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HEADQUARTERS
3rd Battalion (Rein), 7th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

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3/WWM/gba
5750
5 March 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
Via: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology, 1-29 February 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 7570.2
(b) FMF PacO 5750.b
(c) DivO 5750.2B
(d) DivO 3480.1A

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, 1-29 February 1968

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

Roger H. Barnard
ROGER H. BARNARD

DISTRIBUTION:

7th Marines (7)
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3rd Bn. 7th Mar. Log No
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3rd Bn/7th Mar
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 February 1968 to 29 February 1968

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation.

	COMMANDER
3rd Battalion (Rein), 7th Marines	LtCol R. H. BARNARD

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Co	1stLt J. F. SMITH
Co I	Capt J. C. BAGGETTE (1Feb-10Feb) Capt J. R. REEDER (10Feb-29Feb)
Co K	Capt J. L. LANEY
Co L	Capt W. O. BALDWIN (1Feb-4Feb) 1stLt B. J. FRIEBOLIN (4Feb-29Feb)
Co M	Capt K. S. HOLDAWAY
Co H	Capt T. M. CARTLIDGE

2. Location

1-29 February 1968, Dai Loc, RVN at Hill 37, AT916583.

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	Maj D. E. BJERKE
An Hoa Coordinator	Maj R. J. WOECKENER
S-1, Adjutant	1stLt J. N. DEITRICH
S-2	2ndLt D. W. NOYES
S-3	Maj W. W. MCIVER
S-4	1stLt T. W. MACANICH
S-5	_____
Supply Officer	1stLt R. J. LAUE
Motor Transport Officer	1stLt C. B. RITZEL
Air Liaison Officer	Capt D. A. BENTON

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FAC Officer	Capt E. D. VERGARA JR. (1Feb-27Feb) 1stLt G. P. OSANTOWSKI (27Feb-29Feb)
FSC	1stLt L. R. LINDWALL
Communications Officer	Capt W. I. CONNORS JR.
Battalion Chaplain	Lt(CHC) J. G. EVANS
Battalion Surgeon	Lt(MC) R. HAWKINS

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
39	1230	3	55

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. The 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines continued to conduct its normal saturation patrolling throughout the assigned TAOR for the subject period. The battalion took part in three short operations during the month. Companies H, M and L 3/5 (OpCon 3/7) took part in Operation NUTCRACKER. Their mission was to set up a blocking force for Americal Division units pushing northwest. An operation involving Companies K and M also took place, their mission was to conduct a search and destroy mission in the vicinity of a downed helicopter. In response to intelligence reports and enemy sightings a two day operation was conducted in "Charlie" Ridge, Companies H and L participated.

2. During the period Company M was moved from Hill 52. Their base of operations became Hill 37, however, they spent the better part of the month under the operational control of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. Thuong Duc CIDG Camp assumed responsibility for a sector of 3/7's TAOR west of the 81 grid line. Early in the month the Phu Loc (6) combat base was also disbanded. This base, however, was remanned later in the month as a platoon patrol base.

3. Significant contact took place while the enemy continued its TET offensive and during their retrograde movement early in the month. On the 7th of February, Company L came in contact with a company of NVA. The action accounted for 32 enemy KIA and numerous weapons captured. Company M came in contact, on the 13th of the Month, with what was beleived to be a reinforced platoon, 17 enemy KIA resulted.

4. During this period, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines was assisted in its TAOR by Company L, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines which operated out of the Company K combat base. Company L also took part in Operation NUTCRACKER. Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines manned the Company H combat base while Company H took part in an operation in the "Charlie" Ridge area.

