guns and F31 fired its load at suspected enemy positions, negative results.

26 November 1968 C12 and 14 fired in support of the 1st AmTrac Bn. positions when a friendly patrol was taken under fire north of Oceanview. Results unknown.

C.O. Company "A", 3rdATBn: 1stLt F. Gypin Jr.

**Location & Operations Summary: Quang Tri**

Company A (Rein) 3d Anti-Tank Battalion retained its CP location at Quang Tri Combat Base with one platoon in general support of the 3d MAR DIV at that location.

Two platoons in direct support of the 3d Marines provided convoy escorts, road sweep escorts, perimeter security at Cam Lo and bridge security at the Cam Lo Bridge and the Khe Gia Bridge.

One platoon in direct support of the 4th Marines provided perimeter security at Vandergrift Combat Base and security for road sweeps. This platoon also participated in several armored patrols in conjunction with the tanks and infantry.

**November 1969**

**Third Tanks**

Commanding Officer: LtCol W.S. Rump

Executive Officer: Maj J.R. Bathis

Operations Officer: Capt F.T. Klabaugh

Logistics Officer: Capt M.H. Collier

**Location & Operations Summary: Camp Hansen, Okinawa**

During the period 1Oct69 to 31Dec69, the Battalion was deployed as follows:

3d Tank Battalion G/S 3d Marine Division

1-24Oct69 G/S 9th MAB

25Oct-6Nov69 G/S 3d Marine Division

7Nov-31Dec69 Company "A" D/S 4th Marines

1-6Oct69 Platoon D/S 2d Bn 9th Marines

1-31Dec69 Company "B" G/S 3d Marine Division

1Oct-6Nov69 Platoon D/S 2d Bn 4th Marines

1-7Oct69 Platoon D/S 1st Bn 4th Marines

5-31Dec69 Company "C" D/S 1st Bn 9th Marines

27Oct-31Dec69 Platoon

During the months of October and November, 1969, 3d Tank Battalion participated in the phase II redeployment of 3d Marine Division from RVN to Okinawa. H&S and A Companies embarked from Cua Viet, RVN, aboard two ships during the period 20-25 October, as part of embarkation Unit 1/4. B Company embarked on two ships during the period 6-7 November 1969, as part of embarkation Unit 2/4. The following lists pertinent information concerning these redeployments.

1 November 1969 Detachment, H&S Company disembarked at Kin Red Beach and Port of Nina;  
Relocated to Camp Hansen, Okinawa.

3 November 1969 1st Platoon, Company "C" sailed with SLF "B"  
6 November 1969 Company "B" (-) embarked aboard LST-819, USS Hampshire County and sailed from Cua Viet, RVN.  
9 November 1969 1st Platoon, Company "B" embarked aboard LSD-7, USS Cleveland and sailed from Cua Viet, RVN.  
13 November 1969 1st Platoon, Company "B" disembarked at Kin Red Beach; Relocated to Camp Hansen, Okinawa.  
14 November 1969 Company "B" (-) disembarked Kin Red Beach; Relocated to Camp Hansen, Okinawa; Battalion Commander held a Personnel Inspection of Companies "A" and "C"

H&S Company C.O.: 1stLt G.L. Rivera  
Location & Operations Summary: Camp Hansen, Okinawa

C.O. Company "A" (-)(Rein): Capt C.E. Hobbs  
Location & Operations Summary: Camp Hansen, Okinawa

C.O.s Company "B" (-)(Rein): Capt's W.N. Crafton & L.V. Yanda  
Location & Operations Summary: Cua Viet/En route to Okinawa/Camp Hansen  
Company B (-) remained in general support of 3d Marine Division operating from Vinh Dia until 6 November. On 6 November Company B (-) embarked and sailed for Okinawa. One (1) platoon Company B remained in direct support of Dong Ha Combat Base until 3 October. On 4 October one (1) platoon Company "B" was placed in direct support of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, operating from Elliot Combat Base until 7 October; one (1) platoon embarked for Okinawa 9 November.  
2 November 1969 1st Platoon and Flame Section, Company "B" relocated to Dong Ha, RVN.  
3 November 1969 Company "B" (-) relocated to Dong Ha, RVN; 1st Platoon, Company "B" relocated to Cua Viet, RVN.  
4 November 1969 Company "B" (-) relocated to Cua Viet, RVN.

