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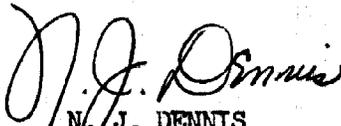
HEADQUARTERS

3rd Engineer Battalion(-)(Rein)(Fwd)
3rd Marine Division (Fwd), FMF
FPO, San Francisco, California
96601

NJD/JGC/rec
3000
5 June 1965

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Fwd), FMF (Attn: G-3)
Subj: Command Diary for period 1-31 May 1965
Ref: (a) MCO 3480.1
(b) CG 9TH MEB Order 5750.1
Encl: (1) Command Diary for 3rd Engr Bn (Fwd)

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), and in compliance with reference (b), the subject report is hereby submitted as enclosure (1).


N. J. DENNIS

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COMMAND DIARY

PART I

Designation

3rd Engineer Battalion(-)(Rein)
(Forward)
3rd Marine Division (Forward), FMF

Commanding Officer

LtCol Nicholas J. DENNIS, USMC

Location

Located within the Engineer Tent Camp area and military compound on the northeast side of the Danang Airfield, Republic of Vietnam.

Subordinate Units

- (a) Company "C" 7th Engineer Bn
- (b) Company "A", 3rd Engineer Bn

PART IINarrative Statement

The Brigade Engineer Group continued to provide engineer support during the month of May to the 3rd Marine Division (Fwd) and the III Marine Amphibious Force as well as regimental and the separate battalions. The headquarters section was expanded with the installation of an S-3/S-4 section under the direction of Major B. A. KAASMANN (Major KAASMANN relieved Major W. G. BATES as CO on 13May65). Major KAASMANN was relieved as CO of the 3rd Engineer Bn (Fwd) upon the arrival of LtCol N. J. DENNIS on 31May65. The Company Commanders during the month were Captain J. G. CELLI (Co "C" 7th Engrs) and Captain L. A. TAYLOR (Co "A" 3rd Engrs). An additional number of personnel have been requested from 3rd Engr Bn (Rear) to augment the headquarters section. During a bridge reconnaissance being conducted for 1st Bn 3d Marines the patrol was ambushed with a one-hour fire fight ensuing. 1st Lt G. A. HECKSCHER (Co "A") was wounded in the chest by shrapnel. He was evacuated to the Collecting & Clearing Company at Danang Airbase and was later evacuated to Clark AFB, Philippines. The prognosis on Lt HECKSCHER is good. The engineering capabilities of the 3rd Engr Bn (Fwd) have been seriously hampered due to deploying nine M-51 dump trucks, two 550 motor graders, six

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TD-18 tractors and two 10-yard scrapers with 16 marines to Chu Lai in support of Company "B", 3rdEngrBn. This organization was redesignated from Brigade Engineer Group (BEG) to Force Engineer Group (FEG) on 6May65 (auth CG III MAF msg 101808Z and CG 3dMarDiv msg 060906Z). Redesignation was again directed on 20May65 by authority of CG III MAF msg 200931Z redesignating this organization from Force Engineer Group (FEG) to the 3rd Engineer Battalion(-)(Rein) (Fwd). During the month of May there were two purple heart awards made to members of Company "A" for wounds received while on patrols. This unit passed the Commanding Generals Inspection conducted the first week in May.

Company "C" 7thEngrBn

The 1st Platoon, commanded by 2dLt Michael J. CHUMER, constructed headwalls and culverts on the road around the base of Hill 268 and continued blasting as required. They repaired and re-inforced the deck in the Division Post Exchange, and pre-fabbed strongbacking for GP tents for the 3d MedBn detachment, ForArtGru, 9th Marines, 1stBn, 3d Marines, and for 2ndBn, 3d Marines. In addition they constructed two sheds for MAF Hq and 25 reefer sheds for FLSG. There were enclosures for portable field heads constructed for various units.

The 2nd Platoon, commanded by 2dLt Douglas A. DEMATTEO, constructed a hand rail foot-bridge in front of the MEB Headquarters, a bunker for the Commanding General as well as hot lockers for storing mine detectors and radio equipment. They continued operating the Engineer Construction Shop by cutting screen stripping for MAF Hq, constructed shipping crates for BLSG. Radio benches and telephone boxes and tables were constructed for MAF communications section. A partition and five telephone boxes were constructed for MAF G-4. Screen doors were constructed for MAF Hq and an overhead was placed in the MAG-16 Bakery. Assistance was provided to the NCB survey team at the well-drilling site. Numerous signs were constructed for various organizations. The Construction Shop continued to prefabricate strong-backing for GP tents and constructing screen doors for the tents already strongbacked.