5. Mine and booby trap incidents increased noticeably during the latter part of the period. Large enemy sightings were observed in the "Charlie" Ridge area and Company H reported scattered sightings of small enemy units in the FOSTER area.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Topics

a. Combat Mission Assigned. Occupy and defend assigned Tactical Area Of Responsibility (TAOR); conduct unilateral offensive operations and aggressive day/night patrolling and ambushing throughout the TAOR and, with approval, in the RZ; maintain maximum surveillance and interdiction of waterway access/egress routes into TAOR and of possible rocket sites located therein; prepare to conduct combined and coordinated operations with GVN forces within and beyond TAOR; provide alert forces and convoy escorts from squad to company size, as a reserve/alert force for operations anywhere in RVN; launch counterattacks against enemy penetrations in TAOR; conduct concentrated and sustained Civic Action and Psychological Warfare program in Revolutionary Development; coordinate with GVN officials to organize, train, advise and as necessary, initially provide combat skilled leadership to the Popular Forces in the form of Combined Action Units; and maintain security of vital lines of communications in coordination with GVN forces within TAOR.

b. Significant Operations Conducted. Operation NUTCRACKER, 4-6 Feb 68.

c. Casualties Sustained, 1-29 February

U.S. KIA	9
WIA	57
WIA Non-evac	19
NBC evac	17
NBC non evac	1
DOW	1
Return to duty	42

d. Logistics

(1) Construction

(a) Bunker Positions. Sand-bagged roofs were constructed on all bunkers.

(b) Ammo Bunkers. Company H and H&S Company installed partitions in their ammo bunkers to separate different types of ammo. Separate WP pits were constructed for all 81mm mortar pits.

(c) An Hoa. Improvement of the defensive positions of the An Hoa combat base progressed steadily. Special allowances have been requested to fill their needs.

(d) Trash Pit. A new trash pit was dug for this battalion to insure proper sanitation in this area.

(e) Water Tank. A new water tank will replace the old, inadequate tank on the water tower.

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(2) Supply. The supply situation remains satisfactory. The battalion supply support continues to include Company H and the An Hoa area which are included in the battalion's TAOR.

(3) Motor Transport. Two housekeeping trucks had accidents during the past month. One truck was involved in a head-on collision on Liberty Road and has since been repaired and is now in use. The other truck which overturned on Route 5 has been replaced.

(4) Mess Service. A new G.I. house is being requested through an Engineer Assistance request. The new G.I. house will improve the sanitation standards of this battalion's messhall.

(5) Command Material Inspection. The reinspection was held on 17 February. The reinspection was satisfactory with discrepancies.

e. Civil Affairs

(1) Refugees. During this month we have distributed materials to the refugees to help build their hamlets.

(2) Materials Distributed

(a) Two truckloads of ammo boxes for terrorist victims.

(b) One truckload of dunnage to refugees for local use.

(c) Three boxes of clothing distributed to Dai Loc (V).

(3) Serious Incidents. Serious incidents have decreased this month, there have been only four reported.

(4) Medcaps. Medcaps have been steady during the past month, 1,217 Vietnamese people were treated during the month of February.

(5) Projects. There were no projects initiated during the month.

f. Administration. No significant problems other than continued lack of MOS-trained clerical personnel.

g. Personnel. The battalion category of readiness is C-2. Total strength is 38 Marine Officers, 1155 Marine Enlisted, 3 Navy Officers, 57 Navy Enlisted.

h. Formal Training

(1) Orientation. All newly arrived personnel received intensive orientation and indoctrination, which included care, maintenance, safety instruction, familiarization and firing of the M16 rifle.

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(2) Schools. Personnel of the battalion, in the numbers indicated, attended the following schools:

(a)	NCO Leadership (1st MarDiv)	5
(b)	Staff NCO Leadership (1st MarDiv)	2
(c)	Officer Leadership (1st MarDiv)	2
(d)	Motor Transport (7th Mar)	7
(e)	Basic Organic Supply (1st MarDiv)	1
(f)	Reg Pubs System (III MAF)	1
(g)	Vietnamese Language (Okinawa)	1
(h)	Embarkation (Off- Okinawa)	1
(i)	Basic Inf Wpns Repair (Okinawa)	1
(j)	Comm Crypto Security (Japan)	1
(k)	Career Counciling (1st MarDiv)	1
(l)	Vietnamese Language (III MAF)	1
(m)	Battalion NCO School (3/7 - 26Feb-1Mar)	15

i. Communications. Radio Communications during the month of February were considered excellent, with the exception of mutual interference and a minor amount of enemy initiated deception. The main problem of interference stems from Army units operating in adjacent areas and tracked vehicles using stronger power output, which causes an override on frequencies. The minor amount of enemy deception that has occurred recently has in no way impaired the communications efficiency of the command. Security consciousness, strict adherence to radio procedures, and use of authentication successfully countered enemy deception.

