

G-3

HEADQUARTERS
1st Engineer Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3:RP:mpc
5750
5 Sep 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
Subj: Command Chronology
Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2A

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, 1st Engineer Battalion (-), 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF, with Appendices A and B

1. The command chronology of the 1st Engineer Battalion (-), 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF, for the month of August 1966, appended hereto as enclosure (1), is hereby submitted in accordance with reference (a).

C. O. Newton
C. O. NEWTON

TAB (//) TO APPENDIX A TO ENCLOSURE (1)
TO 1ST MARDIV LTR SER: 00218-66

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY1. Organizational Data

a. First Engineer Battalion (-), 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

b. Location

- (1) Headquarters and Service Company (-), Chu Lai
- (2) Support Company (-), Chu Lai
- (3) Company "A" (Rein), Da Nang
- (4) Company "B" (-), Chu Lai
- (5) Second Platoon, Company "B" with First Battalion, 5th Marines
- (6) Company "C" (-), Chu Lai
- (7) First Platoon, Company "C" with First Battalion, 7th Marines

c. Period covered. 1 August 1966 to 31 August 1966d. Command and Staff Officers

Commanding Officer	LtCol Maj	J. R. AICHELE (1-19Aug66) C. O. NEWTON (20-31Aug66)
Executive Officer	Maj Maj	F. P. KUNKLE (1-2Aug66) C. O. NEWTON (3-19Aug66)
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj SgtMaj	G. W. SHAW (1-20Aug66) N. G. MILLS (21-31Aug66)
Adjutant/S-1	1stLt	F. H. STRIKER
S-2/Legal Officer	1stLt	R. OSBORNE
S-3 Officer	Maj	R. PETROFF
S-4 Officer	Capt	J. J. KIRKPATRICK
H&S Company/Supply Officer	Capt	W. D. SMITH
Support Company	Capt	D. R. HINES
Company "A" (Rein)	Capt	G. R. MEIBAUM
Company "B"	Capt	T. P. KILDAY
Company "C"	Capt	J. T. KOMAR
Resident OICOC Div CP	Capt	F. J. COX

Enclosure (1)

e. Average Strength

USMC	
OFF	ENL
33	607

USN	
OFF	ENL
1	11

2. Commander's Narrative Summary

a. The First Engineer Battalion (-) was in general support of the 1st Marine Division. Company "A", OPCON, 3rd Engineer Battalion, was in direct support of the 1st Marines at Da Nang. The Battalion participated in two (2) major operations, COLORADO and JACKSON. Minefield breaching and demolitions teams were provided on a continuous basis to Company "D", 1st Battalion, 7th Marines; and Companies "I", "L", and "M" of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. These teams are physically located with these units. Road construction continued on the peninsula road for the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, BT 620013-BS 712978. Construction of a bypass for Company "I", 7th Marines in vicinity of BS 572965 was commenced. The road within the 7th Marines regimental CP was widened and raised, and the drainage improved, which included the construction of four (4) culverts. Repair and/or construction of by-passes and bridges on Route 1 between coordinates BT 229318 and BS 645728 has been continuous during this period. The Battalion issued 2,073,490 gallons of potable water and 1,474,250 gallons of shower water. The Demolition and Land Mine Warfare School training 381 Marines during the month of August. *ed*

3. Detailed Description of Significant Eventsa. Personnel

(1) On 2 August 1966, the 3rd Platoon of Company "B" arrived at Chu Lai from BLT 3/5, 7th Fleet SLF, and reverted to OPCON/ADCON 1st Engineer Battalion.

(2) On 10 August 1966, the 1st Platoon of Company "A" returned to the company area at Da Nang from Phu Bai where it has been in direct support of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.

(3) Effective 15 August 1966, this organization commenced Battalion level administration.

b. Intelligence

(1) Road and Bridge Reconnaissance. Continuous reconnaissance of secondary roads and bridges within and outside the TAOR was conducted by the Battalion and the results forwarded to the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division.

(2) Enemy Ordnance. Information relative to the VC employment of the North Vietnamese versions of the Russian TM-41 anti-vehicular mine and Claymore AP type weapon, were obtained on 28 August 1966, from interrogation of a North Vietnamese prisoner, a member of the 5th Sapper Company,

Enclosure (1)

Unit 571, who was captured by the 7th Marine Regiment on 23 August 1966. The information obtained is appended hereto as Appendix B.

c. Training. Newly joined unqualified personnel became completely involved in on-the-job training.

d. Special Operations

(1) Operation Colorado. Company "B" (Rein) was in direct support of the 5th Marine Regiment. The 3rd Platoon (Rein) of Company "C" was in general support of the 5th Marine Regiment. A combination water point/shower point was constructed at Tam Ky at BT 287227.

(2) Operation Jackson. Company "C" (Rein) minus the 1st Platoon (Rein) was in direct support of both the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment and the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. The Battalion together with the 3rd Amphibious Tractor Battalion fired four (4) LVTE-1 line charges in support of the operation.

(3) Convoy Escorts. Engineer breaching and demolition teams supported five (5) convoys during this reporting period.

e. Water Supply. During this reporting period the Battalion operated nine water/shower points in the Chu Lai area, which produced 2,073,490 gallons of potable water and 1,474,250 gallons of shower water.

f. Road and Bridge Construction. This Battalion installed, replaced and/or repaired culverts and bypasses on Route 1 from vicinity of Tam Ky, BT 229318 to vicinity Quang Ngai BS 645728. One (1) bridge, ninety (90) feet in length and one (1) bypass bridge fifty (50) feet in length, both in the vicinity of BT 229318 (Tam Ky) were redecked. An additional earth fill bypass was also constructed in the Tam Ky area. Approximately three (3) kilometers of new military roads were constructed during this period. Continuous improvement was made on eighteen (18) kilometers of military roads in the TAOR.

g. Division CP Construction. During this reporting period the Battalion provided one (1) officer as utilities officer for maintenance of the Division Command Post.

h. Civil Affairs/Civil Action. This present area of responsibility for the Battalion in the civil affairs program are the villages of Dong Binh (1) (BT 571993) and Dong Binh (2) (BT 564002) in Quang Ngai Province. During this reporting period, 276 people received medical aid. The attitude of the villagers has remained very good during this period.

C. O. Newton
C. O. NEWTON

Enclosure (1)

REFERENCE LIST

EVENT

Information on mines and booby traps
obtained from captured member of 5th
Sapper Company, Unit 571 on 28 August
1966

REFERENCE

CO, 1stEngrBn ltr 3:RP:MZ
over 3800 of 38 Aug 1966 w/
2 encls

Appendix B to
Enclosure (1)

HEADQUARTERS
1st Engineer Battalion
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
PPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3:RP:ms
3800
30 Aug 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF (Attn: G-2)
Subj: Submission of information on mines and booby traps obtained from captured member of 5th Sapper Company, Unit 571 on 28 August 1966

Encl: (1) Drawing of North Vietnamese version of Russian TM-41 anti-vehicular mine and fuse
(2) Drawing of North Vietnamese Claymore AP type weapon

1. On 28 August, Second Lieutenant D. E. PENMAN, Officer-In-Charge of the 1st Marine Division Landmine Warfare School, with the assistance of an interrogator and interpreter from the 9th Interrogation and Translation Team, interrogated a North Vietnamese prisoner captured by the 7th Marine Regiment on 23 August. The prisoner was identified as Nguyen Van Due (AKA VAN HUONG), a member of the 5th Sapper Company, Unit 571. The primary purpose of the interrogation was to gain information regarding VC techniques on the employment of mines and booby traps.

2. The following information was considered relevant and accurate based on information already on hand and cross examination of the subject.

a. From sketches made by the prisoner, it was determined that the mines employed for the destruction of the two (2) vehicles on the M/3/7 road (Coordinates BS589925) on 23 August, were copies of the Russian TM-41 anti-vehicular mine shown in enclosure (1). The prisoner stated that these mines were manufactured in North Vietnam and that approximately fifty (50) of these mines were brought to South Vietnam by members of his company.

b. Sketches were made by the prisoner of an heretofore unknown (to this organization) type of North Vietnamese directional-type AP weapon (Claymore) as shown in enclosure (2). The prisoner stated that this weapon has an effective range of one hundred (100) meters, and that approximately twenty (20) of these weapons were brought to South Vietnam by the 5th Sapper Company.

c. The prisoner possessed a knowledge of command fired mines and the fundamentals of electric firing systems. He stated that he had been taught to fire command fired mines when our detector teams approached them so as not to risk their detection or removal.

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3600

Subj: Submission of information on mines and booby traps obtained from captured member of 5th Sapper Company, Unit 571 on 28 August 1966

In regard to patterns, he stated that he was taught to only place anti-vehicular mines in the tracks of roads and not on shoulders or turn-offs.

d. The prisoner stated that he was taught to cover AT mines with approximately 1/2 inch of salt and three (3) inches of soil. The salt allegedly precludes the mine from being detected by our electronic mine detectors. Tests conducted by this organization indicated that covering or packing a metallic mine in salt in no way affects the capability of our mine detectors, i.e. the salt serves no useful purpose.

e. When questioned on the marking of mine fields or individual mines, the prisoner stated that he was not taught any methods of marking nor had he ever used any of the known VC methods of marking mined areas.

f. The prisoner was familiar with the 2-10 AP mine and stated that his unit possessed approximately twenty (20) of these mines when they arrived in South Vietnam. He stated that these mines were designed with less than one (1) second delay.

g. The prisoner stated that he had received instructions on the following mines, but had never used them and that they were not available to his unit.

- (1) M2A4 U. S. AP Mine
- (2) M18A1 U. S. AP Weapon (Claymore)
- (3) Russian VPP Pull Fuse

h. The prisoner claimed no knowledge of the M-16 U. S. AP Mine or of the Chicom type MOV Pull Fuse. The MOV type pull fuse is of a common type and is known to be used in South Vietnam by the VC.

C. O. NEWTON

Copy to:
G-4
Division Engineers
Commanding Officer, 9th Interrogation and Translation Team