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2nd BN, 3rd MAR, S & C  
CONTROL NO. 005-68  
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HEADQUARTERS  
2d Battalion, 3d Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
APO, San Francisco 96602

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3/VMS/tlk  
5750  
8 January 1967  
Ser No 060-68

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, First Marine Division

Subj: Command Chronology for period 010600H to 312400H Dec 67

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFRACO 5750.8  
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: (1) Second Battalion, Third Marines Command Chronology for  
010600H to 312400H Dec 67

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

*Henry English*  
HENRY ENGLISH

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1-31  
Dec 67

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2d Battalion, 3d Marines  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO, San Francisco 96602

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

010600H to 312400H December 1967

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PART I

ORGANIZATION DATA

<u>1. DESIGNATION</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
2d Battalion, 3d Mar	LtCol HENRY ENGLISH	1-31Dec67

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co	Capt G. N. COOPER	1-31Dec67
Co E	Capt I. J. CAHILL	1-31Dec67
Co F	Capt W. R. SMITH	1-31Dec67
Co G	Capt J. O. ROESLER	1-31Dec67
Co H	Capt R. A. GREEN	1-31Dec67

2. LOCATION

HOA VANG, HIEU NHON and DIEN BAN DISTRICTS, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, RVN,  
1-31Dec67

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj E. G. MILONE	1-15Dec67
	Maj D. W. LEMON	16-31Dec67
S1/ADJ	1stLt K. N. MCLEMORE	1-31Dec67
S-2	Capt R. O. CULVER	1-30Dec67
	2dLt C. I. WOODARD	31Dec67
S-3	Maj R. W. BOGARD	1-31Dec67
S-4	Capt G. G. PONSFORD	1-31Dec67
S-5	1stLt P. CHERVENAK	1-31Dec67
CommO	1stLt L. LOVE	1-31Dec67

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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
40	1081

<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
3	52

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PART II

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Effective 010600H December 1967, the 2d Battalion, 3d Marines was under the OPCON of 5th Marines and ADCON of the 1st Marine Division. The month was characterized by aggressive patrolling within the assigned TAOR, especially within the Rocket Belt. Waterway and lines of communication were kept under surveillance and interdicted, search and destroy operations of company and platoon size were run on targets of opportunity. Additionally, intensive hole hunting operations were conducted throughout the TAOR.

Company E was OPCON to 3d Bn, 5th Marines from 1-6 December, 14 December, 23-24 December and 27-31 December for operations within that battalion's TAOR.

Company F maintained constant security and surveillance over the TU CaU Bridge, and was OPCON to 3d Bn, 5th Marines on 14 December and from 17-18 December for operations within that battalion's TAOR.

Company G was chopped OPCON to 7th Marines for utilization within the 7th Marines TAOR from 8-31 December 1967.

Company H was OPCON to 3d Battalion, 5th Marines on 18 December for an operation within the 3/5 TAOR. One platoon provided security for 5th Marines CP from 20-31 December and one platoon was chopped OPCON to 1st Marine Division as Rough Rider security from 29-31 December.

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SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel and Administration

a. Awards. A total of 2 Bronze Stars, 42 Purple Hearts and 10 Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry were awarded during December 1967.

b. R&R. A total of 96 R&R quotas were utilized during December 1967.

c. Personnel Losses and Gains for Dec 67

<u>USMC</u>				<u>ENLISTED</u>	
<u>JOINED</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>DROPPED</u>	<u>JOINED</u>	<u>DROPPED</u>	
8		16	378		455

<u>USN</u>				<u>ENLISTED</u>	
<u>JOINED</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>DROPPED</u>	<u>JOINED</u>	<u>DROPPED</u>	
0		3	5		21

Personnel shortages exist in pay grades E-5, E-6 and E-7.

d. Casualties for Dec 1967

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
KIA	0	27	0	0
WIA	2	164	0	5
DOW	0	2	0	0
MIA	0	1	0	0

e. Promotions. First lieutenant - 8; Sergeant - 6.

f. Legal and Discipline. A total of 6 Battalion Officer Hours were held during December 1967. Articles violated were Article 91 (1), Article 92 (4), and Article 113 (1). Two of these office hours resulted in courts-martial: Summary Court Martial, Article 91; Special Court Martial, Article 92.

g. Pay and Allowances. Satisfactory

h. Postal. Satisfactory

i. Post Exchange. A small exchange facility is available at the

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2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines Cr. Exchange facilities in the Da Nang Complex are also available depending on operational commitments and transportation availability.

j. Religious Services. Weekly protestant services are conducted by the Battalion Chaplain in the Battalion Chapel and at the TU CAU BRIDGE. Catholic Mass is celebrated by visiting chaplains in the Battalion Chapel. Arrangements have been made for Jewish personnel to attend services in DaNang.