j. Weather

(1) General. The weather conditions during the month of February continued to be favorable for military operations. The small amount of rainfall during the month was not significant to hamper logistical support. Rivers have receded and water standing in rice paddies is now shallow enough to allow tracked vehicles to maneuver in many sectors of the TAOR.

(2) Statistics

(a)	Maximum temperature:	77 degrees
(b)	Minimum temperature:	58 degrees
(c)	Mean temperature:	66 degrees
(d)	Average humidity:	77%
(e)	Rainfall:	48 inches

k. Intelligence

(1) Enemy Situation, 1-29 February. The enemy TET offensive continued into the early part of February. Units of this battalion continued to make significant contacts during this early period. Enemy retrograde movements took place through the "Charlie" Ridge area. Large sightings of the enemy along "Charlie" Ridge were observed between the 10th and 20th. It is believed that large VC/NVA units are regrouping and resupplying for another large offensive in the Danang area. In the meantime, local guerrillas have increased activity and have carried out

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the preponderance of the enemies activity within the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines TAOR. It is believed that the R-20th Bn was reduced to 30% of its strength after the Danang offensive, and is presently located in the Go Noi Island area. There were continued reports of a battalion size unit located in the north central FOSTER area. The Q-14 Company and the Dai Loc Committee are also reported to be in the northeastern FOSTER area. The 402nd Sapper Battalion was reported to be in the southwestern portion of "Charlie" Ridge near Hill 52. The possibility of an attack on Dai Loc still exists.

(2) Since local guerrilla units have taken over the majority of enemy activity in the TAOR, a significant rise in guerilla tactics (i.e., mines, boobytrap and sniper/ambush) have been noted. These activities can be expected to continue until larger NVA/VC units have regrouped, resupplied and are able to support another large offensive in the Danang area.

(3) Enemy Weapons, Equipment and Supplies Destroyed/Captured

Weapons - 13

WEAPON	SERIAL NUMBER
1 - M-1 Carbine	5433713
1 - SKS ChiCom Carbine	10112666
1 - AK-47 ChiCom	1267
1 - MAT-49 SMG	7592
1 - ChiCom 60mm Mortar	10954
1 - B-40 launcher	426
1 - AK-47 ChiCom	11073608
1 - AK-47 ChiCom	10150799
1 - AK-47 ChiCom	9472156
1 - AK-47 ChiCom	10045846
1 - B-40 launcher	1002312
1 - B-40 launcher	1001857
1 - SKS ChiCom	9190547

Equipment - 3 kahki uniforms, 6 cartridge belts, 1 canteen, 14 ChiCom grenades, 7 M-79 rounds, 5 AK-47 magazines, 3 clips AK-47 ammo, 6 packs, 4 B-40 rockets, medical equipment, 2 magazines pouches, 1 empty B-40 rocket container, 1 U.S. canteen, documents.

(4) Enemy Personnel Losses

(a) VC KIA - 117
(b) NVA KIA - 32
(c) Detainees - 22; 11 IC's, 1 civ. def.,(10 unclass by 9th ITT)
(d) Chieu Hoi - 0
(e) Refugees Evacuated - 0

(5) Terrain. The terrain of the 3rd Bn, 7th Marines TAOR is primarily flat, laced with open rice paddies throughout the eastern, central and southern sectors. The northern and southern limits of the

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TAOR are mountainous with heavy secondary vegetation and steep foothills. The two main rivers which flow through the central and southern sectors of the TAOR are the Song Vu Gia and the Song Thu Bon respectively. The principal terrain features of the TAOR are Hills 55, 37 and 65.

