

30 MAR DIV S&C FILE
BT# 320868

HEADQUARTERS
2nd Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

3:RCM:j1
SER: PS-18
6 Sep 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 August to 31 August 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

[Signature]
J. SCORSA Jr.

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ON 08-10-2010
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2/12/78
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Aug 1968

HEADQUARTERS
2nd Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMT
APO San Francisco 96692

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 AUGUST 31 AUGUST 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

2nd Battalion, 12th Marines

LTCOL R. P. DUNWELL 056608/0802
 USMC (1-5 August 1968)

LTCOL J. SCOPPA JR. 058530/0802
 USMC (6-31 August 1968)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Hq Btry, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines

CAPT E. E. PRICE III 087934/0802
 USMC

Battery "D", 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines

CAPT P. D. WINER 082307/0802
 USMC

Battery "E", 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines

CAPT P. G. CLARK 092578/0802
 USMCR

Battery "F", 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines

CAPT W. W. COOK 083044/0802
 USMC

Mortar Battery, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines
 (23-31 August 1968)

1STLT D. W. ROBERTS 0100629/0802
 USMCR

1st Provisional 155 Towed Battery
 (3-17 August 1968)

1STLT D. R. RANDALL 097687/0802
 USMC

2. LOCATION. 1-31 August 1968, Dong Ha, RVN

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3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

MAJ K. E. SOESBE 071961/0802
USMC (23-31 August 1968)

S-1

1STLT B. L. BUSSELL 096305/0130
USMC

S-2

1STLT P. W. WYAND 0100794/0802
USMC

S-3

MAJ R. G. MCFARLANE 077495/0802
USMC

S-4

CAPT E. E. PRICE III 087934/0802
USMC

Ordnance Officer

WO S. G. HAFNER 098765/2020
USMC

Supply Officer

1STLT R. E. WOOD 0100787/3002
USMC (1-5 August 1968)1STLT P. M. SHEEHAN 095067/3002
USMC (6-31 August 1968)

Motor Transport Officer

1STLT W. T. WHEELER 0103885/3502
USMC

Communications Officer

2NDLT A. S. KYLE 0102617/2501
USMC

Liaison Officer

MAJ K. E. SOESBE 071961/0802
USMC (1-22 August 1968)MAJ J. H. LAWSON 080158/0802
USMC (23-31 August 1968)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
41	629	1	12

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During August the Second Battalion, Twelfth Marines fired a total of 551 observed missions, 1,285 unobserved missions, and 642 H&I missions in support of the Ninth Marines. Ammunition expenditures were 35,709 rounds of 105mm, 254 rounds of 155mm, and 455 rounds of 107mm.

Enemy casualties inflicted during August were 1 KIA and 7 WIA. In addition there were 27 secondary explosions, 1 fire started, and 1 bunker destroyed.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Combat Mission Assigned. Direct support of 9th Marines.
2. Significant Operations Conducted. Operations Kentucky, Highrise/Thor, Lancaster II/Jupiter, and Scotland II/Trousdale. During the first two weeks of August the battalion headquarters was at Delta-5 and Vandegrift Combat Base supporting 9th Marines operations in the Balong valley and on the ridges to the North and South. Near the middle of the month the battalion headquarters moved to C-2 where logistical support came from Dong Ha. On the 23d, the battalion headquarters split up, one section returning to Vandegrift Combat Base and the other remaining at C-2. The battalion was on the move throughout the month accomplishing rapid displacement by air and on road march in order to anticipate and be ready to support 9th Marines units wherever they went. Three regimental sized and one battalion sized operation were conducted which covered terrain from Calu to A-3. The battalion averaged over one displacement every day of at least one unit. During the operations the following changes in operational control and displacements took place;

- 1 August, Command Group at Delta-5
- 1 August, E/2/12 at C-1
- 1 August, D/2/12 at Calu
- 1 August, F/2/12 at Delta-5
- 2 August, E/2/12 from C-1 to LZ Pedro
- 3 August, F/2/12 from Delta-5 to Hill 385 Fire Support Base Holcomb
- 3 August, Took OPCON 1st Provisional 155mm Howitzer Battery (towed) (-) at Fire Support Base Holcomb
- 4 August, D/2/12 from Calu to C-3
- 5 August, E/2/12 from LZ Pedro to Delta-5
- 7 August, D/2/12 from C-3 to Calu
- 8 August, 1st Provisional Howitzer (-) from Fire Support Base Holcomb to Calu
- 11 August, Command Group to Vandegrift Combat Base
- 11 August, E/2/12 from Delta-5 to Vandegrift Combat Base
- 11 August, F/2/12 from LZ Holcomb to LZ Henderson

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During October the Second Battalion, Twelfth Marines fired a total of 445 observed missions, 1,297 unobserved missions, and 1,312 H&I missions in support of the Ninth Marines. Ammunition expenditures were 28,075 rounds of 105mm, 1,033 rounds of 155mm, and 6,218 rounds of 107mm.

