

S & C FILES

3D MARINES

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1 May 1965

HEADQUARTERS
2d Battalion, 3d Marines (-)(Rein)
9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade
o/o FPO San Francisco, California 96601

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 3d Marines
Subj: Command Diary

3d Marines
Copy 3 of 7

Ref: (a) Brigade Order 3121,1 w/Ch 1

- Encl: (1) Frag Order #1 (PHU BAI)
- (2) PHU BAI Map
- (3) Overlay of DA NANG Area
- (4) Operation Order 322-65
- (5) Frag Order 1-65
- (6) Patrol Order 1-65
- (7) (2) Patrol Reports (24 April 1965)
- (8) (2) Patrol Reports (25 April 1965)
- (9) Patrol Order 2-65
- (10) Patrol Report (26 April 1965)
- (11) Frag Order 2-65
- (12) Patrol Order 3-65
- (13) (2) Patrol Reports (28 April 1965)
- (14) Patrol Order 4-65
- (15) Frag Order 3-65

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1. Organizational Data Sheet

- a. Reporting unit: 2d Battalion, 3d Marines, (-)(Rein).
- b. Period covered by report: 10 April - 1 May 1965.
- c. Date of submission of report: 1 May 1965.
- d. Name/Rank of Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel D.A. CLEMENT.
- e. Location of CP at end of period: 945774. Map 1:50,000, AMS Series No L701, Sheet No 6659 III.
- f. List of subordinate units at end of period of names/ranks of commanders of subordinate units: (See Task Organization).

Task Organization
2d Battalion, 3d Marines
RES Co (-)(Rein)
 RES Co (-)
 81mm Mort Plat (-)
 106mm RR Plat
 Det, Hq Bn, 3d Mar Div (Photo)
 Det, Comm Plat, (RR), Hq Co, 3d Mar

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LtCol CLEMENT
Capt PROCTOR

10-30 Apr 65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Company "E" (Rain)

Co "E"
FO Tn, Slim Mort Plat, H&S Co
FO Tn, Btry "B", 1st Bn, 12th Mar
Det, Mod Plat, H&S Co

Capt YADLOVSKY

Company "F" (Rain)

Co "F"
FO Tn, Slim Mort Plat, H&S Co
FO Tn, Btry "B", 1st Bn, 12th Mar
Det, Mod Plat, H&S Co

Lt HENTLEY

Company "G" (Rain)

Co "G"
FO Tn, Slim Mort Plat, H&S Co
FO Tn, Btry "B", 1st Bn, 12th Mar
Det, Mod Plat, H&S Co

Capt ANGUS

Company "H" (Rain)

Co "H"
Sec, Slim Mort Plat, H&S Co
FO Tn, Slim Mort Plat, H&S Co
FO Tn, Btry "B", 1st Bn, 12th Mar
Det, Mod Plat, H&S Co

Capt MARTIN

2d Plat (-) (Rain), Co "A", 3d AF Bn

Lt HOUSE

2d Plat (Rain), Co "A", 3d AF Bn, BMT

Lt DUNLAP

2. Narrative Summary

a. (Command Group Alpha).

(1) Immediately following the landing on D-Day, companies "F" and "G" were helilifted to PHU BAI Airstrip along with elements of H&S Company (two sections Slim Mortar Platoon, two sections Flares, and two sections 106's.) The Battalion Commander headed Command Group Alpha which consisted of the S-2, S-3, and GammO. A Command Post was established within the Eighth AFU Army Compound. Company "G" commenced patrolling activities during the evening of 11 April 1965, once the Battalion (-) had an assigned SACR. Emphasis was placed upon preventing the Viet Cong from setting up mortars within range of the compound. A section of mortars, with third platoon from Company "F" acting as security joined Company "G" on 12 April 1965. See Enclosure (1) and (2).

(2) Company "F" (-) established defensive positions around PHU BAI Airstrip on 12 April 1965 with the mission of defending the strip and providing security for ten helicopters from BMT 162. Third Platoon rejoined Company "F" on 13 April 1965. See Enclosure (2).

