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HEADQUARTERS
3D SQUADRON 5TH CAVALRY
9TH INFANTRY DIVISION
AFO 96370

G.D.S.

AVDE-CT

16 April 1968

From: Commanding Officer, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry

Thru: CO, 4th Marine Regt
Camp Carroll, RVN

To: COC, 3d Marine Division
ATTN: G-3
FPO 96602

Subject: Combat Operations After Action Report

Reference: OPORD 9-68

1. Operation Charlton
2. Initiated 091100H to 151600H April 1968
3. Operation was conducted in Cam Lo Sector of Quang Tri Province in an area bounded on the north by 59 EW grid, on the south by 46 EW grid, on the east by 19 NS grid, and on the west by 05 NS grid line.
4. Command HQ: HC, 3/5 Cav
5. Sdn CO: LTC Hugh J. Bartley
B Trp CO: CPT Anthony K. Holtry
C Trp CO: CPT Richard G. Miller
C Co, 2/34 CO: CPT Robert J. Kelly
L Co, 3/3 CO: CPT Matthews, USMC

6. Task Organization:

<u>TM B</u>	<u>TRP C</u>	<u>TM L</u>	<u>TM C</u>
E/3-5 Cav	C/3-5 Cav	I/3-3 Mar (-)	C/2-34(-)
2d Plt, L/3-3 Mar		3d Plt, C/2-34	3 Flame Tks(USMC)
Loader 33 (AVIB)		ACAV's 63 & 59	1 Engr Plt(USMC)

Sdn HQ

S-3, S-2, and Arty & Air
Loader 32 (AVLE)
Support Veh

7. Supporting Forces: Arty support was provided by 1st En, 12 Mar Regt reinforced by the 1st En, 40th Arty (Army).

8. Intelligence: Enemy forces expected to be encountered was the 27th Independent NVA Bn. Fighting psns were found, but no significant contact was made. There was no significant intelligence discovered. Terrain varied from rice paddies to rolling hills with underbrush. Trafficability was good to poor as the gently rolling hills and gradually steep hills with sharp cut ravines and streams affected vehicular movement. Cover and concealment was fair to poor with vegetation of 1 to 5 feet height. Weather during the operation was rainy and cool. Late night and early morning haze and rain severely limited ground visibility.

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9. Mission: TF 3/5 Cav attacks 110930H April 1968 to search and destroy in zone, continuing operations to the south and west on order.

10. Concept of Operation: TF attacks in line formation with Tm B on the east, C Trp in the center, and Tm L on the west. Tm C in reserve, remains with Command CP initially, follows C Trp on order. A B-52 strike will be conducted at 110900H Apr 68 on suspected enemy locations in southern part of zone.

11. Execution: The operation was postponed for 24 hrs because of the lack of Marine Air assets due to bad weather. Also the scheduled B-52 strike was cancelled by higher HQ.

On 121000H Apr 68, the Sodn was given the order to execute; at this time all road marched to the area of operation and formed on line to cross the LD on order. At 1200H all units moved out to conduct a thorough sweep south through their respective zones. Late in the afternoon, Tm L reported it had moved into and established a block in obj Bone (see Annex A). Also at approx the same time C Trp and Tm B reported they were establishing night positions in their respective zones, Tm B in vic YD175553 and C Trp in vic YD155549. Tm C and the Sodn HQ had moved to vic YD156587 and set up the CP for the first phase of the operation.

On 13 Apr 68, Tm L moved to the south to establish a block facing east in the vic YD118507. B Trp and C Trp continued their sweep south. Despite much effort they found they were not going to be able to cross the Song Vinh Phuoc River to their south. As a result, C Trp pulled back and established their CP in the vic of PI Mary at YD154544. B Tm returned to vic Sodn CP and set up their night loc vic YD159585.

On 140400H, C Trp marched north to assume security of Sodn CP while Tm B and Tm C moved west on Hwy 9 to junction of Hwy 558 and then south (see Annex B). Tm C moved in and assumed the block from Tm L while Tm B continued south to conduct sweep along rte Elack, zone B (see Annex B). Tm L, upon release from the block, first moved south to enter zone I, but was delayed by terrain to such an extent that it's zone was given to Tm B and Tm L was shifted in reserve. At 141200H Apr 68, C Trp and Sodn CP moved to new loc vic YD091519. C Trp then continued south to conduct a sweep east into zone C. At approx 141830H, it had moved to vic YD129-495 and there established the Trp CP for the night. At 1800H, Tm B and Tm L were moved back to secure Sodn CP and prepare for the next day. Tm C remained vic YD118507 in order to resume the block in the next day.

