

1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION 9<sup>TH</sup> MARINES

COMMAND DIARY/CHRONOLOGY

OCTOBER 1967

PAGES 12 OF 43

(NO S-1 JOURNAL)

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ON FILE NOT INCLUDED

BRIEF S-2, S-3 JOURNALS

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

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005750  
8 Nov 1967

0034 67

From: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A0 3D)

Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 9th Marines  
(2) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 October to 31 October 1967

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
(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

*1st BN/9th MAR*

*Command Chron*

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1st BN. 9th MAR  
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S & C 00585-67

*Oct 1967*

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3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 October - 31 October 1967

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*Tab A: S-2/S-3 Journal*

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PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDERS

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

LtCol. J. F. MITCHELL  
1 October - 31 October 1967

"H&S" Company

Capt. R. T. BRUNER  
1 October - 6 October 1967  
Capt. R. K. CHIAGO  
7 October - 31 October 1967

Company "A"

Capt. J. P. RYAN JR.  
1 October - 11 October 1967  
Capt. H. J. M. RADCLIFFE  
12 October - 31 October 1967

Company "B"

Capt. R. C. WELLS  
1 October - 30 October 1967  
1stLt. R. A. CROWE  
31 October - 31 October 1967

Company "C"

Capt. C. B. HARTZELL  
1 October - 31 October 1967

Company "D"

Capt. F. L. SCHAFER JR.  
1 October - 31 October 1967

ENCLOSURE (1)

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Det, Co. "I", 3d Engineer Bn.	6 October-31 October 1967
1st Plat, "B" Btry, 1st Bn, 44th Artillery	6 October-31 October 1967
Det, "G" Btry, 25th Artillery	6 October-31 October 1967
3d Plat, "A" Co, 3d Tank Bn.	6 October-31 October 1967
4th Plat, "C" Co, 3d AT Bn.	6 October-31 October 1967
3d Sect, 1st Plat, 1st Searchlight Btry	6 October-31 October 1967
3d Sect, 5th Plat, "B" Co, 1st AmTrac Bn.	6 October-31 October 1967
Det, Seco. Sniper Team, Hqtrs Co,	
9th Marines	6 October-31 October 1967

2. The battalion was located at Camp J. J. CARROLL from 1-6 October and for the remainder of the period was at Con Thien. The battalion rear was located at Dong Ha, after 6 October 1967.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major D. C. DANIELSON 1 October - 31 October 1967
S-1	1stLt. H. DUGAS 1 October - 31 October 1967
S-2	Capt. H. J. M. RADCLIFFE 1 October - 13 October 1967 2dLt. R. J. ARBOLEDA 14 October - 31 October 1967
S-3	Major J. J. PAGANELLI 1 October - 31 October 1967
S-4	1stLt. R. A. AARON 1 October - 5 October 1967 Capt. R. T. BRUNER 6 October - 31 October 1967
S-5	2dLt. R. J. ARBOLEDA 1 October - 31 October 1967

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
42	1018	2	52

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On 28 September Company "A" sent one (1) platoon in the area bounded by 0657 to 0659 on the West and 0857 to 0859 on the East to locate and confiscate enemy material. This area was believed to be a supply point along a suspected enemy infiltration route. The platoon returned without finding any material. The river was reported impassible running swiftly and wider than normal. The following day, 29 September, Company "A" sent the first platoon to the same general area to establish blocking positions. Once in position the second platoon was helilifted north of the Cam-Lo River to conduct a search and clear operation with emphasis on possible supply areas and routes of infiltration. No evidence of the enemy was discovered and the second platoon crossed to the south bank of the river.

The end of the month found the battalion in the perimeter of Camp J. J. GARRONE with one (1) platoon of Company "B" at Delta-5 and (1) platoon at the The Gio Bridge.

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 1 October 1967 the battalion was defending Camp J. J. CARROLL, Delta-5 base and the Khe Gia Bridge. The same day a truck returning from a road sweep to Delta-5 detonated a mine at YD 088521 wounding one Marine and rendering the truck inoperative. The size of the mine was determined to be seven and a half (7½) pounds. A search and clear operation involving one company north of Cam Lo was cancelled due to the swollen conditions of the Cam Lo River. The following day a patrol from Company "E" operating in vicinity of Delta-5 found ten bunkers determined to be about two weeks old and construction tools.

From the 3d through the 5th of October 1967 preparations were made to move the battalion rear to Dong Ha and the forward elements to Con Thien as relief for Third Battalion, Ninth Marines. At 051400 H October the battalion assumed command of Con Thien.

Between the 7th and 9th of October the battalion took approximately sixty-six rounds of mixed artillery and mortar fire which resulted in eleven WIA's. The following two days Con Thien received approximately 105 mixed artillery, mortar and recoilless rifle rounds resulting in four KIA's and twenty-four WIA's. An artillery mission was fired at two elephants on 12 October resulting in both being killed.

A TPQ-10 controlled airstrike on 13 October at 1955 H accidentally dropped ordnance inside the battalion perimeter resulting in two KIA and seventeen WIA's. During the day the battalion received approximately 105 rounds of mixed artillery, mortar and recoilless rifle. The 14th saw an increase in incoming rounds in the Con Thien perimeter with approximately one hundred and ninety rounds recorded. During this period an LVT suffered a direct hit rendering it completely inoperative.

Beginning on the 15th of October, platoon and company sweep and clear operations in excess of 1000 meters to east, south, southwest, and west were included in the day activities of the battalion. Active patrolling during daylight hours has been instrumental in keeping enemy small arms and mortar fire at a minimum, permitting the engineers to proceed with the minefield without interruption. In addition, aggressive night patrolling to include listening posts and ambushes four to five hundred meters around the Con Thien perimeter have materially resulted in keeping the enemy from the battalion's outer wire.

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On the 16th of October air strikes run by the battalion FAC, resulted in eleven secondary explosions. A total of fifty-five tons of hard and soft ordnance was expended. There was a decided decrease of incoming rounds on 17 October which can be contributed in part to the successful air strikes of the previous day. Activity remained light in the Con Thien perimeter from the 18th to the 20th of October. On the 19th, at 1200 H Company "C" rejoined the battalion from Gio Linh.

The battalion (-) was employed in a multi-battalion sweep on 26 October 1967. Two Companies plus the Command Group acted as a blocking force during the sweep and discovered numerous bunkers, three M-16 rifles, four chicoms, one AK-47 magazine, and one NVA shovel.

During the period 26-29 October the battalion continued to receive sporadic artillery, mortar and recoilless rifle fire. During a platoon sweep on 30 October at YD 111688 the following enemy items were found: one first aid kit, thirty rounds AK-47 ammunition, insect repellent, ten propaganda sheets, one AK-47 magazine, one gas mask and one NVA pack. The battalion remained at Con Thien at the end of this reporting period.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. FMP Organizations committed to combat and the SLF.

A. Combat Missions Assigned. The battalion was employed in Operation KINGFISHER during the entire period which included Battalion (B) and company size Search and Destroy Operations.

(1) Operation KINGFISHER. To occupy and defend Camp J. J. CARROLL and the assigned areas of operation to include the defense of Delta-9 and the Khe Gia Bridge.

On 5 October the mission was changed as follows: after relief on position at Camp J. J. CARROLL by the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, to proceed to Con Thien and affect relief of the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines at that position by 10 October 1967.

B. Significant Operations Conducted. The battalion in carrying out its primary mission of defending the Con Thien Outpost made considerable improvements to strengthen the rain deteriorated bunker defenses. The Con Thien perimeter to the north/southeast was bunkered, rebuilt and extended to seal off a likely avenue of approach and to more effectively utilize available supporting combat power. A reinforced company outpost was established in the vicinity of YD 110698 to occupy critical terrain approximately one thousand meters south of Con Thien. Considerable effort has been expended by all personnel in planning, coordinating and defending the operation of four engineer platoons in the construction of bunkers and laying of minefields (Dye Marker Project see current progress reports in accordance with Division Administration Plan 48.67). Coordination of artillery fires with the fires of organic weapons (both direct and indirect) was effected to obtain the maximum effectiveness of both and to reduce reaction time on known observed enemy mortar and artillery positions.

C. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy.

KIA (Conf) 3 KIA (Prob) 15 POW (WIA) 0

D. Casualties Sustained:

USMC KIA 10 USN KIA 2

USMC WIA 153 USN WIA 2

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E. New Techniques Employed. None

F. Command Relations. During the period 1-5 October the battalion was under operational control of the Third Marines. On 6 October operational control of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was passed to the 9th Marines. Company "G" came under operational control of 1st Battalion, 9th Marines on 6 October and returned to the 9th Marines control on 19 October. The battalion requested and received permission from the Third Marine Division to control direct support artillery, close air support and priority of fires from general support artillery within its TAOR. The coordination of artillery and air within the 1st Battalion, 9th Marine's TAOR has had a definite effect on reducing the large number of enemy artillery rounds received at the Con Thien Outpost during the later half of this reporting period.

G. Equipment. Within this reporting period organic motor transport has been engaged in household, administrative and resupply runs for the battalion.

There still remains a serious shortage of M-422A1 vehicles. At the end of the period the battalion was equipped with eleven of the twenty vehicles, the rest are code X at FLSU.

H. Logistics. Logistic activities during the first part of this reporting period was centered on re-locating the battalion rear base from Camp J. J. CARROLL to DONG HA.

Heavy rains during the middle of this reporting period somewhat hampered resupply to Con Thien, however enough resupplies were stockpiled to carry out the mission of the battalion without critical shortages. Portions of special monsoon clothing equipment were received and allocations of those items deemed appropriate were forwarded to personnel at Con Thien.

