

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

19 DEC 1964 – 14 MAY 1965

PAGES 11 OF 177

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ON FILE BUT NOT INCLUDED:

BLT 1/9 OPERATION PLAN 201-64  
166 PAGES

30p/lwp  
00375 65  
1 MAY 1965

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Inclassified upon removal of basic correspondence

THIRD ENDORSEMENT on CO, BLT 1/9 ltr 3 WDF djo over 3480  
Ser 0071-65 of 19 Mar 1965

From Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
To Commandant of the Marine Corps

Subj Command Diary for the period BLT 1/9 served as  
Number 1 Surface BLT, Seventh Fleet

1 Forwarded

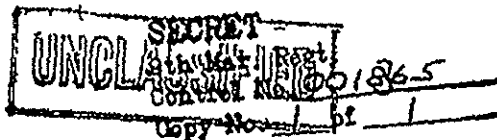
*G C Axell*  
G C AXTELL  
Chief of Staff

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3480  
26 March 1965

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, BLT 1/9 ltr 3:WDF:djo over 3480 Ser: 0071-65  
dtd 19Mar65

From: Commanding Officer, 9th Marines  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Diary for the period BLT 1/9 served as Number 1 Surface  
BLT, Seventh Fleet, submission of

1. Forwarded.

*F. E. Garretson*  
F. E. GARRETSON

30 EYH rrm  
3248  
31 Mar 1965

SECOND ENDORSEMENT on CO, BLT 1/9 ltr 3 WDF djo over 3480 Ser  
0071-65 dtd 19Mar65

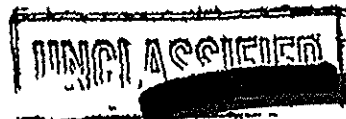
From: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Via: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Diary for the period BLT 1/9 served as Number  
1 Surface BLT, Seventh Fleet

1. Forwarded.

*Andrew C. Lyman*

Chief of Staff



1st Bn, 9th Marines S&C No 007165  
 Copies 1 of 7 copies

HEADQUARTERS  
 BLT 1/9  
 3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
 o/o FPO San Francisco, California, 96601

SECRET

8th Mar Regt  
 Control No 0018365

Copy No 1 of 1  
 3:WDF:djo

3480

Ser: 0071-65

19 Mar 1965

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From: ~~Commanding Officer~~  
 To: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
 Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 9th Marines  
 (2) Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
 (3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Diary for the period BLT 1/9 served as Number 1 Surface  
 BLT, Seventh Fleet, submission of

Ref (a) MCO 3480.1  
 (b) FMFPacO 5750.7A  
 (c) DivO 3480.1  
 (d) 3rdMarDiv OpPlan 201-63

Encl. (1) - Command Diary  
 (2) - BLT 1/9 Operation Plan 201-64 with Admin Plan 201-64  
 (3) - Map: Vietnam 1:50,000; AMS, Series L701; Sheets: 6343 I,  
 III and IV and 6442 III - *filed behind Encl 10*  
 (4) - BLT 1/9 Frag Order 1-64  
 (5) - BLT 1/9 Frag Order 2-64  
 (6) - BLT 1/9 Frag Order 3-64  
 (7) - C.O. BLT 1/9 notes of visit of Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa and  
 Vung Tau Airbases on 12 January 1965  
 (8) - Company Commanders notes of tour of Tan Son Nhut defensive  
 perimeter on 12 January 1965  
 (9) - C.O. BLT 1/9 notes of conference held at Tan Son Nhut by  
 C.O. 33rd TAC Sqd. on 14 January 1965  
 (10) - BLT 1/9 Bulletin 1500 of 20 December 1964 (SLF Training  
 Program)

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) through (d),  
 the Command Diary for the period during which BLT 1/9 served as Number 1  
 Surface BLT, Seventh Fleet (23 December 1964 - 7 March 1965), is  
 submitted herewith.

*T. Owens*  
 T. OWENS

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HEADQUARTERS  
 BLT 1/9  
 3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
 c/o FPO San Francisco, California, 96601

Part I - Organizational Data Sheet

1. Designation of reporting unit: BLT 1/9, 3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF
2. Period covered by report: 23 December 1964 - 7 March 1965
3. Date of submission of report: 19 March 1965
4. Name and rank of Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel Thurman OWENS
5. Location of Command Post at end of period: USS PRINCETON (LPH-5)
6. List of subordinate units and names and ranks of commanders at end of period:

1st Battalion, 9th Marines

"H&S" Company

Company "A"

Company "B"

Company "C"

Company "D"

