

HEADQUARTERS
4th Battalion, 12th Marines
3d Marine Division, (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96601

3/FPH/web
5750
6 October 1965
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From: Commanding Officer, 4th Bn, 12th Marines
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division

Via: Commanding Officer, 12th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for September, submission of.

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.1

- Encl: ✓(1) Organizational data
 ✓(2) Strength report
 ✓(3) Chronological summary of significant events
 ✓(4) Map, VN 1:50,000 Sheets 6559 I, 6559 IV, 6560 II, 6560 III.

- In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1), (2), (3), and (4) are submitted.

E. M. Rodzis
E. M. RODZIS

*4/12
(Sep. rpt. for strength & personnel)*

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ENCLOSURE (3)

Aug 1965

CONFIDENTIALORGANIZATIONAL DATA, 4TH BN, 12TH MARINES

1. Commanders and principal subordinates

a. Special staff

CO Lt Col E. M. HUDZIS
 XO Maj C. A. WEBSTER
 S-3 Maj R. W. HEESCH
 S-1 1st Lt J. R. PARKER
 S-2 1st Lt J. B. THREATTE
 S-4 Capt W. J. FEIND
 SupO 1st Lt B. E. EDWARDS
 MTO 1st Lt L. B. MATTHEWS
 CommO 1st Lt. G. M. MCGILL

b. Battery Commanders

HQ Btry, 4th Bn, 12th Marines	Capt K. G. PATTERSON
I Btry, 3d Bn, 12th Marines	Capt D. N. HARMON
M Btry, 4th Bn, 12th Marines	Capt J. A. ROACH
107 Howtar Btry, 2d Bn, 12th Marines	1st Lt R. KUCHINSKAS

2. Attachments and Detachments

a. Attachments

I Btry, 3d Bn, 12th Marines
 107mm Howtar Btry, 2d Bn, 12th Marines
 Counter Mortar Radar
 Shore Fire Control Party
 Naval Gunfire Liaison Team
 Aerial Observer

b. Detachments

K Btry, 4th Bn, 12th Marines
 L Btry, 4th Bn, 12th Marines

3. Location of Units

I Btry, 3d Bn, 12th Marines (YD 88891410) Az Fire 3772
 M Btry, (SP), 4th Bn, 12th Marines (YD 87601445) Az Fire 4150
 107mm Howtar Btry, 2d Bn, 12th Marines (YD 88021479) Az Fire 6400
 HQ Btry, 4th Bn, 12th Marines (YD 877145)

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ENCLOSURE (1)

CONFIDENTIALSTRENGTH REPORT - 30 SEPTEMBER 1965HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

	T/O	O/H
OFFICERS (MC)	13	13
ENLISTED (MC)	154	117
OFFICERS (N)	1	0
ENLISTED (N)	3	3

MIKE BATTERY

	T/O	O/H
	5	5
	110	118
	0	0
	2	2

MORTAR BATTERY

	T/O	O/H
OFFICERS (MC)	4	3
ENLISTED (MC)	82	65
OFFICERS (N)	0	0
ENLISTED (N)	2	2

INDIA BATTERY

	T/O	O/H
	9	8
	131	108
	0	0
	2	2

CMR & NGF (Attached to India Battery)

	T/O	O/H
OFFICERS (MC)	---	1
ENLISTED (MC)	---	25
OFFICERS (N)	---	1
ENLISTED (N)	---	0

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ENCLOSURE (2)

CONFIDENTIALCHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

During the month of September, the 4th Bn, 12th Marines fired 3136 rounds in support of the 3d Bn, 4th Marines at Phu Bai. These rounds were expended on 614 H & I missions, 12 registrations, 108 adjusted area missions and 3 unobserved preparation fires. Sixteen displacements were made to forward firing positions by the cannon batteries. Of these, eleven were made in the conduct of service practice shoots, and five in support of operations conducted by local ground forces.