## 2. Enemy, Weather and Terrain

a. Summary of Enemy Activities. Enemy contact for the month has decreased in contrast to November. There were 66 VC initiated contacts for November as opposed to 51 for the month of December. There have been 44 mining/explosive device incidents this month, of which 30 were destroyed and 14 detonated. Information from POW's, civilians and translated documents has been a major factor in deterring the enemy efforts in our TAOR. Total enemy personnel and equipment losses were:

### (1) PERSONNEL

VC KIA	5
VC WIA	2
POW's	3

### (2) EQUIPMENT

1 M-14 Rifle #139975	1 US helmet
1 M-16 Rifle #622218	1 foreign type canteen
1 M-79 Grenade Launcher #0653	1 US canteen
1 Chicom Carbine #199	1 Vietnamese ID card
1 Chicom Pistol #111	1 mosquito net
1 US Carbine M-1	1 sandbag, rock salt
6 M-79 rounds	2 barrels of rice 25 and 75 lbs
6 M-26 grenades	1 bottle stomach pills
15 rounds 5.56	1 Lighter
2 cartridge belts	1 bandage
2 Chicom grenades	1 bag talcum powder
1 homemade grenade	1 watch, Roxy brand
2 ponchos	1 penlight battery
2 plastic canteens	1 Sony portable radio
1 rain jacket	
1 khaki uniform w/ extra trousers	(Personal effects of VC KIA were extra clothing, rice, tobacco and key chain)
2 pairs black pajamas	

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PROPAGANDA

Numerous Leaflets

A raft with propaganda signs; various signs (Peace in Vietnam)

b. Surveillance and Reconnaissance. Use of available sources of surveillance and reconnaissance was considered excellent considering the equipment and the trained personnel available. 90 hours of aerial reconnaissance was flown over our TAOR.

c. Weather and Terrain. Weather for the month was for the most part fair and overcast. A marked increase in precipitation prevailed during the latter portion of the month, in the form of afternoon and evening thundershowers. The temperature fluctuated slightly due to the frequent rains. The average high was 75 degrees, average low 67 degrees. The terrain throughout the TAOR offered only a slight impediment to foot traffic.

### 3. Operations

010830H Co G commenced a two platoon search and destroy operation.  
 011300H Co G concluded a two platoon search and destroy operation.  
 011500H Co E chopped OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.  
 020800H Co H commenced a platoon size search and destroy operation.  
 021300H Co H concluded a platoon size search and destroy operation.  
 030630H Co F commenced a platoon size search and destroy operation.  
 031430H Co F concluded a platoon size search and destroy operation.  
 040700H Co G commenced a two platoon search and destroy operation.  
 Co H commenced a platoon size search and destroy operation.  
 041100H Co H concluded a platoon size search and destroy operation.  
 041330H Co G concluded a two platoon search and destroy operation.  
 050700H Co F commenced a company size search and destroy operation.  
 051200H Co F concluded a company size search and destroy operation.  
 060730H Co H commenced a platoon size search and destroy operation.  
 061100H Co H concluded a platoon size search and destroy operation.  
 061140H Co E chopped OPCON back to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines.  
 061300H Co G commenced a platoon size search and destroy operation.

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061700H Co G concluded a platoon size search and destroy operation.

070730H Co H commenced a platoon size search and destroy operation.

070936H Co F commenced a platoon size search and destroy operation.

071059H Co F concluded a platoon size search and destroy operation.

071106H Co H concluded a platoon size search and destroy operation.

080800H Co G chopped OPCON to 7th Marines.

100843H Co E commenced a platoon size search and destroy operation.

101211H Co H commenced a platoon size search and destroy operation.

101350H Co H concluded a platoon size search and destroy operation.

101415H Co E concluded a platoon size search and destroy operation.

110750H Co H commenced two parallel platoon size search and destroy operations using a third platoon as a block for both.

111500H Co H concluded both platoon search and destroy operations.

140600H Companies E, H and Bn CP participated in Operation JUNCTION a 5th Marines Search and Destroy operation.

141345H Companies E, H and Bn CP concluded participation in Operation JUNCTION.

