

3:RP:mz 5750 5 Jan 1967

From: Commanding Officer

To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Ref: (a) Div0 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 December 1966, appended hereto as enclosure (1), is hereby submitted in accordance with reference (a).

Collecton NEWTON

1 et English

# COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

# 1. 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", Da Nang
  - (6) Company "C", Chu Lai
- c. Period Covered. 1 December to 31 December 1966
- d. Command and Staff Officers

Command ing Officer	Maj	C. O. NEWTON
Executive Officer	Maj	J. C. FLOYD
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj	F. C. TOMAN
S-1/Adjutant	2ndLt 2ndLt	F. H. STRIKER (1-14) J. MOUTON (15-31)
S-2	1stLt	D. N. TOTH
S-3	Maj	R. PETROFF
S-4	Capt	J. J. KIRKPATRICK
S-5	Capt	R. OSBORNE
Supply Officer	Capt	T. E. BYRNE
Communications Officer	1stLt	R. J. BARETELA
Medical Officer	Lt	J. A. BACKER
H&S Company	Capt	R. OSBORNE



Support Company	Maj	P. J. SHANK
Company "A" (Rein)	Capt	H. E. ITCHKAWITCH
Company "B"	Capt	R. W. FALKENBACH
Company "C"	Capt	H. L. LUTTRELL
Average Strength		i, ,

a. Average Strength

USMC USN

OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
	•	w •	
26	593	1	13

### 2. Commander's Narrative Summary

The First Engineer Battalion minus "A" Company (Rein), the second platoon of "B" Company, and one (1) officer and nineteen (19) men from "C" / Company, was in general support of Task Force X-Ray at Chu Lai. Company "A" (Rein) and the second platoon of "B" Company were in general support of the First Marine Division. One (1) officer and nineteen (19) men from Company "C" were under the operational control of the Chu Lai Defense Command. The Battalion (-) participated in one (1) major operation and five (5) small unit operations and provided engineer support to six (6) convoys during this period. The Battalion (-) swept a total of 615.5 kilometers of roads in the Fifth and Seventh Marine Regiments' TAORS. "A" Company (Rein) swept a total of 490 kilometers of roads in the Da Nang TAOR. Heavy rain throughout the month resulted in deterioration of existing roads and bypasses and delayed and hampered new road construction. Further difficulties were resultant from limited earth moving capability due to deadlined and short equipment. Adverse weather conditions have also increased equipment maintenance requirements. Unique to the Battalion since its arrival in RVN, was commencement of a mine clearance project of a defensive position located at BT400150, and occupied by a unit of the First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment. The minefield is alleged to have been installed by RF's or PF's approximately two (2) years ago. No charts or definite information regarding the limits of the minefield nor the type and number of mines installed is available. The nature of the terrain, its use, and the unknown ordnance involved, do not permit use of expedient clearance methods, but rather require use of the deliberate method, i.e. probing and use of electronic detectors. The project was begun on 31 December 1966; detailed information will be included in the Command Chronology for the month of January 1967. Also unique to the Battalion was the underwater demolition of rock formations in the Song Tra Bong River, located at BT621004. Demolition of the rocks was required to facilitate beaching the LCM supporting the First Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, at that location. Work

was completed in two (2) days. Numerous man hours were expended during the month in preparation for embarkation. Efforts of the construction platoon were almost completely devoted to such projects as cabinets, special boxes, etc. Urgency also dictated that the platoon construct a great number of mount out boxes. "A" Company (Rein) constructed two (2) command type bunkers for the Third Battalion, First Marine Regiment, one (1) 20' x 30' and another 10' x 12'. Improvement continued on the perimeter defense of both the Battalion (-) and "A" Company (Rein). Existing bunkers and protective wire were rehabilitated and several new bunkers were constructed. The Battalion (-) and "A" Company (Rein) devoted a combined total of 7,200 man hours to area security watches.

### 3. Detailed Description of Significant Events

#### a. Personnel

- (1) Strength. One (1) Marine Officer and thirty-two (32) enlisted men were dropped and/or rotated to CONUS. Zero (0) Marine officers and 104 enlisted men were joined during the month.
- (2) <u>Casualties</u>. The Battalion sustained a total of five (5) WIA's for this period.

#### b. Intelligence

- (1) Road and Bridge Reconnaissance. Continuous reconnaissance was made of all roads and bridges within the Task Force X-Ray TAOR. Periodic reconnaissance of Highway 1 was made bounded on the North by BT174420 and on the South by BS737533.
- (2) <u>Enemy Ordnance</u>. A total of six (6) enemy mines/ booby traps were located during the month. All six (6) mines were destroyed in place.
- (3) <u>Tunnel Destruction</u>. Approximately ten (10) meters of tunnels of various sizes were destroyed with demolitions.

#### c. Training

- (1) Newly joined unqualified personnel became completely involved in on-the-job training.
- (2) Ninety-seven (97) men attended Division Land Mine Warfare and Demolition School and received instruction in mine sweep procedures and techniques.

#### d. Special Operations

(1) Operation SUTTER. The first squad of the First Platoon of "B" Company provided close combat support to the First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment minus two (2) letter companies during the period 30 November

- 10 December 1966. See Appendix B.
- (2) Operation SIERRA. "C" Company minus the first and second platoons and reinforced by detachments from H&S, Support, and "B" Companies began direct support of the Seventh Marine Regiment minus the First and Third Battalions (Rein) on 11 December. Engineer efforts have been primarily concerned with road and bridge maintenance and rehabilitation, convoy support, and close combat support. A water point was also established at the LSA located at the Quang Ngai airfield on the second day of the operation and has been in production since that time. Termination date of the operation is unknown.
- e. <u>Water Supply</u>. During this reporting period, the Battalion (-) operated seven (7) water/shower points, one (1) water point, and two (2) shower points. 1,336,975 gallons of potable water and 1,058,905 gallons of shower water were produced.
- f. Road and Bridge Construction. 4,000 meters of roads and bypasses were rehabilitated in the Task Force X-Ray TAOR. Road rehabilitation included installation of 150 linear feet of 36" corrugated sheet steel culvert, placement of 7,500 cubic yards of sand and earth fill, and 335 cubic yards of quarried rock. See Appendix B.
- g. <u>Division Land Mine Warfare and Demolition School</u>. Marines trained during the month of December are as follows:

Infantry 360 Engineer 97 Other 153

# h. Civil Affairs/Civic Action

- (1) Medical Treatment. 321 people from the village of Phuoc An, located at BT572015, were provided medical aid.
- (2) Other. The school at the village was completed on 8 December and dedicated on 10 December 1966. Brigadier General W. A. STILES, Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray was guest of honor.

# REFERENCE LIST

EVENT

Operation SUTTER

Construction/Rehabilitation/IMWS

REFERENCE

Company "B" AA Rpt of 15Dec66

Miscellaneous photographs

DOCUMENTATION

Appendix B with Tabs 1-13

APPENDIX B





# "B" ComPany lst Engineer Battalion lst Marine Division (Rein) FWEd FPO, San Francisco California 96602

GAK/jtd 15 Dec 1966

From: Squad Leader, First Squad, First Platoon, "B" Company

To: Commanding Officer, First Engineer Battalion

Via: Commanding Officer, "B" Company

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report

Ref: (a) Map of Vietnam, Tra Bong, Sheet 6739 IV, Series L7014 (b) Map of Vietnam, Tien Phuoc, Sheet 6639 I, Series L7014

Encl: (1) Individual Mine/Booby-trap Incident Report 03 Dec 1966 (2) Individual Mine/Booby-trap Incident Report 06 1400H Dec 1966

- (3) Individual Mine/Booby-trap Incident Report 06 1900# Dec 1966
- 1. Code Mame. Operation "Sutter", Search and Destroy Operation.
- 2. Dates of Operation. 30 1700H Nov 66 to 10 1230H Dec 66
- 3. Location. Quan Ly Tin area, approximately five (5) miles south west of Eili 54 (EF 395145).
- 4. Control or Command meadquarters.
  - A. Commanding Officer, First Battalion, Fifth Parines, Pajor P. L. HILGARTNER.
  - B. Commanding Officer, H & S Company, First Battalion, Fifth Marines Captain F. M. Kauffan.
  - U. Commanding Officer, "C' Company, First Battalion, Fifth Farines Captain M. B. DaRLING.
  - D. Commanding Officer, "D" Company, First Battalion, Fifth Farines Captain J. J. CaRfy.
- 5. <u>Task Organization</u>. First Squad, consisting of Squad Leader and eight (8) enlisted personnel with Companies "C", "D", and H&S Company, First Battalion, Fifth Marines.
- 6. Supporting Forces. Not Applicable.
- 7. Intelligence. Approximately 2500 Viet Cong reported in the area of operation. Units were warned to expect Booby-traps. There was moderate enemy contact and three (3) Booby-traps were found. The terrain provided good cover for ambushes. The weather was very inclement, consisting of heavy rain and low overcast.
- 8. Mission. To provide direct combat engineer support to Companies "C", "D", and "Has" Company, First Battalion, Fifth Parines.
- 9. Concept of Operation.
  A. One four man team attached to Company "C"

#### DECLASSIFIED





- One four man team attached to Company "D".
- C. Squad leader attached to "Has" Company.
- 10. Execution. 30 Nov 1966- Warning order was received by Company "B", First Engineer Battalion of a search and destroy operation by Companies "C", "D", and "Res" Company, First Battalion, commencing 30 Nov 1956 and ending about 10 Dec 1966
  - A. One Engineer squad was required.
  - B. 30 Nov 1966- No angineer activity.
- U. 01 Dec 1966- One (1) Dud 2.5 inch folding fin Focket was found . and destroyed using two and one quarter (2) pounds of c-4. Coordinates are unknown.
- D. 02 Dec 1966- Twenty-four (24) cases of U-rations were ordered destroyed by "H&S" Company Commander, fifteen (15) pounds of C-4 were used to burn the C-rations which had been delivered to the wrong landing zone. Coordinates are unknown.
- E. 03 Dec 1966- One (1) cave ten (10) feet long, ten (10) feet wide and three (3) feet high was destroyed at BT 339089 using firteen (15) pounds of C-4. The cave was located under a house. A booby-trap consisting of two (2) N-79 rounds and an M-14 trigger housing group was destroyed using one half (1/2) pounds of C-4. See encl (1). A twenty (20) foot long covered trench was destroyed at BT 342088 using forty (40) pounds of C-4.
- F. 04 Dec 1966- No Engineer activity. One Engineer was evacuated by Helicopter because of torn ligaments suffered from jumping in a hole during a fire fight.
  - G. 05 Dec 1966- No Engineer activity.
- H. 06 Dec 1966- Cut two (2) trees using seven (7) pounds of C-4 for a landing zone. Located in vicinity of Thanh Hoa (1) BY 327114. One (1) Z-10 Chinese hand grenade was destroyed at BT 337114 by pulling trip wire, see encl (2). One (1) M-26 hand grenade was disarmed at BT 337114 see encl (3). Company "C" and "H&S" Company returned to Hill 54 by Helicopters. At ached Engineers also returned to Hill 54 and were detached to return to First Engineer Battalion area.
  - I. 07 Dec 1966- No Engineer activity.
  - J. 08 Dec 1966- No Engine ractivity.
- K. 09 Dec 1966- Four (4) Dud 60 MM mortar rounds, one (1) Dud 81 MM mortar round, one (1) Dud LAAW, and two (2) Dud M-26 hand grenades were destroyed at BF 315097 using ten (10) pounds of C-4.
- L. 10 Dec 1966- to Engineer activity. The operation secured at 1230, 10 Dec 1956 at Hill 54.
- 11. Results.
  - A. One (1) Engineer casualty.
  - B. No ingineer equipment lost or destroyed.
  - C. Ninety (90) pounds of C-4 utilized on operation.
- 12. Administrative letters.
  - A. Resupply varied due to inclement weather.
    B. There was adequate transportation.
- C. Communications Engineers were not permitted to relay daily situation reports to First Engineer Battalion. .
- 13. Special Equipment and Techniques.
  - A. Scout dogs used to interrogate prisoners. Effectiveness-excellent.

# DECLASSIFIED





Not Applicable.

Recommendations. Mone. 15.

Ru Daldenbart
G. A. KAUCHER for
CP1 USMO





# . INDIVIDUAL MINE /-BOOBY TRAP INCIDENT REPORT

REPORTING UNIT CODE 11404 MONTH, DATE, & TIME OF INCIDENT 04 Dec 1966 1030H

REMARKS

Exact Method of detonation unknown.

# TACTICAL SITUATION AT TIME OF REPORT

(Operation Sutter) Search and Destroy Mission.

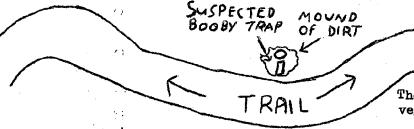
#### IDENTIFICATION OF COMPONENTS OF DEVICE

The Booby-trap was made up of two (2) M 79 rounds; M 14 Trigger housing group in side a tin can; Also another can with a lid was behind it.

