39th Engineer Battalion
articles and etc. found in the Americal Division Veteran's Association data base.

Above is the 39th Engineer Battalion crest.

39th Engineer Battalion Articles and related materials compiled from the Americal Division Veteran's Association (ADVA) database.

ADVA Historian for 2022 comments. Compilation documents have been made for veterans who might not have computer skills to search the extensive files for materials about their unit.

This document was made for veterans of the 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat).

Two issues of a 39th Engineer Battalion Newsletter has been located on an Alumni website for 39th Engineer veterans. "Photos related to the 39th Engineer Battalion were inserted into this document from The Americal Division's Newspaper, the "Southern Cross". There is no known unit tour book/yearbook for the 39th Engineer Battalion. The 39th Engineer Website had some articles related to the 39th Engineers and 39th Engineer ORLL reports that I had not seen. I plan to make an extraction of Americal Division S2/S3 entries related to the actions of the 39th Engineers.

Maps of the Americal AO with many LZ sites marked are available, but not part of the compilation. A PDF file with nearly every base in Vietnam and grid location is available. Other general information that relates to all units of the Americal Division is in the ADVA data base.

There are Division Operation Reports and Lessons Learned Reports. And named operation reports that can provide insight to the movements of the unit. These will not be incorporated into this document. They can be reviewed online at the AmericalFoundation.ORG website or the Americal Division Portal at the Vietnam Archives at the Texas Tech. University website.

At the end of this document I have inserted examples of Americal Division S2/S3 entries related to the 39th Engineers to illustrate what might be available in the 50 months of Americal Division S2/S3 reports. These are available at the AmericalFoundation.org web-site as well as the Americal portal at the Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive web-site. We also have some S2/S3 reports from the some of the infantry Battalions that might reference the 39th Engineer Battalion, but they are not available online. Some Engineer materials were obtained from active Engineer unit that can be shared. Americal Division Casualty reports are available for January 1970-January 1971 (although some pages are difficult to read). These reports provide a name, unit, and time of incident.

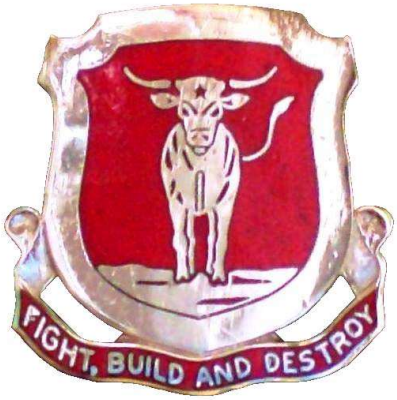
Copies can be requested from the ADVA historian.

A connection will always exist between the veterans who served with Americal Division to the 39th Combat Engineer Battalion.

Personal note: I hope our veterans appreciate what the 39th Engineers did for our soldiers. I especially liked it when the paving of highway one was done. I hated seeing so many American soldiers and Vietnamese civilians killed by mines on highway #1 each day. After the road was paved it was rare to see anything near what was happening prior to the paving.

Stanton Order of Battle Vietnam reference book documentation on the 39th Combat Engineer Battalion.

39th Engineer Battalion (Combat)



Arrived Vietnam: 2 January 1966
Departed Vietnam: 18 April 1972
Previous Station: Fort Campbell

Authorized Strength	**1966**	**1968**	**1970**
Battalion	619	812	812

The 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat) was equipped to perform forward area construction, obstacle preparation, demolition work and fighting as infantry. It provided all non-divisional engineer support in its area and served a s a local construction agency for all projects, especially base construction, upgrading land lines of communication and airfield construction and rehabilitation. It was first assigned to the 937th Engineer Group, then transferred to the 35th Engineer Group and moved to Cam Ranh Bay in March 1966. In July it went to the 45th Engineer Group and relocated to Tuy Hoa and Duc Pho. On 15 June 1967 it relocated to Chu Lai, where it was attached to the Americal Division. It remained until February 1972, and then was reassigned to Da Nang with the U.S. Army Engineer Command, Vietnam. It remained with the latter until it left Vietnam later that spring.

According to the Coffelt Database, there were 88 soldiers who lost their lives related to their service with the 39th Engineers in Vietnam.

(From 39th Engineer Web-site. File from CMH was missing the 39th Engineer Battalion awards with other Americal Division units.)

39TH ENGINEER BATTALION
(BLUE BULLS)

- Constituted 15 July 1940 in the Regular Army as the 2d Battalion, 39th Engineers
- Activated 25 April 1942 at Camp Bowie, Texas
- Redesignated 1 August 1942 as the 2d Battalion, 39th Engineer Combat Regiment
- Reorganized and redesignated 1 March 1945 as the 643d Engineer Combat Battalion
- Inactivated 15 November 1946 at Fort Knox, Kentucky
- Redesignated 29 April 1947 as the 39th Engineer Combat Battalion
- Redesignated 23 November 1954 as the 39th Engineer Battalion
- Activated 17 January 1955 at Fort Riley, Kansas
- Inactivated 25 September 1956 at Fort Riley, Kansas
- Activated 17 June 1962 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky
- Inactivated 15 September 1992 at Fort Devens, Massachusetts
- Assigned 17 April 2015 to the 2d Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and activated at Fort Campbell, Kentucky

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War II	Vietnam
Sicily (with arrowhead)	Counteroffensive
Naples-Foggia	Counteroffensive, Phase II
Anzio	Counteroffensive, Phase III
Rome-Arno	Tet Counteroffensive
North Apennines	Counteroffensive, Phase IV
Po Valley	Counteroffensive, Phase V
	Counteroffensive, Phase VI
	Tet 69/Counteroffensive
	Summer-Fall 1969
	Winter-Spring 1970
	Sanctuary Counteroffensive
	Counteroffensive, Phase VII
	Consolidation I
	Consolidation II

DECORATIONS

- Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered ITALY
- Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1966-1968
- Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1968-1970
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1970
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1970-1971

RICHARD W. STEWART, Ph.D. Chief of Military History

BRELAND, ARTIS, JR.
Private First Class, U.S. Army
Company A, 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 45th Engineer Group (Construction),
Date of Action: March 31, 1967
Citation:
The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Artis Breland, Jr., Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company A, 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 45th Engineer Group (Construction), 18th Engineer Brigade. Private First Class Breland distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 31 March 1967 while serving as machine gunner during a Viet Cong ambush in hostile territory. Private Breland was selected, with six other men, to flank and counterattack a Viet Cong squad which ambushed his platoon. To reach the insurgent element, he was forced to crawl 200 meters through exposed areas of a rice paddy. Private Breland suppressed the hostile weapons with a tremendous burst of fire while the rest of his patrol ran across a road, then he jumped up and ran to join his comrades. In the outburst of enemy fire, he was hit in the helmet and knocked to the ground, dazed. He recovered in moments, grabbed his helmet, and succeeded in reaching the patrol, although enemy bullets tore up the ground along his path. Private Breland laid down a base of covering fire while his squad members made the next advance and then ran to join them, but was hit by a Viet Cong bullet in the right leg and fell to the ground. Disregarding his exposed position and the hostile shells striking all around him, he poured a stream of fire into the enemy emplacements until the insurgents were silenced. Taking no heed of his wound, Private Breland ran to join his squad and again prepared for further assaults. When told to give the machine gun to another soldier and report to a medic, he refused and continued to attack the Viet Cong in a highly aggressive manner until the ambush was repulsed. Private First Class Breland's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.
HQ US Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 2635 (June 5, 1967)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, Americal Division
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS 13 October 1967
NUMBER 862

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

GEORGE, PHILLIP A. RA 18 959 118, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E3, United States Army, **Company B, 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat)** APO 96374 Company C, 4th Battalion 3d Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade APO 96217

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 12 August 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Private First Class George distinguished himself by heroic actions on 12 August 1967 when elements of **B Company, 39th Engineer Battalion** came under heavy sniper fire during an opening and clearing operation along Robertson Road which delayed progress for four hours. Whenever the engineers vehicles started to move, sniper fire from undetected positions in the nearby marsh and hill would force the drivers to jump for cover. It soon became obvious that unless the road was finished and the convoy moved on through, the work party would be vulnerable to attack when darkness fell. Although fully aware of the danger involved, Private George volunteered to complete the work on the road with his bulldozer. He refused to jump for cover even though sniper rounds were ricocheting off his machine. In spite of the fact that he was completely exposed to enemy fire, Private George courageously remained at the controls of his bulldozer and finished clearing the road. When the engineer convoy started through, the third vehicle was hit by enemy fire and run partly off the road. It could not be moved and blocked the escape of all the vehicles behind it. The snipers began to concentrate their fire on the blocked vehicles. A call went out to Private George who by this time had reached a secure area about a mile down the road. He unhesitatingly turned his bulldozer around and drove back to the vehicle, under sniper fire all the way. Private George hooked onto the vehicle and pulled it through the rice paddies, still under enemy fire. Due to his outstanding courage and coolness under fire, the engineer element was saved from the possibility of a Viet Cong attack. Private First Class George's valor, selfless devotion to duty and willingness to risk his own life to save those of his comrades are in the highest tradition of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918.

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 862, dated 13 October 1967, HEADQUARTERS, AMERICAL DIVISION APO San Francisco 96374

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

ROBERT H. MUSSER
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

(Signed)
MATTHEW W. IRVIN
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:
1 Ea Indiv 201 File
2 Ea Indiv Conc
1 Ea Indiv Unit Conc
1 AG Admin
1 CG, AMERICAL DIVISION
1 CG, USARV ATTN: AG Awards

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION
2 USA Pers Svc Support Center
ATTN: AGPE-F
Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind. 46216

GENERAL ORDER

No : 15/K12CT/CL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
RVN ARMED FORCES
I CORPS TACT. ZONE
12th TACTICAL AREA
STAFF/AG.

COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE 12th TACTICAL AREA.

-****-

References :- Ordinance No: 10-b of 15 Aug. 1950 establishing the Cross of Gallantry.
- Decree No : 74-b/QT of 15 Aug. 1950 and other documents afterwards prescribing the formalities and conditions to award the Cross of Gallantry.
- Circular No : 1472/TTL/VP/PCP dated 21 May 1965 of Joint General Staff appointing the authorization to present the Cross of Gallantry.

C I T E S

A. Before the Division

- -

B. Before the Regiment

PHILLIP A GEORGE - CPL – RA 18959118 USA.

Outstanding soldier, highly devoted to duty.

Particularly, in the operation QUYET THANG 235 from 27 Oct. to 22 Dec. 67 to clear out the RUNG THOM secret Zone in Quang TIN province, Cpl George, as the driver of D/6, disregarded his own safety, cooperating with RVN troops in demolishing VC's hideouts and defensive fortifications.

He has made a significant contribution to the bright results gained.

- -

THESE CITATIONS ARE ATTACHED A CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH BRONZE STAR.

APO. 4.277, 20 March 1968
Col. NGUYEN VAN TOAN
Commander of 2nd ARVN Division
12th Tactical Area

(Signed and Sealed)

Distribution :
-- 5th ARVN Regt.
"to forward to ind. concd"
MACV Off./2d ARVN Div. "to info."

Copy to :
- JGS/AG (10 copies)
- HQs, I CTZ/AG (2 copies)
"for info"

- Files.

Translated by :

(Signed)

SSG. NGUYEN VAN PHUNG
HHC. AMERICAL DIVISION (G1)

Operations:

Task Force Oregon
Operation Iron Mountain
Operation Burlington Trail
Operation Baker
Operation LeJuene
Operation Malheur
Operation Finney Hill

This list might not be relevant because there are so many operations not listed that should be. The 39th Engineers supported many operations within the Americal Division AO.

list update could be continued using the Operation Reports and Lessons Learned (ORLL) reports for the Americal Division.

6/22/00

Dear Les,

Thanks so much for the TF Oregon OR-LL. I hadn't even known it existed 'till you mentioned it on the phone. To me, it made fascinating reading. There's even a specific mention of me (Though not by name). On p. 31, para. 6c, when it says that , on 10 Apr ('67), the advance party of the **39th Engr Bn** (c), accompanied by the ATFE, moved to Duc Pho - I was the ATFE, as I'd mentioned in my earlier letter to you. Actually the advance party consisted of a lot more than just a few engineers - probably a couple of companies of the 1st Cav Div, with gunship support, got us in and secured (eventually). "Us" included an advance party of TF Oregon, but it has been too long ago for me to remember its composition.

You mention in your letter that the OR-LL you sent is the "1st of two" for TF Oregon. If you can get me a copy of the second one, I'd appreciate it.

As to your request that I write up the story of the advance party's move to Duc Pho, I'm going to have to decline, because my 33-yr-old memory bank just can't dredge up enough detail to give a fairly complete an accurate accounting. But for your info, we came down (or should I say up) from An Khe (1st Cav. Div. area) in troop choppers w/just a couple of gunship, on 10 Apr '67 and driven off by ground fire, had to return to An Khe and get the firepower to get on the ground at Duc Pho. There we found that the Marine "battalion" that was supposed to have the area secured was in reality a couple of under strength companies living like rats in caves in the hillside of a small hill that overlooked Duc Pho. Were they glad to see us! We were attacked the first night, but it was pretty much a probing action, as I recall. Mortars were a big problem the first few days (as we were trying to lay out an airfield patter). Until we levelled a couple of hostile areas in a big show of force by the gunships. In the meantime, **the 39th Engr Bn** (c) came to the beach to the east of Duc Pho, and proceeded to build themselves a road across the paddies to get themselves and their heavy equipment to the airfield site so they could begin construction. Suffice it to say that it was hot, muddy, and dangerous. The Marine contingent, short on water, ammo, and food (some leadership out of III MAF Hqs - These poor guys were buying food from the natives!), were no help at all. Aside from a couple of higher-ranking officers considered to operating the TOC (Tactical Operations Center), all of us, officers and EM, had the secondary "mission" of being a reserve infantry force to back up our shield if necessary - fortunately, it was not [needed], though I did man a foxhole with a young EM for most of the first two nights there. Actually, though the thing I remember the best about my 10 days at Duc Pho was the water was so short that no bathing was possible. Since the weather was sticky hot, we became a very pungent fighting force after a few days. Maybe that's why the VC left us alone after awhile! My job of helping to coordinate logistic support between Hqs TF Oregon and the **39th Eng Bn** (c) was pretty well completed by 19 April, and so I moved on up to Chu Lai to start the process of building a Division size Headquarters (that's another interesting story, since we were entirely dependent on the Marines for engineer support in the Chu Lai area. That's where LTC Babe and his Force Engr Bn came into the picture once we agreed to furnish him a chopper from the 14th Avn. Bn. so he could get out to see his far-flung projects and troops).

Regards Cliff Goodson.

This section is made up of articles from the Army Reporter.

The largest Army newspaper in the world

THE ARMY REPORTER is published weekly under the supervision of the Information Office. United States Army Vietnam and is an authorized Army publication. The command newspaper has a circulation of 85,000 and is printed by **PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES** in Tokyo, Japan.

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. This newspaper utilizes the facilities of the ARMED FORCES NEWS BUREAU and ARMY NEWS FEATURES. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to: THE ARMY REPORTER, USARV-IO, APO 96375 or telephone Long Binh 4204/4311.

.....

Army Reporter: 14Jan67-**39th Engr Medics Revive VN Baby.**

TUY HOA, (USAECV-IO) - Medics assigned to the **39th Engineer Battalion** recently saved the life of a month-old Vietnamese girl by building a device to aid her breathing.

The baby was taken from the Loc Thien Orphanage here to the medical section of the **39th**. She had a respiratory infection that made breathing very difficult. Medics feared she might suffocate if something were not done quickly.

Medics hit upon a solution: a "Croupette Vaporizer" that was built in 30 minutes from materials on hand. Simple but effective, the vaporizer was credited with saving the baby's life.

Constructed of plywood, the "croupette" sat on 18-inch legs. A small opening was made in the bottom of the device to allow medicated steam to flow through. Then a sheet of clear plastic was laid over the top to hold steam in while the baby inhaled it. The steam was produced by the dispensary's instrument sterilizer.

Before long, the little girl was well enough to let medics know she was hungry. How were they going to feed the baby?

The problem was solved by punching a hole in the finger of a rubber glove, making a nipple. Heated milk was obtained form the mess hall. Medics then cut another finger of the rubber glove, filled it with cotton and made a pacifier to satisfy the baby when he was not feeding - which was not very often.

The baby was returned to the orphanage after two days and one night of care in good health.

28Jan67-Snake Eyes Up Close

TUY HOA, (USAECV-IO) Platoon Sergeant James A. Bates recently added an unusual trophy to his collection of souvenirs from Vietnam.

Sergeant Bates, who is assigned to **Company C, 39th Engineers Battalion (Combat)**, 45th Engineer Group, was working on construction of an access road to the recently completed Port Lane facilities 20 miles south of Tuy Hoa, when he noticed something moving through the rocks along the side of the road.

When he went to investigate, he found a King Cobra staring him in the face. Picking up the nearest available weapon - a five-gallon water can - he made full use of his 6-foot 5-inch, 270-pound physique and brought the can crashing down on the nine-foot reptile. It died instantly.

25Mar67-Stone Bunkers Demolished

TUY HOA, (USAECV-IO) - Twenty Viet Cong sniper bunkers have been destroyed by a demolition team of **Company A, 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat)**, 45th Engineer Group.

After 90mm recoilless rifles and light anti-tank weapons failed to dent the source of constant enemy harassing fire, the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry summoned the engineers.

The demolition squad discovered a system of 20 interlocking stone forts which were so skillfully laid that anti-tank weapons proved ineffective.

Forty-pound cratering charges were used to destroy the sniper positions.

The 45th is a part of the Army Engineer Command Vietnam (Provisional).

15Apr67-Quick-Acting Engrs Widen Hwy Bridge

TUY HOA, (USAECV-IO) - Quick thinking by engineers of **Company A, 39th Engineer Battalion,** 45th Engineer Group enabled the widening of a bridge on Highway QL-1 north of Tuy Hoa.

The 39-foot concrete "T" beam bridge was too narrow to carry the desired traffic load and two steel piles had to be driven on each side of the structure at midspan.

The only problem was that the 64-foot hollow steel piles were too long to be reached by the pile driver. Realizing that the piles come in sections, the 2nd Squad of the 1st Platoon quickly improvised by taking off the 24-foot nose cone and attached one of the bearing plates on the crane's outriggers as a pile cape.

The pile was now short enough to be driven and when this was finished the 40-foot steel sections were added.

01Jul67-**Engineers Finish Strip**

DUC PHO, (USAECV-IO) - A 3800-foot runway for C-130 aircraft has been completed here by the **39th Engineer** ***[Battalion]*** Group ***[sic],*** operationally a part of **Task Force Oregon.**

A team of Air Force inspectors checked over the new airfield and gave the go-ahead for the first C-130 landing. As a C-130 from Saigon circled the field, a green flare was fired to clear it for landing. The pilot made his final approach and the plane touched down.

In a few minutes two medevac helicopter arrived carrying nine wounded from a battle in the foothills west of here. The wounded were immediately transferred to the C-130 and evacuated to a field hospital.

Major General William B. Rosson, commander of the task force, visited the airstrip the day after it opened. He praised the **39th** for its work and added that both the engineers and infantry in Task Force Oregon have important jobs.

The airstrip originally built to handle lighter C-123 aircraft was renovated by the **39th** as part of the multi-battalion search and destroy mission in the southern part of I Corps.

05Aug67-**Engineers Open Road**

MO DUC, (TFO-IO) - Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and Task Force Oregon Engineers teamed up during the month of June in a joint effort toward the opening of National Highway 1 from Duc Pho to Chu Lai.

Company C of the 39th Engineer Battalion was responsible for providing materials and technical assistance to **Company A, 103rd ARVN Engineer Battalion.** The ARVN, engineers installed culverts and hauled fill for bypasses. The coordination of the ARVN, and Task Force Oregon engineers proved to be rewarding in results. They wasted very little time and soon had their portion of the road ready for traffic.

09Sep67-**Engineers Replace Blasted Bridge**

DUC PHO, (USAECV-IO) - Civilian traffic was flowing smoothly on Highway QL-1 south from here to Bong Son until the Viet Cong blew the end span of a 200-foot railroad bridge.

Company D, 39th Engineer Battalion, 45th Engineer Group was directed by Task Force Oregon to open the pioneer road as soon as possible.

Reaching the bridge site late in the morning after a routine minesweep, a platoon from **Company D** decided not to replace the blown span.

Instead the engineers constructed an alternate 90-foot-long bypass causeway across the swift flowing stream with three 48-inch culverts.

16Sep67-**Airstrip Completed**

MO DUC, (USAECV-IO) - A 200-foot (?2,000) airfield located ten miles north ([sic] south) of Duc Pho on Highway AL-1 ([sic] QL-1) was recently completed by the Heavy Equipment Platoon and **Company C, 39th Engineer Battalion,** 45th Engineer Group.

The strip's 80-foot wide runway, designed primarily for C-123 and C7A two-engine aircraft, will serve as an emergency landing field during the monsoon seasons and as a permanent supply point for troops fighting in the immediate area.

23Sep67-**Engrs Meet Charlie, Now Infantrymen**

CHU LAI, (AMERICAL-IO) -What started as a routine recovery job by personnel from the motor pool of **Company A, 39th Engineers**, Americal Division ended as a demonstration of engineers using successful counter-ambush techniques.

Five men, PFC Allen Flack, PFC Glen Bergerson, Sp4 Tom Purucker, Sp4 Eugene Backorski, and Sp4 Ronald Johnston were heading south on Highway 1 near the village of Mo Duc to aid a disabled truck.

About a mile and a half form the men's compound, Viet Cong blew a command detonated mine ten to 15 feet in front of their truck. Dirt, rocks, and asphalt rained down on the men, forcing them to duck for cover.

Purucker managed to drive through the huge crater, even though a piece of shrapnel had punctured the left front tire.

As they passed through falling debris, they encountered small arms fire and a hail of grenades.

The concussion of a grenade lobbed alongside the driver caused Purucker to lose control of the vehicle. He swerved into a ditch on the side of the road about 50 yards from the crater.

"I don't think that any of us was aware of which side of the road we were receiving fire from," said Backorski, "until we were out of the truck and into the ditch."

The VC opened up with automatic weapons fire and another rain of grenades. Finding themselves crowded in a ditch by the truck, two of the men moved to the front of the vehicle. Bergerson, taking advantage of a brief pause in the firing, crossed the road to a ditch on the other side.

Positioned to cover as much area as possible, the men located the enemy and returned fire. They could hear the VC yelling to each other in the brush and saw them in advancing in groups of three and four.

Under cover of intense fire, one of the attackers managed to get within 25 yards of the truck and threw nine grenades. Three of them were duds, but the others slightly wounded Purucker and another man.

"He put himself out in the open, and one of us, or all of us, got him when he was ready to throw another grenade," Johnston recalled.

Twenty-five minutes after the ambush started, and while the engineers were running low on ammunition, a relief column arrived from the south. The VC fled.

A search of the brush concealing the VC revealed two killed and several blood trails leading away from the site.

The following day a Vietnamese woman was seen at the site trying to bury a body. Interrogation revealed that he was a member of the ambush party.

30Sep67-**Engineers Pay A High Price To Complete Robeitson Road**

CHU LAI, (USAECV-IO) - Forty-four grueling days, two men killed in action, and four men wounded was the price **Company B, 39th Engineer Battalion**, 45th Engineer Group paid to complete Robeitson Road near here.

The 2nd Platoon, led by 2nd Lieutenant Joseph A. Kucera, had the mission of opening the five mile stretch which had not been used since 1954.

Located 15 miles south of here, the road leaves Highway QL-1 and winds along the South China Sea before rejoining the main highway.

Republic of Korea (ROK) Marines and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade provided security for the engineers as they opened the road to save combat units time and eliminate the ferry crossing of the Song Tra Bong River near the northeastern intersection of the road and QL-1.

On the third day of the project one engineer was wounded when the men were ambushed.

To help eliminate further enemy action, the 196th called in air strikes and the **11th Cavalry Regiment** provided 22 armored personnel carriers to escort the engineers.

A squad of Viet Cong again staged an ambush which resulted in a fierce firefight. Two engineers were wounded during the battle and died in a hospital two days later.

With the road 95 percent competed hostilities erupted again. The VC hit two of the three engineer squads from three sides, destroying the radio.

Determined to reach help, PSGT. Frederick Heneger scrambled under fire, to a nearby Korean outpost and returned with one company of ROK Marines.

As a dustoff helicopter evacuated the one wounded the engineer, the VC fired at the chopper, wounding the pilot and co-pilot. They were able to guide the ship out of the area before landing, however.

With less than 200 yards of the road to complete, the engineers again began receiving heavy fire. The **5th and 6th ROK Companies** and a section from the 196th's Company A returned the fire.

Knowing that the road had to be completed that day, PFC Phillip George climbed aboard his dozer and under continuous fire, completed the road.

Later that evening, Capt. Edward Wenners, Company B commander, ordered the first convoy to begin. The first three vehicles were hit by small arms fire and the fourth, a five-ton truck, caught fire and ran into a road side ditch.

Since no other traffic could make it through until the five-ton was removed. D. George mounted his dozer to tow the damaged vehicle out. Shot up, but safely past the sniper's gap, the convoy proceeded ahead and the road was reopened. (...Might be more to this story.??)

07Oct67-**1st Avn Crew Saves 6 As Plane Burns**

QUI NHON, (1ST AVN-IO) - A helicopter crew from the 1st Aviation Brigade's **161st Assault Helicopter Company** and two passengers from the **39th Engineer Battalion** rescued six persons from a burning aircraft near here recently.

Warrant Officer Marston B. Hose, aircraft commander, and WO Douglas A. Miller, pilot, were flying their helicopter to Tuy Hoa from Chu Lai on a mission for the engineers.

While they were approaching Qui Nhon for a fuel stop, the tower requested that they proceed west of the airfield and try to locate and give assistance to a med-evac chopper that had just reported trouble and was going in for a crash landing.

With only 46 gallons of fuel remaining in from the ship's 220 gallon tank, the chopper headed in the direction of the downed aircraft. It was found burning near the base of a mountain with six person lying on the ground close by.

Hose called the tower giving them the location of the burning ship and requested that an additional aircraft be sent to help due to the low amount of fuel in his chopper.

Landing in the area, Miller, PFC Clarke W. Wilson, crew chief, Sp4 Richard R. McBroom, gunner, and the two engineers ran to the injured men and pulled them away from the burning ship.

All were found to be alive but the two pilots were badly burned. Hose was just taking off with the two pilots when a Chinook landed to give a hand. With only nine gallons of fuel remaining, the rescue ship departed the area and landed at Qui Nhon where the injured pilots were taken to the hospital.

The Chinook brought the other injured men to Qui Nhon a short time later.

14Oct67-**Engrs Finish Bailey Bridge**

CHU LAI (AMERICAL-IO) - Working to be at the onset of the monsoon season, and under constant Viet Cong harassment, elements of the **39th Engineer Battalion** and the 103rd Vietnamese Engineer Battalion recently completed construction of the longest Bailey Bridge on Highway QL-1 from Quang Ngai to Cam Ranh Bay.

In early July, the engineers, working with their local Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) counterparts, emplaced 100 feet of lay span on the original 27-year old bridge to open the bridge for the first time in seven years.

In 45 days, expending over 25,000 U.S. man hours and 2530 equipment hours, engineers of **Company C, 39th Engr. Bn.,** the 1st Platoon, 504th Panel Bridge Company, the 554th Float Bridge Company, the Heavy Equipment section of Hq. Co, 39th Engr. Bn., and Company A, 103rd Engineers (ARVN) constructed five concrete and pile piers for intermediate support, and closed the 580-foot gap in the bridge.

The joint U.S. and ARVN engineer effort was nearly destroyed by an intense enemy attack on the night before the two sections of the Bailey bridge were to be joined.

The VC attacked the bridge site from the south with an estimated multi-company force. The 40 men from the 39th Engineers, with excellent support from **G Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment** fought 45 minutes under an intense barrage of 60mm mortar and 57mm recoilless rifle and automatic weapons fire before the enemy withdrew.

All through the night the enemy directed harassing sniper fire at the security force.

At dawn an examination of the bridge revealed minor damage, and later in the morning the launching was completed.

23Dec68-**They could be thrown at troops**

Army purchases grenades

CHU LAI - The Voluntary Informant Program is a business, not a novelty.

When 198th Infantry Bde. soldiers open their market to buy explosives they draw a crowd, and it is not just one day, but every day they make collections.

Handling most of the details in the area south of here is **Co. C, 5th Bn., 46th Inf.,** working with **Co. B of the 39th Engineer Bn.** In one recent three day period, the Americal Division soldiers bought nearly $1,000 worth of explosives.

According to Lt. William Mullins of **Co. D,** the infantrymen open for business a couple times a week at the perimeter of Landing Zone Dottie. "The program is getting so popular now there' usually a big line of customers waiting for us."

Lt. James Romanowiz of the engineers agrees that he program is growing in popularity. Lt. Romanowiz drives a jeep and trailer into a nearby village about once a week. He's considering switching to a deuce-and-a-half.

The ammunition and explosive collected include just about everything used in Vietnam. Everything from blasting caps to howitzer shells are brought in. The most common item is the M-26 grenade.

After a recent trip to the village, Romanowiz returned with a trailer full of 105mm shells, 81mm mortar rounds and antipersonnel mines.

Lt. Daniel Schulte, civil affairs officer and coordinator of the program for the battalion explained where the armaments come from. "Most of the explosives are found by the villagers out in the rice paddies. Some of them probably know where large caches are hidden. We're hoping that eventually they'll lead us to them."

The program is advertised to the villagers by psychological operations speaker teams, leaflets dropped from the air, and by signs posted along Highway One. Word of mouth advertising is also important. As Lt. Schulte put it, "If one satisfied customer returns to the village, he usually comes back the next time with about twenty friends."

In addition to the obvious benefits of keeping potentially deadly explosives out of the hands of the enemy, the VIP program offers other advantages. "The program builds up the villager's confidence in us," said Lt. Shulte. "Soon we expect them to lead us to caches of rice, ammunition and enemy concentrations. It will be an important avenue of intelligence."

06Jan69- **Sweepers dust road for mines**

CHU LAI - Under cover of darkness, two Viet Cong move silently from the rice paddies to Highway 1 a few miles north of Duc Pho. Hurriedly, for there is danger of discovery by South Vietnamese Popular Forces, they dig a hole in the road.

Into the hole the VC place a 105mm artillery round. Attached to it is a homemade bamboo pressure firing device. Throwing dirt over their work, the VC take time only to obliterate traces of their digging, then quickly vanish again into the fields.

The 105mm round has become a field expedient land mine. The weight of a passing vehicle will cause two metal leads in the bamboo firing device to make contact, blowing the mine. This mine will not accomplish its mission, destruction of US personnel and equipment. Its failure, however, will not be the fault of the Viet Cong who planted it. An 11th Brigade mine sweep team will discover and demolish it.

Elements of the **26th Engineer Bn.** and the **39th Engineer Bn.** are jointly responsible for clearing Highway 1 of mines from LZ Bronco to LZ Snoopy, one of the most frequently mined areas. In order to insure maximum safety from land mines and obtain the greatest usage of Highway 1, every possible effort is made to have the road cleared by 10 AM daily. Company "C", 26th Engineers clears the access road from LZ Bronco and the portion of Highway 1 within Duc Pho, while the **39th Engineers** sweep from LZ Snoopy south.

The Viet Cong use two main types of firing devices, both homemade from bamboo. One is designed for the horizontal emplacement covering a 14 inch wide section of the road. A curved strip of thin bamboo with a lead wire is attached to a flat strip by rubber bands. Pressure on the dirt above the device will cause the curved strip to break free of the rubber bands, allowing the wire leads to make contact.

The second main firing device employed by Charlie is of the horizontal plunger variety. A bamboo rod 30 inches in length, carrying a wire lead, is inserted part way, into a tube holding a contact wire at the bottom. Wedges placed between the plunger and the tube impede the plunger's movement so that pressure must be applied repeatedly to it to drive it to the bottom, making contact with the base wire. The final pressure required to set off the device depends upon the remaining distance between the two wires.

The end result of a vehicle passing over these firing devices is the same in either case: a sudden devastating explosion, capable of sending a 2 1/2 ton truck 120 feet through the air, if the charge is strong enough.

13Jan69-**Cong, NVA force 'evidence' of title**

CHU LAI - In recent weeks the enemy has given the **39th Combat Engineer Bn.** ample opportunity to live up to the combat in its title.

After a relatively quiet period, broken only by an occasional sniper rounds, both local VC units and NVA regulars unleashed their forces in a sudden burst of activity against the **39th**.

The first major move was an early morning attack on LZ Snoopy, base camp of the **39th's Co. C**.

Mortar rounds began striking the area during pre-dawn hours, as enemy forces of an undetermined size moved against the compound, coming from the north-northeast in the helipad area.

The action swung around to include the southeast corner on **Co. C's** perimeter, neighboring on the nearby ARVN unit, which also was under attack.

In this area two bunkers set up a deadly crossfire against the attackers, accounting for nine VC kills.

Capt. Torrence M. Wilson, the commanding officer, called for gunships and flareships to open up on the VC.

By dawn, the enemy had retreated, leaving 14 men dead and two captured. Co. C. suffered only light casualties.

While still recuperating form this attack, the 3rd Platoon of the 603rd Light Engr. Co., attached to **Co. C**, was ambushed on the way to a work site a few days. later.

An estimated enemy force of platoon size fired on the engineers from 50 to 100 meters east of the road.

Lt. L. E. Erdmann, the platoon leader, deployed his force directed a large volume of fire power, and called for gunships.

After the artillery placed round within 75 meters of the road, the gunships went into action.

As activity from the east began to die down, small arms rounds came in from the west. Artillery and APC fire was immediately directed on those enemy positions.

To complete the action, a Montagnard company swept the area.

In all nine VC were captured and 14 killed in this encounter.

Twelve hours later, LZ Snoopy received 20 mortar rounds, as if to let Co. C know that Charlie was still around.

During the same period, **Co. B** encountered an increasing number of enemy road mines in its daily minesweeps.

In all the line companies at least one or two sniper incidents have been reported with each minesweep. Friendly losses however, have been confined to light wounds.

Co. B also has received a large amount of ordnance turned in through the VIP program-during this period. (Americal)

Chaplain brings back 'old sound'

13Jan69-Music blankets Chu Lai

CHU LAI-The hills surrounding this community now resound with the sound of music - Army bugle calls-and Chaplain (Capt.) L.P. Utley of the **39th Engineer Bn**. is happy to take credit for it.

Utely noted that bugle calls have become a largely forgotten art in the modern army as buglers have given way to recordings and loudspeakers. He first got his idea after overhearing the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Tenho R. Hukkala recall the positive effect on morale of having a bugler in his unit in Korea.

The chaplain wrote to friends in the States and within a few days had a bugle. Following a short practice session, he was in full swing and began playing at reveille the following morning. Throughout the day and for several additional days, men of the battalion were called to and from work by Utley's bugle.

As he travels from company to company throughout the area, the chaplain plans to carry his bugle and give personnel throughout the battalion an opportunity to hear the traditional bugle calls. (Engr)

Photo Caption - Chaplain (Capt.) Utley

19Jan70 Army Reporter Newspaper Page 3
Army, Navy and Marines

Combined forces clear jungle

FB LIZ- The stretch of South China Sea coastland just north of Duc Pho was recently the object of a massive, 50-day land-clearing operation undertaken by forces of the Army, Navy, and Marines.

The "Strip" has long been a festering sore in the side of the agriculturally rich lowlands of southern Quang Ngai Province and had long been used as a spring board for enemy activity in the area. The fishermen who inhabited the coast were constantly harassed by the enemy.

The onset of the clearing operation had all the markings of the classic beachhead assault. The Recon Squad of Co. D's 1st Platoon, 1st Bn., 20th Inf., 11th Inf. Bde., Americal Division were "combat assaulted" by air onto the beach, 11 miles north of Duc Pho.

A thorough artillery preparation of the area by Btry, C. 6th Bn., 11th Arty., and an air prep by Shark and Dolphin teams of the 174th Helicopter Assault Co. preceded the landing.

The two platoons secured the beachhead area and were followed by Navy flat-bottomed landing craft which brought ashore the first load of several large land-clearing vehicles – Army "Rome Plow" and Marine "Eimco" caterpillars.

Co. A, 1st Bn., 20th Inf., was moved onto the beach in a Chinook air movement from Chu Lai and assumed security for the clearing operations undertaken by the division's **39th Engr. Bn.** Elements of Troop A and Troop E, 1st ~~Bn.~~, 1st Cav., [***1st Rgt, 1st Cav***.] joined the operation later to assist in the land clearing and security of the men and machinery.

In spite of the often adverse weather conditions and enemy activity in the area, the men cleared almost 10,000 acres during the operation, an average of 200 acres a day.

Working with MACV and Vietnamese forces, the 1st Bn., 20th Inf. successfully relocated the civilians from "The Strip" to Highway 1, between the village of Van Truong and Tap An Bac. They have been provided with living quarters and an adequate supply of food.

The eventual goal of the land clearing operation is to deprive the enemy of its supply sources, collection points and bases of operation on the coast and to provide security for the fishermen and their families.

19Jan70 Army Reporter Newspaper Page 11

Convoy sweep yields results

FSB BRONCO – The armored personnel carriers and deuce and a half trucks formed up as usual their cold steel sides glistening with early morning dew.

There was a quiet tenseness among the men of the Americal Division who would ride these vehicles on the mine-sweep south to Sa Huynh.

Before the last vehicles had passed through the gate of the 11th Inf. Bde. headquarters here, clearance for harassment and interdiction fire was being requested for a grid several miles away.

Duc Pho was still sleepy-eyed but awake enough to smile and flash victory signs as the six-vehicle convoy rumbled through.

SP4 Alvin Cornelius, **Co. A, 39th Engr. Bn**., who was triple checking his M60 machine gun remarked: "They'll be mighty sorry if the y try anything today," Overhead two ***[B/123rd Avn Bn]*** "Warlord" Cobras of 123rd Aero-Scout Co seconded the statement.

"H&I to the west," crackled the voice of Capt. Michael Moore **4th Bn., 21st Inf**., over the radio. As if controlled by a single trigger, the moving convoy opened up, spraying the ridgeline to their right.

