

UNCLASSIFIED

MAR DIV (FWD)

S+C B 1054-65

1st BN 12th MARINES (-) (REIN)
3d Marine Division (FWD), FMF
c/o FPO San Francisco, California 96601

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (FWD), FMF

Subj: Command Diary

Ref: (a) Div(Fwd)O 3100.1
Encl: (1) Command Diary for the month of May 1965

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

G W Ferguson
G. W. FERGUSON

3d Marine Division (FWD)
COPY 1

COMMAND DIARYPART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

Reporting Unit: 1st Battalion, 12th Marines (-) (REIN)
Period Covered: 010001 H May 65 to 312400 H May 65
Date Submitted: 8 June 1965

Commanding Officer: Major G. W. FERGUSON, 090284, USMC

CP Location: Da Nang, SVN (108° 08' 30"/16° 02' 15")

Subordinate Units:

Hq Battery, 1st Bn, 12th Mar:	1/Lt G. E. WINN, 085544, USMC
Battery "A", 1st BN, 12th Mar:	1/Lt F. H. HENPHILL, 085257, USMC
Battery "B", 1st Bn, 12th Mar:	1/Lt E. J. ROULEAU, 085564, USMC
Mortar Battery, 1st Bn, 12th Mar:	1/Lt J. J. CARR, 080715, USMC
Battery "F", 2nd Bn, 12th Mar:	Capt. E. SCHEFFIELD, 066966, USMC
Battery "L", 4th Bn, 12th Mar:	Capt. D.F. TRENSKI, 076420, USMC
2nd Plt, 1st 8" How Btry:	Capt. J. A. GAFFNEY, 068422

(Enclosure 1)

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PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Mission Assigned: General support of the 3d Marine Division (FWD) in the Da Nang area, with direct support to the infantry regiment.

2. Exercise Participation: Supported all infantry operations in defense of the airfield perimeter, the hill 327 - 368 complex west of the airfield, and deep patrolling operations within the assigned tactical areas of responsibility. Supported ARVN forces operating beyond the TAOR with observed missions and harassing fires in areas of reported Viet Cong activity.

1 May conducted a field firing exercise from positions near Hoa Cam south of hill 327. Batteries "A", "F", "L", and 2d 8" How Plt participated in the FFEI while continuing to accomplish primary mission throughout. Completed registration of each battery, checked battery sheafs, fired group missions and TOT's. During the reporting period, the firing batteries supported the infantry operations with will - adjust missions against observed or suspected Viet Cong troops or assembly areas, harassing and interdiction fires against likely avenues of approach, assembly areas, and campsites, and preparation of landing zones for heliborne patrol operations. On one occasion the Mortar Battery (-) accompanied a heliborne deep patrol and fired will - adjust HE and illumination missions from the patrol base camp. Deep infantry patrol operations are supported by displacement of firing batteries to supplementary firing positions North, West, and South of the hill 327 - 368 complex; however, numerous broken bridges, landslides, and primitive road conditions limit mobility in those directions. Unobserved fires constitute approximately 75% of the fire missions to date. Will - adjust HE missions account for only 10% of fires to date, indicating the elusiveness of profitable artillery targets. A new fire direction system has been introduced, which will enhance the flexibility and speed of artillery fire support.

3. Terrain and Weather. Terrain west and north of the TAOR limits mobility of vehicles. Numerous poor or partially destroyed bridges and poor road conditions throughout the area of operations has an adverse effect on mobility. Weather has not had an appreciable adverse effect on operations to date; however, limited experience with rainy weather foretells that considerable difficulties can be expected during the rainy season because a large part of the existing road net is not designed for all-weather traffic.

4. Training Conducted. One Battalion (-) FFEI was conducted on 1 May, which exercised all fire direction facilities of the battalion. The tactical situation to date has provided an outstanding training situation in which all artillery subjects can be practiced without degrading accomplishment of the primary mission. Approximately 50% of all training is concurrent training conducted at night.

(Enclosure 1)

5. Morale and Discipline. The morale and discipline of this unit during this reporting period is very good. The morale of the unit has been steadily growing as the time goes on. Efforts are being directed into the building of an enlisted club. Liberty runs and special services have been developed on a large scale.

The discipline of the unit for this reporting period is very good. There have been a minimum of problems, far less than the number occurring in a garrison type situation.

By far the best morale booster we have are the words "Fire Mission".

(Enclosure 1)

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