

AFTER ACTION  
REPORTS FILE  
022966



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CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS  
9TH Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
c/o FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/VVP/krc  
16 August 1966

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SER. 00.

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division

Subj: After Action Report, Operation WILCOX

Ref: (a) DivO 3100.1A

Encl: (1) After Action Report Operation WILCOX

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

*D. J. Barrett Jr.*  
D. J. BARRETT JR.

1/9

A/R Rpt (Opn Wilcox)

11 Aug 66

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1/9 Jul-Dec 66  
IV. TAB-3

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

3:KDF:rgs  
 03100  
 13 Aug 1966

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From: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines  
 To: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

Ref: Regimental Operations Order 401-66

Encl: Commanders Narrative and Analysis

1. Code Name. Operation WILCOX
2. Dates of Operation. 11 August 1966
3. Location. Area known as DUC KY in 1st Battalion, 9th Marines ZOA. Bounded on northeast by SONG AI NGHIA, on the south by the SONG LA THO, and on the east by railroad track approximately GS 9861.
4. Control or Command Headquarters.

a. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines (-)	LtCol JONES
b. Company "A" (-) 1st Bn, 9th Marines	Capt VON HARTEN
c. Company "D", 1st Bn, 9th Marines	Capt KEYES
d. Company "I"(-), 3rd Bn, 9th Marines	Capt NAVADELL
e. Company "E", 2d Bn, 9th Marines	1stLt MERDOCK
5. Task Organization.

2d Battalion, 12th Marines  
 Detachment 3rd ITT  
 Detachment 3rd CIT  
 Detachment U. S. A. PsyWar Team  
 Section of Scout Dog Company
6. Intelligence. Prior to the operation, it was believed that approximately 25 VC guerrillas and many VC cadre and sympathizers were living in the operating area. The area was also suspected of being a safe area and storage area. We were unable to patrol it as much as desired and necessary, due to troop commitments in other areas. The operation netted 7 VC confirmed and 12 VCS, many of which were reported to be VC cadre and local guerrillas.

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It is believed the reason more VC were not captured was because the people in the area reportedly had advance warning of the operation. No equipment, weapons, or documents were captured. The people, from the objective area, were collected into an assembly area and subjected to intensive Psy-War indoctrination. They had explained the reason for the operation, the reason for U. S. units in the area, and the inevitable defeat of the Viet Cong was stressed.

7. Mission. At 110630H August, attack in ZOA to search out and destroy elements of VC main force and local force units, their positions, bunkers and tunnel complexes.

8. Concept of Operation. DELTA TANGO Plt, and 1st Plt, Company "I", 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, block on SONG AI NGHIA. Company "A" to block on SONG LA THO. Company "D", 1st Battalion, 9th Marines and Company "E" 2d Battalion, 9th Marines to first cordon, then, on order sweep west through DUC KY area. All units to be positioned during the hours of darkness and by 110530H.

9. Execution.

100105H Received Operations Order 401-66

101200H Issued Frag Order

101200H Assumed Op Con Company "I", 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines

102400H Assumed Op Con Company "E", 2d Battalion, 9th Marines

100400H All units on move into cordon positions.

110550H All units in positions cordon complete. Holding sweep for Psy-War Team.

110650H Company "D", 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, and Company "E", 2d Battalion, 9th Marines crossed line of departure.

111100H Company "E", 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, having been pinched out of sweep, was chopped to parent organization.

111140H Company "D", 1st Battalion, 9th Marines resupplied with 400 pounds C-4 by foot (helicopters not immediately available).

111520H Company "D", 1st Battalion, 9th Marines arrived at final phase with approximately 250 civilian stragglers.

111630H All Vietnamese released to return to their respective living areas. Sweep completed.

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111700H All Marine units returned to preassigned areas.

121200H Operation Wilcox ended officially.

121520H Company "I" was chopped to parent organization.

10. Results.a. Friendly Personnel Losses.

(1) Two men WIA minor (1-surprise firing device, M-26 and 1-punji stake)

b. Enemy Losses.

(1) Total number Vietnamese at collection point, approximately 850.