The recon-by-fire continued periodically over the remainder of the 18 mile paved stretch of Highway 1, which was navigated without incident.

The return trip to Duc Pho has been called the "Ordnance Run" because of the large quantity of arms and ammunition turned in to the convoy by youngsters waiting on the roadside. The Voluntary Information Program authorizes payment to civilians for turning in such munitions.

The mine sweep convoy returned to 11th Bde. headquarters, their mission completed for the day. "That's it!" said a dusty soldier – "Until tomorrow," added another quietly.

21Sep70- Photo Caption Page 11

STEEL STRINGERS line up waiting for roadbed plating to be laid at the Song Ve bridge by members of the 18th Engr. Bde.'s **Co. A, 39th Engr. Bn.**

04Jan71- Rome plows clear way for settlement Page 1

LONG BINH - A joint action project in the war devastated Quang Ngai Province, the birthplace of Ho Chi Minh, may lead to the resettlement of 170,000 refugees.

U.S. Army engineers, infantry units and Vietnamese soldiers are involved in an extensive land clearing project designed to clear 29,000 acres of brush and build 39.2 miles of all-weather highway. The object is to provide relative security and farm land to enable the refugees to return to their land.

Daily, engineers of the **59th Land Clearing Co**. are removing secondary growth up to 15 feet high from hundreds of acres. They have cleared 16,000 acres to date.

The **39th Engr. Bn**. is responsible for the construction of the secondary roads. The construction project was nearing completion when heavy rains stopped work and inundated 50 per cent of the completed roadways.

The Batangan Peninsula has a natural formation of thick interlaced brush which resembles hedgerows and allows the VC almost total concealment and freedom of movement. Many of the refugees wee forced to flee their homes during Tet 1968 and since that time the vegetation has grown unchecked. The hedgerows, eight to 10 feet wide at the base and six to eight feet tall, grow in squares of about 60 feet on a side giving a checkerboard pattern from the air.

The VC hollow out the center and move within like a subway system under a city. Trenches are dug within some of these hedgerows, making enemy movement relatively immune to artillery fire. This allows the enemy to approach undetected, fire and displace himself under cover, while hampering allied efforts by limiting movement on the ground and restricting visibility from
the air.

The solution has been land clearing in conjunction with a road development program. Tactically, land clearing is a double-edged weapon denying the enemy cover and concealment while increasing allied ground mobility and allowing more effective use of artillery and air support.

Now the VC must cross open areas and travel farther to strike. This makes him vulnerable to observation and when discovered, leaves him no place to hide. Five Viet Cong soldiers recently surrendered under the open arms program to the district chief. Their reason was simple. "There was no longer anyplace to hide."

requires skill

QUANG NGAI--The 300-foot Quang Ngai bridge was damaged by a floating mine; and to the rescue came the men of **Co. E, 26th Engr. Bn., Co. B, 39th Engr. Bn., and the 137th Light Equipment Co**. Their job was to assess the damage and to make the necessary repairs.

To accomplish the bridge reinforcement operation they used a rough terrain crane -- riding aboard a floating support raft - to pound 24 60-foot supporting piles into the Song Tra Khuc River bed 30 feet below.

Photo Captions:

1) A 15-man assault craft.....

2) .....is prepared to be hoisted over the bridge's side to assess mine damage.

3) Lever in hand guides the crane.....

4) ...as it pounds 60-foot supporting tiles into the river bed.

5) Progress of a support pile is checked.

17May71 Vietnamese families save lives of two Page 1

CHU LAI--With a little help from luck and alot of help from two Vietnamese families, two engineers from the **39th Engineer Bn**. were able to evade a group of enemy soldiers after the engineers' vehicle was ambushed and forced off the road south of Chu Lai.

Pfc. Robert M. Macklem and Pfc. Don Tittle, members of **Co. A**, were driving to their unit's laager position when their vehicle came under heavy small arms and grenade fire from a group of enemy soldiers hiding on both sides of the road.

Macklem managed to put the truck in low gear and sped out of the kill zone, but his arms went limp and he lost control. The truck went off the road and into a rice paddy, finally coming to a halt. Tittle was thrown from the truck but was unhurt. Macklem grabbed his rifle, exited through the truck's window and found Tittle. After the two checked each other for injuries, they began moving back to the road on foot. But, halfway across a cleared area, they again received enemy fire.

"The enemy were putting pretty heavy fire on us so we moved along the highway until we came to a small hamlet," Macklem said. "Tittle and I split up. I went to the first home I saw and he went to another one. I just stood at the front, rapping on the door, hoping that there were people there that could help me."

A young boy came to the door and motioned for Macklem to enter. A woman then locked the door behind him and pointed to a spot for the engineer to sit down. Then the youngster, bringing in a small tub of water and some old shirts, began to clean and bandage Macklem's wounds.

Macklem was in the home for a half hour when he heard automatic weapons fire outside. The firing moved closer to the home and then ceased. Then the young boy went outside and when he returned he brought back a patrol of Vietnamese soldiers.

"I went outside and saw the ARVN soldiers and Tittle was with them. After I spoke to Tittle, I found that he had also been put up by a Vietnamese family," said Macklem. "Luckily for us, the Vietnamese, even though they realized the Viet Cong might make reprisals against them, took us in an offered us protection.

CHU LAI- The Vietnam War has resulted in vast numbers of casualties but very few Americans fully realize the extent to which the Vietnamese people have been victimized by this very war and in turn driven out of their own homes. In truth, there are literally hundreds of thousands of refugees who are searching for new places to settle and start anew.

For many, the immediate flight from their home village is to the closest major town in their particular province. Here, most often, the homeless refugees are met with an already overcrowded town-the result of the large influx of villagers. Fleeing one problem they are suddenly confronted with another. Often as not they resort to building a cardboard box and scrap lumber shanty. A home that leaves much to be desired but for the most part there still lingers that ray of hope for a chance to improve their plight.

It was with this in mind that the **39th Eng. Bn.'s 59th Engr. Co. (Land Clearing**) responded to the pleas of the MACV advisory team and the district chief of Binh Son. The request was for assistance in a civic action program planned to aid the beleaguered Vietnamese of Binh Son Province. The task
would be to clear 20 acres of land near the village of Phuoc Tho which is located approximately 4 kilometers off highway QL1 near Binh Son. With the land cleared, many of the Vietnamese that have been forced into a cardboard shack existence could vastly improve their lot-an answer to their unanswering hopes.

For the men of the **59th** the task was a relatively simple one. The task of clearing the land is complete and already construction for the new village has started. The dozers of the 59th opened up not only the land but also opportunities for these people that were previously just dreams.

The men of the **59th** likewise have the feeling of accomplishment. As you talk with the team about the job you hear comments like, "This is where it's at..., "They deserve a chance and we can help them get it...," "Gives you a good feeling to know that you have been able to do what they would not have
been able to accomplish themselves....," "Makes being in the Nam seem worthwhile.."

08Nov71- **The 'Jungle Eaters'** **Page 5-6**

Story by
Spec. 4 Michael D. O'Connor
Pictures by
Capt. Randolph G. Mueller

CHU LAI - Elements of the **39th Engineer Battalion (Combat)** are nearing completion of a 50-kilometer network of roads through a former Viet Cong stronghold in the Batangan Peninsula. They have encountered several VC-set mines, and enemy small arms fire during the project.

Elements of the **39th** have worked on the Batangan Loop for more than a year as a major project designed to allow for the pacification and resettlement of the agricultural area northeast of Quang Ngai City.

With only a few kilometers of the single-line, all-weather road awaiting the finishing touches by the American engineers, a definite increase in the settlement of the area has been observed.

"You can now see groups of 20 to 30 Vietnamese walking out to the fields each day and beginning the rebuilding of their villages along the road, "Capt. Hulet Silvernale, Battalion S-3 for the 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat) said.

The drive to pacify and resettle the former Viet Cong stronghold began more than a year ago, Silvernale explained, when the **59th Land Clearing Company** from Da Nang cleared thousands of acres in the Batangan Peninsula to rid the area of its jungle cover.

The area was infested with mines and booby traps before the "jungle eaters" went through the peninsula, Silvernale said.

When the land clearers came through the Viet Cong forces were driven from the coastal lowlands area to the highlands across QL-1. Without the jungle cover the enemy's terrorist tactics were severely hindered, he added.

During the past year, however, Viet Cong forces have continued their harassment tactics. Company B has experienced seven mining incidents and three sniping incidents, including an ambush of a minesweep team.

Meanwhile, **Company C** has been the victim of nine mining incidents and seven small-arms firing incidents from VC elements still operating in the Batangan Peninsula area. Throughout all contacts with the enemy there have luckily been no American casualties, Silvernale said. "We have had several vehicles damaged though, due to the VC mines," he added.

The 137th Light Equipment Company was called upon to cut road traces through the peninsula prior to the beginning of last fall's Monsoon Season in Quang Ngai Province.

Elements from **companies B and C of the 39th** then moved in along with the 137th to begin construction of the 50-kilometer Batangan Loop but their construction efforts were temporarily halted with last year's Monsoon Season.

Beginning last January, the engineers returned to the road project which features a series of four bridges and spillways forming a causeway across a tidal basin in the peninsula, Silvernale explained.

"The bridges are all of timber pile and timber stringer construction," Silvernale said. "A series of concrete spillways and a 7-tube, 60-inch culvert will hopefully keep the roadway from washing out during the monsoon," he added.

Company C has been responsible for much of the bridging and culvert work on the Provincial Highways 523 and 524.

Continued

Continued 08Nov71- **The 'Jungle Eaters'**

According to Silvernale, there has been no real problem in constructing the Batangan Loop which has been built with an 18 to 24-inch laterite sub-base, a six-inch base of 2 1/2-inch coarse rock, followed by a layer of asphalt penetration.

"We did have a minor problem earlier this year in getting rock to the road construction site because of higher priorities on other projects and a lack of transportation," Silvernale explained.

"The entire goal in the road program has been to aid the Binh Son and Son Tinh districts of Quang Province in their RTV (Return to Village) Program," Silvernale explained.

"There are some areas that have been uninhabited for more than two years, Silvernale said "but the local Vietnamese are returning to their former homes after living in more secure areas adjacent to QL-1."

Photo Captions: Hitting the road with the **39th.**

1) This dozer driver prepares to make another cut.
2) Bridge No. 1 under construction 12 miles south of Phan Thiet.
3) Curiosity from both young and old. (A roller smooths asphalt laid on a street.)
4) Rolling out the asphaltic concrete on QL-1. (HUBER brand roller?)
5) Additional fill is brought.
6) The SA 35 paves its way south toward Long Binh.
7) Grader operator levels the base on QL-1.

CHU LAI - After 15 years of conflict, the Batangan Peninsula is being used for productive purposes as a result of efforts of the **39th Eng. Bn**. The 11th and 198th Infantry Brigades of the 23d Inf. had spent many years helping pacify the area. Several months ago the **1st Bn., 6th Inf**., 198th Bde. was the last to leave the peninsula, turning over military operations to the South Vietnamese government.

Now, two main roads have been built through the area by **Bravo and Charlie companies of the engineer battalion**, making the newly-secured land of benefit to the people.

The two new roads constructed by the **39th Eng. Bn**. have reestablished access from the Batangan peninsula to the country's main road. One of those roads, Route 521, starts on QL-1 just north of Quang Ngai City and ends near a fishing village, Chou Thuan, on the South China Sea. The **39th Engineers' Charlie Co**. has rebuilt 14 kilometers of the road including four bridges two of which were re-fortified this summer after being battered by last year's unusually heavy floods.

The road has been widened to as much as 14 feet in some places and asphalted on a foundation of three inches of rock which **Charlie Co**. had trucked in earlier in the year. Also to prevent a recurrence of last year's flood damage to the bridges, concrete overflow spillways have been laid on both sides of each bridge to rechannel fast-moving flood waters away from the bridge.

The Regional and Popular Force units secured the area for the engineers while civilian labor was hired to build culverts along the road. Though the engineers hired many civilians, the response was so great that some had to be turned away.

Despite Regional and Popular Force security in the area, there have still been some attempts at terrorism along Route 523. For example, the engineers discovered several booby-trapped artillery rounds in one of their night laager positions and U.S. convoys have been ambushed on several occasions while attempting to haul gravel for the road.

The two recently improved roads have already begun attracting people back into the Batangan Peninsula area. Through the cooperation of local government, the United States **Military Assistance Command** and the **39th Engineers**, the village of Son-Quang has been built.

Now, less than tow months later, the five hamlets of Son-Quang have swelled to a population of 4000 with many homes still under construction. Medical aid is available to the villagers and a school is planned for the near future.

Hopes are high that the two new roads, secured by RF and PF patrols, will bring prosperity to the people returning to the once troubled Batangan peninsula.

End of section of articles from the Army Reporter.

Pacific Stars and Stripes An authorized publication of the U.S. Armed forces in the far east. Price 10 cents.

Field Enterprises
PACIFIC
STARS AND STRIPES

This newspaper is an authorized unofficial publication for U.S. Armed Forces assigned to the Pacific Command. Contents of Pacific Stars and Stripes are not necessarily the official view of the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense.

Columnists and cartoonists on this and other pages express their own opinions and these views are not necessarily shared by Pacific Stars and Stripes.

"Pacific Stars and Stripes" is published in four editions daily at Tokyo, Japan, APO San Francisco, 96503. It is distributed to authorized personnel for 10 cents daily, $2.50 monthly or $30.00 yearly, payable in advance per AR 230-1 and AFR 176-1. Second class postage paid at Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

The appearance of displays in this newspaper concerning commercial publications does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Military Departments or the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific.

Pacific Stars & Stripes
APO San Francisco 96503
Published daily: $3.00 per month.
Second-class postage paid at San Francisco, Calif.

14Sep67- (Thursday) page 23.

Engineers Reverse VC Ambush Attack

CHU LAI, Vietnam (ISO) – What started as a routine recovery job by personnel from the motor pool of **A Co., 39th Engineers**, **Task Force Oregon**, ended as a fiery demonstration of successful counter-ambush techniques.

Five men, Pfcs, Allen Flack, Glen Bergerson and Spec. 4s Tom Purucker, Eugene Backorski, and Ronald Johnston headed south at about 5:30 p.m. on Highway 1 near No Duc village to aid a disabled truck.

About a mile and a half from their compound, Viet Cong blew a mine 10 to 15 feet in front of the truck. Dirt, rocks and asphalt rained down on the men, causing them to duck for cover.

Purucker managed to drive through the huge crater, even though shrapnel had punctured the left front tire. They ran into small arms fire and a hail of grenades. The concussion of a grenade lobbed alongside caused Purucker to lose control of the vehicle. He swerved into a ditch on the side of the road about 50 yards from the crater.

"I don't think that any of use was aware of which side of the road we were receiving fire from," said Backorski, "until we were out of the tuck and into the ditch."

The VC opened up with automatic weapons fire and more grenades. Finding themselves crowded in the ditch by the truck, two of the men moved to the front of the vehicle. Bergerson crossed the road to the ditch on the other side.

Finally the men spotted the enemy and returned fire. They could hear the VC yelling to each other in the brush, and saw them advancing in groups of three and four. "One looked like a full-dressed NVA," said Johnston. "He wore an olive drab uniform with web gear."

Realizing there were 12 to 14 enemy, the engineers made every bullet and grenade count.

Under cover of intense fire, one ambusher got within 5 yards of the truck and threw nine grenades. Three of them were duds, but the other slightly wounded Purucker and another man.

"He put himself out in the open, and one of us, or all of us, got him when he was ready to throw another grenade." Johnston recalled. Another VC was killed trying to retrieve the body.

Twenty-five minutes later as the engineers were running low on ammunition,
a relief column arrived from the south. The VC fled.

A search revealed two VC killed and several blood trails.

The following day a Vietnamese woman was seen at the site trying to bury the body of another male. Interrogation revealed that he was a member of the ambush party.

23Feb70-**Led by Kids To New Life**
CHU LAI, Vietnam (Special) -
The unexpected is often found by the mine sweep team of **Co. B, 39th Eng Bn.**, 18th Engineer Brigade, and the situation was not any different on a recent routine mission.

The sweep team was performing its early morning activities on National Highway QL1 near here, when it met a group of children huddled along the roadside. Calling a halt to the sweep the men advanced cautiously.

Immediately, the children ran to meet them. After informing the engineers what was on their minds the children returned to the side of the road. Shortly a Vietnamese man started approaching the waiting American soldiers.

He was a Viet Cong, who had decided to give in and Chieu Hoi to Republic of Vietnam, and he had used the children as an intermediary.

Pacific Stars & Stripes
25Mar71 Page 5
Thursday

4 Americans Killed, 12 Hurt In 3 Khe Sanh Area Battles

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON - ....

An engineer unit at Chu Lai, 55 miles southeast of Da Nang, took about 15 rounds of 82mm mortar fire **Monday** [***22MAR71***], the command said. Casualties were light, with no fatalities and no damage.

*[Historian Note: Americal Division Tactical Operation Center report Entry# 1 from 23MAR71: Report of incoming rounds **39th Engr**., CLDC, reports sub-sector #6 had rec 10xrds rockets & they are on red alert. Gen Baldwin wants an increase in personnel on the bunker line but doesn't want SubSector #2 on red alert.. Entry # 5 from 23MAR71: **S3/39 Engr** states 6-10 rounds impacted in his area and the unit is attempting to obtain crater analysis but as yet unable to locate any craters. They have notified the 133d EOD team. Entry# 9 CLDC, stated there were NCD in the **39th Engr** area and that the dud round was at BT536032. Entry# 11 LT Fell, CLDC, called & said S3/39 Engr states all rounds are 82mm mortar and there were 5xduds which the EOD tm is checking. (Note: CLDC = Chu Lai Defense Command)]*

Pacific Stars & Stripes
16Apr71 Page 7
Friday

Viet Families Rescue Ambushed GIs

By SGT. LOUIS MILLER
CHU LAI, Vietnam (Special)

- With a little luck and a lot of help from two Vietnamese families, two engineers were able to evade a group of enemy soldiers after the engineers' truck was ambushed and forced off the road south of Chu Lai.

Pfc. Robert M. Macklem and Pfc. Don Tittle, members of **A Co., 39th Engineer Bn.**, were driving to their unit's position when their truck came under heavy small arms and grenade fire from enemy soldiers hiding on both sides of the road.

"I was driving and Tittle was riding in the rear for security when the enemy struck," Macklem recalled. "On the opening burst of fire, I was hit in the arms with shrapnel from a grenade."

Macklem managed to put the truck in low gear and speed out of the kill zone, but his arms went limp and he lost control. The truck went off the road and into a rice paddy. Tittle was thrown from the truck but was unhurt. Macklem grabbed his rifle, exited through the truck's window, and found Tittle. After they checked for injuries, they began moving back to the road on foot. But halfway across a cleared area, they again received enemy fire.

"They were putting pretty heavy fire on us as we moved along the highway until we came to a small hamlet," Macklem said. "Tittle and I split up. I went to the first home I saw and he went to another. I just stood at the front, rapping on the door, hoping that there were people there that could help me."

A young boy came to the door and motioned for Macklem to enter. A woman locked the door behind him and pointed to a spot for the engineer to sit down. Then the youngster, bringing in a small tub of water and some old shirts, began to clean and bandage Macklem's wounds.

"When they had bandaged me, the women motioned for me to hide in a closet in the next room," Macklem said. "But I would have been trapped if the enemy found out where I was."

Macklem was there for a half hour when he heard automatic weapons fire outside. The firing moved close to the home and then ceased. Then the young boy went outside and when he returned he brought back a patrol of Vietnamese soldiers.

"I went outside and when saw the ARVN soldiers and Tittle was with them. After I spoke to Tittle, I found that he had also been put up by a Vietnamese family," said Macklem. "Luckily for us, the Vietnamese, even though they realized the Viet Cong might make reprisals against them, took us in and offere3d us protection. Otherwise, I'm pretty sure, the enemy would have found us."

The two engineers were taken to an ARVN compound nearby where a helicopter was called to bring them back to Chu Lai.

The next section of articles comes from the Quarterly Americal Magazines. There were 12 issues of these colorful glossy magazines published by the Division Information Office from May 1968-Fall of 1971. Additionally there was an Americal Book published in mid 1970 that was similar in look and feel to the magazine.

Americal Division Magazine - May, 1968

This is from the inaugural issue of the Americal Division Magazine. There were only two issues in 1968. This first issue has a different format from the subsequent issues. This issue appears to use 8"x10" paper folded over like a pamphlet. Nearly all the photos are B&W, unlike subsequent issues that had a full 8"x10" size and with abundant color photos and graphics.

E n g i n e e r s S u p p o r t
C o m b a t O p e r a t i o n s

Engineer support is given to the infantrymen of the Americal Division by members of the **26th and 39th engineer battalions**. The engineers also provide general construction services for the division headquarters area.

The 26th, the unit directly assigned to Americal, is one of the few units to be organized in Vietnam. It was formed in December of 1967, with the help of the established **39th**, already stationed at Chu Lai, from other units throughout the country.

The combat engineers have built bridges, fire support bases and bunkers in support of Operations Wheeler/Wallowa and Muscatine. They also provide demolitions experts and sweep the roads in the division area for mines each day.

B&W photo - Engineers pulling ropes to position a crane on a raft of pontoons on a river. A guidewire is strung across the river is attached to the pontoons to keep it from being swept down the river. photo credit us army

Americal Division Magazine - January, 1969

A QUARTERLY RECAP OF MAJOR ACTION

Following a relatively inactive summer, the enemy became bolder in late August. Deciding to come out of hiding, he challenged Americal forces on several southern I Corps battlegrounds. The summary that follows covers the action of the men of the Americal during September, October, and November.

Highlights during those months included the marking of the division's first year in Vietnam...the 100,000th Vietnamese civilian treated under MEDCAP... Operation Golden Fleece snatching more than one million pounds of rice from "Charlie,s" mouth...and the conclusion of Operations Champaign Grove, Wheeler/Wallowa, and Burlington Trail.

****

NOVEMBER

Infantrymen of the **198th Bde.** called for accurate firing by the **1st Bn., 82nd Arty.** on Nov. 2 as 22 VC were killed south of Chu Lai. same day, a **LRP team and a 5th Bn., 46th Inf.** platoon adjusted other fire missions from the artillery unit, killing 18 VC. **"Chargers"** of the **196th Bde.** killed 26 VC and captured 8,600 pounds of rice in their AO on Nov. 3. During Operation Golden Fleece, which ended that week, more than one million pounds of rice were grabbed from the enemy in the rice-rich Que Son Valley. The operation began Sept. 15.

On Nov. 11, the division's two longest continuing operations, Wheeler Wallowa and Burlington Trail, came to an end. The latter ended after seven months, the former one year to the day after it began.

Operation Wheeler Wallowa, which started as two separate operations and combined on Nov. 11, 1967, was designed to seek out and destroy elements of the 2nd NVA Div. working in the area northwest of Chu Lai.
It was primarily conducted by the 196th Bde.

During the operation, 10,020 of the enemy were killed@ 2,053. weapons captured while only 683 U.S. soldiers were killed by hostile action.

Operation Burlington Trail, controlled by the **198th Bde.** was launched April 8, 1968, north of Chu Lai. It's mission was to open the road from Tam Ky to Tien Phuoc, under enemy control for four years.

(Continued)

(Continued)

The **"Brave and Bold"** were supported by the **1st Cav.** and the **26th and 39th Engr. Bns.**

Operation Burlington Trail resulted in 1948 enemy dead, while 545 weapons were captured. Americal losses totaled 129.

On Nov. 16, units of the 198th Bde. accounted for 41 VC killed in the Chu Lai area. A LRP observed VC moving down a trail 10 miles north of Quang Ngai City. The **1/82 Arty.** placed eight-inch shells right on target.

On Nov. 17, a **1/14 Arty battery** along with the 198th Bde. killed 32 VC when the enemy launched a mortar, recoilless rifle, and ground attack against the Binh Son District headquarters.

In action west of Tam Ky and north of the Tien Phuoc CIDG camp, **196th Bde.** soldiers netted 44 of the enemy on Nov. 21. In one of the actions, a company of the **4/31 Inf.** killed 20 NVA in contacts with an estimated enemy regiment headquarters.

During November, **"Jungle warriors"** of the 11th Bde. discovered 29 enemy base camps southwest of Quang Ngai City. The large quantity of supplies captured dealt a crushing blow to enemy operations in the area.

Thirty-six VC were killed in the **198th Bde.** area on Nov. 26. "Red-legs" of the **1/14th Arty.** killed 19 of the enemy in two fire missions eight miles west of Tam Ky when an ARVN force adjusted fire on 30 VC.

The battleship New Jersey was in the division AO from Nov. 24 to Nov. 27. During this time, the Navy's only active battleship destroyed 122 enemy structures, 55 bunkers, and 32 fighting positions.

A M E R I C A L L O G
A QUARTERLY RECAP OF MAJOR ACTION

Combat action followed a cyclic pattern in March, April, and May, a period which debuted on the seventh day of the enemy's post-TET offensive and was characterized by standoff rocket and mortar attacks of brief duration and several abortive attempts at ground probes of Americal installations.

The offensive dragged into mid-March and, despite increased casualties, Americal forces beat back every enemy attack and lost no ground while scoring an over-whelming kill ratio against NVA and VC units.

April brought two weeks of relative quiet before another barrage of standoff attacks. May followed the same pattern with increased activity throughout the last half of the month.

Three division operational zones were enlarged in March and brigades began operating with ARVN units.

By SP5 BILL ELSEN

MAY

BG Edwin L. Powell Jr. replaced BG Howard H. Cooksey as assistant division commander May 1; a **1/6 Inf.** visit to Ky Sanh village marked the unit's 10,000th MEDCAP; and machinegunner SP4 Stanley Goff (San Francisco) received the DSC after singlehandedly routing 100 heavily-armed NVA regulars in a trench line.

Combat maintained its April pace until May 11 when enemy rocket and mortar crews joined sappers to renew violent attacks on Americal positions and Vietnamese populations centers. The 2d NVA Div. resurfaced west of Tam Ky to harass the city and west of Quang Ngai, and VC units grew considerably bolder than in previous weeks.

The enemy reawakening cost him 389 NVA and 205 VC killed and 109 weapons, 21 crew-served, captured between May 11-17. Almost immediately, April-like calm again settled over battle areas.

On May 8, 350 refugees began the first leg of a two-day journey to Hiep Duc Valley 35 miles west of Tam Ky, their home until savage terrorist raids forced them out four years ago.

Some 2700 refugees had returned to Hiep Duc in early May, and 5700 were to follow.

During the week of heavy attacks, artillerymen and engineers fought like infantrymen to repel ground probes.

At LZ Baldy, 196th Bde. headquarters, the **2/1 Inf.** killed 40 NVA sappers and took 13 individual weapons.

At LZ Snoopy, **1/82 Arty.** gunners slammed back an NVA-VC charge with help from **C Co., 39th Engr. Bn.** Seventeen NVA and 23 VC were killed.

At LZ Stinson (then Buff), the 1/52 Inf., 198th Bde. killed 27 sappers and on bloody Nui Yon hill south of Tam Ky, the 3/21 Inf., 196th Bde. and **1/1** elements recaptured the peak. Fifty-three NVA were found dead there.

Just as before, an uneasy quiet settled over the Americal area after the hectic week. Even Ho Chi Minh's birthday passed on May 19 with no appreciable escalation of enemy activity.

May 31 brought to an end over 11 months as Americal commander for MG Charles M. Gettys. In ceremonies June 1, he relinquished command to MG Lloyd B. Ramsey and moved to the Pentagon as Director of Individual Training, DCSPER.

THEY MAKE THE GOING GREAT

By SGT HERB HARTLEY

No bridges support heavy artillery pieces vital to infantryman. No roads carry the ever-important convoys. No landing zones or air strips.

This disastrous situation would exist in the division area if not for a broad-shouldered, hard-working lot known as combat engineers.

Under the command of LTC Donald R. Swygert (Carlisle, Pa.), the **26th Cmbt. Engr. Bn.** increases combat effectiveness of Americal troops through construction, impeding the enemy by destroying his facilities, and fighting as infantry, if necessary.

"To say our battalion stays busy is an understatement," said CSM John R. Spehar (Kenosha, Wis.). "Doing the job right the first time doesn't necessarily mean it will be the last. What Charlie doesn't bruise with mines and satchel charges will be damaged by weather or heavy use."

"A couple of months ago we reconstructed the Binh Son Bridge on Highway 1 for the fourth time," LTC Swygert stated.

"It was a cooperative effort. Co. E constructed a temporary 260-foot floating bridge to carry traffic, while the **39th Engr. Bn.** removed Bailey bridging used to close gaps created by VC sapper squads."

Division engineers work with men of the **19th and 39th Engr. Bns.** of the 18th Engr. Bde., and **9th Marine Engr. Bn.** to keep all-important Highway 1 open.

When it comes to pioneering a road into country that has not seen a four-wheel vehicle in years, however, men of the 26th are on their own.

In a typically important mission, engineers were tasked with opening a road across 17 miles of rugged terrain between Binh Son and the Tra Bong Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp so giant artillery could move into position.

The day before the operation began, two airmobile bulldozers, four 3/4-ton dump trucks, a 1/4-ton truck, and a bucket loader were airlifted into the CIDG camp with men from **B Co.**

The next morning, men and equipment began working east, while B, D, and E Cos. cut a path west from Binh Son.

Combat Engineer Vehicles-58-ton tanks with dozer blades and a 165mm demolition gun led the way, barreling over obstacles, filling in trenches, and blasting enemy sniper positions with huge guns.

"It took three miserable days of hard work to get those guns to Tra Bong and because of heavy rains, even longer to get the equipment out," Spehar remarked.

B Co. had earned a rest, but that had to wait. A day and a half later, the engineers were committed to another operation occupying them for weeks.

A QUARTERLY RECAP OF MAJOR ACTION

Combat action during the three month period of June, July, and August was characterized by sporadic company and battalion size contacts, with major battles erupting in late August.

Americal troops killed more than 2,700 enemy soldiers, 1,400 of whom were NVA; captured 740 weapons, 140 crewserved; and destroyed or evacuated more than 100 tons of rice.

Operation Russell Beach, a long-range pacification campaign which began Jan. 13, ended July 21. Nearly 225 VC were killed in the operation, three new villages constructed, and the presence of the Government of Vietnam established.

Americal soldiers, along with the **1st Bde., 101st Abn. Div.** successfully completed Operation Lamar Plain, which began May 15 and ended Aug. 15. The campaign tallied 524 enemy soldiers killed and 318 weapons captured.

By SGT HERB HARTLEY

AUGUST

Aug. 1 and 2 saw the **6th Bn., 56th Arty.**, and the **312th Evac. Hosp.** depart Vietnam as part of the redeployment announced by President Nixon.

Ground activity during August began much the same as the majority of July's action-light and scattered.

Heavy fighting finally broke out on the morning of Aug. 12 when several installations in the Americal area, including Chu Lai, became the targets of enemy sapper, mortar, and rocket attacks.

Most of the action centered around LZ West, 19 miles west of Tam Ky, when the men of the **4th Bn., 31st Inf.**, repulsed an enemy attack and killed 59 NVA.

Twenty VC were killed when they attempted to penetrate the perimeter of LZ Dottie, jointly manned by ARVN and Americal units 12 miles southeast of Chu Lai. ARVN elements accounted for 16 of the enemy dead, while units of **D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., D Btry., 1-82 Arty.**, and **B Co., 39th Engr. Bn.**, killed four VC.

Also hit were Hawk Hill, former home of the 1-1 Cav., five miles northwest of Tam Ky; FSB San Juan Hill, 10 miles west of Duc Pho; LZ Gator, 13 miles north of Quang Ngai City; and LZ Bayonet, **198th Bde. headquarters**.

In all, division units killed 100 enemy soldiers, including 85 NVA, in the night's heavy action.

Fierce fighting again erupted near LZ West on Aug. 18. Infantrymen of the **4-31** killed 148 NVA during a day-long engagement which lasted into the late evening with an unknown-size enemy force.

The battles on Aug. 18 signaled the start of a week of intense fighting in the Hiep Duc Valley area and in the Song Chang Valley southwest of LZ Center.

All of the **196th. Bde.**'s infantry battalions were involved in the bitter clash with dug-in forces of the 2nd NVA Div. Americal forces accounted for more than 500 of the enemy, while U.S. Marines operating against the same enemy force in the Que Son Valley brought the total to more than 1,000 enemy killed.

Americal Division Magazine - Fall, 1970

Photograph of a bulldozers performing land clearing. Page 14.

MO DUC LAND CLEARING

In the **26th Engineer Battalion**, land clearing and C Company are almost synonymous. One of their latest projects was the Mo Duc operation 8 miles east of Quang Ngai City stretching some 16 miles down the seacoast. They were additionally aided by the land clearing platoon of the **39th Engineer Battalion**.

Basically, land clearing is, as the name implies, clearing of the land. This means bulldozing the area to be cleared removing all standing foliage and scraping open areas for mines and booby traps. The areas to be cleared are decided on jointly by the local Vietnamese officials and the U.S. Army. The object is to turn enemy sanctuary into friendly byways and resettlement.

The **C Company** D-7 Caterpillar bulldozers and other heavy equipment were originally brought into the land clearing area by a temporary expedient road which was cut through the vacant, deserted rice paddies and hedgerows leading into the jungle. The base of such an operation is a night lagger defensive position. The position is a "double burn" of sand or earth bulldozed into two close concentric circles. The inner area is where the engineers dig in themselves and their equipment. Snuggled between the two circular "burns" is the security force of a platoon of infantry and a platoon of Vietnamese Popular Force. In event of an enemy attack, weapons will be ready and protected.

In land clearing, each day is unique. The terrain will vary from thick jungle to open rice paddy, and it's unpredictable what the men will uncover. Jungle in Vietnam means a growth of green bamboo, small trees, and shrubs all tightly interlaced with vines and more vines. It's like a dark green cloak some 15 feet thick bristling up from the sandy clay earth. It hides enemy defense enclaves, booby traps and mines, and food sources.

Following is a part of the Mo Duc land clearing operation with **C Company**. The start of the day's work begins with morning light, and the snort of up to 11 bulldozers. Soon the convoy of dozers, the tank-like combat engineer vehicle (GEV), the armored personnel carrier (APC), and the security force of infantry is off from the night laager position moving back again into the land clearing area where the previous day left the jungle still standing. Dust swirles around the convoy of men and equipment forming an alien tunnel of sun-brightened, light-brown particles.

Soon the bulldozers are attacking the green haven of the enemy as the infantry, the CEV, and the APC stand in protective watch. All through the hot, sultry day, the dozers move in staggered formation from one area to another continuing until the last of the dense green growth is torn down and crawled over by the heavy clanking of undaunted dozer pads.

The dozers aren't allowed to bunch up because of the danger of fragmentation from exploding mines and booby traps which usually explode harmlessly in front of the blade but are a danger to anyone nearby. Coordination and control of the many machines is accomplished by radio. Each of the vehicles is equipped with a radio, and commanding First Lieutenant Neal H. Stadiman totes his own radio. The men greatly respect his readiness to don radio through the long day of dust and sun. The medic, Specialist Four Elroy R. Newberry is always near him. Need for a medic will come over the air.

The afternoon and the following day sees maintenance performed on the 11 dozers to ready them for the next nearby project which will involve a change in night laager. Each operator doubles as mechanic and all pitch in on the repair and everyday maintenance.

(Continued)

(Continued)

Photo of shirtless bulldozer operator with jungle hat and Ho Chi Minh sandals on left third of page.
Credit: Hunger

Land clearing revolves around first the elaborate project planning, deciding what areas will be cleared and organizing the supply of men and equipment to be used. The maintenance of the D-7's is no small task. A new facet of the operation is the addition of the combat vehicle crewman's helmet-the same as is worn by tank operators. A radio is attached to the helmet to allow transmitting and receiving with the lieutenant commanding the operation. Not only does the helmet stop shrapnel and keep the operators coordinated with the commander, it saves the operator from the ear-splitting sound of the detonated explosive. The heavy, tough D-7 blade of Rome plow plus the tractor itself are heavy enough to stop shrapnel from even 5 and 8 inch and 155 mm artillery rounds if they explode in front of the blade.

Says D-7 operator Specialist Four Bush, "You don't run over anything-even a blasting cap-if you can see it first. We found lots of 'em that had a mine like a Chicom grenade on top the ground hooked to a buried 155 mm round so that when you ran over the grenade it set off the round. So now we check'em out first."

With the completion of this part of the Mo Duc operation, the engineers left destroyed 855 lineal meters of trenches, 114 bunkers, 17 mines and booby traps, 20 ordinance items, and a total of 1060 acres of jungle. The jungle overcome, the haunts of the enemy scathed open, the enemy is disrupted and forced to look for new hiding places.

The men are proud of their work and proud of their individual jobs. "I like it here," says **39th Engineer Bn.** operator Specialist Four Frank E. Burton. "You work all day, and before you know it, it's time to go in. You might write a letter to your family, and then its dark, and you go to sleep. The time goes so fast....." (Small Americal Division shield)

BY PFC JOHN HUNGER - 26TH ENGINEERS

photo caption. Photo credit: McGillen.

1st Color Photo shows bare chested man operating a caterpillar with enclosed roll bar cage. Painted in white on the side of the cage is "WELFARE CADILLAC". 18BDE45GP 39E??? (This was a **39th Engineer vehicle**.).

WELFARE
CADILLAC

This was found in the Americal Division Daily Newsheet:

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
MG S.W. Koster, Commanding General
MAJ Gerald D. Hill jr., IO
Telephone: Chu Lai 3212 or 2414
This News Sheet is published daily under the supervision of the IO, Americal Division APO96374 as an authorized Army publication. This News Sheet is solely for personnel in the Americal Division and may not be duplicated or released to the news media.

Americal Daily News Sheet- Americal Division News.
AMERICAL
news (Americal Patch) sheet
Vol. 1. No. 270 Monday January 15, 1968 page1

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Heavy air activity characterized the continuous destruction and harassment of the 2nd NVA Division in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa. More than 25 air strikes pounded on suspected enemy locations. One the ground units of the Americal Division reported killing 18 enemy soldiers and capturing over 20,000 pounds of rice in action throughout the southern I Corps Tactical Zone. More than 7,000 pounds of artillery were fired into suspected enemy staging areas and resupply routes.

