

4th Bn, 12th MAR  
S&C #

C-325-68

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HEADQUARTERS  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

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3D MARDIV S&C FILE  
BT# 476368

3/DHW/rgt  
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Ser: 03A218-68  
9 August 1968

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division  
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 to 31 July 1968 (U)

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1A  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: ✓(1) 4th Battalion, 12th Marines Command Chronology

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

2. This document is to be downgraded at three year intervals and declassified after 12 years in accordance with DOD Directive 5200.10.

*B. F. Stewart*  
B. F. STEWART

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CO, 12th Marines

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4TH BN/12TH MAR

CMD CHRON

JULY 1968

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HEADQUARTERS  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July to 31 July

INDEX

- PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT  
EVENTS
- PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

(1)

Enclosure (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

4th Battalion(+)12th Marines MAJ. B.F. STEWART (1-31 July)  
3d Marine Division

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Battery	Capt. B.F. METCALFE (1-31 July)
Battery "K"	Capt. H.D. SULLIVAN (1-31 July)
Battery "L"	Capt. D.G. PURDY (1-31 July)
Battery "M"	Capt. W.D. JONES (1-31 July)
Battery "B", 1st Battalion	Capt. F.R. FRANZEN (1-31 July)
13th Marines	
Battery "K", 4th Battalion	1stLt. G.W. WOOD (1-15 July)
13th Marines	Capt. S.K. SMITH (15-31 July)

2. LOCATION

1-14 July: DONG HA, RVN (YD 214597)  
14-31 July: CAMP CARROLL, RVN (YD 062548)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

XO	Maj. G.O. KENNEDY JR (1-31 July)
Sgt Maj	SgtMaj. F. VIOLETTE (1-31 July)
S-1	1stLt. A.L. THORNTON (1-31 July)
S-2	1stLt. D.H. WILLARD (1-22 July)
	1stLt. J.J. BUTERA (22-31 July)
S-3	Capt. G.J. MISKE (10-31 July)
S-3A	1stLt. D.H. WILLARD (1-31 July)
S-4	1stLt. R.P. FOSTER (1-31 July)
CommO	Capt. B.F. METCALFE (1-31 July)
MTO	1stLt. B.J. RENFROW (1-31 July)
MaintO	1stLt. R.P. FOSTER (1-31 July)
SupplyO	1stLt. H.J. RADOW (1-31 July)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH\*

<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
31		517	0		13

\* Figures do not include K/4/12 which is ADCON TO 9th MAB

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## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

July was an exceptionally active month for 4/12. Generally, the battalion was again reconstituted into a single tactical unit and employed in the classical role of general support artillery. Having four full 155mm howitzer batteries under single command was a new experience for artillery in the 3d Marine Division, and the concept, working well, has been amplified and given further employment.

July started with the grouping under a single command the batteries "K", "L", and "M" of the 4th Battalion, 12th Regiment, and Battery "K" of the 4th Battalion, 13th Regiment for a special operation of six days duration (2-7 July), OPERATION THOR (Phase I), necessitating the deployment of the Battalion (+) to forward positions along the TRACE, fronting the DMZ and North Vietnam. The objective of this operation which combined the capabilities of 175mm guns, and 155mm and 8" howitzers under the single command of the 108th Artillery Group (U.S.A.) was the destruction/neutralization of enemy field and anti-aircraft artillery within the DMZ and North Vietnam. This mission was accomplished in a satisfactory manner.

Upon completion of OPERATION THOR (Phase I), K/4/12 and K/4/13 were detached from 4/12 for a period of approximately six days until preparations for OPERATION LANCASTER II JULY began, when both batteries were again assigned OPCON to 4/12. At this time, also, the 2nd Platoon, 1st 8" Howitzer Battery was placed under tactical control of 4/12. During the last week of July, the 2nd Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Battery was similarly placed under tactical control of 4/12.

Most significantly in the month of July, then, has been the reversion to a concept of using general support artillery in a general support role, rather than attaching separate 155mm howitzer batteries to the various direct support artillery battalions. Of only slightly lesser importance has been the frequent displacements of the various batteries of 4/12, thus capitalizing on the self-propelled capabilities of the M109 howitzer and enhancing the opportunity to mass the fires of two or more batteries.

