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18 Oct 65

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, 1stBn, 12thMar Command Diary dtd 18Oct65

From: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines  
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF (SG-3)  
Subj: Command Diary

1. Forwarded, contents noted.

*J. D. Snyder*  
J. D. SNYDER  
By direction

*Aug 1965*

HEADQUARTERS  
1st Battalion, 12th Marines (-)  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, 96601

1/DLC/jv

18 Oct 1965

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division  
Via: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines  
Subj: Command Diary

Ref: (a) Verbal Order of G-3, 3d MarDiv as relayed by S-3, 12thMar

Encl: ✓(1) Command Diary for month of August 1965

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

*W. E. McCain*  
W. E. MCCAIN

Copy to:  
CO, 12thMar

Part I - Organizational Data

Reporting Unit:	1st Battalion, 12th Marines (-)
Period Covered:	010001 H August 1965 to 312400 H August 1965
Commanding Officer	LtCol W. E. MCCAIN
CP Location	(108°08'30") (16°02'15")
Subordinate Units	
Hq Btry, 1stBn, 12thMar	Capt W. B. CLARK, 076876 USMC
Btry "A", 1stBn, 12thMar	1stLt R. C. PROUTY, 081211 USMC
Btry "B", 1stBn, 12thMar	Capt H. SCHOFIELD, 066966 USMC
4.2" Mortar Btry, 1stBn, 12thMar	1stLt H. J. NEWMAN, 083575 USMCR

Part II - Narrative Summary

1. Mission Assigned. Direct Support, Operational Control, 3d Marines.
2. Exercise Participation. Throughout this reporting period the 1st Battalion supported all infantry operations in the defense of the Da Nang Air Base perimeter, the Hill 327-268 complex west of the air base, and deep patrolling operations within the Da Nang Tactical Area of Responsibility. In addition, the battalion supported operations involving ARVN and USMC forces operating beyond the Da Nang TAOR with observed long range fires, and Harrassing fires in areas of reported Viet Cong activity. During the reporting period, the firing batteries supported the infantry with "observed and Unobserved" missions against known and suspected VC positions, Harrassing and Interdiction fires against likely avenues of approach, assembly areas, campsites, and missions using the AN/TPS-21 Radar Units as observation agencies. Deep infantry patrol operations were supported by displacement of firing batteries to supplementary firing positions North, West, and South of the Hill 327-268 complex.

Part III

01 August: At 011000 Battery "B" (-) fired at a target opportunity, a suspected OP, at coord (AT 869813) at the request of 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines. At 011345 Battery "B" (-) fired at a target of opportunity, a suspected OP at coord (AT 862811) at the request of the 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines. At 011800 Battery "A" conducted a High Burst Registration at coord (AT 955630). At 012050 Battery "A" displaced to a position at coord (AT 973709) in support of search and clear operations conducted by units of the 3d Marines. The battalion fired 27 Harrassing and 31 Interdiction missions.

02 August: At 020815 Mortar Battery displaced by helicopter to a position at coord (AT 971624) to reinforce the fires of Battery "A" in support of search and clear operations conducted by elements of the 3d Marines. Between 020615 and 020645 Battery "A" participated in a schedule of fires by firing ~~at~~ concentrations as part of a landing zone preparation on coord (AT 934643) and (AT 970620) at the request of the 3d Marines.

At 021405 Battery "A" fired an unobserved neutralization mission on a suspected VC Company at coord (AT 903637) at the request of the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines. The battalion fired 52 Harrassing and 41 Interdiction missions. At 021700 the battalion hosted a party for the 34th Artillery Battalion, approximately 350 children were present. The 3rd Marine Band presented a concert, and ice cream was served to all present. Gifts of food and material for clothing were presented to 70 families.

03 August: At 031405 Mortar Battery displaced to the primary position upon completion of the mission in support of 1st Battalion, 3d Marines patrol activities. The battalion fired 53 Harrassing and 36 Interdiction missions.

