

Bridge Builders Enjoy Heavy Output



Vol. 1, No. 4

CAMP WILKINSON, PHU BAI, RVN

JULY 1968

Five Men Hold Battalion Awards

Lozensky Named April Seabee



AWARDS—(Left) Capt. J.M. Hill, Commander 32NCR made presentations. CDR J.F. O'Leary, EIGHT's CO, and YN2 R.H. Paternoster stand by. (Right) April Seabee of the Month, CM2 G.J. Lozensky, on job site. —Photos by R.F. COTTER

Extra Hands

Vietnamese Laborers Assist Working Gangs

Operating the same manner as SEABEE Teams do, construction crews are now utilizing Vietnamese laborers along the Col Co Road construction complex.

The complex includes more than the asphaltting of a vital thoroughfare. It also involves bridge construction, bridge repairs, soil cementing, laying matting for the LST offloading facility, building revetments at the Tan My Port Facility, and the PACV complex.

Crew leaders agree that in all of these operations, the hiring of Vietnamese labor has aided the efficiency and speed of the job sites' progress.

In addition to making use of Vietnamese labor on outlying priority jobs, MCB EIGHT has also employed 40 of these workers for camp maintenance. Approximately 140 Vietnamese have been assigned to the Battalion.

At the LST offloading facility, Vietnamese laborers have been divided into four crews to lay and pile matting. When the job is complete, 90,000 square yards of matting will have been set.

At Col Co Island's PACV site, Vietnamese workers help in constructing revetments for the new hover craft and cement bunkers.

On the road, they place cement, fill sandbags and shovel fill dirt for bridge construction

and road improvements.

A Vietnamese civilian contractor provides 395 people to the 1 Corps, according to LT Fay, 32NCR supply officer. Most of these provide labor to the Hue-Phu Bai and Dong Ha-Quang Tri areas. The contractor is financed by the Third Naval Construction Brigade.

Alpha Leads Sports League

The Battalion softball league finished its first half play with "A" Company coming out on top with a perfect 5 and 0 record followed by "H" Company with a 4 and 1 mark.

Rounding out the league, was "D" Company, "B" Company and "E" Company with identical 2 and 3 records.

Huggins has been the big man on the mound for "A" Company, and Evans and Forreick have carried the hitting load. Sarnes has done some fine pitching for "H" Co. and Napolitano leads the league in hitting with Duren a close second.

Oliver, Linenberger, Amparan and Marderosian are the Delta stars. Earls' pitching is supported by Vortman and Laird in Bravo's team, and Echo has had Christie, Scott, Alumbaugh and Craver as its power.

In the third awards ceremony celebrated this year, five men walked away with honors paid them by CDR J.F. O'Leary, EIGHT's CO, and Captain J.M. Hill, Commander, 32NCR.

The "Seabee of the Month" title for April went to CM2 G.J. Lozensky. The Battalion awarded him a \$25 Savings Bond, a Battalion plaque and a Letter of Commendation for his outstanding efforts in EIGHT's Tango Detachment.

A Letter of Commendation was presented SN L.A. Dellaporte by Capt. Hill for his performance of duty during the May enemy offensive.

SN Dellaporte chose to stay on duty in the Camp Wilkinson watch tower May 21.

Letters of Appreciation were handed the mortar crew of BU-3 R.L. Odom and SN L.W. DeForrest who provided illumination during the same offensive. EO2 K.L. Boehme, who recently served with EIGHT while TAD from MCB 128 has been forwarded a Letter of Appreciation via his Commanding Officer.

CM2 Lozensky is recognized for his vital role in helping maintain the equipment used by Tango Detachment members. The Tango Detachment serves as the base for the construction and surfacing projects on Col Co Road. The letter reads in part, "On many occasions, you have worked 20 hours a day to keep critical equipment in an 'up' status. In many instances you have had to fabricate replacement parts when new ones were not available."

Crew Puts No. 6 Back To Work

As Bridge No. 10 was going up, Bridge No. 6 went down.

In the process of destroying a section of the pipeline, enemy rounds destroyed Bridge No. 6 on Col Co Road June 5.

The bridge burned all night and was a total loss by morning. The timbers-turned-to-coal were still smoking next morning when BUC J.J. Niemeyer turned his crew loose on clean-up operations and reconstruction. A platoon of the 3rd Marine Bridge Company provided a temporary tactical span which had traffic moving by noon of the following day.

The small timber bridge is approximately 10 feet long and provides drainage for the waterway network along Col Co Road.

Down the road a mile away, a working force of SEABEES from EIGHT forged ahead over the old mouth of the Perfume River, well ahead of schedule on Bridge No. 10. Those who could be spared, set another record in speed and proficiency with repairs on Bridge No. 6.

With crew leader BU2 C. Doshen Jr., BU2 G.E. Blanton and BU2 R.J. Sarnper, crew members were able to re-open the bridge to thru traffic in record time.

To crew members BU3 K.M. Alexander, BU3 L.P. Palmer, BUCN R.E. Bailey, BUCN W.O. Dickerson, BUCN C.C. Kavanaugh and CN D.L. Smock, bridge building and repairing has become routine. The road is always uphill, but always surmountable.