1. Fire Support

(1) Artillery

(a) 3rd Bn, 11th Marines continued in direct support of the 7th Marines.

(b) Battery I, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines continued in direct support of the 3rd Bn, 7th Marines

(c) Battery K, 4th Bn, 11th Marines was in general support of the 7th Marines.

(d) Mortar Battery, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines provided reinforcing fire support.

(e) Plat A, 3rd 155 Gun Battery in general support of 1st Marine Division.

(f) Plat A, 3rd 8 inch Howitzer Battery in general support of 1st Marine Division.

(2) Air Support

(a) Forty-eight (48) fixed wing flights were flown in support of the battalion.

(b) One hundred and thirty-five (135) aerial observation and reconnaissance missions were flown.

(c) Helicopter missions flown were as follows:

1. Medical evacuations (86 missions)

a. 120 USMC
b. 60 civilians
c. 6 ARVN
d. 1 VCS

2. Logistics and Troop Lifts (19 missions)

a. Cargo - 109,400 lbs.

b. Troops - 1067

3. Firefly (10 missions)

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n. Medical

(1) General. The overall health of Marines within the battalion continues to be excellent with no major outbreaks of illness.

(2) Evacuations. Casualty evacuations continue to be satisfactory.

(3) Supply. Medical supplies are adequate, but the procurement of transportation to make supply runs has been poor.

n. Chaplain. Weekly visits were made to 3rd Bn, 7th Marines personnel at the 1st Medical Bn, NSA Hospital and those confined in the III MAF Brig.

O. Command and Control

(1) The 3rd Bn, 7th Marines remained under operational and administrative control of the 7th Marines during February.

(2) OpCon 1 platoon (Rein), Company K, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines was changed to 1st Bn, 7th Marines at 012030H February 1968.

(3) OpCon 1 platoon (Rein) and Command Group Company K, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines was changed to 1st Bn, 7th Marines at 031530H February 1968.

(4) OpCon 1 platoon (Rein), Company K, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines assumed by 3rd Bn, 7th Marines at 041600H February 1968.

(5) OpCon Company M, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines changed to 1st Bn, 7th Marines at 061530H February 1968.

(6) OpCon 1 Platoon (Rein) Company K, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines changed to 1st Bn, 7th Marines at 061830H February 1968.

(7) OpCon Company L, 3rd Bn, 5th Marines changed to 3rd Bn, 5th Marines

(8) OpCon 2 platoons (Rein) and Command Group Company K, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines assumed by 3rd Bn, 7th Marines at 101430H February 1968.

(9) OpCon Company M, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines assumed by 3rd Bn, 7th Marines at 111440H February 1968.

(10) OpCon Company M, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines changed to 1st Bn, 7th Marines at 141000H February 1968.

(11) OpCon Company G (-), 2nd Bn 7th Marines assumed by 3rd Bn, 7th Marines at 171045H February 1968.

(12) OpCon Company M, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines assumed by 3rd Bn, 7th Marines at 171100H February 1968.

(13) OpCon Company G (-), 2nd Bn, 7th Marines changed to 2nd Bn, 7th Marines at 181500H February 1968.

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(14) OpCon Company G (-), 2nd Bn, 7th Marines assumed by 3rd Bn, 7th Marines at 191645H February 1968.

(15) OpCon Company G (-), 2nd Bn, 7th Marines changed to 2nd Bn, 7th Marines at 211530H February 1968.

(16) OpCon Company M, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines changed to 1st Bn, 7th Marines at 211530H February 1968.

p. Psychological Operations. The theme used for psychological operations this month has been "Surrender or Die", to reconcile for the major offensive action during the TET holidays. Numerous leaflets have been distributed throughout the battalion TAOR.