#### LOCATION OF DEVICE IN RELATION TO GROUND

The Booby-trap was hadeted on a small mound of dirtiin the curve of the trail. The device was set to go off about knee-high.

SKETCH INDICATING LOCATION OF DEVICE IN RELATION TO PERSONNEL, TERRAIN, MANMADE FEATURES. IF A ROAD INCIDENT, INDICATE WIDTH, SURFACE MATERIAL, AND CONDITION OF ROAD.



The trail was muddy with thick vegetation on both sides.

SKETCH OF METHOD OF EMPLACEMENT

6"DIA TIM CAN MOUN D LID CLOSED OF DIAT CONTENTS UNKNOWN M79. WIRE ROUND b" DIA. 8"HIGH TRIGGER TIN CAN OPENEND HOUSING Grove RAIL TRAIL

SKETCH OF WARNING INDICATORS IN AREA

NONE

Submitted by LCpl MONEY, WILLIAM G. Name, Grade/Rank, Org, Title "B"CO. 1st Engineer Battelion

ENCL -1 .

FORM # 8092

- 1

BODY ARMOR

UNKNOWN

NO

O N/A

INJURY LOCATION

I. HEAD AND RECK

4.LEGS AND FEET

S.ARMS AND HANDS

S.ABDOMEN AND GROIN

2.UPPER TORSO

DECLASSIFIED

: •





REPORTING MONTH, DATE, & TIME OF INCIDENT 06 Dec 66 1400H UNIT CODE 11404 REMARKS The trip wire was descovered by the infantry because the green string (trip wire), stood out against the brown soil in the trail and because of the stick coming out of the Punji-pit. TACTICAL SITUATION AT TIME OF REPORT Searcheand Destroy Mission, "Operation Sutter". IDENTIFICATION OF COMPONENTS OF DEVICE Z-10 Chinese Hand Grenade and trip wire. LOCATION OF DEVICE IN RELATION TO GROUND The Grenade was lying in the grass. Rock 4Z-10 Gřass SKETCH INDICATING LOCATION OF DEVICE IN RELATION TO PERSONNEL, MANMADE FEATURES. IF A ROAD INCIDENT, INDICATE WIDTH, SURFACE MATERIAL, AND CONDITION OF ROAD. Stick- Eighteen (18) inches above the ground. Grass up to Four (4) Camouflaged Punji-pit. Four (4) ft. by Four ft. high this side of the trail (4) ft. by Four (4) ft. TROOPS SKETCH OF METHOD OF EMPLACEMENT SKETCH OF WARNING INDICATORS IN AREA None Discovered. Submitted by Pfc REYNOLDS. Name, Grade/Rank, Org, Title "B"Co 1st Engineer Bn.

	DIVIDUAL			OOBY	TRAP	INCIDE	ENT F	REPO	RT_			ć	•										CODES DEVICE TYPE	METHOD OF DETONATION
*	REPORTIUNIT CO	ING XDE	4	ا ا ا ا	MONTH	<del>                                      </del>		4 C	0		B	 <b>OCA</b>	TION	1	1 .	D. 4	22	81	0 2	LBS)			I. MINE 2. BOOBY TRAP 3. OTHER 4. UNKNOWN	I. M.A. 2. DISARMED OR DESTROYEO 3. TRIPWIRE 4. PRESSURE 5. ELECTRICAL 6. COMMAND 7. OTHER
1	MOD OF FOMATION 3		GER ICLES AGED	28 30 32 34 36	VEHICL		UNITESCRIP	TION	UNIT 0 39	o 3	_	IM BEI		] [		FDLY	E LAST PASSA H			METHA 52		80	VEHICLE DAMAGE A TWO NUMBER COD GIVES VEHICLE TYPE EXTENT OF DAMAGE TYPE 3.5/4T 4.21/2T 6.1/2T 7. TANK 8. ONTOS 9. OTHER	
	REPORTI UNIT CO UNIT CO UNIT CO		TIM	*		KIA L	16 21 26 31 36		INJUI	RYONS	41 42 43 44 45		WIA	48 53 58 63 68		LOCA	JURY	IS	8 AF 73 74 75 76 77	ODY	80	] .	UNIT DESCRIPTION  I. DEFENSIVE POSITI 2. PATROL 3. AMBUSH 4. BLOCKING POSITI 5. SECURITY PORCE 6. SWEEPING PORCE 7. OTHER  VIETNAMESE 1. NOWE IN AREA 2. HOSTILE 5. MIDIPPERENT 4. PRIENDLY 3. REPORTED PRES	2.PLATOON 3.COMPANY ON 4.OTHER

