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OPERATIONS & TRAINING

Company A. Company A supported the 1st and 9th Marine Regiments; the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 1st Marines; 1st Battalion, 9th Marines; 1st Air Cavalry Division; and the 1st and 2nd ARVN Regiments during the month. Areas of operation included the Napoleon/Saline and Kentucky AOs and inside the Demilitarized Zone.

On 15 August, the 1st Platoon, Company A and the 3d Platoon, Company B, under the command of the Company Commander of Company A, participated in Lam Son 250 with the ARVN Regiments. Arriving at the Ben Hai River at dawn, the Allied Forces surprised the NVA who were eating breakfast. The tanks inflicted heavy damage to the enemy, being credited with 189 KIA(C) and 70 KIA Probables out of a total confirmed count of 221 KIAs. One enemy truck and two boats were destroyed. Mine damage was sustained by A11, A13 and the retriever (C43) during the operation. No personnel casualties were incurred by the tank units.

On 19 August, four tanks of Company A and three tanks of the 3d Platoon, Company B moved to Hill 56, northeast of Con Thien, with Companies A and B, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines and elements from the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor, USA, to support the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines' operation in the DMZ north of Con Thien. The units made contact on their approach to the Hill and were engaged in continuous heavy contact throughout the day. Two tank crewmen were wounded by incoming mortar rounds, the platoon leader of the Company B tanks was evacuated in serious condition and platoon sergeant of the Company A tanks suffered minor injuries and was able to remain with the tanks throughout the day. The tanks accounted for 17 KIA(C).

The next day, 20 August, five of the tanks returned to the Hill with G and H Companies, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines and again ran into heavy contact. No friendly casualties resulted. 20 KIA(C) were credited to the tanks.

The tanks at A3 were employed in fire support roles during the month. Firing at bunkers, troops in the open and suspected enemy gun positions, the tanks accounted for 5 KIA(C), one building and several bunkers.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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12 August 1968 MedCar conducted in Quang Tri area, treating 40 children and 13 adults.

13 August 1968 A21, at A3, fired 15 HE and 7 Flechette rounds at enemy troops in grid square (YD1773). Unknown results.

14 August 1968 A21, from A3, fired 21 HE and 1 WP rounds, destroying 1 bunker and 1 house at (YD17018134).

15 August 1968 10 tanks from A and B Companies, in support of the 1st and 2nd APVN Regiments, made contact with NVA on the south side of the Ben Hai River. Tanks got 189 KIA(C), 70 KIA(P), destroyed 1 truck and 2 boats. All, 413 and G43 damaged by mines. Tanks fired 126 HE, 34 Beehive, 10 Canister, 21,675 .30 Caliber and 2,000 .50 Caliber rounds.

15 August 1968 From (YD085593), B15, B21, B25 and B42, in support of 2/3, fired 259 HE, 57 Canister, 10 Beehive and 12,300 .30 Caliber rounds at enemy troops dug in from (YD087598) to (YD092508). 7 KIA(C).

19 August 1968 A15, A31, A33, A41, B32, B33, B35 moved to Hill 56 (northeast of Con Thien) in support of 2/1. Tanks fired 53 HE, 3 Canister, 7 Beehive, 17,600 .30 Caliber, and 2,750 .50 Caliber rounds. 2 Friendly WIAs, 17 NVA KIA(C).

19 August 1968 MedCar conducted in Quang Tri area, treating 40 children and 5 adults.

20 August 1968 A15, A31, A33, B32 and B35 returned to Hill 56 in support of 2/1. Tanks fired 30 HE, 2 WP, 8 Beehive, 10,500 .30 Caliber, and 1,700 .50 Caliber rounds. 20 KIA(C).

20 August 1968 A21, from A3, fired 6 HE and 1 WP at enemy troops in the area at (YD174820). 3 KIA(C).

22 August 1968 A14 and A24 fired 45 HE, 7 Beehive, and 3 WP rounds at enemy troops and bunkers. 1 KIA(C).

3d Tank Bn.
S-3/S-2 Journal
Vietnam
FR
TO

TIME		Ser	DTG	Incidents, Messages, Orders Etc	Action
In	Out				
0600		01	150600H	A Co 6 Spot Report-We're now sitting on the blue	
0630		02	150630H	A Co 6 Spot Report-All units in heavy contact in the blue	
0710		03	150710H	A Co 6 Spot Report-A6 Units engaged with N.V.A. Units on Ben Hi River. 245788	
0850		04	150850H	A Co 6 Spot Report-C43 hit mine at 245788	
0859		05	150859H	A Co 6 Spot Report-A6 units were engaged with enemy one hour at mouth of Ben Hi River	
1055		06	151055H	A Co 6 Spot Report-A13 hit mines (2) at 270732	
1240		07	151240H	A Co 6 Spot Report-All hit AP mine at 270732	
1405		08	151405H	B Co Location Report	
1430		09	151430H	A Co Location Report	
1510		10	151510H	C Co Location Report	
1515		11	151515H	A Co Location Report	
1520		12	151520H	A Co AT's Spot Report-Enemy troop movement at 1370	
1820	1820	13	151820Z	OPSTAT 191	

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STAFF JOURNAL

S-4 SECTION
3D TANK BATTALION

JOURNAL

TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN
IN	OUT		M-MAFS S-STAFF T-TRIPS F-FILES
		14 August 1968	
	1000	Vietnamese Labors, Request for, submitted to Industrail Relations Officer, 3d MarDiv. Ref: 3d Tk Bn ltr 4/CWR/tpm, 5080 of 14 Aug 68.	
	1030	Maintenance Assisstance, Request for, submitted to SCI-4. Ref: 3d Tk Bn ltr 4/CWR/lam, 4000 of 14 Aug 68.	
		15 August 1968	
	0900	Deletion From Red Ball, Request for, submitted to SCI-21. Ref: 3d Tk Bn ltr 4/CWR/wph, 4400.7 of 15 Aug 68.	
	0930	Combat Losses for the period 1 August to 15 August submitted SCI-4. Ref: 3d Tk Bn ltr 4/CWR/tpm, 4400 of 13 Aug 68.	
	1000	Deadlined Combat Essential Equipment, Report of 15 Aug 68 submitted to SCI-4. Ref: 3d Tk Bn ltr 4/CWR/tpm, 4000 of 15 Aug 68.	
	0945	Tracked Vehicle Recovery M51 VTR, USMC 229226, hit a mine. Right side #1 arm broken and track broken. Ref: "A" Co. msg 100850H, of 15 Aug 68.	
	1136	Tank M48A3, USMC 202126, hit two AT mines. Ref: "A" Co. msg 151055, of 15 Aug 68.	
	1300	Tank M48A3, USMC 202013 hit mine. Two track blocks damaged. Vehicle was repaired on spot. Ref: "A" Co. msg 151055, of 15 Aug 68.	
		16 August 1968	
	0900	M16A1 Rifle Grenade Retaining Spring, Report of, submitted SCI-1. Ref: 3d Tk Bn ltr 2/CWR/mek, 4400 of 16 Aug 68.	
		17 August 1968	
	0900	Weekly Training Report submitted to Headquarters & Service Company Office. Ref: S-4 Training Report 10-16 Aug 68.	

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