

1ST BATTALION 9TH MARINES

COMMAND DIARY/CHRONOLOGY

NOVEMBER 1967

PAGES 10 OF 38

(NO S-1 JOURNAL)

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BRIEF S-2, S-3 JOURNALS

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

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3/EMR/ec
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8 Dec 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO 3D)
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 November to 30 November 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

CMD CHRON

Nov 1967

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1st BN. 9th MAR
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 November - 30 November 1967

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8-2/3 JNL

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDERS

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

LtCol. J. F. MITCHELL
1 November - 30 November 1967

"E&S" Company

Capt. R. T. BRUNER
1 November - 8 November 1967
1st Lt. R. A. CROWE
9 November - 30 November 1967

"A" Company

Capt. H. J. M. RADCLIFFE
1 November - 30 November 1967

"B" Company

Capt. R. C. WELLS
1 November - 8 November 1967
Capt. R. T. BRUNER
8 November - 30 November 1967

"C" Company

Capt. C. B. HARTZELL
1 November - 30 November 1967

"D" Company

Capt. F. L. SCHAFER
1 November - 30 November 1967

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DET, Co. "L", 3d Engr Bn.	1 November-20 November 1967
1st Plt. "B" Btry 1st Bn, 44th Arty.	1 November-20 November 1967
DET, "G" Btry, 25th Arty	1 November-20 November 1967
3d Plt. "A" Co, 3d Tank Bn.	1 November-20 November 1967
3d Sec, 5th Plt. "B" Co, 1st AmTrac Bn.	1 November-20 November 1967
3d Sec, 1st Plt, 1st Searchlight Btry	1 November-20 November 1967
4th Plt, "C" Co, 3d AT Bn.	1 November-20 November 1967
DET, Scout Sniper Tm, Hdqtrs Co, 9th Mar.	1 November-20 November 1967

2. The battalion was located at Con Thien from 1-20 November 1967 and for the remainder of the period at Camp EVANS.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Major J. A. DONNELLY
1 November-30 November 1967

S-1

1st Lt. H. DUGAS
1 November-30 November 1967

S-2

2d Lt. R. J. ARBOLEDA
1 November-30 November 1967

S-3

Major J. J. PAGANELLI
1 November-30 November 1967

S-4

Capt. R. T. BRUNER
1 November- 8 November 1967
1st Lt. J. M. GEORGI
9 November-30 November 1967

S-5

2d Lt. R. J. ARBOLEDA
1 November-30 November 1967

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
39	1045	2	50

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PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

At the beginning of Operation Kentucky, on 1 November the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was occupying the defensive outpost at Con Thien with three rifle companies and one company (Rein) occupying a strong point one thousand meters south of Con Thien. On 1 November Company "C" and Company "D" conducted separate Search and Clear Operations to the southwest and northwest. Company "D" made contact with an NVA Recon/Mortar team and exchanged small arms fires resulting in one POW, ten KIA's probable, and one WIA probable. The POW was interrogated at Battalion for combat intelligence and sent to the 9th Marines. After the initial contact, Company "D" pursued the enemy for about two hundred meters and finally broke contact, under cover of 81mm and 4.2 inch mortar fire; when the aerial observer spotted an undetermined number of NVA moving in support of enemy front line elements. During the engagement Company "C" was operating in grid square YD1069 with an additional mission of reinforcing Company "D" from the southwest within twenty minutes. On the same day the Battalion (-) received thirteen rounds of mixed mortar, artillery fire with no casualties.

The following day a platoon from Company "B" established a patrol base approximately one thousand meters east-southeast of Con Thien and ran saturation patrols with negative results. The perimeter received forty-eight rounds of mixed artillery and mortar fire resulting in five WIA's of which two were medevaced.

On 3 November two companies moved out of the perimeter to sweep to the east and southeast. Company "A" swept to the southeast approximately 1,500 meters, establishing a Company patrol base every 500 meters. Company "B" swept due east approximately 1,500 meters establishing a Company patrol base every 500 meters. The Companies linked up approximately 1,500 meters east of Con Thien and returned to the perimeter. Neither Company made contact during the sweep. Con Thien received thirteen rounds of mixed artillery and mortar fire on 4 November resulting in two WIA's, one of whom was medevaced. The next day Company "C" discovered a bunker complex at coordinates YD104683. A search of the area was conducted and the following equipment was found: one RPG launcher, thirteen RPG rounds, one Russian carbine, claymore mines, chi-com grenades, 60mm mortar rounds, small arms ammunition and batteries. All ammunition was destroyed in place and the equipment was turned over to the Regimental S-2. Con Thien received thirty-four rounds of mixed artillery and mortar fire resulting in five WIA's, two of whom were medevaced.