150900H Co E commenced a company size sweep operation.

151149H Co F commenced a company size search and destroy operation.

151235H Co E concluded a company size sweep operation.

151555H Co F concluded a company size search and destroy operation.

171400H Co F chopped OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

180600H Co H chopped OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

181545H Co F chopped back to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines.

181905H Co H chopped back to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines.

201300H A platoon from Co H chopped OPCON to 5th Marines for CP security.

210800H Co F commenced a two platoon search and destroy operation.

211100H Co F concluded a two platoon search and destroy operation.

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- 220300H Co E commenced a company size cordon operation around the Happy Haven Leprosarium.
- 220800H Co H commenced a platoon size search and destroy operation around the Happy Haven Leprosarium.
- 221015H Co E and Co H platoon concluded operations at the Happy Haven Leprosarium.
- 230800H Co F commenced a two platoon search and destroy operation.
- 231145H Co F concluded a two platoon search and destroy operation.
- 231300H Co E chopped OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.
- 241600H Co E chopped OPCON back to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines.
- 252330H A squad size patrol from Co H returned to its FDP and discovered one member of the patrol was missing. An immediate search of the area and patrol route commenced.
- 260600H Initial search for MIA from Co H terminated. A two platoon size sweep in search of the MIA commenced with the assistance of AO's in Grids BT 0765, 0766, 0767, 0865, 0866, 0965, 0966, and the western half of 1065.
- 261800H Two platoon search for Co H MIA terminated to resume patrolling of the Rocket Belt.
- 262200H A two platoon and six LVT reaction force from Bn CP was dispatched to set in a block with an existing FDP along a line from BT 0667 to 1067 after an attack on CAP G-6 and 3rd LVT CP.
- 262230H One platoon of the [redacted] block commenced a sweep north to a line from BT 03 [redacted] 09 and back south to the block position.
- 270200H Reaction platoon sweep concluded and resumed normal night activities.
- 270230H Two platoon and six LVT reaction force returned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines CP.
- 270700H Co H continued search for MIA.
- 270714H Co F commenced a two platoon search and destroy operation.
- 270940H [redacted] concluded a two platoon search and destroy operation.

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- 271500H Co E chopped OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.
- 271800H Co H terminated search for MIA to resume patrolling Rocket Belt.
- 281400H Co F and a seven LVT reaction force dispatched in reaction to intelligence reports placing Co H MIA in the vicinity of THI AN (2), coordinates BT 038673.
- 282000H Co F reaction force operation in search of MIA terminated by 5th Marines in order to constitute a reaction force.
- 282110H One platoon of Co F and four LVT's alerted for reaction force for relief of CAP D-1.
- 282255H One platoon of Co F and four LVT's chopped OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines for a reaction force for the relief of CAP D-1.
- 290845H Reaction force of one platoon of Co F and four LVT's chopped back to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines.
- 291000H Co F commenced a two platoon search and destroy operation.
- 291235H Co F concluded a two platoon search and destroy operation.
- 291400H One platoon of Co H chopped OPCON to 1st Marine Division for Rough Rider security.
- 300645H Co F commenced a two platoon Hole Hunting operation in conjunction with information received from a POW.
- 301301H Co F concluded a two platoon Hole Hunting Operation.

4. Training. The command conducted the small arms range and has conducted intensive training in familiarization and care and cleaning of the M-16 rifle. Additionally, all weapons are fired for familiarization at least every two weeks. A weekly officers school was initiated as well as an intensive indoctrination program for the training of all replacement personnel. Technical training was accomplished through both attendance at schools and on-the-job training. During the month of December the following school was utilized.

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CAG

LOCATION  
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5. Artillery Support

a. During the month of December 1967 Battery B, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines was in direct support of this battalion.

b. An intensive H&I program has been implemented during this reporting period utilizing Battery B, and Battalion organic 81mm mortars to deny the enemy ease of movement during hours of darkness, and especially to restrict his program of mining and attempted interdiction of lines of communication.

c. A total of 5246 rounds were expended on fire missions and H&I fires during December 1967:

(1) <u>H&amp;I</u>	
105mm HE-VT:	950
105mm HE-Q:	2,370
81mm HE:	865
Total H&I:	4,185

(2) <u>Fire Missions within TAOR</u>	
105mm HE-Q:	266
105mm Smoke	215
105mm WP:	38
105mm Illum:	148
81mm HE:	98
81mm WP:	50
81mm Illum:	33
Total rounds within TAOR	848

(3) <u>Fire Missions Outside of TAOR</u>	
105mm HE-Q:	98
105mm HE-VT:	52
105mm Smoke:	27
105mm WP:	1
105mm Illum:	35
Total rounds outside TAOR	213

6. Air Support

a. General air support within the TAOR was satisfactory.

b. A total of 69 missions were flown in support of the battalion:

(1) Med-evac:	17
(2) Flare ships:	3
(3) Visual Recon:	19
(4) Admin :	2
(5) Logistical:	3
(6) AO:	25

c. No tactical fixed wing air strikes were conducted within the Bn TAOR.

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7. Logistics.

a. General. The overall logistical status of the battalion is satisfactory.

b. Supply.

(1) On 11 December 1967, a 1st Marine Division inventory team inspected the battalion's supply. It was recommended that the division send a SNGO from the Division Supply Office and seven 3051 warehousemen to help inventory and store gear.

(2) All unserviceable items have been inventoried and are being sent in to the Salvage Section, FLC. Repairable items are being sent to 1st FSR for inspection and repair.

(3) Due to the tactical situation and the fact that the battalion will be split into three parts it is mandatory that this command revert to company supply operations. For this reason companies are stocking items up to the maximum level of their respective companies. Battalion Supply will maintain a 10% stockage level of 782 gear for replenishment purposes.

(4) Stock record cards are being posted from the inventory and drops are subsequently being made to the companies. As was previously mentioned a 10% stockage level of 782 gear will be maintained until valid usage data can be determined. Insurance items will also be utilized until valid demand data is computed.

c. Motor Transport.

(1) On 11 Dec 67, a team of the 1st Marine Division Advisors inspected this unit's motor pool. Discrepancies were noted and they have been corrected. Publications were ordered and a Motor Transport SOP is being written.

(2) Since the unit was short of qualified motor vehicle operators, a schedule of semi-monthly drivers school was instituted to maintain sufficient numbers of trained drivers.

d. Engineers. Engineer support and equipment was satisfactory.

8. Civic Action.

a. Medcaps. A total of 2639 Vietnamese in the local area were treated at Medcaps, and an additional 67 were given dental treatment. Sanitation and health leaflets were hand delivered to Medcap patients as well as to civilians throughout the TAOR.

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b. PsyOps. PsyOps broadcasting teams broadcasted for approximately 26 hours throughout the TAOR. The broadcasts consisted of appeals to the VC and to VC families to return to GVN control, and explaining rewards for mines and booby traps. Aerial broadcasts and leaflet drops were scheduled daily during the month. Propaganda leaflets were hand carried to the local citizens by battalion marines on a daily basis.

c. Civil Affairs Assistance. A cleanup campaign was initiated in Nui Kim San (BT 072702) with the full cooperation of the village chief. The battalion also participated in a Christmas Party in the same village and distributed approximately 1500 gifts.

d. Instruction. All new members joining this command during December received an indoctrination class on civil affairs. Additional classes were also given on company and platoon levels.

e. Contact with Local Officials. The Thanh Thuy village chief holds a weekly meeting at the 2/3 Medway station. The Vietnamese from Thanh Thuy village come to the Battalion CP for their meetings, availing themselves of the security provided by the CP.

f. Outlook. In the near future 2/3 will be working in a much larger TAOR with thousands of Vietnamese civilians living in our area. The assistance that the 29th Civil Affairs Company will provide will greatly benefit our civic action efforts.

## 9. Communications

a. On 1 December 1967 the Battalion Message Center was opened.

b. An inventory of all communications equipment was conducted on 10 December, and a 1st Marine Division Assistance Team checked Battalion communications procedures on 11 December.

c. All communication test equipment was calibrated by the Maintenance Battalion, 1st on 15 Dec.

d. A 1st Marine Division technical Assistance Team worked with the Battalion Communications platoon from 17-19 December.

e. ~~Several~~ communications problems were encountered during this reporting period.