New 600-Foot Span Speeds on

Building bridges on a summer afternoon in the 1 Corps area of Vietnam is not much fun, or so it would seem. A vivid contradiction to this reasoning is a team of SEABEES on detachment from MCB EIGHT now camped at the Cornfield, outside of Hue, that builds bridges and culverts on the Battalion's biggest job, Col Co Road adjoining Hue and the Tan My Port Facility.

Under the leadership of BUC J.J. Niemeyer, this crew of bridge builders have racked up over 1500 feet of class 80 bridge structure since February 23. Their quantity of production is staggering in itself, but it is even more amazing considering the working conditions. As Chief Niemeyer puts it, "We have built under adverse weather, adverse equipment, adverse living conditions and for a while, adverse eating conditions."

AMPHIBIOUS LANDING

The chief's bridge crew commenced work during the recent Tet Offensive with their first job necessitating an amphibious landing on an unclaimed bank of the Perfume River to repair a badly needed bridge. In the months which have followed, the builders have experienced the frustration of constructing bridges only to have them sabotaged near or after completion. Two bridges have been rebuilt, one of them twice.

BU2 M.L. Foertsch and BU2 R.W. Rowe, recently released for separation, were members of the crew when it worked on two shifts 24 hours a day on a project. For security reasons, the crew now works a single shift.

The crew is currently working on the final stage of a 600-foot bridge. When completed, it will be one of the largest bridges in the Republic of Vietnam in addition to being the largest bridge ever built by MCB EIGHT.

30 FEET A DAY

Since the commencement of the project June 1, the six-man crew has worked 12 hours per day laying bridge timbers at a pace in excess of 30 feet per day. The bridge was open to pedestrian traffic July 3. The (Continued Page 6, Col 1)



WITH ONE-THIRD OF THE BRIDGE COMPLETE, the crew takes a break under the shade of their pile-driving crane which has two purple hearts this deployment. Man and machine work well together as they combine to construct up to 40 feet per day of bridging.

—Photo by PH3 R.F. Cotter

the hard hat EDITORIAL PAGE

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A Farewell to JFOL...

There is a certain feeling that grows in persons for another person. And when that person leaves on his own path away from our own, something goes with him—and yet, something of his stays behind.

Choice and fate sometimes play merging roles and when the roles meet, the adjoining parts go well together. This is the way it has happened in Seabee Battalion EIGHT's Chain of Command and its men.

This month's farewell reluctantly goes to CDR J. F. O'Leary. How many ways are there to show gratitude, or to express a "thank you?" He couldn't have come to the Battalion at a better time. A time when SEABEE Battalions are showing their maximum output in the Republic of Vietnam. As Captain, CDR O'Leary saw MCB EIGHT meeting deadlines through its second half of its second Vietnam deployment in Chu Lai last year. And this year, deadlines have been daily routine here in Phu Bai.

Immediately after his arrival in the Battalion, the Commander was impressed by the Battalion as a whole.

"While I had been aboard but a week, I had the opportunity during that time to observe the Battalion at work," CDR O'Leary once wrote. "I was really impressed, and I'll be the first to admit that I'm not easily impressed or satisfied, especially when it comes to what I expect of SEABEES. But I was impressed and I was convinced after only one week with you, that EIGHT was the finest Battalion I had ever seen."

Krunchy or Creamy?

Sunny Jim Comes Through!

By JO2 A.L. GONZALES

The day Sunny Jim came to Cloudy Pete's, the bonds were tied between the peanut butter lovers and the Sunny Jim believers.

Faith saved those who believed Sunny Jim would come through—they are now eating Sunny Jim peanut butter. The 26-ounce pull-top cans were delivered to Cloudy Pete's Mail Service from C.G. Guinn, vice president of Pacific Food Products, Seattle, Wash. And the cans came like R & R bullets, and were devoured as quickly. Now if those who received the peanut butter would stop eating long enough, they would all say, "Thanks Sunny Jim."

In a letter written in April, Cloudy Pete, EO3 Paul Carney in real life, explained the Battalion's peanut butter problem and how military personnel from the greater Gia Le area had been waiting in line at Pete's window for Sunny Jim. Even a local rendition of the jingle: "If you like peanuts, you'll love Sunny Jim" was included.

Three weeks later, and a couple of hundred

Taking pride in one's job is half the job. The other half is doing one's best in whatever job comes up. And again and again, JFOL would remind us what a fine Battalion we belonged to and how much he personally valued serving as Commanding Officer of MCB EIGHT.

"The remaining four months of our deployment to Chu Lai confirmed and strengthened that first impression," he also wrote. "And with every passing day, I became more and more proud to say that I am the Commanding Officer of MCB EIGHT."

"Whenever the chips were down, you always came through as I knew you could, and you never disappointed me or let me down. You'll never know how much I personally appreciated your efforts and how much it means to me to be your skipper."

To carry on the fine traditions founded in EIGHT years ago—this has been the biggest job done concurrent to construction—and MCB EIGHT does it well.

Again, CDR J. F. O'Leary has said:

"To all of you, I extend the sincere appreciation and thanks of the most fortunate Commanding Officer in the history of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalions."

We pledge, as the officers and men of EIGHT: We could not have been more privileged than to serve for such an ideal C.O.

—A.L.G.

