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HEADQUARTERS

3d Engineer Battalion (Rein) (FWD)
3d Marine Division (Rein) (FWD), FMF
c/o FPO San Francisco, California 96601

NJD/JCG/cm
3000
10 August 1965

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Fwd), FMF (Attn: G-3)
Subj: Command Diary for period 1-31 July 1965

Ref: (a) MCO 3480.1
(b) CG 9th MEB Order 5750.1

Encl: (1) Command Diary for 3d Engineer Battalion

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


C. J. SMITH
Executive Officer

MARINE CORPS
HISTORICAL
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10 August 1965

COMMAND DIARY

PART I

<u>Designation</u>	3d Engineer Battalion (Rein) 3d Marine Division (Rein) (FWD) FMF
<u>Period Covered</u>	1-31 July 1965
<u>Date of Submission</u>	10 August 1965
<u>Commanding Officer</u>	Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas J. DENNIS, USMC
<u>Location</u>	Located within the Engineer Encampment area on the South- west side of the DaNang air- field, Republic of Viet Nam
<u>Subordinate Units</u>	(a) Headquarters and Service Company (b) Company "A" 3d EngrBn (c) Company "B" 3d EngrBn (d) Company "C" 3d EngrBn (e) Support Company, 3d EngrBn (f) Company "C", 7th EngrBn
Staff and Subordinate Units Commanders	(a) S-1, CWO-2 S.L. WILLIAMS (b) S-2, SGT R. A. PAINTER (c) S-3, Capt J.G. CELLI (d) S-3A, 1stLt R.J. GADWILL (e) S-4, Maj. J.P. KRAYNAK (f) S-4A, Capt J.G. DIXON (g) Sup Off, Capt E.R. MARKELL (h) Assist Sup Off, Capt R.R. McLAUGHLIN (i) Legal Off, 1stLt P.I. FAULK- ENBERRY (j) CO, Co "A", 3d EngrBn Capt L.A. TAYLOR (k) 1st Plt, Co "A", 2ndLt. B. RANTA (l) 2ndPlt, Co "A", 1stLt S.M. CLEARY (m) CO, Co "B", 3d EngrBn Capt D.R. COMER (n) XO, Co "B", 3d EngrBn 1stLt H.A. TOMPKINS (o) 1stPlt, Co "B", 2ndLt M. FELSKÉ (p) 2ndPlt, Co "B", 1stLt J. NICHOLS (q) 3rdPlt, Co "B", 2ndLt J.F. BRENNAN

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(CON'T)

- (r) HE & MT Off, Co "B", 1stLt
D. SHAW
- (s) CO, Co "C", 3d EngrBn
Capt R.F. FAUST
- (t) 1stPlt Co "C", 2ndLt J.A.
STRALEY
- (u) 2ndPlt Co "C", 2ndLt J.C.
SHUMAKER
- (v) 3rdPlt Co "C", 2ndLt T.J.
RODRIGUEZ
- (w) CO, Co "C", 7th EngrBn
Capt G.H. ROOT
- (x) 1stPlt, C-7, 2ndLt W.M. BRINK
- (y) 2ndPlt, C-7, 2ndLt D.A. DE-
MATTEO
- (z) Bridge Plt, C-7, 2ndLt R.R.
TEALL
- (aa) CO, Spt Co, 3d EngrBn
Capt D.D. CREWS
- (bb) XO, Spt Co, 3d EngrBn
Capt P.E. WESTPHAL Jr
- (cc) HE Officer, Spt Co
1stLt L. ANDERSON
- (dd) MT Officer, Spt Co
1stLt J.M. SIMPSON
- (ee) Util. Officer, Spt Co
1stLt J.M. HENNESSY
- (ff) Maint. Officer, Spt Co
CWO-2 B. GARRIS
- (gg) Assist. Maint. Officer, Spt Co
CWO-2 C.L. GUTHRIE
- (hh) CO, H&S Co/Comm Off, 3d EngrBn
1stLt J.L. WHALEY
- (ii) XO, H&S Co, 3d EngrBn
1stLt J.S. PARSONS
- (jj) Spl. Project Officer
2ndLt M.J. CHUMER

PART IINarrative Statement

During the month of July, the 3d Engineer Battalion (Rein)(FWD) continued to preform it's mission, by providing combat and service engineer support to the 3d Marine Division and it's attachments. The support was provided to Division units within all Marine enclaves in the Republic of Viet Nam.