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10. Medical.

a. The facilities offered by the 2/3 BAS provide near optimum medical support for the battalion. They include a fully equipped treatment area, pharmacy, laboratory and 12 bed hospital ward. The easy accessibility to both the Naval Station Hospital and 1st Medical Battalion further provides consultations in radiology, internal medicine, surgery and varied subspecialty services. The second echelon care at the BAS is provided by two medical officers, one dental officer and their complimentary staffs.

b. The majority of hostile injuries were treated at NSA Hospital or 1st Med Battalion. Similarly, diagnosed cases of malaria and amebic dysentery were referred to these centers. The remaining minor wounds and less severe medical illnesses were all treated at the BAS. The following table provides a statistical review of the months activity:

	USN	USN
PATIENTS TREATED	58	24
ADMITTED TO BAS WARD	51	0
DISEASES TREATED		
DERMATOLOGICAL CONDITIONS	321	10
RESPIRATORY	122	12
FEVER OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN	60	3
DIARRHEA	45	3
OTHER GI DISORDERS	30	2
EYE DISORDERS	30	4
VENERAL DISEASE	9	0
NON SPECIFIC URETHRITIS	4	0
FRAGMENT WOUNDS, HOSTILE	10	0
MALARIA	6	0
MISCELLANEOUS		
(Immunizations, eye ref sprains, lacerations)	377	

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Report of Sweep of Happy Haven Leprosarium conducted on 22 Dec 67.

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COMPANY H  
 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines  
 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
 FPO, San Francisco 96602

24Dec67

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines

Subj: Sweep of Happy Haven Leprosarium

Encl: ✓(1) Sketch of Happy Haven Leprosarium

Ref: (a) My conference with CO 2nd Bn, 3rd Mar of 22Dec67

1. On the morning of 22 December 1967, Hotel Company conducted a sweep of the Happy Haven Leprosarium in conjunction with a blocking force supplied by Echo Company. Prior to first light Echo moved from three separate platoon defensive perimeters to establish a 360 degree encirclement around the Leprosarium to prohibit the egress of personnel from that position and to detain any questionable VC suspects who might try to flee once the sweep of the Leprosarium began. The Third Platoon of Hotel Company with the Company Command Group and attachments from the Battalion S-5 Section and ITT moved from its night platoon defensive perimeter to the vicinity of the Leprosarium from 0700 to 0800. There an assembly area was selected and packs were discarded. A loud speaker system was then set up just to the rear of the Echo block on the eastern side of the hospital. A Chou Hoi was used to speak to the inhabitants of the hospital explaining that the Marines were coming in to look around and for the patients and other personnel to move to the center of the Leprosarium. After this initial announcement had been made one squad of infantry with the CP group and ITT began to move into the hospital. At first the inhabitants were hesitant to move into the middle of the camp, and an interpreter was used to assist the movement. As the people began to move, one squad entered from the right flank and another from the left flank to clear the out-laying portions of the hospital grounds. No difficulties were encountered in assembling the people, and all but those confined to their beds were assembled.

I met and introduced myself to the Vietnamese Minister located at the hospital. I explained our purpose and that we meant no harm to the patients. He was most friendly and rendered minor assistance in our search. He explained that the

(Encl (1))

Leprosarium had about 200 patients and about 200 additional persons lived on the grounds. These people came from Viem Dong and other near-by villages to escape artillery fire because they knew the Marines could not shoot within the hospital grounds.

Of the personnel assembled, approximately 350, about half were lepers and the rest villagers. Most were small children and old people, but there were a few males of military age present. Because it would be practically impossible to interrogate all persons, about twenty five were selected for interview. These were the young males and several others picked at random. These people could offer no information of intelligence value and either possessed Leper I.D. cards or regulation I.D. cards. They stated that they had not seen any VC for long periods of time and that they did not know who placed the punji stakes on the eastern side of the hospital grounds.

As ITT was talking to the people, the third platoon conducted a search of the hospital buildings and the huts in the area. Extreme care was taken to insure that these buildings were neither damaged nor any personal property destroyed. The search did not locate any weapons or equipment which might be used by the VC. The hospital staff were agreeable and unlocked several closets containing medicine and other supplies during the search.

I believe the living condition of the Lepers and their families is of some significance. Most of these people live on the north western portion of the grounds. The huts are constructed of bamboo with straw or pine needle roofs. The animals live with the people. This area is one of the filthiest places that I have observed. Flies were everywhere, and the smell of the area is putrid. I believe any disease within this area could rapidly reach epidemic proportions.

