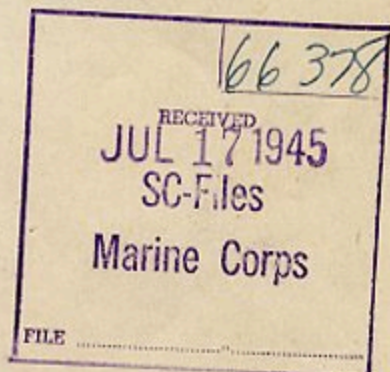


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ANNEX B
TO
SIXTH MARINE DIVISION
SPECIAL ACTION REPORT

PHASE III OKINAWA OPERATION

22ND MARINES



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Special Action Report

Phase III

27 June 45



Second Battalion

Twenty Second Marines

Sixth Marine Division

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Authority NND 994011

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~2d Bn, 22d Marines
6 Marine Division
In the fieldSPECIAL ACTION REPORT, PHASE IIICHAPTER IGENERAL

This report is prepared to provide a complete and accurate record of the part which BLT 2/22 took in Phase III of the occupation and defense of Okinawa Shima.

CHAPTER IITASK ORGANIZATION

Normal attached units were present

CHAPTER IIIPROGRESS OF THE OPERATIONTHE BATTLE FOR NAHA

7 May, 1945.

The 2/22 received an operations order announcing that the 22nd Regiment would move from its present bivouac area by motor to zone of action of the 1st Marine Division, preparatory to relieving designated elements of that Division prior to 1600, 8 May and to be prepared to resume the attack to the South on order.

This order was the first of a long series of orders which cast the 2/22 into a major role in one of the longest and most important campaigns in the Marine Corps history. The following account serves not as colorful description of the various personalities in the battalion whose deeds enabled faithful fulfillment of daily operations orders, but only as a routine day by day account of the part this battalion played in the three major battles in Southern Okinawa.

8 May, 1945.

As ordered by Regiment the Second and Third Battalions, Twenty Second Marines, were to pass through and relieve the Second Battalion, Seventh Marines prior to 1600 this date, occupy their present front lines and be prepared to continue the attack on order. The Second Battalion was to be on the left and the Third Battalion on the right with the First Battalion in Regimental reserve. While a slow but persistent rain made footing treacherous and the roads a veritable quagmire. It was a dismal beginning for so bright an ending. Relief was effected with a maximum of coordination and speed. By 1400, as ordered the Battalion had completely relieved the Second Battalion Seventh Marines with George and Easy Companies on the line and Fox in reserve on a line running generally parallel to the Asa River and on the high ground overlooking the same river. We were tied in on the left with the 3rd Battalion First Marines and with the Third Battalion, Twenty Second Marines on the right. Light artillery and sniper fire were received throughout the day producing the Battalions first combat casualties. One of them was one of the two artillery forward observers attached to the Battalion. During the night sporadic artillery, mortar and sniper fire found our location with annoying accuracy causing several casualties.

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SPECIAL ACTION REPORT, PHASE III (Cont'd)

9 May, 1945.

The orders for the day were for the Regiment to occupy and defend their present positions. The Battalion Commander ordered Easy and George to reconnoiter 500 yards to their front. Easy patrolled to their front and left front and found no enemy activity. George patrol crossed the Asa River to their front and promptly drew heavy enemy fire. A short fire fight ensued and a George casualty was evacuated across the river. An artillery spotter plane was shot down to the front of George. Both pilot and observer escaped to our lines. During the afternoon, commencing at 1500 artillery fire fell on our positions again. Fox sustained three casualties and the Battalion executive officer, while returning from the Battalion observation post was wounded by a shell fragment in his left leg. Major Henry A. Courtney had received his first wound of the campaign and was evacuated by the battalion surgeon. The enemy's artillery fire has hurt the battalion in more than one way in that all hands were experiencing helplessness in combatting so distant an enemy, one which had not yet been located. His shells were approximately 150mm which rendered an "express train collision" jar to the deck and was preceded by an unusually weird whistle.

That evening at 1900 Lt. Col. H.C. Woodhouse Jr., the Battalion Commander, received a fragmentary order for the following day. The 3/22 was to move across Asa River at 0300 and attack the high ground to their front at daybreak. The 1/22 was to provide one company to attack on the left of the 3/22. The 2/22 initially, was to set up a strongpoint in TA 7647 L4 and to support the attack of the Third and First Battalions by fire. The Battalion Commander decided that George would send two platoons to establish a strongpoint the following morning and that further patrols from either Fox or Easy might be ordered. Fox was to move forward to occupy the lines vacated by George's third platoon.

That night, again, the enemy raised havoc with artillery fire, wounding and killing several men. An artillery forward observer and two of his team were killed. His fire was fairly evenly distributed over the three companies and the battalion command post area.