The strength and capability of the 3d Engineer Battalion grew progressively during July.

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(CONT)

On 1 July 1965, the strength of the Battalion in Viet Nam consisted of 24 Officers and 353 enlisted men. By 31 July 1965, the strength of the Battalion more than doubled; to a strength of 37 Officers and 795 enlisted men. Along with the large personnel buildup, the engineer equipment capability increased approximately 70 percent.

During the month, the Battalion Staff became functional. The movement of Company "C", Support Company, and the greater portion of Headquarters and Service Company from Okinawa to DaNang, brought all units of the Battalion to the Republic of Viet Nam. The Headquarters of all the Battalion's companies, except for Company "B", were established within the military compound on the Southwest side of the DaNang airfield, adjacent to the Battalion CP. Company "B", continued support of the Fourth Marines at Chu Lai, Republic of Viet Nam. The Battalion maintained administrative control of Company "B", but the Company was operationally controlled by the 4th Marine Regiment.

Support Company and Company "C" joined the Battalion at Da Nang on 8 July 1965. Support Company was commanded by Captain P.E. WESTPHAL. Arriving with Captain WESTPHAL, was 1stLt J.M. HENNESSY, the Executive Officer of the Company. Company "C" commanded by Captain R.F. FAUST, joined the Battalion after the arrival of the 9th Marines at DaNang. Arriving with Company "C", was 1stLt D.W. SHAW, 1stPlt Leader, and 2ndLt J.C. SHUMAKER, 2ndPlt Leader. Lt. HENNESSY, was assigned as Utilities Officer shortly after he arrived.

Other Officers of the Battalion arriving during the month from Okinawa were 1stLt J.L. WHALEY, 1stLt P.I. FAULKENBEERY, 2ndLt B.M. RANTA, and CWO-2 S.L. WILLIAMS.

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In addition, six officers joined the Battalion during July. They are Major C.J. SMITH, Captain G.H. ROOT, Captain J.G. DIXON, Captain R.R. McLAUGHLIN, Captain D.D. CREWS, and CWO-2 C.L. GUTHRIE. 1stLt R.J. GADWILL, Executive Officer Company "B" was reassigned as Battalion S-3A. 1stLt D.W. SHAW, was reassigned from the Battalion Staff to Company "B" for duty. 1stLt C.W. WALKER, and 1stLt R.C. HEIGEL, were the only officers leaving the Battalion during July. 1stLt WALKER, was reassigned to the Provisional Airfield Defense Battalion as part of this Organization's levied augmentation. 1stLt HEIGEL, rotated to CONUS. The unit or billets to which each of the officers were assigned are given in part I of this report. Changes in assignments from those previously mentioned can also be noted in part I.

The month of July was one of concentrated engineer effort in many widely separated areas. During the first weeks of July, the Division units were displacing. Several units were required to move from within the airfield complex to outlying areas. The net result was requirements for engineer assistance, ranging from clearing new areas, constructing new roads, and providing for area drainage to disassembling strongbacks, moving, and then reconstructing them. In conjunction with developing new Camp sites and moving the Division units emphasis was continuously placed on routes of communication including road and bridge construction and rehabilitation.

As the Marine Forces increased in the DaNang area, there was constant requirements for larger and better roads for ease of movement. The requirement for proper ammunition storage was another paramount requirement.

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The Battalion became involved in establishing two large, widely separated Ammunition Storage Points. Each of these bunker areas required extensive earthmoving, road, and drainage construction.

The requirement for strongbacking GP tents for units of the Division was a continuous one. Priorities established on strongbacking medical Aid stations, galleys, messes, and critical office spaces were accomplished during the month. The short supply of building materials plagued the Battalion's ability to fulfill all requests. In addition a field sanitation program was established to provide units with prefabricated screened enclosures for heads and garbage huts. This program was again curtailed by shortages of materials, but were provided upon request when available. Each Company of the Battalion was assigned to strongbacking projects throughout the month.