04 August: At 041030 1 platoon of Battery "A" displaced to coord (AT 940722). At 041015 Battery "B" (Fwd) fired a precision destruction mission on a bunker at coord (AT 866847). At 041930 Battery "A" (Fwd) fired an observed neutralization mission on suspected VC at coord (AT 805680) at the request of the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines with rounds on target but no activity observed. The battalion fired 39 Harrassing and 22 Interdiction missions.

05 August: At 050140 Battery "B" (Fwd) fired an unobserved interdiction mission from coord (AT 900850) to (AT 910870) in order to block the route of retreat of any VC troops moving back from the attack on the Esso Oil Refinery, which had accrued minutes earlier. Reinforcing fires were called for in the same area and were delivered by the 1st 8" Howitzer Battery (-) and a Naval Gunfire Support Ship. The battalion fired 27 Harrassing and 15 Interdiction missions.

06 August: The battalion fired 21 Harrassing and 15 Interdiction missions. The Battalion Commander conducted an inspection of the Motor Transport and Communications equipment of Headquarters Battery.

07 August: At 071350 Battery "B" (-) fired an observed neutralization mission on a suspected OP at coord (AT 865810) at the request of the 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines with good effect on target and no activity observed. At 072145 Battery "A" (Fwd) fired an illumination mission on a suspected assembly area at coord (AT 861789) with good illumination of the battlefield and no activity observed. The battalion fired 22 Harrassing and 15 Interdiction missions.

08 August: At 081225 Battery "B" (-) fired an unobserved neutralization mission on a suspected OP at coord (AT 859791) at the request of the 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines. At 081245 Battery "B" (Fwd) fired an observed neutralization mission on a suspected assembly area at coord (AT 826793) with good effect on target, but no activity observed. The battalion fired 26 Harrassing and 19 Interdiction missions.

09 August: The battalion fired 22 Harrassing and 16 Interdiction missions.

10 August: At 101300 Battery "B" (Fwd) fired an unobserved neutralization mission on an avenue of approach at coord (AT 875865) at the request of the 3d Marines. Between 101805 and 102000 Battery "B" fired 7 HC Smoke missions to cover movement of troops of the 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines. At 101120 Battery "B" displaced to a position at coord (AT 901821) to support patrol operations conducted by the 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines. The battalion fired 20 Harrassing and 14 Interdiction missions.

11 August: At 111025 Battery "A" fired a neutralization mission on a suspected OP at coord (AT 920654) at the request of the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines.

At 110936 Battery "A" commenced displacement to a new primary position at coord (AT 939722). The battalion fired 30 Harrassing and 26 Interdiction missions.

12 August: At 121405 Battery "A" fired an observed neutralization mission on a suspected VC position at coord (AT 867815) with good effect on target, At 121135 Battery "B" fired a destruction mission on a bunker at coord (AT 868849) with good effect on target. At 122346 Battery "B" fired a landing zone preparation at coord (AT 846862) in support of a night helicopter landing conducted by the 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines. The battalion fired 25 Harrassing and 36 Interdiction missions.

13 August: At 131102 Battery "A" fired a destruction mission on a suspected OP at coord (AT 871641). Between 131502 and 131630 Battery "B" fired 5 neutralization missions on assembly areas and OP's at the request of the 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines. At 131703 Battery "B" fired 3 observed neutralization missions on VC in the open at the request of "A" Company, 3d Recon Battalion, but the observer was unable to assess the damage inflicted, however the rounds were reported on target. The battalion fired 17 Harrassing and 28 Interdiction missions.

14 August: At 141340 Battery "A" fired 3 neutralization missions at suspected VC assembly areas with good effect on target, but no activity observed. The battalion fired 33 Harrassing and 23 Interdiction missions.