Government forces reported killing 19 VC in operations around the Tam Ky area. A Popular Forces ambush killed 12 VC and captured two weapons about five miles west of there. About four miles north of Tam Ky, a Regional Force was attacked late Saturday night. In the exchange of fire, they killed seven VC and captured one weapon.

Elements of Americal's 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry reported a brief fire fight with the enemy yesterday killing two. Brigade soldiers also participated in a dedication ceremony.

Later last night, a unit of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry observed eight VC with weapons. After a sharp fire fight, two enemy bodies were counted and a quantity of small arms ammunition was captured.

.....

Units of the Americal's 11th Brigade took part in activities, which resulted in the detaining of three suspects and the capture of various enemy supply caches which were found in the "Pathfinders" area of operations.

Members of the **39th Engineer Battalion** received sniper fire and reported that a child was killed by a VC sniper on Saturday. The men were working on a section of Hwy #1 near Mo Duc, when the incident occurred.

A small VC force blew a hole in a bridge near Hoi An. The bridge was rendered impassable, however, the 9th Marine Engineers quickly opened the highway with a bypass while bridge repairs are being made.

Units of the Americal Division reported that four U.S. soldiers were killed in ground fighting yesterday.

Americal's 14th Aviation Battalion flew 1,332 sorties, carried 955 combat troops and hauled 262 tons of cargo in support of division units yesterday.

Sixty-seven Hoi Chanhs have rallied to the government's side under the Chieu Hoi Program so far this year.

Vol. 2. No. 44 Sunday Daily Newssheet June 2, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT: Partly cloudy Monday with intermittent rain and thundershowers in the afternoon and evening. Winds east-northeasterly at 10 knots. High Monday 96. Low Monday night 76.

ITENERARY FOR "THE MERCY ROCK SOUNDS"

From 2 June to 6 June, "The Mercy Rock Sounds", a popular jazz band will be appearing in the Chu Lai area.

2 June

0830	Arrival from Saigon
0900-1000	Meeting with AG,G1
1030-1230	Show Div Arty
1230-1330	Lunch Div Arty
1400-1600	Show 2nd Surg Hosp
1700-1900	Dinner Americal NCO Mess

3 June

0830-1030	Show LZ Baldy
1100-1230	Show Hill 29
1400-1600	Show Bunker Hill, D Co., 26th Eng Bn
1640-1730	Dinner 176th AVN, 14th AVN Bn area
1800-2000	Show 176th AVN, 14th AVN Bn area

4 June

0930-1130	Show USO
1200-1330	Lunch C Btry, 2d LAAM
1400-1600	Show C Btry, 2d LAAM
1630-1730	**Dinner HHC 39th Eng Area**
1800-2000	**Show 39th Eng Bn Area**

5 June

0930-1130	Show 23rd Med Bn Area
1200-1330	Lunch 23rd Med Bn Area
1430-1630	Show Duc Pho
1630-1730	Dinner Duc Pho
1830	Return to Chu Lai

6 June

0930-1130	Show 198th Area
1200-1330	Lunch Americal NCO Mess
1400-1600	Show 723d Maint Area
1630-1730	Dinner Americal Combat Center
1800-2000	Show Americal Combat Center

Vol. 2. No. 131 Wednesday August 28, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT: Fair to partly cloudy skies. Winds at 10 knots from the Northeast. High Thursday 100. Low Thursday night 80 (B-6).

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)- Action slowed in the Americal Division's southern I Corps Tactical Zone yesterday as Division forces accounted for 16 NVA and 14 VC killed, three NVA detained, two crew-served weapons and seven individual weapons captured.

Action in the 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry's area of operations slowed yesterday as "Dragoons" and supporting elements accounted for 16 NVA and two VC killed, three NVA detained, two crew-served weapons and six individual weapons captured in an area centered seven miles west of Tam Ky.

"A" Troop accounted for eight of the NVA killed, three AK-47s and two 12.7mm anti-aircraft guns captured.

A company of the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry engaged a group of NVA late yesterday, killing four NVA 13 miles west of Tam Ky.

A company of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry accounted for two NVA killed, three AK-47s and one NVA detained.

"F" Troop, 8th Cavalry killed two NVA and two VC.

In scattered light action yesterday the 196th Infantry Brigade killed six VC.

A company of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry received two hand grenades on their perimeter early yesterday morning. Flares were fired and the enemy was engaged with small arms fire and hand grenades, resulting in four VC killed 23 miles west of Tam Ky.

A company of the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry observed two VC evading 13 miles west of Tam Ky. The enemy was engaged with small arms fire, killing both VC.

198th Infantry Brigade soldiers killed two VC during light scattered action yesterday.

"H" Troop, 17th Cavalry found the body of one VC yesterday morning. The cavalrymen had killed the VC earlier in a brief contact south of Tam Ky.

A company of the **39th Engineer Battalion**, working in support of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry killed one VC attempting to evade south of Chu Lai.

11th Brigade infantrymen reported four VC killed and two suspects apprehended as light action continued yesterday in the Duc Pho area.

"Always First" rifle platoons of the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry led by 1LT Vincent Satriano (Chicago,IL) and SSG Raymond Sampier (Valley, Station, KT) killed two VC in separate contacts while conducting combat sweeps north of Duc Pho.

A company of the **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** killed two VC south of Chu Lai.

"Shark" gunships from the 174th Aviation Company responding to a call from 2d ARVN Division soldiers in contact with an estimated VC company yesterday six miles east of Quang Ngai, destroyed ten fortified structures and two machine gun positions with rockets and machine gun fire.

Division forces suffered two soldiers killed and 17 wounded and evacuated for treatment.

Vol. 2 No. 250 THURSDAY December 26, 1968

MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT: FRIDAY Tomorrow's forecast: partly cloudy with chance of morning showers. High temperature of 85 and low of 72 moon rise 1302 moon set --0049

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--Americal Division forces reported killing one NVA and seven VC, discovering one NVA body, detaining four VC suspects in very light and scattered action on Christmas Day in southern I Corps.

****

In the 11th Inf. Bde. area, six VC were killed and four VC suspects detained while two engineer companies reported three unusual incidents tied to the Christmas standdown.

Near a beach 11 miles southwest of Duc Pho, Co,. B, 4-3 Inf., led by CPT Jack Pryor (Fresno, Calif.) received heavy automatic weapons fire and killed five VC. After the "Old Guard" called in air strikes, another VC was found dead.

Three VC suspects were detained with altered ID cards on Highway 1 about six miles southeast of Duc Pho. Another was detained when he presented a VC wreath and distributed propaganda leaflets at the gate of LZ Liz five miles northwest of Duc Pho.

The engineers' unusual day began north of Duc Pho on Highway 1 where a mine-sweep team of Co. A, 19th Engr. Bn. discovered two Christmas trees bearing VC propaganda and a 20-foot high arch built across the road with flowers, pompoms, a white flag, and a dove of peace attached.

Further north, 15 miles from Duc Pho, a mine-sweep team of Co. C, 39th Engr. Bn. encountered one NVA with an AK-47 rifle and two armed VC watching the sweep. Neither side fired.

Shortly afterwards at the same site, the engineers were approached by 30 armed VC with AK-47 rifles, M079 grenade launchers, and carbines. The VC asked to meet with U.S. representatives at the site at a designated hour in the afternoon. American troops remained at the proposed site almost two hours beyond the designated hour, but no VC appeared.

****

Vol. 3 No. 133 Tuesday May 13, 1969

MIRACLE WEATHER FORECAST May 14
Fair to partly cloudy, southeast winds to 10 knots, gusts to 20 knots in afternoon, a few showers possible over the mountains with a slight chance locally.
Temperatures: H 96 L 79

AMERICAL DIVISION NEWS

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)--A marked increase in activity prevailed throughout southern I Corps yesterday as Americal Division units reported killing 112 NVA and 60 VC, capturing 60 weapons, 11 crew-served.

* * * *

* * * *

IRON MOUNTAIN--Units of the 11th Inf. Bde. killed 41 NVA and 24 VC and captured 16 weapons, three crew-served.

Embattled artillerymen, protecting their perimeter while firing two key missions, killed 23 VC and detained one while beating back a company size sapper attack at LZ Snoopy nine miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Btry. B, 1-82 Arty. positioned on the LZ with a platoon from **Co. C, 39th Engr. Bn**. was firing illumination and counter-mortar missions with its four 155mm howitzer sections when the attack began.

Btry. B. defenders met the attack with controlled small arms fire along a bunker line leading to its gun parapets. Two sappers reached the protective wall but were killed by cannoneer SP4 Bobby J. Stafford, (Peel, Ark.).

Trp. E, 1st Cav. working with Co. C 3-1 Inf. engaged and killed 17 NVA in rice paddies 6 miles southeast of Duc Pho and captured a RPG launcher. It also discovered two NVA killed by artillery fire.

In the same area Co. C tallied 8 more NVA and a VC killed.

Co. D., 3-1 Inf. killed nine NVA and captured five weapons including a .30 caliber machinegun.

Three NVA were killed by Co. B, 3-1 Inf. also capturing an AK-47 rifle and two machineguns.

Co. A, 3-1 Inf. killed another NVA in a rice paddy nine miles southeast of Duc Pho.

Co. B, 4-3 Inf. killed one NVA and captured his SKS rifle.

This section has articles published in the Americal Division weekly Newspaper, "The Southern Cross". The first issue was published in May 1968 and the last issue was published in 1971.

17Aug68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 5. Page 2

Photo Caption 1 & 2 -Like New

This stretch of Highway 1 near Mo Duc has been made "like new" by soldiers of the 39th Engr. Bn. (Photo by Sp4 James Leahy, **39th Engr. Bn.**)

21 September 1968 (Saturday) – Stars & Stripes.
81 Reds Killed in 3 Clashes.

.....

In a delayed report, U.S. military sources said 43 Reds were killed Tuesday 10 miles southwest of Tam Ky in Quang Tin P r o v i n c e. The allied force, which suffered eight killed and 19 wounded, was made up of the engineer battalion of the Americal Div., and Vietnamese popular force soldiers.

Some of the allied losses were from a **16-man engineer reaction** force that was ambushed while moving in to reinforce the construction party. Spokesmen said all casualties were Americans.

A/39th Engr, BT164133 at 1915H, work party w/many casualties is pinned down W of LZ Young at this time.

(delayed entry from 17 Sep) Tien Phuoc, BT178140 at 1935H, Engr unit in convoy to Tam Ky in ambush vic BT178140. Ambush 500 meters long. At 2040H, 2 Slicks for emergency resupply on way. 1 gunship rec'd suspected .50 cal fire, hit nose of ship. (From Engr unit on radio when lead track was hit by B-40 rocket. Tien Phuoc monitored freq of above unit and could hear the men yelling they were in an ambush. At present there is no commo with this unit.) This was a 42 man Engr relief force from LZ Young believed to have been ambushed. No commo. As of 1935H, to 2330H, situation unk. **39th Engr** still checking.

D/5/46, BT174140 at 0045H, 2 platoons of D/5/46 relief force reached 16 **Engr** personnel that were ambushed on way to reinforce the Engr work detail, they believe the 3 vehicles were destroyed by burning. 7 WHA (E), 9 are OK and are with 2 platoons from D/5/46, 32 Engr's are from work detail are still missing. Reported they had 5 radios with them and can't make radio contact with them at this time. **39th Engr**, at 0455H, the relief unit from **Engr's** who were sent out to look for the work unit and was ambushed report that the enemy wore khaki uniforms and carried AK-47's. They killed 4 of them, res: 4 NVA KIA. Also found 3 of the work detail KHA. Friendly at this time from work detail, 3 KHA.

18SEP68-**39th Engr**, B-S-3, due to enemy activity in area, **39th Engr** will not be able to perform road sweeps along Rte #533. Activity commenced at 1800H 17 Sep 68, and is still underway.

Killed in Action 17SEP68 were : Neal Bollinger, Bernard Cook, Steven Dawson. Randall Farlow, Rex Hoover, Harold Kissinger, Larry Smith and Warren Smith.

Vol. 1, No. 12 CHU LAI, VIETNAM November 24, 1968

Photo Caption - ALL-STAR FIRST BASEMAN, ERNIE BANKS EXPLAINS ONE THE GAME'S fine points to SP4 Larry Caulder, **39th Engr. Bn.,** a patient in the **27th Surg. Hosp.**, Chu Lai. Pete Richert, Orioles pitcher, looks on approvingly. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant)

ALL-STAR FIRST BASEMAN, ERNIE BANKS EXPLAINS ONE OF THE GAME'S fine points to SP4 Larry Caulder, 39th Engr. Bn., a patient in the 27th Surg. Hosp., Chu Lai. Pete Richert, Orioles pitcher, looks on approvingly. (Photo by SP4 Bill Guerrant)

Star Ballplayers Visit
Fans Around Division

CHU LAI--Two top-notch major league baseball players, Ernie Banks of the Chicago Cubs and Pete Richert of the Baltimore Orioles, recently completed a whirlwind hand-shake tour of the Americal area.

"It's a pleasure to see all the guys here," said Banks, "and it is a really rewarding experience to me personally.

(Continued)

(Continued)

"I know what the GIs are doing for us, and we want to do something for them," the two-time National League's Most Valuable Player concluded.

Besides visiting the "Sandpiper" Service Club and the USO, the athletes talked baseball and cheered up the patients in all the area hospitals.

Richert, an Orioles star relief pitcher, added, "These are really great guys and they seem to have real 'heart.' Our reception has been splendid, and these fellows know their baseball."

In addition to bringing greetings from all the participants in the national pastime, the sports stars showed films giving the highlights of last season's baseball action.

A left-handed first-baseman, Banks will be back at the same stand in Wrigley Field next season pounding out the long drives that have enabled him to register 474 homers during his 15 major league seasons.

Richert came up to the major league through the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Combat In Review

Buy Explosives And Ammunition

'Brave And Bold' Business Boom

LZ DOTTIE--It's like bargain day at Macy's when 198th Inf. Bde. soldiers go to market seeking merchandise to buy.

They purchase only certain commodities, though--explosives and ammunition.

D Co., 5th Bn., 46th Inf., working with **B Co., 39th Engr. Bn.,** open for business a couple of times a week at a village near the perimeter of LZ Dottie. They offer cash in exchange for ammo and explosives found by the local populace.

Business Good

According to LT William Mullins of D Co., business is booming for the "Professionals." "The Voluntary Informant Program is getting so popular now there's usually a big line of customers waiting for us," he said.

In a recent three-day period, the Americal soldiers bought nearly $1,000 worth of explosives.

LT James Romanowiz of the engineers agrees that the program is growing in popularity. The lieutenant drives a jeep and trailer into a nearby village about once a week. He's considering switching to a deuce-and-a-half.

Complete Arsenal

The ammo and explosives collected include everything from blasting caps to howitzer shells. The most common item is the M-26 grenade.

After a recent trip to the village, LT Romanowiz returned with a trailer full of 105mm shells, 81mm mortar rounds, and anti-personnel mines.

"Most of the explosives are found by the villagers out in the rice paddies," noted LT Daniel Schulte, civil affairs officer and coordinator of the program for the "Professionals." Some of them probably know where large caches are hidden. We've been hoping that eventually they'll lead us to them."

Advertising Pays

The program is advertised to the villagers by Psychological Operations loudspeaker teams, leaflets dropped from the air, and by signs posted along Highway 1. Word of mouth advertising also is important.

As LT Schulte stated, "If one satisfied customer returns to the village, he usually comes back the next time with about 20 friends.

Fringe Benefits

In addition to the obvious benefits of keeping potentially deadly explosives out of the hands of the enemy, the program offers other advantages.

"It builds up the villager's confidence in us," said LT Schulte. "Soon we expect them to lead us to caches of rice, ammunition, and enemy concentrations. It will be an important avenue of intelligence."

LT Mullins summed up the importance of the program. "It seems like we are paying a lot of money for a grenade, but it is worth it when you consider someone may have thrown it at us instead."

Chaplain Toots Horn

CHU LAI--An enterprising chaplain took his bugle out of mothballs so **39th Engr. Bn**. soldiers could enjoy the musical call of reveille and retreat.

On the morning of Nov. 10, men at the **39th's** base camp were called to duty, not by the customary whistle, but by the notes of a bugle. The man behind the instrument was not an ordinary bugler. He was the 39th's chaplain, CPT L.P. Utley.

Bugle Bolsters Morale

CPT Utley conceived the bugle idea after overhearing LTC Tenho Hukkaia, battalion commander, mention how having a bugler in his company in Korea 15 years ago acted as a morale booster.

The chaplain quietly went out and set the wheels in motion. When the bugle he requested from friends in the States arrived on Nov. 9, he spent the afternoon practicing in the privacy of his office.

After an initiation of Taps that evening, he set the program in full swing the following morning.

Traveling Horn

The chaplain plans to continue the project and hopes that it will remain with the 39th after he leaves. He plans to play the calls from atop the engineers' newly constructed TOC bunker to allow the notes to carry further. On visits to other line companies in the battalion, Chaplain Utley's bugle will accompany him.

In his absence from the battalion base camp, the live bugle calls will be replaced by a tape recording.

Combat In Review

Prove Combat Readiness

39th Engrs. Ward Off Enemy

LZ SNOOPY--In recent weeks the enemy has given the **39th Cmbt. Engr. Bn.** ample opportunity to live up to the "combat" in their title.

After a relatively quiet period, broken only be occasional sniper rounds, both local VC units and NVA regulars unleashed their forces in a sudden burst of activity against the 39th.

Two-sided Attack

The first major move was an early morning attack on LZ Snoopy, base camp of the **39th's C Co**.

Mortar rounds began striking the area during pre-dawn hours, as an enemy force of an undetermined size moved against the compound, coming from the north-northeast in the helipad area.

The action swung around to include the southeast corner of C Co.'s perimeter, neighboring on the nearby ARVN unit, which also was under attack.

In this area two bunkers set up a deadly crossfire against the attacker, accounting for nine VC kills.

Support Called

CPT Torrence M. Wilson, the CO, called for gunships and flareships to open up on the VC.

By dawn the enemy had retreated, leaving 14 dead and two captured. C Co. suffered light casualties.

Road Ambush

While still recuperating from this attack, the 3rd Plt. of the **630th Lt. Engr. Co., attached to C Co.**, was ambushed on the way to a work site a few days later.

An estimated enemy force of platoon size fired on the engineers from 50 to 100 meters east of the road.

1LT L. E. Erdmann, the platoon leader, deployed his force, directed a large volume of firepower, and called for gunships, APCs, and artillery.

After the artillery placed rounds within 75 meters of the road, the gunships went into action.

APC, Arty Clean Up

As activity from the east began to die down, small arms rounds came in from the west. Artillery and APC fire was immediately directed on those enemy positions.

To complete the action, a Montagnard company swept the area.

In all, nine VC were captured and 14 killed in the encounter.

Twelve hours later, LZ Snoopy received 20 mortar rounds, as if to let C Co. know that "Charlie" was still around.

Sweep More Mines

During the same period, B Co. found an increasing number of enemy road mines in its daily minesweeps.

In all the line companies at least one or two sniper incidents have been reported with each minesweep. Friendly losses, however, have been confined to light wounds.

B Co. also has received a large amount of ordnance turned in through the VIP program during this period.

ENGINEERS PROVIDED MUSCLE FOR DIVISION

The never-ending task of building, clearing, repairing and maintaining the Americal Division's communication roadways falls upon the broad shoulders of the combat engineer.

The 26th Engr. Bn. is the only battalion assigned directly to the Americal, but the division has three other engineer battalions supporting it. The **39th** and 19th Engr. Bns. are part of the 18th Engr. Bde., headquartered in Cam Ranh Bay, while the 9th Engr. Bn. belongs to the Marine Corps.

"Each battalion is responsible for minesweeping, road upgrading, the building of bridges, culverts, and general maintenance In different sectors of the division AO," stated MSG Joseph White (Detroit), chief Engineer NCO at Division Engineers.

The 19th and **39th Engr. Bns.** operate from the I Corps southern boundary to Chu Lai, while the 9th Engrs. maintain the northern sector of the Americal AO). "White Lions" of the 26th are responsible for all lateral routes east and west of Highway 1.

"The job of a combat engineer is a never ending one," remarked MSG White. "Once an assignment his completed, two more take its place."

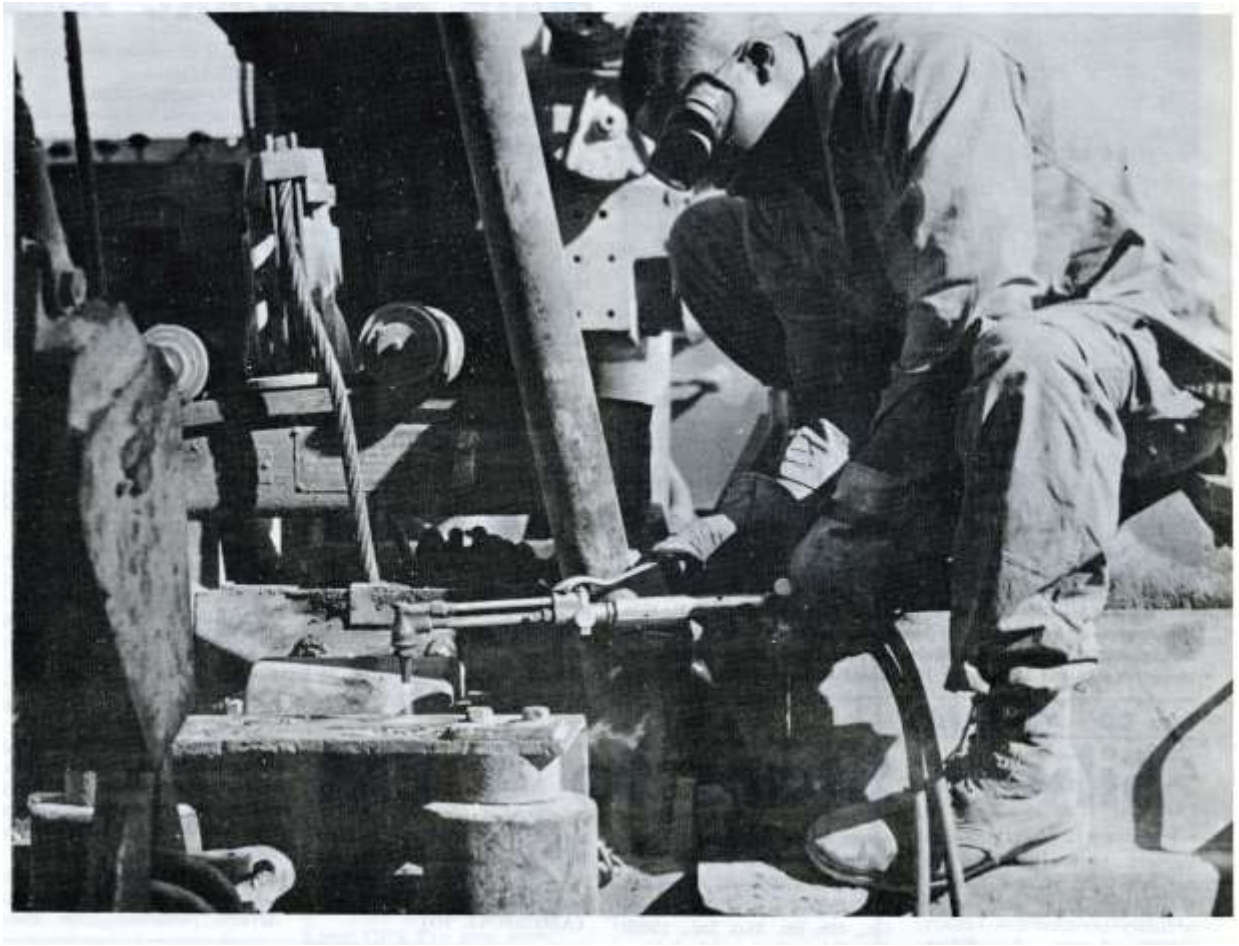
Photos
by
SP5 LOU FEDORSKI
11th Inf. Bde.

Photo Captions: Division Engineers work on a road-paving project. (Clockwise) Getting ready for the road trek, an engineer welds a support plate onto a heavy crane.

In a familiar pose, an engineer cautiously sweeps for enemy mines as men behind provide security. Members of the minesweep team probe for metal indicated by mine detector.

With the road free of mines, a monster-like asphalt machine spreads a hot black surface. Progress is slowed temporarily as engineers clear rubble form a bridge blow by VC. In less than two days, the bridge is like new.

A 10-ton roller puts the finishing touches on the ribbon of asphalt as it firms the new surface into shape.



BUFFALO
18BD

Vol. 2, No. 12 CHU LAI, VIETNAM June 08, 1969

A m e r i c a l R e p u l s e s E n e m y A s s a u l t s

Division Units Kill 594 Of Foe During Sapper, Rocket Hits

CHU LAI--After seven months of relative quiet in the division area, enemy activity exploded all over southern I Corps as Americal units killed 594 during seven days of heavy fighting in May.

From one end of the AO to the other, enemy main force and sapper units attacked friendly positions only to be successfully repulsed. Artillerymen and engineers along with other support troops fought along with other support troops fought like "grunts" in repelling many of the assaults.

122mm and 140mm rockets, 60mm and 82mm mortars, RPGs, automatic weapons, and small arms fire were unable to throw Americal defenders off balance.

The combination offensive-defensive encounters accounted for 389 NVA and 205 VC dead and 109 weapons, 21 crew-served captured.

Sappers

At LZ Baldy, a large force of NVA sappers attempted to breach the 196th Bde. base camp's defense. **2nd Bn., 1st Inf.** soldiers fought off the assault.

Forty NVA bodies were found around the perimeter the next morning along with 13 individual weapons and numerous munitions including seven RPGs and 25 satchel charges.

To the south near Tam Ky, NVA and VC forces over- (Continued on Page 8)

Div. Repels Enemy Hits (Continued from Page 1) whelmed a small outpost atop Nui Yon hill only to be driven off with extremely heavy casualties.

Elements of the **3rd Bn., 21st** Inf. and **1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.** aided by intensive artillery bombardment and air strikes, retook the position.

Fifty-three NVA bodies were discovered on the hilltop when the ARVN 3/4 Cav., which also participated in the action, reached the peak.

VC Stopped

Northwest of Quang Ngai, elements of the **1st Bn., 52nd Inf.**, 198th Bde. rebuffed the Viet Cong at LZ Buff.

Twenty-seven of the enemy were felled by "Brave and Bold" bullets as they attempted to reach the landing zone. Two crew-served and four individual weapons were captured.

At LZ Snoopy, northwest of 11th Bde. headquarters at Duc Pho, non-infantry defenders beat back a combined NVA and VC force.

Elements of the **1st Bn. 82d Arty. and 39th Engr. Bn.** killed 17 NVA and 23 VC while capturing six individual and one crew-served weapon. Two NVA also were killed by artillery barrages. (Americal IO)

* * *

Snoopy Curses
Red Sappers In
Night Of Terror

By SP4 DICK SHEARER

LZ SNOOPY- What started as a pleasantly cool evening for sleeping turned into a nightmare for members of B Btry., **1st Bn., 82d Arty., and C Co., 39th Engr. Bn.**

The peace and tranquility ended at 0217 hours when a medium-sized enemy force launched a combined ground and mortar attack against the two units which share LZ Snoopy with an ARVN detachment.

Initial contact was made with the enemy in the engineers sector where five VC were spotted. At about the same time, number of enemy troops worked their way through the perimeter and were mov-(Continued on Page 8) **Snoopy Curses Reds (Continued from Page 1)** ing freely under the protection of heavy shelling.

The full impact of the attack was felt in a matter of minutes when three satchel charges exploded in one of the engineers' bunkers starting an ammunition-fed fire.

Soon two more enemy soldiers captured a fighting bunker and pinned down four engineer defenders.

B Btry. 1SG James E. Norris (Baltimore) and 2LT Steven L. Rapier (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), assistant XO, were among the first to size up the situation.

They immediately went to the communications bunker to get the medic, PFC David A. Bozek (Chicago), to help treat injured at the bunker fire. When they arrived they found two VC patrolling the entrance to the bunker.

While Bozek moved to the burning bunker, Norris, LT Rapier, and SSG Boon D. Johnson (Tipton, Ind.) concentrated on pinning the VC in a bunker.

Lob Grenades

"It wasn't easy to flush them out," Norris said, "but LT Rapier kept them down with M-16 fire and I started throwing hand grenades at the bunker."

Apparently each had scored a hit because later they learned that one VC had been killed by rifle fire, and the other by a grenade blast.

PFC Terrance L. Penick (Louisville, Ky.) was asleep in his bunker when someone shouted a warning that the LZ was receiving in-coming fire. A few seconds later a grenade went off outside the door.

(Continued)

(Continued) **08June69-Southern Cross Vol. 2 No. 12** Page 1

* * *

Snoopy Curses
Red Sappers In
Night Of Terror

More Grenades

Penick and SP4 Robert T. Staples (Andalusia, Pa.) jumped up and headed for the entrance way where they were greeted by another grenade blast that threw Penick back into the bunker.

"I looked to the right and saw a VC moving around in the shadows and somehow I managed to shoot him," Penick said.

"After that, Staples and I decided to check the profo pits (ammo storage area). As soon as we go to the first one, a grenade exploded on top of it and we both got knocked down again."

Thirty-five minutes after the battle began, gun and flare ships arrived to take up the fight with illumination, rockets and machinegun fire.

The hill yielded 25 enemy bodies and a cache of armament that included 10 rifles, two pistols, and 150 assorted Chicom grenades.

A check of the perimeter showed blood trails indicating that as many as 20 additional VC were brought down by the gunships.

All told, there were 37 confirmed kills on Snoopy as a result of engineer and artillery teaming to fight as infantry.

"It really was a nice evening for sleeping," stated Johnson, who was sacked out next to a bunker when the attack began. "Now I think it might take us a few weeks to rest easy again." (DIVARTY IO)

30July69-Southern Cross Vol. 2 No. 18 Page 3
Stork Stats

PFC ALVIN CORNELIUS, **39th Engr. Bn.**, daughter born June 20, New York, N.Y

Combat In Review

Americans, ARVNs
Batter VC Force

LZ DOTTIE--"We threw everything at them that we had and they took a beating," said the first sergeant as he sipped a cup of coffee, recalling the battle the night before at this artillery firebase 12 miles south of Chu Lai.

The artillerymen and engineers who man the firebase along with a platoon of ARVN infantrymen repulsed a middle-of-the-night combined mortar and ground attack from three sides, killing 20 Viet Cong and capturing two.

When the first mortars landed in the area of D Btry., 1st Bn., 82nd Arty., the Americans reacted quickly, manning bunkers and firing at enemy infiltrators coming toward the wire.

"We fired flat trajectories with all of our guns and used the Quad .50 machinegun (a four barreled heavy caliber machinegun) to our best advantage," said 1SG Homer A. Roberts (Manitou Springs, Colo.), referring to the camp's eight-inch guns and 105mm howitzers belonging to his unit and elements of the both the U.S. **1st Bn., 14th Arty**. and ARVN artillery.

The heaviest concentration of mortar rounds -- about 75 -- rained on **B Co., 39th Engr. Bn.,** which manned a large portion of the base perimeter.

"They fired from three different mortar positions," explained CPT Harry O. Taylor (Brownsville, Pa.), the engineers commander.

As the mortars flew in, an estimated 40 to 50 enemy began to approach the encampment from three directions. None penetrated.

"They were after the eight-inch guns," said Roberts, "but we opened up on them and stopped them cold.

Easter In The Fall

Playboy Bunny Visits Troops

LZ BAYONET -- Engineers and artillerymen of the division's 198th Bde., received a pleasant surprise when a "Playboy Bunny" visited two LZ's near Chu Lai.

Miss Kathy Mac Donald (Baltimore, Md.) and Miss Dixie Clegg (Salt Lake City, Utah) were members of a 22 day handshake tour sponsored by the USO and led by veteran actor Tom Tully (Hollywood). None of the men had any difficulty recognizing Miss MacDonald.

"Hey, you're the March playmate," said a gunner on an 8 inch gun.

"Who told you that?" she asked.

"Nobody had to tell me, I'd know you anyplace," he said shyly.

And so it went. But as the men got over their initial shyness, they talked with the girls, asked for their autographs and posed for pictures with them.

The tour began at LZ Dottie, 15 miles southwest of Chu Lai, where the girls met the men of the **1-14th Arty, 1-82nd Arty, and a company from the 39th Engr Bn.**

After the short delay, they flew on to the home of C Btry, 1-14th Arty, and Company D of the 26th Engineers at LZ Fat City, 6 miles west of Chu Lai. The constant showers didn't dampen spirits of the welcoming crowd of over 400 men.

At each stop, Miss Clegg a dancer on the Dean Martin Show, flustered radio operators by making a commo check. The usual answer to her purring voice asking "How do you hear me," was a stunned silence from the other end.

Cbt. Leaders
Prove Worth

CHU LAI --".....No two leaders are the same. . . " was the comment made by BG John W. Donaldson, Asst. Div. commander and key-not speaker during a recent Combat Leadership Course graduation.

The general went on to say that the difference in men is why the Combat Leadership Course "has been geared to helping the individual develop the common leadership qualities - knowledge, understanding, loyalty, and courage, both physical and moral."

SP4 Kerry M. Armstrong (Killeen, Tex.) **B Co. 39th Engr Bn**., was the honor graduate of the class of 45. Armstrong received a one grade promotion to SGT and a plaque denoting his accomplishment. LTC Thomas A Ghromley **39th Engr**. commander was present to congratulate the top grad and assist in the pinning of the new stripes on his arm.

Finishing second and third in the class were PFC James W. Sherman (Hot Springs, Ark.) **23rd MP Company** and SP4 Denny L. Jacks (Lawton Okla.) **Co. G 75th Inf.** (Rangers). Both men received one grade promotions and plaques. (SPT CMD IO)

Combat In Review

Ordnance Run Toughest Route
Say Scrappy Drivers Who Know

By 1LT. James P. Collins

FSB BRONCO - The armored personnel carriers and "deuce and a half" trucks formed up as usual, their cold steel sides glistening with the early morning dew. There was a quiet tenseness among the men of the Division who would ride these vehicles on the mine-sweep south to Sa Huynh. They had been ambushed the day before.

Getting Clearance

Before the last vehicle had passed through the gate of the 11th Bde., clearance for harassment and interdiction fire was being requested for a grid several miles away.

Duc Pho was still sleepy-eyed but awake enough to smile and flash victory signs as the six vehicles convoy rumbled through.

M-60 Trouble

SP4 Alvin Cornelius (New York), **Co. A 39th Engr Bn.,** who was triple checking his M-60 machinegun remarked: "They'll be mighty sorry if they try anything today." Overhead two "**Warlord**" Cobras of 123rd AeroScout Company added emphasis to the statement.

H&I to the west," crackles the voice of CPT Michael Moore (Dallas, Texas) 4-21st Inf. over the radio. As if controlled by a single trigger, the convoy opened up, spraying the ridgeline to the right with lead.

Ordnance Run

The recon-by-fire continued periodically over the remainder of the 18 mile paved stretch of Highway One, which was navigated without incident. "The road is open, repeat open, to Sa Huynh."

The return trip to Duc Pho has been called the "ordnance Run" because of the large quantity arms and ammunition turned in to the convoy by the youngsters waiting on the roadside. The Voluntary Information Program (VIP) authorizes payment to civilians for turning in such munitions.

No Exception

This trip was no exception for about five miles south of Duc Pho, when two straw-hatted boys flagged down the convoy. They led 1LT Fred Friesz (Billings, Mont.) to a 155mm artillery round several hundred meters off the road.

LT Friesz called for a demo team to blow the round in place and began filling out a VIP receipt form. As he handed the youngsters 300 piasters - the "going rate" for an artillery shell, he remarked: "It's a bargain at any price to deprive the VC of a possible mine or booby trap."

Look To Tomorrow

The mine sweep convoy returned to 11th Brigade Headquarters, their mission completed for the day. "That's it," said a dusty soldier. "Until tomorrow", added another quietly. (11th IO)

Vol. 3, No. 03 CHU LAI, VIETNAM January 16, 1970

Gaza Strip 'Cleared' In Fifty Days

By PFC Toby Prodgers

FSB LIZ -- The stretch of South China Sea coastland just north of Duc Pho was recently the object of a massive land clearing operation undertaken by the forces of the Army, Navy and Marines.

The "Strip" has long been a festering sore in the side of the agriculturally rich lowlands of southern Quang Ngai Province and has long been used as a spring board for enemy activity in the area.

WWII Classic

At the onset of what turned out to be a 50-day job were all the makings of a WWII classic beachhead assault. First whistling artillery rounds destroyed the scattered coastal bunkers, and then an air prep by Shark and Dolphin teams of the **174th Helicopter** Assault Company made 'dead' any 'quick' enemy around. A Recon platoon from **Co. D, 1-20th Inf.**, 11th bde. was C-Aed onto the beach moments after the shelling stopped. At sea the landing ships were forming in cinemagraphic style.

Army First Ashore

The platoon secured the initial landing site and gave the signal to the Navy flat-bottomed landing craft to begin the assault. The first ashore were the Army "Rome Plow" and Marine "Eimco" caterpillars.

Co. A 1-20th, 11th Bde. was air lifted to the beach by Chinooks from Chu Lai and assumed security duties for the clearing by the division's **39th Engr Bn.**

10,000 Acres

Elements of **A and E Trp.'s 1-1st Cavalry** joined the operation later to assist in the land clearing and security of men and machinery.

In the end almost 10,000 acres (an average of 100 acres a day) was cleared in spite of the adverse weather conditions and enemy activity.

Relocation

Working with MACV and Vietnamese forces, the **1-20th Inf.** 11th Bde., successfully relocated the civilians from the "Strip" (Gaza Strip) to highway one, between the villages of Van Troung and Tap An Bac. They were provided with living quarters and an adequate supply of food. CPT. Andrew Z. Lisowski, the officer-in-charge of the relocation program, said that the civilians are "adjusting very well to the relocation and their spirits are high."

Review

Tactically the operation has proven to be successful. As the strip was cleared to the south, the enemy's hiding places and bases of operation were destroyed, thus the enemy had to keep moving toward the mouth of the Tra Cau River where they were eventually hemmed into a small area, confined by the river to the west and south and by the ocean to he east.