Enemy casualties inflicted during October were 3 KIA and 13 WIA. In addition there were 43 secondary explosions, 8 bunkers destroyed, 1 mortar destroyed, 3 fires, and 1 trench line destroyed.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Combat Mission Assigned. Direct support of 9th Marines.
2. Significant Operations Conducted. The Second Battalion, Twelfth Marines in the following operations during the month of October: Operation Trousdale North, Scotland II Mountain, and Scotland II Afton.

The following displacements and changes in operational control were effected during the month of October;

- 1 October Command group from LZ Winchester to Vandegrift Combat Base
D/2/12 from LZ Winchester to Vandegrift Combat Base
E/2/12 from LZ Sandy to Camp Carroll
- 2 October D/2/12 from LZ Winchester to Vandegrift Combat Base
- 3 October W/2/12 from CaLu to Vandegrift Combat Base
- 4 October D/2/12 from Vandegrift Combat Base to CaLu
- 6 October E/2/12 from Camp Carroll to LZ Henderson
Assume OPCON of Mortar Battery, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines
- 8 October F/2/12 and 2d Provisional Towed chopped to 1st Battalion, 12th Marines
- 12 October F/2/12 from LZ Winchester to Camp Carroll
Assume OPCON of F/2/12
- 15 October W/1/12 chopped from 2d Battalion, 12th Marines
- 16 October W/3/12 OPCON to 2d Battalion, 12th Marines

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15 August, E/2/12 from Vandegrift Combat Base to C-2
 16 August, F/2/12 from LZ Henderson to C-3
 16 August, D/2/12 from Calu to north of Camp Carroll
 16 August, Command Group A to C-2
 17 August, Command Group B to C-2
 17 August, F/2/12 from C-3 to C-2
 23 August, Command Group A to Vandegrift Combat Base
 23 August, F/2/12 from C-2 to Rock Pile
 23 August, W/2/12 (-) from A-4 to Rock Pile
 25 August, D/2/12 from north of Camp Carroll to Vandegrift Combat Base
 26 August, E/2/12 from C-2 to Rock Pile
 26 August, D/2/12 from Vandegrift Combat Base to LZ Lejeune
 27 August, W/2/12 (-) from A-4 to Vandegrift Combat Base
 28 August, W/2/12 (-) from Vandegrift Combat Base to LZ Lejeune

3. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy. 1 KIA and 7 WIA.

4. Casualties Sustained. 13 WIA

5. Logistics. Complete logistic support was furnished to three organic batteries and two OPCON batteries. For the first half of the month, support was furnished by air from Vandegrift Combat Base. The logistic support group displaced to Dong Ha on the 16th and resumed normal ground operations. On the 24th, air supply from Vandegrift Combat Base was resumed, as well as ground support from Dong Ha. A total of 36,418 rounds were supplied by truck and helicopters.

6. Civic Action. The Civic Action program suffered from the absence of the majority of personnel deployed in the field with Headquarters Battery. The Medcap programs and assistance programs to Thie Trang and Vinh Dai hamlets were inactive during August.

The Vietnamese Barber Shop and laundry were moved inside the battalion perimeter to ensure better control of those concessions. This resulted in the discovery and elimination of a narcotics ring and improvement of the police of the shop area.

7. Personnel. The battalion was at 88% T/O strength at the end of the reporting period. Shortages exist in the MOS's 0122, 0141, 0811, 0844, 0848, 0849, 2531 and 3371. Fifty-eight Marines participated in the R&R program during August.

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8. Intelligence. Enemy activity continued at the low level of the previous month throughout the first half of the reporting period but during the last half enemy initiated activity increased significantly.