The Bridge Platoon commanded by 2ndLt R.R. TEALL, was committed during the month. A ferry was rigged for operation near the downtown section of DaNang on the DaNang River. The ferry provided crossing facilities for vehicles and personnel being off loaded from ships at White Beach for duty in the DaNang enclave. The operation was discontinued later in the month when it was no longer needed. The RVN ferry operated in conjunction with the Bridge Plt ferry during the period, and is capable of handling Marine requirements satisfactorily, except when large units report in at the DaNang enclave by ship.

1stLt BRINK, 1st Plt, C-7, began work on ASP#2 for Division ammunition storage during the month. The project involves revetting seven bunkers and developing a road net and drainage system in the area.

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The selected location for the bunker is located on the Eastern slope of Hill 368, an area likely to have heavy rains and requires an intricate drainage development. The shortage of culvert material has constantly been a problem during construction of the area. At the time of this report all the bunkers have been revetted, the road net about 80% completed and about fourteen culverts placed.

Construction of the Division Command Post Bunker under the supervision of 2ndLt M.J. CHUMER, began to take shape during the month. The initial earthwork was completed during the first days of July. Then began the various phases in laying out the 40'x240' bunker and preparing the site for construction. Many long hours of work paid off as the bunker began taking shape. Uphill drainage for the bunker as well as a 12" concrete culvert along the backwall was constructed. In addition concrete footings and portions of the vast concrete slab were poured. The work on the bunker has received first priority on materials and equipment needed to get the job done.

2ndLt RANTA, started improvement of the Dai La Pass road from coordinates 944175 to 910744. The project involves widening the road and developing a drainage system that will withstand the monsoon rains later this year. Along the 2.3 miles of road many culverts must be installed and existing bridges improved. The greatest effort expended on the project was done in widening the road through the Dai La Pass. Many hours were spent drilling holes with the jackhammer so that explosive charges could be placed in the granite ledge on both sides of the road. The road is now passable to all military vehicles but still needs extensive engineer work.

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Company "A", was assigned the project of developing access roads to a selected site for the Engineer Battalion Command Post. The site selected is located on a hill mass surrounded by rice paddies and overlooked by Hill 368 on the West and Hill 262 on the South, in the vicinity of coordinates 949755. Plans for developing the area were formulated and movement to the area anticipated during the first week of August.

In addition to the specific projects mentioned, extensive work was done on all the roads and bridges in the DaNang enclave. Of special concern during the month was the road around Hills 327 and 268. The road was surfaced with laterite and drainage facilities improved upon. The road, because of its curving nature and location around the hills is going to be a maintenance problem during the heavy rainy season. During the monthly rains, in the latter part of July, experience was gained on what to expect when the seasonal rains come. Capping of this road required 14,277 cubic yards of fill hauled in 2379 truckloads.

Company "B", located in the Chu Lai enclave was involved in engineer support of the 4th Marine Regiment, doing many of the same tasks that involved the engineer companies in the DaNang area. During July, the Fourth Marine units relocated their command posts and MLR's previously established. Company "B", provided assistance in developing the new CP sites, moving and reassembling strongbacks, establishing water points and assisting in developing defensive positions on the MLR and on the combat outpost line. In conjunction with this work, the paramount requirement for resupply routes to the defensive positions and access roads to the CP's were an immediate requirement.

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On many occasions in the DaNang and Chu Lai enclaves, mine detection and demolition teams were committed to the infantry units in support of tactical operations. The teams aided in detection and destruction of the endless types of VC booby traps and fortifications. It was during these operations that five of the Battalion's Marines received wounds while engaged in operations against the enemy. Of these men two were wounded critically, requiring evacuation from the Republic of Viet Nam.

Much engineering work remains to be accomplished in the DaNang and Chu Lai enclaves before adequate military bases are developed. Continual long hours and seven day work weeks are expected to accomplish our mission. It is necessary that development of well drained roads and adequately drained camp sites be developed prior to the monsoon season. In the months ahead, the Battalion will be faced with an ever increasing requirement to provide engineer support in conjunction with the arrival of materials for the Cantonment and Bunker construction programs. The 3d Engineer Battalion can expect to be committed on a continuous basis as long as the 3d Marine Division continues operations in the Republic of Viet Nam.


C. J. SMITH
Executive Officer