10 May, 1945.

More specific orders reaffirmed the previously received fragmentary order and further stated that the 2/22 would be prepared to seize and hold outpost positions to its front if the situation and the terrain permitted, also maintain contact with 3/1 on the left. By 0730, two platoons of Captain C.T. Stebbins's George Company had set up a strongpoint in the designated area. At 0830, Easy Company under 1st Lt. F.E. Gunter was ordered forward to establish a line and tie in with George at TA 7674 S. Throughout the morning enemy artillery was active. In the process of establishing our left flank, George ran into intense enemy machine gun fire and was forced to employ flame throwers to silence same. Regiment consented to the Battalion Commander's plan for connecting George and Easy across the Asa River generally along the line TA 7674 L5, Q2, R, M, O and TA 7774 K. The 2/22 had made its first advance into defended enemy territory. During the day the Battalion Executive Officer returned to duty. Casualties had been light throughout the day but artillery and high velocity guns continued to harass the entire Battalion. Artillery revisited the Battalion at 2330 and paid particular attention to the Battalion command post.

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SPECIAL ACTION REPORT, PHASE III (Cont'd)

11 May, 1945.

The Regimental attack order for this date allowed for the main effort to be made on the right by the 3/22 and 1/22 with the 2/22 attacking on the left at 0700 to seize the high ground in the vicinity of TA 7673 K and 7673 C. We were further ordered to maintain physical contact with the First Marine Division on our left. The Battalion Commander ordered George to move out in accordance with the advance of the 1/22 on its right and ordered Easy not to move at all until ordered to do so.

At 0700 the attack jumped off as planned after a heavy artillery barrage. The 1/22 was immediately pinned down on George's right, also the 3/1 on Easy's left was not moving. At 0830 the situation was this. Both our left and right flanks were held in place, but rapid advances had been made in the center. To alleviate our extended lines, it was arranged for Easy to tie in with the 2/1 at TA 7774 U5 along rail road track. Easy was thus enabled to move out supported by tanks. At 1014, George's right flank was still in the previous night's position so one platoon of Fox was moved forward to maintain contact with 1/22 on right. George was now also permitted to advance to seize the high ground in TA 7673 C. Enemy artillery was firing sporadically at the road junction in TA 7674 I2. Some fire was received by Easy from enemy territory in the First Marine Division zone of action. George received enemy mortar fire from their front and semi-automatic fire from their right rear. Fox had filled in the center and on the right flank by 1325 in order to straighten up the line and to make contact possible on the right. Slow but steady advances were made until about 1700 when preparations for the night were begun. Front lines for the night were TA's 7673 O, C3, 7674 V1, 7673 B2, and C. During the night there was little activity except for the usual artillery fire which was spaced throughout the night. By noon the Battalion had experienced a bit of everything the enemy had to offer suffering only a moderate rate of casualties and inflicting the usual penalty on all of enemy that stood in its way.

12 May, 1945.

The 22d Marines were ordered to attack and seize C-B line in its zone of action making the main effort on the right. Time of attack 0730. The 2/22 was to seize C-B in its zone of action and to protect the regimental left (east) flank. The Battalion, as directed by Lt. Col. Woodhouse, would attack with Easy and George abreast and Fox in reserve. At jump off time the tanks had not yet arrived and thus the jump off was delayed. At 0807 tanks got into position and the companies jumped off. The attack had proceeded only 30 minutes before heavy and extremely accurate machine gun fire was encountered by both Easy and George Companies. Lts. Thorne and Mc Dowell of Easy and Lt Carrigan of George were wounded. Lts. Harris and Lynch were sent forward as replacements. At 0850 orders were received from regiment to push hard on the left and to disregard the 2/1 in that the 3/29 was available to fill any gap created on the left. At 1000 Fox Company under Capt M.F. Ahearn was ordered to move up to the immediate rear of George Company and be prepared to continue the attack. We were in visual contact with the 1/22 at this time. The village to the front of George Company proved to be a strong point and tanks were utilized. At 1030 Easy Company was being held up by heavy fire from their left front in the First Marine Division area and was hit hard. Word had been received that the 1/22 and 3/22 on the right had progressed favorably and it was deemed mandatory that 2/22 advance likewise in spite of the heavy fire on its left flank. By 1340,

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JOURNAL

UNIT (CODE) mediumFROM May 9 45
TO May 10 45 85

IN	OUT	TO	FR	SER.	MESSAGE	ACTION
					2nd Bn will send 2 plato initially to patrol high and in area of 7167454 + all adjoining draws. Will set up strong pt at that pos. One plat of F will move into G lines in a reserve pos. Jump off time to depend upon 1st Bn. Both E to standby Further patrol by E or F on orders from 6 Further orders from Reg pending.	