C.O. Company "C": 1stLt T.A. Voth  
Location: Camp Hansen, Okinawa

## **November 1965**

### **Third Antitanks**

Commanding Officer: LtCol B.A. Heflin  
Executive Officer: Maj O.R. Edmondson  
Operations Office: Capt V.A Vernay  
Logistics Officer: Capt S.R. Stewart  
Location & Operations Summary: (AT 987711)

H&S Company (-) Commandant: 1stLt D.B. House  
Location & Operations Summary: DaNang TAOR (AT 987711)

C.O Company "A" (-) (Rein): Capt K.E. Sharff  
Location & Operations Summary: (Da Nang TAOR/Hue Phu Bai TAOR)  
Company "A" (-) (Rein)  
Commanding Officer Capt Karl E. SHARFF  
Executive Officer Unassigned

*1st Platoon Commander 2ndLt P.F. MC ALEER*  
*3d Platoon Commander 2ndLt R.H. JAROCH Battalion 4th Marines*  
*1st Platoon, "A" Co. 2ndLt D.C. RUMSEY III*  
*1st AT Battalion*

Company "A" (-) (Rein) in direct support of the 3d Marine Regiment (-)

1st Platoon, Co "A" in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines

2nd Platoon, Co "A" in direct support of the 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines

3d Platoon, Co "A" attached to the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines

*Company "A" (-) (Rein) Supported the 3d Marine Regiment during the month of November.*

*The 1st Platoon of "A" Company expended 52 rounds of HEP-T 106mm providing H&I fires into Grid Square (AT 9264). The 3d Platoon "A" Company attached to the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines expended 72 rounds of HEP-T 106mm providing H&I fires into Grid Square (YD 7907). The 2nd Platoon of "A" Company fired six major caliber rounds at targets of opportunity in support of "A" Company, 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines. The 2nd Platoon attached to BLT 2/3 060001H November 1965. The 1st Platoon Company "A", 1st Antitank Battalion arrived with BLT 1/3 at 181830H November 1965 and came under operational control of "A" Company. The ONTOS were used extensively as night perimeter security/mobile reaction forces.*

*3d Platoon, Company "A". During the month of November, the platoon was attached to the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines. Their primary role was that of bolstering the Battalion's Defensive position by manning the MLR during the hours of darkness. For detailed see "3d Platoon, in Company "A" weekly operations summaries.*

*C.O. Company "B" (Rein): 1st Lt M.H. Chang*

Location & Operations Summary: (Chu Lai TAOR)

Company "B" (-) (Rein)

*Commanding Officer 1stLt M.H. CHANG*

*Executive Officer Unassigned*

*1st Platoon Commander 1stLt J.T. MATHEWS*

*2nd Platoon Commander 1stLt W.J. MAHER Jr.*

Company "B" (Rein) attached to the 4th Marine Regiment

1st Platoon, Co "B" in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines

2nd Platoon, Co "B" in direct support of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines

3rd Platoon, Co "B" in direct support of the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines

*Company "B" (-) (Rein) Remained attached to the 4th Marines during the month of November. The 2nd Platoon was employed as artillery escort and security in support of an operation conducted by the 2nd Battalion 4th Marines from 29 October 1965 through 4 November 1965. During **Operation "Blue Marlin"** the 3d Platoon operated in direct support of the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines for the period of 12Nov65 to 18Nov65. On 19Nov65 the 3d Platoon, Company "B" was placed under OPCON of Company "C", 3d Antitank Battalion in the DaNang TAOR and is now operating in support of the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines. The 2nd Platoon provided convoy escort service to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines. The ONTOS vehicles were used extensively as a night perimeter/mobile reaction force. No major caliber rounds were expended due to operations.*

*C.O. Company "C" (Rein): 1stLt A.G. Anderson II*

Location & Operations Summary: (Da Nang TAOR)

Company "C" (Rein)

*Commanding Officer 1stLt A.G. ANDERSON II*

*Executive Officer Unassigned*

*1st Platoon Commander 1-8 November 1965 2ndLt R.D. L'HEUREUX*  
*9-11 November 1965 unassigned*  
*12-30 November 1965 SSgt R.F. ABRAMOWICZ*

*2nd Platoon Commander 1-18 November 1965 2ndLt E.M. MILLER*  
*19-30 November 1965 2ndLt M.M. WOOD*

*3d Platoon Commander 1stLt L.E. WAGONER*

*3d Platoon Commander, Company "B" 1stLt J.J. MC COY*

*Company "C" (Rein)* *in direct support of the 9th Marine Regiment (-)*

*1st Platoon, Co "C"* *in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines*

*2nd Platoon, Co "C"* *in direct support of the 9th Marines (-)*

*3rd Platoon, Co "C"* *in direct support of the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines*

*Company "C" (Rein)* *Participated with eight section and one platoon operation while in direct support of the 9th Marines. One section of the 2nd Platoon in support of Company "K" in a S&C operation used six major caliber rounds to destroy a VC machine gun position (AT 993640), while a section of the same platoon participated in a sweep in support of Company "I". One section of the 1st Platoon participated in a sweep of THANH QUIT (5) (BT 047634) with Company "I" 9th Marines. Company "B", 9th Marines was supported by a section from the 2nd Platoon on a search and clear of CAU HA (2) (BT 084664). HA QUANE (2) (BT 133626) and HA MY TAY (1) (BT 122618) were swept by the 2nd Platoon supporting Companies "A", "B", and "C". 3d Platoon light section swept VIEM TAY (3) (BT 032637). On 19Nov65 the 3d Platoon supporting "B", 3d Antitank Battalion who arrived with the 3d Battalion 3d Marines, came under Company "C" operational control. A light section later participated in a second sweep of THANH QUIT (5) (BT 047634) while another light section provided the blocking force for a Company "I" sweep along Rt #1 to VIEM TAY (3) (BT 032637). The section located at the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines C.P. destroyed by 106mm fire a cement bunker from which sniper fire had been received. The gun platoons were used extensively as day and night perimeter security/mobile reaction forces.*

*C.O. Company "C" (-) (Rein) 1stATBn: 1stLt W.P. Snyder*

*Location & Operations Summary: (Qui Nhon Headquarters)*

*Company "C", 1st AT Bn (Rein)*

*Commanding Officer 1stLt W.P. SNYDER*

*Executive Officer Unassigned*

*1st Platoon Commander 2ndLt H.T. SCHMIT*

*2nd Platoon Commander 1stLt H.J. CONNOLY*

*3d Platoon Commander 1-10 November 1965 2ndLt M.M. WOOD*

*11-30 November 1965 SSgt E. DAVIS*

*Company "C" (-) (Rein) 1st Antitank Battalion* *attached to the 7th Marine Regiment (-)*

*1st Platoon, Co "C"* *in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines*

*2nd Platoon, Co "C"* *attached to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines*