At 041530 H September, a 4th Bn OP fired on VC in trees at (YD 787101). An estimated ten VC were killed. The observer for the mission was 1st Lt S. A. SOECHTIG.

On 4 September, 1st Lt S. A. WELD received a slight wound in the arm while in the field as an FO. He is the first officer of the battalion to be wounded in action.

At 061600 September, the FO attached to the reconnaissance platoon, 2d Lt S. K. SMITH, fired on five VC in the open at (YD 785114). Two VC were killed and the remainder dispersed.

On 10 September, two FO teams from I Btry, headed by 1st Lt S. A. SOECHTIG and 2d Lt J. BOOTH, were attached to ARVN for a sweep in the Nam Hoa subsector. There was no contact during the operation, which lasted for one day.

At 120945 September, the 4th Bn conducted a firing demonstration for Lt Gen MANGRUM. The Howtar Battery was deployed to a forward firing position in support of a hypothetical ambush force. On execution of the ambush, the battery quickly established a barrier of fire to seal off the route of escape while M and I Batteries fired into the killing zone. During this demonstration I Btry fired their 10,000th round since arriving in Viet Nam in April.

On 16 September, the M109 155mm Howitzer (SP) arrived at Phu Bai. The six new weapons, with supporting vehicles, were unloaded north of Hue at (YD 827317), and proceeded to M Battery's position by motor convoy. Three guns were in position and ready to fire at 180800 H September. The M109 gives the battalion a significant increase in firepower due to its 6400 mil traverse capability, and it has proved to be an exceptionally accurate weapon during the first two weeks of its employment.

The six towed 155mm Howitzers which the M109 replaced continue to be maintained in an operational status. M, I, and HQ Battery each man two of the guns.

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At 0845 on 17 September, fire was requested on VC in the open at (YD 789094). One WIA was indicated by the recovery of a blood soaked poncho. Later on the 17th, at 2345 H, fire was called on a suspect VC position at (YD 805150). A VC body and weapon were recovered by Recon after the firing.

At 221630 H September, one platoon of 105mm Howitzers from I Battery were displaced to the vicinity of the Troi Bridge (YD 967062) in support of an ARVN search and destroy operation. Additionally an FO team from I Btry and the shore fire control party supported the committed ARVN forces. The platoon fired 203 HE and 20 WP rounds on preparation fires and "will adjust" missions. The ARVN commander was impressed with Marine artillery and desirous of further combined operations.

On 24 September at 1745 H, the recon platoon engaged nine VC at (YD 799075). Coordination between the recon platoon commander and the FO 2d Lt SMITH, enabled the platoon to pin the VC down with small arms fire while artillery was adjusted. Five VC were killed and the other four estimated to be wounded by artillery fire.

At 270630 H September, the Howtar Battery was helilifted to a forward firing position at (YD 820082). OP's were established by 4th Bn. FO's on Hill 163 and along the river within range of the Howtars.

At 1200 H, 8 VC were detected crossing the river in a boat at (YD 815058). The boat was sunk by artillery fire and an estimated three VC were killed. At 1420 H, 2d Lt BOOTH fired on twelve VC on a raft, with about twenty-five VC on the near bank of the river at (YD 782099). After the target had been engaged by artillery fire, Lt BOOTH estimated 14 VC casualties.

During the month of September, the 4th Battalion medical section treated 696 Vietnamese civilians. Most of the work was done in Phu Luong village which houses 200 refugee families and Kim Long orphanage.

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BATTERY "L"
 4th Battalion, 12th Marines
 3d Marine Division
 FPO San Francisco, 96601

DFT/abb
 5700
 70ct65

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, 12th Marine Regiment (Attn: S-3)
 Subj: Command Chronology
 Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
 (b) DivO 5750.1
 (c) RegtO 5750.1

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), the following report is submitted:

A. Organizational data, including attachments:

(1) Battery "L", 4th Battalion, 12th Marines, 3d Marine Division with installations at the following coordinates:

(a) Base Camp: 983748
 (b) 1st Platoon: 964711
 (c) 2nd Platoon: 986717
 (d) 3rd Platoon: 922792

(2) Period covered from 1 September through 30 September 1965.

