

1ST BATTALION 9TH MARINES

COMMAND DIARY/CHRONOLOGY

AUGUST 1968

PAGES 17 OF 52

ON FILE BUT NOT INCLUDED:

FRAG ORDERS (SOME)

OVERLAYS

OTHER DATA

378908

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

3/AF/1r1
005750
28 Sept 1968

From: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code 403D)
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 1-31 August 1968

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 references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.
2. The security classification of this document is downgraded at three (3) year intervals and declassified after twelve (12) years.

A. Fernandez
A. FERNANDEZ
by direction

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIB 5200.10

1st BN. 9th MAR
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S & C 00830-68

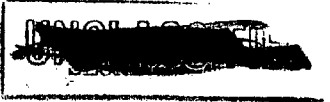
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1ST BN/9TH MAR

CMD CHRON

AUG 1968



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COMMAND OF RONOLGY
1-31 ~~1968~~ 1968
AUGUST
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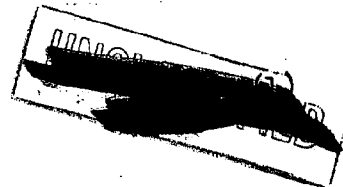
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FRAG ORDERS (29-31; 40-42)
OPN ORDER 9-68
A/A Rpt, Opn LANCASTER II

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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

H&S Company

Company A

Company B

Company C

Company D

STAFF

COMMANDERS

LtCol Francis X. COLLETON
1-31 August 1968

Capt T.W. MEEKER
1-27 August 1968
Capt P. DUNN
27-31 August 1968

Capt J.S. STRONIAK
1-31 August 1968

1stLt S.E. STACY
1-26 August 1968
Capt T.H. MEYER
27-31 August 1968

1stLt K.L. HARMON
1-31 August 1968

Capt F. BRADLEY
1-31 August 1968

PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

H&S Company

Company A

Company B

Company C

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Capt J.S. STRONIAK
1-31 August 1968

1stLt S.E. STACY
1-26 August 1968
Capt T.H. MEYER
27-31 August 1968

1stLt K.L. HARMON
1-31 August 1968

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2. LOCATION: From 1-17 August 1968, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was located at VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE, with Company A at CA LU (YD 008458). The battalion was responsible for the defense of the perimeter of VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE and CA LU.

From 17-25 August 1968, 1st Battalion 9th Marines was operating in northern ICTZ. Two areas were worked in this operation; both were south-west of CON THIEU and north of CAMP CARROLL.

On 26 August the battalion assumed a relaxed posture at VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE.

From 27-31 August 1968, 1st Battalion 9th Marines was employed in an operation to the west of the ROCKPILE.

3. STAFF OFFICERS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Major W.W. DINGGAR
1-31 August 1968

S-1

1stLt W.M. PELTO
1-31 August 1968

S-2

1stLt G.M. COSTELLO
1-31 August 1968

S-3

Major A. FERNANDEZ
1-31 August 1968

S-4

1stLt F.F. JENNINGS
1-31 August 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
	38	1038	2	51

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 1 August 1968, 1st Battalion 9th Marines had received the mission of base perimeter defense of VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE and CA LU. Company A (Rein) was located at CA LU, Companies B, C, D(-) and HRS were at VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE. Company D provided a platoon for defense of Signal Hill. On 1 August, at 1720, Company D observed suspected enemy mortar flashes at YD 966485 and XD 946494. They also observed flashes on the Rockpile. Artillery and 81mm mortar missions were fired with unknown results. At 2345, a company LP, heard digging and movement at XD 979476; 4x60mm HE rounds and 2x60mm illumination mortar rounds were fired with unknown results. Digging and movement were no longer heard.

On 2 August 1968, at 0900, Company D observed one bunker which was later found to be an old fighting hole. At 1600, at Company C's position, one man was seriously injured while burning trash, resulting in one NPO medevac. At 2330, Company D heard movement along the outer wire of their perimeter; they fired pop-illumination and spotted one person running away from the wire at YD 013468. 81mm mortar illumination, 100mm-79 rounds, 12x60mm mortar HE and artillery illumination were fired with excellent coverage of target, but unknown results.

