

ORIGINAL

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HEADQUARTERS  
4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF

13366

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5 Jan 1966  
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Copy 1 of 10

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
Via: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for December; submission of

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.1

Encl: ✓(1) Organizational Data  
✓(2) Strength Report  
✓(3) Chronological Summary of Significant Events

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1), (2) and (3) are submitted.

  
E. M. RUIZ

ENCLOSURE (5)

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**CONFIDENTIAL**Organizational Data, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines

## 1. Commanders and principal subordinates:

## a. Battalion Staff

CO LtCol E. M. RUDZIS  
 XO Maj W. J. SPIESEL  
 S-3 Maj R. W. HEESCH  
 S-1 1stLt J. R. PARKER  
 S-2 1stLt R. J. KUCHINSKAS  
 S-3A 1stLt F. P. HENDERSON  
 S-4 Capt J. L. ROACH  
 CommO 1stLt E. J. HASSINGER  
 SuppO 1stLt B. E. EDWARDS  
 MTO 1stLt L. D. MATHEWS

## b. Battery Commanders

Hq Battery Capt F. S. CARR  
 M Battery Capt W. J. FEIND  
 I Battery 1stLt W. P. SCHAEFFER  
 B Battery Capt R. C. GREGOR  
 107mm Howtar (2/12) Capt B. K. CONNERS  
 107mm Howtar (1/11) 1stLt P. D. CARPENTER

## 2. Attachments and Detachments.

## a. Attachments:

I Btry, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines (1-22 Dec)  
 B Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines (22-31 Dec)  
 107mm Howtar Btry, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines (1-23 Dec)  
 107mm Howtar Btry, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines (23-31 Dec)  
 Counter Mortar Radar, Hq Btry, 11th Marines  
 Shore Fire Control Party, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines (23-31 Dec)  
 Aerial Observer,  
 Shore Fire Control Party, 3d Battalion, 12th Marines (1-23 Dec)

## b. Detachments:

K Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines  
 L Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines

## 3. Location of Units.

B Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines (YD 88891410) Az fire 3772  
 M Btry(SP), 4th Battalion, 12th Marines (YD 87601445) Az fire 4150  
 107mm Howtar Btry, 1st Bn, 11th Marines (YD 88021479) Az fire 6400  
 Hq Btry, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines (YD 877145)

Enclosure (1)

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**CONFIDENTIAL**Strength Report 31 Dec 1965

	<u>Hq Btry</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>O/H</u>		<u>M Battery</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>O/H</u>
Officers (MC)		13	13			5	4
Enlisted (MC)		154	136			110	120
Officers (N)		1	0			0	0
Enlisted (N)		3	3			2	2

	<u>B Btry</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>O/H</u>		<u>107 Btry</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>O/H</u>
Officers (MC)		9	8			4	4
Enlisted (MC)		133	124			82	79
Officers (N)		0	0			0	0
Enlisted (N)		2	2			2	2

Enclosure (2)

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**CONFIDENTIAL**CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

At 0755H on 1 Dec, the Howtar Battery displaced five guns to (YD 892136) during the conduct of a battalion firing demonstration. The demonstration emphasized massing the fires of the battalion on defensive concentrations, and firing the barrage with the Howtar Battery. Later in the day, a U.S. Army Calibration Team calibrated the 18 howitzers in the 4th Battalion.

During the night of 1 Dec, at 2000H and 2125H, illumination missions were fired for elements of 3/4 in contact with VC at (YD 816174) and (YD 921111). Both missions were completed but no surveillance obtained.

On 2 Dec, I Battery displaced four guns to (YD 862116) at 0730H and Battery M moved two guns forward to (YD 859118) at 1400H. Battery I conducted observed missions on suspected enemy positions in the west sector of the TAOR, and M fired H&I missions.

At 021305H, the AO adjusted M on 2 VC at (YD 733094). The area was well covered, but no surveillance of the enemy was obtained after firing.

The Howtar Battery conducted a night occupation of position, moving to (YD 871139) at 021900H and returning to their primary position at 2100H.