(3) Captain Daniel F. TRENSKI, Commanding Officer
 First Lieutenant David C. HENRY, Executive Officer
 First Lieutenant John R. MOODY, Assistant Executive Officer
 First Lieutenant Richard J. MALONEY, III, Fire Direction Officer
 First Lieutenant Rodney P. KEMPF, Forward Observer/Liaison Officer
 First Sergeant Harold E. HUEY, First Sergeant
 Gunnery Sergeant Leland D. CRAWFORD, Gunnery Sergeant

(4) Average strength for period covered: 110 Officers and men.

B. Sequential listing of significant events, especially as they relate to:

(1) Personnel: One (1) man was medically evacuated and nine (9) men enjoyed the privilege of R & R during the period covered.

ENCLOSURE (10)

(10)

Battery 'L', 4/12

September 1965

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- (2) Administration: Routine administration procedures.
- (3) Intelligence: None.
- (4) Training:
- (a) An intensive training period with lectures and practical application was held on the Machine Gun, Caliber .50. (10 hours)
- (b) Cannoneer training on the M109, 155mm Howitzer (SP) was conducted for the battery's gun sections by the Executive Officer and the Gunnery Sergeant.
- (c) Fire direction training was conducted for all FDC Personnel. (15 hours)
- (d) Communications personnel were schooled on radio procedures peculiar to the receiving and transmitting of fire missions. (4 hours)
- (5) Special operations: None
- (6) Nuclear, biological, chemical, and other special types of warfare: None.
- (7) Command and control: Some difficulty has been experienced in this area due to the fact this battery has been maintaining four (4) installations since 12 September 1965. These are a base camp and three (3) platoon firing positions.
- (8) Communications and Electronics: Wire WD-1/TT and batteries BA-30 have been difficult to obtain, handsets are on deadline too long due to the shortage of transmitter and receiver elements.
- (9) Close combat: None.
- (10) Fire support and fire support coordination: See summary of Operations.
- (11) Logistics: None.
- (12) Air Defense: Eight (8) machine guns caliber .50 have been employed in an air defense role.
- (13) Combat air support: None.
- (14) Medical and dental support: None.
- (15) Chaplain support: None
- (16) Civil affairs/Military government/Community relations: None.

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OPERATIONS SUMMARY

1-3Sep65	Base Camp coordinates 983748		
	20 H&I	63 HE	21 WP
	1 PR	20 HE	
	1 FFE	10 HE	
3-16Sep65	3d Platoon (2 guns) occupied coordinates 954775		
	17 H&I	17 HE	
	1 PR	9 HE	
	1 HB	11 HE	
	7 WA	47 HE	4 Ill
16-17Sep65	3d Platoon occupied coordinates 918794		
	21 H&I	56 HE	10 WP
	5 Def fires	34 HE	
	1 Ill	1 Ill	
18-20Sep65	3d Platoon occupied coordinates 954775		
	2 H&I	8 HE	
21-29Sep65	3d Platoon occupied coordinates 918794		
	112 H&I	283 HE	6 WP
	3 Prep fire	30 HE	
	1 Prec Dest	23 HE	
	2 WA	26 HE	16 WP
30Sep65	3d Platoon occupied coordinates 922792		
	8 H&I	32 HE	
4-10Sep65	1st and 2nd Platoons (Base Camp)		
	3 H&I	12 HE	
11Sep65	2nd Platoon occupied coordinates 988722		
	6 H&I	18 HE	
12-18Sep65	1st and 2nd Platoons jointly occupied coordinates 986717		
	6 H&I	26 HE	10 WP

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18-30Sep65 2nd Platoon occupied coordinates 988722

59 H&I	234 HE
5 FFE	56 HE
2 HB	20 HE

18-30Sep65 1st Platoon occupied coordinates 964711

35 H&I	85 HE
2 HB	16 HE


D. F. TRENSKI