CO's COLUMN

Finest, Rewarding: CDR J.F. O'Leary

By CDR J. F. O'LEARY

This is the last opportunity to address you that I shall have as the Commanding Officer of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion EIGHT. My tour of duty with you has been the finest and most rewarding that I have experienced in over fifteen years of Naval Service. It has been so for two basic reasons.

The first reason is because I have had the privilege of serving with you, the officers and men of MCB EIGHT. Both in Chu Lai and especially here in the Hue/Phu Bai area, you

have been assigned some extremely difficult projects with critically tight completion dates and have overcome all obstacles in your path to produce the desired quality construction product on time. Your abilities and your capabilities have never ceased to amaze me. I want each of you to know how very much I appreciate your fine efforts. You are truly a credit to yourselves, your families, your Service and your Country.

The second reason is because of the very fine support that those of you at home have given to your men and mine. Waiting at home can be far more difficult than coming over here and doing a job. But without your letters and the knowledge that you are waiting for our return, I can assure you that we could accomplish very little. So I wish to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you.

I am very pleased to turn over the Command of EIGHT to CDR BOB WESTBERG. You are getting a truly fine CO and he, of course, is getting a truly fine Battalion. I am certain that all of you will give him the same cooperation and support that you were good enough to give me.

To the men of EIGHT I extend my best wishes for a continued successful and safe deployment. To those of you at home go my very warmest personal regards and a prayer for the safe return of your men. To all, once again, my sincere appreciation and thanks.



CDR J.F. O'LEARY
Departing Commanding
Officer

Where Are You?

Born To Question

"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me," was the prayer-song of the psalmist of old, as he tried to make contact with a listening and concerned God. The deafening silence in reply echoes back an even greater silence.

In an attempt to deal with God's silence, men have prefabricated all sorts of buildings and structures, isolating them from life's mainstream in hopes that the silent God would come and at least say a few words. But God has continued not only in His silence, but also in His absence. Like the guy says, "Ya gotta have faith." But faith in what or who? God, where are you?

Honest men have always

wrestled with this problem. For many, it has been argued away by creeds, symbols, institutions and rituals. But times are changing, and many of our creations have been coming up as meaningless. Each age suffers a God who is silent and absent, yet before Whom we all must live. It's the excitement of this challenge that has formulated not the best answers in the world, but the best questions. The beginning of wisdom is wondering "why?"

The real beginning of faith is not that we must believe, but rather that we must live. Mature men of faith are not really bothered by God's absence, but rather, they willingly tackle the pressure points of life.

To admit to God's absence is not to admit of a "new breed" with "no creed." Rather it is the admission that man is born with a question. Questions are the beginning of faith. Obviously, God's silence has meaning! For without it, we would never take the time to stare into the abyss of our own existence, trying with all our might to see beyond.

The real glory of man is not finding God, but rather that man can raise questions of existence, and stand resolute before them — and even courageously before an ever silent God. Who refuses to be used as a talisman for my life and problems.

As a child once said in reference to the phrase, "Thy kingdom come," in the Our Father: "Things is gonna get better. It's kinda hard to believe, but they is. So a good place to start with is you, and me too."



FATHER JAMES F. HARRIS
Battalion Chaplain



The HARD HAT is a service publication of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion EIGHT, FPO San Francisco 96601, published in accordance with NAVJG P-123 on a monthly basis. It is printed with appropriated funds by Pacific Stars & Stripes in Tokyo, Japan.

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1968
CRUISEBOOK

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working hours.

Team 0808 Completes Thailand Tour

Men Learn by Teaching

SEABEE TEAM duty in Northeast Thailand has its ups and downs, its problems and frustrations, but overshadowing these things is the feeling of satisfaction derived from working with, teaching and motivating the Border Patrol Police (BPP) and Thai people in civic action self-help programs.

The rewards come from the knowledge that you have left behind worthwhile projects — projects which can be duplicated by the Thai people, or a well-trained BPP Platoon and Counterpart Team who will carry the program to new remote areas after the SEABEES leave. You have helped to expand the influence of the Thai government into the remote villages by showing the people that the Thai government is interested in them, knows they exist and wants to assist in improving their lives. Most important, you have made many friends, good and lasting friendships which will remain even though you must go separate ways.

Loyalty to the Thai government is an extremely important factor in the BPP/SEABEE program at this point in time. Communist insurgency is now in its very early stages and poses a growing threat. Villager assistance and information is of paramount importance if the insurgency is to be contained and eliminated. The BPP/SEABEE civic action self-help program assists in gaining this loyalty.

The SEABEE role in Thailand is many sided. A relationship exhibiting good rapport with the BPP must be established and maintained, both with the BPP Platoon which remains in the area where the

program is being conducted, and with the 15-man Counterpart Team which comes from and will return to an area in southern Thailand now that the SEABEE Team deployment is completed.

Once this friendship is established, the training of the BPP in all construction skills, with the exception of equipment operation, proper job planning and material requirements can be more easily accomplished. These skills are required and must be mastered if the BPP are to perform as a useful unit when the SEABEES leave. Equipment operation is not taught the BPP because they have no such items available for their use.

While the construction skills are being taught on the job, the very important factor of motivation must be instilled in the BPP. Motivation to work harder and longer hours than they are used to, motivation to pass their knowledge on to the Thai villagers, and motivation to take the lead in job planning requirements and scheduling are the big jobs.