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(3) On order, Company "F" was helilifted to the DA NANG Area during the morning of 14 April 1965. Company "G" returned from the field on 14 April 1965 and flew to DA NANG Area that afternoon. A rear echelon remained at PHU BAI until 15 April 1965 to effect liaison with incoming units of BLT 3/4. No contact with Viet Cong insurgents was made by any unit.

b. (Command Group Bravo)

(1) Command Group Bravo, under the Executive Officer's control, established a command post at coordinates 944784 at 1600 on D-Day, 10 April 1965. (See enclosure (3)). Company "H" moved into defensive positions on hill 278 and 312, simultaneously. Units of Company "E" remained on board the USS LENAWEE and USS WASIBURNI to provide working parties. The first elements of Company "E", - Company Headquarters, 1st Platoon, and Weapons Platoon landed on 11 April 1965 and were immediately helilifted to hill 368. The third platoon of Company "E" reached hill 368 on 13 April 1965 while the 2d Platoon moved in to provide additional C.P. security. One squad was detached from 2d Platoon to Bravo Battery.

c. (Operations in DA NANG Area)

(1) Upon arrival from PHU BAI Company "G" moved into an assembly area at coordinates 943774 and Company "F" set up defenses on the high ground at coordinates 952778. 2d Platoon, Company "A", 3d Engineer Battalion was detached from BLT 2/3 on 14 April 1965.

(2) Displacement to a new C.P. site at coordinates 946775 began on 16 April 1965 and was completed 17 April 1965. During the period 16-17 April 1965 Company "F" assumed the mission of defending hill 278, 312, 368 with two platoons, reinforced. The third platoon remained in the C.P. to provide security. Companies "E", "G", "H" established assembly areas within the C.P. complex.

(3) A Battalion C.P. at 918783 became fully operational by 19 April 1965. It was occupied by an artillery F.C., S-2 Scouts and FAC, a naval gunfire spot team and communications personnel. 2d Platoon, Company "D", 3d Reconnaissance Battalion was detached from 2d Battalion, 3d Marines on this date.

(4) 2d Battalion assumed the responsibility for providing security for the Brigade Artillery Group from 19-21 April 1965. A platoon from Company "G" established an ambush in support of Battery "L" during the night of 19-20 April 1965. The following night two platoons from Company "E" provided security for headquarters Battery and Battery "B", while two other platoons from Company "H" provided security for Batteries "L" and "I". 1st Platoon, Company "E" relieved Burke units in low ground at coordinates 938775 on 22 April 1965. 2d Platoon, Company "G" established a defensive position in the gap at coordinates 937775 on 22 April 1965.

(5) Operations to relieve Company "F" commenced 24 April 1965 with Company "H" assuming the defense of hills 312 and 278. One platoon from Company "G" relieved elements of Company "F" on hill 368. In anticipation of operations in an expanded TAOR, 1st Platoon, Company "G" assumed the defensive role of 1st Platoon, Company "E" on this date. (See enclosure (4) and (5)).

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(6) Operations within an expanded TAOR commenced on 24 April 1965.

The first platoon of Company "H" patrolled the area northeast of the Battalion as far as Highway #1. The third platoon of Company "H" patrolled a smaller area to the southeast. Both patrols were assigned the mission of selecting possible defensive positions and destroying any Viet Cong insurgents. See enclosures (6) and (7).

(7) The following day 25 April 1965, units patrolled in reverse the routes covered the previous day. First platoon, Company "H" covered the area to the northeast; second platoon, Company "E", patrolled the area to the southeast. The missions were identical to those assigned the previous day. See enclosure (8).

(8) On 26 April, Company "E", reinforced, conducted a daylight patrol to the southwest of the Battalion C.P. The primary mission of the patrol was to make the Marine's presence known in the villages, with the additional mission of destroying Viet Cong insurgents. See enclosures (9) and (10).

(9) Company "E" conducted a second daylight patrol on 27 April 1965 to the northwest of the Battalion C.P. One Marine suffered a slight head wound when contact was made with V.C. elements. It is believed one Viet Cong was wounded in the engagement. See enclosure (11).

(10) Companies "E" and "F" participated in the first joint operation on 28 April 1965. While elements of Company "E" established a blocking force, Company "F" was helilifted into position and conducted a sweep eastward in the vicinity of HOA MY. The missions of the units involved were to destroy Viet Cong insurgents and gather intelligence data. (See enclosure (12) and (13). The operation was important, also, in pointing out the problems involved in committing a reserve by helicopter, in conjunction with the coordination of supporting units. Company "E" conducted squad size security patrols from a combat base at coordinates 912775 on 29 April 1965.

(11) Operating from a combat base at coordinates 875788, Company "E" conducted platoon size reconnaissance patrols on 30 April 1965. Primary missions were to search out fording points and trafficability of the river, determine possible helicopter landing zones and collect evidence of Viet Cong activity. See enclosure (14).

(12) Rotation of units was accomplished between 30 April and 1 May 1965. Company "G" replaced Company "E" as the combat patrol company. Company "E" moved into Battalion Reserve. Company "F" rotated into Company "G" positions on hill 368 and Company "H" maintained its previous positions on hill 312. See enclosure (15).

D. A. CLEMENT

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