Battery "D" (Rein), 2nd Bn, 12th Marines

1st Platoon (Rein), Co "C", 3rd Tank Bn

1st Platoon (Rein), Co "A", 3rd AT Bn

4th Platoon (Rein), Co "B", 1st Amtrac Bn

1st Platoon (Rein), Co "C", 3rd Engr Bn

1st Platoon (Rein), Co "D", 9th MT Bn

LtCol T. OWENS

Capt J.A. MARTIN

Capt T.E. DOUDNA

Capt J.J. O'MEARA

Capt W.D. FILLMORE

23Dec64 - 21Feb65

Lt W.B. GRAY

22Feb65 - 7Mar65

Lt R.C. GARTEN

Capt H. SCHOFIELD

Lt R.E. ABLONICH

23Dec64 - 4Feb65

Lt W.C. OPELLO

5Feb65 - 7Mar65

Lt C.J. ROONEY

Lt A.P. AMES

Lt J.R. FLEIER

Lt L.K. LOCKE

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1st Platoon (Rein), Co "A", 3rd Recon Bn

Lt H.H. SWINEBURNE  
23Dec64 - 15Jan65  
Lt A.H. WHITTLE  
16Jan65 - 7Mar65

Detachment, Headquarters Bn, 3rdMarDiv

Lt G.J. BURROWS

Detachment, 3rdShPtyBn

Lt R.J. KNOWLES

Detachment, 3rd Service Bn

Sgt J.S. DUCKETT

Detachment, EOD Platoon (Team A), 3rd FSR

W.O. S.J. REMBISH

Detachment, 3rd Dental Co , FMF

Lt J.E. TABOR USN(DC)

Detachment, Co "C", 3rd Medical Bn

HM2 J.J. SMITH

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HEADQUARTERS  
BLT 1/9  
3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
c/o PFO San Francisco, California, 96601

## Part II - Narrative Summary

1. BLT 1/9 embarked at White Beach, Okinawa on 19 December 1964 aboard the USS HENRICO (APA-45), the USS UNION (AKA-106) and the USS VANCOUVER (LPD-2) sailing on 21 December 1964 and arrived at the Naval Station, Subic Bay, R.P.I. on 23 December 1964. Immediately upon arrival in Subic Bay this organization exchanged shipping with BLT 3/3 embarking aboard the USS PRINCETON (LPH-5) flagship of CTG 76.5, the USS HEXAR (APA-237) and the USS THOMASTON (LSD-28). BLT 1/9 assumed the status of the Number 1 Surface BLT, Seventh Fleet, an element of Task Group 76.5 on 23 December 1964 and completed loading supplies and equipment the following day.
2. Christmas morning, 25 December 1964, Task Group 76.5 was alerted for Special Operations. By 1200 of that day TG 76.5 was underway for station off Cap St. Jacques, Republic of Vietnam. The BLT arrived on station on 27 December and was placed on a six hour reaction time with the mission of occupying and securing Tan Son Nhut (TSN) Airfield in Saigon to ensure continuation of air operation at that facility. Necessary Frag Orders were issued for the accomplishment of the assigned mission and after arrival on station several conferences were conducted with representatives of COMUSMACV in Saigon for further coordination.
3. On 7 January 1965, a practice turnaway helicopter and surface landing was conducted. During this period on station shipboard training was commenced immediately with special emphasis on helicopter operations, riot control measures and physical fitness.
4. Planning continued within 76.5 and on 12 January 1965 the CO of BLT 1/9 was conducted on an air reconnaissance of Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa and Vung Tau Airfields. The same day two of the BLT Company Commanders were conducted on a tour of the ground defenses of Tan Son Nhut Airfield.
5. The BLT remained on station off Cap St. Jacques until 25 January 1965 when the reaction time was changed to ninety-six hours and then the entire TG 76.5 was underway for Hong Kong. The next day, 26 January 1965, the BLT was again alerted for Special Operations and proceeded to station off Danang, Vietnam. Then on 28 January the Task Group again returned to station off Cap St. Jacques on six hour reaction time.
6. The 30th of January again saw the reaction time relaxed to ninety-six hours and the Task Group was underway to Subic Bay, P.I. Upon arrival in Subic Bay on 2 February the BLT conducted a practice helicopter and surface landing. The next several days the BLT attended to preventive maintenance and on 6 February started Jungle Training in the Subic Bay Training Area.