On 3 August 1968, at 1600, a patrol from Company A was crossing the Quang Tri River at XD 997445. One man slipped and panicked. Efforts were made to rescue him, but the man was lost from sight and not seen again.

Two UH-1Hs helicopters conducted an aerial search of the river with negative results. At 1700, Company D spotted two enemy rocket sites at XD 974518 and called a fire mission with good coverage of target. At 2030, Company D spotted movement in their wire, 6xM-79 rounds were fired at the movement and 1xM26 grenade was thrown, a man on watch received a shell fragment in the left eye from an M-79 round. The Marine was medevaced to Delta Med. At 2345, Company C suspected movement in front of their lines. Small arms, M-79's and 60mm mortar illumination were fired and the movement stopped.

On 4 August 1968, at 1100, Company A observed 8 clean-cut Vietnamese in the field, one individual had soft hands, and papers stating that he was a 13 year old wood-cutter. Also, two women and a man in an ARVN uniform, were observed in a tree line. Search efforts were continued for the missing Marine (see C31600P Comp A) with negative results. At 2200, Company C at XD 997490, spotted lights and two suspected figures. Small arms were fired with good coverage and negative results. At 2240, Company D from Signal Hill, observed what appeared to be a flashlight moving toward their position. The light ceased after a 60mm mortar mission had been fired.

On 5 August 1968, at 0725, Company C spotted movement in the bushes to the front of their position. M-79's were fired and the area was checked with negative results.

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At 1115, Company D was hoisted to YD 081411. They began preparations for Fire Support Base HENDERSON. A platoon from Company B replaced the platoon on Signal Hill. At 1120, Company A found the body of the missing Marine lost in the Quang Tri River on 3 August. The body was found at YD 024456. At 1515, Company D observed one NVA in a tree line at YD 076415. The enemy disappeared into the heavy tree line before he could be taken under fire.

On 6 August 1968, There were no significant events.

On 7 August 1968, at 2140, Company B heard noises, talking and digging, at XD 973478. After 30 minutes a fire mission was called. The noises ceased, and a patrol discovered two destroyed bunkers. The bunkers were 3'x5'.

On 8 August 1968, there were no significant events.

On 9 August 1968, At 1915, Company B heard digging and observed suspected enemy positions at XD 973474. An artillery mission was requested but called off since target was in a position that was difficult to bring effective fire upon. At 2340, Company F at XD 978479, reported 3 artillery rounds of unknown size landing at XD 973477. Attempts were made to locate the source of the rounds with negative results.

On 10 August 1968, there were no significant events.

On 11 August 1968, at 1900, Company C at XD 997516, spotted approximately 30 troops who appeared to be setting in. The troops were taken under 81mm mortar fire with unknown results.

On 12 August 1968, at 0130, Company A observed small light and heard a dog barking. Light was observed with aid of night observation device. One 81mm mortar round was fired with negative results. At 1800, Company A at YD 031472, observed one enemy at YD 034147. 81mm mortar mission was fired with unknown results.

On 13 August 1968, Company D returned to VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE, and assumed perimeter security with Companies B(-) and C. At 2205, Company D observed movement at YD 003482, while searchlights were being used. 2xM-16 rounds and 2xM-79 rounds were fired with negative results. At 2215, Company B spotted enemy movement to the west of their position (XD 977479), in the defensive wire. 10xM-79 and 5x81mm mortars were fired with negative results.

On 14 August 1968, at 2315, Company C fired 81mm mortar mission on a possible avenue of approach to VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE at XD 973505. During adjustment rounds with WP, screams were heard from the area of impact.

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On 15 August 1968, at 1300, Company A at YD 981541, spotted 2 NVA at XD 961537, carrying a mortar tube. A fire mission was called but adjustments were slow and difficult and the mission was ended. At 1430, Company B at XD 999472, spotted 2 NVA digging at XD 972463. An artillery mission fired 8 rounds with negative results. At 2220, Company B heard movement in their wire, 1xM26 grenade was thrown and the movement ceased.

On 16 August 1968, there were no significant events.