It is an easy and natural thing for the SEABEE Team member to take the lead and make all the decisions regarding materials ordering and job planning. This is what they did as workers and crew leaders in the Battalion. In Thailand, it is the BPP who must learn these skills and take the initiative. Team members must ask the right questions.

If the job slows down, the BPP is asked questions to bring them back to the right track and in this way, the BPP have really solved their own problems.

Part II follows next month.



A dozer is stranded deep in the jungle.



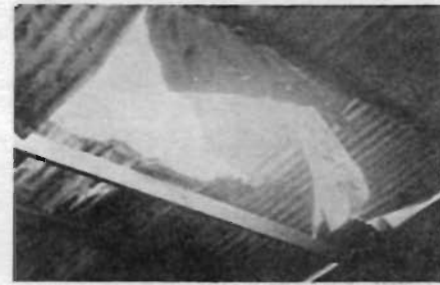
"I didn't bury them on purpose!"



Two pipe wrenches: "I knew they were here."



Will two cases of dynamite be enough?



Hole in the roof 350 yds from the blast site.



Clump of tree roots went through Thai store's roof.

New LTJG Joins Tango Detachment

The Battalion's Tango Detachment on the Col Co Road complex has a new Officer in Charge, LTJG J.A. Schroeder, CEC, USNR.

"New" because he recently assumed the duties, but new because he has been promoted to Lieutenant (junior grade) after being accepted to the Civil Engineer Corps Feb. 14, 1967.

Having been in the Battalion since August 1967, the young officer has served in Headquarters Company as Personnel Officer and Battalion Project Coordinator in the S-3C position. Now in Alpha Company, LTJG Schroeder is OIC of EIGHT's famed Tango Detachment.

The detachment includes bridge and cantonment construction crews serving the area northeast of Hue.

LTJG Schroeder's duties involve solving problems of slope stabilization, overseeing crews that haul dredged sand and soil cement road surfaces as well as replace basic material for the complex project which encompasses the five northern miles of Col Co Road. This has been acclaimed as a top priority project in the I Corps area.

With a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Chico State College, Chico, Calif., LTJG Schroeder has used much of the knowledge acquired during his college years, especially in the field of soil cementing and sampling.

During the summers, while attending Chico State, the Canadian-born Navy Seabee Officer worked as a laborer and estimator for the Butte Creek Rock Company in Chico, Calif.



LTJG J.A. SCHROEDER
Promoted to Lieutenant (jg)

POP-WHOOOOSH!

Flares Fly High for July 4

The Fourth of July was celebrated in American style at MCB EIGHT.

The Army started the "fireworks display" with red, green and white single and cluster flares. LTJG Bob Clark, not to see MCB EIGHT outdone, got together with GMG2 Christie and launched some flares for the Battalion.

Mr. Clark lined up a group of men in the Admin parking lot and gave the order, "FIRE." POP-WHOOOOSH!

"Hmm, must have been a bad lot."

POP-WHOOOOSH!

"Hmm, we'll have to check into this. . . Smoke Flares! I didn't know we had any."

Well, it was a good try Mr. Clark.

Standing those late night watches must be getting to some of Security. It seems that the dogs are beginning to look like Viet Cong, or is it that the Viet Cong are looking more like dogs?

Security's Rat Patrol has stopped chasing rats for the road crew. They are now after bigger game with the soil cement crew on Col Co Road. And they have been trained by experience to do it all in the dark during night hours.

Their mode of operation is simple. They set up a position on the road, or off to one side

among the rice paddies. The job is to sit up all night and prevent anyone from crossing, or from sneaking up on the road crews.

A vote of thanks is owed to GMC3 L.W. Gordon, BUCN M.J. Iglesias, CN M.W. Harvey, CA Kirby and the many others who have continuously served on the Rat Patrol for the fine

job they do.

With the disbanding of the Hue Stadium detachment, the majority of the men and equipment went to the detachments on Col Co Road. The Cornfield detachment, located only a mile outside the city limits of Hue, received the greater portion of the relocatees.

—SN D.C. LIND



BUILDING BUNKERS IS "OLD HAT" to these seasoned members of Security: (from left) SN D.R. Moyer, SN W.K. Craver, AO3 A. Piechowski and CN M.G. Hastings.

—Photo by PH3 R.F. Colter



THE WAITING LOOK OF A VIETNAMESE VILLAGER IN LINE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. THE ARMY-MCB EIGHT JOINT MEDCAP HAS ARRIVED.

