

Account of the Da Nang AB Sapper Attack, July 1, 1965 by: A1C Albert L. Handy

Statement of A1C Albert L. Handy

At approximately 0115 hrs, 1 July 1965, SSgt Jensen drove up in a 1 ½ ton truck bringing coffee. I opened the right side door. He asked me how everything was. I said pretty quiet so far. I got a cup and was looking for the coffee jug when a mortar hit a C-130 on the far south end—a jarring explosion and huge fireball. Sgt. Jensen told me to call in to APO (Air Police Office, Photo right).



Da Nang Air Police Office 1963. Photo provided by Gary Bunney

As I started back toward the portable radio I saw approximately 15 Viet Cong, dressed in dark fatigues with camouflage helmets, firing in our direction. Sgt. Jensen got out of the truck, took approximately two or three steps and fell.

The flames from the C-130 made it possible to see the Viet Cong. I immediately counter-fired, making my way to the portable radio. I had the mic in my left hand and firing with my right hand. The V.C. fire was heavy all around me. I heard hand grenades and rockets going off and my only



thought was to head for cover. I dove in my foxhole and came up firing. I changed magazines at that time. I noticed three or four Viet Cong behind one of the tents and fired upon them. They retreated towards the perimeter road. Directly in front of me V.C. were falling back. Automatic weapons fire still continued in my direction. I saw the SAT stop about 100 yards north of my position then depart. A while later the SAT stopped about 50-75 yards away. I rolled out the back of my foxhole into a drainage ditch. I ran as fast as could yelling my name to the SAT vehicle. After the V.C. had moved back, approximately two or three more mortars hit in the F-102 and C-130 area.

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