*3rd Platoon, Co "C"* *in direct support of the 3d Battalion, 7th Marines*

*Company "C" 1st Antitank Bn. (-) (Rein)* *Attached to the 7th Marines. The 1st and 3d Platoons participated in Operation "Black Ferret" from 290001H Oct65 to 042400H Nov65 during which the Company sustained WIA. During the period 050001H/112400H Nov65 the 1st Platoon attached to the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines participated in operation "Blue Marlin" with one heavy section escorting a 30 vehicle convoy from (BT 560048) to (BT 296235). The 2nd Platoon is again providing a heavy section as convoy escort in twice daily runs in support of the Air Field defense. Additional convoy protection was provided by the 2nd Platoon to reconnaissance personnel and as an ammunition resupply from 3d Battalion, 7th Marines in a search and clear of TRI BINH (1) (BT 567985). The ONTOS vehicles were used extensively as a night perimeter security/mobile reaction force. No major caliber rounds were expended due to operations.*

## November 1966

### **Third Antitanks**

*Commanding Officer: Maj C.R. Stiffler*

*Executive Officer: Capt D.C. Satcher*

*Operations Officer: 1stLt J.C. Debilio*

*Logistics Officer: Capt D.C. Satcher*

*Location & Operations Summary: (Da Nang TAOR)*

*C.O.s H&S Company: 1stLt D.K. Caswell & 2ndLt C.P. Wager*

*Location & Operations Summary: (Da Nang TAOR)*

*H&S Company. During the month of November the company continued the normal functions of providing administrative and logistical support for the ONTOS companies. The reaction force continued to conduct ambushes and patrols within the Battalion's Patrol area of responsibility. Work on the improvement of the CP defensive perimeter continued.*

*C.O. Company "A" (-)(Rein): Capt A.A. Compton*

*Location & Operations Summary: (Phu Bai TAOR)*

*Company "A" continued in support of the 3d Marine Division.*

*The First Platoon started the reporting period in support of 3/3 on the ROCK PILE. The Light Section was located at (YD 978587) in support of I, K, M & H&S 3/3 and the Heavy Section was located at (YD 978587) in support of L/3/3. Heavy rains curtailed any mechanized patrols and the platoons positions remained static throughout the reporting period. This platoon expended 657 major rounds (106MM HEP-T) on H&I fire missions with no known results.*

*The Second Platoon continued in support of the 2nd Bn 9th Marines. The Light Section in support of F/2/9 was located at (YD 026561). During the reporting period the light section participated in three Plt size patrols with no enemy contact. The Heavy Section was located at Camp J.J. Carrol in support of H&S, E, H/2/9. This Plt expended 711 major rounds on H&I fires with unknown results. Positions remained fairly static throughout the reporting period with no significant enemy contact. The Third Platoon started the reporting period located at (YD 605141) in support of 4/12. 2 Nov this Plt received eight 60MM mortar rounds and SA fire at (YD 227605). The Plt returned 150 rounds Cal 30 machinegun fire with unknown results. On 10 Nov the "old" 3d Plt was designated 1st Plt Co "B" and moved to DONG HA. On 10 Nov the new 3d Plt started operation LAM SON 328 in support of 4/12 and the 1st ARVN Division. On 17 Nov the Plt returned to the Co CP (YD 065541) and remained as a reaction force in the defense of Camp J.J. CARROL. This Plt had no significant enemy contact throughout the reporting period.*

*C.O. Company "B": Capt S.L. Camby*

*Location & Operations Summary: (Phu Bai TAOR)*

*Company "B" continued in support of the 3d Marine Division.*

*The First Platoon continued in support of the 2nd Bn 4th Marines manning defensive positions on the PHU BAI perimeter. On 10 Nov the 3d Plt "B" Co was designated 1st Plt "B" Co. The old 1st Plt rotated with BLT 2/4 and the new 1st Plt relieved the 2nd Plt of its duties at DONG HA. The 1st Plt remained in defensive positions at DONG HA for the rest of the reporting period with no enemy contact.*