On 17 August 1968, at 1000, 1st Battalion 9th Marines was notified to operate in the vicinity of YD 0966. Company patrol base camps were established and extensive patrolling commenced. Company A at 093659, was reinforced with tanks, from Company A, 3d Tank Battalion. At 1745, a platoon of Company C at YD 094668, found approximately 28 bunkers in good condition, with tunnels from each bunker. Bunkers and area appeared to have been vacated in a hurry. All bunkers made of sticks, wood, and dirt, were blown. At 2350, the battalion CP at YD 093661, received one friendly artillery round. There were no casualties and check fires were called.

On 18 August 1968, at 0900, the tanks attached to Company A, returned, due to rains making movement from area at a later date difficult. At 0910, 1st Platoon, Company C, found one dud 155mm round, which engineers blew in place. At 0955, 1st Platoon, Company C, at YD 093675, discovered a partially destroyed complex of 12 to 15 bunkers 2'x2'x4'; overheads consisted of sticks and dirt. All remaining bunkers were destroyed. At 1000, Company A at YD 092655, found one bunker 5'x8'; bunker was destroyed. At 1000, Company D found 15 bunkers 4'x5'x4' at YD 102659. Most of the bunkers were destroyed from bombing, the others were then destroyed. The remains of a body were also found. At 1125, Company A, at YD 095655, found 3x82mm mortar rounds and 5 bunkers 6'x4'x4'. The bunkers and 2 rounds were destroyed. One round was brought back to the Company CP. At 1130, 2nd Platoon, Company D, found an automatic weapon and miscellaneous gear at YD 087667. At 1220, 3d Platoon, Company D, found 8 bunkers 4'x4'x6' with sticks and dirt as overheads, and 3 one man fighting holes, 3'x3', at YD 099670. The bunkers and fighting holes were destroyed. At 1315, a patrol from Company A, at YD 095655, found 20 bunkers, 67x82mm rounds, 3x60mm rounds, 1x75mm round and 3 boxes of 82mm mortar fuses. The bunkers and ordnance were blown. At 1330, the patrol from Company A found 5x50 caliber cases (empty), 1 medal the size of a quarter, made of copper with a star on a red background, believed to be a VC medal, a plastic cigarette case with cigarettes and lighter, 2 mortar pits approximately 10 feet apart with bunkers on each side. At 1420, Company C, at YD 092682, received 6-8 mortar rounds near their perimeter. Mortar fire was returned with good coverage of target. An 'O' observed enemy movement, ran one flight of fixed wing on YD 105675, and observed one destroyed mortar position.

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At 2215, on 18 August 1968, an LP from Company G, spotted 5 figures to their front. Small arms, M-26 grenades, and 81mm mortars were employed with negative results.

On 19 August 1968, at 0815, Company A, at YD 094664, located 2 bunker complexes, both were destroyed. At 1200, a patrol from Company C found 2 sniper holes, 1 bunker 5'x8'x5', 5x82mm mortar rounds, 5xRPG rounds, 1xChiCom grenade and 3 powder charges. Positions and ordnance were destroyed. At 1230, a patrol from Company A found 5 bunkers and a dud 500 lb. bomb at YD 092655, remains of an old plane without identifying markings at YD 092654, a 175mm round at YD 102651. All above were destroyed. At 1400, a Company B patrol, made contact with A-6 enemy at YD 087653. Received 2 grenades and 10 rounds of small arms. They returned small arms and M-79 fire. The enemy broke contact. A fire mission was called in on enemy. A subsequent patrol checked area with negative results. On return to perimeter, the patrol received one sniper round. At 1630, Company D at YD 097662, discovered 1 bunker 4'x5'x3' with in their perimeter containing 10x82mm fuses, 3 claymores, 9 RPG rounds, 4 cases of 7.62 linked and 12x82mm rounds. All ordnance was destroyed.

On 20 August 1968, Companies A and B displaced to Company Patrol Bases in the vicinity of the YD 0964 grid square.

On 21 August 1968, at 1300, 1st Battalion 9th Marines conducted a heliborne operation to vicinity of YD 0364. Companies A and H&S were located at 036646, Company F at YD 013643, Company C at 035641 and Company D at 023652. At 1400, approximately 15 rounds of unknown size impacted in the vicinity of 039649 resulting in one USMC WIAE. At 1600 the lead elements of Company A received sniper rounds at 033648, resulting in one USMC WIAE. At 1625, Company D at 023652, found 3 small bunkers containing 1 case of .50 caliber machine gun ammunition; all was destroyed. At 1800, Company C found 3 bunkers (2 with sleeping facilities, one with a tunnel system), 3 bunkers, 3 slit trenches, 8x60mm rounds, and 2 NVA stamps. All positions and ordnance were destroyed.