59 Enemy KIA

Alpha Company took advantage of the enemy's limited mobility and in one week of sporadic contact accounted for 39 enemy dead, wounded, captured, or 'Chieu Hoied' to the allies. For the entire operation the number of enemy killed reached 59.

Enemy basecamps, bunkers, and fighting positions in the strip are now gone. 45,000 pounds of enemy rice was confiscated as well as substantial quantities of medical equipment, ammunition and supplies.

(11th Bde IO)

20Feb70-Southern Cross Vol. 3 No. 07 Page 3
Mo Duc Joint Road Project Completed

Photo Captions.....
1) Two demolitions men assigned to the **26th Engineer Bn.** carefully place charges of high explosive on the surface of a concrete slab serving as a footbridge on the old Mo Duc Path. When the charges were detonated, the concrete slab and the rails were destroyed, but the abutments of the bridge were untouched, as planned.
2) An Army combat engineer cautiously works with an ARVN engineer as they attempt to disarm a booby trap placed in the path of progress on the Mo Duc Road, 30 miles south of Chu Lai. Americans and Vietnamese worked hand-in-hand to complete the project, even on this delicate task.

FSB DRAGON -- A joint operation of United States Army, Marine and Vietnamese engineers recently completed the Mo Duc Road nine miles north of Duc Pho.

The four mile road stretches east from Mo Duc on Highway 1 three miles to Nui Ong Do, a civilian relocation village, and then on to the South China Sea.

Prior to construction of the road most supplies reached Nui Ong Do by boat while the only communication between Nui Ong Do and Mo Duc was via paths on rice paddy dikes.

The road was dedicated by LTG Herman Nickerson, Jr., commanding general of III Marine Amphibious Force and LTC Nguyen Van Binh, Quang Ngai province chief at a ribbon cutting ceremony which was also attended by MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, commanding general of the Americal Division and BG Edwin L. Powell, Jr., assistant Americal Division commander.

Construction on the road, which expected to bring a new life to the 3,500 inhabitants of Nui Ong Do, was begun on August 15, 1969.

The Division's **26th Engineer Bn.** had primary responsibility for the construction. The 26th was supported by the ARVN 82nd Engineer Bn., the **39th Engineer Bn.,** the 9th Marine Engineer Bn., Fleet Marine Force and Mobile Construction Bn., Seven.

Security for the operation was provided by the 140th Popular Force platoon from Mo Duc and the **1st Bn., 20th Inf.**, 11th Bde.

The road required construction of two bridges, one 21 meters and another 36 meters in length.

Twenty seven thousand cubic meters of earth fill and the installation of 430 meters of culverts was necessary on a two-kilometer section of the road which went across rice paddies.

In addition to construction problems the engineers were constantly faced with the danger of enemy mines and ambushes. A mine destroyed one five-ton dump truck while sniper fire slightly damaged a bulldozer.

One Vietnamese civilian, two Popular Force and two United States military personnel were killed by enemy action during the construction. Four Vietnamese civilians, two popular force and nine United States military personnel were wounded.

Engineers Finish Improvements

Highway One Paved In Quang Ngai

FSB BRONCO -- A red and yellow engineer patch was painted across the newly-paved road and two posts firmly held a red ribbon in readiness for the dedication ceremony of the 30-mile stretch of Hwy 1 between this 11th Bde. firebase and Quang Ngai City. In front of this scene stood the U.S. and ARVN dignitaries flanked by members of **B Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf.**, members of the **39th Engr. Bn.**, and the **Division band.**

Twenty-seven of the 39th Engr. Bn. were honored for heroism and sacrifices made during the nine months of the road's improvement. Ten of the awards were the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and were presented by BG Nguyen Van Toan, commanding general of the 2nd ARVN Division.

LTC Hugh G. Robinson, commanding officer of the **39th Engr. Bn.**, at the conclusion of his speech saluted the men of the 39th, saying, "It is your road; your sweat and blood have paved the way for the dedication today."

MG Lloyd B. Ramsey praised the men of the 11th Inf. Bde., by commenting, "I would like to point out the 11th Bde., who secured the road and who so ably worked with the 4th ARVN Regt. And the local RF and PF forces."

The general added, "I can see this road as one more step toward upgrading the Vietnamese economy and providing security for the Vietnamese economy."

With the band sounding a fanfare MG Ramsey and Quang..Missing something here?[?]

In attendance at the ceremony were BGs Edwin Powell and John Donaldson assistant Americal Division commanders and Henry B. Cushing senior provincial advisor. (11th Bde. IO)

Division Recap

Children reveal caches

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - In Operation Geneva Park several Vietnamese children lead troopers of H Troop, 17th Cavalry to an impressive cache of 96 mortar rounds, 60 mines, and a variety of other highly explosive ordnance. Elsewhere in Operation Fredrick Hill the **3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry** and the **2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry,** accounted for three-fourths of the brigades 43 enemy killed for the week. In Operation Iron Mountain the **174th Aviation Company** killed 34 NVA in a two day action.

Geneva Park

In an action eight miles north of Quang Ngai, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, received incoming mortar rounds, rifle-propelled grenades and small arms fire when an undetermined number of Viet Cong assaulted their night defensive position early Friday morning. The company repulsed the attack with small arms fire and 81mm mortars. Also on station were gunships from **F Troop, 8th Cavalry,** which supported the infantrymen in the battle. At first light the company swept the area and found 14 CHICOM grenades, one rifle, two rifle-propelled grenades, and one booby trap. The company also killed one sapper.

The following day, **Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry,** spotted four to five enemy soldiers carrying packs moving through the mountains 22 miles west of Quang Ngai. The company unleashed a heavy barrage of small arms fire to kill two. The infantrymen then swept through the area and discovered three burlap packs containing medical supplies, 34 cans of condensed milk, six time fuses and some rice.

Working in the same area, **Alpha Company,** came upon one Viet Cong killed and the capture of several miscellaneous documents.

Elsewhere, several Vietnamese children turned over to **H Troop, 17th Cavalry,** an impressive cache of munitions. The total cache consisted of 96 mortar rounds, 60 mines, two 2.74 inch rockets, two 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, two rifle-propelled grenades, one CHICOM grenade, four artillery rounds and six fuses. **H Troop,** maneuvering in an area 12 miles northeast of Quang Ngai, destroyed the munitions.

Also, Alpha Company, **1st Battalion, 6th** Infantry received three artillery rounds, one mine, one booby trap, one mortar round, and 60 small arms rounds from Vietnamese children in an area 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai. The **39th Engineer Battalion,** working with Alpha Company, received two artillery rounds, one fuse, and two mortar rounds from the children.

.....

E Co, 26th Engineer's hour and a half bridge

By PFC John C. Hunger

CHU LAI (26th ENG BN IO) - Bridging projects can't get too much more difficult than what faced the **26th Engineer Battalion** seven miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. The minesweeping by Bravo Company, 26th Engineer Battalion leading up to the bridge site and the land clearing project of the 39th Engineer Battalion to begin on the other side of the Song Hau Giang River were quite typical engineer projects. The unique and original part was the bridge built by **Echo Company, 26th Engineer Battalion** with some assistance by **Bravo Company.**

Using as support the foundation columns of an old bridge previously damaged by the Viet Cong, a 65 foot armored vehicle launched bridge (AVLB) was extended from the near bank across the columns. Then a 15 foot metal dry span bridge in conjunction with another expedient engineer bridge represents an engineering first.

An AVLB bridge is a two piece metal bridge which is transported in a collapsed position atop a tank chassis. AT the bridge site, the tank projects the bridge from collapsed position out to extended position. The bridge then extends from the bank in front of the tank to a far support, which in this case was a bridge foundation column rather than the opposite bank. The tank is then detached and removed from the roadway. The operation is merely reversed to remove[d] the bridge.

The 15 foot dry span bridge that was coupled with the AVLB bridge is a common expedient engineer bridge composed of, in their case, eight 15 foot sections of metal bridge balk.

Completed in roughly an hour and a half, the bridge was then used to deliver the five bulldozers of the **39th Engineer Battalion** to their land clearing site immediately at the other bank of the river. Then the bridges were disassembled in what truly became a test of the statement made by the commanding officer of **E Company,** Captain Mark E. Bacon. He said, "There is no place in Vietnam that's too tough for my engineers."

The job of getting the heavy bridge and track equipment back out of the marshy site and through the rice paddies proved to be no small task. Before the day was out, the men were wading through waist-deep mud with heavy bridge components and praying that all their efforts would soon bring an end to the engineering first which also turned into an engineering feat. With the successful completion of this project, Captain Bacon of Washington D.C., has both the originality of his ridging first plus the very superb efforts of his hard-working engineers to be proud of.

(Continued)

(Continued)

E Co, 26th Engineer's hour and a half bridge

Photos and story by: PFC John Hunger
Photo Captions:

1) The "White Lions" put the last four 15 foot sections of metal bridge bulk to complete the expedient bridge for the bulldozers of the **39th Engineer** Battalion to cross to their land clearing operation site.
2) The first of the five bulldozers of the **39th Engineer Battalion** crosses Echo Company's expedient bridge to the land clearing operation site. Immediately after they were across the bridge was disassembled.
3) A little heave ho and a tug here and there plus a lot of muscle to disassemble the feat of **Echo Company**. The men are breaking down the eight 15 foot sections of metal bridge bulk.
4) After the AVLB and 15 foot sections of metal bridge bulk are in place they must be anchored down by stakes. The bridge only took an hour and one half to build.
5) This is the beginning of the test put to the statement made by the commanding officer of Company E, Captain Bacon as the "White Lions" start the job by taking up the AVLB and metal bridge bulk.
6) The "White Lions" are probably beginning to wonder if there is a dry place in Vietnam as they start digging and carrying the sections of metal bridge bulk out of the mud.

The first of the five bulldozers of the 39th Engineer Battalion crosses Echo Company's expedient bridge to the land clearing operation site. Immediately after they were across the bridge was disassembled.

The "White Lions" put the last four 15 foot sections of metal bridge bulk to complete the expedient bridge for the bulldozers of the 39th Engineer Battalion to cross to their land clearing operation site.

39th Engineers build new road

By PFC Guy Winkler

LZ DOTTIE (AMERICAL IO) - A large road construction project in I Corps has just been completed by **Bravo and Charlie Companies, 39th Engineer Battalion**.

The road, which stretches 12 miles from Highway One to the Batangan Peninsula, now makes it possible for military and civilian vehicle transportation through the once enemy infested territory.

The territory approximately seven miles down the new road from Highway One was once believed to be the enemy headquarters of the 48th Local Force Battalion operating at Loc Son according to Captain Harry O. Taylor, commanding officer for Bravo Company. This area, known as the Athletic Field, has since been cleared by infantry support units of the **1st Battalion, 6th Infantry**, 198th Infantry Brigade along with a company of RF/PF support.

First Sergeant Perry Davis said that the Athletic Field presented a hazard to the construction of the road. However, contact in the area has annihilated the threat of enemy interference.

"We're forcing the VC out to the ocean," Captain Taylor muses.

the units did experience numerous road mine obstacles on the project. With two mine detectors and a combat engineer vehicle, they found over 15 mines.

The units have also found caches of rice, clothes and peanuts along the road.

After the completion of a day's work on the new road, the night defensive position infantry unit would move right along with the work crew to provide security during the night.

The 39th Engineer Battalion's motto, incidently, is "Drive On."

PSYOPS nets enemy munitions

By SGT Thomas C. Elmer

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) - A psychological operations (**PSYOPS**) program encouraging Vietnamese civilians to turn over munitions they find paid off recently when several 198th Infantry Brigade units received a large amount of enemy weapons and ammunition.

"We conducted several operations in the area where the munitions were turned in," said First Lieutenant Richard H. Greenhagen, Masapequa, N.Y., assistant civil affairs officer. "We flew several night broadcasts using loud speakers, several daytime leaflet drops, and we also used special tapes to broadcast the messages."

Shortly after the PSYOPS missions were flown, **H Troop, 17th Cavalry**, maneuvering on a search and clear operation along the Tra Bong Road, ten miles south of Chu Lai, began receiving the munitions from the Vietnamese children.

"At first we received only a few mortar rounds from the children," said Private First Class Stephen Hickey, Flushing, Mich. "Then they spread the word and we began receiving all kinds of munitions. This continued for two days."

The total cache turned in by the children consisted of 96 mortar rounds, 60 Bouncing Betty mines, two 2.75 inch rockets, two 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, two rifle-propelled grenades, one CHICOM grenade, four artillery rounds and six mortar fuses.

Also working in the same area and benefiting from the broadcasts and leaflet drops was **Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry**, which received four artillery rounds, one anti-personnel mine, one booby trap and one mortar round. The **39th Engineers Battalion** working with the company received two artillery rounds and two mortar rounds.

builds new bridge

39th Engineer Bn

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - With the need for roads and bridges remaining high in Vietnam, elements of the **39th Engineer Battalion** recently completed a permanent reinforced concrete bridge on Highway One 75 miles southwest of Da Nang.

The battalion's **Company A**, began the project in mid-May without the specialized equipment and personnel needed to augment the old Song Ve Baily bridge.

In spite of these handicaps, the bridge company completed the structure six months ahead of the originally scheduled completion date. The old bridge will remain for foot and light vehicle traffic.

"The men are might proud of this bridge," said Sergeant First Class Orvill W. Troesch of Springfield, Ill., bridge NCO for the project.

"We're all combat engineers. Before we started the bridge, we had not experience in this kind of work," he said.

One of the problems met by the bridge officer, First Lieutenant Alfred N. Mack of Troy, Penn., was the lack of enough arc welding machines and men to operate them. With help from Mr. S. Robinson, a civilian welding and steel advisor working for welders Quinn-Budlong Corporation, the on-site platoon soon had four welders crackling to join the steel with lasting welds.

"Without Mr. Robinson's help, we'd still be out there welding today," said one of the battalion's staff officers.

Mr. Robinson credited **Company A** with the early completion.

"These young engineers had not experience, but were willing to learn," he said.

At a brief opening ceremony, Colonel Nguyen Van Binh, Quang Ngai province chief, expressed thanks on behalf of the province residents. He pointed out that the new Song Ve bridge would permit the communication of ideas more powerful than the largest truck, more valuable than the most precious goods.

Also at the opening ceremony were Brigadier General Harry C. Schraeder, Commanding General, 18th Engineer Brigade; Brigadier General Theodore C. Metaxis [Mataxis], ADC (maneuver), Americal Division; Brigadier General Roy L. Atteberry, ADC (support), Americal Division; and officers of engineer units supporting the Division.

Engineers at Mo Duc humble dense jungle

By PFC John C. Hunger

CHU LAI (26th ENG BN IO) - Long hot days of diesel roar and the rip of sinewy green have brought the Mo Duc jungle to it's knees in the wake of **C Company, 26th Engineer Battalion** operations. They were aided by the land clearing platoon of the **39th Engineer Battalion** in this part of the Mo Duc operation.

Early each morning the sun brought the dark, quiet bulldozers to a noisy awakening. A convoy procession of over 10 dozers was quickly off from the night laager defensive positions to a renewed attack on what jungle the previous day still left standing. The dozers together cleared area after area till the sun neared it's plunge into the mountains signaling it was time to return to the night laager position. One operator, after his dozer fell part way into a huge hole concealed by the thick dark green, commented, "This is the roughest area we've been in yet."

The Mo Duc area is seven miles east of Quang Ngai stretching some 16 miles down the seacoast. Some days the dozers were greeted with explosions of many mines and booby traps and on other days almost none. Everything from eight-inch artillery rounds down through 155mm rounds and CHICOM grenades were found. In all, 17 mines and booby traps and 20 items of ordinance were found.

As dozer operator Mike L. Jewell, Covington, Ky., puts it, "It makes it a helluva lot easier on the infantry, and we're destroying enemy supplies." The operators wielded their caterpillars over a total of 1060 acres of thick, spiny jungle to destroy 766 lineal meters of trenches, 114 bunkers, and 855 lineal meters of tunnels. Rice, hay and other food source caches were also-destroyed.

26th Engineers

The **26th Engineer Battalion (Combat**) was constituted as a unit of the Regular Army on December 1, 1954 and on December 2, 1954 was activated as an element of the 23rd Infantry Division at Fort Clayton, Canal Zone. At that time, the Battalion was composed of Company A which was organized February 1, 1945 as the 2920th Dump Company, Company B and Headquarters Company, the initial organization for each, and Company C which was organized on April 7, 1944 as the 406th Engineer Combat Company. The **26th Engineer Battalion** (Combat) was inactivated on April 10, 1956.

On December 8, 1967, in the Republic of Vietnam, the 26th Engineer Battalion (Combat) was again activated as the organic combat engineer battalion of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal).

The **26th Engineer Battalion** is composed of four Combat Engineer line companies, a Float Bridge Company, and a Headquarters and Headquarters Company. **Company A** was formerly the **175th Engineer Company**, organic to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. Its headquarters is now at Fire Support Base Hawk Hill in direct support of the 196th Infantry Brigade. **Company B** was the **555th Engineer Company**, organic to the 198th Light Infantry, and Company C was formerly the **6th Engineer Company**, 11th Light Infantry Brigade. Company B now continues its direct engineer support to the 198th Infantry Brigade with headquarters at Landing Zone Bayonet. **Company C** remains with the 11th Infantry Brigade at Fire Support Base Bronco in Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. **Company D** was formed primarily from elements of **Company B, 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat**) which was attached to the Americal Division at the time of activation.

It's a flying bunker

By SGT Matt Gryta

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) - If you happen to be in Chu Lai one day and spot an immense helicopter toting what looks like a small house under its belly, have no fears; 23rd Infantry Division Headquarters isn't moving out from under your nose.

Its defense system is merely being rearranged to a certain extent.

Since the end of October the third platoon of **Charlie Company, 39th Engineer Battalion** (Combat) has been involved in the relocation of guard bunkers and watch towers along the Chu Lai defensive perimeter.

Working in conjunction with the Chu Lai defense Command and the 132nd and 178th assault (support) helicopter companies, the engineers have seen to the air movement of nine bunkers and one fifty-foot tower to date.

"A typical bunker lift took place recently when an abandoned bunker was moved more than two miles from the southern tip of the perimeter to a position on the Division Combat Center beach along the South China Sea," explained 1st Lieutenant Michael L. Shaw of Forest Park, Ga., platoon leader.

"A similar bunker situated there had been washed away during Typhoon Kate," he added.

"Prior to lifting the structure we have to remove the outside revetment walls and sandbags," he said. "A CH-47 'Chinook' can lift the small bunkers but a CH-54 'Flying Crane' is required to transport the much heavier guard towers."

The engineers have the airlift technique down to a science now, but it wasn't always so.

"We learned that when moving a bunker by air it's a good idea to paint an arrow on the roof showing the direction of placement," recalled Lt. Shaw.

"Some of our first attempts landed with the entrance way facing the enemy or perpendicular to the enemy."

Vol. 4, No. 14 Chu Lai, Vietnam April 9, 1971 Page 4-5

Story by Sp4 Lee Habich
Photos by Sp4 Terry Cohencious

Construction routine for engineers

In a recent combined operation 23rd Infantry Division troopers from **Echo Co., 26th Eng.; Bravo Co., 39th Eng.; and the 137th Light Equipment Co. team** up to repair the Tra Khuc River Bridge near Quang Ngai City.

The 200 meter structure, damaged by a floating Viet Cong mine, is a vital link along Highway One, the primary artery in the crucial resupply network through the division.

While traffic was restrained to a one lone, snail paced flow above them, the engineers worked for two weeks repairing the weakened supporting columns beneath the bridge.

To properly reinforce the damaged bridge a raft with a huge ruff-terrain crane was needed to drive the 60 foot supporting piles into the river bed 30 feet below.

In all it took the engineers about two weeks to drive the 24 piles and build the supporting frame work needed to reinforce the damaged bridge.

Photo Captions:

1) Engineers in the 137th Light Equipment Company drive 60 foot piles into the Song Tra Khuc River, near Quang Ngai. The bridge damaged by a floating mine is being reinforced through the joint effort of Company E, 26th Engineers; **Company B, 39th Engineers** and the 137th Light Equipment Company.

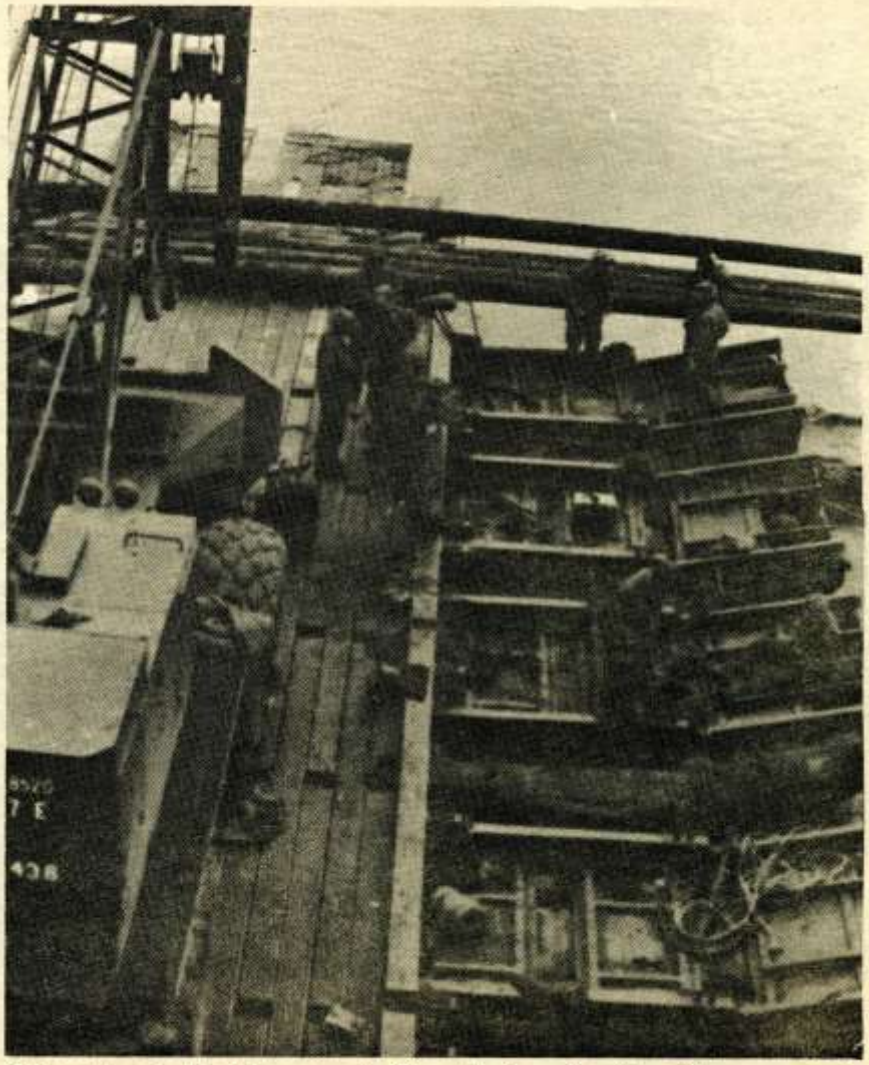
2) Clinging to a scaffold above the Song Tra Khuc River, Specialist 4 Bill Burba of Austin, Tex., inspects the progress of a 60 foot pile being driven into the bed of the river.

3) The hefty ruff-terrain crane lowers the boom on the 60 foot piles in the construction project.

4) Engineers prepare to hoist a 15 man assault craft over the side of the Quang Ngai Bridge. The craft was employed in assessing mine damage to the supporting piles beneath the 300 foot structure.

5) Levers in hand, Specialist 5 Alex Ryan of Charleston, N.Y., guides the crane as it pounds the supporting piles 30 feet below.

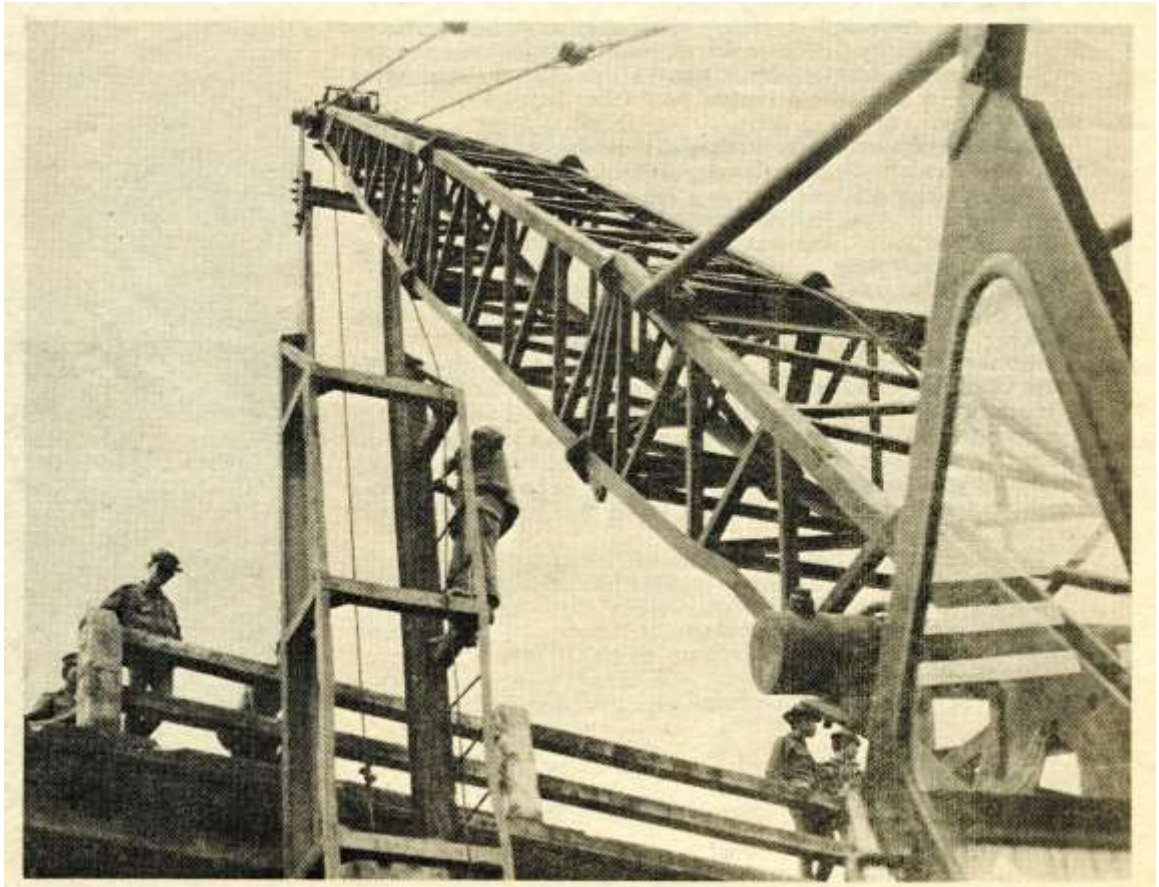
6) Riding aboard a floating support raft on the Song Tra Khuc River men of the 39th discuss the best method to use in picking up the piles used for reinforcement.



Riding aboard a floating support raft on the Song Tra Khuc River men of the 39th discuss the best method to use in picking up the piles used for reenforcement.

Engineers with the 137th Light Equipment Company drive 60 foot piles into the Song Tra Khuc River, near Quang Ngai. The bridge damaged by a floating mine is being reenforced through the joint effort of Company E, 26th Engineers; Company B, 39th Engineers, and the 137th Light Equipment Company.

Clinging to a scaffold above the Song Tra Khuc River, Specialist 4 Bill Burba of Austin, Tex., inspects the progress of a 60 foot pile being driven into the bed of the river.



The hefty ruff-terrain crane lowers the boom on the 60 foot piles in the construction project.

Levers in hand, Specialist 5 Alex Ryan of Charleston, N.Y., guides the crane as it pounds the supporting piles 30 feet below.

Will 59th Engineers ever return?

By Sp/5 Daniel McVann

CHU LAI, (**39th Engr. Bn.**) - "Will we ever return to Chu Lai?" That's the way the **39th Engineer Battalion's 59th Engineer Company (Land Clearing)** feels. It has been five months since the 59th has been together as one company. Somehow, when they are sent on one mission, one thing will lead to another, and they will end up doing two or three instead on the original job.

Elements of the **59th** were first sent north to Quang Tri to assist in the opening of the Operation Lam Son 719. The **59th** was part of the lead element that quite literally opened the way through the towering elephant grass along the rough terrain leading along QL-1 to Khe Sanh.

Then they continued to work clearing the road out of khe Sanh and 50 meters either side of the road leading to the fire support bases across from the Laotian border.

Having completed their work in the Khe Sanh area, after working around the clock some days, the 59th was looking forward to the long deserved return to Chu Lai and a stand down, or at least that was what they thought! Such was not to be the case.

Suddenly the **59th** again found themselves leading another operation, this one involving the **59th** and the **27th Engineer Battalions' Company B.** After a brief stay at the home of the 27th, Camp Eagle near Phu Bai, work was resumed cutting an 11 kilometer stretch of secondary road, Route 547, that would reach out to Fire Base (FSB) Geronimo.

Once again the men and dozers of the **59th** were put to the test of the terrain. Their job was to open up a trace to Geronimo, then return and clear 100 meters on either side of the original trace. They soon found themselves operating in some of the most rugged terrain they have ever seen.

As Lieutenant Thomas T. Brown, Tallulah, La., put it, the terrain has been a major source of difficulty. Deadlined dozers are more the rule than the exception. The maintenance section has an uphill battle keeping the dozers operational. It is not the operator inefficiency either, the terrain is just that rough."

Winding its way through the mountainous area near the A Shau Valley, Route 547 is marked by steep, heavily forested mountains with jeep sized boulders often blocking the path of the dozers. It is man and his equipment versus nature, and nature certainly took her toll on the equipment.

Once they finished clearing the sides of the roadway, the 59th will pull out and return to Chu Lai, leaving the improving and upgrading of the road to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) engineers. The ARVN's will then assume full responsibility for the maintenance of 547.

'Big Bruiser has terrific appetite for rock

Graphic: by J. Richardson (James M. Richardson) of a large machine with conveyor belts claws and a mouth that is eating rocks from the claws.

By 1LT Feigenbaum

CHU LAI, (**39th Eng. Bn. IO**) -- As the sun rises over Chu Lai combat base and guards are relieved from their posts, we see a cloud of dust in the distance. A three quarter ton and two and one half ton truck loaded with men are approaching.

As you stand at Chu Lai's gate two you see to the right of QL-1 a rather large stone quarry digging complex. Its layout is typical of modern technology. Trained Vietnamese civilians run the digging operation, and you can observe the morning activity of the civilians as they mount the equipment.

About this time the two trucks have arrived, and they turn east onto the combat base side of QL-1 and stop at a small, unimpressive shack. Moving closer to the shack, a machine comes into view. This machine is known as "Big Bruiser" but it is really only a 75TPH rock crusher. One laughs as he glances at this "toy" and then looks across the road at the impressive layout there. The operation on the east side of QL-1 is complete with crusher, track drills, leaders [loaders], crane and bulldozer, and is run by the **39th Engineer Battalion's 137th Engineer Company** (Light Equipment).

After a few seconds of milling around, Sergeant First Class Roland L. Furgal, Warren, Mass., the non-commissioned officer in charge of the operation, scratches his head, yawns and exhorts; "Let's get to work!"

Staff Sergeant Willie Smith, Detroit, Mich., who supervises the crusher operation, gathers his men and climbs onto "Big Bruiser." Chief Warrant Officer Stewart Hurst, Hargate, Tenn., arrives on the scene and eyeballs the machine. After a few puffs on his pipe, he says a few words to his men in the maintenance contact team at the crusher. The chief knows every inch of the crusher. Maintenance is ever present, and is the primary concern of every individual there.

The engine is started and sits idling. The clutch is engaged and the jaws move...."Big Bruiser is hungry."

Out across QL-1, the crane, drills and dump trucks are in operation digging the large stone blocks out of the ground and carrying them over for the crusher to "eat".

One becomes impressed with the coordination, team work and professionalism of the two operations working together.

"Big Bruiser" has an insatiable appetite for rock. His diet only calls for 1500 cubic yards a week.

It was shortly after noon on Friday and the crusher was already sleeping, for by that time he had finished eating 2530 cubic yards of rock for the week. This is a new record for the crusher and all personnel are gathered around the machine with smiles on their faces. They are watching Lieutenant Colonel W. R. Mumm, battalion commander, open can after can of beer and pass them out to the men.

Returning convoy uprights overturned Vietnamese bus

By Sp/5 Daniel McVann

CHU LAI -- (**39th Eng. Bn.**) --

A convoy returning to Chu Lai recently saved the day for some local Vietnamese.

The Convoy consisting of two five-tons and a low-boy from the **39th Engineer Battalion**, was nearing the Chu Lai combat base when they noticed a group of Vietnamese gathering around a bus that had apparently overturned into a rice patty [paddy].

Stopping to investigate, they soon discovered the driver of the bus had lost control and in the ensuing accident several persons were still pinned under the overturned bus.

Staff Sergeant Morris Wire, Quinter, Kan.; assisted by Specialist Four William Cooper, Xenia, Ohio; Staff Sergeant Stanley Williams Tacoma, Wash.; Specialist Four William Keller, Vancouver, Wash.; and Private First Class Richard Brown, Duck Hill, Miss.; immediately began their own rescue operation.

Backing the low-boy part way off the road into the rice patty [paddy], they attached a chain from the rear of the low-boy forward the bus was righted and the people were helped from underneath.

After insuring there were no seriously injured persons and that those even slightly injured were being attended to the members of **Alpha Company, 39th Engr. Bn.,** continued on their way, having extended a helping hand to a fellow man in time of need.

Officer hootch
'slants' on NDP

By Sp/5 Daniel McFann

CHU LAI (**39th Engr. Bn. IO**)

- Located in the middle of Night Defensive Position (NDP) Knight stands, or more accurately slants, a most unusual looking edifice. Among the men of the **39th Engineer Battalion's Charlie Company**, it is known as the "L.T. Abortion."

It all started three weeks ago when battalion supply reported they had some scrap lumber to get rid of. Not being one to pass up free material. Charlie Co. gathered it up and took it to the NDP. It was decided to construct a combination orderly room and officer hootch.

Originally there were no plans for an officer hootch as all requisitioned materials were to be utilized for the troops. To keep from detracting from the company project, troop labor was not used, but instead, "lieutenant labor!"

The hootch was primarily built by Lieutenants Bruce Gooding Golden Valley, Minn., and Michael Shaw, Forest Park, Ga., with many others lending a hand.

The style could best be described as early slum. One of the major problems was that each day, various sizes of lumber were picked up and used the same day. The following day, different sizes would be brought in and used. This led to an assortment of lumber with little or no uniformity. In all, the 12 by 21 by 11 by 20 foot structure, uses more than 20 different lumber sizes.

When you see the hootch, you immediately notice a slight slant to the right. If you ask why; "for drainage. "Likewise, the floor has several slopes to it; "for drainage." the incline of the building couldn't have anything to do with the fact that no levels, squares, etc. were used by the builders.

By far the most distinguishing feature of the "L.T. Hootch" is its floor. There was no lumber left over for the floor, so old bricks from nearby ruins were used instead. In addition, to being unique, the brick and mortar floor is quite cool.

Despite its lack of squareness and other minor shortcomings, the hootch is comfortable and sturdy. As testimony to its soundness, the Vietnamese KP's remarked, "Number one! this is where I go if we get trouble!" A true testimony to the worth of a lieutenant's labors.

Engineers clear 20 acres for Vietnamese refugees

By Sp/5 Daniel McVann

CHU LAI **(39th Engr. Bn.)--** The Vietnam War has resulted in vast numbers of casualties, but few Americans fully realize the extent to which the Vietnamese people have been victimized by this war and in turn driven out of their own homes. In truth, there are literally hundreds of thousands of refugees who are searching for new places to settle and start anew.

For many, the immediate flight from their home village is to the closest major town in their particular province. Here, most often, the homeless refugees are met with an already overcrowded town--the result of the large influx of villagers. Fleeing one problem, they are suddenly confronted with another. Often as not, they resort to building a cardboard box and scrap lumber shanty. A home that leaves much to be desired but for the most part there still lingers that ray of hope for a chance to improve their plight.

It was with this in mind that the **39th Engineer Battalion's 59th Engineer Company (Land Clearing)** responded to the pleas of the MACV advisory team and the district chief of Binh Son. The request was for assistance in a civic action program planned to aid the Vietnamese of Binh Son Province. The task would be to clear 20 acres of land near the village of Phuoc Tho, which is located approximately 4 kilometers off highway QL-1 near Binh Son. with the land cleared, many of the Vietnamese that have been forced into a cardboard shack existence could vastly improve their lot-an answer to their unanswered hopes.

For the men of the **59th**, the task was a relatively simple one. The task of clearing the land is complete and already construction for the new village has started. The dozers of the **59th** opened up not only the land but also opportunities for these people that were previously just dreams.

The men of the 59th likewise have the feeling of accomplishment. As you talk with them about the job you hear comments like, "this is where it's at...., "They deserve a chance and we can help them get it..., "Gives you a good feeling to know that you have been able to do what they would not have been able to accomplish themselves..., "Makes being in the 'Nam seem worthwhile.."

Another job completed for the **59th**, but for the men it won't be so easily put aside. For it is the civic action projects that bring the war down to a very personal level. The value and importance of their work shows. Their work has meant new life for the people of Phuoc Tho.

'Mike' boats carry dozers

By SP5 Daniel McVann

CHU LAI, (**39th Engr. Bn. IO**)

- Dozers with water wings? Not quite, but if that's what it would take to accomplish the job, rest assured the 59th Engineer Company would have used them.

For the **39th Engineer Battalion's 59th Engr. Company**, life has been one continual move. The 59th has been improvising and "making do" all over northern Vietnam. The domain of the unit has extended from the Laotian border and Khe Sanh south through I Corps. But even for the 59th, this last job was most unique.

It is the accepted norm for land clearing companies to make their own roads, cutting through trees and hedgerows with their Rome plow blades opening their own private drive to their next working area.

Assigned to assist the **39th's Company C, the 59th Engr.** Company was unable to span a marshy, water covered area with their huge, 25 ton D7E dozers, and using floating bridges because the water was much too shallow. It was time for the men of the **59th Engr. Company** to try something new-even for them.

Boarding four of their dozers into two "mike" boats the unit departed the Chu Lai docks heading out to the South China Sea. On the "mike" boats, which resemble the LST's of World War II, the men prepared for their rendezvous with their Vietnamese security force.