On 6 November, Company "B" (-) swept to the east and northeast with negative results. Company "C" (-) moved from Con Thien to C-2 Bridge in connection with Frag Order #4 of Operation Kentucky.

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Company "A" swept south of Con Thien in the vicinity of grid square YD1166 discovering fourteen bunkers at coordinates 116676. The bunkers were searched with negative results and destroyed. The perimeter received twenty rounds of mixed artillery and mortar fire resulting in eight WIA's of which six were medevaced.

Two Rifle Companies and Command Group A departed the perimeter at 0500 7 November on a Search and Clear Operation to the west of Con Thien. Command Group A moved with Company "A" to establish a blocking position in grid square YD1069 while Company "D" swept to the southwest. Company "A" made contact with approximately fifteen NVA's in the vicinity of YD105693 while moving into their blocking positions. The leading elements of Company "A" pressed forward forcing the enemy to break contact. Approximately one hour later Company "D" tied up with the right flank of Company "A". Company "A" established a holding position while Company "D" moved approximately two hundred meters into the hedgerow. With Company "A" supporting, Company "D" pushed into the hedgerow and became heavily engaged with an estimated NVA Battalion. After three hours of fierce fighting, Company "D" broke contact with Company "A", 81mm mortars, artillery and fixed wing attack aircraft, supporting Company "D's" withdrawal. Supporting fires continued to blanket the area while both Companies made an orderly withdrawal to the Con Thien perimeter. The days action accounted for seventeen enemy KIA confirmed and forty-two enemy KIA probable. Friendly casualties for the same action were one KIA, and nineteen WIA's of which eleven were medevaced. The perimeter received forty-one rounds of mixed artillery and mortar fire resulting in seven WIA's, one medevaced.

Between 8-10 November the Battalion conducted company and platoon size sweeps to the southwest, south, southeast, and east with negative results. During this period, the Battalion received eighty-six rounds of mixed artillery and mortar fires resulting in one KIA and 10 WIA's. Only two of the 10 WIA's were medevaced.

A four Battalion sweep around the Con Thien perimeter began on 11 November. During the two day operation, the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines held the Con Thien Outpost and provided guides to assist the maneuver battalions in arriving at their jump-off points. The Battalion also placed one company in a blocking position to the west of Con Thien. A platoon from Company "D" linked up with 1/3 northwest of Con Thien, upon completion of their Search and Destroy Operation at 1830 on 12 November, and then led 1/3 to a strong point one thousand meters south of Con Thien in the vicinity of Yankee Station. The battalion received thirty-four rounds of mixed artillery and mortars during the operation resulting in one minor WIA.

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From the 14th-18th, the Battalion continued to conduct company and platoon size sweeps to the southwest, south, southeast and east. During this period, Con Thien received only thirty five rounds of incoming resulting in four WIA's, two of whom were medevaced.

On 19-20 November 1967 the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines relieved the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines. Company "C" and "D" departed Con Thien at 191230H for Camp EVANS. The remaining two companies and the Command Group departed Con Thien at 201430H with the battalion coming under operational control of the 4th Marines at 1800H the same day.

On 21 November, the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines became the Resident Infantry Battalion at Camp EVANS and assumed responsibility for the perimeter, Hill 51, Hill 674 and PK-17. On 24 November Company "B" came under operational control of the 2d Battalion, 26th Marines with a mission of providing security for a rock crusher operated by the Sea Bees at Nam Hoa.

On 25 November Company "A" was assigned the mission of denying enemy access and cutting off lines of communications into the village of Kom Bo Dien. Platoon and squad size patrols found numerous fighting holes, bunkers, and three M-26 grenades booby traps resulting in one WIA medevac. Company "C" while on a infantry/tank patrol approximately 2000 meters south of Camp EVANS sustained one minor WIA from a booby trapped 105mm round and had four wheels knocked off a tank. The battalion remained at Camp EVANS at the close of this reporting period.

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PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. FMF Organizations committed to combat and the SLF.

A. Combat Mission Assigned. The battalion was employed in Operation Kentucky during the period 1-20 November in the defense of Con Thien. Company size Search and Destroy Operations were carried out in and around the perimeter.

On 20 November the battalion was relieved and relocated at Camp EVANS, where the battalion assumed the mission of perimeter defense and outposts in the area of operation.