On 22 August 1968, at 1025, a patrol from Company B found 8 bunkers, one of which was booby trapped with 2 grenades, and recently used sniper holes. On a recently used trail, a new AK-47 round was found. The bunkers were destroyed as were the grenades. At 1105, a patrol from Company A found one dud 500 lb. bomb. At 1145, at YD 027647, the patrol received 6 rounds of sniper fire. Fire was returned with negative results. 11 USMC WIAE resulted. At 1500, Company C, at YD 028633, found 7- 3 man holes (7'x5'x4') made of logs and bamboo with aluminum air vents. In them were 23x60mm rounds, 30x60mm warheads, 800xAK-47 rounds, 50x37mm rounds, 1 helmet, 1 pair of sandals, 3 entrenching tools, with 2 covers, 2 canteen pouches, 3 Opium cans open and discarded, 1 tray and 1 pair of trousers, all gear was disposed of. At 1530, a patrol from Company A, at YD 028641, found 2x152mm rounds, 1 ship flare (U.S. made) also found 5 grass huts, caves and 3 bunkers at 029642. All positions and ordnance was destroyed. At 1545 a patrol

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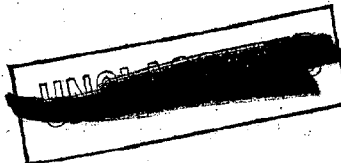
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from Company B made contact with an estimated NVA company at YD 008642. The patrol received small arms automatic weapons and 60mm mortar fire. A small arms and 81mm mortar fire were returned. As casualties were being evacuated to the Company B CP (YD 019643), 2nd Platoon of Company B became pinned down by intense enemy fire near YD 010643. Air provided napalm and rockets in support. Due to the approaching darkness and heavy volume of enemy fire, 2nd platoon Company B was unable to return to the Company Patrol Base, and established a hasty perimeter at YD 013643. Artillery suppression fires were fired throughout the night and a flare ship provided illumination until first light. Casualties for the contact numbered 24 WIA, 8 KIA (7 not yet retrieved), one MIA and 1 NBC.

On 23 August 1968, at 0800, a platoon from Company C was dispatched to reinforce Company B. At 0900, one platoon from Company B moved to assist the 2nd Platoon of Company B in recovering of the casualties and to enable the platoon to return to the patrol base. Air support was erroneously utilized and one bomb landed near the relief force resulting in 5 casualties including the company commander. Casualties were evacuated and Company B returned to the Base Camp. Still missing were 7 KIA and 1 MIA. At 1035, Company A at YD 041654, found 50-75 loose .50 caliber rounds in a pit 8'x3' deep with a dirt mound in the center. The rounds were destroyed. At 1340, Company A at YD 029645, found 2 caves (1 "A" frame type), 4 grass huts, and 5 - 3 man holes, all were well concealed from the air and all were destroyed. At 1430, Company C found what appeared to be a battalion size assembly area. In this area they found trenches and bunkers encircling the hill from top to bottom. Also found were ropes, ladders, grenades, picks, 13x82mm mortar rounds, cooking utensils, stoves, bandages, food, canned milk made in China, gas masks, slit trenches, 10 helmets, NVA clothing, rifle cleaning equipment, bottles of pills, tennis shoes, radio batteries, and M-16 magazines. Bandages and socks with dried blood were found in one bunker. Some of the digging had been recent. At 1610, Company A, at YD 034645, found an "L" shaped sleeping hut (10'x3'x4') and destroyed it. At 1730, a small Battalion command group moved to Company B's position at YD 018647. At 1750, the CP at YD 018647, took about 10 rounds of artillery near their position. Artillery and 81mm mortars were fired with unknown results. At 1845, Company D at YD 032625, received approximately 14 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Counter fire was employed. Casualties numbered 1 USMC KIA. At 1845, Company D began displacing to Company B's position and set in near YD 022649, for the night.