(2) VC WIA (confirmed) captured-3.

(3) VCC captured-4.

(4) VCS detained-12.

Total-19.

c. Installations and fortifications destroyed.

(1) Bunkers 123

(2) Tunnels 2 over 10 foot long

(3) Fighting Holes 12

(4) Punji traps 2 with secondary explosion and 19 others.

(5) Mines and booby traps 2

11. Ammo and Demo expended.

In sweep area: 1140 pounds C-4 and TNT

In support of blocking forces: 110 rounds 105mm

118 rounds 155mm

360 rounds 81mm

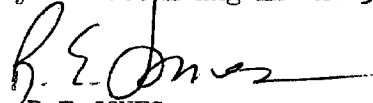
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575 rounds 7.62

550 rounds M-60

60 rounds M-79

(Some 25 to 30 rounds small arms and 1 M-79 (40mm) round was expended into sweep area by Company "A" resulting in the 3 VCC wounded)

  
R E JONES

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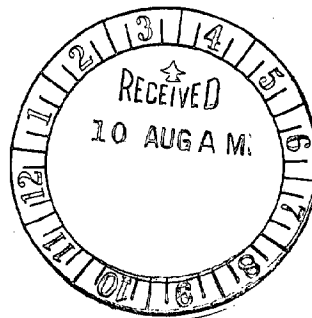
12. Commander's Analysis. At 0550 all units were in position to cordon the village of DUC KY, with Company "D" and Company "E" in the eastern position and prepared to search and clear on order from east to west. All units were ordered to hold until the Psychological Helicopter arrived and had passed the word for all villagers to move west toward Hill 55 and cross foot bridge in that vicinity. The helicopter was late, then flew at an altitude so great that he could not be heard from the ground. That portion of the Psychological War effort was secured, and the sweep forces were ordered to commence the sweep at 0650. Their orders were to search out and destroy all VC forces, facilities and fortifications to include family type bunkers, trench and tunnel systems, punji pits, mines, and booby traps. Two houses were booby trapped and were pointed out to the troops by Vietnamese in the area. Some six to seven hundred civilians voluntarily came across the foot bridge, while approximately 200 were forced across by the sweeping forces. All Vietnamese civilians were assembled at the collection point. Med-Cap was performed by the Battalion Surgeon and his Staff. One hundred children, 50 females and 25 males were treated. Over 800 pounds of rice was distributed to the people along with 5 boxes of soap, 1 box of canned goods, 2 boxes of toys, 1 box of clothing and 1 box of candy. A Psychological War program was conducted by the 1st Corp Army Psychological War team and Vietnamese goverment officials from THANH SON and KY MINH villages. The theme stressed was the inevitable defeat of the Viet Cong and the return of GVN influence to the area. At 1630H, all Vietnamese were allowed to return to their village. During the operation, two Marines were slightly wounded. One stepped on a steel punji stake and one tripped an M-26 frag grenade rigged with a trip wire. Though no action or no contact was made by the sweep force, Company "A", while moving into its blocking position, encountered some resistance in the form of harrassing and sniper fire. During daylight hours, while in their block, a total of seven artillery missions and six 81mm mortar missions were fired during the 24 hour period. AO was requested and upon arrival searched several GS south and reported several groups of 10 to 20 all were moving south but was unable to identify any weapons. One difficulty encountered was that the detachment from ITP and CIT secured about 1430H and were not available when the sweep force brought in some 200 stragglers. However, the Battalion S-2, Regimental Interpreter and local village chiefs screened, and were able to find, 2 VCS in this particular group. Although the number of identified VC picked up was small, they were identified because of positive sources, and in 7 instances, admitted immediately their VC affiliation. The area searched and cleared has been a source of considerable harrassment to the Hill 55 complex, as well as a suspected VC haven. The operation is considered to have been successful, aside from the VC and VC suspects apprehended, in that we demonstrated to the local villagers that no area is "safe" or a "haven" for VC forces.