Following a two hour rolling ride, the arrived off-shore and the planned beach. They could see the Regional Forces awaiting them. The landing had been perfectly planned and executed--or so they thought.

Starting towards shore however, the boats abruptly ran aground approximately 100 meters offshore.

Backing off the sand bar, they proceeded a half mile farther up shore before they were able to beach the craft.

The job itself was accomplished in near record time. Now the 59th Engr. Company has been attached to the **84th Engineer Battalion** in Da Nang. Still, before leaving the 39th Engr. Bn., the 59th Engr. Company had earned another first, not "jump wings" but rather unique "water wings."

Chaplain baptizes sergeant
in Vietnam river waters

By PFC Patrick Ross

CHU LAI (39th Engr. Bn. IO) - With the South China Sea glittering in the sunlight on the horizon, members of the **39th Engineer Battalion's 59th and 137th Companies** gather on a bridge they are working on.

The bridge is located on a stretch of secondary road, Route 521, about two miles past Night Defensive Position (NDP) Knight, near My Lai. Attention is focused on two men standing on the bank of the river which runs below the bridge. One of the men is Captain Billy D. Ingram, the battalion chaplain, while the other is Sergeant James L. Parker (Roseboro, N.C.) and is assigned to Company C.

The mood is silent and tranquil, for the men were participating in a very special and sincere ceremony, a baptism conducted in the field.

With the example of John's baptism of Christ fixed in their minds, the watched Chaplain Ingram and Parker cautiously step down into the smoothly running water. With only the noise of the water breaking the silence, Chaplain Ingram then lowered Parker into the water and out again, a cleansed man.

For those gathered, this baptism was a very special moment. Here was a man being baptized in the river waters of a war-torn nation, taking the time to dedicate his life and sharing this meaningful experience with others.

SP4 Hankins acts speedily to save women beneath truck

BY SP5 Daniel McVann

CHU LAI, (39th Engr. Bn. IO)

- Enroute to a project site at Chu Lai, Specialist Four Laster Hankins (Ft. Benton, Mont.) was instrumental in rescuing a Vietnamese woman beneath the wheels of a 2 1/2 ton truck.

Hankins assigned to the **39th Engineer Battalion's Company A** as a bucket leader, was following a cement mixer truck to the work site when the truck stopped and Specialist Four Richard Magill (Chicago, Ill.) also of Company A, raced back to Hankins on the bucket loader and explained the crisis.

A Vietnamese woman was pinned beneath the duals of a 2 1/2 ton truck, could he help? Acting instinctively, Hankins wheeled the bucket loader around the cement truck with Magill still clinging to the ladder on the bucket loader.

By approaching from the rear of the truck, Hankins was able to raise the trucks' dual tires clear of the seriously injured woman with the lifting "Teeth" of his loader. Two unidentified GIs pulled the woman from beneath the truck and rendered first aid until the ambulance arrived.

The military police arrived within minutes, taking charge of the incident. Hankins was just beginning to realize it had been his actions that had been the deciding factor in rescuing the woman.

Reflections on Leaving

By 1LT Michael L. Shaw

39th Engineer Battalion

It was a good job, a worthwhile one.
And now as I leave, I ask,
What did it do for them,
For those we are here to help?
Did it make them better people for my being here?
Hopefully so--
But looking back I suddenly realize
That it is really my life, my lot, and my living,
That have been enriched.
I am a better person because of
The time I have spent here--
Or more accurately, invested here.
I know more about myself,
And that is the greatest journey
A person can make...
The journey of discovering one's self.
It is never ending and never lacks for interest.
Yes, it was a good job,
A worthwhile one.
But most worthwhile for me.

VOL. 1, NO. 22 / LZ BAYONET, VIETNAM / 17 November 1969 (Newsletter of the 198th LIB)

playmate visits lzs

By 1LT Rob Kresge 198th Brigade PIO

LZ FAT CITY—Engineers and artillerymen with the 198th Bde. received a pleasant surprise recently when a Playboy "bunny" visited two LZs near Chu Lai.

Miss Kathy MacDonald (Baltimore) and Miss Dixie Clegg (Salt Lake City) were members of a 22-day handshake tour of Vietnam sponsored by the USO and led by veteran actor Tom Tully (Hollywood). None of the men had any difficulty recognizing Miss MacDonald.

"Hey, you're the March Playmate," said a cannoneer on an 8-inch gun.

"Who told you that?" she asked.

"Nobody had to tell me—I'd know you anyplace," he said with a sheepish grin.

And so it went. As the men got over their initial shyness, they talked with the girls, asked for autographs and posed for pictures with them.

The tour began at LZ Dottie, 15 miles southeast of Chu Lai, where the girls met the men of the 1st Bn., 14th Arty.; 1st Bn., 82nd Arty.; and a company of the **39th Engrs**. Tully joined them for a guided tour of the area and demonstrations of the guns and heavy equipment. In a driving rain, soaked but still smiling the trip left for their next stop-off.

However, engine trouble brought their helicopter down at Binh Son, where a Marine CAP team was only too happy to play host for half an hour.

After the short delay, they flew on to LZ Fat City, 6 miles west of Chu Lai and home of Btry. C of the 1/14 [Arty. Bn.] and Co. D, 26th Engr. Bn. The constant showers didn't dampen the spirits of the welcoming crowds, as over 400 men turned out on both firebases.

At each stop Miss Clegg, a dancer on television's Dean Martin Show, flustered radio operators by making a communications check. The usual answer to her purring voice asking, "How do you hear me?" was a stunned silence from the other end.

Tully, who organized and led the tour, has appeared recently as a guest star on a number of television shows such as "Bonanza," "The Virginian," "High Chaparral" and "Mod Squad." He is perhaps best known for his movie performances with Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy, and as a regular in the pioneer television series "San Francisco Beat."

The Vietnam magazine published an multi-page article about the attack on LZ Snoopy in their April 1998 issue. It was written by Hubert Jordan. The article which included actions of **C Company 39th Engineers defense of LZ Snoopy in April-May 1969.** The article may be available to view or print from the Historynet web-site. The link below may still work?

See more at: http://www.historynet.com/americal-divisions-bravo-batterys-brave-defense-of-lz-snoopy-during-the-vietnam-war.htm#sthash.SG8mLxgC.dpuf

The "Pan Tell" was a weekly newsletter published by and for personnel of the 1st Battalion 82nd Field Artillery Regiment then part of the 23rd (Americal) Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam. (Copy obtained by C 4/31st Inf. Bn. veteran James B. Simms and Mike Crutcher a veteran of E & HHC, 1/5 Cav, 1969-70 1st Cav Div. May 2014.

PAN-TELL

Volume 2 Number 7 Chu Lai Vietnam February 17, 1969

'SWING' BATTERY MOVES AGAIN

The 1st Bn., 82d Artillery's own swing battery is on the move again.

Bravo Battery, which had been holding forth at LZ Gator, now finds itself in the middle of the third operation in seven months.

Four of its 155mm guns are now located at LZ Snoopy where they are serving as reinforcements for the 6/11th Artillery during the current Tet holiday season.

The latest operation is serving as a test of resourcefulness for Bravo which finds itself sharing a 20x40 foot postage-stamp-sized area with **Co. C, 39th Combat Engineers.**

Joining the artillerymen and the engineers in their close quarters are barrels of Permatex, road signs and 10,000 barrels of diesel fuel. The Fire Direction Control Center has set up shop in a series of conexes squeezed between the road the engineer's EM club.

The cramped area has also required slightly unorthodox living arrangements with the men using culvert halves and sandbags to construct high-rise, split-level caves that are, in effect, two-man studio apartments, complete with all the conveniences of home like a view, air-conditioning and radiant heating.

PAN-TELL

Volume 2 Number 18 Chu Lai Vietnam May 12, 1969

CHURCH SERVICES—Personnel interested in attending church regularly will find a varied choice of services in the Chu Lai area.

Catholic Mass is offered at the **39th Engineer Bn. Chapel**, Sunday, at 8:30 a.m. A non-denominational Protestant service is held at the same chapel at 11 a.m.

The 39th Engineers' Bn. Chapel is located a half-mile south of 1/82d Artillery Headquarters.

Services are also available for Jewish personnel at 8 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday at the Americal Division Chapel, located across from the Division Consolidated Mess.

(Similar notice was in the 25AUG69, 13OCT69 and 24NOV69 issues of Pan-Tell).

PAN-TELL

Volume 2 Number 19 Chu Lai Vietnam May 19, 1969

BRAVO BEATS BACK ENEMY

What started out as a pleasantly cool evening for sleeping turned into a nightmare for members of B Battery, 1st Bn., 82d Artillery and **Co. C, 39th Engineer Bn.,** last Monday.

The peace and tranquility ended at 2:17 a.m. when a medium-sized enemy force launched a combined ground and mortar attack against the two units which share LZ Snoopy with an ARVN detachment.

Initial contact was made with the enemy in the Engineers' sector where five VC were spotted. At about the same time, a number of enemy troops worked their way through the perimeter and were moving freely under the protection of heavy shelling.

The full impact of the attack was felt in a matter of minutes when three satchel charges exploded in one of the Engineers' bunkers, starting an ammunition fed fire. Soon two more VC captured a fighting bunker and pinned down four Engineer defenders.

Bravo Battery 1SG James E. Norris and 2LT Steven L. Rapier, assistant executive officer, were among the first to size up the situation. They immediately went to the communications bunker to get PFC David A. Bozek, the medic, to help treat the injured at the bunker fire.

When they arrived they found two VC patrolling the entrance to the bunker.

"I didn't bother sticking my head out the door until I was sure someone friendly was out there," commented Bozek. "Finally I heard Lt. Rapier's voice telling us the coast was clear."

While Bozek moved to the burning bunker, Norris, Lt. Rapier and SSG Boon D. Johnson concentrated on pinning two VC in a bunker.

"It wasn't easy to flush them out," remarked Norris, "but Lt. Rapier kept them down with his M-16 fire and I started throwing hand grenades at the bunker.

Apparently each scored a hit because later they learned one VC had been killed by rifle fire, the other by a grenade blast.

LT. Rapier and Johnson, joined by 1LT Grady E. Stallings, headed for the burning bunker where they pulled an injured man to safety in spite of exploding hand grenades and small arms ammunition that were stored inside.

PFC Terrance L. Penick was asleep in his bunker when someone shouted a warning that the LZ was receiving incoming fire. A few seconds later, a grenade went off outside the door.

Penick and SP4 Robert T. Staples jumped up and headed for the entranceway where they were greeted by another grenade blast that threw Penick back into the bunker.

"I looked to the right and saw a VC moving around in the shadows but somehow I managed to shoot him," said Penick. "After that, Staples and I decided to check the projo pits. As soon as we got to the first one, a grenade exploded on top of it and we both got knocked down again."

Penick and Staples defended themselves with hand grenades while pulling a wounded cannoneer to safety. Along the way they spotted to dead Vet Cong soldiers.

(Continued)

(Continued) **BRAVO BEATS BACK ENEMY**

Thirty-five minutes after the battle began, gun and flare ships arrived to take up the fight with illumination, rockets an machinegun fire.

at dawn, members of the fire direction control center noticed some movement behind a bush about 25 meters beyond the perimeter. Capt. Robert Miehm, battery commander, issued the "Chieu Hoi" order but the only reply was an RPG round fired over the hill.

Capt. Miehm instructed his men to open fire on the bush and two Viet Cong bodies tumbled to the ground.

Later in the morning, another suspected enemy soldier was captured by Norris and CSM Thomas M. Van Horn with the help of a helicopter (See story, Page 1).

As the cleanup began, the residents of Snoopy got a better idea of what happened during the night.

The artillery portion of the hill yielded 25 bodies and a cache of armament that included 10 rifles, two pistols and 150 assorted Chicom grenades.

A check of the perimeter showed many blood trails, indicating that as many as 20 additional VC troops were brought down by the gunships. All told, there were 37 confirmed kills on Snoopy.

(Note: A large article about this action was published in the April 1998 issue of "Vietnam" magazine.

PAN-TELL **NEW S-3 OFFICER SEE PAGE 4**

Volume 2 Number 29 Chu Lai Vietnam August 18, 1969

DELTA REPELS DOTTIE ATTACK

The 1st Bn., 82d Artillery's Delta Battery received more than its share of action early last Tuesday when its home base, LZ Dottie, was hit by elements of a Viet Cong battalion.

Delta, along with **Co. B, 39th Engineer Bn.,** D Troop, 1st Sqn, 1st Cavalry and an ARVN detachment, fought of an estimated 40-man VC force that tried to break through the perimeter of the LZ which had served as the battery's home for 13 months.

Before the night was over, the combined American and ARVN forces accounted for 20 enemy deaths. eight VC were killed at the front gate to the LZ where they encountered opposition from both the ARVN infantrymen and from an American Quad 50 team.

"They (the VC) were after our eight-inch howitzers", said Delta 1SG Homer A. Roberts who encountered his initial taste of real combat since joining the battalion last month.

As soon as the attack began, Delta's eight-inchers, along with the 105s and 155s manned by the ARVN artillery, began firing in flat trajectories in all directions.

One of the men in the middle of the action was PFC Ronald Fordice of Chicago who was manning a Quad 50 mounted on the back of a 2 1/2 -ton truck:

"We went all over the place," he commented. "First we drove down to the main gate and later we went back up into the hills."

1LT Dennis A. Pyzyna, Delta's executive officer had high praise for the ARVNs performance during the attack.

"Everyone was pleased with the way the ARVNs handled themselves. They really put up quite a fight."

PAN-TELL **IT'S HAPPENIN' SEE PAGE 3**

Volume 2 Number 32 Chu Lai Vietnam September 8, 1969

LT. RAPIER RECEIVES SILVER STAR

An artillery lieutenant who charged into a blazing bunker to pull a seriously injured comrade to safety four months ago, has been presented the Silver Star for his actions.

2LT Steven L. Rapier, a fire direction officer with the 1/82d's Bravo Battery received his award last Monday during a ceremony at LZ Snoopy. The presentation was made by BG Edwin L. Powell, the Americal Division's assistant commander.

LT Rapier, who entered the Army in 1967, came to Bravo Battery last December after completing officer candidate school at Ft. Sill, Okla. He is the first member of the 1/82d to receive a Silver Star while with the unit in Vietnam.

The general also presented an Army Commendation Medal for heroism to PFC Steven M. Elmshauser for his efforts in firing illumination during the attack.

LT Rapier, Elmshauser and the rest of Bravo Battery along with members of **Co. C, 39th Engineer Bn.,** and an ARVN detachment were jolted from their beds on May 12 when a medium-sized enemy force launched a ground and mortar attack on the firebase.

During the height of the battle, more than three dozen Viet Cong penetrated Snoopy's perimeter carrying with them satchel charges and hand grenades.

One of their targets was a perimeter bunker on the Engineers' portion of the hill where three men had been standing guard. Three satchel charges exploded in the bunker, seriously wounding one man and starting a fire that spread quickly with the help of several cases of ammunition.

At the time, LT Rapier and 1SG James E. Norris (Baltimore) were moving through the artillery portion of the base on their way to join the reactionary force.

LT Rapier, upon learning there was still a man in the burning bunker, rushed into the emplacement and dragged the soldier to safety despite the obvious danger created by the fire, the exploding ammunition, and the enemy who were still moving freely through the area.

In the process, LT Rapier received first and second degree burns of his back and arms but still returned to his reactionary force in time to help drive the enemy back down the hill.

Forty-five minutes after the attack began, a combination of self-illumination, like that provided by cannoneers including Elmshauser, and support from gun and flare ships ended the biggest assault on Snoopy since the 1/82d arrived there in January.

All told there were 37 confirmed kills, 25 on the artillery portion of the hill.

WEST POINTERS COMMAND DOTTIE

Any Navy officers taking an in-land journey through Vietnam on Nov. 29 had better stay clear of LZ Dottie.

In the event Navy beats Army in their annual football clash at Philadelphia that day, a former Midshipman would probably receive better treatment at the hands of the Viet Cong.

Dottie, an Americal Division firebase near Quang Ngai City is now under the command or three captains, all of whom were classmates at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Two of them – CPT Michael Yap of Honolulu and CPT William D. Cates of Tucumcari, NM., serve as battery commanders with A and B Battery, 1st Bn., 82d Artillery.

The other is **CPT Harry O. Taylor, who commands Co. B, 39th Engineer Bn.**

CPT Taylor of Brownsville, PA was the first of the trio to arrive at Dottie, taking over his company on Aug. 11. CPT Cates assumed command of D Battery the next day and CPT Yap completed the trio when he became A Battery commander on Sept. 13.

By the middle of October, three of the four 1/82d line batteries will be controlled by West Point's class of '67.

CPT John E. Newton, the battalion's S-1 officer will take command of Charlie Battery, replacing CPT Gerald Dixon, who is completing his tour of Vietnam.

SYKES REGULARS
(1/20th Inf. Bn. Newsletter)
Volume 1, Number 11 LZ LIZ, VIETNAM November 19, 1969

ALPHA COMPANY POLICES UP THE GAZA STRIP

Alpha Co. brought smoke on the enemy in the battalion's TAOR this week by accounting for 39 enemy dead, wounded, captured, or "Chieu Hoed, while operating in the Gaza Strip coastline, two miles east of Duc Pho.

The company has been providing security for the men of the Americal Division's **39th Engineering Battalion** and the 1st Marine Division's 9th Engineering Battalion, who for the past month have been engaged in a massive land clearing operation in the "Strip."

MACV at Mo Duc requested Alpha Co.'s assistance Nov. 10 in extracting a VC troop who desired to Chieu Hoi if the Americans would contact him. He had escaped from his unit after his cohorts learned of his plans to Chieu Hoi, who led the men to a tunnel, which they blew, resulting in one VC KIA.

Then they backtracked and blew four more tunnels with their claymores and got two more VC kills. They went on to capture six VC, wound two, and uncover a Chinese Communist SKS assault rifle, a carbine, and eight hand frags. They also successfully extracted the Hoi Chanh's family.

The following day, the company's 1st Platoon moved back into the area with the Hoi Chanh, who pointed out three more hand frags and a tunnel containing medical supplies and three AK-44 single shot bolt action weapons.

Alpha's effectiveness was apparently sufficient inducement for three more VC (two guerillas and one main-force VC) to Chieu Hoi the next day, and in a skirmish that followed, the 2d Platoon captured two more VC.

Nov. 13 was the company's most productive day, however. The 3d Platoon, operating with the Vietnamese Recon unit, reacted to intelligence that a 12-man enemy force was located at the southern end of the "Strip" by the mouth of the Song Tra Cau. In the initial engagement the Vietnamese two NVA. Tracks from the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry were immediately scrambled and brought the 1st Platoon and an element of the CP into the area. The Vietnamese troops swept south with the 1st Platoon and CP, while the 3d Platoon and tracks established themselves as a blocking force by the river.

During the sweep, the Vietnamese registered one NVA KIA and captured two. Then the sweeping force ran into a burst of AK-47 fire from the bush, thick with vines and bamboo. The men maneuvered around the site and blasted it with hand frags and claymores. A check of the bush revealed another NVA KIA with his AK-47. The Vietnamese Recon squad then picked up two more NVA CIA.

In the same area, 1LT Paul E. Ritz (Remsen, Iowa), the company's forward artillery observer, was moving over a bunker when he suddenly confronted two NVA, not more than six feet away. He shot one and then backed off the bunker as the other prepared to throw a ChiCom. Captain Daniel Thomas (Leesville, La.), the company's commanding officer, flanked the NVA with SP/4 Dee Dye (Blue Springs, Mo.). Dye opened up on the enemy, registering the day's fifth NVA KIA. With some well placed fire into the brush by the river, PFC Juan Mercado (Phoenix, Ariz.) dropped another NVA and picked up another AK-47.

During a temporary lull in the contact, the Charlie-Charlie was able to insert the battalion commander into the area. He was moving through the brush with the company CP when CPT Thomas spotted a pair of Ho Chi Minh sandals in the thick vines next to the pathway. Thomas warned the CO to move back, and both men slammed their bolts forward. The NVA decided to turn himself in, and the Vietnamese found his AK-47 near him in the brush.

The next day, Alpha's 2d Platoon captured another NVA, who was carrying a ChiCom. Later that night, one of the company's OPs spotted nine enemy near the beach and called in artillery on their position. The following day, the engineers apprehended two more VC.

Nov. 16, the company found five enemy bodies. One had a pistol and was clothed in a green NVA uniform. The other four were VC, believed to have been killed by arty two days previously. The 2d Platoon ended the company's combat activity for the week by registering another NVA KIA.

Without doubt, the "Strike-holders" of Alpha Co. aptly demonstrated a high degree of ability and combat effectiveness this week by their quick and deft thrusts into the enemy's scattered footholds in the Gaza Strip.

SYKES REGULARS
1/20th Inf. Bn. Newsletter
Volume 1, Number 14 LZ LIZ, VIETNAM December 10, 1969

THE GAZA STRIP – THE ENEMY ROUTED AND THE LAND CLEARED

On a clear day, the Gaza Strip possesses all the peaceful serenity of a calm and colorful California beach. But the people and the hot dog stands are missing-a reminder that the Strip has the slumbering potential of a major battleground.

Oct. 11, forces of the Army, Navy, and Marines began a massive land clearing operation designed to eliminate the sources of enemy activity along the South China Sea coast line north of Duc Pho. The Recon Platoon and Delta Co.'s 1st Platoon were "combat assaulted" by air onto the beach, eleven miles north of Duc Pho, after a thorough artillery prep by Shark and Dolphin teams from the 174th Helicopter Assault Co. The two infantry platoons provided the initial coordination of land, sea, and air movements and secured the beachhead area where three of the Navy's flat-bottomed Landing Craft Utilities brought ashore the first load of several large land clearing vehicles—Army "Rome Plow" and Marine "Eimco" caterpillars.

Alpha Co. was moved onto the beach in a Chinook air movement from Chu Lai to assume the security for the clearing operations undertaken by the Americal Division's **39th Engineering Battalion** and by the 1st Marine Division's 9th Engineering Battalion. Elements of A and E troops, 1/1 Cav., joined the operation later to assist in the land clearing and security of the men and machinery.

The Gaza Strip has long been a festering sore in the side of the agriculturally rich Quang Ngai Province. The fishermen who inhabited the Strip were constantly harassed by the obtrusive presence of the enemy and found their homes and livelihoods seriously undermined by enemy activity in the area.

Working with MACV and elements of RF, PF, and ARVN forces, the 1-20 successfully relocated the civilians from the Strip to Highway One, between the villages of Van Truong and Top An Doc. They have been provided with living quarters and an adequate supply of food. CPT Andrew Z. Lisowski, the officer in charge of the resettlement program said that the civilians are "adjusting very well to the relocation and their morale is high."

The eventual goal of the land clearing operation is to deny the enemy its supply sources, collection points, and base of operation in the Gaza Strip and to provide the means of securing the area for the fishermen and their families, unhampered by enemy harassment.

Tactically, the operation has proved to be successful. As the Strip was cleared to the south, the enemy's hiding places and bases of operations were destroyed, and they had to keep moving toward the mouth of the Song Tra Cau where they were eventually hemmed into a small area confined by the river to the west and south, and by the ocean to the east.

Alpha Co. took advantage of the enemy's limited mobility and in one week of sporadic contact accounted for 39 enemy dead, wounded, captured, or "Chieu Hoid" to the Allies.

To date, as the clearing operation moves south, past Tripoli, and out of the battalion's TAOR, the joint forces working in the Strip have accounted for 59 enemy dead, wounded, captured, or "Chieu Hoi'd." Six enemy weapons and numerous fighting positions and bunkers have been destroyed or captured. 45,000 pounds of rice were confiscated as well as quantities of medical equipment, ammunition, and supplies.

SYKES' REGULARS KILL EIGHT VC, DETAIN SIX

Activity in the battalion's AO was minimal during the first few days of Tet, but several incidents of contact were reported in the days just prior to the holiday. In all, for the week of Feb. 2-8 the SYKES' REGULARS accounted for eight enemy killed, six detained, 30 Vietnamese civilians detained for interrogation, and four weapons captured.

.....

FEB. 6

No significant action was reported during the first day of Tet. However, a mine sweep team from the **39th Engineering Battalion** spotted an NVA flag flying in a ville near the north Bridge. When the engineers moved in to check it out, some one grabbed the flag and DD'd.

Task Force Oregon Situation Report excerpts from April 22, 1967:

(2) DUC PHO TAOR (3/25 Inf)

.....

(f) 39th Eng Bn – A 39th conducted mine sweep fr BS 785377 to BS 860370. Relocated 50 headstones. Hauled 300 cubic meters of fill to pioneer rd. D/39 cont sweep fr BS 838364 to vic BS 860370. Dest cave complex vic BS 839365. Hauled 186 loads of fill to pioneer rd. Road closed except for 1 hr a day for trucks and APC traffic. No tanks.

.....

4. (C) Plans summary

.....

(f) **39th Engr Bn** conducted mine sweeps airstrip and road const, neg contact. Pioneer road 80% complete. 100 yds of road damaged by flooding of rice paddies by local farmers. Road opened today from 1200 to 1800. Road will be open tomorrow.

Example excerpt from 08MAY67 TF Oregon Situation report:

(2) 3d Bde, 25th Inf Div (DUC PHO)

(a) MEDCAP

1 DUC PHO Hospital – 45

2 THO LAC – 47

(b) Personal assistance: Construction of the new warehouse for DUC PHO has begun. The **39th Engr** delivered the fill for the foundation. The fill was distributed and leveled by RD cadre.

.....

Example Excerpt from 11MAY67 TF Oregon Situation report:

QUANG NGAI

2 3/25th Inf Div TAOR

BS824373	110730H	**39th Eng**	1 KHA 2 WHA	Unk	None	Plt
BS822373	11015H	**39th Eng**	2 KHA	Unk	None	Plt

2LT Peter Carlson, SP4 Christopher Oleksa and CPL Neely Singletary were listed as KIA from a mine incident on 11MAY1967. The Coffelt data base for casualties has listed the same location for all three deaths, BS824373. But two of the three deaths should have been listed at location BS822373. The issue is how to determine which ones were killed

Excerpt example from an Americal Division Situation report:

Transcribed by ADVA – Date reported= May 18, 1971.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

COURIER
COURIER RICHARD W. CUNNINGHAM RICHARD W. CUNNINGHAM 3000

c. OP FINNEY HILL 11th Inf Bde.

(1) 3d Bn 1st Inf
(a) B Co **w/A/39th Engr** 180810H vic BS572727, det 30#mine, res: 3 US WIA(E), (1 fm B/3-1, 2 fm A/39th)
(2) 1st Bn 20th Inf
(a) C Co 181800H vic BS670538, det B/T H/G, res: 2 US WIA(E)

(3) 4th Bn 21st Inf no contact

(4) TF 23d Cav
(a) (dlyd) H/17th 171140H vic BS798469, fnd 1 IW, res: 1 IWC
(b) H/17th 181140H vic BS800470, det unk type B/T, res: 2 US WIA(E), 1 US WIA(M)

(5) 6th Bn 11th Arty (A, B, C & D Btry) no contact

(6) C/3-18th Arty no contact

(7) 1st Bn 82d Arty (B(-) & C Btry) no contact

(8) Other
(a) B/123d 181335H vic BS322456, rec & rtn SAF, res: 4 NVA KIA

Excerpt example from:

Operation Burlington Trail Combat Operations After Action Report (COAAR)

AVDF-BAT_CO **15 February 1970**

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

22 Aug 69: FSB Debbie received mortar, S/A and satchel charges, resulting in 3 US KIA and 15 US WIA, engaged enemy, resulting in 2 VC/NVA KIA, 1 RPG 7 and 21 Chicom grenades CIA. Minesweep team from **39th Engr** received heavy S/A fire, negative casualties or damage. 19th ?nge convoy on QL-1 received A/W, S/A and RPG fire resulting in 5 US KIA and 3 vehicles destroyed. Enemy was engaged resulting in 2 NVA KIA.

This is an excerpt from "The Hill" Document prepared for veterans of the 3/1st Infantry Battalion and D Battery 6/11th Artillery Bn.

On 8 May 71 at 0855 hours, BS443745 Recon Platoon detonated an unknown type booby trap resulting in three soldiers wounded and evacuated, from then on action was quiet until 13 May when A company at BS476683 found four graves with male VC who had been killed by small arms fire. On the 15th of May, A company killed a female VC at BS492681 during an ambush. On the 16th a man was injured from C company at BS451682 who injured his left index finger cutting trail. The following day a man with a temperature of 106 was evacuated from C company at BS457700. On the 18th during a mine sweep at BS572727 a man from B company and two men from **A Company 39th Engineers** were wounded when they tripped a booby trapped mine. On the 19th, C company had to evacuate one soldier with a dislocated knee and one with heat exhaustion from BS609581. Later a man from the company while moving into the night defensive position kicked a thorn bush and later he broke out in a rash and a high fever and had trouble breathing and he was evacuated to Chu Lai. From then until on the 23 of May 71 when C company found 1 NVA killed at 1520 hours at BS630575 it was quiet and without any fire fights. Then on the 26th of May, C company received small arms fire in the vicinity of BS581593 at about 1935 hours, which resulted in one soldier being wounded and evacuated.

Example Excerpt from 27APR68 from 4/3rd Inf. Bn. S2/S3 reporting.

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG Page No 2 No of 7 Pgs
S2/3 Journal, 4-3 Inf LZ DOTTIE BS629854 0001 27 Apr 68 2400 27 Apr 68

14 0957	(C)	**Co B 39th Engr** (road clearing tm) rept Hwy #1 in 4-3 Inf AO, south bridge, BS634811, to north bridge, BS603917, has been cleared at this time.	Bde,CO,S3 Bn Tns	JM
15 1002	(C)	All units neg Sitrep, loc same.	Bde,CO,S3	JM
16 1104	(C)	All units neg Sitrep, loc same.	CO,S3	JM
17 1202	(C)	All units neg Sitrep, loc same.	Bde,CO,S3	JM
18 1300	(C)	All units neg Sitrep, loc same.	CO,S3	JM
19 1300	(C)	Aero Scouts engaged 1 VC evading vic BS 539876 resulting in 1 VC WIA/CIA. VC evacuated to LZ Dottie for medical attention and Dustoff or interrogation.	Bde,M,CO,S3	JM
20 1330	(C)	Dustoff req for VC, ref Item #19, by Bn Surg. Indiv rec gunshot wounds in legs. Evac fr Dottie. Completed at 1348 hrs.	Bde,CO,S3 Dustoff	JM
21 1345	(C)	COL Calloway, ADC Amcal Div, arrived on LZ Dottie at this time. Met and briefed by MAJ McAnaw, Bn S3 Air. Dprt LZ Dottie at 1358 hrs.		JM
22 1400	(C)	All units neg Sitrep, loc same.	Bde,CO,S3	JM
23 1422	(C)	MG Koster, Amcal Div Cmdr, arrived on LZ Dottie at this time. Met and briefed by LTC Adkins, Bn Cmdr; dprt LZ Dottie at 1448 hrs.	CO,S3,Bde	JM

Name and Grade of Officer on Duty Signature
JOHN P McANAW, CPT Inf (John P Mc Anaw)

Example Excerpt from 27APR68 from 5/46th Inf. Bn. S2/S3 reporting.

S3 5/46 Inf		LZ Dottie	From	To	
Page 1 of 5		BS 630854	0001 9 Jul 68	2400 9 Jul 68	
01	0001	Journal opened.			
02	0205	**39th Engineers "B"** rec'd 1 rd sniper fire, between bunkers 11 & 15 at 633858, 250m out.			Bde
03	0215	Lost radio contact with Relay.			Bde
04	0230	4th Recon Co will conduct LRRP in area 520690 west of Quang Ngai vic 500720 to 520690 from 9 July 2000 hrs to 17 July 2400 hrs. Team consists of 8 men dressed in black and grey uniforms w/bush hats and Ho Chi Minh rubber sandals, will try to appear to be VC. 1 team will patrol for 24 hours at a time, only one team at a time.			Bde
05	0255	No contact with Relay.			
06	0345	Regained contact with Relay.			
07	0700	B Co bushes back in NDP, ER returned LZ Dottie.			
08	0742	Village 7292 burned out about one week ago and evacuated about 1 ½ weeks ago. A few structures still standing. Would like to finish job. CO advises D Co to contact 1/52, 7292 is out of our AO.			
09	0743	D6 1000 lbs rice found last night. Patrols all within 200m of CP loc 732779.			Bde
10	0755	Chopper spotted a group of people that were seen yesterday at 5581 regrouping at 0715.			
11	0756	Dustoff, routine—2 VN, 1 man, 1 woman at 732779, LZ secure (Ill), called 0803, complete 0830.			Bde
12	0757	Small patrol from D Co found an old man just W of NDP at 0520. Patrol heard him moaning. Will get interpreter to see what they can out of him. Woman came into D Co NDP. About 80 yrs old. Said she was farmer's wife. Both are in pretty bad shape. Said his cow was shot in field and he was shot above the eye. Later the woman was picked up in hootch 100m W of NDP (Dustoff). Grease above eye pos gunshot wound. Gunship shot at him, killed one cow. Found him 150m W of NDP.			Bde
13	0800	A1, 2, 3, 4 – 743793; B6, 1, 2, 3, 4, C1, Tracks 2, 3,- 730790. All D bushes in, can't move until all rice is evacuated. C4 – 730790; D6, 2, 4 – 732779; D16 743766; D3 729778.			
14	0815	Track hit mine on trail vic 732791. Neg casualties. 0825 – track unable to move.			Bde
15	0819	Bn CO wants D5 to take about 12 of his men to 555817 and obtain about 6 of the people from there and find out what is going on in that area.			Bde
16	0820	A track w/B6 hit a 105 rd. 1 man injured. No Dustoff. Hand injury.			

Example Excerpt from 27APR68 from 3/1st Inf. Bn. S2/S3 reporting.

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG (AR 220-346)				PAGE NO 1	NO OF PAGES 3
ORGANIZATION OR INSTALLATION 3rd Bn, 1st Inf 11th Inf Bde		LOCATION LZ Bronco	PERIOD FROM HOUR DATE 0001 18July69	COVERED TO HOUR DATE 2400 18July 69	

ITEM NO	TIME IN	TIME OUT	INCIDENTS MESSAGES ORDERS ETC	ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS
1		0001	(U) Journal Opened		
2		0200	(U) Sitreps: No Change	Bde	saz
3		0400	(U) Sitreps: No Change	Bde	saz
4		0530	(C) AO Report: Quang Ngai: 170430 3/6 Bn at		
			BS538765 conducted raid res in 3 VC KIA 171930 RF 169 797418 rec. 8 rds M-79 1 WIA		
			11th Bde: 172015 at 1615 **A 39th Eng eng** 6-8 VC/NVA at BS716566 with small arms resulted		
			in 2 US missing in action. 172306 Eng LZ Debbie spotted 3-4 VC/NVA		
			in wire engaged with small arms fire with negative results.		
5		0655	(C) ARVNS 0640 at 543747 10 VC sighted 1 VC	Bde	saz
			KIA with small arms fire. 0610 552710 2 VC KIA CIA 1 Carbine		
			0615 528737 2 VCS CIA all wearing black pjs by small arms fire.		
6		0800	(C) Location Report:	Bde Arty	saz
			A Co – LZ 411 B Co – 793348 3rd 791320 1st 791338 CP		
			C Co – 770381 1st 770316 3rd 773316 4th 771316 (-)		
			D Co – 715400 Recon – 767369		
9		0850	(C) A Co LZ 411 2 VN came to wire this morning	Bde	mm
			asked to get inside wire for protection against the VC that were shooting at		
			them. The ARVNS took them and will take them to Quang Ngai, 1 male & 1 female.		

Example Excerpt from 27APR68 from1/1st Cavalry Rgt. S2/S3 reporting.

S-3, 1st 1st Cavalry HAWK HILL RVN 0001 19 Mar 70 2400 19 Mar 70
Page 1 of 3 BT235315

01	**0001**	**LOG OPENED.**	**L**	**JLW**
.....				
		L REH		
53	**2400**	**SUMMARY: B trp. 23 ACAV vehicle hit 250 lb mine. Track total combat loss and 5 B trp men KIA, 5 Infantry 3/21 KIA. B trp. found tunnel complex at BT101313. Tunnel is ¼ mile long and 3 persons can walk down it standing side by side. Tunnel was blown by 39th Engineers. They used 40lb shape charge. C&C took fire – altitude 1500', speed 80 knots flying east to west. Sporatic fire and visual sightings were reported by A, B, C trps.**	**L**	**REH**
54	**2400**	**LOG CLOSED.**	**L**	**REH**

Name and Grade of Officer on Duty
ROBERT W. GARROTT JR. MAJ, Armor, S-3

This was found on a 59th Engineer Company web-site:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
59TH ENGINEER COMPANY (LC) 39TH ENGINEER BATTALION AP0 SAN FRANCISCO 96325

EGD_LC **15 February 1971**

Commanding Officer
39th Engr Bn (Cbt)
ATTN: PIO
APO SF 96325

For the past three weeks, the 59th Engineer Company (Land Clearing) have been involved in it's most well known operation since Hamburger Hill. As you all know by now, this operation is known as Dewey Canyon II. One platoon of dozers, plus maintenance and communications personnel totaling thirty people from the 59th Engineer Company (LC), were the lead element in the reopening of QL9 from Quang Tri to the Laotian Border. The operation consisted of two phases. First, the construction of earth fill bypasses around some twenty odd downed bridges. Working as many as twenty hours a day for two weeks, the 59th "Bushwackers" reached the Laotian Border on the 4-th of February. After a one day stand down at Khe Sanh, the second phase began. This consisted of clearing land around Khe Sanh, plus clearing fifty meters on either side of QL9. This phase should take another three weeks to a month to accomplish.

The men of the 59th set the example for the other units during the operation. As most people try to get out of as much work as possible, the 59th couldn't find enough. At every downed bridge they encountered, the lead dozers would get right to the task of building a causeway. The following dozers would then move to the sides of the road and begin to clear areas to be used as makeshift helicopter pads for resupply. When night approached the dozer operators would spread out and cut numerous NDP's from the dense jungles for the personnel involved in the operation. The operators of the 59th were exceedingly responsible and needed little prompting from their superiors to do a job. They saw what had to be done and did it.