15 August: Between 150912 and 150959 Battery "B" fired 7 HC smoke missions to cover movements of patrols of the 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines. Battery "B" (Fwd) fired 2 neutralization missions at suspected VC assembly areas with good effect on target. At 151031 Battery "B" displaced back to primary position. The battalion fired 34 Harrassing and 27 Interdiction missions.

16 August: Between 162150 and 162230 Battery "A" fired an observed neutralization mission using Polar Plot data obtained form the AN/TPS-21 Radar. This target was approximately 1 Company of VC, and the radar indicated the rounds were on target with no further movement indicated. The battalion fired 14 Harrassing and 29 Interdiction missions.

17 August: At 170225 Battery "A" fired on 15 VC in the open as reported by the AN/PTS-21 Radar. The rounds were indicated on target at which time the area was illuminated and a visual search of the area revealed no activity since tall grass in the area prevented detailed surveillance. However, it is believed that this mission caused several casualties which were recovered by the VC. At 170220 Battery "A" fired a neutralization mission on VC in the open but detailed surveillance was not possible. The battalion fired 27 Harrassing and 32 Interdiction missions.

18 August: At 182050 Battery "A" fired an illumination mission over suspected VC movement with no movement observed. The battalion fired 67 Harrassing and 41 Interdiction missions.

19 August: At 191040 Battery "A" fired on a suspected fuel dump with good effect on target, but no fires or secondary explosions resulted. The battalion fired 80 Harrassing and 69 Interdiction, and 5 Neutralization missions.

20 August: The battalion fired 80 Harrassing, 69 Interdiction and 2 Neutralization missions.

21 August: The battalion fired 60 Harrassing, 77 Interdiction and 2 Neutralization missions.

22 August: The battalion fired 47 Harrassing, 57 Interdiction and 3 Neutralization missions at suspected assembly areas.

23 August: At 230040 Battery "A" fired 2 Illumination missions on suspected movement, with no movement observed. The battalion fired 67 Harrassing, 82 Interdiction and 3 Neutralization missions.

24 August: At 240803 Battery "A", reinforced by Batteries "F", "L" and 1st 8" Howitzer Battery, fired a total of 16 concentrations on a landing zone preparation at coord (AT 840633) (AT 869672) (AT 870685) (AT 865673) in support of helicopter operations conducted by the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines. The battalion fired 77 Harrassing, 81 Interdiction and 8 Neutralization missions.

25 August: At 250415 Battery "A" fired an Illumination mission on suspected movement, with good illumination, but movement observed. Battery "A" fired 4 missions in support of 1st Battalion, 3d Marines patrol operations. The battalion fired 49 Harrassing and 41 Interdiction missions.

26 August: At 261220 Battery "B" fired a Landing Zone preparation at coord (AT 867776) in support of a helicopter landing conducted by the 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines. The battalion fired 49 Harrassing and 64 Interdiction missions.

27 August: The battalion fired 60 Harrassing and 64 Interdiction missions.

28 August: At 280827 Battery "A" fired a destruction mission on a bunker at coord (AT 863717) resulting in the partial destruction of the bunker. At 280930 Battery "A" fired on 5 VC in the open at coord (AT 886697) killing 3 and wounding 2 of the VC. Numerous secondary explosions occurred in the following 10 - 15 minutes, apparently due to the explosion of a VC ammunition cache. Battery "A" refired coord (AT 889773) resulting in 1 secondary explosion. The battalion fired 70 Harrassing and 35 Interdiction missions.

29 August: At 291019 Battery "B" fired on 2 VC carrying weapons at coord (AT 839785) with good effect on target but no casualties observed. The battalion fired 83 Harrassing and 47 Interdiction missions.

30 August: The battalion fired 73 Harrassing and 77 Interdiction missions.

31 August: At 311950 Battery "B" fired a destruction mission on a VC ammunition dump at coord (AT 874751) resulting in 5 large secondary explosions. The Battalion fired 46 Harrassing and 75 Interdiction missions.