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Commanders  
Station, 4th Marines (Rein)  
1st Marine Brigade, Fleet Marine Force  
c/o MFO, San Francisco, 96601

3/CDK/jwd  
1 May 1965  
SERNo: 014-65

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 3d Regimental Landing Team, 3d Marine Division  
Subj: Command Diary (Reports Symbol MC-5750-02); Submission of  
Ref: (a) 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade Order 3121.1  
Encl: (1) 3d Battalion, 4th Marines (Rein) Command Diary for the Period  
1 through 30 April 1965

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

W. W. TAYLOR  
Acting

S&C FILES  
HEADQUARTERS  
3d Battalion, 4th Marines (Rein)  
650154  
Copy 10 of 10 Copies

S & C FILES  
3D MARINES  
20865

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR  
INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER  
12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10

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3/4

Apr 1965

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[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS  
1st Marine Division, 4th Marines (Rein)  
1st Marine Brigade, Fleet Marine Force  
c/o FPO, San Francisco, 96601

COMMEMORATIVE

Part I

Organizational Data Sheets

Part II

Narrative Summary and Chronological Sequence of Events

Part III

Supporting Documents

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[REDACTED]

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Part I

1. Reporting Unit. 3d Battalion, 4th Marines (Rein), 1st Marine Brigade, FMF
2. Period Covered. 1-30 April 1965.
3. Commanding Officer. 3d Battalion, 4th Marines (Rein), 1-28 April 1965  
Lieutenant Colonel D. R. JONES, 28-30 April 1965 Lieutenant Colonel  
W. W. TAYLOR.
4. Command Post. Initially: Camp Hansen, Okinawa  
Afloat: USS VANCOUVER (LPD-2)  
Ashore: PHU BAI, HUE (882138)
5. Subordinate Units.

H&S Co (-) (Rein)	Capt SEEBURGER
Co I (Rein)	Capt DROST
Co K (Rein)	Capt MARINO
Co L (Rein)	Capt SLATER
Co M (Rein)	1stLt DE FORREST
1st Plat (Rein), Co C,	
3d MT Bn	1stLt SMALLWOOD
81mm Mort Plat (-), H&S Co	1stLt EVERROAD
106mm RR Plat (-), H&S Co	1stLt WELPOTT
Btry I (-) (Rein), 3/12	Capt HARMON
3d Plat (-) (Rein), Co B,	
3d Engr Bn	1stLt PISTELLI
3d Plat (-) (Rein), Co C,	
3d Tk Bn	1stLt WARNER
3d Plat (-) (Rein), Co B,	
3d AT Bn	1stLt BATES
3d Plat (Rein), Co A,	
1st AmTrac Bn	1stLt BANNON
3d Plat (Rein), Co B,	
3d Recon Bn	1stLt REASONER
BLT 3/4 Shore Party	Major GRAY

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Part II

## 1. Mission assigned:

1-4 Apr 1965: Prepare to assume role of SLP.

5-30 Apr 1965: Deploy in assigned shipping to occupy and defend assigned TAOR in the vicinity of HUE, PHU BAI airfield and defend the 8th RRU compound which lies in assigned TAOR.

2. Movement made: Camp Hansen, Okinawa to PHU BAI, South Vietnam.  
(See narrative).

## 3. Exercise participation: After occupation of perimeter around PHU BAI airfield and 8th RRU compound, rifle companies patrolled extensively during daylight and set ambushes at night.

## 4. Training conducted: Only that which is concurrent with operations.

## 5. Terrain and weather:

a. The terrain in the PHU BAI area is low rolling hills cut by swampy gullies. The TAOR is split to the right of center by a prominent ridgeline dominated at the north end by Hill 180, the commanding terrain in the TAOR. The south end of the TAOR contains a series of high hills and ridgelines which separate very distinct East-West corridors. There is a small fordable river in the northern portion of the TAOR. There is very little foliage except in the southwest portion of the TAOR, and the similarity of the appearance of the hills at night makes night navigation very difficult.

b. The weather is predominately hot and humid. Daytime highs range from 85 to 120 degrees fahrenheit with an average humidity of 85%. There have been several days of rain and thunderstorms with temperatures in the 50's.