Y YES ... NO ... UNKNOWN O N/A

INJURY LOCATION
I. MEAD AND RECK
2.UPPER TORSO
3.ABDOMEN AND GROW
4.LEGS AND FEET
5.ARMS AND MANDS

DECLASSIFIED



MONTO MINE / BOOK TRAP INCIDENT RI	EPORT -
REPORTING	MONTH, DATE, & TIME
UNIT CODE 11404	OF INCIDENT 06 Dec 1966 1900H
REMARKS	/
The trip wire was discovered by the infa	ntry because the green string (trip wire),
stood out against the brown soil of the	
which are normally searched closely for I	Bobby-traps.
14 A	
<b>:</b> 1	
TACTICAL SITUATION AT TIME OF REPORT	
TACTICAL STITUATION AT TIME OF REPORT	
*:	
Search and Destroy Mission, "Operation St	itter".
IDENTIFICATION OF COMPONENTS OF DEVICE	E
	·
M 26 Fragmentation Grenade and trip wire.	
	,
LOCATION OF DEVICE IN RELATION TO GRO	JND
About Seven (7) inches above the ground.	•
SKETCH INDICATING LOCATION OF DEVICE I	N RELATION TO PERSONNEL TERRAIN
MANMADE FEATURES. IF A ROAD INCIDENT	, INDICATE WIDTH, SURFACE MATERIAL,
AND CONDITION OF ROAD, OPEN CATE	
OX XVX XX	
70.00	10000
	M 26 Granade- Hidden in the undergrowth about One (1) foot from
End of trip wire	1 11 1 13 112 10 11 1 11 11 12
anchored in brush.	\$
TRAIL	
SKETCH OF METHOD OF EMPLACEMENT	SKETCH OF WARNING INDICATORS IN AREA
,	
BRUSH	None Discovered.
ERUSH ERUSH	
J. K.	
$ \mathcal{A} \mathcal{D}_{\alpha} $	
TRIP WIRE MASO	
1/11/ INTO WIRE /M36	

Submitted by Pfc REYNOLDS, E.

Name, Grade/Rank, Org, Title
"B"Co 1st Engineer Bn.

ENG (3)

TRAIL

2

FORM # 8092	оову	TRAP	INCIDENT	REPORT	**************************************								CODES DEVICE TYPE	METHOD OF DETONATION
REPORTING UNIT CODE		MONTH	0 6	TIME	) 	вт	ocation	1 1	DEVICE TYPE 4 2 22	DEVICE SIZE (LB 0 1 23	s)		2.BOOSY TRAP 3.OTHER 4.UNKNOWN	I. N/A 2. DISARMED OR DESTROYED 3. TRIPWIRE 4. PRESSURE 5. ELECTRICAL 6. COMMAND 7. OTHER 8. UNKNOWN
THOD NUMBER VEHICLES DAMAGED  3 25 26	28 30 32 34 36	VEHICLI		RIPTION U	NIT SIZE		JMBER SONNEL ARVN	FRI	E SINCE LAST ENDLY PASSAGE D H		TNAME 52	80	VEHICLE DAMAGE  A TWO NUMBER COOL GIVES VEHICLE TYPE EXTENT OF DAMAGE TYPE 1.1/4T TRUCK 2.1/2T 3.3/4T 4.21/2T 5.37 6.LVT 7.TAMK 8.ONTOS 9.OTMER	
REPORTING UNIT CODE	1E		3	LOCA 6		BODY ARMO	WIA FR 46	48 53 58 63 68	INJURY	73 74 75 76	OR ] [	ю .	I. DEFENSIVE POSITIO  2. PATROL  3. AMBUSH  4. BLOCKING POSITIO  5. SECURITY PORCE  6. SWEEPING FORCE  7. OTHER  VIETNAMESE  L. NOWE IN AREA  2. HOSTILE  3. MOSPILE  4. PREMOLY  5. REPORTED PRESE	NI 1. SQUAD 2. PLATOON 3. COMPANY N. 4. OTHER
				IMJURY LO I. HEAD AN 2. UPPER T 3. ABDOMEN 4. LEGS AM 5. ARMS AM	D MECK GRSO AND GROIN D FEET				SODY ARMOR Y YES N RO - UNKNOWN O N/A	•				

1

DECLASSIFIED