Units of 4/12 displaced during the month as follows:

K/4/12 (ADCON to 9th MAB) began the month at CAMP CARROLL, OPCON to 1/12, but was placed under OPCON of 4/12 and displaced to CON THIEN on 2 July for OPERATION THOR (Phase I). Upon completion of the operation, K/4/12 returned to CAMP CARROLL on 8 July and reverted to OPCON of 1/12. As preparations for OPERATION LANCASTER II JULY began, K/4/12

(3)

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was again placed OPCON to 4/12 on 15 July. One platoon of the battery displaced to the ROCKPILE on 26 July, and returned from the ROCKPILE on 30 July. K/4/12 displaced as a battery to MAI LOC on 31 July, in preparation for OPERATION CANTON II.

L/ 4/12 reverted from OPCON to TASK FORCE HOTEL at LZ HAWK to OPCON to 4/12 and returned to DONG HA on 1 July. On 2 July, L/4/12 displaced to A-3 for OPERATION THOR (Phase I) and returned to DONG HA on 8 July, leaving one platoon at Die Marker site C-1. An additional platoon of L/4/12 displaced from DONG HA to C-1 on 27 July.

M/4/12, throughout the month ADCON and OPCON to 4/12, initially had one platoon at C-1 and two platoons at DONG HA. The battery displaced in its entirety to GIO LINH on 2 July for OPERATION THOR (Phase I), and upon completion of the operation, returned to DONG HA. In anticipation of OPERATION LANCASTER II JULY, three howitzers of M/4/12 displaced to CAMP CARROLL and three howitzers displaced to the ROCKPILE on 14 July. On 23 July, the three howitzers at CAMP CARROLL displaced to the ROCKPILE, putting all of M/4/12 in one location. As the month ended, M/4/12 was preparing to move into a selected position at CA LU to fire in support of OPERATION CANTON II.

B/1/13 (ADCON to 4/12, OPCON to 2/12) began the month at Die Marker site C-2, displaced to Die Marker site C-3, returned to C-2, then moved to QUANG TRI in preparation to going afloat as part of the SLF.

K/4/13 began the month at Die Marker site C-2, (ADCON to 4/12 and OPCON to 2/12). K/4/13 became OPCON to 4/12 on 2 July upon displacing to CON THIEN for OPERATION THOR (Phase I). Upon completion of the operation, on 8 July K/4/13 returned to C-2 and reverted to OPCON to 2/12. On 10 July, in anticipation of OPERATION LANCASTER II JULY, K/4/13 again became OPCON to 4/12. Throughout the remainder of the month, K/4/13 remained at C-2, under OPCON of 4/12.

2nd Platoon, 1st 8" Howitzer Battery, located at the ROCKPILE, was assigned the mission of reinforcing 4/12 on 14 July; the status of the platoon remained unchanged throughout the remainder of the month.

2nd Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun Battery was assigned the mission of reinforcing 4/12 on 26 July; the platoon remained at CAMP CARROLL in this status until the end of the month.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

1-2 July: 4th Battalion(-) 12th Marines - general support of 3d Marine Division.

2-8 July: 4th Battalion (+) 12th Marines - general support of 108th Artillery Group (U.S.A.).

8-14 July: 4th Battalion(-) 12th Marines - general support of 3d Marine Division.

14-31 July: 4th Battalion(+) 12th Marines - general support 3d Marine Division - priority of fires to TASK FORCE HOTEL.

2. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS SUPPORTED (OPCON UNITS)

During the month of July, the 4th Battalion participated in the following operations: LANCASTER II (1-2 July; 8-31 July); KENTUCKY (1-2 July; 8-31 July); HIGHRISE (1-31 July); SALINE II (1-2 July; 8-31 July); THOR (2-31 July); SCOTLAND II (14-31 July); LANCASTER II JULY (17-31 July).

3. FIRE SUPPORT PROVIDED

## a. Recapitulation of fire missions

<u>TARGET</u>	<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL ROUNDS</u>
CONFIRMED	176	4580
ACQUIRED	1040	12594
COUNTERBATTERY	12	319
PREPARATION	274	3278
HARASSING AND INTERDICTION	505	1432
SPECIAL PURPOSE	70	490
SUPPORT OF ARVN	25	407
GRAND TOTAL		23100
HE TOTAL		21888
WE TOTAL		445
ILLUM TOTAL		180
M49 TOTAL		687

b. The 4th Battalion supported numerous patrols of the 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, and provided reinforcing fires to the following direct support artillery battalions: 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines; 3d Battalion, 12th Marines; 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery (U.S.A.) and 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery (U.S.A.).