## 6. Summary of events: See narrative.

## 7. Chronological sequence of events: See S-3 Journal.

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## NARRATIVE

1965

5Apr

BLT 3/4 was activated and combat support and service support attachments were joined. (See Part II).

6-10Apr

Intensive embarking planning phase which included changes in assigned shipping. BLT 3/4 command group; Co L; Co I; Btry I, 3/12; platoons from Amtrac's, Recon, and AT's; and other support elements embarked on USS VANCOUVER (LPD-2). Co K and Co M with some attachments embarked on USS HENRICO (APA-45). The executive officer's group; drivers from C MT; B Med, B Engr, and some service elements embarked on USS UNION (AKA-106).

13Apr

CO, BLT 3/4 and small command group transferred by highline to USS HENRICO to discuss landing plan with PHIBRON staff.

14Apr

D-Day: BLT 3/4 (-) landed by surface means over Red Beach II, Da Nang, South Vietnam, at H-Hour: 0830. CO, BLT 3/4 landed with 3rd wave at approximately 0830 and was met by the CG of the 4th and 9th MEB's, Brigadier Generals CARL and KARCH respectively. The beach and adjacent areas were defended by ARVN and elements from 9th MEB. BLT 3/4 (-) moved directly from Red Beach II to a selected helo landing site approximately 1000 meters north of Red Beach II. At approximately 1020, the first helo-lift carried the command group and approximately 80 men to the airfield at PHU BAI. Colonel WHEAT (CO, BLT-3) accompanied the CO, BLT 3/4. Two companies of BLT 2/3 were occupying the airfield, and the command group was met and briefed by Lt Colonel CLEMENTS and Junior MOORE, the CO and S-3 of BLT 2/3 respectively; and Colonel GOLDENBERG, USA, CO of 8th RRU. The BLT CP was set up immediately to the south east of the 8th RRU compound. The heli-lift of the BLT (-) continued throughout the day. A two company perimeter around the airfield and the 8th RRU compound was established prior to night fall with 81mm mortars in support. There was no enemy activity. The heli-lift consisted of 512 men and 2 days of classes I and V.

15Apr

At first light, the remaining elements of BLT 3/4 command landing by surface means up the SONG HUE over a selected landing site in HUE. Simultaneous unloading of the LPD-2 by helicopter was conducted. Lieutenant General THROCKMORTON, Deputy COMUSMACV, and Brigadier General CARL visited the BLT CP. Captain CHOUNG, ARVN, reported as 1st ARVN Division Liaison Officer. Co I landed prior to night fall and assumed a position in the defensive perimeter. By night fall, BLT personnel strength ashore was 75%. Small arms firing was observed in the village of PHU BAI at 2230. There were no Marines involved.

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- 16Apr During of the morning several sightings of suspected were made, but there were no contact or confirmations. Unloading operations by surface and air means continued throughout the day, and by nightfall 97% of equipment and 60% of general supplies were unloaded. Btry I, 3/12, landed and assumed firing positions in the vicinity of the airstrip, by late afternoon. Capt SLATER and Capt SEEBURGER were fired upon, one (1) round, while reconnoitering an area southeast of 8th RRU. Co K patrolled south of perimeter 3000 meters. No contact.
- 17Apr Unloading by surface and air continued. TAG-LOG aboard USS COOKE secured and moved ashore with 1st wave. Deputy U.S. Ambassador to RVN, the Honorable Mr. JOHNSON and CO, RLT-3 visited the BLT and were briefed by the CO and staff. Co K deployed 4000 meters south of the perimeter for daylight patrolling and night ambushes. No contact.
- 18Apr Off loading continues; 95% complete. Daylight patrolling and night ambushes produced no contacts. Unidentified swimmer fired on at HUE landing site with no results. USS VANCOUVER 100% off loaded.
- 19Apr Co M off loaded and reported to BLT control. Unloading 100% completed. At approximately 1830; a 6X6 truck was fired upon, five (5) or six (6) rounds, rifle fire in the vicinity of the village of GIALE. Relief party in truck following was fired on with a pistol from passing bus. No casualties. Tire of truck punctured. No fire returned. Perimeter outposts fired upon by party of four (4) at 2200. No casualties. Fire returned with no results.
- 20Apr Party of three (3) attempted penetration of airfield perimeter and were taken under fire with no results.
- 22Apr Co I deployed to vicinity hill 41 in center of TAOR. Received seven (7) rounds small arms fire at 0210. No casualties. Returned fire with no results.
- 24Apr One Marine killed (PFC THERMENTRAUT) and one wounded (LCpl TIEMAN) by accidental discharge of fragmentation grenade. THERMENTRAUT pulled the pin; and when the spoon flew off, he froze. Lt. Col JONES (CO, BLT 3/4) was evacuated to NA THRANG field hospital after passing out with a diagnosis of heart attack. At approximately 2110 2nd squad, 3 Recon on hill 161 reported a fire fight at the base of the hill in the vicinity of a two man listening post. The two men (PFC CHAMBERS and LCpl CAMPBELL) were reported MIA at 2400. Lt. Col. W. W. TAYLOR assigned as acting CO, 3d Bn, 4th Marines (Rein).

