

**RESUME OF OPERATION "RAPID ROAD"
1ST BATTLE GROUP, 155TH INFANTRY**

The Battle Group was alerted for call to Active Service at 0330 hours, 30 September 1962. Subordinate units were in turn alerted by 0405 hours, 30 September 1962. An Operation Plan was drafted for movement to tentative assembly area and initial employment in the objective area, and units were ordered to remain on alert for immediate movement.

We went to Memphis on Sunday, 30 September 1962, to meet with General Billingslea (Major Walker and I). He went over the Division Organization and introduced the staff.

He pointed out that our mission would be to maintain order only. We were to make no arrests. The Marshalls would carry out the Justice Department mission of enforcing the Court Order.

We were to select specific bivouac sites within general assigned areas. The 1st Battle Group was assigned an area West of Oxford about fifteen miles.

We were to give General Billingslea our estimated time for arrival at assembly area so that he could give us sufficient lead time.

We were not allowed to leave home stations until ordered.

The events from time we were ordered are covered in attached command report.

We returned to Battle Group Headquarters Sunday night about 2100 hours. We were ordered to move at 2255 hours.

**MARION D. ODELL
Colonel Inf Miss ARNG
Commanding Officer, 1st Battle Group**

**EXTRACT OF INFORMATION FROM FILES OF
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BATTLE GROUP, 155TH INFANTRY**

1. Significant Unit Activities. Background.

The Battle Group was alerted for Active Federal Service 300330 Sep 62. Subordinate units were alerted by 300405 Sep 62.

Subordinate units issued and loaded equipment on vehicles for possible movement. An Operation Plan was drafted for movement to a tentative assembly area and initial employment in objective area. Units reported at 301700 Sep 62 that they were prepared to move on order. Units were ordered to remain on alert for immediate movement.

At 302255 Sep 62, the C/S of Task Force Rapid Road ordered the BG to move immediately to assembly area west of Oxford. Units were immediately notified and ordered to assembly at Brookhaven, Mississippi for the motor movement to Oxford.

BG closed at the bivouac area 12 miles west of Oxford at 011000 Oct 62. There were 690 Officers and EM present for duty.

Unit Commanders were briefed on the current situation and taken on a reconnaissance of the Oxford area.

The BG was organized into two Task Forces for possible employment and placed on a 30 minute alert. A message was received from 2d Division at 011930 Oct 62 reporting a great number of armed civilians were located in the Batesville area. BG was ordered to prevent these civilians from reaching Oxford. In the absence of the BG Commander, Lt. Col. Dodge ordered Task Force Bravo, Companies A, C, and E, to set up check points in the vicinity of Hwy Junction Miss. 6 and Miss 315. The Task Force continued this mission until 020600 Oct 62 with no incidents.

A Battle Group training program was begun 020800 Oct 62 and continued each day thereafter until 12 Oct 62.

On 4 Oct 62, a troop orientation was conducted by the BG Commander and staff. The men were informed of the present situation and commended for their conduct and response to orders. Units were briefed on the procedures of heliborne operations by two marine helicopter crews. This was the first heliborne training ever conducted by the BG.

Companies B, C, and 3rd Rifle Platoon of Company E departed for home stations 051200 Oct 62. Units were released from Active Federal Service effective 052400 Oct 62. The BG continued its reserve mission and was assigned four check points to be established on order.

The company size alert force conducted a practice to determine response time. It reached the exit from the BG bivouac area within 12 minutes and reached the underpass in Oxford within 30 minutes after being alerted.

On 8 Oct 62, BG 3-3 coordinated with 108th Arm Cav Regt concerning the check points located astride all entrances to the University Campus. BG was relieved of furnishing an alert company for 48 hours.

BG Commander announced that 30% of personnel would be eligible for release immediately with order of priority students, teachers, and hardship cases.

101 Off and 81 or 19% of BG (-) departed for home stations and release from Active Federal Service effective 102400 Oct 62.

The BG departed for home stations on 12 Oct 62. The IP, junction of Miss. Hwys 6 and 315, was crossed at 120900 Oct 62, and BG cleared IP at 120912 Oct 62. All units reported their arrival at home station by 121800 Oct 62, with no incidents.

On 13 Oct 62, units began cleaning and storage of equipment. At 131000 Oct 62, an Intelligence Report was received from 2d Division. Units were immediately ordered to maintain 25% of personnel at armories on a 24 hour basis. A Movement Plan for movement of the BG to Jackson, Mississippi was drafted. Units were released from 25% alert at 131630 Oct 62.

Maintenance of equipment, storage of vehicles and equipment, and final clearances from Active Federal Service were accomplished on 14, 15, and 16 Oct 62.

At the final formation on 16 Oct 62, volunteers were recruited for duty in Natchez, Mississippi and Operation Chlorine as Guardsmen turned to face their next challenge.

2. Training.

Subjects stressed were Riot Control, Heliborne Operations, Bayonet Training, Military Courtesy, Physical Training, Arm and Hand Signals, and Gas Mask Drill. The BG units received three days of Heliborne

Training, the first ever received, that included orientation rides.
Lt. Col. Talley, 2d Division Chemical Officer, conducted a three
hour CBR class for the benefit of members of unit CBR teams.