

**2ND BATTLE GROUP, 155TH INFANTRY**

**RESUME OF OPERATION "RAPID ROAD"**

(All Times are Approximate)

**0330 Hours**  
**30 September 1962** Lieutenant Colonel L. N. Williams received alert call from Lieutenant Colonel P. L. Jackson. Colonel Williams immediately alerted Battle Group.

**0530 Hours**  
**30 September 1962** Colonel R. L. Gray received call from Colonel M. E. Bush verifying alert and ordered Colonel Gray to be at Air Strip at Tupelo at 1130 Hours, 30 September 1962, with two (2) of his officers. Colonel Gray and his two (2) officers (Lt. Colonel L. N. Williams and Captain Jones) went to Tupelo for purpose to fly to Millington to meet General Billingslea at 1400 Hours, 30 September 1962.

**1400 Hours**  
**30 September 1962** Meeting with General Billingslea conducted. 2nd Battle Group instructed to be prepared to arrive at Oxford by 1000 Hours, 1 October 1962, on order. Administrative details were discussed and arranged.

**Approx 1530 Hours**  
**30 September 1962** Mr. Robert Kennedy had a telephone conference on 4-way hook up with General Billingslea, Colonel Gray, Colonel Odell and Colonel Martin. This conference in substance was that he, Mr. Robert Kennedy, was carrying out the orders of the Court.

**Approx 1600 Hours**  
**30 September 1962** Instructions were issued by telephone to Battle Group Headquarters in Amory to implement orders received.

**Approx 1610 Hours**  
**30 September 1962** Departed Millington by air for Battle Group Headquarters in Amory.

**Approx 1730 Hours**  
**30 September 1962** Arrived Battle Group Headquarters in Amory.

**Approx 2330 Hours**  
**30 September 1962** Received orders from General Billingslea's Chief of Staff to move immediately to campus at Oxford. At about same time, C-Rations for Battle Group arrived at air strip in Amory

**Approx 0430 Hours**  
**1 October 1962** Battle Group closed Oxford. Colonel Gray reported to General Billingslea Battle Group ready to move on campus 0500. General Billingslea issued instructions to move on campus and secure Power Plant and the adjacent area.



Resume of Operation "Rapid Road" (Cont'd)

- Approx 0510 Hours  
1 October 1962** Battle Group arrived on campus and after mission was accomplished at approximately 0530, Colonel Gray reported to General Billingslea at Lyceum Building for further orders. At this time, General Billingslea reorganized the occupation forces on campus and Colonel Martin was placed in charge of troops on campus. At this time, this Battle Group received additional mission of operating three (3) road blocks on roads entering campus and companies were assigned sections to occupy on campus.
- Approx 0700 Hours  
1 October 1962** Colonel Gray issued orders for Lieutenant Colonel Peeler to bring all vehicles on campus. Colonel Peeler advised Colonel Gray that vehicles could not be brought on campus, without help, without receiving considerable damage from rioters. Colonel Gray then sent two (2) companies back to parking area (Kroger Parking Lot) and escorted vehicles on campus, arriving approximately 0745 hours, without damage.
- Approx 1100 Hours  
1 October 1962** Additional area was assigned to Battle Group for occupation and control.
- Sometime during afternoon of 1 October 1962, the 23rd Infantry Battle Group moved on to practice football field on the left of our Battle Group area. Later this afternoon, the 23rd Infantry Battle Group took over responsibility of a part of the area from 2nd Battle Group, 155th Infantry. There was complete cooperation and understanding between National Guard troops and Regular Army troops.
- Approx 1600 Hours  
1 October 1962** General Billingslea stated that General Howse was coming in to airport at Oxford and to send the Deputy Commander to General Howse's headquarters at 1730 Hours for instructions.
- Approx 1730 Hours  
1 October 1962** Battle Group Deputy Commander, Lt. Colonel Williams, reported to General Howse and was acknowledged and told there would be a meeting at 2000 Hours, 1 October 1962, at the 23rd Infantry Command Post and for him to be there.



Resume of Operation "Rapid Road" (Cont'd)

Approx 2000 Hours  
1 October 1962

Lt. Colonel Williams reported to 23rd Infantry Command Post. General Howe was present, but meeting was cancelled.

There were no other significant activities during 30 September 1962.

Road block were operated throughout the day and night by this Battle Group, and some people were turned over to the Marshalls for further investigation.

ROBERT L. GRAY  
Colonel, Infantry, Miss ARNG  
Commanding Officer  
2nd BG, 155th Inf