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25Apr

At 0010, recon sqd on hill 161 was attacked by a force of VC estimated to be 8 or 9 strong with automatic small arms fire and grenades. Fire was returned and the enemy retired. The squad sustained one KIA (PFC WENZEL) and three WIA's (LCpl STEWARD, S. R.; PFC WILLIAMS, L. E.; HM3 LEATHERS, R. B.). A platoon from Co I was dispatched to the area immediately from their position about 2,500 meters distant. The 1st squad of B Recon under the command of 1stLt REASONER left the CP perimeter to assist Co I's platoon in the relief of the 2nd squad, B Recon. Air evacuation was requested from Det, HMM 162 at PHU BAI airfield and was refused as being "tactically unfeasible". At first light, 1stLt REASONER led a patrol in search of the two MIA's. Both were found at the base of the hill. LCpl CAMPBELL was KIA, PFC CHAMBERS was WIA. Helicopter evacuation of all casualties was made at dawn. WIA's were treated at B Med and evacuated to NA THRANG field hospital. Action resulted in two (2) enemy KIA, one body recovered, and the capture of two (2) sub-machine guns. Recovered KIA was a MSgt platoon commander from VC Co K-41 and was carrying several papers of intelligence value. At 2040, LCpl MARUSKA, Co I, was WIA by single small arms round in the leg. Incident occurred at 880100. Fire was returned with negative results.

26Apr

LCpl MARUSKA evacuated by air to NA THRANG field hospital.

28Apr

At 1815 Lt TAI (ARVN) passed sighting to us. One platoon VC moving into 834064; one platoon moving into 820070 and two platoons moving into 763097.

29Apr

Intelligence reports received from sector G-2 (1st ARVN Div) indicated the 52th Bn of 95th Regt (VC) were moving from 785125 to 815110. Capabilities include 16 57mm rifles. 8th RRU reported 300 VC located at 840040 w/capabilities of 2 81mm mortars. One individual in black loose clothing carrying what appeared to be a stick or rifle. Negative results.

30Apr

8th RRU reported 2 Co's VC at 840040 with 2 81mm mortars and two elephants carrying 2 large wpns and many VC at 980150 moving NE. Co K OP #2 challenged two individuals. Individuals fired one round at OP and disappeared. No casualties. Co K patrol fired on from houses at 872133. No fire returned. No casualties.

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S-3 Sec 1a  
 3d Bn, 4th Marines  
 HUE, PHU BAI, VIETNAM  
 040800I Apr 1965  
 to  
 302400H Apr 1965