I Battery fired ten observed missions on suspected VC harboring sites and avenues of approach in the southern portion of the TAOR on 3 Dec. The Battery occupied a forward position at (YD 877123) at 0915H, and returned to primary position at 1555H after firing several H&I missions.

At 031850H, an AO attached to 3/4 requested fire on a squad of VC at (YD 880075). No surveillance of the mission was possible due to darkness.

Two rounds of illumination and seven rounds of HE were fired in support of a 3/4 ambush at 032010H in the vicinity of (YD 9007). No surveillance was obtained.

At 050715H the Howtar Battery displaced to (YD 868118). Ten observed missions were fired on suspected assembly areas, avenues of approach, and OP's in the western portion of the TAOR. The missions were observed by an OP group of Scout Observer Trainees manning OP Tango (YD 855733).

Between 050430H and 050500H the battalion fired a preparation for ARVN on a sweep S of the TAOR near TRUOI BRIDGE. Later in the day, members of the new K Co, 3/4 were oriented by firing in their defensive concentrations with shell smoke.

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M displaced two guns to (YD 882116) at 061300H, and fired 22 H&I missions beyond the normal maximum range from their primary position. In the afternoon of 6 Dec, LtGen V. H. KRUIAK toured the battalions civil affairs project in the refugee villages of DIEM TRU, KE DANG, and PHAN DANG (YD 8616).

At 061916H I displaced four guns to a forward position at (YD 875139) and conducted coordinated illumination and HE missions until 2130H.

M fired on one VC at (YD 770077) at 061800H. Surveillance reported good effect on the target area. Two illumination missions were fired during VC contact at (YD 907099) and (YD 905090) during the night of 6 Dec.

At 080630H four M-109 (SP) and three towed 155mm howitzers were moved to (YD 859118) in support of Operation GUNSMOKE, a Marine and ARVN sweep on the west bank of the SONG HONG River from (YD 741161) to (YD 748143). Two of the towed howitzers were manned by personnel from I Battery. Two missions were fired in support of the operation. A VC ambush was dispersed by one mission at (YD 733161) and an unobserved mission was fired on a suspected VC stronghold at (YD 736138).

The Howtar Battery conducted a night occupation of a position at (YD 861142) on the night of 7 Dec.

On 9 Dec, the Howtar Battery fired 24 observed missions on suspected VC positions from a forward position at (YD 883192). An OP was established on Hill 108 (YD 871077) and manned by Scout Observer Trainees. I Battery displaced to (YD 815139) at 091912H at 091912H and fired one coordinated illumination and HE mission before returning to their primary position at 2130H.

Daylight H&I missions were fired by M from a forward position at (YD 859118) on the afternoon of 10 Dec.

At 100100H, an undetermined number of VC attacked the HUONG THUY District HQ with mortars. Three unobserved defensive concentrations were fired at the request of ARVN, and the HQ Crater Analysis Team went to the area during the day. At 0735H on 10 Dec the AO destroyed a boat at (YD 818034).

Illumination was fired for ARVN at 102200H during a light VC probe at (YD 760130). Later in the night, at 110148H, M fired illumination for M/3/4 during a contact which resulted in 4 VC KIA, 1 prisoner, and 5 weapons captured.

On 11 Dec at 0715H, I displaced four guns to (YD 868118) and fired 13 observed missions in the southern sector of the area of suspected VC locations.

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Enclosure (3)

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M fired 14 rounds of HE at four VC in a treeline at (YD 793092) at 111600H. Excellent effect on the area was reported and no subsequent movement was observed. M later fired three unobserved missions on a VC company at the request of ARVN in the vicinity of (YD 790080). On the night of 11 Dec M conducted a night occupation of a forward position at (YD 871139), from which two coordinated illumination and HE missions were fired.

At 130730H, the Howtar Battery displaced to (YD 895080) and fired ten observed missions on suspected VC positions in the southern part of the TAOR. At 1900H, I displaced three guns to (YD 859118) and fired H&I missions throughout the night, returning to their primary position at 140630H.