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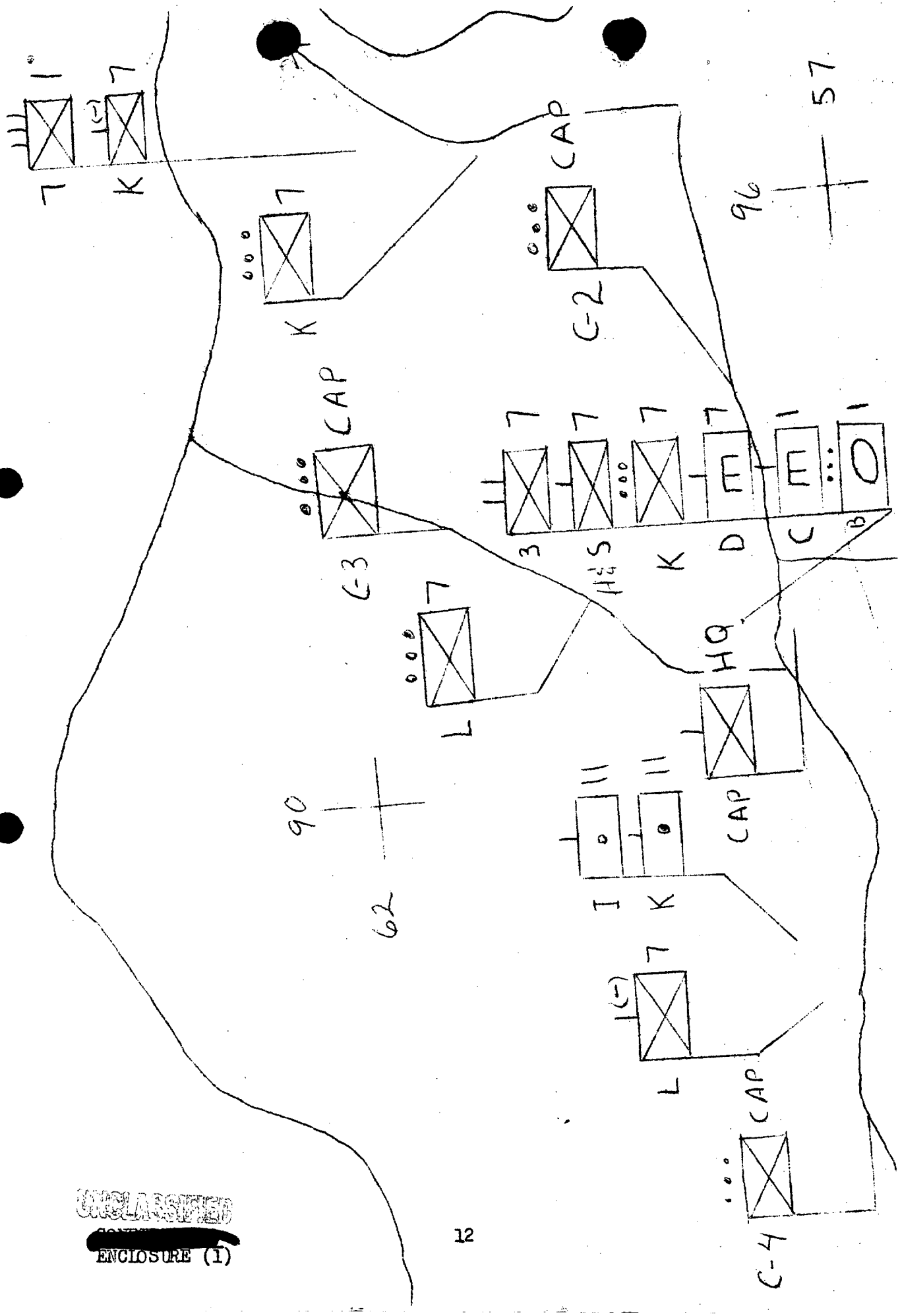