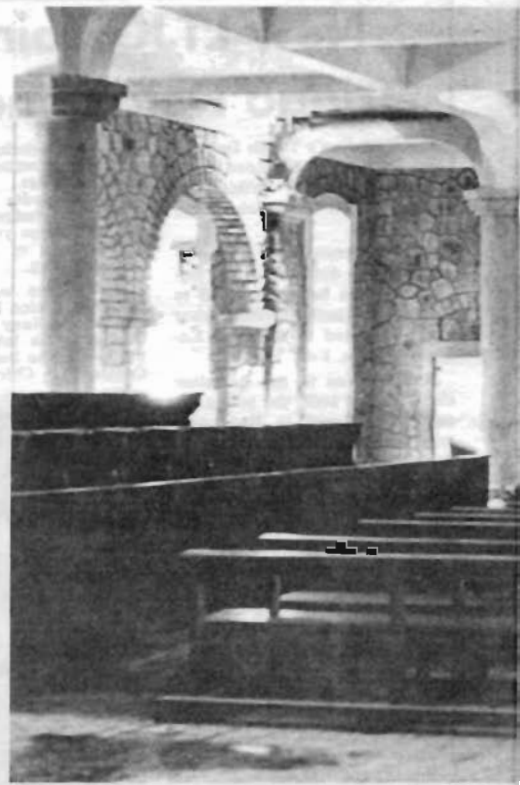


UNDERGROUND CATHEDRAL OF THE JESUIT MONASTERY LOCATED 15 MILES SOUTH OF SAIGON. A JESUIT PRIEST AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FROM EIGHT'S DENTAL OFFICER, LTJG GRAPHER, PH3 B.A. FARLEY, ACCOMPANIED SUCH A JOINT ARMY-MCB EIGHT MEDCAP.

A Place, T



MONASTERY'S MAIN BUILDING HOUSES THE MONK'S LIVING QUARTERS, LARGE KITCHEN, LIBRARY AND COLORFUL CORRIDORS. THE OUTSIDE WALLS ARE IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO THE EXQUISITE INTERIOR.



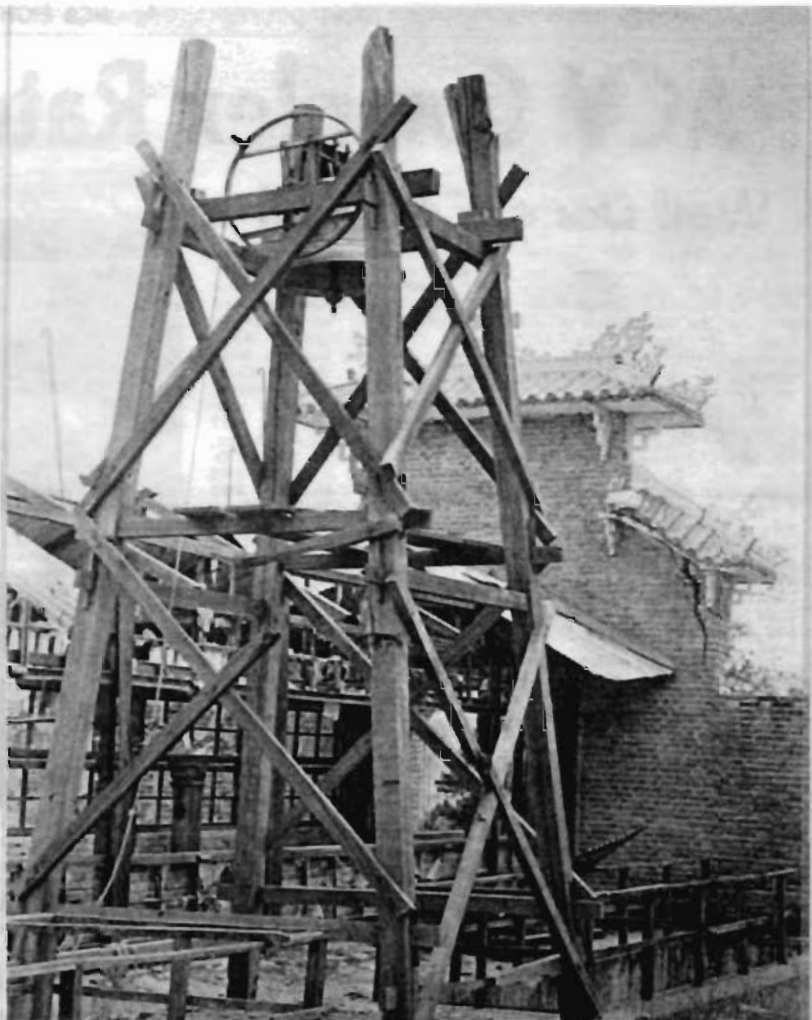
INSIDE THE UNDERGROUND CATHEDRAL, THE WALLS ARE COVERED WITH STAINED GLASS. SOME 150 VILLAGERS ARE IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE JESUIT MONKS.



WEST OF HUE WHERE ARMY A.I.D. TEAMS MOVE IN BI-WEEKLY WITH V. SMITH, FOR THE AREA'S VILLAGERS. 'HARD HAT' STAFF PHOTO-CAP UNIT FOR THIS PICTURE STORY.