On 15 Apr 68 at 0500H, Tm B and Tm L moved to the north to cordon Thou Bong Son village in conjunction with 2nd Bn 9th Mar Regt. C Trp continued it's sweep east to vic YD130495. At 0910H, C Trp completed that mission and moved back to reserve in the Sodn CP. At 1430H, Tm C was released from blocking mission and moved to an area vic YD105506, where they used their attached flame tanks to destroy the small wooded area vic YD104504.

At 1600H on 15 Apr 68, the Sodn was released OPCON to the 4th Mar Regt, collected all elements and road marched to Dong Ha Combat Base.

12. Results:

- a. Losses:
 - (1) Friendly: None
 - (2) Enemy: None
- b. Damage: None

13. Administration and Logistics: Logistical problems during operation Charlton were minor. Resupply of classes I, III and V during the operation was supposed to be primarily by air. However, due to poor weather, most resupply was conducted by land.

14. Special Equipment: Three flame tanks accompanied the column; no true test of their ability arose, however.

15. Commander's Analysis: None

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16. Recommendations: None

FOR THE COMMANDER:

David I. Weer

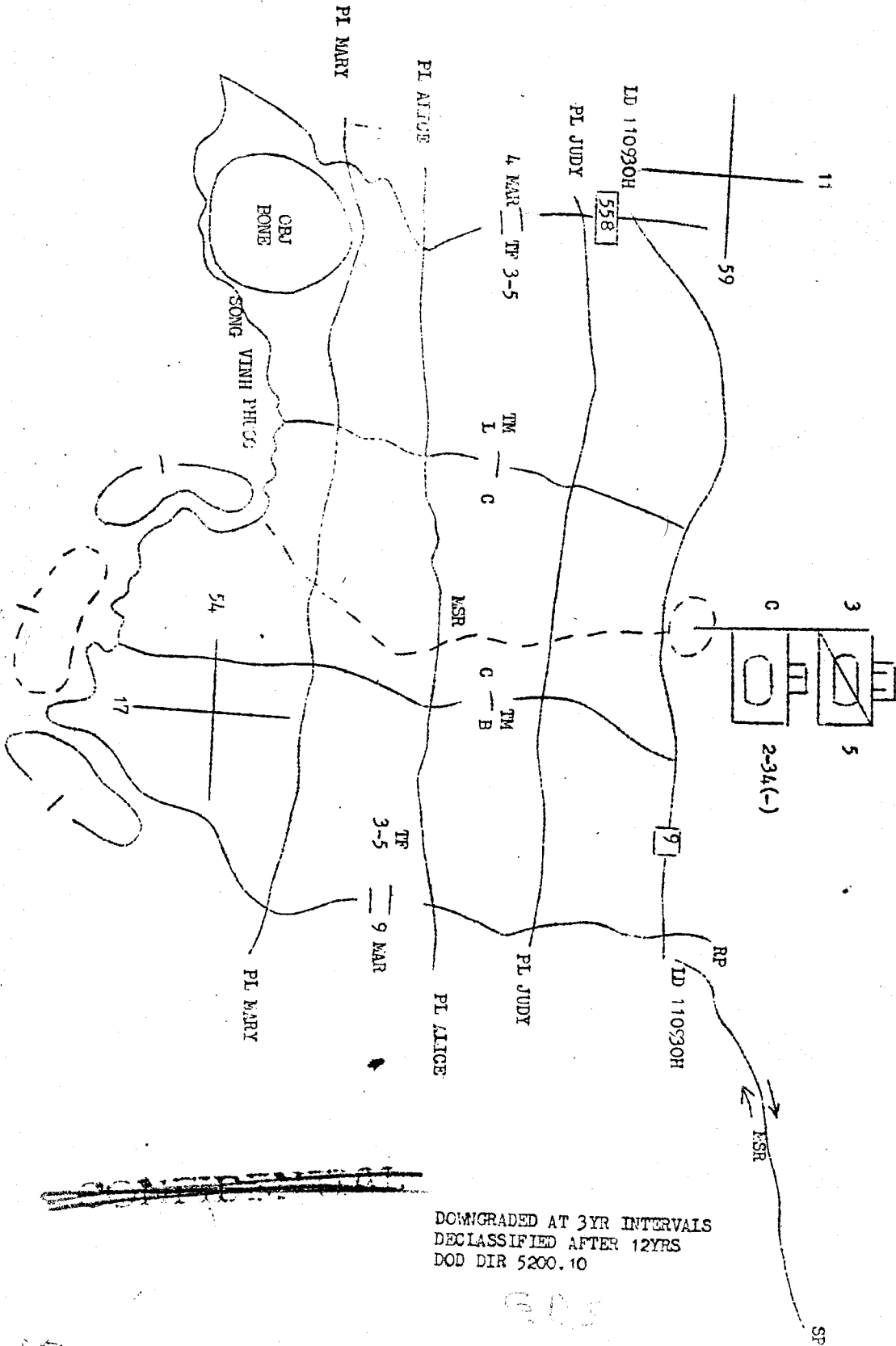
DAVID I. WEER
11T Armor
S-3 Air

Annexes:

- A Opn Overlay
- B Opn Overlay

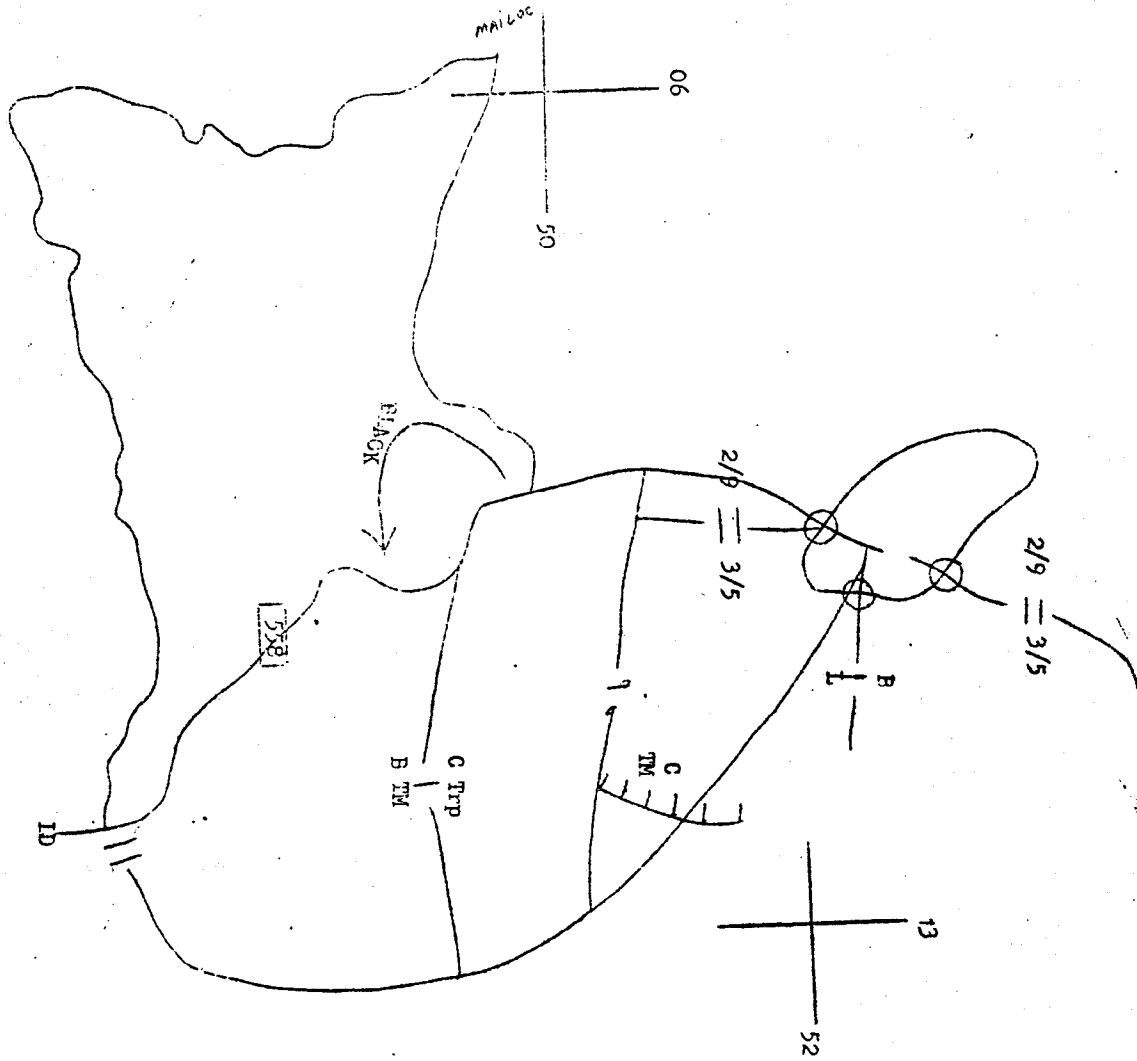
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