On 24 August 1968, at 0720, Company B YD 026660, took approximately 15 rounds of 82mm mortar fire and fired counter mortar mission with unknown results. At 0730, Company D resumed move to join Company B. At 0730, Company C began a displacement to YD 035687. Company A, at 0900 began a displacement to YD 023643. At 1500, elements of Company B (rein) began to retrieve the bodies from the contact of 22 August.

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At 1535, this unit received 3x60mm mortar. 6 counter mortar missions were fired with unknown results. At 1600, Company D's CP received 4 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from estimated position YD 005655. Counter mortar fire and artillery were employed with good coverage of target but unknown results. At 1700, while firing mortar suppression fires, the CP at YD 019648, observed several small secondaries. Artillery fires were repeated and a huge secondary sending a fireball 300'-400' in the air was observed. AO reported a destroyed bunker with a huge hole in it in area of secondary. At 1730, a Marine while carrying a body, tripped and the safety of his M-79 disengaged resulting in the discharge of one M-79 round. The man was wounded in the face and legs. All bodies were recovered (the MIA was located and included in the KIA count). The last elements of Company B returned to the perimeter at 2100.

On 25 August 1968, at 0855, Company F received 1x82mm from YD 019648. a 60mm mortar mission was fired with good coverage of target. At 1000, a troop lift was begun to move the Battalion back to VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE. At 1200, Company F and 2nd Platoon Company C began receiving 82mm fire in the area. An AO was on station, fixed wing and artillery were employed. 27 rounds of 82mm were taken, resulting in negative casualties. The lift to VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE was completed by 1400.

On 26 August 1968, there were no significant events.

On 27 August 1968, at 1600, 1st Battalion 9th Marines conducted a heliborne operation in conjunction with operation Lancaster Trousdale. Company Patrol Pases were established with Company A in the vicinity of XD 928528, Company B with the Battalion CP at XD 919520, Company C at XD 890515, Company D at XD 913529. At 1635, the battalion CP observed an active enemy rocket site fire 2 volleys of 5 rounds each. A fire mission was called but ended due to closeness of friendlies.

On 28 August 1968, at 1000, Company A found a well used trail leading northwest from XD 918529. At 1230, 3d Platoon, Company C found 12 fighting holes at XD 875506. At XD 870500, the platoon observed a "W" cut into a tree along a trail this mark was noticed every 150 meters leading to a possible base camp at XD 877502. An artillery mission was requested on the area with unknown results. At 1530 Company D, at XD 910529, found a possible rocket site with command detonating booby traps. 20x2.75 inch rockets were found, 10 of which were partially destroyed by ARC LIGHTS, the other 10 were piled and rigged for command detonation. Also in that area were 3 bunkers 6'x4'x4', constructed of logs and dirt, 8 - 2'x3'x2' fighting holes. Positions and ordnance were destroyed. At 1900, Company C received 5 rounds of 82mm mortar fire at XD 890515. Only 3 rounds of the 5 rounds detonated.

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On 29 August 1968, Company D at XD 917526, found approximately 100 feet of multi-strand electrical wire. At 1105, Company A found 8 old fighting holes overlocking the stream at 919532. The holes were 2'x3'x4'. At 1530, Company D at XD 909518 found 20 bunkers along a trail running east to west along the ridge line. The bunkers were 7-14 days old. 4'x3'x4' with logs and dirt overhead comm wire connected the positions. 3 suspected rocket positions 6'x12'x3' were found in the same area. In the position were 3 holes in a triangular position. These appeared to be where a tripod had been placed front hole was 7 feet from rear holes tripod was pointing on a 1400 mill azimuth. Also in the positions were found a plastic lid for a canister of unknown size, a canvas fuse pouch, and document. The positions were destroyed.

On 30 August 1968, at 0900, a patrol from Company A, found 2 dud 2.75 in rockets and a 250 lb bomb in the vicinity of XD 920537. All was blown. At 1315, a patrol from Company D, found 2 bunkers 6'x3'x5' about 1 week old covered with dirt and logs. Bunkers were 25 meters apart with 6 guage comm wire running between them. The bunkers were destroyed. Several trails leading to a water point in the vicinity of XD 909531 were located. At 1310 the patrol from Company D found 2 documents about 25 meters from the trail. At 1330, the patrol found 11 bunkers 6'x5'x5' with dirt and logs overhead and destroyed them. At 1320, a patrol from Company C found a possible heavy weapons site at XD 894501.