B. Significant Operations Conducted. The battalion continued to carry out its primary mission of defending the Con Thien Outpost as a part of Operation Kentucky. In addition, the Battalion (-) swept to the southwest of Con Thien on 1 and 7 November respectively, making enemy contact on both occasions..

C. Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy.

KIA (Conf)	KIA (Prob)	POW (WIA)
32	59	1

D. Casualties Sustained:

USMC KIA: 2	USN KIA: 0
USMC WIA: 56	USN WIA: 6

E. New Techniques Employed. None

F. Command Relations. During the period 1-20 November the Battalion was under operational control of the 9th Marines. On 21 November operational control of the Battalion was passed to the 4th Marines. Operational control of Company "B" was passed to the 2d Battalion, 26th Marines on 24 November.

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 this reporting period the Battalion was equipped with eleven out of twenty vehicles, the rest were Code X at FLSU.

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H. Logistics. Logistic activities during the first part of this reporting period was centered on maintaining fifteen days of Class I, II, III, and V supplies at Con Thien. The completion of the MSR at Con Thien reduced the need for helicopters and increased the capability of an Infantry Battalion to meet its logistic requirements at Con Thien. During the latter part of the month, the battalion was involved in building up a supply base at Camp EVANS and in maintaining an adequate level of supplies on Hill 51 and 674.

The requisition for deficient AN/PRC-25 radios and H-138 handset remains critical. Due to the length of time required for repair, typewriter availability within the Battalion has reached a critical level.

I. Civic Action. During this reporting period no Civic Action Programs were undertaken.

J. Administration. Nothing significant to report.

K. Personnel. 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>
3	161	0	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>
2	253	0	4

L. Intelligence. During the early period of Operation Kentucky elements of the 803d NVA Regiment operated to the north and northwest of Con Thien with a mission of harrassing Con Thien with mortar, recoilless rifle fire, and sniper fire. Two Battalions of the 101st Regiment were operating in the area to the southwest of Con Thien, but were forced to retreat due to losses suffered in an "arc-light" strike. The latter part of the month it was reported that the 804th and K-2 NVA Battalion's were operating in the Van Song Ba area in the vicinity of YD2480 until 23 November when they were hit with air strikes forcing them to withdraw to the Bai Bong Mountains. During this reporting period there was one POW detainee WIA, and one held for two days, questioned and released.

M. Weather. During this reporting period the influence of the Northern Monsoon caused scattered showers and limited visibility due to heavy cloud cover.

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N. Communications. The augmentation of Dye Marker AN/PRC 25 radios for use on Con Thien temporarily relieved communications shortages within the Battalion. Upon relief at Con Thien, the Battalion's communication capability was again reduced. At the present time, the battalion is meeting the minimum requirement for communication at Camp EVANS with no back up available.

O. Artillery. Fire Support played a significant role in the execution of the Battalion mission during this reporting period. A total of one hundred and forty-three missions were fired. Of the total number of missions fired one hundred and sixteen were on known targets. Harrassing and interdictory fires utilized in conjunction with a program of observed fires on suspected targets to obtain the maximum effectiveness of the supporting fires. These fires resulted in six secondary explosions, four confirmed KIA's, two probable KIA's, two artillery positions damaged, and one artillery piece destroyed. Artillery Fire Support during the period 20-30 November 1967 was primarily concerned with evaluation of the defensive fire plan at Camp EVANS and in making recommendations for the coordination of artillery fires with fires of organic weapons (both direct and indirect) to obtain the maximum effectiveness of supporting fires.

P. Air Support. 1st Battalion, 9th Marines made extensive use of fixed wing aircraft and helicopters to meet operational and administrative requirements. A total of twenty six medevacs were requested and completed during this period. Seventeen flights of FAC Controlled fixed wing airstrikes and nineteen flights of AO Controlled fixed wing were conducted for the period 1-20 November. Approximately 242 tons of hard and soft ordnance was expended on enemy positions resulting in the destruction of one mortar pit, thirty six bunkers, eight automatic weapon positions, two secondary explosions, eleven confirmed NVA KIA's, forty-five meters of trenchline destroyed and one quarter mile of road damaged. During the period 20-30 November 1967 air support was at a much lower level than during the early part of the period. One major troop lift was accomplished on 24 November when Company "B" was helo-lifted to Nam Hoa as relief for Mike Company 26th Marines.

Q. Activation/Deactivation/Redesignation. None

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