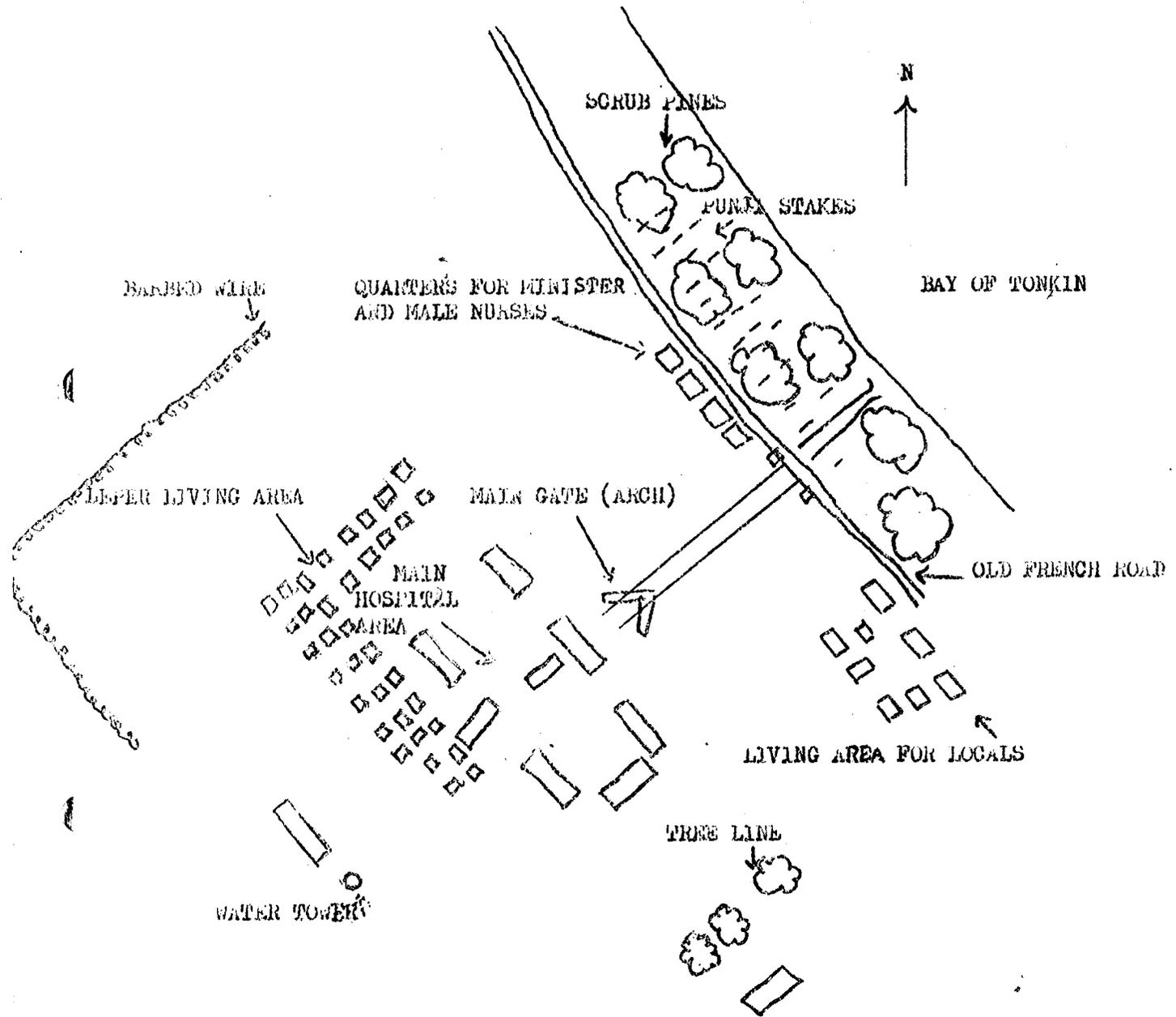
The hospital itself is cleaner, but by our standards is still filthy. The floor of one building was gory and blood-stained, and sand was merely thrown over this filth. Bandages were not burned, but collected, and then buried. I consider the hospital completely unsanitary.

The search of the area was concluded at about 1015. Neither the patients nor the search of the buildings offered any real intelligence material. Prior to leaving the area, the Chou Hoi was used to explain the reward system to the people. They were also instructed to stay out of the TAOR at night and to use only the beach when departing or entering the Leprosarium. Prior to moving out, about 200 punji stakes were removed from the eastern flank of the Leprosarium and burned.

Robert R GREEN  
CAPT. USMC

CH, 2/3  
(24 Dec 67)

SKETCH OF HAPPY HAVEN LEPROSARIUM



NOT TO SCALE  
BUILDINGS SHOW APPROXIMATE  
LOCATIONS. BUILDINGS SHOW  
AREAS NOT INDIVIDUAL STRUCT-  
URES.