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7. 7 February again brought the alert to the BLT for Special Operations. That day the Task Group commenced movement to station off Cap St. Jacques. On 10 February the BLT was again on station standing by on a six hour reaction time with the same mission of occupying and securing TSN Airfield, Saigon. Shipboard training continued with general military subjects training with emphasis on physical conditioning. On 27 February the reaction time was again moved back to ninety-six hours and the Task Group proceeded to Subic Bay arriving on 2 March.

8. For the next several days the BLT conducted preventive maintenance and prepared for relief as Number 1 Surface BLT. On 7 March BLT 2/9 relieved BLT 1/9 as Number 1 Surface BLT and BLT 1/9 off loaded from the Number 1 Surface BLT shipping.

9. Upon off loading on 7 March the BLT loaded aboard Landing Ship Squadron Nine (six LSTs) for the return to Okinawa. Loading was completed on 8 March and the BLT was enroute to Okinawa from 9 to 12 March.

10. On the 13th of March the BLT commenced off loading at Buckner Bay and Ora Wan Beach, Okinawa. The Completion of off loading of the BLT was conducted at Naha, Okinawa on 14 March 1965.

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HEADQUARTERS  
BLT 1/9  
3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMP  
c/o FPO San Francisco, California, 96601

## Part III - Chronological Narrative

- 19-20 Dec 64 BLT 1/9 boarded USS HENRICO (APA-45), USS UNION (AKA-106) and USS VANCOUVER (LPD-2) at White Beach, Okinawa.
- 21-22 Dec 64 BLT 1/9 underway for Subic Bay, P.I.
- 23 Dec 64 BLT 1/9 arrived Subic Bay, P.I. off loaded from USS HENRICO, USS UNION and USS VANCOUVER and boarded USS PRINCETON (LPH-5), USS BEXAR (APA-237) and USS THOMASTON (LSD-28). Assumed status as Number 1 Surface BLT relieving BLT 3/3.
- 24 Dec 64 Completed loading aboard Number 1 Surface BLT shipping.
- 25 Dec 64 BLT 1/9 alerted for Special Operations departed Subic Bay proceeding to station off Cap St. Jacques, Vietnam.
- 26 Dec 64 Forward element of BLT 1/9 aboard USS PRINCETON arrived on station off Cap St. Jacques at 2010H on six hour reaction time. BLT 1/9 Frag Order 1-64 issued.
- 27 Dec 64 Remainder of BLT 1/9 aboard USS BEXAR and USS THOMASTON arrived on station off Cap St. Jacques.
- 28 Dec 64 CTF 76 held operation conference aboard USS PRINCETON for all Navy and Marine Commanders of TF 76. BLT 1/9 Frag Order 2-64 issued.
- 29 Dec 64 Shipboard training being conducted with special emphasis on riot control measures.
- 30 Dec 64 CO BLT 1/9 attended operation conference with COMUSMACV at Saigon as member of party from TF 76 and Ninth MEB.
- 31 Dec 64 BLT 1/9 Frag Order 3-64 issued.
- 1 Jan 65 Holiday Routine.
- 2 Jan 65 Logistics conference Held by COMUSMACV J-4 at Saigon for MEB, BLT's 1/9 and 2/9 and HMM 162. BLT 1/9 S-4 attended. Subjects covered - in country fixed wing aircraft for troop and equipment lift, mogas, ammo, rations, motor transport and medical evacuation facilities.
- 3 Jan 65 Holiday Routine.
- 4 Jan 65 Shipboard training continuing on general subjects with emphasis on physical fitness and riot control measures.

