

**1ST BATTALION 9TH MARINES
COMMAND DIARY/CHRONOLGY**

AUGUST 1966

PAGES 11 OF 11

NO OTHER DATA ON FILE

HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
APO San Francisco 96602

3/JCW/rgs
05750
3 Sept 1966

[Redacted]

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines (attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology: 1-31 August 1966

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) DivO 5750.1
(c) RegtO 5750.1

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

R. E. Jones
R. E. JONES

1/9

[Redacted]

Aug 66

HEADQUARTERS
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1-31 August 1966

PART I: ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II: GENERAL CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

PART III: SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

{PART IV: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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PART I: ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Reporting Unit. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines
2. Location of Command Post. 010001H August to 312400H August 1966: Vicinity Hill 55, DANANG TACR, coordinates (AT 966617). During the period 161800H August to 170600 August, Command Post (Forward) was established at coordinates 925526. From 170900 August to 181300 August, the Command Post (Forward) was at coordinates 953548. At 181300 August, the Command Post (Forward) began moving back toward the Liberty bridge site and returned to Hill 55 at 181830 August.
3. Period Covered by report. 1-31 August 1966
4. Commanding Officer and Staff

Commanding Officer	LtCol JONES
Executive Officer	Maj DAY
S-1	2dLt PARKER
S-2	1stLt KING
S-3	Maj THATENHURST
S-4	Capt CUTCOMB
5. Principal Subordinate Units.

H&S Company	Capt STONE
Company "A"	Capt VONHARTEN
Company "B"	Capt SPLEAN
Company "C" (OpCon 3d Bn, 9th Mar 20 Aug 1966)	1stLt CONNELL
Company "D"	Capt KEYS
3d Plt; Company "B"; 1st Amtrac Bn.	2dLt HORVATICH
2d Plt; Company "C"; 3d AT Bn.	2dLt HOOR
2d Plt, Company "A", 3d Tank Bn. (OpCon Company "B", 3d Tank Bn)	2dLt GARLAND
1st Plt; Company "B"; 3d Tank Bn.	2dLt NAGLE
4th Plt, Company "C", 3d Eng Bn	SSgt GROVE
FO Team D Battery, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines	2dLt CAMPBELL
Company "C"; 9th MT Battalion (4 Trucks)	
Company "E", 2d Battalion, 3d Marines (OpCon 18-21 21 Aug 1966)	1stLt NUGENT
Company "I"; 3d Bn; 9th Mar (OpCon 17-18 Aug 1966)	Capt NAVADELL
Company "L", 3d Bn, 9th Mar (OpCon 17 August)	Capt PYLE
2d Troop, 4th Cav Regt (OpCon 18-19 Aug 1966)	
6. Command Structure. 1-31 August 1966, OpCon 9th Marines with responsibility for Northern sector of the 9th Marines zone of Action.

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7. Average strength for Month of August.

Officers USMC: 33
Officers USN: 3
Enlisted USMC: 955
Enlisted USN: 53

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PART II: GENERAL CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS
DURING REPORTING PERIOD

During the reporting period, the Battalion was responsible for the northern portion of the 9th Marines zone of action. This responsibility included the occupation, defense, and denial of VC influence into the area; establishment and maintenance of a reconnaissance network; offensive operations, both in and outside the Battalion area of responsibility; blocking and denying the use of the SONG THU BON to the VC in the 9th Marines zone of action; provided security for engineer construction units; provided security for bridge and water point on SONG AI NGHIA, ferry site, and LCM beaching point on the SONG THU BON; maintained river traffic control points on the SONG AI NGHIA; maintained traffic control points at junction of Liberty road and Route 14; provided support of pacification programs as directed, and provided one company as Regimental reserve. This responsibility was accomplished by means of company and platoon size search and clear operations and aggressive patrol and ambush activity of platoon and squad size in an attempt to saturate the Battalion zone of action. The continued development and improvement of semi-permanent positions assigned within the zone of action has progressed steadily. Because of the basic mission and the almost continuous employment of all operational forces the formal training effort was necessarily limited. During the reporting period Company "D" was assigned as Battalion/Regimental reserve. Throughout the reporting period two rifle Companies operated in the area south of route 14 and north of the SONG THU BON while one rifle Company operated north of the SONG AI NGHIA in the Battalion zone of action. The area south of the SONG AI NGHIA and north of Route 14 normally covered by the fourth rifle company, due to operational commitments, was covered by one platoon for a total of 15 days. All units were involved in a deliberate and detailed clearing of VC forces and the complete destruction of VC fortifications, and influence within the assigned ZOA. Continued emphasis is placed on complete demolition and destruction of all actual or potential VC tactical locales with primary emphasis on reduction of VC trenches, tunnels, caves, and family type bunkers. On 3 August, Company "A" conducted a population sweep in Company "A" area of responsibility which resulted in the collection of 2000 Vietnamese, and the capture of 3 VCC females. On 031200H the boundary between this Battalion and 2d Battalion, 1st Marines was changed to include a slight addition to this Battalions zone of action on the eastern boundary. One platoon from Company "D" conducted blocking positions on the east side of the SONG YEN for Company "L", 3d Battalion, 3d Marines from 060700H-071800H. During the period 061700 to 071800 Company "A", supported by tanks and LVT'S, conducted a raid south of the SONG VU GIA vicinity GS (AT 9053) destroying VC forces, fortifications, facilities and influence in the area.

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During the period 101200H to 111700H this Battalion conducted operation WILCOX in accordance with Regimental Operation Order 401-66 in the area known as DUC KY in 1st Battalion, 9th Marines zone of action. Op Con of Company "I", 3d Battalion, 9th Marines was held from 101200H to 111520H; Company "E", 2d Battalion, 9th Marines from 102400H to 111100H for Operation WILCOX. During the Period 16 August-21 August the Battalion conducted a search and clear operation in conjunction with Operation SWANNEE in the area south of the SONG THU BON in accordance with Op Order 120-66. Op Con of Company "E", 2d Battalion, 3d Marines was held from 161125H to 211000H, Op Con Company "I", 3d Battalion, 9th Marines was held from 170400H to 180825H. Op Con Company "L", 3d Battalion, 9th Marines was held from 170400 to 171750H. Op Con Detachment, 2d Troop, 4th Cavalry Regiment was held from 181830H to 191020H. Op Con LCM-8 was held from 180700H to 200600H. Chopped Op Con Company "C", 1st Battalion, 9th Marines to 3d Battalion, 9th Marines from 200600H to 202000H. Three County Fair operations 24, 25, and 26 have been conducted on a continuing basis since 23 August in the Battalions ZOA north of SONG AI NGHIA with Company "A" as cordon force and 2d Company, 4th Battalion, 51st ARVN Regiment as search element. During the reporting period one platoon of RF and one platoon of PF have operated with two forward Companies. They are rotated to DAI LOC on a weekly basis. These Combined operations have proven to be very satisfactory. From 3 August until the end of the reporting period, Scout Dogs, varying in number from two to eight, were employed with the rifle companies of this Battalion with very successful results. These Scout Dogs were obtained from the Scout Dog Platoon, 1st M. P. Battalion, 3rd Marine Division.

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PART III: SEQUENTIAL LISTING
OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel. Detailed personnel data is contained in the S-1 Journal submitted as a supporting document. This Battalion had a slight increase in strength during this period. During this period there were 0 officers and 5 enlisted Marines KIA and 22 enlisted WIA. This Battalion rotated 0 officers and 18 enlisted Marines to CONUS, and 0 officers and 13 enlisted Marines transferred by Service Record. Replacements of 1 officer and 62 enlisted Marines were received. Sixty-three Marines were afforded the opportunity to R&R.
 - a. Three officers and nine enlisted Navy replacements received; 3 officers and 3 enlisted Navy were lost due to transfers. Three Navy personnel were afforded opportunity for R&R. During the period there were 0 officers and 1 enlisted Navy WIA.
2. Administration. Nothing significant to report.
3. Intelligence. During the month of August, enemy activity in the ZOA was limited to harrasing tactics by less than squad size guerilla forces except for the following larger contacts:
 - a. On 14 August in the vicinity of (AT 974574), Company "G" made contact with 15-20 VC, killing 3 and capturing two weapons, web gear, grenades and uniforms.
 - b. On 25 August, Company "C" made contact with 15 VC at (AT 951557), resulting in one VC KIA confirmed and 5 KIA probables. Two weapons were captured and grenades, web gear and documents were recovered from the area of contact.
 - c. On Operation SWANNEE, the following significant contacts were made:
 - (1) On 17 August, Company "C" made contact with an unknown number of VC at (AT 979530), killing 17 VC and recovering one weapon and several documents. In addition, an AO reported killing 20 VC in support of Company "C".
 - d. On 19 August Company "A", in defensive positions at (AT 967548) received 81mm and 60mm mortar fire and heavy small arms fire. Ten VC were reported KIA (Prob).
 - e. On 20 August, Company "A" in defensive positions (AT 957550) received two mortars and heavy small arms fire from 50 VC, resulting in 15 VC KIA probable.
 - f. Also on 20 August, Company "C" made contact with an estimated VC company at (AT 901545). They received heavy small arms fire and 60mm mortar fire. Company "C" reported 5 VC KIA (Prob). Small arms harrasing incidents continued to occur frequently in the blocking positions along the SONG THU BON. Mining incidents on the MSP also continued with a slight increase noted near the end of the month. Several County Fairs were conducted during August and they proved to be very successful.

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Large tunnels and caves were found and destroyed in LE SON (5), CHAU SON (1), and DUC KY (1). A total of 13 VC were killed on these operations. There were two instances of VC terror tactics in our ZOA during the month of August. On the 5th of August, the VC entered the village of CAM VAN, murdered 13 Vietnamese civilians and wounded 3. Later in the month the VC entered the Hamlet of TRUNG AN (2), and burned 80 homes and killed one PF soldier.

g. Psychological Warfare. The general theme for the month of August was to explain the inevitable defeat of the VC and to appeal to the VC to rally to the GVN side. The theme was expounded by the following means:

- (1) The I Corps Psy-Ops field detachment audio team conducted operations from Hill 55, Liberty Road and Route 14. They also assisted in the Psy-War portion of the County Fairs.
- (2) The Regimental sound system was used to broadcast the truth to Viet Nationals about the US mission in VN, employing the Battalion and Regimental Interpreters.
- (3) County Fair Operations were conducted in LE SON (5), CHAU SON (1), and DUC KY (1). The village Chiefs from these villages conducted Psy-War speeches and reintroduced GVN control to the area.
- (4) Face-to-Face Persuasion was conducted by the Companies in the field.

h. Special Operations. None.

i. Employment of the AN/TPS-21, SID/150 and the Infrared Sighting Device.

- (1) AN/TPS-21. The Battalion has only one AN/TPS-21 and it was employed in reserve near the Battalion CP during the month of August.
- (2) SID/150. The Battalion utilized 30 SID/150's during the month of August. Ten were employed by the rifle companies in their CP perimeters and twenty were held in Battalion reserve. No contacts were reported during this period.
- (3) Infrared Sighting Device. Fifteen sniper scopes were on hand in the Battalion during the month of August. All of the scopes were available for use by the rifle companies. No contacts were reported.

4. Training. All units received periodic instructions concerning the mission and role of US Forces in the Republic of Vietnam, the rules of engagement, and the handling of prisoners. Additionally, on-the-job training was conducted for all ranks and MOS's. One man attended NCO school in Okinawa, one man to Field Communication Operators school, and one man attended the water safety course in Saigon. The sixty-two replacements were given 5 days indoctrination prior to being sent to the companies.

5. Special Operations. Nothing significant.

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6. Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare. Nothing significant.
7. Command and Control. Nothing significant.
8. Communications and Electronics. During the reporting period, the Battalion received 63 AN/PRC-25's and distribution was made to the companies.
9. Close Combat. Nothing significant.
10. Fire Support and Fire Support Coordination. Artillery was employed on targets of opportunity, on known enemy minefields, on counter-mortar battery positions and in the restriction of enemy movement at night through harassment and interdiction fires. One, time on target mission was fired on a suspected enemy assembly area with negative results. On call defensive fires were provided each unit in static and moving situations and registration of these concentrations was stressed. Permanent defensive fires were provided units in semi-permanent positions and the registration of these fires completed.
- a. Artillery fired 120 fire missions during the reporting period with credit given for at least 6 VC KIA and 19 VC MIA. A breakdown of the type of missions fired and the ammo expended follows:

Targets of opportunity	55
Concentration registration	20
Minefields	2
Time on Target	1
Aerial observer	5
Counter-mortar	3
H and I	33
<u>Total</u>	<u>120</u>

Armo expended:	105 How.	3,038
	155 How.	924
	155 Gun	22
	"8"inch	0
	<u>Total</u>	<u>3,984</u>

- b. The 81mm support was provided to each company by a section of 81mm mortars. The 81mm platoon fired 65 combat missions and received credit for 15 VC KIA and one 60mm mortar (Prob). Armo expended is as follows:

	HE/L	HE/M	ILL	WP
H and I fires	192	3623	41	2775
Combat Missions		1785	88	1079
	<u>192</u>	<u>5408</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>3854</u>

11. Logistics. During the reporting period, combined logistics continued to be extensive. Six tons of equipment and supplies were

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delivered by air and 70 tons of equipment and supplies were delivered via surface modes to field based units. Also seven ammunition bunkers (12'x12') were constructed out of 22,400 sandbags. During this period, the amount of miles traveled by Battalion vehicles totaled 26,348. Total hours: 1,420.

12. Air Defense. Nothing significant.

13. Combat Air Support. Air support was used when necessary by this command during this reporting period. A total of 41 medevacs were flown bringing 56 casualties to immediate medical aid. Airborne observers in OH-6's and UH-1F's were used for ground observation and support of ground units. "Buff the Magic Dragon" was used on the 19th and 20th for illumination and support. This type aircraft ability to illuminate it's own targets and bring to bear enormous fire power aided substantially in repulsing an enemy attack on Company "A" on the 19th. Resupply of the individual companies was provided by UH-34's and UH-37's on a limited basis to relieve the load on our remaining track vehicles.

14. Medical and Dental Support. Nothing significant.

15. Chaplain Support. During the month of August, Sunday divine services were conducted on Hill 55 and Hill 5 for Catholics and Protestants. Weekly church services were also held in each company. Hospital visits were made to CHARLIE MED and NSA. The chaplain recorded 10 counselling and 5 Red Cross cases. Roman Catholic Mass was said for Vietnamese of AN TRACH village. Catholic coverage was also provided for 2/1 CP, 2/12 CP, 1/11 CP, BRAVO BATTERY, and Company "E" at HA DONG bridge.

16. Civil Affairs. During the month of August, the Battalion concentrated it's civil action efforts to Hill 55 complex, BICH BAC Hamlet, and the several County Fair operations conducted by the Battalion. Daily Med-Cap was given on Hill 55 and BICH BAC by the BAS corpsman. Over 1100 civilians were treated during this period. Clothing, soap, rice, and toys were distributed in various areas within the ZOM. A total of 16 civilians were med-evaced during the month of August.

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PART IV: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- NIF { S-1 Journal
- S-2 Journal
- S-3 Journal

