

HEADQUARTERS

1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion (Rein) FMF
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF
c/o FPO, San Francisco, 96601

3:RGG:few
3480
6 Sept 1965

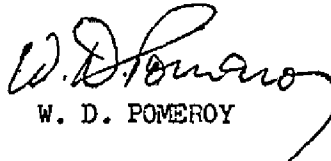
From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF

Subj: Command Diary, August 1965

Ref: (a) MCO 3480.1
(b) DivO 3100.1

Encl: (1) 1st AmTrac Bn, Command Diary, Aug 1965

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


W. D. POMEROY

1st AMTRAC BN

Aug 1965

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA SHEET

1. Reporting Unit. 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion (Rein) FMF
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF.
2. Period Covered. 1 August to 31 August 1965.
3. Date of Submission. 7 September 1965.
4. Commanding Officer. Lieutenant Colonel William D. POMEROY.
5. Command Post. DaNang, Republic of Viet-Nam, (AT 990713) AMS
Series L701 Sheet 6659 III.
6. Subordinate Units.
 - a. Headquarters & Service Company - First Lieutenant Richard G. SCHWARZ.
 - b. Company "A" - Major Paul M. HELSHER.
 - c. Company "B" - Major Hollis T. DUNN 1-7 August. 8 August 1965
Major Harold L. KENDRICK.
 - d. Company "A" - Third Amphibian Tractor Battalion, Captain
Edgar J. BAIR.

PART II

A NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the month of August 1965 the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion continued in general support of the 3d Marine Division in the Republic of Viet-Nam. From it's CP, located below hill 327 in the Phong Le Bac area (AT 990713) of the Da Nang TAOR, the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion provided logistical and administrative support to it's subordinate units. Also, during the period the Battalion continued to develop and consolidate defensive positions in and around it's logistical installations in this vital area as well as providing Division units with support from it's mine clearance platoon (LVTE-1s).

2. Mission Assigned. General Support of the 3d Marine Division by providing combat and logistical support for current operations, utilizing the inherent mobility, armor protection and troop and cargo carrying capabilities of the LVT family of vehicles. Company "A" is attached to the 4th Marine Regiment at Chu Lai. Company "B" (-) is in direct support OPCON to the 9th Marines at Da Nang with it's 3d Platoon (Rein) in direct support OPCON to the 3d Marine Regiment. Company "A" 3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion is attached to the 7th Marine Regiment at Chu Lai with one platoon attached to the 2d Battalion of that Regiment at Qui Nhon.

3. Chronological Summary of Events.

1 Aug 1965: LtCol William D. POMEROY assumed Command Vice LtCol Jack GLENN.

011200H Maj. JONES, Division Ass't 3, requested 2 LVTE-1s to support 3rd Marines.

2 Aug 1965: Two LVTE-1s depart CP in support of 3rd Marines.

3 Aug 1965: Established HLZ at CP coor AT 990713. "B" Co. LVT 1-7 sideswiped a 3 wheeled vehicle (Vietnamese) and damaged road. No injuries; notified Div PMO at 032130H.

031300H, 2 LVTE-1s broke down at AT 923658.

4 Aug 1965: LVTR-1 to AT 923658 to repair LVTE-1s.

041400H, LVT B-16 hit land mine at coor BT 070696. Blew off track, no casualties.

041600H, LVTR-1 returning to CP with LVTE-1 Field fix on E-1 would not hold extensive repairs required. Est time 24 hours.

041600H, Rations, water, repair parts sent to R-1 crew via Helo resupply.

ENCLOSURE(1)

7 Aug 1965: Maj. Eugene E. CREWS assumed duties as Bn XO, Vice Maj. Cyril WADZITA. Maj. Harold L. KENDRICK assumed duties as Co. "B" CO Vice Maj. H. T. DUNN.

10 Aug 1965: Received Appx. 20 assorted rounds of 60/81mm mortar rounds in the adjacent 1st Tank Bn CP. No casualties in this area.

13 Aug 1965: One rd S/A in vicinity Post #8 from easterly direction; flash also noted by 3 MT Bn OP no damage.

130900H, Maj. KENDRICK informed S-3 that a VN male was taking notes in the field to our north. Bn S-3 led a patrol and apprehended 3 men.

130945H, Spot report to Division and 9th Mar.

132115H, Post #8 reported a gas attack. MSgt GROVER investigated. 25 Yards outside perimeter, a still warm expended canister of CS Gas was found. Attack came from Phong Le Bac Village. Notified G-2, G-3, Tanks, 3rd Motors, and Anti Tanks. Canister delivered to G-2. 1 minor casualty.

14 Aug 1965: Camp went on alert due to an explosion about 500 yards from our perimeter, post #1 reported they heard beating of bamboo from the area of Phong Le Bac Village, 1st Tanks heard same, also received 1 round S/A fire.

142325H, Spot reports to Division 2 and 9th Marines 3.

15 Aug 1965: 3d Tank Bn 3 called, stated "Ho Vang district Headquarters, Ho Vang Sub Section will conduct police operation in Phong Le Bac Village AT 998714, 1 Popular Force plt of 597 Regional Force Company, 1 Popular Force plt of 781 Regional Force Co. Purpose - Try to determine VC participation in killing of hamlet chief.

150950H, LVT B-11 destroyed by land mine Booby Trap while in support of 9th Marines at Marble Mountain BT 064709. 3 WIA.

151815H, Two rounds of S/A fire from vicinity of post #9.

152330H, Received VC activity SITREP by voice from 3d Tank Bn.

16 Aug 1965: Commanding Officer and S-3 Chief to 9th Marines CP for Security Conference regarding period 18-21 Aug.

162315H, Vietnamese voices and yelling to south of our CP followed by firing from 3d Anti Tank Bn area.

162317H, Rifle, MG, 90mm and flares firing from our posts 6, 7, 8, 9, Tanks and ATs. Sounded siren alarm and Bn went into Defense Condition I. Enemy small arms and MG fire were received on posts 8 & 9. Two or three Hand Grenades were exploded also. No casualties.

ENCLOSURE (1)

17 Aug 1965: 170010H, Commander of Gd reports post 5, 6, and 7 ammo has been replenished and are waiting for personnel of Co. "B" to man the lines. Our positions had fired approximately 200 rounds per Machine Gun and 1 magazine per rifle. No grenades were thrown.

170025H, Lt. SCHWARZ reported Post #8 hit by MG fire at beginning of action. No casualties.

170100H, Co. "B" reports no contact with river block LVT. Contact lost at 2400. Spot report to Senator 3.

18 Aug 1965: 181025H, H-06 to river to 4th platoon location to retrieve track.

182020H, Msg from 3d Tank Bn 3. Arvin forces sweeping our area on both sides south to north at 190430. Request we clear & lock all pieces.

182050H, Dispatched two vehicles to splash point at RR bridge on spare parts run.

182217H, 2 vehicles returned to CP from river crossing.

19 Aug 1965: B-08 to 4th plt area with 2/9 to fix stub shafts on B-47.

191850H, Fireteam patrol departed to Tank Bn.

20 Aug 1965: 200150H, From Cpl of the Guard. Reports post #8 sighted 2 men are engaged in fire fight.

200155H, Submitted spot report to Senator.

202220H, FM 9th Marines 2 - Liaison RPTS VC main force unit with standard infantry weapons and claymore mines, with mixed uniforms, in position 3 days. Location (1) Co. AT(950630) (2) Plt AT(956628) (1) Sq AT(943671). 81mm Mortars No. unk at 955625. Rating B-2.

21 Aug 1965: 212020H, B-42 is stuck in river (AT 005708) and B-48 is going to it's assistance B-42 reports light S/A fire. Bravo 6 for action.