In spite of the long hours and sleeping on the ground, the morale of the men was very high. When they reached the Laotian Border, the men of the 59th erected a concrete post that they carried with them from Chu Lai, on which was painted the names of the "Bushwackers" that participated in the operation. Next to this was a makeshift 59th guidon proclaiming to the world, that, in spite of popular belief, the Engineers are the Army's point-men, not the infantry or armor.

JOHN J. DOLAN
1LT, CE
Executive Officer

THE
KYSU

To the Vietnamese, the word "Kysu"' (Key'Soo) means engineer. And the word engineer means a brighter future for the people of the Republic of Vietnam.
Today in Vietnam the name of the game is Vietnamization. Army of the Republic of Vietnam Engineers are rapidly learning needed skills for preserving and continuing what U.S. Army Engineers have already accomplished. Accordingly, this issue of the KYSU' emphasizes the progress of Vietnamization efforts.
The Engineer in Vietnam has opened up the remote countryside with a complex network of primary and secondary highways. Through land clearing operations, he has used his know-how and courage to destroy enemy sanctuaries. From water supply operations to medical assistance, the U.S. Army Engineer has carried out innumerable missions designed to help the people. Vietnamese Engineers are determined to continue these missions.
In short, the Engineer and his equipment are rebuilding the Republic of Vietnam. If you served in Vietnam as a U.S. Army Engineer, then you can say, "I helped build a nation."
THE EDITOR

BACK TO BATANGAN

In the past, the Batangan Peninsula has been a notorious Viet Cong stronghold and a horror for allied troops. But Since Army Engineers have moved into the area the Batangan Peninsula has become secure enough for some 5,000 civilians to consider it safe to return and thousands are expected to re-settle the area soon. New villages are sprouting up and old villages are being revived overnight. One of these old villages in the area is very well known----My Lai. But now it is a new My Lai. The Story of the new My Lai and the other villages in this area is the story of road construction and land clearing by the 39th Engineer Battalion and the 59th Land Clearing Company. It is a case study of pacification by bulldozers and bridges rather than by bullets.
The Batangan Peninsula, located some 75 miles south of Da Nang in the Quang Ngai Province, was for years a rich and productive agricultural region for the South Vietnamese. But since 1963 Viet Cong efforts have converted the Batangan Peninsula, the birthplace of Ho Chi Minh, into the largest enemy held area east of National Highway (QL) 1 in the -First Military Region.

As the VC activity increased in the Batangan area, the Vietnamese villagers who lived and worked there were driven away. As a result, these farmers and craftsmen and their families became refugees in their own country, deprived of their homes and their livelihood. The economy in the region slumped, food prices rose, and shortages in consumer goods appeared. Soon the enemy gained a strong foothold in the area and U.S. and ARVN infantry went into the area to try to drive them out.
But the VC were so well entrenched that, without taking huge losses in men and equipment, the Batangan area could not be completely recovered by direct attack. A large percentage of the U.S. casualties in the area initially resulted from booby-traps set in the difficult terrain.

The VC hollowed out the center and moved within like "a subway system under a city", remarked Lieutenant Colonel Fred F. Woerner, commander of 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 23rd Infantry Division (AMERICAL). Trenches were dug within some of these hedgerows, making enemy movement within relatively immune to artillery fire. This allowed the VC to approach undetected, fire and displace himself under cover. Allied efforts were hampered by limited movement on the ground and restricted visibility from the air.

Enemy control of most of the region was intolerable and the key to the situation was finally found in land clearing operations coupled with a road development program. Tactically, land clearing is a double edged weapon denying the enemy cover and concealment while increasing allied ground mobility and the more effective use of artillery and air support.

(Continued)

(Continued)

Now the VC had to cross open areas and travel farther to strike. This made him vulnerable to observation and when discovered left him no where to hide. Five Viet Cong soldiers recently rallied (voluntarily surrendered under the open arms program) to the district chief; their reason--"There was no longer any place to hide."

The Engineers began work in the Batangan area late last summer with the mission of replacing the Viet Cong terrorists with the rightful occupants of the area. This mission is obviously being successfully accomplished and the results are becoming more apparent with each passing day: The 59th Land Clearing Company is destroying the dense thickets and jungle which have long protected enemy operations. More than 13,000 acres have been cleared, with a bonus of over 300 enemy bunkers and 8,000 yards of tunnels and trenches discovered and destroyed. Large quantities of ordnance and food supplies have also been discovered and confiscated from the enemy.

Quang Ngai has been called a "ribbon province" because of the more than one million residents seeking safety along government controlled Highway 1. But some 50,000 people have already returned to land cleared by American bulldozers. They are rebuilding their homes and villages in a steady advance east from QL-1 toward the sea.

Major Jimmy Kinlam, advisor for Son Tinh district in which considerable land clearing has taken place stated, "Without land clearing, resettlement would take much longer. It would have taken much more effort and cost many more lives to resettle. It is very damned important."

Security is vital to resettlement of the Batangan. "Land clearing in terms of pacification is no good without security responsive to the people 24 hours a day," says Major Clarence Matzeder, U.S. military advisor for Binh Son district. People will not move back to their land if they know the VC will come in the night to kill and steal. Once the land is cleared and the roads are secure the Regional Forces (RF) and Popular Forces (PF) will protect the people from the VC. Currently many more RF and PF forces are being trained to secure more areas as they are resettled.

The importance of this land clearing work to the pacification of the area is also brought out in the comments of the soldiers most directly concerned with the operation. Sergeant David Downing, an infantryman with the AMERICAL's 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry and who is part of the security element for the 59th, says, "Land clearing should have been thought of about five years ago. It makes the war effort and the infantry's job in this area a lot easier. Being shot at is bad enough, but the mines and boobytraps are literally murder. There is no way to fight them and the Engineers are a big help in eliminating them."

Specialist Five George B. Adkins, who is assigned to the 59th as a bulldozer operator, puts it this way: "If we don't clear the area of boobytraps, the infantry will certainly hit them and it makes their job that much harder and less effective if they do. My work isn't all that hard."

What keeps them on the job after having a mine go off underneath them? "We (operators) stand a better charrce with 26 tons of steel protection than an infantryman on foot. And if we don't clear this area they would have to do it," answered SP4 John Felleman.

As the men clear the jungle they often come across signs of enemy activity. Rice caches, bunkers, tunnels and sleeping positions are commonly found. Sometimes a cooking fire is found still warm indicating the enemy has left within hours.

Every operator carries his M-16 ready to fire. Sniper fire is common. Security for the operators is provided by armored personnel carriers (APCs)t and two Sheridan armored reconnaissance vehicles, attached to the 59th. Each watches the surrounding undergrowth carefully and an ARVN Regional Force unit also provides security night and day.

All vehicles on the land clearing operation are tracks. Rain and mud render wheeled vehicles useless. Often one dozer becomes bogged down and must be pulled free with the aid of another. In hilly areas where ravines are hidden by dense vegetation dozers turn over with an irritating regularity, but the operators calmly climb out and motion for a buddy in a nearby dozer to come over and help.

(Continued)

(Continued)

The behemoth Rome plow blades are set to move over the ground six inches above the surface. This allows the vegetation to be cut and crushed while leaving the root structure to prevent erosion.

As the dozers move out to the cut area each day, the lead dozer operator, who wears a head set connected to a radio, gets instructions from the officer in charge. He outlines an area about half a mile across in the shape of a square with rounded corners. Other operators then fall in behind him in a drawn-out staggered formation, completely ringing the cut and steadily closing in toward the center with each revolution.

Deer, wild pigs, and pheasants are often seen fleeing from the area being cleared as the square shrinks under the relentless bites of the dozers. Snakes up to ten feet long have difficulty running from the dozers and unnerve the operators considerably.

A flock of birds circle the cut, alert for the hordes of insects released by the vegetation as it falls. The smell of damp, freshly turned earth laced with diesel fumes pervades the air. The congestion at the center of the square yields to one or two dozers to finish the job. Then they move on to start the process anew.

"Tactically, there is no doubt about land clearing reducing American casualties and seriously crippling VC activity in the Batangan," said LTC James C. Ton, who as commanding officer of the 39th Engineer Battalion (Cbt) and has responsibility for road building and the 59th Land Clearing Company. "In terms of pacification, when you fly over and see the number of new tin roofs far removed from QL-1, you can see progress. The willingness of people to move into newly cleared areas to cut wood and graze livestock are also indications of progress. But since land clearing began late in the summer we will see the real measure of security and resettlement on the Batangan Peninsula by the quantity of next spring's rice harvest," he concluded.

While the 59th is clearing the area, the 39th Battalion is constructing and improving a secondary road network throughout the peninsula. Altogether, about 42 miles of roadway are being built. As the roads are opened the recently returned Vietnamese farmers are able to truck their produce to larger markets and in turn receive more for their goods.

With this combination of better roads and increased acreage, more food is being distributed and the flow of commerce is on the increase as a result. The economy of the peninsula has consequently turned upwards already and continues to rise as work of pacification through land clearing and road building continues.

"While the overall future of resettlement of the Batangan Peninsula seems good there are still serious problems," stated MAJ Matzeder. "Some materials such as tin for roofs are in short supply. Vietnamization of the war requires that ARVN troops be trained to call in artillery, air strikes, and medevac missions. It takes some five months per platoon to train PF platoons to shoulder the burden of guarding roads, bridges and villages. But MAJ Matzeder added with stern confidence, "They have the will if we give them the means."

Note:

This article was contributed by SP-5 Kenneth Coffee of Ostrander, Ohio and was originally published in THE KYSU' magazine, spring 1971 issue, a publication of Engineer Command Vietnam.

A page from the Quarterly Task Force Oregon Operations Report and Lessons Learned Report.

AVDF-GC 5 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967

(RCS-CSFOR-65)(RI)(U)

4. Engineer.

a. (C) During May, with the assistance of the 9th Marine Engineer and the 71st Mobile Construction Battalions, the Task Force completed most urgently needed construction to operate through late August. With the announcement, in early June, that the Task Force would remain in being throughout the monsoon season, an entirely new look was required as pertains to both construction completed since late April and new construction requirements. The requirements were:

1. Upgrading route 1 from the initially planned goal of a pioneer dry weather bypasses and roadbed to semi-permanent bridging and a road surface that, with maintenance, could withstand all season divisional loads.

2. Upgrading all ASPs, FSAs, and heliports to a standard commensurate with the rigors presented by the northeast monsoon.

3. Providing minimal standard 2 troop living conditions in preparation for the northeast monsoon.

b. (C) To aid the Task Force, **B company, 39th Engineer Battalion** was redeployed from attachment to the 45th Engineer Group in Qui Nhon, the company closing in the Chu Lai area on 28 June 67; a 75 ton per hour rock crusher with an eight man crew was placed on TDY to TFO arriving in the Duc Pho area on 9 July 67, and the 19th Engineer Battalion was assigned the responsibility of upgrading route 1 from the southern I Corps Boundary to Duc Pho thus relieving TFO engineers of approximately 35% of route 1 upgrading.

c. (C) Additionally, engineer support from both the 30th Naval Construction Regiment and the 9th Engineer Battalion was committed by Hq III MAF to upgrade existing support facilities and construct standard 2 troop hutments in preparation for the monsoon season. Presently, all these tasks are in the planning and pre-construction development stage. Materials have been requisitioned and construction starts are envisioned by 15 August 67.

AVDF-CG Americal Division 8 February 1968
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968
(RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

5. ENGINEER.

a. Throughout the reporting period, the major portion of engineer effort was engaged in the minesweeping, repair and maintenance of Highway 1.
During the first part of the reporting period there were four battalions engaged in work on Highway 1. The battalions were the 19th Engr Bn (Cbt), the **39th Engr Bn** (CBT), the 9th Mobile Navy Construction Bn, and the 9th - Engr Bn (Marines). On 20 January 1968, the 18th Engr Bde accepted responsibil-ity for Highway 1 to the CHU LAI main gate. At the end of the reporting period, the responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the highway rested with the 19th, **39th**, and 9th Engineer Battalions. The 26th Engineer Battalion--the Americal Division Battalion, had a portion of the mine-sweeping responsibility.

b. Enemy activity along Highway 1 was heavy during the reporting period. Fourteen bridges were badly damaged or destroyed by demolitions or fire, thirty-four culverts were blown with demolitions, and twenty-two craters or hand-dug trenches were made in the road. Even though the enemy activity on the road was high, the road was not closed for an entire day during the reporting period. The destroyed bridges or culverts were usually discovered by the early morning reconnaissance overflight or by minesweep teams. The road was usually open for traffic again by 1200 hours and was, in all cases, open for traffic before nightfall.

c. One major east-west road was opened during the reporting per-iod. **Companies A and D, 39th Engr Bn,** opened 22 kilometers of Route 535 from Highway 1 to LZ ROSS. This task was accomplished during the period 13 December 1967 to 30 January 1968.

AVDF-CG Americal Division 7 May 1968
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968. (RCS-CSFOR-65) (RI) (U).

5. Engineer. Primary engineer effort in the Americal Division AO Area of Operations) was directed at LOC (Lines of Communications) maintenance, repair, and new construction.

a. Route 1 had primary emphasis with four Engineer battalions committed to the road.

(1) 19th Engr Bn: Southern I/II Corps boundary to BS756496.

(2) **39th Engr Bn** (DS Americal Div): BS 756496 to BS 695635 and from BS 643733 to Chu Lai main gate.

(3) 104th ARVN Engr Bn: BS 695635 to BS 643733.

(4) 9th Engr Bn, SMC: Chu Lai main gate to North edge of Americal Division AO.

b. The road from Thang Binh to LZ Colt, BT 175418 to BT 114375, respectively, was opened by **39th Engineer Battalion**; completion date 6 April 1968.

c. The road from Route 1 to Thon Nai BT 248255 was opened by 26th Engineer Battalion.

d. The road from Tam Ky, BT312822, to Tien Phuoc, BT 118142, was opened as a pioneer road in support of operation Burlington Trail by 26th Engineer Battalion.
The **39th Engineer Battalion** is now in the process of upgrading this road.

e. All LOC's in Americal AO have remained enemy targets for interdiction. The majority of below listed incidents occurred during the TET Offensive, during period 1-29 February 1968:

(1) Road mines: 136
(2) Bridges destroyed: 19
(3) Culverts destroyed: 51
(4) Road craters or trenches: 41

5. Engineer.

a. Primary engineer effort in the Americal Division AO continues to be directed toward operational support of the Division maneuver elements. Supporting engineer units have a high percentage of effort committed to LOC improvement.

(1) Route 1 has primary emphasis with four Engineer Battalions committed to the road.

(a) 19th Engr Bn: South I Corps boundary to BS7566946.

(b) **39th Engr Bn** (DS Americal Division): BS756496 to BS695635 and from BS643733 to Chu Lai Main Gate.

(c) 104th ARVN Engr Bn: BS965635 to BS643733.

(d) 9th Engr Bn, USMC: Chu Lai Main Gate to north edge of Americal AO.

(2) Route 1 from Chu Lai to Northern Boundary of Division AO upgraded to 2 lane class 60 traffic by construction of the following bridges:

(a) BT379174-270' steel stringer, timber pile bent, reinforced concrete abutments, class 60.

(b) BT430109-228' steel stringer, timber pile bent, reinforced concrete abutments, class 60.

(c) BT498066-300' steel stringer, timber pile bent, timber pile abutment, class 60.

(3) Road from LZ Baldy, BT132453, to LZ Ross, BT027342, is being upgraded by the Divisonal battalion (26th Engineer Battalion).

(4) Road from LZ Ross, BT027342, to AT920250 has been opened as a pioneer road in support of operation Pocahontas Forest by the 26th Engr Bn.

(5) Road from Tam Ky, BT318222 to Tien Phuoc, BT118142, is being upgraded by the **39th Engr Bn**.

b. All LOC's in Americal Division AO remained enemy targets for interdiction.

(1) Road mines - 188.

(2) Bridges destroyed - 3.

(3) Culverts destroyed - 24.

(4) Road craters or trenches - 7.

AVDF-GCLO Americal Division 10 August 1969
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1969.

(3) The **39th Engineer Battalion (Combat)** utilized one combat engineer line company to minesweep and make tactical repairs on QL1 between Binh Son and Quang Ngai. Three line companies plus their attached units were employed to minesweep, maintain, and upgrade (less paving) QL1 between Quang Ngai Duc Pho. (Ultimately, the **39th Engineer Battalion** will pave QL1 between Mo Duc and Duc Pho.) The **39th Engineer Battalion** disposition at the end of the reporting period was as follows

(a) HHC and 511th Engineer Company (Panel Bridge) (-): Chu Lai.

(b) Company A and 639th Engineer Company (Light Equipment)(-): LZ GOLDIE.

(c) Company B (-): LZ DOTTIE.

(d) Company C: LZ MAX.

(e) Company D: LZ GOLDIE.

(f) One Platoon of Company B: LZ SNOOPY.

(4) At the end of the report period, the **39th Engineer Battalion** had completed all sub base upgrade between Quang Ngai and Duc Pho, completed base course from Quang Ngai (south) to BS724570. Estimated date of completion for paving QL1 south of Chu Lai is 15 Oct 69.

(Note: There are additional pages of detail in this ORLL report regarding engineers. If more detail is needed you can reference the ORLL reporting which is available online at the AmericalFoundation.org website.)

AVDF-GC Americal Division 7 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1968. (RCS-CSFOR-65)(RI)(U)

5. Engineer.

a. Primary engineer effort in the Americal Division AO continues to be directed toward operation support of the Division maneuver elements. Supporting engineer units have a high percentage of effort committed to LOC improvements.

(1) QL-1 has priority horizontal emphasis in the Americal AO, with three (3) Engineer Battalions committed to the road.

(a) 19th Engr Bn (CBT) II/I Corps boundary to BS740525.

(b) **39th Engr** Bn (USMC): BT520044 (Chu Lai Main Gate to north boundary of Americal AO.

The 104th Engr Bn (ARVN) supports LOC improvement primarily by assisting US Engr Bn's with limited equipment support.

(2) QL-1 from Chu Lai to the norther boundary of the Americal AO remains basically 2 lane, class 60. Several stretches (the worst being BT231315 to BT 133453) are characterized by soft shoulders, during and up to 48 hours after rain storms. One way convoy traffic is a necessity during such periods. Stretches of the road between BT107504 to BT118490 and BT246312 to BT254298 are subject to inundation after heavy rains. During the period 13-20 Oct 68, these portions of the road were under 12" to 16" of water.

(3) QL-1 from Chu Lai to the southern boundary of the Americal AO remained basically 2 lane, class 50 until 15 Oct 68, when Tropical Storm "Hester" inundated and destroyed several stretches of the road. Culvert by-passes a the bridge failed first, followed by severe flooding around both approaches. Water rose of 4 1/2 ft in the Song Bing Son River in less than 12 hours. QL-1 in the vicinity of Quang Ngai was inundated by 5' of water; QL-1 between Quang Ngai and Duc Pho was under 4' of water in numerous places and sustained sever damage.

(4) 110 feet of panel bridge was destroyed at BS596929 on 9 Oct 68 from overloading by US Forces. Tropical Storm "Hester" struck 11 Oct 68, causing the Song Binh Son River to become a significant obstacle.

(5) HL 535 from LZ Baldy to LZ Ross was upgraded and maintained as a one way, limited all weather route by the Division Engineer Battalion until 5 Oct 68. At that time, the **39th Engr** Bn (D Co) assumed the mission on a continuing basis.

(6) The road from LZ Ross to AT920250 which was opened by the 26th Engr Bn as a pioneer road in support of Operation Pocahontas Forest, is no longer maintained.

(7) HL 533 from Tam Ky, (BT318222) to Tien Phoc, (BT1181442) which was being upgraded and maintained by the 30th Engr Bn is closed. A Co **39th Engr** Bn was relieved of the mission on 1 Oct 68 because of the tactical situation, and was extracted from the area 7-8 Oct 68.

b. All LOC's in the Americal Division AO remained targets for enemy interdiction. During the first two months of the reporting period, approximately 30 mines were discovered on QL-1, HL 535, with frequent incidents of blown culverts and craters. October marked a decrease of incidents, due primarily to increased tactical operations in the trouble-some areas. More than 180 mines were discovered during the period.

AVDF-HL **10 May 1970**

SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 January 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

(2) During the reporting period, there was one reportable incident of possible sabotage. This involved **Company D, 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat)**, at Chu Lai installation. The investigation revealed neither conclusive evidence of sabotage nor outstanding leads. No further investigation is anticipated by this office.

.....

(2) **The 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat),** augmented by the 511th Engineer Company (Panel Bridge) and the 137th Engineer Company (Light Equipment), devoted primary effort toward upgrading and paving QL1 from Mo Duc (BS740525) to Duc Pho (BS8063778), and providing expedient maintenance from I/II Corps border (BS907150) to Duc Pho and from Mo Duc to Binh Son (BS601920).

.....

(1) The **39th Engineer Battalion (Combat):**

(a) In addition to the maintenance and upgrading of QL1, the battalion was committed to minesweeping from Mo Duc to Duc Pho, I/II Corps border to Duc Pho and from Binh Son to Mo Duc. Intermittent rain throughout the reporting period severely hampered the paving effort. The battalion had completed all sub-base work and had completed the base course work except for one kilometer. However, the heavy rains of 24-25 November 1969 and 15-18 December 1969 damaged the base course so that all unpaved portions (5.9 kilometers) needed additional base course work.

(b) The battalion began construction of fifty SEA -huts, three mess halls (2000 sq ft area each) and accompanying utilities for 1-1st Cav cantonment area.

(c) The battalion also exerted a considerable effort toward culvert construction and repair from Binh Son to Quang Ngai.

(d) During the reporting period, the battalion constructed over 17000 ft of revetments for the 27th Surgical Hospital.

(e) The battalion also supported the Americal Division with bunker construction at FSB's West and Center. In addition they supported the construction of the Mo Duc and FSB Liz access roads.

(f) The battalion also contributed a platoon (9 dozers and 17 dozer operators) to Land Clearing Company (Provisional).

(g) The battalion's disposition at the end of the reporting period was as follows:

1. HHC, A(-), D, and 511th Engineer Company (PB): Chu Lai.
2. Company B: FSB Dottie.
3. Company C and 137th Engineer Company (LE): LZ Max
4. One platoon, Company A: LZ Snoopy.

9. **(C) Engineer**

a. Activities for the period 1 February to 30 April 1970, consisted of divisional engineer efforts directed to the support of the Americal Division while non-divisional units devoted primary effort to the improvement of QL1. One change in engineer troop disposition occurred during the reporting period. The 9th Engineer Battalion (USMC) was redeployed to Da Nang.

(1) The 26th Engineer Battalion provided tactical bridge support for the restoration and upgrading of QL1 within the TAOI.

(2) The **39th Engineer Battalion (Combat**), augmented by the 511th Engineer Company (Panel Bridge) and the 137th Engineer Company (Light Equipment), devoted primary effort toward upgrading and paving QL1 from Mo Duc (BS740525) to FSB Debbie (BS8733277), and providing excellent maintenance from I/II Corps border (BS907150) to Binh Son (BS601920).

(3) Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7 (MCB 7) performed expedient maintenance on QL1 from Binh Son (BS601920) to the Chu Lai Main Gate (BT520044) and as far north as BT145460 after the 9th Engineer Battalion (USMC) redeployed to Da Nang.

(4) The 9th Engineer Battalion, Fleet Marine Force (FMF), devoted primary effort toward upgrading and maintenance of QL1 from Chu Lai to BT145460 until 21 March 1970. For the remainder of the period they provided haul support for MCB 7 on QL1 North construction and maintenance from Tam Ky to the end of the paved portion.

(5) Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 301 (CBMMU 301) supplied mineral products for engineer construction throughout the TAOI and performed the R&U support for Chu Lai Base.

c. Engineer operations in the TAOI consisted generally of the following:

(1) **The 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat):**

(a) In addition to the maintenance and upgrading of QL1, the Battalion was committed to minesweeping from Chu Lai (BT54344036) to Duc Pho (BT807378) and provided support for the 11th Infantry Brigade from Duc Pho to I/II Corps border (BS908149). The **Battalion** completed the restoration of QL1 from Mo Duc to Duc Pho on 24 February 1970. The restoration of that portion between Duc Pho and FSB Debbie was completed 15 April 1970.

(b) The **Battalion** upgraded and paved the access road between QL1 and FSB Liz, approximately 3 km in length.

(c) The **Battalion** commenced the upgrade of three (3) roads in the FY 70 secondary LOC Program during the period: QL1 to Ha Thanh, QL1 to FSB 411, and QL1 to Tien Phuoc (LTL 5b, HL 518, and HL 533, respectively). In addition to these roads the Battalion was jointly tasked to provide material support for the 10 ARVN Group to construct HL 529 (QL1 to Tra Bong).

(Continued)

(Continued)

(d) The **Battalion** supported the Americal Division with bunker construction at FSB West, Center, Fat City, Hawk Hill, and LZ Dragon.

(e). The **Battalion** completed construction of fifty SEA-huts, three mess halls (2000 sq ft area each) and accompanying utilities for 1-1 Cav cantonment areas.

(f) The B**attalion** completed construction of a timber bridge at BS6333811 on QL1. Reconstruction two concrete pier bridges on QL1 was started at the Long Go Ma (BS691647) and the Song Ve (BS695036).

(g) During this reporting period the battalion started the rehabilitation of the airfield at Tien Phuoc.

(h) The **Battalion** acquired a rock crusher during the period and started producing rock from the primary crusher 24 March 1970.

(i) The **Battalion** also exerted a considerable effort toward culvert construction and repair from Chu Lai to Quang Ngai.

(j) The **Battalion** also exerted a considerable effort toward culvert construction and repair from Chu Lai to Quang Ngai.

(j) The **Battalion** contributed a platoon (9 dozers and 17 dozer operators) to the Land Clearing Company (Provisional).

(k) The **Battalion's** disposition at the end of the reporting period was as follows:

1. HHC, A(-), C, D(-) 5111 Engineer Company (PB), 137th Engineer Company (LE)(-): Chu Lai.
2. B Co: FSB Dottie
3. 2 Platoons A Co: FSB Snoopy
4. 1 platoon each, D Co and 137th Engineer (LE): Tien Phuoc

AVDF-HL 10 August 1970
SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 July 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

.....

m. 172045 July 70, **39th Eng Bn**, with PF's found signs written in Vietnamese in vicinity of BS648448. The text of the signs read "personnel found in this area will be beheaded."

CONFIDENTIAL

AVDF-HL 10 August 1970
SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 July 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

9. (C) Engineer

a. Activities for the quarter 1 May to 31 July 70 consisted of the divisional engineer effort being devoted to direct combat support of the division, while non-divisional units devoted primary effort to the construction of secondary LOC's and operational support construction. One change in engineer troop disposition occurred during the reporting period as MCB-7 was redeployed to the United States in June.

b. LOC Program. During the reporting period as QL-1 neared completion the majority of engineer effort was shifted to construction of secondary and "Farm to Market" roads and to road opening operations to support tactical convoys.

(1) QL-1

(a) the 26th Engr Bn continued to provide tactical bridge support for restoration of QL-1 within the TAOI.

(b) The **39th Engr Bn** provided expedient maintenance from the II Corps boundary (BS907150) to Binh Son (BS601920). The Battalion continued construction of concrete headwalls on QL-1 between Binh Son and Duc Pho and is currently providing haul support for MCB-10 for asphalt overpave operations south of Duc Pho.

(c) Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seven (MCB-7) performed expedient maintenance from Binh Son to vic LZ BALDY (BT145460) and continued paving operations from Tu My (BT213368) to the Ba Ren Bridge (BT102510) until their redeployment in June.

(d) MCB-62 is currently conducting paving not completed by MCB-7. Completion is scheduled for 1 Sep 70.

(e) The 9th Engr Bn (USMC) initiated base course construction of the Tam Ky streets 25 Jun 70, in preparation for paving. On 19 July, the responsibility for this project was assumed by MCB-5.

(Continued)

(Continued)

(f) Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 301 (CBMU 301) continued to provide mineral products for engineer construction throughout the Americal TAOI.

(2) Secondary LOC's

(a) Due to the increased commitment of engineer effort on the secondary LOC's, 44 km of the total 256 km of road have been completed to prescribed standards. Another 103 km are under construction as the end of this reporting period. Of this, 72 km are to be constructed to single land all weather, 44 km to minimum all weather and 143 km to dry weather standards.

(b) The **39th Engr Bn** continued to be the primary unit committed to upgrade of secondary LOC's, with significant contributions being made by the 26th Engr Bn, the 103d ARVN Engr Bn and the Ministry of Public Works, Quang Ngai Province.

c. Land Clearing.

(1) On 12 May 70 land clearing operations began in the eastern portion of Mo Duc District to deny cover and concealment to the enemy and enhance pacification and subsequent agricultural development of that area. This area of 1,668 acres was designated as the Division's first priority. It was later increased by 1,060 acres. Operations in this new area are nearly completed.

(2) The Division's second and third priority areas were established as the Batangan Peninsula in Quang Ngai Province (5,100 acres) and the Pineapple Forest Area in Quang Tin Province (6,430 acres).

(3) clearing operations on the Batangan commenced on 15 June with the 39th Land Clearing Platoon. This element was replaced on 9 July by the 59th Land Clearing Company (LOC), a 45th Engr Gp unit. To date, 3,906 acres have been cleared. Additional requests for clearing by Quang Ngai Province have significantly increased the area to be cleared.

d. Airfield Rehabilitation.

(1) Tien Phuoc. This airfield was completed to Type II, C-123 standards on 24 July 70. During rehabilitation the requirements for upgrade were expanded to include the establishment of a six point refuel facility.

(2) Minh Long. On 15 Jul 70 repairs were initiated on this airfield to prevent closure. Repairs are 12% complete as of the end of this reporting period.

e. Combat Support.

(1) FSB Construction. During this reporting period seven FSBs were opened and one FSB is currently in the process of being closed. Numerous FSBs were upgraded during this reporting period.

(2) Minesweep Activities. Transfer of minesweep responsibilities to Territorial Forces continued during this reporting period as follows:

(Continued)

(Continued)

(a) The **39th Engr Bn** was relieved of minesweep responsibility for the section of QL-1 from Binh Son to Duc Pho by RF/PF units in that area.

(b) Minesweep training programs are being conducted in Duc Pho District in Quang Ngai Province and Thang Binh District in Quang Tin Province. The training is being conducted by the 26th Engr Bn in an attempt to expedite transfer of this responsibility.

(c) Dry Weather Road Program:

1. The 26th Engr Bn has completed 14 km of road to date. A total of 20 km of road have been started but not completed due to higher priority commitments.

2. The following roads are currently under construction:

a. Than An Road (BS697633 - BS740665) (70%)

b. New Hau Duc Road (BT111139 - BT081072) (10%)

3. The following roads were suspended due to higher priority commitments.

a. HL 531 (BT3233219 - BT335270) and (BT332251 - BT359252)

b. Nghia An Dong Road (BS619718 - BS621695)

c. Dong My Road (BS695637 - BS723654)

d. Route 527, QL-1 to LZ STINSON (BS635801 - BS536825)

4. The following roads were completed:

a. QL-1 to Binh Yen Noi, north of LZ GATOR (BS572973 - BS583978)

b. Hai Mon Road (BS806380 - BS832398)

c. My Trang Road, south of Duc Pho (BS836333 - BS833351)

d. An Phong Road (BS719594 - BS722594)

(d) FSB Construction:

1. During the reporting period seven FSBs were opened. Work consisted of clearing helipads and fields of fire, digging emplacements and clearing mines and boobytraps. The majority of the clearing was accomplished by the use of demolitions and organic airmobile dozers. The following FSBs were opened:

a. NUI PHO TINH (BS648936)

b. PLEASANTVILLE (BT051047) 9 Jun 70.

c. MARY ANN (AS962998) 26 Jun 70.

d. LZ CADET (BS562444) 5 Jul 70.

e. KALA (YC988094) 12 Jul 70.

f. DAK ROSE (YB864989) 19 Jul 70.

g. MELLON (AT805184) 25 Jul 70.

(Continued)

(Continued)

2. FSB PROFESSIONAL (BS172076) is presently being closed.

(e) Operation Elk Canyon:

1. The battalion supported by men and equipment from MCB-62, began operations to reopen Kham Duc Airfield in support of the above operation. Support from MCB-62 consisted of the following airmobile equipment with operators: three dump trucks, two Case 450 dozers, one asphalt distributor, one vibratory roller, two front loader/backhoes, two graders and three hand tampers. Rehabilitation of the airfield and facilities consisted of clearing ordnance and debris, repair of craters using soil-cement stabilization, repair of the off-load area and the building of berms to protect fuel bladders. A "hook-out" pad was constructed adjacent to the off-load area.

2. In addition to airfield rehabilitation, combat engineer support was provided to the 2-1st Inf Bn.

3. One Case 450 dozer was made available to ARVN personnel for the establishment of LZ KALA and LZ DAK ROSE.

(f) Relocation. The battalion was relocated from the old MAG 12 area (BT530772) to Camp Shields (BT549059) formally occupied by MCB-7. B Company moved from FSB BAYONET to join HHC, D and E Companies in the new area. The move began on 20 July 70 and was completed on 29 Jul 70.

(g) The battalion's disposition at the end of the reporting period was as follows:

1. HHC, B Co, D Co, E Co - Chu Lai.
2. A Co - FSB HAWK HILL.
3. C Co - FSB BRONCO.

(2) **39th Eng**ineer Battalion.

(a) LOC Upgrade.

1. The primary efforts of the battalion were concentrated on the upgrade of LOC's. The majority of this effort was committed to LOC's

(3) Road Opening Operations. During this period HL 529 from Binh Son to Tra Bong was opened for four Division convoys and HL 533 from Tam Ky to Tien Phuoc was opened to support fifteen convoys.

f. Engineer operations in the Americal TAOI.

(1) 26th Engineer Battalion (Combat).

(a) Land Clearing:

1. Mo Duc District, Phase I. On 14 May 70, the 26th Engineer Land Clearing Platoon initiated clearing operations vic BS7653. This platoon was composed of six D7E tractors, two CEV and one M548 cargo carrier. The operation was completed on 6 Jul 70. The results were 1,668 acres cleared, of tunnel and 67 fighting positions found and destroyed. In addition, 64 large caliber and 81 small caliber rounds were found. Casualties included twenty-four US WIA, four ARVN WIA, two US KIA and two ARVN KIA. There were three D7E tractors destroyed by mines.

(Continued)

(Continued)

2. Mo Duc District, Phase II. On 16 Jul 70 the 26th Engr LCP joined with the **39th Engr** LCP to form a Provisional Company to conduct clearing operations. This company consisted of eleven D7E tractors, one CEV and one M548 cargo carrier. To date 876 acres have been cleared, 17 mines and boobytraps, 101 bunkers and 765 linear meters of tunnels have been found and destroyed. Casualties to date include two US WIA and two ARVN WIA. One D7E tractor was damaged by a mine.

(b) Road Openings.

1. HL 529. During this reporting period the Battalion conducted four road opening operations from Binh Son to Tra Bong to support Division convoys. During these operations, 282' of 36" CMP were installed, ten fords were constructed or upgraded and 2.5 km of road were upgraded. One Sheridan AR/AAV, one ACAV and one CEV detonated mines and were declared combat losses. Fifteen mines and boobytraps were found and destroyed. Casualties for the operation included three US ??? and ?? US .

2. HL 533. The battalion opened this road for Division convoys fifteen times during this reporting period. Results of the operations were thirty-seven mines and boobytraps found and destroyed, twelve culverts and thirteen unpassable sections of the road repaired. Three 5 ton dump trucks ??, one ACAV, one AVLB, one 25 ton trailer and one 5 ton cargo vehicle detonated mines on the road. All the above vehicles were combat losses. Eleven US WIA resulted from the operations.

on the Batangan Peninsula, HL 521, HL 523, HL 524, HL 525 and the Tien Phuoc Road (HL 533).

2. A total of 117 kilometers were tasked to the Battalion; 30 kilometers were completed this reporting period and another 58 kilometers are currently under construction.

(b) Maintenance and Upgrade of QL-1.

1. A 480' steel stringer, concrete slab bridge across the Song Ve River was completed this reporting period. The bridge was officially accepted by GVN at ceremonies on 31 Jul 70.

2. A pothole repair project was completed south of Duc Pho on QL-1.

3. The battalion is currently providing haul support to MCB-10 for overpave operations on QL-1 between Duc Pho and LZ DEBBIE.

(c) Land Clearing Operations.

1. The **39th Engr** Land Clearing Platoon (LCP), attached to the 9th Engr Bn (USMC) Provisional Company returned from the Barrier Island II Operation on 24 May 70. A total of 10,043 acres were cleared during this Operation.

2. On 15 May 70 the **39th Engr** LCP commenced clearing operations in the original Batangan area. Prior to their replacement by the 59th LCC on 9 Jul 70, they cleared 971 acres, found and destroyed 131 bunkers, 230 linear meters of tunnel and 15 mines and boobytraps. Friendly casualties included one US KIA and seven US WIA. Enemy casualties included on KIA and two WIA.

(Continued)

(Continued)

3. Since 9 Jul 70 the 59th LCC has cleared 2,935 acres, found and destroyed 78 bunkers, 1,430 linear meters of tunnels and 40 mines and boobytraps. Casualties as of the end of this reporting period include on US KIA when a dozer overturned, nine US WIA and one RF WIA.

(d) Airfield and Helipad Rehabilitation.

1. The airfield at Tien Phuoc was upgraded to include reworking of the subgrade and the placement and anti-skid painting of new matting.

2. The airfield at Minh Long is currently being repaired to include partial replacement of the existing matting.

3. The 176th Aviation Helipad was rehabilitated. This included stabilization of the subgrade and placement of new matting.

(e) Vertical Construction.

1. The battalion completed repairs for the hospital roof and began construction of a new mess hall for the 23d Med Bn at FSB BRONCO.

2. Support was provided the Americal Division with construction of gunpads at FSB FAT CITY, Tien Phuoc, Minh Long and Chu Lai.

(f) Minesweep Activities.

1. A/**39th Engr** Bn mineswept QL-1 from the Song Ve Bridge (BS696635) to Duc Pho (BS809378) until 1 Jul 70.

2. On 1 Jun 70, a training program was begun, with the **39th Engr** Bn and RF/PF forces conducting joint operations.

3. On 1 Jul 70, minesweep responsibilities from Duc Pho to Mo Duc were assumed by territorial forces. On 27 Jul 70 minesweep responsibilities from Mo Duc to the Song Ve Bridge were assumed by territorial forces.