Time for Peace

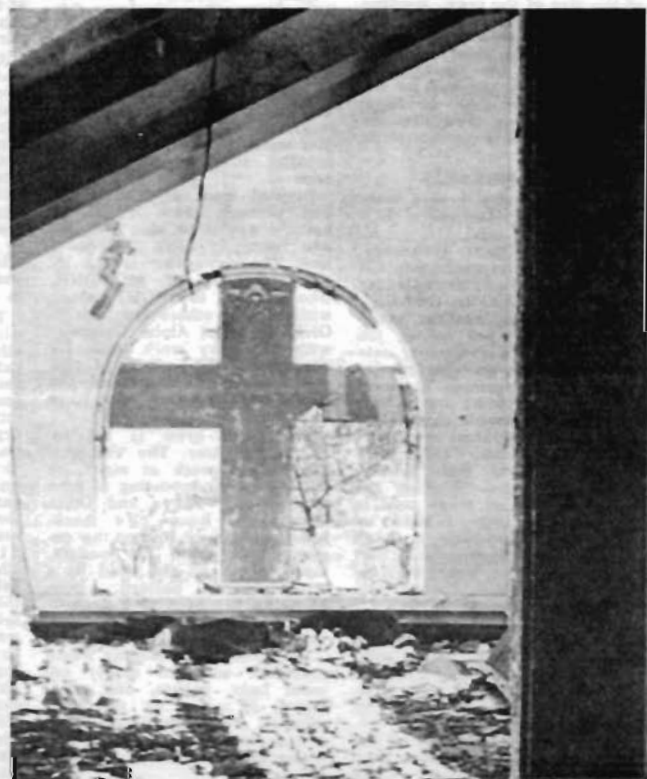
—Photos By PH3 Boris A. Farley



IT TAKES TWO MONKS TO RING THIS BELL ANNOUNCING SERVICES TO BE HELD BY A JESUIT PRIEST BROUGHT BY THE ARMY TEAM AND ACCOMPANYING MCB EIGHT MEDICAL STAFF.



ARE COMPOSED OF MARBLE AND THE WINDOWS OFFER A SPECTRUM OF COLOR IN DANCE DURING A JESUIT MASS. THE ENTIRE COMPLEX WAS CONSTRUCTED BY THE VIET-



LOOKING DOWN THE CORRIDOR FROM A LOFT OF THE LIBRARY INSIDE THE EAST WING OF THE MAIN BUILDING THE SIGNS OF YEARS TELL THE AGE AND STRENGTH OF THIS VIETNAM HIGH-LIGHT.

PACV Complex Rates Commendation

Well Done: Capt Hill

Congratulations have been received by the Battalion from Captain J.M. Hill, Commander 32nd Naval Construction Regiment for the completion of the PACV (Pneumatic Air-Cushioned Vehicle) construction complex on Col Co Island. The message read:

"The expeditious manner in which you completed the subject high priority project is highly commendable," said Capt. Hill. "Congratulations on a job well done."

The project involved the planning and construction of a concrete maintenance pad, laying matting for a parking apron with a concrete ramp, building bunkers with soil cement sandbags and 12" x 12" timbers, and construction of the access road.

The project also involved production of a quonset hut for office spaces, a maintenance shop, a floodlighting system, ARMCO revetments, three living huts for PACV officers and men and a 160-foot extension of the helo pad. The entire project was completed on the 47th day.

Builder Chief E.E. Rhoads Jr. organized the crews. The builders were assigned the maintenance pad, concrete ramp,

quonset hut and bunkers. Steelworkers took the matting, parking apron and helo extension jobs and the electricians worked on the parking apron, revetments and floodlighting. Wood members for the bunkers were handled by the Bridge Crew with BU2 D.S. Ewald in charge.

The steelworkers' crew consists of SW2 R.F. Brekke, SW2 H.A. Cortez, SW2 R.A. Skalka, SW3 J.C. Connolly, SW2 F.D. Dale Jr., SW3 R. Gee, SW2 W.E. Hall, CN F.E. Hunt, SW2 M.B. Stiles and CN J.W. Turner.

The men in the electricians' crew are CE2 J.J. Little, CE2 J.A. Lunderman, CE3 R.C. Delayo, CN W.J. Gentry, and CE3 Johnson.

Those men on the project of the builder rate are BU2 L.A. Carigan, BU2 J.P. Setting, BU2 J.R. Aylor, BU3 D.J. Josephsen, BU3 J.O. Kelly, BU3 J.C. Slaton and BU3 T.H. Zopfi. Steelworkers BU2 C.M. Kistner and SWCN F.S. Minjares also worked with the builders on the concrete ramp and quonset hut.

Battalion commendations are filing EIGHT's files:

Bridge 10...

(Continued From Page 1)

crew has been working at a furious pace. The original completion date of August 1 was being moved up to July 14.

During a recent day of work, the crew laid in excess of 40 feet of bridge. Chief Niemeyer cites this as a record for construction of this kind regardless of the size of the crew, working conditions or equipment. The cohesive crew has been groomed by the chief since the beginning of the deployment, and represents the best of the previous crews. All of these men are serving their first enlistment and none are above an E-5 rating.

CREW MEMBERS

Members of the bridge crew are BU3 K.M. Alexander, BU3 L.P. Palmer, BUCN R.E. Bailey, BUCN W.O. Dickerson, BUCN C.C. Kavanaugh and CN D.L. Smock. Their crew leader is BU2 C. Doshen Jr., BU2 G.E. Blanton insures that the materials and tools are on the job site, and BU2 R.J. Samper acts as assistant to the chief to co-ordinate the variable elements of the job including manpower, material and usable equipment. The crane operators are EO2 R.G. Myers and EO3 H.B. Hamilton. It is their job to drive the pilings. Working immediately behind these men is the decking crew headed by BU2 D.S. Ewald who is aided by BU2 H.W. Throppe and BU3 D.C. Lind. The steel work is done by CN L.J. Cazina and CN S.E. Loftsgard.

The only shutdown of the day comes at noon when the men stop working for 15 minutes to eat what they refer to as "the best chow in the Battalion" which is prepared by CS2 T. Frazier.