On 31 August 1968, at 2250, Company B had one marine accidentally wounded and the man was medevaced.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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F. COMMAND RELATIONS: From 1-31 August 1968, the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines was under operational control of the 9th Marines.

G. EQUIPMENT:

(1) ORGANIZATIONAL DATA (MOTOR TRANSPORT SECTION)

- (a) Location: QUANG TRI, VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE
- (b) Period Covered: 1-31 August 1968
- (c) Officers and staff: 1stLt J.T. CLARK MFO. GySgt W.T. IRVINE MR Chief
- (d) Average monthly strength:

<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
1	23

(2) GENERAL CONCEPT OF OPERATION:

- (a) Organic motor transport has been primarily engaged in resupply, administrative, and message runs.

(3) SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: None

H. LOGISTICS: During the month of August logistical problems were of a minimum. The Battalion was based at VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE for most of the month and the main problem at that position was a lack of sledge hammers and gloves for the building of the VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE. Re-supply in the field went well and there were no problems.

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PART III
 SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. A. COMPAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED. During this reporting period the Battalion was employed on the following missions:

- (1) Providing defense for VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BAST and CA LU from 1-17 August 1968.
- (2) From 17-25 August 1968, the Battalion was employed in operations in the northern ICFZ, where a series of company sized patrol bases were established. With extensive patrols and OP's.
- (3) From 27-31 August 1968, the Battalion was employed in an operation, to seek out and destroy the enemy, his supply caches and infiltration facilities while concurrently evaluating the effectiveness of AIRCRAFT Strikes.

B. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED. The battalion was engaged in two major operations during the month of August. The first operation was in the vicinity of the G-2. The second operation was in the vicinity of the ROCKPILE, consisting of a search and destroy mission.

C. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY.

<u>KIA(CONF)</u>	<u>VIA(PROF)</u>	<u>POW</u>
612	0	0

D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED.

USMC KIA	11	USM KIA	0
USMC WIA	35	USM WIA	0

E. NEW TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED. None

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I. CIVIC ACTION: Civic for the month of August consisted of the taking of 4 boxes of clothes and toys to people of CAM LO REFUGEE VILLAGE. 100 School Kits were taken to District Headquarters to be distributed at the start of school, on 16 August.

While we were there we talked to the head of the medical team about MedCaps. We discussed times, locations throughout CAM LO and necessary security force needed.

We gave assistance to a mother and her 2 children we had entered into the QUANG TRI HOSPITAL. Such as things they needed while in the hospital and in returning home to CAM LO.

We talked to people of FROU VILLAGE, YD 0444, about them using the trash dump, by way of collecting usable items out of it. It was decided they could enter no more than 15 people between 1000 and 1200 hours each day.

J. ADMINISTRATION. Nothing significant to report.

K. PERSONNEL. The following people were transferred from this command:

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>
<u>Off</u>		<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>
			<u>Enl</u>

The following people were joined this command:

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>
<u>Off</u>		<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>
			<u>Enl</u>

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L. INTELLIGENCE. During the month of August, 1st Battalion 9th Marines participated in operations near the DMZ and ROCKPILE area. Enemy forces in the Battalions area of operations were composed primarily of one division (the 320th), the 7th Battalion of the 64th Regiment and an unknown unit. Supporting the above infantry units were the 164th Artillery Regiment, 84th Artillery Regiment, and the 54th Artillery Regiment.

From 17 August - 25 August the Battalion was on an operation West of C-2. Numerous contacts and sightings were made during the operation (largest contact was a Battalion). Approximately 126 bunkers were discovered and enemy equipment and munitions captured included the following: 1x500 lb bomb, 1x175 Howitzer round, 1x155 artillery round, 2x152 artillery rounds, 1x75mm round, 50x37mm rounds, 14xRPG's, 110x82mm rounds, 24x60mm rounds, 4xChiComs, 3xClaymores, 3 boxes fuses, 1 case x .50 cal rounds, 800xAK-47 rounds, and 4 cases 7.62 rounds. One dead body was also found during the operation.