JOURNAL

In	Time	Out	Serial Number	DTG	Messages, Incidents	Action Taken
4Apr			1	040800	BLT 3/4 activated. Combat and support elements attached.	S,T
11Apr			2	111200	BLT 3/4 commenced embarkation on assigned shipping. CP located USS VANCOUVER.	S,T
13Apr			3	131100	CO and staff transferred at sea to USS HENRICO.	S,F
14Apr			4	140830	H-Hour 1st wave landed across Red Beach 2 at Da Nang, South Vietnam. CO, BLT 3/4 landed in 3d wave.	S,T
14Apr			5	141030	Companies K, L and H&S (-) helilifted to HUE PHU BAI airfield. Defensive posture established.	S,T
15Apr			6	150600	Commenced debarkation of remainder of BLT 3/4. Ships anchored off Song Hue River with small boats moving up Song Hue to unloading point in City of Hue.	S,T
15-16Apr			7		Consolidation of defensive posture continues along with unloading of ships.	S,T
18Apr			8	180105	Unidentified swimmer fired on by Marine guard at Hue unloading point.	S
			9	181300	Truck fired on while passing through Gia Le. 1st Division notified and investigating.	S
19Apr			10	191830	Truck returning from Hue received small arms fire. Marine guard returned fire. 1st Div notified. No casualties, tire on truck shot out.	S
			11	192200	Four probable VC fired on Co I listening post. LP returned fire.	S,F

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Time		DTG	Messages, Incidents	Action Taken
In	Out			
		12	192206 Co L reported 18 VC in front of their position firing tracer ammo.	S,F
20Apr		13	200131 Co L reported 3 VC pinned down in front of position and Co has returned fire.	S,F
		14	200515 Co M received 3 rounds small arms fire from vic of grid square 8612. No fire returned.	S,F
21Apr			No entry.	
22Apr		15	220230 Co I OP received 7 rounds of small arms fire from 4 men. OP returned 14 rounds small arms fire. No casualties.	S,F
		16	220523 Co I fired 5 rounds small arms fire and one grenade at 4 men moving in a southerly direction vicinity of coord 888107. Co I fire not returned by 4 men.	S,F
		17	221915 Recon patrol spotted 9 armed men at vicinity of coord 890080. 12th ARVN Arty fired mission on 9 men. Recon investigated after end of mission. Reported negative results.	S,F
23Apr			No entry.	
24Apr		18	240425 Received call from Sgt ALLEN LSU stating at 240425 one U. S. Marine was killed by his own exploding grenade. Killed - EHRUMENTRAUT, J. E. PFC, Service #2063781. Wounded - TIEMAN, S. E. LCpl, Service # 2032992. TIEMAN stated that EHRUMENTRAUT, pulled pin from grenade but apparently froze before throwing grenade. Incident occurred on inner perimeter of LSU. Both individuals members of Shore Party Team, 3d Shore Party Bn.	S,F
		19	242121 Recon second squad in defensive posture on hill 144. Two man L.P. out. Reported fire fight at base of hill.	S,F

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In	Time	Out	DTG	Messages, Incidents	Action Taken
25Apr		20	250010	Recon 2nd Squad just reported S,F attack by approx 10 enemy. Can hear them at base of hill apparently forming for another assault. Have 1 KIA and 3 WIA. Request evacuation.	
		21	250115	Recon Plat Comdr took out his other squad to assist squad on hill 144.	S,F
		22	250610	Recon squad located on hill 161. Evacuation of dead and wounded accomplished. Search underway for 2 MIA's who were on LP.	S,F
		23	250730	Two MIA's located. One WIA (CHAMBERS) at 866084 and one KIA (CAMPBELL) at 860081.	S,F
		24	250800	Helicopter evacuation of CHAMBERS and CAMPBELL effected without incident.	S,F
		25	250900	One dead VC was a MSgt with Co K-41. Intelligence gathered from the body was sent to RLT-3. The body was turned over to Dong Da training center.	S,F
		26	252040	LCpl James W. MARUSKA of Co I was wounded in the leg by sniper fire. Sniper was not sighted.	S,F
26Apr		27	262200	Co I OP fired on by 4 men. No fire returned. Co K reported one round of small arm fire hit in front of OP #11. No intelligence on where round came from.	S,F
27Apr 28Apr		28	282130	No entry. Co K fired at one man in vicinity of OP #5. 2 men fired a shot at their OP #2. Individuals were pursued with negative results.	S,F
29Apr 30Apr		29	302125	No entry. Co L located on hill 36 received 3 rounds of small arms fire. Fire not returned. No casualties.	S,F
		30	302126	Co K received 5 rounds of small arms fire from vicinity 872133. Fire was not returned and there were no casualties.	S,F

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