VRTT (CODE) Melvin

JOURNAL

FROM

May 10

TO

May 11

IN	CUT	TO	FR	SER.	MESSAGE	ACTION
					<u>Col. in O.P.</u>	
0610	Reg	2	1		<u>Gen C.P. area rec'd by</u> <u>arty fire from 0200 until</u> <u>dawnlight. Cas unknown</u>	Reg
0615	6	Reg	2	2/22		all units
					Mine Detection Team, 6th Inf Bn	
					DET. 2d Plt, A Co, 9th Amph Bn	
					22nd Mar (REINF) atk Sat 0500, 10 May	
					+ by flanking action from the W side high ground at 7573-RD +	
					7574-H-I-S. Patrols now right (W) flank. L.D. boundaries	
					obstacles + scheme of maneuver, see opn Overlay	
					2/22 Support atk of 3/22 + 1/22 by	
					fire from rear pos. Beginning at 0500 patrol vigorously in	
					front. Be prepared to seize & hold outpost pos to front if	
					situation + terrain permits. Maintain contact with 3/1	
					on left & protect Reg 1 left flank. See overlay	
0620	2	Reg	3	1	Bn now holds high ground	2, 3,
					S of sugar mill. Case mortar	
					+ S.A. fire on this pt.	
0625	4	2	4		Land transportation to G	4
					for cas.	
	2	F	5		F had a total of 1 shell	2, 3
					shocked cases during the night	
					G had <u>3 men killed by</u>	
					<u>whiplash</u> - <u>2 men wounded</u>	
					<u>by arty during last night.</u>	
					Atty P.O. officer + two of his	
					men were the three dead.	
0630	2	4	6		Amtrac on way to G to evacuate	2
					cas.	
					81 MM. ammo also going up	

Colonel in O.P.

Colonel and O.P.

Mine Detection Team, 6th Sub Bn
DET. 2d Platoon, A Co, 9th Amphibious Bn

22nd Mar. (REINE) at 0500, 10 May

+ by (banking action) from the W side high ground at 7573-PD #
7574-H-I-V. Patrols move right (W) flank. L.D. boundaries
obstacles + scheme of maneuver, see opn Overlay.

2/25 Support at 03/22 + 1/22 by
fire from previous pos. Beginning at 0500 patrol vigorously to
front. Be prepared to seize & hold outpost pos to front if
situation + terrain permits. Maintain contact with 3/1
no left + protect Reg 1 left flank. See overlay.

0620 2 Reg 3 1 Bn now holds high ground 2, 3,
S of sugar mill. Cease mortar
+ S.A. fire on this pt.

0625 4 2 4 Land Transportation to G 4
for cas.

2 F 5 F had a total of 1 shell
shocked cases during the night
G had 3 men killed by
whiplash - 2 men wounded
by shrapnel during last night.

City P.O. officer + two of his
men were the three dead.

0630 2 4 6 Amtracs on way to G to evacuate 2
cas.

81 MM. ammo also going up
in another amtrac.

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JOURNAL

UNIT (CODE) McLennan

FROM

May 10 45

TO

May 11 45

Pg 2

IN	OUT	TO	FR	SER.	MESSAGE	ACTION
0635		2	G	6	G patrol move out on schedule at 0550	3, 6
0635		2	F	7	1 platoon of F moved forward in G lines at 0600	3, 6
0636		2	G+F	8	G + F fired heavy arty fire all night long	3, 6
0640		2	E	9	Unsuccessful infiltration thru E lines last night - no success. No. of ^{snipers} distributed unknown	3
0647		3	F	10	Recently observed 20 mm firing on airplanes. When airplanes went by 20 mm fired on F. - 230° from 1675 M.	2
0730		3	G-5	11	Patrols have reached ^(above area) pos. are scouting out flanks + setting up strong point. Valley is foggy + 1 Bn + 3 Bn cannot be seen. Have no contact with them or with my patrol	2, Reg
0731	E+G	2		12	2 LVT's available in Bn dump. Can be used for supplies or wounded	E - G
0735		3	G	13	Request 12 barrels for HMG's + load of 60 H.E. shells	3, 4
0740		6	3	14	Major Whitney is back in C.P. for duty.	6
				15	Spotter plane flying low over river area. Request it get higher as it may be	A.G.L.

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0636	2	G+F	8	G + F. said heavy arty fire all nite long	3, 6
0646	2	E	9	Attempted infiltration thru E lines last nite - no success. No. of ^{enemies} discovered unknown.	3
0647	3	F	10	Presumably observed [↑] 20 mm firing on airplanes. When airplanes went by 20 mm. fired on F. - 238° from 4675 M.	2
0730	3	G-5	11	Patrols have reached ^(Love area) pos. are scouting out flanks + setting up strong point. Valley is foggy + 1 Bn + 3 Bn cannot be seen. Have no contact with them or with my patrol	2, Reg
0731	E+G	D	12	2 LVT's available in Bn dump. Can be used for supplies or wounded	E - G
0735	3	G	13	Request 12 barrels for HMG's + load of 60 H.E. shells	3, 4
0740	6	3	14	Major Whitney is back in C.P. to duty.	6
0800	3	6	15	Spotter plane flying low over river area. Request it get higher as it may be hit by mortar shells	A.S.L.
0803	3	6	16	"K" being hit badly	3, 5

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