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5 Jan 65

- 5 Jan 65 Naval Gunfire Support Communications Exercise conducted between USS PRINCETON and USS ANDERSON (DD-786).
- 6 Jan 65 Naval Gunfire Support Communications Exercise conducted between USS PRINCETON and USS ANDERSON (DD-786).
- 7 Jan 65 MajGen D.M. ODEN, Commander U.S. Army Support Command, Vietnam visited USS PRINCETON. Briefed on planned BLT operations in and around the Saigon area. Observed troop reaction time and loading and landing of first 11 aircraft in accordance with Tab E, Appendix 1, Annex C to BLT 1/9 OpPlan 201-64. A practice landing of surface elements of BLT 1/9 was also conducted in accordance with Tab G, Appendix 1, Annex C to BLT 1/9 OpPlan 201-64. BLT 1/9 CO and CEO attended meeting with COMUSMACV and 2dAirDiv at Saigon in company with CG Ninth MEB.
- 8 Jan 65 Counter Insurgency Operations in Vietnam briefing was conducted by the J-2 and J-3 of COMUSMACV aboard the USS PRINCETON for officer of BLT 1/9, HMM 162 and the USS PRINCETON.
- 9 Jan 65 Shipboard training in accordance with enclosure (10) continuing with emphasis on physical conditioning.
- 10 Jan 65 Holiday Routine.
- 11 Jan 65 Naval Gunfire Support Communications Exercise conducted between USS PRINCETON and USS O'BANNON (DD-450).
- 12 Jan 65 CO BLT 1/9, S-3 and two company commanders were conducted on tour of Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa and Vung Tau Airbases. See enclosure (7) and (8).
- 13 Jan 65 Naval Gunfire Support Communications Exercise conducted between USS PRINCETON and USS O'BANNON (DD-450).
- 14 Jan 65 CO BLT 1/9 attended meeting at Tan Son Nhut with CO, 33rd TAC Sqd. See enclosure (9).
- 15 Jan 65 Naval Gunfire Support Communications Exercise conducted between USS PRINCETON and USS O'BANNON (DD-450).
- 16 Jan 65 Shipboard training continuing with emphasis on map reading and physical conditioning.
- 17 Jan 65 Holiday Routine.
- 18 Jan 65 Shipboard training continuing with emphasis on physical fitness.
- 24 Jan 65 Holiday Routine.

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25 Jan 65 Six hour reaction time relaxed to ninety-six hour, departed station off Cap St. Jacques, enroute to Hong Kong.

26 Jan 65 BLT 1/9 alerted for Special Operations, Hong Kong trip canceled enroute to station within 24 hour reaction time of Danang, Vietnam.

27 Jan 65 BLT 1/9 on station off Danang.

28-29 Jan 65 BLT 1/9 received change of station proceeded off Cap St. Jacques on six hour reaction time.

30 Jan 65 Six hour reaction time changed to ninety-six hours, BLT 1/9 departed station enroute Subic Bay.

31 Jan 65 Holiday Routine.

1 Feb 65 Enroute Subic Bay.

2 Feb 65 BLT 1/9 conducted practice landing of helicopter and surface elements upon arrival Subic Bay.

3 Feb 65 Preventive maintenance for BLT.

4 Feb 65 BrigGen F.J KARCH conducted operational briefing aboard USS PRINCETON for all officers and staff noncommissioned officers of BLT 1/9 and HMM 162.

5 Feb 65 Preventive maintenance for BLT.

6 Feb 65 Jungle Training for H&S Company.

7-9 Feb 65 BLT 1/9 alerted for Special Operations underway to station off Cap St. Jacques.

10 Feb 65 BLT 1/9 on station off Cap St. Jacques on six hour reaction time.

11 Feb 65 Naval Gunfire Support Communications Exercise conducted between USS PRINCETON and USS ROWAN (DD-782).

12 Feb 65 Naval Gunfire Support Communications Exercise conducted between USS PRINCETON and USS ROWAN (DD-782).

13 Feb 65 Shipboard training in general subjects commenced again once underway with emphasis on physical conditioning.

14 Feb 65 Holiday Routine.

15 Feb 65 BLT COMEX conducted. BLT Tac Log and TAR Nets activated aboard USS PRINCETON with USS BEXAR and USS THOMASTON. Commenced 0930, successfully completed at 1100. Naval Gunfire Support Communications Exercise conducted between USS PRINCETON and USS BLACK (DD-666).

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16 Feb 65 During the period Naval Gunfire Support Communications Exercises were conducted between the USS PRINCETON and the USS BLACK (DD-666) on 17, 19, 22 and 23 February. General subjects training continued with daily periods of physical conditioning.

27 Feb 65 Six hour reaction time relaxed to ninety-six hours, BLT 1/9 underway for Subic Bay.

1 Mar 65 Enroute Subic Bay, P.I.

2 Mar 65 BLT 1/9 arrived Subic Bay.

3-6 Mar 65 BLT conducted preventive maintenance and prepared for relief as Number 1 Surface BLT.

7 Mar 65 Relieved as Number 1 Surface BLT by BLT 2/9. Off loaded from Number 1 Surface BLT shipping and loaded aboard Landing Ship Squadron Nine (LSTs USS VERNON COUNTY, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, WASHTEENAW COUNTY, WASHOE COUNTY, WINDHAM COUNTY and WHITFIELD COUNTY.

8 Mar 65 Completed loading aboard Landing Ship Squadron Nine.

9-12 Mar 65 Underway enroute Okinawa.

13 Mar 65 Arrived Okinawa and commenced off loading of BLT at Buckner Bay and Ora Wan Beach.

14 Mar 65 Off loading of BLT completed at Naha, Okinawa.

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