(5)

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4. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY (OPCON UNITS)

a. KIA: 54 WIA: 5

5. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED (ADCON UNITS)

a. HOSTILE: KIA: 0 WIA: 1

b. NON-HOSTILE: DEATH: 0 INJURY: 1

6. COMMAND RELATIONS

a. 4th Battalion(+) (Rein), 12th Marines

1-2 July: OPCON and ADCON to 12th Marines

2-8 July: OPCON to 108th Artillery Group (U.S.A.)  
ADCON to 12th Marines

8-31 July: OPCON and ADCON to 12th Marines

7. EQUIPMENT

The major items of equipment received during the month of July were 6 M54A2C 5-ton trucks. Two of these vehicles went to K/4/13; the other four vehicles were utilized to fill T/E shortages of 4 M35 2½-ton trucks within 4/12.

During July, 4/12 continued to use two M109 155mm howitzers made available as "float" weapons by the U.S. Army. These temporarily-loaned weapons made possible a greater degree of flexibility in the maintenance program and a higher degree of operational readiness in the M109 howitzers than could have otherwise been achieved.

8. LOGISTICS

During the month of July, 4/12 was faced with the logistical problem of supplying batteries that were located variously at DONG HA, CAMP CARROLL, MAI LOC, C-1, C-2, the ROCKPILE, CONTHIEN, GIO LINH, and A-3. The task was accomplished expeditiously with 18,173 155mm howitzer projectiles being transported from the ammunition supply points at QUANG TRI and DONG HA to the batteries.

Throughout the month, greenbag powder remained an NIS item, necessitating the use of low-charge whitebag powder for close-in missions.

During OPERATION THOR (Phase I) contact teams were sent to the batteries to provide assistance, and this method allowed 24 of 24 howitzers to fire throughout the operation. While the battalion has been engaged in OPERATION LANCASTER II

(6)

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JULY, the battalion has been kept at an operational status of 21 of 23 howitzers.

(7)

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## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The following significant entries were taken from the Operational Status Report File (OPSTATS.).

OPSTAT 019 as of 020000Z July 68: 010700Z July 68 assumed OPCON L/4/12 Mar. 020000Z July 68 assumed OPCON K/4/12 and K/4/13.

OPSTAT 020 as of 071600Z July 68: OPCON 4/12 reverted to 12 Mar at 071601Z July 68. Drop OPCON Kilo 4/12 Mar and Kilo 4/13 Mar to 1/12 and 2/12 Mar respectively, 071601Z. One 155 How deadlined to FLSG-B for tube replacement.

OPSTAT 021 as of 100800Z July 68: Assumed OPCON K, 4/13 Mar, 100800Z July 68. Two 155 How SP deadlined to FLSG-B for tube replacement/modifications.

OPSTAT 022 as of 131601Z July 68: 4/12 Mar (FORWARD) displaced to CAMP CARROLL, 13 July 68. M/4/12 (three 155mmHow) located at CAMP CARROLL (YD 06975482). M1/4/12 located at ROCKPILE (XD 9823954327), 13 July 68. 4/12 Mar assumed OPCON K/4/12 Mar, 131601Z July, 68. One 155mm How at FLSG-B for Modifications.

OPSTAT 023 as of 220500Z July 68: Three 155 How from Mike Battery displaced from CAMP CARROLL (YD06275482) to ROCKPILE (XD9823954237). Six 155 How at ROCKPILE. One 155 How at FLSG-B for Modifications; one 155 How at FLSG-B for Engine overhaul.

OPSTAT 024 as of 261030Z July 68: Two 155 How of K/4/12 displaced from CAMP CARROLL to ROCKPILE (XD 98285435). Three 155 How remained at CAMP CARROLL. One 155 How deadlined for fuel leaks, one 155 How deadlined for cracked fuel tank.

OPSTAT 025 as of 270730Z July 68: Two 155 How SP of L/4/12 displaced from DONG HA to C-1 (YD 2094467462). One 155 How SP (K/4/13) deadlined for cracked fuel tank. One 155 How SP (L/4/12) deadlined for cracked fuel tank.

OPSTAT 025 as of 312400Z July 68: Four 155 How SP of K/4/12 displaced from CAMP CARROLL to MAI LOC (YD 09114955). All guns at new position up. One 155 How SP K/4/12 deadlined for engine repair. One 155 How SP L/4/12 deadlined for cracked fuel tank.