From 27 August - 31 August the Battalion took part in an operation southwest of the ROCKPILE. During the operation no significant ground contact was made. 5 rounds of incoming 82mm mortar fire was received throughout the operation Bunkers (approx 65) and quantities of enemy munitions were found. Enemy ammunition captured included 22x2.75 inch rockets and 1x250 lb bomb. During the operation 7 trails were found.

M. WEATHER. Temperatures ranged from the low 70's during the evening to the low 80's during the day. Winds ranged from 0 - 45 knots. Occasional showers occurred throughout the month.

N. COMMUNICATIONS: During the month communications for the battalion remained stable. The advent of the monsoon season did cause minor problems, particularly in the failure of radio handsets, and resupply of dry cell batteries, neither of the above problems reduced the battalions communicability to any marked degree.

The KY-38 and PRC-77 equipment was introduced into the battalion, but except for one brief period, was utilized solely on the regimental radio net. This equipment was excellent in communicability, maintainability, and reliability. Having but KYK-28 proved a distinct disadvantage in that coding the company cipher units daily would be, at best, impractical.

Some minor instances of frequency conflict and frequency override due to mutual interference were encountered, none of which lessened the units capability to perform the assigned missions.

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O. ARTILLERY. On Operation Lancaster II, arty, on the spur of the moment, fired between 800 - 900 rounds in prep of the LZ's and likely enemy positions. For the first seven days of the operation, contact being light, a regular program of H&I's and TOT's were fired along with regular missions during the day.

On the 23rd and 24th artillery support came into play. In support of Company B artillery was slow in reacting with the exception of one 8" Battery which fired all night long in support of a platoon that was surrounded. The next day artillery fired over 3000 rounds to support units of Company B that went out to retrieve 8 MIA's artillery was credited with one .50 cal machine gun, one huge ammo cache, and between 400 - 500 troops. All day long smoke missions to cover the friendly units were fired along with mortar suppression fires, as a consequence of these fires, no more serious casualties were sustained.

Earlier in the month of August 1st Battalion 9th Marines was assigned the mission of the defense of VANDERGRIFT COMBAT BASE. Over 20 night defensive fires were shot in and a "check" round was shot on these replot grids periodically to check out their effectiveness. Also during this period a very heavy and extensive program of H&I's and TOT's were fired.

P. 1st BATTALION 9th MARINES, left on August 17, 1968 for Lancaster II. L/9 landed in LZ SATURN, 093666, and commenced operations immediately. On 19 August air operations consisted of 3 TFQ missions and two air strikes in the 0967. Company C had an AO work the 1066 - 67 grids for them on 19 August. There was 1 routine medevac from Company D, Company A, Company B each.

20 August: Air operations consisted of 3 air strikes on bunker positions in Company C's AO, and 3 medevacs.

21 August: 1st Battalion 9th Marines lifted from LZ SATURN to LZ FALCON EAST, JUNIOR and VULTURE. The lift was successful and put all units into their proper LZ's.

22 August: 6 TFQ missions were submitted as air operations increased in L/9's new AO air observer's worked with various companies for 5 hours. A patrol from Company B made contact and air observers spotted 3 .50 Cal guns in the patrol's area. A flare ship was used for the patrol for the entire night. 2 air strikes were run for the patrol under the flares.

23 August: 11 TFQ missions were submitted and the light CP was lifted to the Company B CP around 1730. There were 11 routine medevacs.

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24 August: Air Observers worked for Company F the entire day and discovered 20 - 25 bunkers in the O267 grid and mortar position with large troop concentrations in O165 - O565.

25 August: Air strikes numbered around 18 as Companies D and F and CP prepared to lift out of LZ JUNIOR. Air was on station all day and totaled at least 250 KEA during the past 3 days. All of 1/9 was air lifted back to VANDERBILT COMBAT BASE.

On 27 August 1st Battalion, 9th Marines lifted out to kick off Operation SOUL AND TROUSDALE. From this time until the end of the month all air operations were normal with no air strikes and routine resupply and medevacs.

C. ACTIVATION/DEACTIVATION/REDESIGNATION. None

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