These men are proud of the role they play and have deep respect for their leader, Chief Niemeyer. He expects the best from them, and rewards them for their performance with a very simple compliment: he respects them as men.

Alpha Bids Col Co Rd Duty Call

Stretching between the city of Hue and Col Co Island, along the hamlets and through the fields of rice paddies is a long ribbon of road known as Col Co Road.

Alpha Company personnel have been extremely busy this past month hauling rock, laterite, sand, cement, and asphalt to be used on the road.

One of the phases of this massive operation is soil cement. The task of breaking bags, mixing the soil cement and water to the exact density belongs to the soil cement crew.

Divided into two shifts, the soil cement crew works 24 hours a day to be able to meet, and hopefully beat, the deadline. The day crew is led by Chief DeLeon of MCB-ONE, who is TAD to EIGHT, along with several others from MCB-ONE, to assist Alpha Company with its heavy work load. He supervises the work of his crew, along with that of the Vietnamese workers who have been hired to break bags.

The night crew is led by EO2 C.E. Hiser. The Vietnamese do not work at night, so Hiser's crew, consisting of men from Alpha, Bravo and Delta Companies, have the back-breaking job of taking the cement bags from the pallets, laying them on the road in a checkerboard pattern, then breaking the bags and depositing the contents on the sand surface.

The problem of hauling waste material, such as empty cement bags, pallets, and cardboard, is solved by the Vietnamese. The Vietnamese have a use for this material, and there are no pallets or bags left behind.

With the 24-hour operation, and the extra effort all the men are putting into their work, the completion of the road is expected to be Sept. 10, 1968.



DELTA CO. MEN ON PACV SITE—Vietnamese laborers and SEABEE builders D.J. Josephson, T.H. Zopfi and J.O. Kelly work together to build bunkers and revetments at the high priority PACV project site completed June 29.

—Photo by R.F. COTTER

DELTA COMPANY

SWs, BUs Gift Wrap Site

By CN W.R. Marcella

During the month of June, the Delta Company steelworkers and builders were on detachment out at Col Co Island. They were working on various projects located in the newest area of the camp. The camp is maintained by a majority of NSAD personnel.

Among the major projects was a 500-man galley. Crews were under the supervision of Chief Morris. Crew leaders such as BU1 Tenney, BU2 Vincent, BU2 Setting, BU2 Carigan and others were of great importance in completing the galley. Even at times when proper equipment was not available, the crews used other methods to overcome problems which often arose. This again goes to show that these men are trained in their fields of construction.

Then we had still other crews which were building huts and other small projects. After that, various crews were broken into smaller groups. This led to the construction of other projects including a fire station, laundry, dispensary, enlisted men's club, a gate house, a communication pad, a generator house, and other jobs which made the camp complete. After a month, the jobs were beginning to show more progress, and Senior Chief Stenger and Chief "Dusty" Rhoads joined the men and helped to supervise the jobs so that they could meet their scheduled deadline. Material was brought in from the main camp to fulfill the great demands of the crews. Unfortunately, at certain times, the bridge crew headed by Chief Niemeyer had to repair a couple of bridges. With these repairs, traffic could make the daily routine runs to and from the island.

Men of the bridge crew are now staying in a new camp, commonly known as the "Cornfield" by the men of EIGHT.

Half of the bridge crew worked at Tan My to put up a water tower which is of great value to the water situation on the island, while the remaining part of the crew stayed back to work on the bridge.

Still smaller projects like the culvert headwalls, are taken care of by BU2 Mosler and his crew of three men. Due to the countless jobs which came up during the month of June, and a limited amount of writing space, we will not mention all the jobs or go into detail. Jobs mentioned so far are considered priority jobs.

The steelworkers also played an important role in helping the builders to make their jobs a success. SW2 Stiles and his crew did the rebar work for the galley. SW2 Kistner and his crew did all the rebar work for the new air boat landing pad out at the island. The air boats are one of the newest types of boats which are now in use in Vietnam. They will be used for river or waterfront patrols.

Besides the rebar and other various jobs done, the steelworkers built two POL fuel storage tanks. One 3,000-barrel tank was built by SW2 Cortez and his crew, while SW2 Skalka and his crew built a 10,000 barrel tank. In the meantime, SW2 Brekke and his crew members are laying matting with the help of approximately 33 Vietnamese workers. SW2 Warzecha and his crew are now in the process of erecting three "PASCO" buildings. In the near future, when the job is completed, they will be used as a warehouse facility. The steelworkers were under the supervision of Chief Morris and Senior Chief Stenger. The officer in charge of the detachment on the island for Delta Company was LTJG Metcalf. The amount of work completed was very good according to our monthly progress report.

Getting back to our main camp, we had BU1 Taylor taking care of the builders, while BU1 Buckmaster and his crew of steelworkers were under the supervision of Chief Nygaard. During the first part of the month, Buckmaster's crew completed its part of the revetment job at the Pre Fab Shop. Then they started on the Alpha Company extension of the shop area. This extension of the Alpha Company work shop is now complete and is used as a maintenance shop for heavy equipment vehicles. Buckmaster's crew will be doing some culvert work for the Col Co Road project.

Taylor's builders successfully completed the showers for the 101st Army unit. Another job recently completed was the new Dental Pad in Camp Wilkinson. Other jobs completed were the grease rack, minor refinishing on the 1st Medical Hospital and four-holers for the Army.