The AO observed a body at (YD 802075) at 141400H. It was assumed to be a victim of an H&I round.

At 1413 00H, two guns from M occupied a forward position at (YD 831148). While they were enroute to the position, the AO requested fire on four VC on a raft at (YD 731103), which is out of range of the guns in the primary positions. The guns conducted a hasty occupation of position and completed the mission in 11 minutes. The VC deserted the raft and swam to shore, and good effect was reported on the shoreline.

I Battery displaced to (YD 859118) at 141740H and fired H&I missions overnight.

On 15 Dec, the three firing batteries and a Battalion Command Group moved to forward positions for the day. The Howtar Battery occupied a position at (YD 883092). I Battery moved three guns from their overnight position to (YD 882116), and M displaced two guns to (YD 868118). The Battalion FDC (Fwd) was established adjacent to I Battery. 14 missions were fired in the southern part of the TAOR, emphasizing massing the fires of the battalion, requesting reinforcing fires, and TOT procedures.

During the night of the 15th, two unobserved missions were fired in support of 3A's Combined Action Company (CAC) during a VC contact at (YD 902104).

At 172150H, three defensive concentrations were fired at (YD 762090), (YD 780090), and (YD 760110) when the ARVN outpost at NAM HOA came under a light attack. No surveillance was received.

I displaced four guns to (YD 859118) at 181530H to fire H&I missions. The battery returned to its primary position at 190730H.

At 182300H, illumination was fired on 3 VC crossing north of (YD 908122). No further contact was established.

The Battalion fired two observed and five unobserved missions in the vicinity of OP Crow (YD 849086) at 211500H in support of 3A's Mobile Strike Force. Contact was not maintained.

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B Battery, 1/11 arrived at 211830H to relieve I, 3/12. I Battery departed position at 220615H.

During the day on 22 Dec, the Battalion fired on a reported VC company at (YD 987150). A subsequent sweep of the area yielded four hand grenades. At 1730H the AO adjusted M Battery on one VC at (YD 772080). Good effect on the area was reported.

W, 1/11 relieved W, 2/12 at 230600H.

During the morning of the 23d, Howtar and B Battery Commanders were given an orientation of forward firing positions in the TAOR, and at 1300H, B displaced four guns to (YD 868118) and W four guns to (YD 859118). Ten observed missions were fired.

On 24 Dec the AO fired on five VC at (YD 971078). A possible secondary explosion was observed. At 0830H M displaced two guns to (YD 868118). Four observed missions were fired on suspected avenues of approach to the south of the TAOR.

On Christmas Eve, parties were held for the children in the refugee villages of DIEM TRU, PHAN DANG, and KE BANG. 242 families and 637 children attended.

At 242010H, four rounds of illumination were fired for a CAC patrol engaged with two VC at (YD 910946). This was the last firing until the end of the cease fire on 26 Dec. Activities were resumed by firing 15 H&I missions during the afternoon of the 26th.

The Howtar Battery displaced to (YD 868118) and B Battery to (YD 859118) during the morning of 27 Dec. An OP on Hill 93 (YD 865104) observed 12 missions in the south central portion of the TAOR.

M occupied a forward position with two guns at (YD 874108) at 280825. The platoon fired four observed missions and two direct fire missions.

At 290110H CAC requested illumination at (YD 911146). Under illumination CAC engaged 4 VC with small arms fire and wounded one.

At 292158H illumination was fired for ARVN at (YD 897236) on VC activity. CAC requested and received illumination on a similar target at 292316H. No surveillance was received from either mission.

During the month, the 4th Battalion expended a total of 5667 rounds in support of local ground forces. Of these 3367 were 105mm, 1111 were 107mm, and 1189 were 155mm. 195 observed centralization or illumination missions were fired, as well as 57 direct fire missions, 2424 H&I missions, 9 registrations, 3 TOT's, 2 direct fire missions, 1 preparation, 1 destruction mission, and 1 artillery demonstration.

Enclosure (3)

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