I. Civic Action. During the month no Civic Action Programs were undertaken due to the location of the battalion.

J. Administration. Nothing significant to report.

K. Personnel. The following personnel were transferred from this Command.

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
8	108	1	7

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>
15	114	1	14

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L. Intelligence. The following enemy units were reported operating in or near the Battalion AO: elements of the 803rd Regiment, 324B Division, elements of the 90th Regiment, 324B Division, elements of the 101st Regiment, elements of the 6th Battalion, 270 Regiment, elements of the 2d Battalion, 3d Regiment, and elements of the 27th Independent Battalion.

Command intelligence reports were highly accurate concerning location of enemy units and planned attacks. While the Battalion occupied the Con Thien Outpost during the period, it received one thousand three hundred incoming rounds of mixed artillery, mortar, recoilless rifle and rocket fire. The weapons were often observed and counterbattery fire was repeatedly called. Enemy mortar positions have been consistently sighted at a range of about 1000 meters for 60mm and fifteen to twenty five hundred meters for 82mm. The recoilless rifle fire has come from considerably closer at five hundred to one thousand meters almost exclusively from the west and north. Since the 25th, these rounds have been mixed VT and PD fused. Some of the VT fused rounds have been observed to burst into smaller projectiles and in turn detonate upon impact spraying a large area with fine shrapnel.

There have been only two instances of mortar fire from a southerly direction and it was believed to be 60mm mortars from YD 1168 and 1268. For the most part the active 60mm mortars have been concentrated in the 1070 grid squares. The fires of the 60mm were sporadic and intermittent rather than sustained. The 82mm mortars were more consistent and were frequently used to coincide with incoming artillery and recoilless rifle fire. Larger mortars, believed to be one hundred and twenty millimeter or larger came from an area bounded by the 11, 13, 71, 73 grid lines.

Artillery accounted for nearly half of the incoming rounds and the majority of these rounds were from areas close to the Ben Hai River, bounded by the 11, 13, 77, 79, grid lines. Long range artillery was received from grid squares 0679 and 1284. These rounds included all known types of NVA artillery of mixed VT, PD and delay. Placement and timing indicated use of radio equipped FO's.

M. Weather. During October the weather varied from hot, humid sunny days, to cool, windy rainy days. Heavy rains during early and mid month caused flooding and washed out roads and bridges.

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N. Communications. Communications during the month of October were reliable, although some shortages existed due to previous high combat losses of the AN/PRC-25. Wire Communication was used extensively in order to supplement radio communication.

Frequency interferences during the month were at a minimum due to re-allocation of frequencies within the battalion. The addition of an administrative frequency during the latter part of the period was necessary due to the lack of radio relay at Con Thien.

O. Artillery. Fire Support was effective during this period utilizing many types of observed fires including counterbattery and counter-mortar fires, fires on targets of opportunity, marking rounds fires, and prep fires. A total of three hundred and thirteen missions were fired, at two hundred and eighty known or suspected targets; twenty-six on marking round missions; five on illuminating missions; one on prep fires, in addition, controlled harrassing and interdictory fires were effectively used, both day and night. The results of the surveillance of all the missions indicated nineteen secondary explosions, seven probable KIA and two elephants being used as pack animals also killed.

A summary of rounds fired show one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three 4.2 inch rounds, (1,612 HE and 330 WP). A total of one hundred and eighty rounds were fired by general support batteries. The above figures do not include H&I Fires. Coordination of artillery fires with fires of organic weapons (both direct and indirect fire weapons) was effected to obtain the maximum effectiveness of both. In addition, artillery fires were used to mark targets for aircraft and aerial observers. Finally, the program of continuous fires directed on known or suspected targets was significant in minimizing the firepower of the enemy.

P. Air Support. The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines spent the greater part of this month in the defense of the Con Thien Outpost complex. Both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters played a vital part in resupply and close air support for the battalion.

The CH-53A helicopter has lifted in tons of ammunition, food and water and UH-34D completed over forty medevacs. On 10 October three flights of fixed wing air support were directed by the FAC. Fifteen tons of ordnance were delivered resulting in sixty meters of trench-lines partially destroyed, one bunker destroyed and three damaged and one recoilless rifle position destroyed. Between the 14th and the 25th both the battalion Air Liaison Officer and Forward Air Control Officer controlled thirty two fixed wing air strikes resulting in nineteen secondary explosions, one active mortar destroyed, one recoilless rifle probably destroyed, one active mortar probably destroyed and several bunkers and fighting holes.

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Approximately one hundred and sixty tons of hard and soft ordnance was expended on enemy positions. A total of four hundred and ten targets were recommended for T1Q-10 radar controlled bombing.

G. Activation/Deactivation/Redesignations. None

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