*The Second Platoon continued in support of the 4th Marines at DONG HA until Nov 10 when they moved by LCU to PHU BAI and relieved the 3d Plt in place. The Heavy Section provided security for the medical facility at JA LAY (YD 819178). On 17 Nov a 20 lb mine was discovered at the medical facility and blown in place. The Heavy Section continued supporting the patrol base and medical*

facilities until 25 Nov when they were relieved by the Heavy Section of the 3d Plt. The Heavy Section returned to the Company CP (YD 894143) on 25 Nov and assumed the defensive missions of the vital area around the air strip. The Light Section provided security for the artillery positions at (YD 980050) until 12 Nov when they moved to support the patrol base along Route #14 (YD 931060). The Light Section expended 58 major rounds (106MM HEP-T) on H&I fire missions with unknown results. The Light Section was relieved in place on 25 Nov by the 3d Plt and returned to the Co CP for defense of the air strip.

The Third Platoon continued in support of the 1st Bn 4th Marines. The Heavy Section provided security for the medical facility at JA LAY (YD 819177). On 7 Nov B-3-5 hit a mine at (YD 819178) resulting in two WIA's and heavy damage to the vehicle. The Heavy Section was relieved in place by the 2nd Plt and returned to the Co CP to assume defensive positions along the PHU BAI air strip. The Heavy Section was relieved in place by the 2nd Plt and returned to the Company CP until 25 Nov when they relieved the 2nd Plt at JA LAY. They remained at JA LAY for the rest of the reporting period with no further contact. The Light Section started the reporting period providing security for the patrol base at (YD 931060). ON 10 Nov the Light Section was relieved in place by the 2nd Plt "B" Co and returned to the Co CP to assume defensive positions along the PHU BAI air strip. On the 25th of Nov the Light Section relieved the 2nd Plt at (YD 931060) and continued to provide security for the patrol base with no further contact.

C.O. Company "C"(-): Capt S.T. Flynn

Location & Operations Summary: (Phu Bai TAOR)

Company "C". OPCON 1st Marine Division, continued in direct support of the 9th Marines.

The First Platoon continued in support of the 2nd Bn 3d Marines. The Light Section remained at (AT 914597) in support of the G/2/3. The Heavy Section remained at (AT 878576) in support of F/2/3. On 18 Nov K/3/7 relieved G/2/3 and I/3/7 relieved F/2/3. This Plt fired 100 major rounds on H&I fire missions with unknown results.

The Second Platoon continued in support of the 3d Bn 9th Marines. The Heavy Section in support of I/3/9 provided security for road sweeps of Highway #14 for the entire period. On the 6th of Nov the sweep team was attacked by a Company size VC force (AT 905505), 30 major rounds were expended with unknown results. Two WIA's (non med-evac) were sustained. The Light Section continued in support of K/3/9 with no enemy contact for the entire period.

The Third Platoon continued in support of the 1st Bn 26th Marines. The Light Section in support of C/1/26 provided security for daily sweeps of LIBERTY ROAD south of Hill #55. On 3 Nov this section expended 18 major rounds at enemy snipers with unknown results. On 5 Nov this section in support of Operation SHASTA expended 5 major rounds at snipers with unknown results. On 13 Nov the Light Section expended 6 major rounds at sniper positions with unknown results. The Heavy Section began this reporting period in support of B/1/26 providing security for road sweeps and bridge security at night. On 4,5 and 7 Nov this section expended 12 major rounds at snipers with unknown results. On 26 Nov this section expended 3 major rounds at sniper positions with unknown results. The Platoons remained in support of I/26 for the rest of the reporting period with no further contact.

## **November 1967**

### **Third Antitanks**

Commanding Officers: LtCol G.M. McCain & Maj R.M. Jordan

Executive Officer:

Operations Officer:

Logistics Officer:

*Editor's Note: The 46 page copy of the command chronology available to the Foundation for this month is missing all the front-loaded pages - Commanding Officer, subordinate officers, and locations of the units as well as the Operations summaries - all missing.*

*Page 42 is a copy of the assumption of command of 3rdAT's from LtCol G.M. McCain by the X.O. Maj R.M. Jordan.*

The November 1968 CC from 3rd Tanks contains information on the 3rd AT's