(8)

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2. The following significant entries were taken from the S-3 Work Sheet (Record of Missions):

- 021035H YD012744 K/4/12 and 7/4/13 fired on anti-aircraft positions for Gummy Action 7. Surveillance was one AA position destroyed and one A position damaged. 21 rounds of HE, fuze Q and TI were fired.
- 030155H YD159773 Batteries "K", "L", "M", of 4/12 and Battery "K" of 4/13 fired on artillery positions for 108th Artillery Group. 63 rounds of He, fuze Q and VT were expended. The mission was unobserved.
- 041200H YD14578003 K/4/13 fired 120 HE and 4 WP at Active Artillery for Cat Killer 16, with a surveillance of 2 artillery pieces damaged.
- 042350H YD16348076 L/4/12 fired 25 rounds of He, fuze Q and Delay on Active AA for Toasted Fritters 62. Surveillance of 100% of rounds on target, 100% of target area covered.
- 050712H YD19398589; YD208853 L/4/12 and M/4/12 expended 71 and 48 rounds respectively firing simultaneous missions for Riley Talons 1 at fortified villes; total surveillance of 1 secondary explosion, 13 structures and 4 bunkers damaged, and 4 structures destroyed.
- 051030H YD14980 L/4/12 fired 29 HE rounds at an artillery site for Gummy Action 7; surveillance of 1 artillery piece destroyed.
- 051945H  
to
- 052025H YD160755 4/12 fired 977 rounds into the area  
YD195755 bounded by the four grids, utilizing HE,  
YD160750 WP, and M49 fuze Q, VT, and TI; 7 large  
YD180750 secondaries were observed, 7 fires of  
what appeared to be POL were observed,  
and the area as a whole was burning.
- 052040H YD16567964 4/12 fired a total of 135 rounds of HE in  
to YD163799 10Bs at the following targets: 4 possible  
060005H YD15287956 EAR positions; 1 AA position; 4 AA posi-  
YD141785 tions; 1 AA position; 4 large artillery  
YD126797 positions; 2 large AA positions, and 3  
YD121080070 active artillery positions.  
YD115795
- 061110H YD184844 L/4/12 and M/4/12 fired 93 and 110 rounds respectively at a fortified ville for Cat Killer 17; surveillance of 12 bunkers and hooches destroyed, 1 very large fire, 4 separate structures on fire.

(9)

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- 061858H YD72703 K/4/13 fired 2 WP and 38 HE at active rockets, direct fire, in self defense. Surveillance of rocket fire ceased.
- 160120H YD175508 L/4/12 fired 1 round, HE at an oncall target for Showcase (Recon); surveillance of "Recon team awakened."
- 180830H YD146540 L/4/12 fired 2 rounds of WP for Isthmus (Recon) at a suspected enemy position; no surveillance given.
- 170737H XD932556 M1/4/12 (at the ROCKPILE) began firing a series of prep fires for Task Force Hotel. 33 rounds were expended on 11 targets; no surveillance given.
- 190340H YD252754 L1/4/12 fired 20 rounds of HE for Adventist B 63 at a known enemy position. A surveillance was given of 4 major, and many small, secondary explosions.
- 190707H YD171521 L/4/12 fired one round of WP as a spotter round for Driving Test; round was observed.
- 241220H YD19127866 L1/4/12 fired four rounds of HE and four rounds of M49 at 4 NVA in the open for Eagle Eye; surveillance was given of 1 KIA and 1 WIA.
- 262015H YD147759 L1/4/12 fired 11 HE at active anti-aircraft for Hasty Foot 62; surveillance was given of 100% of rounds on target, 100% of target area covered, and one secondary explosion, and no further activity in the area.
- 270550H YD09566155 K/4/13 fired 12 rounds of HE, fuze Q and Delay as a prep fire, reinforcing 2/12.
- 270955H XD 857615 and vicinity M/4/12, K1/4/12, and 2nd Platoon, 1st 8" Battery fired 159 rounds of HE as prep  
271008H fires, reinforcing 3/12.
- 271330H XD912591 and XD911587 2nd Platoon, 5th 155mm Gun  
to Battery fired 12 rounds, HE as prep fires, rein-  
271359H forcing 4/12.
- 310204H YD090613 K/4/12, K/4/13, M/4/12, 2nd Platoon, 1st 8", and 2nd Platoon, 5th 155 Guns fired 32 rounds in a TOT mission in support of 12th Marine Regiment.

(10)

Enclosure (1)

BATTERY "K"  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602.

HDS/eeb  
Ser: 006A21368  
31 Jul 1968

SECRET (Unclassified upon removal of Enclosure (1) )

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines  
(2) Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 July to 31 July 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8

Encl: ✓ (1) Command Chronology

0014658

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

*H. D. Sullivan*  
H. D. SULLIVAN

[Redacted] Unclassified upon removal  
of enclosure (1) )

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Page 1 of 5 pages

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CMD CHRON

JULY 1968

BATTERY "K"  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July 1968 to 31 July 1968

Index

- Part I - Organizational Data
- Part II - Narrative Summary
- Part III - Sequential Listing of Significant Events

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

Battery "K", 4th Battalion, 12th Marines.

Commander

Capt. H. D. SULLIVAN

Subordinate Units

None

2. Location

Camp Carroll, RVN.

3. Battery Officers

Date

Executive Officer

1stLt R. N. BARSNESS

Assistant Executive Officer

2ndLt L. BOYD

Fire Direction Officer

1stLt G. A. NEAL

Liaison/Forward Observer

2ndLt D. L. HOPKINS

Battery Officers

1stLt R. E. ABOLT

4. Average Monthly Strength

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	
6	128	0	2	

## PART II

COMMANDERS NARRATIVE

During the month of July 1968, "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines supported 1st Battalion, 12th Marines, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, and 4th Battalion, 12th Marines in operations LANCASTER II, HIGH RISE, KENTUCKY, THOR, SCOTLAND II and DUAL BLADE. From the 2-8 of July "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines was under the operational control of 4th Battalion, 12th Marines in support of operation THOR at Con Thein. During the operation "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines fired approximately 2700 rounds. On the 3rd of July we fired our 50,000th round, since coming back in country in September into North Vietnam.

On 12 July 1968 "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines received a photo and a letter from an Army AO who had observed a mission for us on 20 June in which we had destroyed two 130mm guns in the DMZ.

On 26 to 30 July two guns from "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines went to the Rock Pile for support of an operation to the north.

On 31 July "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines moved to a position South of Mai Loc for an operation in the Ba Long Valley.

As of 31 July "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines had 4 guns in action and one gun down for an engine. We have not received a replacement for the howitzer destroyed on 19 Feb as yet. As of 31 July we had 4 five tons and 3 two and  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton trucks operational. Two 5 tons and one 2 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton trucks were down for second echelon maintenance. We are presently awaiting replacement of all 5 tons and 2 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  tons.

Ammunition expended during the month of July 1968 is as follows:

<u>MISSIONS</u>			<u>AMMUNITION EXPENDED</u>				
<u>OBS</u>	<u>UNOBS</u>	<u>H&amp;I</u>	<u>HE</u>	<u>WP</u>	<u>ILLUM</u>	<u>FC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
119	403	163	6453	262	49	71	6835

Damage credited to Kilo Battery:

Automatic Weapons	3
Bunkers	10
Trenchline	40 meters
Secondaries	16 (11 as part of a BN)
Fires	7 (as part of a BN)
Structures	11

Friendly casualties for the month were: 1 Medevac (non-serious) 1 (serious), which were not a result of enemy fire.

Page 4 of 5 pages

## PART III

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 2 July 1968 While moving into position at Con Thein "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines received approximately 6 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Negative damage or casualties. "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines went under operational control of 4th Battalion, 12th Marines.
- 3 July 1968 "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines fired its 50,000th round into North Vietnam since returning to Vietnam in September.
- 5 July 1968 "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines received 2 rounds of 60mm mortar fire in position resulting in negative casualties or damage.
- 7 July 1968 "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines received approximately 20 rounds of mixed 107 and 122 rocket fire. Negative damage or casualties.
- 8 July 1968 "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines went under operational control of 1st Battalion, 12th Marines.
- 10 July 1968 "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines went under operational control of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines.
- 15 July 1968 "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines went under operational control of 4th Battalion, 12th Marines.
- 26 July 1968 Two guns went to the Rock Pile in support of operation LANCASTER II.
- 30 July 1968 The two guns from the Rock Pile returned. One gun down for an engine. 4 guns in action.
- 31 July 1968 "K" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines moved to a position South of Mai Loc to support an operation in the Ba Long Valley.