Psych War  
OP 1205

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MESSAGE FORM ~~SECRET~~  
3d Mardiv THIRDCOMARDIV

- CG FMAW
- FIRST MARINES
- THIRD MARINES
- TWELFTH MARINES
- THIRD AMRRAC BN
- THIRD TANK BN
- THIRD AT BN
- THIRD ENGR BN



Return to CUC

ZNYSSSS  
00: 091700Z AUG 66

FM NINTH MARINES  
 TO ZEN/FIRST BN NINTH MARINES  
 ZEN/SECOND BN NINTH MARINES  
 ZEN4/THIRD BN NINTH MARINES  
 INFO CG III MAF  
 THIRD MARDIV  
 CG FMAW  
 FIRST MARINES  
 THIRD MARINES  
 TWELFTH MARINES  
 ZEN/SECOND BN TWELFTH MARINES  
 THIRD AMRRAC BN  
 THIRD TANK BN  
 THIRD AT BN  
 THIRD ENGR BN  
 BR

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 OF ORDER 401-66  
 A. DIV OF ORDER 343-65

PAGE TWO B14R ~~SECRET~~  
 B. REGTL ORDER 3000.2C  
 C. MAP: VIETNAM ICEE 1:50,000 SERIES L 7014 SHEETS 6640 IV  
 TASK ORGANIZATION

- COMMAND Goup FIRST BN NINTH MARINES
- D RIFLE CO 1ST BN 9TH MARINES
- A RIFLE CO (-) 1ST BN 9TH MARINES
- E RIFLE CO 2ND BN 9TH MARINES
- I RIFLE CO 3D BN 9TH MARINES
- CO B (-)

- D AMTRAC BN (DS)
- CO B (-) 3D TK BN (DS)
- 1ST PLT CO C 3D ENGR BN (DS)
- DET ITT TEAM (DS)
- PLT CO C AT BN (DSS). SITUATION

- A. ENEMY FORCES , SEE CURRENT INTSUMS AND PIR'S
- B. FRIENDLY FORCES

(1) 2D BN 12TH MARINES DIR SPT. BIRY 4TH BN 2TH MARINES  
 GEN SPT REIN WEE IAW REF (A)

(2) 1ST MAW PROVIDE MEDICAL OBSERVATION, PLT  
 AIRCRAFT. COMMAND HEAD AND CLOSE AIR SUPPORT AS REQUESTED

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3d MarDiv - 2100/2PAGE THREE B14R S E C R E T  
REQUESTED.

(3) DETACHMENT D INTERROGATOR-TRANSLTOR TEAM, ASSIST IN SCREENING VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS AT COMMECTION POINT.

(4)H DETACHMENT 3D COUNTER -INTELLEGINCE TEAM, EXPLOIT ON THE SPOT INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, EG VCC, VCS

2. MISSION. AT 110630H V AUGUST ATTACK IN ZOA TO SEARCH OUT AND DESTROY ELEMENTS OF VC MAIN FORCE AND LOCAL FORCE UNITS, THEIR POSITIONS BUNKERS AND TUNNEL COMPLEXES.

3. EXECUVION

A. CONCEPT OF OPERATION. PRIOR TO FIRST LIGHT POSITION ATTACKING FORCES AND BLOCKING FORCES AS HOWEE SHOWN IN (ANNEX A) OPERATIONS OVERLAY. AT FIRST LIGHT PSY WAR AIRCRAFT WILL ANNOUNCE THOROUGHOUT THE AREA OF OPERATIONS THE COLLECTION POINT FOR ALL CIVILIANS IN AREA. AT 110630H AUG 1ST BN 9TH MARINES ATTACKS TO WEST WITH 2 RIFLE COMPANIES IN ASSIGNED ZOA TO DESTROY ENEMY AND POSITIONS THEREIN.

B. 1ST BN 9TH MARINES

(1) PROVIDE ONE RIFLE COMPANY (REINF) ONE RIFLE COMPNY (-) REINF AND A COMMAND GROUP IN EXECUTION THIS ORDER.

(2) CONDUCT OPERATIOSN IAW ANNEX A OPERATION OVERLAY.

