

DECLASSIFIEDOPERATIONS AND TRAINING

Activity during January continued at the same pace as in the past few months until the arrival of TET when action increased significantly.

During the 1-25 January tanks of this Battalion participated in 5 operations.

Operation Kentucky. Tanks of Company "A" and one platoon of Company "A", 3d Anti-Tank Battalion supported the 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment and the 12th Provisional Artillery Battalion. Tanks fired 90mm HE and WP, H&I fires and fired 90mm direct and indirect at known and suspected enemy positions resulting in one KIA (confirmed). On 5 January a platoon from the Special Landing Force was chopped to this Battalion and was redesignated the 3d Platoon, Company "C". This platoon was in support of the 3d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment and the 1st and 3d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment at A-3.

Operation Lancaster. Tanks of "B" Company participated in this operation in the Camp Carroll-Rockpile areas in support of the 2d and 3d Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment. Support included firing 90mm HE H&I fires and providing escorts for seven convoys from Thon San Lam to Cau Lu. On 13 January the convoy was ambushed by an estimated reinforced NVA Company. The tanks fired 90mm HE and cannister and 30 and 50 caliber machine guns at ambush positions with unknown results. On 24 January two tanks from Camp Carroll went out as part of a reaction force to assist a company which had been ambushed on Route # 9. The reaction force was also ambushed and the tanks suffered one KIA and one WIA. Tank B42 was hit by an RPG and evacuated to DongHa where it was repaired and returned to service.

Operation Scotland. Company "A", 3d Anti-Tank Battalion and the 3d Platoon of Company "B" supported the 26th Marine Regiment in this operation in the Kho Sanh area. Tank 90mm fire at enemy mortar positions resulted in one secondary explosion.

Operation Moosho. Tanks of Company "C" fired 90mm H&I fires in support of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment during the operation in the Phong Dien Area.

Operation Napoleon. Two tanks of Company "C" participated in this operation in support of the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion. The tanks fired machine guns at observed enemy movement and on 19 January participated as part of a reaction force to engage an enemy unit. The tanks fired 90mm HE, cannister and WP as well as 30 and 50 caliber machine guns accounting for 17 KIA (confirmed).

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of subordinate units. At the end of this reporting period there were 14 tracked vehicles, 23 motor transport vehicles and 2 ordnance items deadlined. Of these, 7 tanks and 15 motor transport vehicles were at third echelon maintenance facilities. The availability of first/second echelon tank repair parts has continued to show a slight improvement and organizational deadline has remained minimal. However, third echelon maintenance facilities simply do not have major items in the maintenance float assets which results in extended deadlined periods. The availability of repair parts or replacement infrared items remain in critically short supply and none have been received since the early portion of December 1967. The availability of motor transport parts required to remove vehicles from organizational deadline remains satisfactory. The third echelon deadline rate has continued to increase in quantity and time due to evacuation of vehicles to 3d FSR for repairs without issuing code letters. Relatively few maintenance problems have occurred thus far with the M50A1 Ontos. However, it is expected that maintenance problems will increase proportionally with operational hours due to a lack of second echelon parts on hand.

Services have remained satisfactory. The permanent showers have not been completed. The grease trap for the messhall has been completed and is functioning satisfactorily. The most significant problem continues to be a lack of electricity. The expansion of the Gia Le perimeter has been completed and new bunkers have been constructed.

The overall transportation situation has shown a slight improvement during this period due to an input of additional drivers. Transportation of repair parts and other supplies to the widely dispersed subordinate units has become exceedingly difficult, particularly for those heavy items unique to tracked vehicles. The infrequency of convoys and unpredictability of air shipment has often resulted in major items deadlined up to 7 days while awaiting transportation of repair parts.

There were a total of thirteen incidents of enemy mine, RPG or artillery damage during this period. A Company "B" M48A3 tank, USMC 202143 was hit by an RPG on 24 January 1968. It was repaired and restored to service on 26 January 1968. One 106mm rifle was damaged by shrapnel and evacuated on 27 January. A Company "C" M48A3 tank, USMC 201825 hit a mine on 28 January. The tank was repaired and restored to service on 30 January. An H&S Company M67A2 tank, USMC 211207 hit a mine, was hit by a mortar on the turret and received two RPG hits on 31 January. Field expedient repairs were accomplished and the tank remained operational. An H&S Company M48A3 tank, USMC 201969 was hit by two RPG's on 31 January. The tank is

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Tanks of the 3d Platoon Company "B" fired 10 HE direct at enemy mortar sites w/unknown results.

Tanks of the 5LF Platoon fired 5 HE at enemy artillery positions with unknown results.

Tanks of the 3d Platoon Company "B" fired 5 HE direct fire at enemy mortar site w/unknown results.

24 Jan 1968

Tanks of 3d Platoon Company "B" fired 12 HE direct fire at enemy mortar sites resulting in one secondary explosion.