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Some of the items constructed included clothes racks, pigeon holes, mess tables, boxes, and ladders. ~~The Motor Transport~~ (1)

The Motor Transport & Heavy Equipment platoon, commanded by CWO-2 Berle GARRIS, continued to work on the road around Hill 268 and continued to haul fill dirt and construct an earth platform for water storage tanks. They leveled an area for home sites as a People-to-People project. They also constructed a road turn-around at Red Beach. The platoon constructed approximately one-half mile of road on the east slope of Hill 327. They provided assistance to the USOM well-drilling team, dug a ditch for MABS-16, and hauled fill to the top of Hill 327 for LAAM Battery. They assisted FAB with the use of the scoop loader. The Motor Transport section assisted in unloading ships by hauling cargo and FSP to be loaded aboard ship. The welders constructed metal doors and window bars for the MAF Disbursing Office and welded drums to be used as culverts for the roads to the FLSG and Medical areas. The roads up Hills 327 and 268 were continually maintained. There were earth revetments constructed for MASS-2 and assistance was provided to FLSG in earth-leveling projects. Two 420,000 gallon tanks were off-loaded from an LST along with invasion pipe. The USOM well-drillers required assistance, consisting of welding which was provided. The welders continued to cut and weld drums for culverts. Drainage ditches were dug for a shore party in FLSG. The access road to the Exchange was repaired by hauling fill and grading. ARVN trucks were loaded at the engineer barrow pit. Fill material was loaded and provided for NCB. All commitments possible that were placed by either Division Motor Transport Officer or G-4 were filled.

The Utilities platoon, under the supervision of SSgt Walter T. STANKELLIS, re-wired MAF and Division Headquarters buildings and BOQ. They wired the Disbursing Office at MAG-16 and continued to operate the MEB and MAF water and shower point. The water point and showers for 2ndBn, 3rd Marines was installed and fans in the Commanding General's Mess were wired. They replaced the pump at the RMC well and installed drainage and plumbing in the MAG-16

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Photo-Lab and installed electricity and plumbing in MAF Headquarters. They also wired the 3rd Marine Regimental CP. Water was issued to various units in an amount in excess of 500,000 gallons.

Company "A", 3rdEngrBn

The company furnished 15 demolition & mine detector teams in support of patrol action in the RLT-3 area of operations. On 19May65 Lance Corporal N. BERTOMEN became the first engineer WIA while on patrol with 2ndBn, 3rd Marines in the village of Truong Dinh. He received a gunshot wound in the calf of his right leg.

 The company also accomplished numerous bridge and route reconnaissance ~~tasks~~ in support of RLT-3. On 21May65, 1stLt G. A. HECKSCHER III received shrapnel wounds in the chest from a mine explosion while on a bridge-route recon near the village of La Chau.

The 1st Platoon was commanded by 1stLt HECKSCHER III from 1-21May65, by SSgt G. D. MC-ALLISTER from 22-26May65, and by 1stLt J. S. PARSONS from 27-31May65. The platoon worked on rehabilitation of buildings for MAF headquarters, constructed a dam on Hill 268, and constructed a messhall in the engineer area. They erected three strongbacks for MedBn, constructed a bridge in the 2ndBn, 3rd Marines area on Le My road and worked on a dam on Hill 268. They constructed an ice cream shed for MAG-16 and built a fence for a recreation area at China Beach. The platoon installed three culverts in the 2ndBn, 3d Marines area and assisted 3rd Platoon in building strongbacks in the 2ndBn, 3rd Marines mess area.

The 2nd Platoon, commanded by 1stLt S. M. CLEARY worked on rehabilitation of buildings for MAF Hq, repaired two bridges near village of Than Son in 2ndBn, 3rd Marines area and started constructing a catchment basin for the dam on Hill 327. They built strongbacks for wards and pharmacy supply for 3dMedBn, built a by-pass and reconstructed a bridge on Le-My road in the 2ndBn, 3rd Marines area. The platoon worked on the 2ndBn, 3rd Marines road, completed dam on Hill 327 and worked on Division Chief of Staff Office and War Room. They also constructed an Engineer S-3/S-4 Office.

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Also constructed were two strongbacks for 2ndBn, 3rd Marines mess area.

The 3rd Platoon, commanded by 1stLt H. F. LANGLEY worked on rehabilitation of buildings for MAF Hq, worked on Operating Room and strongbacks for 3rdMedBn and worked on projects at Division Headquarters. They also rebuilt four village gate watch towers in Da-Som, and rebuilt a bridge on Dai-La road. They also built mess tables for 2ndBn, 3rd Marines mess area and finished construction of the village gates. On 20 May 65 2ndLt T. M. RODRIGUEZ relieved 1stLt LANGLEY who rotated to Okinawa on that date.

Supporting Documents: None



N.J. DENNIS

Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding