

1ST BATTALION 9TH MARINES

COMMAND DIARY/CHRONOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 1967

PAGES 12 OF 41

(NO S-1 JOURNAL)

ON FILE NOT INCLUDED

BRIEF S-2, S-3 JOURNALS

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

498567

3/EMR/rrg
5750
10 Oct 1967

0033 67

UNCLASSIFIED



1st BN. 9th MAR
COPY 2 OF 20 COPIES
S & C 00544-67

From: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO 3D)

Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 3d Marines
(2) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 September to 30 September 1967 (U).

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPacO 5750.3
(c) DivO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Command Chronology

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

J. F. Mitchell
J. F. MITCHELL

COPY TO:
CO, 9th Marines



UNCLASSIFIED

*1st Bn/9th Mar
Cmd Chronol*

10 Sep 1967

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

005750
10 October 1967

UNCLASSIFIED

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 September to 30 September 1967

INDEX

- PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

5750
10 Oct 1967

UNCLASSIFIED

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESTINATION

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

COMMANDERS

LtCol. R. J. SCHEMING
1 September to 9 September 1967
Major D. C. DANIELSON
10 September to 24 September 1967
LtCol. J. F. MITCHELL
25 September to 30 September 1967

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company

Capt. R. F. BRUNER
1 September to 30 September 1967

Company "A"

Capt. J. P. RYAN JR.
1 September to 30 September 1967

Company "B"

Capt. R. C. WELLS
1 September to 30 September 1967

Company "C"

Capt. C. B. HARTZELL
1 September to 30 September 1967

Company "D"

Capt. F. L. SCHAEFER JR.
1 September to 30 September 1967

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

3/EMR/rrg
005750
10 Oct 1967

UNCLASSIFIED

ATTACHED UNITS

- 1st Section, 1st Platoon, Co. "A", 3d At Bn. 1 September to 5 September 1967
- 2d Platoon, Co. "B", 3d Tank Bn. 1 September to 5 September 1967
- Company "I", 3d Bn., 3d Marines 18 September to 19 September 1967
- Company "L", 3d Bn., 3d Marines 1 September to 7 September 1967

2. Location.

Throughout this reporting period the Battalion CP has been situated at Camp J. J. CARROLL with Command Group A operating in the field from 1-September to 5 September 1967.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

- Major D. C. DANIELSON
1 September to 9 September 1967
- Major J. J. PAGANELLI
10 September to 24 September 1967
- Major D. C. DANIELSON
25 September to 30 September 1967

S-1

- 1stLt. H. DUGAS
1 September to 30 September 1967

S-2

- 1stLt. A. FAGAN
1 September to 24 September 1967
- Capt. H. J. M. RADCLIFFE
25 September to 30 September 1967

S-3

- Capt. H. J. M. RADCLIFFE
1 September to 5 September 1967
- Capt. E. M. RINGLEY
6 September to 24 September 1967
- Major J. J. PAGANELLI
25 September to 30 September 1967

S-4

- 1stLt. R. A. AARON
1 September to 30 September 1967

S-5

- 1stLt. W. L. DELANEY
1 September to 27 September 1967
- 2dLt. R. J. ARBOLEDO
28 September to 30 September 1967.

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

3/EMR/rtg
005750
10 Oct 1967

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC

USN

OFF
31

ENL
1139

OFF
2

ENL
46

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

3/EMR/rrg
005750
10 Oct 1967

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Operation LIBERTY, which commenced on 31 August 1967 continued until 5 September 1967. Company "A" and "B" with Command Group "A" had moved to the vicinity of YD 112604. Company "C" remained at Delta-5 and Company "D" at Ba-Long.

On 1 September 1967 the Battalion (-) was ordered OPCON to 9th Marines to continue the mission in a new area bounded by 0967-1267 on the North and 0964-0967 on the South and to be prepared to reinforce Con Thien or to counterattack forces attacking it. That night an ambush from Company "B" made contact with an undetermined size enemy patrol. The next morning a patrol from Company "B" while searching the area of the ambush site engaged four (4) North Vietnamese soldiers at coordinates YD 119670 killing two (2) and capturing two (2) AK-47 rifles, ammo, grenades, individual issued equipment, documents and a wallet. Later on 2 September the battalion received approximately fifteen (15) rounds of friendly mortar fire. Liaison with 9th Marine Regiment secured the firing.

Resupply was a problem from 1-5 September. Helicopters were not available.. and held to a minimum as was road traffic because of the election on 3 September. On 4 September the first resupply in three (3) days was accomplished by sending a platoon with four (4) tanks to the MSR to link up with a motor transport convoy. Contact through 6 September was light with sporadic probes and negative results.

The 3d Battalion, 26th Marines relieved the Battalion on station on 6 September and by 1715 the last elements were returned to Camp J. J. CARROLL OPCON reverting to the 3d Marines.

Company "A" was sent under OPCON of 3d Battalion, 3d Marines on 7 September to provide a relief force for a convoy ambushed at coordinates YD 996477. At 1754 Camp CARROLL came under a rocket attack and again at 1920 received 83mm artillery rounds with no casualties.

A patrol from Company "C" detonated a booby trap, wounding two (2) Marines and one (1) Kit Carson Scout on 9 September.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

On 10 September commencing at 1745 Camp J. J. CARROLL received nineteen (19) rounds of one hundred and thirty (130) and one hundred and fifty-two (152) millimeter artillery, resulting in three (3) KIA's and five (5) WIA's. Counter battery fire was conducted with unknown results.

Company "B" commenced a one (1) day sweep operation on 12 September around the Camp CARROLL perimeter checking the wire and looking for evidence of enemy activity with negative results. Company "A" returned to Camp CARROLL at 1127 the same day. Company "D" returned to OPCON of 1st Battalion, 9th Marines on 141415 Z September via helicopters from Ba Long.

On 15 September 3rd Platoon of Company "C" defending Khe Gia Bridge at coordinates YD 025564 received small arms fire from approximately twenty (20) North Vietnamese soldiers. The platoon returned fire getting three (3) KIA (P) and suffering no casualties.

Company "A" left Camp CARROLL at 1045 15 September to conduct a search and destroy operation in the Cam-Lo Valley north of the Cam-Lo River using hill one hundred (100) and ridge line one hundred and twenty-four (124) as guides. Company "C" was put on a two (2) hour alert as a stand-by. Company "B" occupied platoon positions at Khe-Gia Bridge, Delta-5 and the three (3) OP's within the Camp J. J. CARROLL perimeters. Company "D" remained in the perimeter. Company "A" continued their operation through 19 September getting stranded at coordinates YD 067606 for two (2) extra days, because of heavy rains resulting in flooding the area and swelling rivers and streams. Company "A" returned crossing the Cam-Lo River by using indigenous fishermen's sampans. The heavy rains of 15-18 September served as an introduction to the oncoming monsoon season and pointed out deficiencies in preparation. Bunkers and positions were flooded and the area was a quagmire the first day of the rains. Virtually all of the positions either were modified or reconstructed, new drainage ditches were dug and defensive wire was restrung or reinforced. The next week was spent on monsoon preparations and improving the defensive positions.

The battalion came under a one hundred and two (102) millimeter rocket attack at 1915 on 24 September 1967. Approximately forty-three (43) rounds were received in a four (4) hour period resulting in two (2) KIA's and ten (10) WIA's. Suspected enemy positions were fired upon as sightings were reported at YD 032583 and YD 07159A.

Company "D" began a five (5) day search and destroy operation on 26 September in the area bounded by 1253 to 1653 on the North and 1247 to 1647 on the South. They returned on 30 September with no enemy contact although on two (2) occasions Marines tripped booby traps resulting in one (1) KIA and three (3) WIA's.

ENCLOSURE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

3/EMR/ec
005750
10 Oct 1967PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

f. FMS Organizations committed to combat and the SLF.
 a. Combat Missions assigned. The Battalion was employed in Operation KINGFISHER and Operation LIBERTY, (310800 Aug67-050320 Sept67) which included battalion (-) and company size S&D operations.

(1) Operation KINGFISHER. To occupy and defend Camp J.J. CARROLL and the assigned area of operations to include the defense of Delta-5, Ba Long and the Khe Gia Bridge.

(2) Operation LIBERTY. To conduct reconnaissance in force operations along major avenues of approach/infiltration routes that lead toward Cam Lo area.

On 7 September 1967 an additional mission was assigned as follows; Be prepared to reinforce Con Thien or to counterattack forces attacking it.

b. Significant Operations conducted. The Battalion (-) conducted one (1) Battalion size S&D operation, two (2) Company size S&D operations and two (2) platoon size S&D operations. These operations included destruction of enemy bunkers and fighting holes, recovery of enemy small arms and equipment, plus providing a Company Size Relief Force for a beleaguered convoy.

c. Casualties inflicted on the enemy.

Operation LIBERTYConfirmed KIAProbable KIAPOW WIA

2

3

0

Operation KINGFISHER. Still in progress.

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

3/EMR/rtg
005750
10 Oct 1967

UNCLASSIFIED

d. Casualties Sustained:

Operation LIBERTY

<u>USMC KIA</u>	<u>USMC WIA</u>
3	8
<u>USN KIA</u>	<u>USN WIA</u>
0	0

Operation KINGFISHER. Still in progress.

e. New Techniques Employed: None

f. Command Relations. During Operation KINGFISHER and Operation LIBERTY, Company "I", 3d Battalion, 3d Marines and Company "L", 3d Battalion, 3d Marines came under OPCON of 1st Battalion, 9th Marines. Command Group "A" with Companies "A" and "B" came under OPCON of the 9th Marine Regiment during Operation LIBERTY. Company "D" remained under OPCON of 3d Marines until 14 September when they returned OPCON to 1st Battalion, 9th Marines.

g. Equipment. During the reporting period, organic motor transport has been engaged in household, administrative and resupply runs for the Battalion.

The shortage of M-422A1 vehicles has reached critical proportions. The Battalion is now operating with twelve (12) out of a T/E of twenty (20) M-422A1. Of these ten (10) are border line due to lack of much needed repair parts.

The situation with respect to the M-274A1 vehicles is also serious. The Battalion has thirteen (13) out of a T/E of thirty (30). However, this should be rectified soon with the arrival of thirty (30) M-274A2 vehicles.

Hostile fire rendered one (1) M-37B1 inoperable, leaving this command with three (3). Action has been initiated on O2 Priority for damaged parts at FLSU-1 on September 25, 1967.

h. Logistics. Logistics activities during the month of September were centered on helo resupply to companies committed and truck resupply to Camp J. J. CARROLL from Dong-Ha. Still in progress.

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Washed out roads and swollen rivers preclude motor vehicle resupply and seriously limit helicopter movement. Due to these problems regarding resupply of Companies committed, it is recommended that deployed companies take a three (3) day ration of Class I and Class V. All static positions, (such as D-5 and Khe Gia Bridge) should have a five (5) day Class I and V stockpiled.

Steps have been initiated to bring this Battalion up to stockpile requirements for the monsoon season in Class I and Class V.

1. Civic Action. During the month of September, 1967 the S-5 Section of 1st Battalion, 9th Marines held two (2) regular weekly Medcaps on the 8th and 15th of this month. There were forty-two (42) men, sixty (60) women and eighty-three (83) children treated from the villages of Cam Nghia (YD 090523) and Cam Chinh (YD 098525) throughout the month.

The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Chaplain held a weekly English Class in the Cam Chinh primary school, instructing ninety-five (95) children in two (2) one (1) hour classes each Friday. The Civil Affairs Officer, Village Chief of Cam Chinh and the Cam Chinh primary school teachers established a Scholarship Committee for the purpose of screening applicants for secondary school aid under the General WALT Scholarship Program. Fields of fire and the main road were cleared of foliage by a one hundred (100) man Labor force of Montagnards hired by S-5.

On 8 September 1967 the Village Headquarters Building of Cam Chinh was roofed with tin supplies through S-5 and village labor.

An armed propaganda team worked the 14th, 15th, and 16th of September broadcasting rewards systems, Chieu-Hoi appeals, and Medcap hygiene instructions to the people of the Cam Nghia - Cam Chinh Village complex.

j. Administration. None.

k. Personnel: The following were dropped/transferred by/from this Command.

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
3	103	0	2

The following personnel were joined to this Command.

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
3	62	0	1

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

3/EMR/lrg
005750
10 Oct 1967

UNCLASSIFIED

1. Intelligence. The enemy activity in the Battalion AO increased noticeably as more frequent sightings and larger troop units were reported. The enemy appears to be using the area for an infiltration route to Quang Tri City and for storing supplies. Contact was established at coordinates YD 119670, on 2 September, resulting in two (2) North Vietnamese Army KIA. They were newly well equipped, carried AK-47's and had an abundant food supply with them. Booby traps appeared more frequently in the Delta-5 area, usually a grenade rigged with a trip wire. The shelling of Camp J. J. CARROLL was from the north of the Nam-Lo River, but two (2) S&D Operations in the suspected area revealed no trace of the enemy. Increased friendly patrol activity hasn't contributed any significant intelligence.

The enemy made use of AK-47's, 60 and 82 millimeter mortars, eighty-five (85), one hundred and two (102), one hundred and forty (140) and one hundred and fifty-two (152) millimeter artillery and rockets. They simulated incoming artillery and mortars by throwing satchel charges when probing lines.

The biggest obstacles has been the rain washing out roads and bridges, swelling streams and rivers to impassible levels and curtailing movements and resupply efforts. Critical terrain features such as Dong Ha mountain, hill one hundred and twenty four (124) and hill one hundred (100) afforded excellent observation, although the rain rendered the latter practically isolated.

m. Weather. During September the weather varied from hot, humid, sunny days to cool, windy, rainy days. Winds and rains from the mountain west alternating with the coastal showers from the Northeast brought intense periods of heavy rains during the latter part of the month. Heavy layers of fog shrouded portions of the area from time to time.

n. Communication. Communication for the month of September was reliable. For the first time in many months there was little or no frequency overlap problems with our attached Companies. The usual interference between our Battalion Tactical Frequency, Air Frequency and Artillery Frequency was alleviated by re-allocating a few of the frequencies used within the Battalion with the concurrence of Regiment.

Unfortunately, the poor logistical support of the AN/PRC-25 radio continued. The number of combat losses stepped up to sixteen (16) from the last months ten (10).

The AN/TPS-21 radar itself continued to operate in a superior manner. However, because of the rain, operations were limited to approximately fifty per cent (50%) of the normal working time. With the oncoming of the "Monsoons" operation of this set will be extremely curtailed.

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

c. Fire Support. In the month of September, the bulk of artillery fires were H&I's. There were four (4) missions called in on known or suspected targets including two (2) on moving lights, one (1) on a suspected enemy position and one (1) against small arms fire. Negative results were obtained from delayed surveillances. Eight (8) registration concentrations and marking rounds were fired.

There were 2287 (105) rounds expended of which all were HE, except twenty-nine (29) WP. There were seven hundred and five (705) (155) HE rounds and 236 (175) HE rounds fired for a total of 3,228 rounds. No illumination was fired as the Battalion relied on its organic fire support for illumination missions. No HC rounds were fired.

p. Air Support. Air support for this reporting period consisted mainly of helicopter operations and TPQ requests. Fifty-nine (59) medevac sorties, five (5) aerial observer sorties, eight (8) resupply sorties, and six (6) combat and logistical troop lift sorties were flown during the month of September. 296 TPQ requests were submitted.

q. Activations/Deactivations/Redesignations: None

000000

o. Fire Support. In the month of September, the bulk of artillery fires were H&I's. There were four (4) missions called in on known or suspected targets including two (2) on moving lights, one (1) on a suspected enemy position and one (1) against small arms fire. Negative results were obtained from delayed surveillances. Eight (8) registration concentrations and marking rounds were fired.

There were 2287 (105) rounds expended of which all were HE, except twenty-nine (29) WP. There were seven hundred and five (705) (155) HE rounds and 236 (175) HE rounds fired for a total of 3,228 rounds. No illumination was fired as the Battalion relied on its organic fire support for illumination missions. No HC rounds were fired.

ENCLOSURE (1)

p. Air Support. Air support for this reporting period consisted mainly of helicopter operations and TPQ requests. Fifty-nine (59) medevac sorties, five (5) aerial observer sorties, eight (8) resupply sorties, and six (6) combat and logistical troop lift sorties were flown during the month of September. 296 TPQ requests were submitted.

UNCLASSIFIED