The first half of the month was marked by minor and insignificant ground attacks, small attacks by fire and minor attempts at interdiction of LOC's. Cua Viet, Con Thien, A-3 and Gio Linh continued to be the enemy's favorite targets. The enemy employed CS gas in a limited ground probe in the Khe Sanh area.

During the first half of the month enemy efforts seem directed toward unit personnel, and logistical development. Large supply caches still continued to be uncovered by friendly forces indicating the enemy has worked hard to resupply his forces.

As the month progressed into the second half, ground contacts became more numerous and heavier in nature. In these contacts the enemy was prepared and supported by supporting arms. These heavier contacts may be an indication of the start of the so called third offensive. However at this time aggressive operations by friendly forces have forced the enemy to keep his forces dispersed and denied him avenues of approach to major installations.

There continue to be sightings of UH's in the central and eastern DMZ which may mean the enemy is using helicopters for resupply and movement of troops.

9. Communications. During the month of August, the communications section was mainly concerned with the displacement and operation of the Battalion FDC. In August the FDC made three displacement by echelon: this required duplication of assets in two locations in order to maintain continuous control of the firing batteries.

While the FDC operated at the Delta-5 position, a MRC 62 van was attached from Division in order to provide a wire link to Dong Ha. This was a first, necessitated by the split of the Regimental F.S.C.Q. and Battalion FDC and the consequent loss of the Regiment's radio relay capability. Numerous problems were encountered in the employment of the radio relay van, most of which centered around the power source, which Division neglected to supply. The shot did become operational, and was even used to place MARS calls for Headquarters Battery in the field.

Also during August, ten radio operators were sent to the firing batteries. This was consistent with the policy of training all radio operators in the Battalion FDC before sending them to the field.

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10. Training. During the month of August training was heavily oriented toward section and MOS classes in view of the heavy field commitment of all batteries. The battalion gained numerous benefits from the large number of displacements. Training in heliborne operations and tactical loading at all echelons was reflected in an ever increasing efficiency in multi-battery displacement and rapid preparation for firing. Normal troop indoctrination classes and GMS training were carried out whenever possible. Two battalion personnel attended out-of-country formal schooling consisting of Basic Infantry Weapons Repair School and Noncommissioned Officer School. In addition, four battalion personnel attended in-country formal school consisting of Personal Response School, KY 28/38 Radio School, Motion Picture Operator School and Staff Noncommissioned Officer School. Finally, the entire battalion FAM fired this month.

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EXTRACTS OF MISSIONS FROM 2ND BATTALION, 10TH MARINES

PERIOD 04300 to 05300 August 1968

1314 1 FM, F-2-12, (034403), Suspected enemy position, Dallas Girl-64
EOM 1512, 17 HEQ & B, 3 WP, 2 Secondary explosions, BX 9165

PERIOD 08300 to 09300 August 1968

1430 1 FM, F-2-12, (032468), Suspected enemy position, Echo-6
EOM 1520, 35 HEQ, 1 Secondary explosion, BX 9555

PERIOD 102300 to 112300 August 1968

1453 1 FM, F-2-12, (077469), Suspected enemy position, White Fish Echo-6
EOM 1535, 62 Ill, 1 Fire started, BX 9765

PERIOD 112300 to 122300 August 1968

1121 1 FM, F-2-12, (09964149), Suspected enemy position, Fancy Dan-62
EOM 1200, 32 HEQ, 2 WP, 1 KIA, BX 9835

PERIOD 142300 to 152300 August 1968

1305 1 FM, F-2-12, (974466), 2 NVA in brush, Ice Boat-62A
EOM 1422, 6 Selected Munitions, 44 HEQ & VT, 2 WIA, BX 9973

PERIOD 172300 to 182300 August 1968

1815 1 FM, F-2-12, (027680), 2 NVA in open, Seven Up-62
EOM 1850, 14 HEQ, 2 WP, 1 WIA, BX 0814

0757 2 FM, F-2-12, (056662), Suspected enemy movement, Seven Up-62A
EOM 0843, 18 HEQ, 7 WP, 1 WIA, BX 0159

PERIOD 202300 to 212300 August 1968

0933 1 FM, F-2-12, (050675), Enemy bunkers and NVA, Seven Up-64
EOM 1105, 192 HEQ & D, 16 Secondary explosions, BX 0478

1957 2 FM, D-2-12, (058659), 2 NVA in open, Seven Up-64
EOM 2040, 16 HEQ & VT, 6 WP, 2 WIA, BX 0476