APGE FOUR B14R S E C R E T

(3) ASSUME OPCON ONE (1) RIFLE CO 3D BN 9TH MARINES AT 101200H AUGUST

(4) ASSUME OPCON ONE (1) RIFLE CO 2D BN 09TH MARINES I AT 102400H AUGUST.

(5) PROVIDE SECURITY ELEMENT FOR CONDUCT OF PSY WAR OPERATIONS AT CIV COLLECTION POINT.

(6) ESTABLISH AID STATION FOR CIVILLINA COOQ COLLECTION PTS BY 0630H

(7) REQUEST AIR SUPPORT IAW REF (A).

(8) CHOP UNITS TO PARENT ORGANIZATION ON COMPLETION OF OPERATION VV (9) REPORT COMPLETION OCCUPATION ATTACK AND BLOCKING POSITIONS THIS HQ.

(10) REPORT CROSSING LOD

(11) MAKE HOURLY SIT REPORTS THIS HQ; SPOT REPORTS AS REQUIRED.

C. 2D BN 9TH MARINES

(1) AT 10433 102400 AUG CHOP 1 RIFLE COMPANY OPCON TO 1ST BN 9TH MARINES

D. 3D BN 9TH MARINES

(1) AT 101200H AUGUST CHOP ONE RIFLE COMPANY OPCON TO 1ST BN 9TH MARINES

E. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

(1) DIRECT LIAISON ~~COPY~~ AUTHORIZED BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS ~~COPIES~~~~SECRET~~

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THIS COMMAND.

(2) PSY WAR EFFORT IN SUPPORT THIS OPERATION CONDUCTED THIS HQ. HELO BROADCASTS TO BE CONDUCTED FROM 110615H O. TO 110630H AUGUST. SUBSEQUENTLY PSY WAR INDOCTRINATION CONDUCT AT CIVCOLLECTION POINT LOCATION SHOWN ON ANNEX A OPERATIONS OVERLAY.

(3) THIS OPERATION EXPECTED TO BE ONE AEE DAY DURATION.

(4) RULES OF ENGAGEMENT IAW REF A(A)

(5) INSURE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE MAINTAINED.

(6) DIRECT SUPPORT UNITS PROVIDE SUPPORT AS REQUESTED.

7 (7) FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION

A. RESTRICTIVE FIRE ZONE WILL BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF FSCC 1ST BN 9TH MARINES

B. FCL ESTABLISHED AS SHOWN (ANNEX A) OPERATION OVERLAY

C. ON CALL FIRES PLANNED IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONCEPT OF OPERATION.

D. 2D BN 12TH MARINES PROVIDES ARTILLERY SUPPORT REQUESTS BTRY L, 4TH BN, 12TH MARINES SUPPORT OPERATION

E. 1ST BN 9TH MARINES FO'S SEND FIRE REQUESTS TO 2D BN 12TH MARINES BTRY L MONITOR M326 FOR FIRE REQUESTS.

5. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

PAGE SIX BIAR S E C R E T

A9;& LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR TACTICAL UNITS THROUGH 1ST BN 9TH MARINES

B. SHELTER TENTS) FOR REFUGEES PROVIDED BY THIS HEADQUARTERS

C. REFUGEE RATIONS PROVIDED BY THIS HEADQUARTERS

D. WATER FOR REFUGEES PROVIDED BY 1ST BN 9TH MARINES

E. REFUGEES TO BE NOTIFIED BY BROADCAST TO SUPPLY COOKING FACILITIES.

F.

MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES FOR REFUGEES PROVIDED BY 1

1ST BN 9TH MARINES.

G. MEDICAL EVACUATION - NO CHANGE

5. COMMAND - COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRONICS

A9 IAW REF (B)

B. UNIT OPCOM TO 1/9 FROM 2/9 ENTER 1/9 TAC NET AT 102400H AUG

C. THIS ORDER EFFECTIVE FOR PLANNING UPON RECEIPT AND EXECUTION AAS PROVIDED HEREIN

ANNEX:

A. ANNEX A (OPERATION OVERLAY) ISSUED SEPERATELY

B

GP-4

BT

C - 3/100 SD and + FSCC

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