212030H, Lt. BENNETT is at B-42 - No S/A fire, vehicle under tow - will call R-1 if needed.

22 Aug 1965: Sgt of the Guard (Sgt BROWN, H&S Co.) was notified to inform the Guard on Post No. 1, 8, & 9 that the Patrol (Friendly) in that sector were secured, and there should be no activity in that sector.

23 Aug 1965: 230520H, Sgt of Gd reported Post #5 sighted Vietnameses between Post #5 and 3d MT Bn POS was sighted by ignited trip flare cause of flare ignition U/K. Sgt of Gd instructed to keep suspect under surveillance with spot light; suspect fled when flare ignited, Sgt Gd reported.

ENCLOSURE(1)

231830H, 14 man patrol conducted a search mission in Phong Lo Bac Village. The patrol was led by Lt. HANNIGAN and accompanied by Senator 2, Dream 2 plus 2 civil police and 4 RVN Soldiers. Patrol picked up one RVN deserter. Deserter was turned over to Senator 2 for action.

24 Aug 1965: 242135H, A heavy volume of fire started in the vicinity of Dog Patch. Cannot get any info from 9th Marines due to their lines being held for priority calls only.

242150H, 3d Tank Bn 3 notified us that 9th Marines advised them that the 242135H entry was small arms fire into the ammo dump from the trash dump. 9th Marines are investigating.

25 Aug 1965: 252105H, Cpl PORCH to splash point with repair parts for LVT.

252140H, Cpl PORCH returned to CP from Bridge.

252250H, Heard small arms fire, and three loud explosions New ARVN Trng Center, info - 9th Marines.

26 Aug 1965: 260008H, Guard instructed to keep 100% alert.

260445H, Cmdr of the Guard reported Frag grenade detonated 75 yards front of post #6 - our own booby trap, No activity sighted.

260545H, 2 Bravo LVTs departed CP.

260715H, Sgt of Guard reported that they checked booby trap. They found a large crater but no other evidence.

261405H, FM: Sgt of the Guard - Post #6 request permission to remove or (Chop down) trees impairing their observation of sector of responsibility.

261410H, TO: Sgt of the Guard - Ref DTG 261405H; permission granted.

261500H, FM: 2/9 - RPTS LVT stuck at bridge.

27 Aug 1965: 270015H, MSG from Monroe. "Switch to alternate countersign". Passed to Cpl MCADAMS for delivery to Sgt of Guard.

270035H, 9th Marines called to confirm that we had received the above MSG from Monroe.

272300H, Sgt of the Guard reports movement in front of posts 2 & 3. The area is being illuminated but no definite contact has been made.

272305H, Post #9 reports movement about 20 yards in front of wire in the tree line. No contact.

28 Aug 1965: 281330H, Lt. SCHWARZ departed the area with 4 tractors on a route Recon patrol.

282154H, Drill - sounded air raid alarm and Defense Condition I whistle. Notified Company "B" & guard to notify us when perimeter is manned & ready.

ENCLOSURE (1)

282203H, CP #2 (BRAVO) checked in.
282205H, Company "B" checked in.
282214H, Bravo CP manned & ready.
282220H, H&S Company manned & ready.
282230H, Secure from drill.
282358H, B-05, B-40, & B-41 departed this CP enroute to 1/9

CP.

29 Aug 1965: 291100H, 2 LVTE-1 to 1/9 at Marble Mountain.

30 Aug 1965: 301330H, LVTE-1 to CP SSgt BOBBIO was NCOIC.
1/9 XO did not have a mission for them. At Appx 291600H 1/9
closed their CP and proceeded to leave the area. No one from 1/9
gave any instructions to SSgt BOBBIO and he was left to his own
devices. He radioed in and we told him to move to the ferry land-
ing await high tide at 301200H and proceed to Dream CP by river.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Daily Situation Reports NIF
2. Work Sheets NIF
3. Journals NIF
4. Maps NIF

ENCLOSURE (1)