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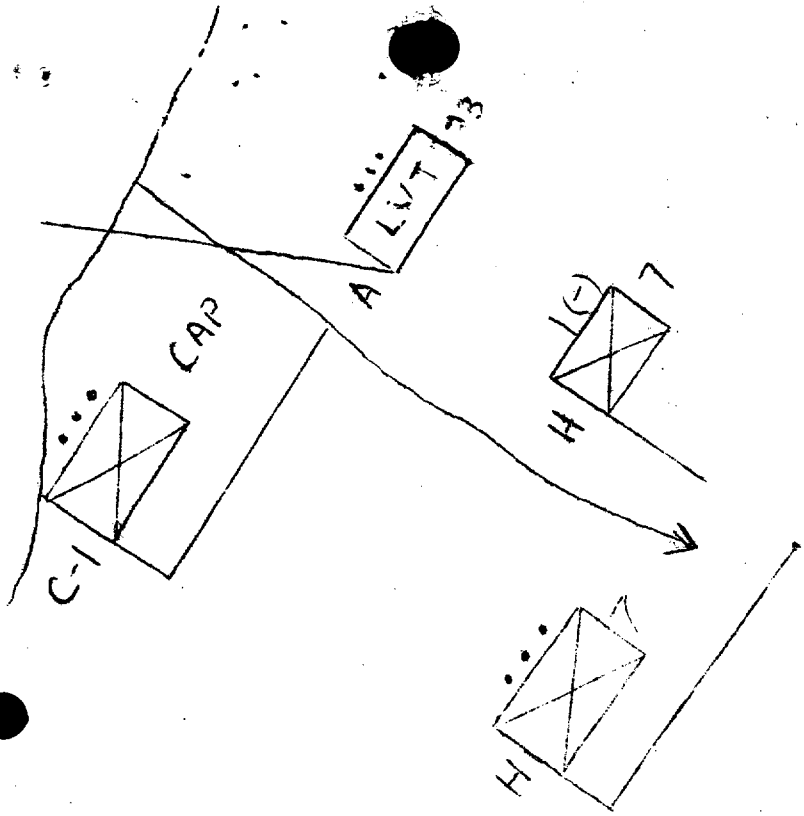

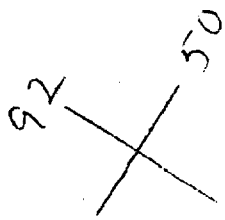

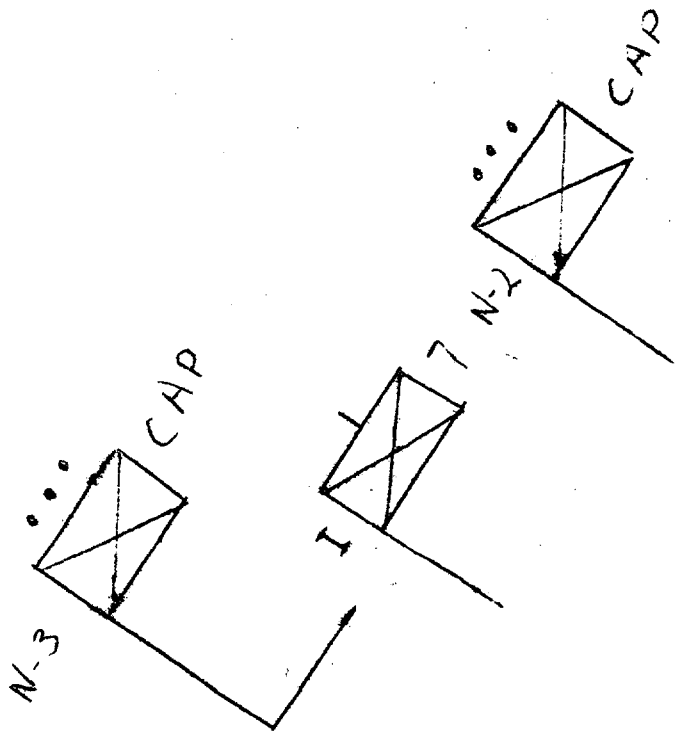

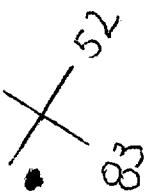

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