Two tanks from the 1st Platoon Company "A" w/infantry went to sweep site of ambushed jeep (USMC). Search of area produced negative results.

Two tanks of Bravo Company sent out on reaction force to assist ambushed USMC convoy. Reaction force ambushed. B42 took RPG. Round hit .50 cal machine gun resulting in one tank crewman KIA and one WIA (evac).

Tanks of Company "A" fired on suspected enemy movement. Fired 3 HE w/unknown results.

Tanks of Company "A" went on road sweep as security for infantry. No contact.

Two tanks of Company "A" on road sweep. No contact.

25 Jan 1968

Five M48A3's and one M51 VTR embarked aboard LCU's at Huc Ramp for movement to Dong Ha.

Tanks of the 2d Platoon Company "B" fired 40 cannister, 12 HE, 250 cal .30, 20 cal. 50 and a 40 second rod of flam as recon by fire for security for convoy.

Tanks of the 3d Platoon Company "A" fired 37 HE H & I fire indirect, w/unknown results.

Tanks of Company "C" on LCU's received small arms and recoilless rifle fire on Cua Viet River. Tanks returned 25 rounds .50 cal w/negative results.

Two tanks from Company "B" on reaction force from Camp Carroll. Reaction force ambushed. B42 took RPG hit. Friendly casualties 1 KIA and 1 WIA.

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Tanks of Company "A" fired 3 HE direct fire at suspected enemy positions w/unknown results.

Tanks of Company "A" zeroing and FAM firing. Fired 37 HE direct, 2 Shot, 2 Heat and 1 WP w/unknown results.

26 Jan 1968

M48A3 tank 201944 damaged by RPG hit, repaired and restored to service. Refer to S-4 Journal entry 260945H Jan 68.

Company "A" reported modification of last tank. Total of vehicles now modified is 74.

Tanks of the 5LF Platoon fired 2 HE, 3 WP direct at NVA in tree line w/unknown results.

Tanks of Company "A" went on road sweep with elements of 2/1. A51 developed turret problems. All developed engine problems and had to be towed back to 2/1 perimeter. No contact was made.

27 Jan 1968

M54 truck 213413 caught on fire and abandoned. Refer to S-4 Journal 271950H Jan 68.

Tanks of the 2d Platoon, Company "A" fired 2 HE at suspected enemy movement. Negative results.

Tanks of the 3d Platoon, Company "A" fired 40 HE H&I fire indirect w/unknown results.

1st Platoon, Company "C" with elements of 1/4 conducted a cordon and search operation of previous ambush site finding documents and bloodstained clothes. No contact was made.

28 Jan 1968

M54 truck 213413 was recovered with only minor damage. Refer to S-4 Journal 280930H Jan 68.

Tanks of the 2d Platoon, Company "C" fired 3 HE direct fire at suspected enemy movement w/unknown results.

Tanks of the 2d Platoon, Company "A" fired 3 HE direct fire at suspected enemy movement w/unknown results.

Tank C11 hit a mine in the Cam Le area. 1 WIA (non-ovac). Damage was two sets road wheels, two road wheel arms, all track on left side.

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3d Plank Bn
 S-3, S-2 Journal
 Viet-Nam
 Fr 240001HOT68
 To 242400HOT68

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In	Time	Out	Ser	Dtg	Incidents, Messages, Orders etc.	Action
	1110		01	240835H	From Co "C" Tr Loe Rpt	S-M-F
	1110		02	240925H	From Co "A" AT's Loe Rpt	S-M-F
	1145		03	240815H	From Co "G" from 240230 to 240430 received 30 rds .50 cal & 3 60MM Mortar rds on the strip across highway from CP	S-P
	1735		04	241400H	From Co "A" Tr Loe Rpt	S-M-F
	1735		05	241600H	From Co "A" from 241200H to 241430H sweep around Kankae Station 1500 meters out, reqst by H A11,51 Negative results	S-P
	1745		06	241130H	From Co "A" at 232300H at 124678 A51, exp 3 90MM HE at susp enemy movement w/unknown results	S-P
	1741		07	241131H	From Co "A" from 24080700H to 240930H at 124678 Tanks security for Hawk separate sweep w/neg rslts	S-P
	1210		08	241130H	From Co "B" at 241120H B35 at 842421 exp 5 90MM HE at enemy mortar site w/u known results	S-P
	1615		09	241300H	From Co "B" at 241205H B33 exp 12 90MM HE on susp enemy mortar site obsvd secondary explosion, unknown results	S-P
	2030		10	241935H	From Co "B" WIK B42, P22 sent as part of relief for to aid convoy caught in area ambush. Relief in turn ran into ambush. P22 separated from, B42, P22 returned to Camp Carroll with wounded Infantry B42 knocked out by RPG, presently preparation to abandon are being made will retrieve ASAP.	S-P

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