

## HEADQUARTERS

2d Battalion, 12th Marines  
 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
 FPO, San Francisco 96601

1:EOS:dm  
 4 Nov 1965  
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From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines (ATTN: S-3)  
 Subj: Command Chronology Report for the Period 1-31 October 1965  
 Ref: (a) 3dMarDivO 5750.1  
 (b) RegtO 5750.1

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1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), the following report is submitted:

a. Organizational data, including attachments:

(1) Designation/Location: 2d Battalion, 12th Marines, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF. Danang Sector, South Viet Nam.

(a) "L" Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines was attached to this battalion, effective 31 October 1965.

(b) Mortar Battery, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines remained detached from this battalion, being attached to 4th Battalion, 12th Marines at Hue Phu Bai.

(2) Period covered: 1-31 October 1965

(3) Name/Rank of Commanding Officer and Staff, Including T/O  
Billet Assignment:

Commanding Officer: LtCol E. O. SPECKART 050159/0802 USMC

Executive Officer: Maj J. C. LOVE 055339/0802 USMC

Adjutant/S-1: 1stLt T. R. PRESTON 079337/0130 USMC

S-2: 1stLt A. G. GERWIG 088312/0802 USMCR

S-3: Maj C. F. KEISTER 055758/0802 USMC

S-4: Capt H. C. SOMMERVILLE 060802/0802 USMCR  
 1-15 October 1965

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[REDACTED]

Capt A. TRENT 070676/0802 USMC  
16-31 October 1965

Supply Officer: 1stLt H. J. PAYNE 088942/3002 USMCR

Motor Transport Officer: 1stLt W. J. SMALLWOOD 087288/3502 USMCR

Communications Officer: Capt E. S. LAUBAUGH 072681/2502 USMC  
1-7 October 1965

Capt T. W. TAYLOR 070675/2502 USMC  
8-31 October 1965

Liaison Officer Capt C. D. BAILEY 065692/0802 USMCR

Headquarters Commandant: Capt C. N. ROBINSON 076300/0802 USMC

(4) Average Strength for the Period: 521.

b. Sequential Listing of Significant Events, Especially as they relate to:

(1) Personnel: During this month the battalion was at approximately 90% of T/O strength, not including Mortar Battery attached to 4th Battalion, 12th Marines at Hu Phu Bai. There were no shortages of critical personnel that might have hampered the ability of the battalion to perform its mission. In the month of October there were seven enlisted personnel evacuated for non-combat medical reasons. No combat casualties were reported for the month.

(2) Administration: There were no unusual or significant events to report.

(3) Intelligence: Periodic intelligence summaries, but including information with regard to the location and capabilities of units on both sides, were furnished to those members of the battalion who required information of this nature. A current situation map, modified daily to show friendly positions, patrols and the location of known enemy units, was kept in the Battalion FDC. Information of value to the troops, with regard to such subjects as Viet Cong mines, booby-traps and tactics, was made available to them. Target reports were submitted daily to Headquarters, 12th Marines, that included all targets taken under fire or not fired upon by this battalion.

(4) Training: During this month service practice and on the job training accounted for most of the time spent increasing the knowledge and proficiency of personnel throughout the battalion. Some 2,550 missions, including H&I's were fired, affording all personnel involved ample

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opportunity to gain experience and apply it daily. New personnel were given indoctrination lectures on policies and regulations while serving in Viet Nam, and then assigned to work with experienced personnel until adequately prepared to take over in their respective capacities.

(5) Operations: The amount of ammunition fired by the battalion during October was the largest since its arrival in Viet Nam. The number of rounds expended were: 8,114 high explosive, 31 illumination, 32 white phosphorus, 62 rounds HC smoke, or total of 8,239 of all types. Harassing and interdictory fires again accounted for the majority of the ammunition consumed, as there were 2,468 of these missions fired; while 4 prep fire missions for operations and 44 "call for fire" missions along with HB registrations made up the rest of the total of 2,550 missions fired.

(6) Command and Control: 2d Battalion 12th Marines continued in its role of direct support of the 9th Marine Regiment, while administrative control remained with the 12th Marine Regiment. "D" and "E" Batteries both displaced forward, to positions where they could better fulfill their missions. Command posts were as follows: (Map: Indochina, 1:50,000 series L701, sheets 6658 XIV, 6659 I, II and III)

(a) Headquarters Battery: Coordinates AT996721

(b) "D" Battery: 1-22Oct65 Coordinates 070721  
23-31Oct65 Coordinates 064631

(c) "E" Battery: 1-10Oct65 Coordinates 987723  
11-31Oct65 Coordinates 988672

(d) "F" Battery: Coordinates 964712

(e) "L" Battery: Coordinates 965717

(7) Communications-Electronics: During this month displacement of two firing batteries presented the most problems in establishing and maintaining communications. When "E" Battery displaced, wire communications were established via two metallic lines and one phantom circuit, but radio-relay used as a back-up proved unsuccessful when the required generators could not be kept operational. After "D" Battery displaced, the initial five pair cable was repeatedly cut by unknown persons for a period of one week. Radio relay proved to be unreliable, and radio remained the primary means of communication between battalion and "D" Battery. Liaison was made with American advisors to ARVN units at Dien Bien and Hoi An to establish procedures for radio contact in the event they required artillery support.

(9) Logistics: The completion rate for outstanding requisitions remains at about 15%, which continues to present problems to the battalion in fulfilling its mission. Requisitions for communications

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equipment were the greatest concern. Batteries, wire and telephones remained in short supply, as did other critical items like sandbags, machine guns, and generators. The general status of equipment maintenance remains fair with some improvement at higher echelon repair. A lack of lumber was the reason given by engineers for postponement of hard backing under the contourment program until late November. An inspection by the FTFPAC Ordnance team resulted in the battalion receiving an overall satisfactory rating.

(10) Air defense: An active air defense posture was maintained by the battalion, with machine guns, caliber .50, remaining emplaced in prepared positions.

(11) Civil Affairs/Military Government/Community Relations:

(a) Medical personnel treated a total of 381 Vietnamese civilians, and arrangements were made to have a cleft palate surgically repaired for a young Vietnamese girl.

(b) Military Government: Nothing to report.

(c) Community Relations: Contacts were made with local village chiefs in the areas surrounding the new positions occupied by "D" and "E" Batteries.

*E. O. Speckart*  
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