4. **The 39th Engr Bn** presently has no minesweep responsibilities on QL-1.

(g) The battalion's disposition at the end of the reporting period was as follows.

1. HHC, A Co, C Co, 137 (LE), 522 (PB) - Chu Lai.

2. B Co - LZ DOTTIE.

3. D Co - Tam Ky.

4. 59th LCC - Batangan Peninsula.

(3) Mobile Construction Battalion Seven (MCB-7).

(a) Construction operations during this period consisted of:

1. Taxiway and runway shoulder repairs at Chu Lai West.

2. Repair of bridge at BT226347 damaged by enemy activity on 8 May 70.

3. Repair of the south abutment and decking on the bridge at BS593933 on QL-1.

4. Water well installation at FSB 411 and FSB LIZ.

5. Wiring of the MACV compound and PSB Detention Center in Quang Ngai City.

(Continued)

(Continued)

6. Construction of Autodin facilities at Chu Lai Airbase.
7. Construction of three LST raps at the Chu Lai Sand Ramp.

(b) On 25 Jun 70 the **battalion** completed phased redeployment to CONUS.

9. (C) Engineer

a. Activities for the quarter consisted of the divisional engineer effort being devoted primarily to direct combat support of the division, while non-divisional units devoted primary efforts to the construction of secondary LOC's and operational support construction. One change in engineer troop disposition occurred during this reporting period. CBMU 301 redeployed to the United States in September.

b. LOC Program. During the reporting period paving of QL-1 was completed in the Division TAOI. Maximum horizontal effort remained committed to the construction of tactical and "Farm to Market" roads; and to road opening operations to support tactical convoys.

(1) QL-1

(a) The 26th Engr Bn continued to provide tactical bridge support for restoration of QL-1 within the TAOI.

(b) The **39th Engr Bn** provided expedient maintenance from the II Corps boundary (BS 907150) to Tam Ky (BT 310225). The **battalion** continued construction of concrete headwalls on QL-1 between Binh Son and Duc Pho.

(c) Elements of the 32d NCR completed paving operations north of Tam Ky to the northern AO boundary and paving of the Tam Ky City Streets during this reporting period.

(d) Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 301 continued to provide mineral products for engineer construction until their redeployment 27 Sep.

(2) Secondary LOC's

(a) Increased commitment of engineer effort on the tactical LOC's continued through this reporting period; however, construction was hampered due to heavy rains during Oct. 10 km were completed in the Tactical Road Program to 54 km. 83 km are still under construction.

(b) **The 39th Engr Bn continued to be the primary unit committed to upgrade of secondary LOC's,** with significant contributions being made by the 26th Engr Bn, 103d ARVN Engr Bn and Ministry of Public Works, Quang Ngai Province.

c. Land Clearing

(1) The 26th Engr Bn Land Clearing Team conducted Mo Duc Phase III clearing operations 5-30 Aug in an area west of Mo Duc Village. 957 acres were cleared.

(2) The 26th Engr Bn Land Clearing Team initiated clearing operations in conjunction with road construction operations along the Tra Bong Road on 5 Sep 70. 650 acres were cleared prior to 30 Sep when the operation was suspended due to inclement weather.

(Continued)

(Continued)

(3) Clearing operations on the Batangan continued during this reporting period. On 21 Aug, a 3d platoon joined the 59th Land Clearing Company, a 45th Engr Grp Unit. 11,555 acres were cleared during this reporting period.

d. Airfield Rehabilitation.

(1) Duc Pho. Approximately 60 ft of runway was rehabilitated during this reporting period.

(2) Ha Thanh. On 23 Oct, 32 NCR completed this airfield to Type II, C-123 standards.

(3) Ba To. The 32d NCR completed work on the subgrade of the airstrip at Ba To on 20 Oct. An ARVN transportation unit is presently hauling M8A1 matting to FSB Bronco. The matting will be airlifted to Ba To by CH-54 aircraft.

e. Combat Support.

(1) FSB/LZ Construction. During this reporting period twelve (12) FSB/LZ's were opened. Numerous FSB/LZ's were upgraded during this reporting period.

(2) Minesweep Activities. Transfer of QL-1 minesweep responsibilities to Territorial Forces was completed during this reporting period. Thang Binh District assumed responsibilities on 8 Aug and Duc Pho District on 14 Aug, to complete the turnover. Prior to turnover, the 26th Engr Bn conducted a training program for the respective districts.

(3) Road Opening Operations. During this period HL 529 form Binh Son to Tra Bong was opened to support seven (7) Division/Province Convoys. HL 516/517, from Ngai Hanh to Minh Long was opened once. The 26th Engr Bn provided technical assistance, equipment and material support to the 2d ARVN Engr Bn for a road opening operation to convoy foodstuffs to Hiep Duc. Five (5) DIVARTY/MACV Convoys were constructed from Tien Phuoc to FSB Pleasantville
and New Hau Duc. HL 533 from Tam Ky to Tien Phuoc was opened six (6) times during the reporting period.

f. Engineer operations in the TAOI

(1) 26th Engineer Battalion (Combat)

(a) Combat Engineer Support:

1. LZ Preparation. Twelve (12) LZ/PZ's have been constructed during this period employing engineer A, B, and C teams. C teams utilizing the Case 450 airmobile dozer were employed at five (5) locations and expanded LZ's into fire support bases to support multi-battalion sized operations such as those at FSB Boxer.

2. Minesweeps.

a. Daily minesweep responsibilities were transferred to Territorial Forces in Thang Bing [sic] and Duc Pho on 8 and 14 Aug 70 respectively. Prior to this turnover, A/26 and C/26 conducted extensive training on sweep techniques and demolitions for the District Forces. This training included joint sweep operations for a period of ten (10) days.

(Continued)

(Continued)

3. Operation Elk Canyon. The requirement for engineer support was terminated on 24 Aug 70. During the operation, A/26 supported by MCB-62 maintained Kham Duc Airfield to allow continuous C123 and C130 traffic. Engineer commitments also included protective construction at the Kham Duc Artillery FSB, clearing LZ's and FSB's for the 6th ARVN Regiment, and direct combat support to the 2-1 Infantry Battalion.

(b) Land Clearing:

1. Mo Duc Phase III. This operation was conducted by C/26 during the period 5-30 Aug 79 and was directed at denying use of a known base area for the 38th Local Force Battalion. Totals for the operation included: 957 acres cleared, 190 bunkers and 815 lm of tunnel destroyed, 29 mines/boobytraps found and destroyed and 21 detonated. Casualties were: six (6) US, two (2) PF and one (1) civilian wounded.

2. Tra Bong Route Clearing. Route clearing was initiated by B/26 on 5 Sep 70 and was conducted in conjunction with road construction operations. Clearing was enhance security along HL 529 and to reduce mining incidents directed at US and GVN forces by the 48th Local Force Battalion and local guerrillas. Totals for the operation were: 650 acres cleared, 65 Tm of tunnel destroyed and seven (7) mines and boobytraps found and destroyed. There were no accidental detonations during the operation and no US casualties sustained. On 20 Sep 70, five (5) dozers were employed in a combined cordon and search operation vic An Diem (2) along with elements of **1-52** Inf, Binh Son District Forces and H/17 Cav. During the operation, enemy strongholds were destroyed including 440 lm trenches and tunnels, fifteen (15) spider holes and five (5) mines. On 30 Sep, land clearing operations along the Tra Bong road were suspended due to inclement weather.

(c) Road Construction:

1. Tra Bong (HL 529). D/26 in conjunction with B/103 ARVN Engr Bn continued to upgrade operations of this vital Secondary LOC. During the reporting period 12,620 cu yds of laterite and 8,610 cu yds of 2" (-) baserock were hauled upgrading 11km of road from QL-1 west. In addition, 393 linear ft of CMP were installed. During this period there were 45 mine/boobytrap incidents resulting in two (2) US and seven (7) VN civilian KIA and nine (9) US WIA.

Work has been suspended on this road due to weather.

2. Hawk Hill Access Road. On 24 Sep 70 upgrade of the access road from QL-1 to Hawk Hill was initiated by A/26 supported by HHC, B, C, and D/26 and the 103d ARVN Engineers. A total of 0.85 miles of road have been graded and ditched 2,680 cu yds laterite fill hauled, 420 lin ft of CMP installed and 2,300 cu yds of 6" (-) baserock hauled from Da Nang, placed and compacted. Rock haul was completed on 24 Oct.

(Continued)

(Continued)

3. Tien Phouc - New Hau Duc Road. This 14 km road was completed by D/26 to a Dry Weather standard on 17 Sep and the first convoy to LZ Pleasantville conducted on 21 Sep. Upgrade operations will continue during the monsoon season. On 23 Oct, one (1) platoon D/26 moved from Pleasantville to Tien Phouc to consolidate construction forces. Also on that date, a 23'4" M4T6 Dry Span was airlifted and placed across a break in the Tien Phouc River Bridge to allow resumption of both civilian and limited military traffic. Subsequent to the 1 Oct flood, effort was diverted to assist the 39th Engrs in the repair of HL 533.

4. Duc Hai Road. Construction continued on this Dry Weather pacification road during the reporting period. The 10 km road was completed on 24 Sep 70 by C/26 after hauling 5,330 cu yds of fill, 200 cu yds of rock and installing 264 linear ft of CMP. The completed road has facilitated the rapid development of the Duc Hai new settlement area.

(d) Road Openings:

1. Tra Bong.. Seven (7) Division Province resupply convoys were conducted during this period. B/26 supported each of these convoys with minesweeps and upgrade, as required. Casualties from B/26 include five (5) US KIA and seven (7) US WIA. One (1) CEV and one (1) M48 with mine roller were combat losses due to mining.

2. Minh Long. On 12 Aug 70, C/26 commenced road opening operations from Ngia Hanh to Minh Long. Supported by airmobile equipment from HHC/26 and MCB-62, the road was upgraded to allow passage of a Division convoy on 15 Aug. There were one (1) US KIA and three (3) US WIA during this operation.

3. Hiep Duc. On 2-6 Sep 70, A/26 provided technical assistance and equipment and material support to the 2d ARVN Engr Bn during the road opening and 6 Sep convoy movement to Hiep Duc. This marked the first opening of that road since Nov 69 and provided vital food supplies to the civilians in the area. Assistance by the 1st Engr Bn (Marine) from Ross to the Division AO boundary facilitated the 3 Sep move to Nui Lac Son from which ARVN Engr effort was initiated. There were no incidents.

4. Pleasantville. Beginning with the initial convoy on 21 Sep. D/26 supported with minesweeps and general upgrade five (5) combined DIVARTY/MACV convoys to LZ Pleasantville and to New Hau Duc. These convoys resupplied both US Artillery and VN civilians with necessary ammunition and foodstuffs allowing critical airlift assets be diverted to priority division combat support missions.

5 LZ Young. On 17 Oct, E/26 assisted by D/39 Engr minesweep teams employed two (2) AVLB's to open the road from Tam Ky to LZ Young. This operation was conducted in support of a rapid move to that location by elements of the 1-14 Arty Bn to support combat operations. There were no incidents.

(Continued)

(Continued)

(e) Tactical Bridging Support:

1. On 6 Oct. C/26 supported by E/26 installed a 70 ft DS Bailey Bridge on QL-1 at coordinates BS 685658 to replace a timber bridge that had burned. Removal was conducted on 22 Oct after reconstruction of the timber bridge by the 39th Engr Bn.

2.. On 13 Oct, B/26 initiated bridging operations vic My Lai to support extraction of the 39th Engr personnel and equipment from LZ Minuteman. This operation included the installation of a 45 ft M4T6 Dry Span with trestle bent and a 4-float normal M4T6 raft. The latter was airlifted from Chu Lai on 18 Oct. Rafting operations were completed on 21 Oct and all elements returned to Chu Lai on 24 Oct. Highlight of the operation was the raft movement of two (2) 290M tractor-scraper rated Class 53.

(f) Contingency Operations:

1. Flood Damage/Civilian Relief. On 1 Oct a 19.5 inch rain resulted in the first flood of the year. Due to this, priority battalion operations were directed toward civilian relief, flood damage recon and repair and extraction of the land clearing team from the Tra Bong Road. Assault boats, outboard motors, and operators were dispatched to Binh Son, Tu Nghia and Nghia Hanh and conducted civilian rescue operations for a period of four (4) days.

"First-light" ground recons augmented aerial V/R'2 for early warning of critical areas. Engineer repair teams performed culvert repairs on HL 518,HL 533 and the Liz access road; on (1) 23'4" Dry Span was installed on QL-1 at BS 635804 in support of 39th Engr expedient repair/maintenance operations and general upgrade was conducted on the Duc Hai and Hai Mon Roads, as well as interior roads at all accessible firebases.

2. Typhoon Preparation.

a. On 15 Oct, assigned projects and missions were discontinued due to warnings of Typhoon Joan. Companies prepared for emergency evacuation of the area and emergency rescue/relief missions in accordance with Division OPLAN 17-70 (Typhoon/Tropical Storm Contingency Plan). On this date, B/26 operating in conjunction with H/17 Cav an supported by E/26 conducted an emergency road opening operation to extract the Land Clearing Team from the Tra Bong Road. Operating under adverse weather conditions, and at night in a VC/NVA infested area, this difficult operation was successfully completed without incident and serves as a tribute to the professionalism and competence of all personnel involved.

b. On 24 Oct, preparation were again made, this time for Typhoon Kate and as of this date emergency/evacuation teams and equipment are ready for rapid employment.

(g) Firebase/OP Construction

1. Nui Yon. On 5 Sep, D/26 supported by HHC/26 commenced clearing operations for a Duster position at Nui Yon. The project included clearing for placement of two (2) tracks, and construction of an access road from HL 533 for land resupply. As of this date final gradework is being conducted to maintain the road during the monsoon season.

(Continued)

(Continued)

2. LZ Pleasantville. This project commenced on 5 Aug 70 in support of 3-16 Artillery Bn and suspended on 23 Oct when the D/26 work force was relocated to Tien Phuoc. To date construction has included: seven (7) living bunkers, one (1) FDC, six (6) ammo bunkers, six (6) 155 Howitzer emplacements, one (1) messhall, two (2) helipads and emplacement of tactical wire.

3. Ky Tra. On 19 Oct, B/26 supported by HHC and E/26 commenced clearing operations for the 5-46 Inf Bn forward FSB at Ky Tra. Since initiation the area has been cleared, helipads and gun pads constructed, and tactical wire installed. This FSB provides security for the populated area and fire support for combat operations in the vicinity.

4. During the period 6-12 Oct, B/26 supported by HHC/26 and elements of 1-6 Inf Bn cleared and constructed a berm vic Dai Loc, BS 570014, for a PF outpost. The outpost will provide security for the valley settlements in the area as well as the planned road construction into Stinson.

(h) Firebase Upgrade. Upgrade of existing firebases during this period included bunker construction at West, Siberia, Mary Ann, Liz, Debbie, Hawk Hill and Chu Lai; road construction at Liz, Debbie, Mary Ann, Hawk Hill and helipad repair at Bronco using sand-cement and sand-asphalt stabilization.

(i) Support of Unit Relocation. with the turnover of Bayonet and Artillery Hill to ARVN and the resettlement of the Chu Lai Units, B, D and E/26 have been engaged in relocation of units within the Chu Lai areas. Supporting projects have included rehabilitation of the 198th Inf Bde Hqs, construction of an FDC/TOC for the 1-14 and the 3-18 Artillery Bns, construction of aircraft rearm revetments and refuel pads for the 16th CAG, and assistance in relocating seventeen (17) SEA Huts.

(j) The Battalion's disposition at the end of the reporting period was as follows.

1. HHC, B Co, D Co, E Co - Chu Lai
2. A Co - FSB Hawk Hill
3. C Co - FSB Bronco

3. 39th Engineer Battalion

a. LOC Upgrade.

1. The priority of the battalion continued to be concentrated on LOC's. The majority of the effort was committed to HL 533, HL 521, HL 522, HL 524/523
and HL 525.

2 A total of 123 km were tasked to the battalion. 14 Km (HL 525) were completed during the reporting period and another 54 km are under construction.

(Continued)

(Continued)

b. Maintenance and Upgrade of QL-1.

1. A major repair effort was required during the month of Oct due to the heavy rains received in Southern I MR. During this reporting period, 1,650 meters of washed out shoulders were repaired and upgraded, six (6) bridges repaired, two (2) culverts and headwalls replaced and a multi-culvert complex initiated.

2. The construction of a 60 foot Timber Bent Bridge at bridge 1-B-100 was accomplished in Oct. The bridge was accidently burned by Vietnamese civilians on the night of 5 Oct.

c. Land Clearing Operations.

1. The battalion withdrew its dozers and personnel from the Provisional Land Clearing Company during operation Mo Duc III to prepare for an equipment turnover to the 118th ARVN Land Clearing Company.

2. The 59th Land Clearing Company continued clearing operations on the Batangan Peninsula with 5,176 acres being cleared, 186 bunkers destroyed, 6,505 lin meters of tunnels destroyed, 33 mines and boobytraps were found and destroyed and 15 mines and boobytraps detonated.

d. Airfield and Helipad Rehabilitation.

1. The airfield at FSB Bronco was repaired during Aug. This included the removal of 75 pieces of MX19 matting, the subgrade reworked and the matting replaced.

2. Welding of the airfield matting at Minh Long is still in progress.

3. Five (5) refuel pads for the 178th Assault Helicopter Company at Chu Lai were rehabilitated during the reporting period.

e. Vertical Construction.

1. The battalion completed construction of the messhall for the 23d Med Bn and began construction of a Class 1 Warehouse at FSB Bronco.

2. Living and ammunition bunkers at Tien Phouc were completed during this reporting period.

3. The battalion provided material support and technical assistance for the construction of a TOC bunker at Son Ha District Headquarters.

4. Construction was begun on three (3) bunkers and a latrine for the Tra Bong District Headquarters during this reporting period.

f. Well Drilling Operations. The 49th Well Drilling Detachment completed the drilling of a second well at FSB 411.

g. The battalion's disposition at the end of this reporting period was as follows:

1. HHC, A Co, C Co, 137th (LE), 522 (PB) - Chu Lai
2. B Co - FSB Dottie
3. D Co - Tam Ky
4. 59th Land Clearing Company - Batangan Peninsula

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 23d Infantry Division (Americal), Period Ending 30 April 1971, RCS CSFOR - 65 (R3) (U)

10. (C) Engineer. (1) Activities for the period consisted of the divisional engineer effort being devoted primarily to direct combat support of the division, while non-divisional units devoted primary efforts to the construction of secondary LOC's and operational support construction.

(2) LOC Program

(a) QL-1

1. A major repair effort was required to repair flood damage caused by monsoon rains in November and December. To insure continuous traffic, the 26th Engineer Battalion provided and installed 136 ft of M4T6 dry span, 70 ft of Bailey bridge, and 90 ft of M4T6 float bridge. The **39th Eng**ineer Battalion repaired 11 bridges and installed 9 culverts. During the period Jan - Mar 71, permanent shoulder repair on QL-1 was performed by NCR 32 from the northern AO border to Tam Ky, and from Tam Ky south to the Song Ve River by the 82d ARVN Engineer Battalion.

10. (C) Engineer.

(1) Activities for the period consisted of the divisional engineer effort being devoted primarily to direct combat support of the division, while non-divisional units devoted primary efforts to the construction of secondary LOC's and operational support construction.

(2) LOC Program

(a) QL-1

1. A major repair effort was required to repair flood damage caused by monsoon rains in November and December. To insure continuous traffic, the 26th Engineer Battalion provided and installed 136 ft of M4T6 dry span, 70 ft of Bailey bridge, and 90 ft of M4T6 float bridge. The 39th Eng**ineer Battalion** repaired 11 bridges and installed 9 culverts. During the period Jan - Mar 71, permanent shoulder repair on QL-1 was performed by NCR 32 from the northern AO border to Tam Ky, and from Tam Ky south to the Song Ve River by the 82d ARVN Engineer Battalion.

2. Enemy Interdictions. The enemy interdicted QL-1 by blowing three culverts and damaging three bridges. The culverts were only blown half way across in all cases, the road was immediately passable. Repairs were easily made by the **39th Engr Bn** within three days. Circumstances and the ensuing repairs for each of the damaged bridges are described as follows:

(a) On 25 Dec 70, an enemy sapper unit was detected by PF security forces approaching bridge I-B-90 at BS596927. One VC was killed and a 18"x18"x12" explosive charge was captured. One explosion was set off which lightly damaged a pier column. Approximately 2 ft of concrete flaked off to the steel reinforcing bars. The column was immediately repaired by the **39th Engr Bn.**

(Continued)

(Continued)

(b) On 30 Jan 71, an enemy sapper unit slipped in among PF security forces on bridge I-B-96 at BS642746 and destroyed or damaged four columns located on the same side of a pier. Bridge capacity was reduced to class 30 and traffic was restricted to one lane. Temporary repairs were made by the **39th Engr Bn** by construction of two Bailey piers on either side of the damaged pier. The 26th Engr Bn supported the operation by providing two M4T6 rafts. Repairs were completed on 5 Mar 71. MPW was tasked to conduct permanent repair of the pier and is presently awaiting allocation of funds.

(c) On 25 Feb 71, a timber pile pier on bridge I-B-87 at BT487067 was blown and the adjacent spans dropped, thereby creating a 75 ft gap. On the following day, the 26th Engr Bn installed 90 ft of DS Bailey bridge to open the bridge to traffic. One day later, the 26th Engr Bn installed 315 feet of M4T6 float bridge at the same site, followed by the removal of the Bailey bridge. Beginning 3 Mar 71, the **39th Engr Bn** built a new pier and reconstructed the two spans. Work was completed on 14 Mar 71, at which time the float bridge was removed by the 26th Engr Bn. This was a classic example of two engineer units combining respective capabilities to rapidly solve an enemy interdiction.

(d) Repair of potholes. With the opening of the RMK hot mix plant at Chu Lai in March, the MPW departments of Quang Tin and Quang Ngai provinces conducted a vigorous program in repairing potholes on QL-1. The section of QL-1 from Quang Ngai city south to the MR2 border remains to be accomplished.

(e) Secondary LOC's. Beginning 1 Feb 71, the **39th Engr** Bn initiated its 1971 road construction program, which calls for 85 km of all weather roads. To date about 15 km are complete with the exception of a sand-asphalt surface treatment. The 26th Engineer Bn concentrated on constructing dry weather roads in support of pacification programs in each province. Approximately 33 km of dry weather road have been completed. A more detailed narrative of each road constructed by the 26th Engr Bn may be found in para B(3). Work on Rte 529 to Tra Bong commenced with the 103d ARVN Engr Bn constructing a 63 foot class 30 timber trestle bridge at BS537884.

(3) Land Clearing.

(a) Clearing operations continued in the Batangan by the 59th Land Clearing Company, 118th ARVN Land Clearing Company and the 26th Land Clearing Team. Due to tactical requirements, in support of pacification, the 26th LCT was moved to the Ky My area of Quang Tin Province in early April 71. The 59th LCC then assured the 26th LCT's mission of clearing in the vicinity of LZ Stinson where work is still continuing.

(Continued)

(Continued)

(b) On 25 Jan 71, the 118th ARVN LCC departed to northern MR1 in support of LAMSON 719. On 27 Jan 71, one platoon (10 dozers) of the 59th LCC redeployed to Khe Sanh to provide land clearing support in that area. Upon completion of that mission they were placed in support of the 101st Abn Div and are not expected to return until 15 May 71.

(C) Statistical results by area are indicated below:

AREA	UNIT	ACRES	BNKRS	TRENCHES & TUNNELS(m)	MINES & B/T's	OTHER
Batangan	59 LCC	7,624	77	13,424	78	720 lbs/rice
						20 lbs/salt
	26 LCT	2,118	83	1,013	13	20 lbs/rice
	118 LCC	346	3	590	2	300 lbs/rice
		10,088	163	15,027	93	

AREA	UNIT	ACRES	BNKRS	TRENCHES & TUNNELS(m)	MINES & B/T's	OTHER
Stinson	59 LCC	810	6	2,100	3	
	26 LCT	674	12	25	7	
		1484	18	2,125	10	
Ky My	26 LCT	718	9	250	18	
	TOTAL	12,290	190	17,402	121	1040 lbs/rice
						20 lbs/salt

(4) Airfield Rehabilitation.

(a) Tien Phuoc. Following flood damage at the end of Oct 70, the **39th Engr** Bn conducted extensive repairs of the runway. Damaged matting removed and new matting was installed on the runway and the parking apron. Additionally, the runway ditches were repaired to improve drainage. On three occasions from Feb to Mar 71, the **39th Engr Bn** had to conduct welding repairs on matting that had become loose.

(b) Tra Bong. The airfield was closed by the **39th Engr** Bn 1-14 Jan 71 for repairs. Potholes in the runway and parking apron were filled with a soil cement mixture accompanied by welding repairs on 9-11 April 71.

(c) Tam Ky. A soft spot was repaired by the **39th Engr Bn** in Nov 70.

(d) Minh Long. Welding repairs were made by the **39th Engr Bn** in Nov 70.

(e) Ha Thanh. During the period 1 Nov 70 - 21 Jan 71, NCR-32 resurfaced
the airfield with M8A1 matting. From 11-18 April 71, the 2d ARVN Engineers conducted welding repairs.

(Continued)

(Continued)

(f) Ba To New. NCR 32 constructed a new airfield at this location during the period 16 Oct 70 to 16 Mar 71. Difficulties due to weather and transportation problems impeded progress.

(g) Duc Pho. In Dec 70, the 26th Engr Bn repaired several soft spots under the runway and parking apron.

(5) 26th Engr Bn Operations.

a. Combat Engineer Support.

(1) Minesweeping.

(a) Daily minesweeping of Liz, Fat City, Hawk Hill, and the Sniper Range access roads continued. With training provided by B/26, the responibility for the daily sweep of the Liz access road was turned over to the 1/20 Inf on 6 April.

(b) In support of division and province convoys, B/26 periodically swept route 529 from Binh Son to Tra Bong, and D/26 assisted the **39th Engr Bn** in the sweep of route 533 from Tam Ky to Tien Phuoc. Additional minesweeps were conducted by B/26 on the Stinson access road to resupply the 59th LCC, and on the Ky My road to resupply the 26th LCT.

(c) In conjunction with the 26th Engr Bn's road construction program, minesweeps were conducted each morning on the Nui Lac Son to Center road, the Ky My road, the Tien Phuoc to Pleasantville road, and the Stinson road.

(2) LZ Preparation. Engineer Alpha and Bravo LZ/PZ preparation teams cleared three LZ's at Nui Don Da (BT282120), Annette (AT965476), and Hill 510 (AT945405). Two more LZ's are now in progress at Hill 350 (AT812 757) and Hill 848 (BS417925). All of the above LZ's were swept for mines and booby traps and the surrounding area cleared for fields of fire.

(3) Tactical Wire Installation. From 5-18 Nov 70, E/26 installed 800 meters of the 23d Inf Div's improved tactical wire system to strengthen the perimeter in Subsector IV. From 24-25 Jan 71, E/26 with personnel support from B/26, D/26 and the 198th Inf Bde installed 1000 meters of tactical wire around the beach POL farm. In February, D/26 installed 2200 meters of tactical wire around the other POL farm at the south end of the post and installed 1100 meters of chain link fence around the Chu Lai power plant. An additional 2100 meters of tactical wire were installed around the battalion's perimeter by D/26.

b. Land Clearing.

(1) Phase I - Batangan. During this operation from 14 Nov to 22 Dec 70, the 26th LCT cleared 706 acres, and destroyed 167 meters of tunnels 490 meters of trenches, 20 fighting positions, and 16 bunkers. Dozers detonated 9 anti-personnel mines.

(Continued)

(Continued)

(2) Phase II - Batangan. Following a maintenance stand down, the 26th LCT returned to the Batangan during the period 7 Jan to 21 Feb 71, and cleared 1,412 acres. Sixty seven bunkers, 4 fighting positions, 306 meters of tunnels, and 50 meters of trenches were destroyed. Fourteen anti-personnel mines were detonated.

(3) Stinson. In conjunction with road building, 26th LCT cleared 674 acres during the period 11-30 Mar 71. Twelve bunkers and 25 meters of tunnels were destroyed. Seven anti-personnel mines were detonated.

(4) Phase I - Ky My. To support the construction of three PF outposts, the 26th LCT cleared 204 acres from 4 to 8 Mar 71. No enemy positions were found. Eight anti-personnel mines were detonated.

(5) Phase II - Ky My. Returning to Ky My on 6 April 71, the 26th LCT began clearing the priority one area of the 1971 land clearing program. Statistics on this operation will be reflected in the next ORLL report.

c. Road Construction.

(1) Center Access Road. From 15 Feb to 28 Mar 71, A/26 upgraded 15 km of dry weather road from Ross to Center. A thirty foot 60" CMP was installed between Ross and Nui Lac Son. Two small bridges were redecked with PSP and a 50 foot timber bridge was built between Nui Lac Son and Center. One and one half kms of new road were constructed up the side of the mountain to the fire base. On 4 April 71, equipment and supplies belonging to the 3-21 Inf were extracted using this road.

(2) HL 586 - Ky My Road. To support pacification and resettlement in Quang Tin Province, A/26 upgraded 10 km of dry weather road on HL 586 to the vicinity of BT182221 and constructed two access roads to PF OP's on Hills 35 and 173. A 90 ft DS Bailey bridge was built at BT263253 to bypass a damaged Eifel bridge. Work continues on repairing the Eifel bridge.

(3) HL 527 - Stinson Road. During the period 16 Feb to 4 April 71, B/26 upgraded 10 km of dry weather road to Stinson. On 48" and eight 36" CMP culverts were installed. Progress was greatly hampered by enemy mining and sniper activity.

(4) HL 518. Between 5 Nov and 24 Dec 70, B/26 repaired HL 518 to FSB 411 for division convoys. One 48" CMP culvert was installed, pot holes were repaired, and the road was ditched and crowned.

(5) HL 525. During the period 8 to 28 Feb 71, B/26 repaired HL 525 in the Batangan to support resupply of the 26th LCT. One 48" CMP culvert was installed and 973 cubic yards of laterite were spread and compacted.

d. Tactical Bridging Support.

(1) QL-1. During the month of November, two tropical storms flooded the division area and washed out a number of bridges on QL-1. Throughout the month, E/26 was tasked to perform bridging missions. On 1 Nov 70, E/26 installed a 38'4" fixed span at bridge #104 and a 23'4" fixed span at bridge #105. E/26 supported C/26 on 4 Nov by building a 70'DS Bailey at bridge #99C. On 9 Nov, E/26 installed a 45' fixed span at bridge 99C. Also on the same day, E/26 removed the 38'4" fixed span at bridge #104. The following day E/26 removed the 70' DS Bailey and the 45' fixed span at bridge #99C. On 28 Nov, E/26 installed a six float normal M4T6 at bridge #106. On 4 Dec, this float bridge was removed. On 31 Dec, a 30' fixed span was placed at bridge #88. On 25 Feb, E/26 provided personnel and technical assistance to B Co for the construction of a 90' DS Bailey at bridge #87. On 27 Feb, E/26 with

(Continued)

(Continued)

elements of D/26 and B/26 constructed a 315' M4T6 float bridge at the same site and then removed the 90' DS Bailey. The float bridge was removed on 14 Mar 71.

(2) HL 529. A 60' DS Bailey was installed at BS537883 on the 26th of Dec to facilitate construction of a timber bridge by the 103d ARVN Engr Bn. The mission was accomplished by a combined force of E/26 and one plt from the 103d ARVN Engrs. This bridge was removed by the 103d ARVN Engr Bn on 16 March. On 6-8 April, E/26 and the 103d ARVN Engr Bn installed four dry spans to open the road for a division convoy on 10 April 71.

(3) HL 586. A 90' DS Bailey was installed at BT263253 by E/26 and A/26 to bypass a damaged Eifel bridge.

e. Fire base/OP Construction.

(1) LZ Marge. From 16-27 Jan 71, A/26 reopened LZ Marge. The project included clearing field of fire, digging a communications trench, preparing four gun pads, and constructing a helipad and a lookout pad.

(2) LZ Professional. The project commenced 21 April with B/26 providing the effort. To date construction has included 8 living bunkers, an ammo bunker, 5 gun pads, and aid station, and an interior road. Work is still in progress.

(3) During the period Dec 70 to Feb 71, C/26 constructed seven OP's at Legionnaire, Warrior, Woodstock, Wink, Pax, Frag, and Patty for eventual turnover and occupation by PF forces. Engineer effort consisted of pushing up defensive berms, laying tactical wire, and building and installing bunkers.

(4) Fire base Upgrade. Upgrade of existing fire bases during this period included bunker construction at West Siberia, Maryanne, San Juan Hill, and Dottie and interior road construction at Liz, Fat City, Bronco, and Hawk Hill.

(5) Mess Hall and Shower Point Construction. In Dec 70, a survey was conducted to examine mess hall facilities at all the fire bases in the division's TAOI. Results showed that a number of these facilities had deteriorated or were non-existent. As a result, five 20'x64' bunker halls were constructed at Stinson, Ky Tra, Center, Maryanne, and West; and four above ground 40'x60' mess halls were built at Dottie, Liz, 411 and San Juan Hill. In addition, seven showers were built at West, Maryanne, Dottie and Stinson

(2), Liz and 411. One shower remains to be installed at San Juan Hill.

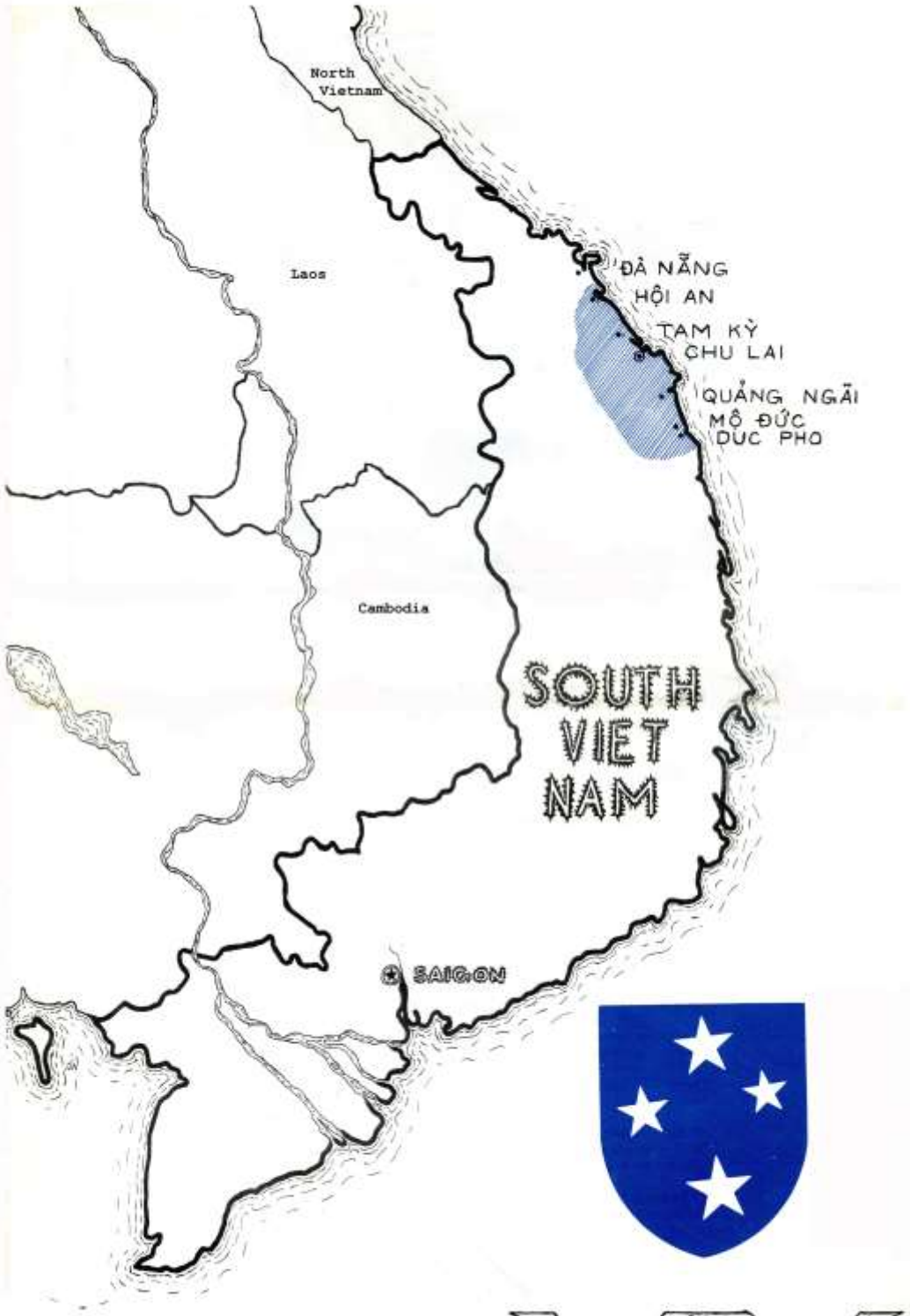
(6) Refuel/Rearm Points. To support Division and ARVN operations in the western portion of the AO, rearm/refuel points were constructed at Rawhide, Tra Bong, Tien Phuoc refuel point and Minh Long (Rearm point) Scope of these projects included building four 20'x22' helipads at each point, an ammo bunker for the rearm point, and three to four 30'x35' berms for the POL bladders.

f. The Battalion disposition at the end of the reporting period was as follows:

(1) HHC, B Co, D Co, E Co, - Chu Lai.

(2) A Co, - Camp Purdue, Da Nang.

(3) C Co. - FSB Bronco



This map was printed in the first issue of the Americal Division's "Southern Cross" newspaper in May 1968.

The Americal AO

After September 1969 the Marine boundary was shifted south to give the Marines LZ Baldy and LZ Ross. Then After April 1971 the Marines left I Corps, leaving the Americal to defend Da Nang and areas in Thua Thien and Quang Tri provinces.

What has not been done:

A nearly complete set of ORLL reports exists for the 39th Engineers. These are available at the 39th Engineer alumni web-site.

It appears that the 59th Land Clearing Company was part of the 39th Engineers at times. There may be parts of a 27th Engineer Battalion yearbook with some photos of these men in our files.

A list of men who lost there lives serving with the 39th Engineers can be printed with their date of casualty and location of there death (in Most cases). This is not in the compilation document.

An example of the Division S2/S3 reports for May 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971 was appended to this document. All 50 months could be done; however this might require a two month effort to complete.

The Americal Division ORLL reports could be worked to explain some of the 39th Engineer missions. In addition there are Operation reports that can be reviewed to gain some similar knowledge. Americal Division Daily Newsheets had few entries regarding the 39th Engineers, but the Daily Newsheets may be used to get a weather report for most days if this is desired.

The 39th Engineers supported units other than the Americal Division at different times. Some of the reporting for these other units may be in the ADVA database or the Texas Tech. University Vietnam Center Archives.

The Americal Division Veteran's Association obtained the 50 months of Americal Division S2/S3 Daily Tactical Operations Center reports from the National Archives in a five year effort. An additional five years was spent transcribing the documents so they are computer searchable. These documents are currently being shared with many veterans. Copies reside online at the AmericalFoundation.ORG web-site and also at the Americal Division portal at the online Vietnam Archives maintained by Texas Tech. University. Eight months was spent making a spreadsheet that can filter out entries by unit.

The filters are only set up for May 1968, May 1969, May 1970 and May 1971. I have inserted here examples of what might be related to the Division S2/S3 reports for 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat):

Filtered Americal Division S2/S3 example entries for May 1968:

Unit	company	Date	Entry	Text
39 Eng	C	680501	64	39th, C-39, BS728556 at 1805H recd 7 rds of sniper fire. Retd fire- contd to CP. NCD.
39 Eng	D	680502	29	39th Engr, D-Co vic BT300206 at 1155H flank security apprehended suspect at construction site, No ID, had a 105mm rd. Turned over to MACV, dest rd
39 Eng	C	680502	47	39th Engr, C-39, BS723575 at 1730H. Informant turned in 11 M-16 AP mines, 1 M-26 HG, 2 40mm Grenades. Blown in place.
39 Eng	D	680503	14	39th Engr. D-Co vic BT285197 at 0855H flank Security found 1 x 105mm rd. not BT or buried, blew in place
39 Eng	D	680503	47	39th, Engr D-Co vic BT296200 at 1345H VN turned in 4 x 105mm rds , dest in place
39 Eng	D	680505	168	39th Engr, D-Co vic BT284199 at 1055H VN boy turned in 1 x 105mm rd, dest
39 Eng	C	680506	102	39th Engr, C-39, BS719594 at 1730H jeep and low bed front loader ambd fm both sides of Hwy #1, by est 30 VC. Est 10-20 M-79 rds. 1 WHA, Vehicles had slight dam.
39 Eng	C	680507	27	39th Engr, C- Co vic BS730554 at 0845H VN turned in the following ammo: 2 x 4.2 mortars, 2 x 40mm rds, 2 x M26 HG, all ammo was dest in place, unit also rec'd SA sniper fire, neg cas. continued mine sweep
39 Eng	B	680507	60	S2 39th Engr, B-Co vic BS632817 at 1030H VN turned in the following ammo: 3 x 81mm rds, 6 x 60mm rds, 1 x 3.5 rd, 32 x M26 HG's, 1 x Claymore, 1 lb TNT all dest
39 Eng	B	680508	22	39th Engr, B-Co vic BS632817 vic 0930H VN turned in following ammo: 1 x 105mm rd, 5 x 81mm rds, 4 x 60mm rds, 4 x claymore mines, 13 x 40mm rds, 21 x M26 HG's. all dest
39 Eng	C	680508	46	39th Engr, C-Co vic BS712593, 719574, 715595 ambushed from both sides of road, returned fire. 2 US WHA (E), APC's sent by 11th Bde
39 Eng	B	680509	70	39th, B-39th, BT285199 at 1400 young VN boy found 2 105 rds, 2 rkt lnchr pads, also 2 60mm rds. Blown in place: left hole 8'deep
39 Eng	B	680510	48	B-39 Engr. BS632817 at 1730H VN civ turned in fol: 1 105mm rd, 3 60mm rds, 4 HG, 1 40mm rd. All dest.
39 Eng	D	680510	49	D-39 Engr, BT284199, VN cib [sic] turned in fol: 1 8"shell, 22 105mm HE, 1 105mm WP rd, 5 57mm RR rds, 6 60mm Rds, 1 60mm WP, 1 60mm Illum, 7 Chicom made 60mm, 52 US made 60mm, 11 M79 rds, 1 M26 HG, 2 homemande VC HG. All dest.
39 Eng	D	680511	105	39th Engr, D-39, BT284199 at 1700H exp turned in: 1 Chicom 60mm rd, 1 WP 60mm rd, 5 TNT 60mm rds, 1 M79 rd, 1 57mm RR rd. Blown in place. BT293195.

39 Eng	D	680511	106	39th Engr, D-39th, BS633808 at 1730H B-6 and B-6A recd 15-20 rds SA fire fm BS631801. NCD. Retd to CP, scty ele searched area w/neg res.
39 Eng	All	680513	13	39th Engr, B-Co vic BS611900 at 0845: ??????? 1 PF badly wounded on road during mine sweep. Treated and called dust off, mine sweep continued
39 Eng	B	680514	3	S2 39th Engr, B-Co vic BS623865 at 0702H bridge blown during the night, by pass OK
39 Eng	D	680515	55	39th Engr, D Co vic BT291198, at 1630H VN turned in ammo: 1 x 105mm Rd 10x40mm rds all destroyed
39 Eng	C	680516	50	39th Eng C-39 vic BS728556 at 1330 VN farmer detonated mine in field, treated and evac.
39 Eng	D	680517	64	39th Eng D-39th vic BT282198 at 1540H found by VN Civ, 3xM79 & 105mm fuse, all blown in place
39 Eng	C	680518	20	39th Engr C-39 Engr vic BS717595 at 0730H recd approx 20 rds of sniper fire, returned 200 50 Cal rds, 400 rds M14 continued mission
39 Eng	C	680518	78	39th Engr, C-39, BS717593 at 1745H Veh C-21 det command detonated mine, approx 4 lb. Al- so recd SA fire. NCD.
39 Eng	B	680519	6	39th Engr B-39th Engr vic BS635852 at 0240H recd SA fire from BS625862, returned SA fire neg Cas, Neg Res.
39 Eng	C	680519	9	39th C-39th Engr vic BS717595 at 0730H recd S/A fire from BS724598, returned S/A & AW. Neg Cas or Res
39 Eng	C	680519	10	39th Engr, C-39th vic BS717593 at 0800H found 3 trenches cut across road. 4xpiles of rubbish on road. Swept with mine detector and repaired road.
39 Eng	C	680519	73	C-39 Engr, BS714617 at 1845H recd 16 rds SA fire. Neg cas.
39 Eng	B	680520	16	39th Engr B-39th Engr vic BS614895 at 0850H individual turned himself in to B-39th Engr. Engr turned him over to MP's of 4-3.
39 Eng	C	680520	29	39th Engr C-39th Engr 100 meters north of 1sllJ found mud and brush barricade – 2-3ft high across roadqay 75 meters north of 1S11J (BS673680) found mud and brush barricade same as above. 20 meters north of 1s11J found 105mm Rds and 1 Chinese Stick Hand Grenade on side of road- both duds. 10 meters north of 1S11J found trench 2 ½ ft deep by 1 ½ feet wide dug in fm both shoulders of road. 10 meters south of 1S11J found trenches same as above. 100m south of 1S11J fd mud brush barricade same as others. At 1S11J found 1-55mm rd with Bamboo pressure Firing device Battery Power on east shoulder of road. 250 meters north IS11J found rock formation ¾ circle with line of rock coming out of it. ACTION(S) TAKEN: Removed Barricade. filled in trenches with existing fill. Remove 155rd, also 105 rd and stick grenade. Swept compete area to include bypass. Contined M/S. noticed at each obstacle enemy signs and messages fd. Also a 3 ft leaf with 3 inch circle cut in center of each. 150 meters south of 1S11J found 2 bamboo stakes with slit cut in them. And enemy propaganda stakes
39 Eng	All	680520	60	CLDC, Bunker 750, 35th Engr. BT528037 at 1920H recd 2 rds SA fire fm BT526034. [sic? 39th Engr]
39 Eng	C	680523	46	39th Engr C-39th Engr vic BS717593 at 0815 fd BT firing device attached to 4.2 mtr rd buried in road. camf. removed BT and destroyed
39 Eng	B	680523	55	S-2 39th Engr vic BS605913 at 0940H Local VN told B-39th Engr minesweep team where VC's mines were supposedly located. placed charges on suspected mine locations & blew. 1xsecondary blast from suspected AP mine.
39 Eng	D	680523	56	S-2 39th Engr D-39th Engr vic BT256185 at 0925H 1xARVN soldier set off 60mm AP mine app 50 meters from the road, he was pulling security for D-39th, called medivac, ARVN WHA (E)
39 Eng	C	680523	59	39th C-39th Engr vic BS724572 at 231015H recd 10xrds of sniper fire, returned 200xrds 50 Cal, 25xrd m*14, continued mine sweep
39 Eng	C	680523	75	39th Engr C-39th Engr vic BS725547 at 1115H VN turned in 1x155mm, blew in place
39 Eng	D	680523	80	39th Engr D-39th Engr vic BT258188 at 1100H recd sniper fire from BT255195, 1xrd hit vehicle fuel tank, neg explosion, returned fire, neg cas. minor damage to vehicle (5 ton truck)

39 Eng	C	680524	29	39th Engr, C-39th vic BS717596 at 0820H fd 1x105mm mine on side of road. Removed fireing device and blew in place.
39 Eng	D	680524	48	39th Engr D-39th Engr vic BT258188 at 0920H 5 ton hit a mine, 2 WHA (E), minor dam to truck. Also recd sniper fire, secured area and called medivac.
39 Eng	C	680524	86	39th, Engr, C-39, BS717593 at 1720H recd 10 rds SA fire and 3 M-79 rds. Retd w/100 rds M-60 and 40 rds M-14 and 10 rds M-79. NCD.
39 Eng	All	680525	28	39th Engr B-39th Engr vic BS613895 at 0830H fd 2 road blocks and trenches dug under road block. removed road blocks and filled trenches and continued mission.
39 Eng	C	680526	16	39th Engr C Co vic BS717597 at 0730H recd sniper fire from BS727603. Returned AW fire, Neg Cas or Dam, continued mine sweep
39 Eng	D	680526	34	S-2 9th D-39th Engr vic BT105506 at 0830H recd 15 rds sniper fire from west side of rd, returned fire, continued mine sweep
39 Eng	C	680526	57	39th, C-39, BS719597 at 0925H recd 3 rds of sniper fire. Retd w/45 rds 7.62 ball and 7 rds 7.62 link. Contd roadsweep.
39 Eng	HQ	680526	58	39th, Hq-39, BT533039 at 1615H while engaging in horseplay a Sp/4 Donald W. Fenwick (RA5267499) lacerated a Sp/4 Richard T Demoss. (US54664011) on middle forearm, cutting an artery. Demoss was given 1st Aid at 39th aid station, treated for shock, and medivaced
39 Eng	C	680527	33	39th Engr C-39th Engr vic BS717596 at 0815H recd sniper fire from BS7260 1xWHA (E) returned fire w/unk res.
39 Eng	C	680527	34	39th Engr C-39th vic BS718597 at 0710H recd SA fire from BS721598, returned fire w/neg Cas or res.
39 Eng	C	680527	53	39th Engr, C-29th Engr vic BS718597 at 1125H recd sniper fire fm coord BS721599, returned fire and cont mission
39 Eng	B	680527	74	39th Engr B-39th Engr, vic BS630825 at 1630H VN turned in following ammo: 2xChicom HG's 2x81mm, 2x60mm, all destroyed
39 Eng	C	680528	44	39th Engr C-Co vic BS726600 at 0740H recd sniper fire fm BS717600, did not return fire as frndly in area. cont'd mission
39 Eng	A	680528	45	39th Engr A Co vic BT549017 at 0845H during minesweep through village of Nuoc Mau, a VN handed a sealed envelope to NCOIC. Given to S-2, 39th Engr, Sent to 198th Bde, contained intel info of VC in vic SW of LZ Bayonet
39 Eng	C	680529	18	39th Engr C-39th vic BS717595 at 0800H recd SA fire fm BS720595 1 WHA (E), returned fire continued mine sweep 2d ARVN notified
39 Eng	C	680529	83	39th Engr, C-39, BS718592 at 1720H recd 2 rds sniper fire. Cont'd opns. NCD. Passed to 2d ARVN.
39 Eng	C	680530	26	39th Engr, C-39th vic BS719598 at 0915H recd sniper fire fm BS729600, also several rds of AW fire, returned fire. 5/7 element still firing 90mm recoilless Rifle. frndly firing 60mm at this time. NCD as of yet, no res. (5/7th element; hvy equip platoon fm 84th Engr) 1130: contact broke
39 Eng	C	680530	39	39th C-39th vic BS719598 at 1330H recd sniper fire 9 rds fm BS729600, returned fire & continued mission
39 Eng	C	680530	86	39th Engr, C-39, BS719597 at 1755H recd 15 rds sniper fire fm BS729600 as scty was being pulled out. 1 ARVN WHA(e). Retd w/SA/AW and arty.
39 Eng	C	680531	17	39th Engr C-39th vic BS717596 at 301415H recd sniper fire, driver got excited, Res: vehicle turned over at culvert site at above coord an pinned 2 US under it in the water. Res: 2 KHA
39 Eng	D	680531	34	39th Engr D-39th vic BT243178 at 1025H 5 ton truck hit a mine 30lb pressure detonate on sholder of road. minor dam to vehicle, 2 WHA (E), blew off one set of rear duel wheels

Filtered Americal Division S2/S3 example entries for May 1969:

Unit	sub_unit	Date	**Entry**	Text
39 Eng	D	690501	**7**	(C) D/39th Engr, Sgt Eaton, BS681657 at 2030H EM on bunker guard rec'd 1xrd SAF which damaged rifle. Fire returned w/neg assessment. (Infor only)
39 Eng	D	690502	**7**	(C) D/39th Engr, Sgt Eaton, BS681657 at 2030H EM on bunker guard rec'd 1xrd SAF which damaged rifle. Fire returned w/neg assessment. (Infor only)
39 Eng	B	690502	**18**	(U) 39th Engr, SP Waytt. B/39th, BS638757 at 0840H fnd mine. Dest. (Info only)
39 Eng	D	690503	**6**	(C) 39th Engr, Sgt Eaton, D/39th, BS681657 at 021815H investigated VN civ at perimeter wire. VN fled. VN Civ returned to same location 10 min later & was dtn & searched. Another VN approached & was also dtn. Both turned over to MACV. (Info only).
39 Eng	*All	690506	**12**	(U) 39th Engr, Sgt Eaton. B/39th, BS631819 at 0715H fnd 1xM-16A1 mine in Korean compound w/pressure firing device. Dest. (Info only)
39 Eng	B	690509	**15**	(U) 39th Engr, Sgt Eaton. B/39th, BS632816 at 0730H smoke gren possible B/T fnd 2xft inside of the W end of culvert. Dest. (Info only)
39 Eng	C	690510	**35**	(U) 39th Eng, Sgt Eaton, C/39th Engr, BS708608 at 0845H. D-7 dozer det a M-16 pressure type mine. Res: neg cas. The stabilizer bar was broken. (Info only)
39 Eng	B	690511	**11**	(U) 39th Engr, Sgt Eaton, B/39th Engr, BS629832 at 0700H. Fnd mine field 400m long consisting of cement blocks & cans full of dirt, dest. (Info only)
39 Eng	B	690512	**19**	(U) 39th Engr, Sgt Eaton, B/39th Engr, BS629832 at 0705H. Fnd 1xculvert blown. Road is open to 1xlane traffic. Filled crater & continued mine sweep. Passed to CSIC: SFC Cornett.
39 Eng	C	690512	**36**	(C) 39th Engr, Sgt Eaton, C/39th Engr, BS705618 at 0240H. 1st plat, C Co 39th Engr was penetrated by est 25xVC. Satchel charges dest 1xbunker. SAF rec & rtn. Res: 11xVC KIA, 3xUS KIA, 6xUS WIA(E), 3xUS WIA(M). Sgt Eaton-updated report at 1130H. Confirmed body count is 23 VC KIA w/3 dtn. Evac to LZ Bronco by 2d ARVN elements. 3xAK-47 CIA, 1xAK-50 CIA, 1x38 cal US pistol & 1xflare pistol CIA. Cas break: B/1-82 ARty 2xUS WIA(E), C/39th Engr 3xKIA, 6xWIA(E). Confirmed by 11th Bde, Sgt Otto.
39 Eng	R	690512	**37**	(U) 26th Engr, Sgt Serna, R/Engr at 0807H. Culvert blown at BS584953. Blown completely across; road is passable. Culvert blown at BS627836, but passable. Passed to CSIC, SFC Cornett.
39 Eng	C	690512	**68**	(U) 39th Engr, Sgt Eaton, C/39th Engr, BS591939 at 0810H. 48th culvert compl dest. Road is passable, Notified: CSIC.

39 Eng	A	690513	**32**	(U) 39th Engr, Sgt Rulbe, A/39th Engr, BS628834 at 0650H. Culvert blown 3xcraters used approx 30 to 40 TNT sticks, each crater 3xft deep & 6 to 8 ft in dia. Res: filled & packed, rd open to 1xway traffic. (Info only)
39 Eng	A	690513	**33**	(U) Sgt Rulbe, A/39th Engr, BS626838 at 0150H. Fnd mine in middle of road approx 4 to 5 lbs of ammonia nitrate w/electric pressure type bamboo firing device wrapped in plastic, dest. (Info only)
39 Eng	C	690514	**67**	(U) 39th Engr, Sgt Ruble, C/39th Engr, BS708068 at 1615H. Rec 16 rds 60mm mort on east side of their loc, arty fired w/unk res. (Info only)
39 Eng	*All	690515	**44**	(U) 39th Engr, MSG Rupa, D/29, BS676678 at 0830H. Fnd 1x81mm mort rd rigged as mine, dest.
39 Eng	C	690516	**12**	(U) 39th Engr, SP Wyatt, C/39th Engr, BS728617 at 151915H May 69. Rec 1x82mm mort, fired 12xrds 105mm arty at susp en pos w/NCD.
39 Eng	C	690517	**77**	(C) 39th Engr, PFC Irwin, 39th Engr, 2210H, 3/C/39th Engr, at LZ Snoopy (BS705613). Obsr 1xVC, fired illum and SA, neg assessment. 2000H, D/39th Engr, LZ Goldie (BS680658). Rec incoming, 2x60mm mort, fr BS673668, NCD. (Info only).
39 Eng	D	690518	**17**	(U) 39th Engr, Sgt Rulke, D/39th Engr, at 2000H. Eagle Nest spotted mort tube at BS673668. Rec 2x60mm mort rds. Called arty on pos, w/unk res. (Info only).
39 Eng	C	690518	**18**	(U) 39th Engr, Sgt Rulke, C/39th Engr, BS720587 at 0910H. Lambretta hit mine in road. Res: 3xVN KIA and 5xWIA (E). (Info only).
39 Eng	D	690518	**25**	(U) 39th Engr, Sgt Rulke, D/39th, BS675675 ay 0800H. 2nd plat fnd 8xmines placed in culvert 500 meters south bride 411. Mines were homemade out of ammo boxes w/approx 40 lb TNT. Dest. (Info only).
39 Eng	B	690518	**28**	(U) 39th Engr, Sgt Rulbe, B/Engr, BS628834 at 0710H. Culvert blown, approx 75 lbs ammonia nitrate. Road passable to 1xway traffic. Passed to CSIC. (Info only).
39 Eng	A	690519	**2**	(C) 11th Bde, Sgt Winkler, A/39th Engr, LZ Goldie, BS680658 at 0130H. Rec 4x60mm mort rds & SAF fr the S w/NCD.
39 Eng	D	690519	**19**	(U) 39th Engr, SP Wyatt, D/39th Engr, BS682658, 0200H. (1) Eagle Nest reported 25xpersonnel 400m N of their loc. Neg identification of personnel. (2) D/39 Engr, 0145H, BS682658, rec 6x60mm mort & 3xRPG rds, 1xrd hit motor pool, 81xmort fired CB, neg cas w/light dam. (Info only).
39 Eng	A	690521	**24**	(U) 39th Engr, SP Dixson, A/39th Engr, BS719589 at 0835H. Fnd 1xmine on S mine sweep. Loc of mine 8' W of center line. 30 lbs, dest. (Info only).
39 Eng	C	690524	**61**	(U) 11th Bde, Sgt Winkler, C/39th Engr, BS705613, LZ Snoopy at 1830H to 1845H. LZ Snoopy rec 4xrds 82mm mort. NCD.
39 Eng	*All	690528	**19**	(U) 39th Engr, Sgt Ruple, BS719588 at 0840H. Disc mine in middle of QL-1, est 30 lbs w/bamboo electric firing device & wrapped in plastic. Destroyed. Passed to CSIC. (Info only).
39 Eng	C	690528	**88**	(C) 11th Bde, SP Craig, B/1-82 Arty, BS705613. En: BS726616 at 1955H. Rec 4-8xrds of RPG & 3xrds 82mm mort and 1xrd 60mm mort. Res: 4xWIA, 1xtrk rec hvy dam (arty), 1xtrk rec light dam (arty). 3xUS WIA (E) = 2 fr B/1-82 and 1 fr c/39th Engr. 1xWIA (M) fr C/39th Engr, D/O compl 2003H. Notified: III MAF, CPL Stanton.

Filtered Americal Division S2/S3 example entries for May 1970:

Unit	sub_unit	Date	Entry	Text
39 Eng	HHC	700502	31	39th Engr, Sgt Male, HHC/39th Engr, BT147514 at 0905H. D-7E det 1xM-26 H/gren B/T w/pressure type firing device w/NCD. (Info only)
39 Eng	All	700505	46	39th Engr, Sgt Male, Mine Sweep Tm, BS575971 at 0700H. A mine sweep tm between here & LZ Dottie was stopped by a civ on QL #1 who said that Chu Lai was to get hit tonight. It was 2xVN females fr a vil N of LZ Gator. Ntfy CLDC, CPT Boyd. (See Entry #74)
39 Eng	All	700505	74	39th Engr, Sgt Male, Mine Sweep Tm, Ref DJ entry #46. Coord should read: BS632861, LZ should read: LZ Dottie.
39 Eng	C	700508	70	39th Engr, Sgt Snelling, C/39th Engr, BS756492 at 0730H. Fnd a culvert blown W side of road. Crater was 3'x3'. One lane traffic on E side. The culvert is currently being repaired. Ntfy Convoy Control, Sp Clark.
39 Eng	C	700508	71	39th Engr, Sgt Snelling, C/39th Engr, BS758489 at 0730H. Fnd a culvert blown. Crater was 2' in dia on the shoulder of road. Road is passable on both lanes. The road was cracked & buckled but passable. Will repair minor dam. Ntfy Convoy Control, Sp Clark.
39 Eng	D	700510	48	39th Engr, Sgt Snelling, D/39th Engr, BT291198 at 0930H. One PF det an unk type B/T w/pressure type firing device set up at OP manned by PF's. Res: 1xPF KIA. (Info only)
39 Eng	B	700511	15	39th Engr, Sgt Male, B/39th Engr, BS623759 at 0750H. Mine sweep Tm on 5 B fnd a 36" culvert blown w/est 30xlb charge. 1/4 & 3/4 ton veh can presently pass obstacle. Laterite is being hauled to the area to fill the blown culvert. Ntfy Convoy Control, Sgt Clark.
39 Eng	HHC	700512	57	39th Engr, LT Primose, HHC/39th Engr, BT180501 at 1500H. D-7E det 1x40xlb box mine. Res: 1xUS WIA(E). D-7E is a compl loss. (Info only)
39 Eng	D	700518	19	39th Engr, Sgt Male, D/39th Engr, BT294233 at 0700H. Ref DJF entry #10, 18 May 70. Rec 5x122mm rkts which landed 300m outside the compound at Tam Ky w/NCD.
39 Eng	HHC	700519	25	(DELAYED) 196th Bde, Sgt Lescault, HHC/39th Engr, BT230462 at 181725H May 70. TRUCE VIOLATION. While on land clearing op, rec SAF. Rtn SAF & D-7 bulldozer ran over 4xVC in spider holes. Res: 3xVC killed by bulldozer, 2xVC KIA & 1xVC CIA. (Info only). Ntfy XXIV Corps, Sgt Gallagos at 1130H. (See DSJ #24 20MAY70)
39 Eng	HHC	700520	24	39th Engr, Sgt Male, HHC/39th Engr. Ref DJF entry #25, 19 May 70. Res should read: 4xVC KIA, 1xVC WIA CIA, 1xVC CIA, 1x45 cal pistol, 1xmed bag, 12xChicom H/gren, 1x105mm rd, 1x60mm mort rd & 1x165mm demo rd CIA. Rds were dest & rest extracted to LZ Baldy. (Info only)
39 Eng	C	700520	53	(DELAYED) 39th Engr, Sgt Snelling, C/39th Engr, BS564732 at 191000H May 70. Fnd & dest 1x50 lb charge on the side of road #518. Crater was 4'x5'.

39 Eng	C	700523	40	39th Engr, Sgt Male, C/39th Engr, BS563732 at 0920H. Minesweep Tm fnd & dest 1x105mm rd B/T w/electrical firing dev. Fnd on Rt 518.
39 Eng	A	700524	6	(DELAYED) 39th Engr, CPT Graham, A/39th Engr, BS594932 at 231750H May 70. While traveling on QL #1, rec SAF fr the E w/NCD. Cont to Chu Lai. (Info only)
39 Eng	All	700524	9	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, F/17th Cav, BS591859 at 0540H. Obsr & eng 5xVC w/packs & wpns. Also rec 20xrds of AWF. Swept the area w/neg res.
39 Eng	All	700525	57	198th Bde, Sgt Lark, H/17th Cav & 39th Engr, BS669918 at 1345H. An M-551 det a 40-50xlb Nitro Starch homemade mine. Res: 9xUS WIA(E). D/O compl at 1400H. Five WIA(E) fr H/17th Cav & 4xWIA(E) fr 39th Engr. M-551 had 2xtracks, several road wheels & idler arm assembly blown off. Crater was 3 ½ ft wide & 2xft deep. Ntfy: C/S, COL Hume; XXIV Corps, MAJ Hof at 1655H.
39 Eng	C	700526	53	39th Engr, Sgt Male, C/39th Engr, BS565729 at 0800H. Rec 1xrd of SAF w/NCD on Road 518.
39 Eng	D	700529	71	39th Engr, Sgt Male, D/39th Engr, BT277195 at 0940H. While on Rt 533, a 5xton truck det a 20xlb mine. Res: Truck was hv dam & 1xUS WIA(E). D/O compl at 1019H. (Info only)
39 Eng	C	700530	79	39th Engr, PFC Scott, C/39th Engr, 1245H, (en) BS554717, while on road bldg opns, RT #518, rec 2xrds SAF. NDC. (Info only)
39 Eng	B	700531	57	39th Engr, Sgt Snelling, B/39th Engr, BS615935 at 0900H. While working on a road, fnd slab of concrete 10' x18" 9" blown out of the dam at above loc. Will be repaired. Work has not commenced at this time. (Info only)

Filtered Americal Division S2/S3 example entries for May 1971:

Unit	sub_unit	Date	Entry	Text
39 Eng	C	710504	21	39 Engr, Sgt Davis, S2, (en) BS626845 at 1030H. Obsr a Negro soldier in a partial uniform (was cut off to make short pants) carrying an AK47 and wearing a black beret. He was with what appeared to be an ARVN (ARVN also in partial uniform). Were ½ mile S of Dottie walking S on QL1. A/39 Engr obsr them. This element heading N on QL1 in a truck. Ntfy: G2, LT Enck; S2, 198th Bde, CPT Rovai. Area VR'd w/neg obsr. Update at 2010H, LT Miller states this man is a scout dog handler at Dottie. Has been informed to wear proper uniform at all times.
39 Eng	A	710504	25	39 Engr, Sgt Rucker, A/39, BS578727 at 1230H. Fd 1x105mm rd B/T on top of a culvert on #518 road. DIP. B/T had PFD. Road open. B/T was visually obsr. (Info only)
39 Eng	D	710505	17	39 Engr, Sgt Rucker, D/39, BT203165 at 1045H. Rec 50-60 rds SAF. Rtn w/SAF and mort. NCD. RF10 swept w/neg res. (Info only)
39 Eng	D	710505	35	39 Engr, Sgt Davis, D/39, BT202161 at 1320H. Rec SAF fr UNSEF w/NCD. Mort fired. RF404 swept w/neg res. (Info only)
39 Eng	C	710505	44	39 Engr, Sgt Rucker, C/39, BS719785 at 1635H. 5xton dump truck hauling rock det 40 lb mine w/PFD buried in middle of Route#521 w/neg cas. Right rear dual of truck damaged. (Info only)
39 Eng	B	710509	38	G5/PMO, LT Thayer and Sgt Manning, 23d MP, BT515049 at 0715H. Approx 60-100xVN demonstrators (wounded war vets) blocked traffic on QL1. At 0800H demonstrators stopped 1x2 ½ ton vehicle fr B/39 Engr and seized the 3xoccupants and their 3xM16's. The demonstrators demanded a meeting to hear their demands. The 23d MP's have set up roadblocks in the area to keep traffic away from the demonstration. At 0815H CPT Thom, Ly Tin Dist Chief and CPT Jodoin, Ly Tin Dist Senior Advisor, arrived on the scene. At 0925H, 1xUS 2 ½ ton van fr 252d Radar Detachment, Quang Ngai, went thru the MP roadblock to Gate #2 and attempted to continue thru the demonstrators. The demonstrators engaged the truck w/SAF. Truck was stopped and both the vehicle and the 6xoccupants were seized. (Light damage to truck, 5xflat tires, several bullet holes in van body). At 0945H LTC Cu, Quang Tin Dep Prov Chief, arrived on the scene. At 1130H all hostages and the 1xtruck fr B/39 Engr were released. Hostages were unharmed and the vehicle was undamaged. The 3xM16 were rtn to Engr. The following wpns belonging to personnel fr the 252d Radar Detachment were kept by the demonstrators: 2xM16, 3x.45 cal pistols, 30xM16 full mags, 10x.45 cal full mags, 2xM26 H/gren and 1xsmoke grenade. At 1345H the 6xradar hostages and all wpns were released. At 1222H COL Richardson, 23d INF DIV C/S, informed MAJ Helton, G3 Ops Officer, of the agreements negotiated between the 23d INF DIV and the protesting VN war vets. The protestors had demonstrated to protect alleged discrimination against vets in personnel hiring on 7 and 8 May 71 at Gate #1 vic BT515049 CHL Combat Base. The agreement reached consisted of 5 points: 1). 23d MP's will apologize for alleged mistreatment of VN nationals during the demonstrations. 2). 2xVN vets will be hired to work as janitors in the Civ Personnel Office. 3). 1xVN male will be hired to search incoming daily hires. 4). 5xVN females will be replaced from their duties of searching incoming daily hires for alleged rudeness. 5). 5xVN war widows will be hired to search incoming daily hires. At 1222H, MAJ Helton informed CPT Stanford, XXIV Corps TOC, of the above agreements. At 1300H, the van fr 252d Radar Detachment was released. At 1400H, QL1 open to traffic. Ntfy: 11th Bde, Sgt Lane; 198th Bde, Sp Hatfield; USARV AOC, MAJ Johnson.

39 Eng	D	710509	40	39 Engr, Sgt Davis, D/39, BT232172 at 0950H. On Route #533 fd 1xhomemade mine w/PFD w/detector. DIP. (Info only)
39 Eng	D	710509	45	39 Engr, Sgt Davis, D/39, BT193161 and 191161 at 1240H. Fd 2xhomemade mines w/PFD w/detector on Route #533. (Info only)
39 Eng	D	710510	38	39 Engr, Sgt Davis, D/39, BT178141 at 0940H. Fd 1xhomemade mine w/PFD. DIP. Crater 7'x4'. Fd w/metallic detector. Road passable. (Info only)
39 Eng	All	710510	43	39 Engr, Sp Jackiw, 137 Equip Co, BS579723 at 1000H. Rec 2xrds SAF w/NCD. Neg rtn fire, neg sweep of area. (Info only)
39 Eng	All	710510	46	39 Engr, Sp Jackiw, 137 Light Equip Co, BS572727 at 1130H. Bucket loader rec 3 rds SAF fr UNSEF w/NCD. Neg rtn fire, neg sweep of area. (Info only)
39 Eng	D	710511	49	39 Engr, Sgt Lohman, D/39 Engr, BT178137 at 111000H. Fd 1xhomemade mine. Est 40lbs, right shoulder of road w/PFD, DIP. Fd with metallic detector. (Info only)
39 Eng	D	710511	50	39 Engr, Sgt Lohman, D/39 Engr, BT179142 at 111025H. Fd 1xhomemade mine. Est 40lbs with PFD, DIP. Fd w/metallic detector. (Info only)
39 Eng	D	710511	51	39 Engr, Sgt Lohman, D/39 Engr, BT183146 at 111230H. Fd 1xhomemade mine w/PFD, est 40lbs, DIP. Fd w/metallic detector. (Info only)
39 Eng	A	710512	43	11th Bde, Sgt Rowe, A/39 Engr, BS562732 at 121500H On route 518, an earth mover fr A/39 jacknifed. There were 2xVN males on motorcycles on the road. They were run over by the M290. Res: 1xVN male civ KIA, 1xVN male injured(E). D/O compl 121530H to 91st Evac.
39 Eng	C	710514	9	39th Engr, Sgt Davis, C/39, BS719779 at 132100H. Rec SAF at NDP (approx 50xrds fr W, 500m). Rtn SAF & DUSTER Twin 40's (50 rds) causing 2xsecondary explo. NCD.
39 Eng	C	710515	8	(DELAYED) 39th Engr, Sgt Lohman, C/39th Engr, BS719779, 142330H. In NDP, rec 50xrds SAF fr 500m E. Rtn fire w/SA & M60. Lt dam to radiator of 10xton tractor fr 26th Engr. Neg sweep.
39 Eng	A	710518	22	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, B/3-1 and A/39th Engr, BS572727 at 180810H. During mine sweep of QL#518, 5xton dump roller vehicle det 1xmine (30xlb explosive) w/PFD. Res: 3xUS WIA(E) (1xUS fr B/3-1 and 2xUS fr A/39). 1x5 ton dump truck combat loss. Road impassable (crater 6'x6'x3'). D/O compl to CHL by R/S helicopter at 0825H. Swept area & 75m E fd another mine (30 lb explo wrapped in canvas w/bamboo type PFD). DIP (crater 6'x6'x3'deep). Ntfy: ADE, Sp Boodris. 1xperson was driver and other two were on road.

39 Eng	All	710520	20	39 Engr, Sgt Davis, 59 LCC, BS538792, 200900H. D-7E det 1x5lb apers mine, NCD. (Info only)
39 Eng	All	710521	59	23d INF DIV, CPT Dickerson, 511 Engr/39 Engr Bn, BS613718, 211400H. A 5 ton dump trk fr the 511 Engr Co hit & killed 2xVC civ (fem) while traveling E on route 518. ("Driver fell asleep") The vehicle swerved to left & hit the VN civ's. VN civ held the truck, but the driver is w/the MP's. The large crowd was yelling & screaming, but no wpns were fired and no missiles were thrown. The VN National Police, MP's, ARVN officials, & accident investigation team arrived on the scene. The VN NP & ARVN officials dispersed the crowd. A monetary settlement of 124,000P paid each survivor family. Trk had neg damage, subject released to his unit after being charged w/negligent homicide. Ntfy: XXIV Corps, MAJ Church.
39 Eng	D	710525	36	39 Engr, Sgt Davis, D/39 Engr BT173138, 251040H. Fd 1xhomemade mine, 20lb, w/TWFD. Fd w/metal detector on Tien Phuoc road. DIP. (Info only)
39 Eng	D	710525	37	39 Engr, Sgt Davis, D/39 Engr, BT173137, 250930H. Bucket loader det 1x2lb mine w/PTFD. Res: 2xUS WIA(M). Rear wheel blown off on Tien Phuoc rd. Mine sweep had been compl. (Info only)
39 Eng	D	710527	24	39th Engr, Sgt Lohman, D/39, BT165132, 270830H. 5xton dump trk, backing up on Tien Phuoc rd during mine sweep ran over & killed 1xVN fem (20-25) who was riding a bicycle alongside rd & slipped under rear wheels. MP's are at the scene. Ntfy: MAJ Brown, CofS.
39 Eng	A	710527	41	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, A/39 Engr, BS558735, 271120H. Rec 15 rds SAF fr 350m N, NCD. Rtn SAF. OH-6A fr 11th Bde VR'd area w/neg res. Engr were working on 411 access road. (Info only)
39 Eng	All	710527	53	23d INF DIV, Sgt Meeks, 39 Engr. The 39 Engr will dest 1000 lbs of explo in the Rock Quarry at approx 1700H 27 May. Ntfy: C/S, Sp Mitnik.
39 Eng	All	710527	54	39 Engr, Sgt Hey, 59 LCC, BS577828, 271435H. Fd 1x175mm rd B/T w/TWFD 5' off ground. DIP. (Info only)
39 Eng	All	710530	80	Quang Ngai (P). Rec req fr Quang Ngai (P) to keep all US veh off the 411 access road tomorrow. There will be a VIP visiting tomorrow (QN). Ntfy: 11th Bde, CPT Davis; DISCOM, SGM Potts; MP's, LT Rocho; 39th Engr, CPT Silvernale; 39th MAJ Kelly. Keep the 39th of at least AM, may be free during PM.
39 Eng	All	710531	30	39 Engr, Sgt Meeks, S-3. There will be 500 to 1000lb explo dest between 1700H & 1800H in Rock Quarry. Ntfy: G2, Sp Hester, 198th Bde, Sp Pane, 16 CAG, Sp Adler, Div Arty, Sgt Bohn, G3, MAJ Helton, CofS, Sp Mitnick, AAE, CPT White.