While in the process of building a Jet Engine Maintenance Shop, the crew had to stop temporarily and switch to another job of higher priority. So now half of Taylor's crew is working on a night schedule on Col Co Road as a soil cement crew. The other half is now working on a MAG-36 parking apron at Phu Bai.

Jobs which we mentioned earlier called for different lengths and sizes of lumber. This is where the Pre-Cut Yard comes in to serve its vital role with the help of BU3 Oliver working as crew leader. They have done a great job in making the jobs much easier and faster to put up when it reaches its job site.

BU3 Bricking and BU3 Williams are the Delta Company expeditors. These two men are responsible for all the material that is ordered by crew leaders on detachments and in camp. Their main job is to arrange and see that enough material is sent out to various jobs.

Electricians Face Versatility

By J. Dennis RM2

Being a construction electrician in this Battalion isn't the easiest job in the world. Aside from the work one gets to do in his own rate — there doesn't seem to be much of it these days — it looks like the modern Bravo Company CE becomes a pawn in the scheme of things.

One young third class who is now spending his second tour over here, recently sat down to take stock of his qualifications for outside work. Well, aside from messcooking (everyone gets a taste of that), garbage disposal (oops, that's Sanitation Department), foreman of our civilian Vietnamese crews (that's an easy one, except that it's hard to explain what you want when they don't speak your language), and finally, assignment to the MAA force (the best one of all), he found that he had screwed in at least two light bulbs. Not much experience for an electrician. Of course, there are a few UT's that probably can make nearly the same claims, but all this does is point up the fact that in the modern battalion today, you have to be versatile!

The latest switch for some of the Bravo personnel is laying soil cement for Alpha Company. When soil cement was first mentioned, it drew a lot of blanks, but since they've been working on it, the crew has passed the word about what it involves and how much work it is. They can't give away their new job! We also have a crew going around the base re-screening huts! The first completed one didn't resemble what they started with! If they had not tried so hard to do it right, it would have been funny.

"Midget Electric Co." is doing the work on the new Alpha Co. Shop extension. According to the chairman of the board, CE1 Salom, it is a relief to be working on a real job! According to Chief Electrician Meyers, the job outlook is good for the future.

There were a lot of good-byes last month as Petty Officers Wilson, Elbon, Epplert, Wasson, Cor, Little, Moore, Harrold and Fichter were transferred back to the good Ole USA. All of them were sent home for separation except CE1 Fichter who is going to Nuclear Propulsion School.



CAMP WILKINSON'S POWERHOUSE is kept in shape by (l-r) CE3 M.D. Beard, RM2 J.W. Dennis and RM3 F. Harris who are only part of the crew that daily operates the generator plant.

—Photo by R.F. COTTER

Docs Tale Snow White

While the EAs, YNs and PNs were waiting for Yosh Hata, the medical staff of "H" Company was looking for Snow White. They're still looking.

Yosh returned, but the seven dwarfy medics are rocking their quonset white ship in search of the legendary beauty.

Happy (Locke) doesn't seem concerned about the search. He is contented just working with negatives — X-Ray and color slides both.

Dopey (Lee) could care less. He has his hands full completing new shot cards. And besides, all he has to do is keep the typewriter keys hot.

Sleepy (Potter) can't be bothered with such fairy tales. There are too many challenges waiting outside in the refugee villages. If there are no jobs, he'll dream them up.

Grumpy (Borntrager) never heard of Snow White.

"Snow is snow, and snow is white. What else you want to know?" he says.

Doc (Arnold) seems to be the only one concerned, as it turns out.

"Everyone should believe in

Snow White," he says. "What better way to cure the heebie-jeebies?"

Sneezy (Riddell) is allergic to Snow White. So Snoopy claims Sneezy knows where she is.

But Snoopy (Mr. Long, Battalion interpreter) knows who Snow White is and where she is.

"During his eighteenth reign, King Hung-vuong had the most attractive Princess in the area," he says. "Her name was My-chau, Snow White in English..."

After being thoroughly convinced that none of these gentlemen were qualified on the subject, I went next door only to find the post office playing Cloudy Pete with Sunny Jim (see page 2, column 1). The world is going mad!

A corpsman as Chaplain's Yeoman? That was the answer in itself. BN Ed Itner has added a typewriter and a tight schedule to his "savvy-aiding-too" gear as he makes his rounds with the Chaplain.

CN Ron Stafford jumped behind the Special Services counter from the Chaplain's Yeoman chair to relieve SN J.A. Liddell who has been transferred to NSA, Da Nang.

—JOE A.L. GONZALES



PRE-FABRICATED IN DA NANG, RVN—Concrete fire breaks are placed into position on Bridge 10 in early July by Bridge Crew members BU2 D.S. Ewald, CN D.L. Smock, (foreground) BUCN R.E. Bailey and BU2 H.W. Throppe. Breaks weigh 7,000 lbs each.

—Photo by R.F. COTTER



BUC NIEMEYER AND CREW moved in to rebuild Bridge No. 6 on Col Co Road after being burnt by enemy fire.

—Photo by B.A. FARLEY



AT ALPHA CO. light equipment dispatching is handled by EO2 Charlie Horrell and heavy dispatching by EO2 D.C. Beer in the Dispatcher's Office.

—Photo by R.F. COTTER



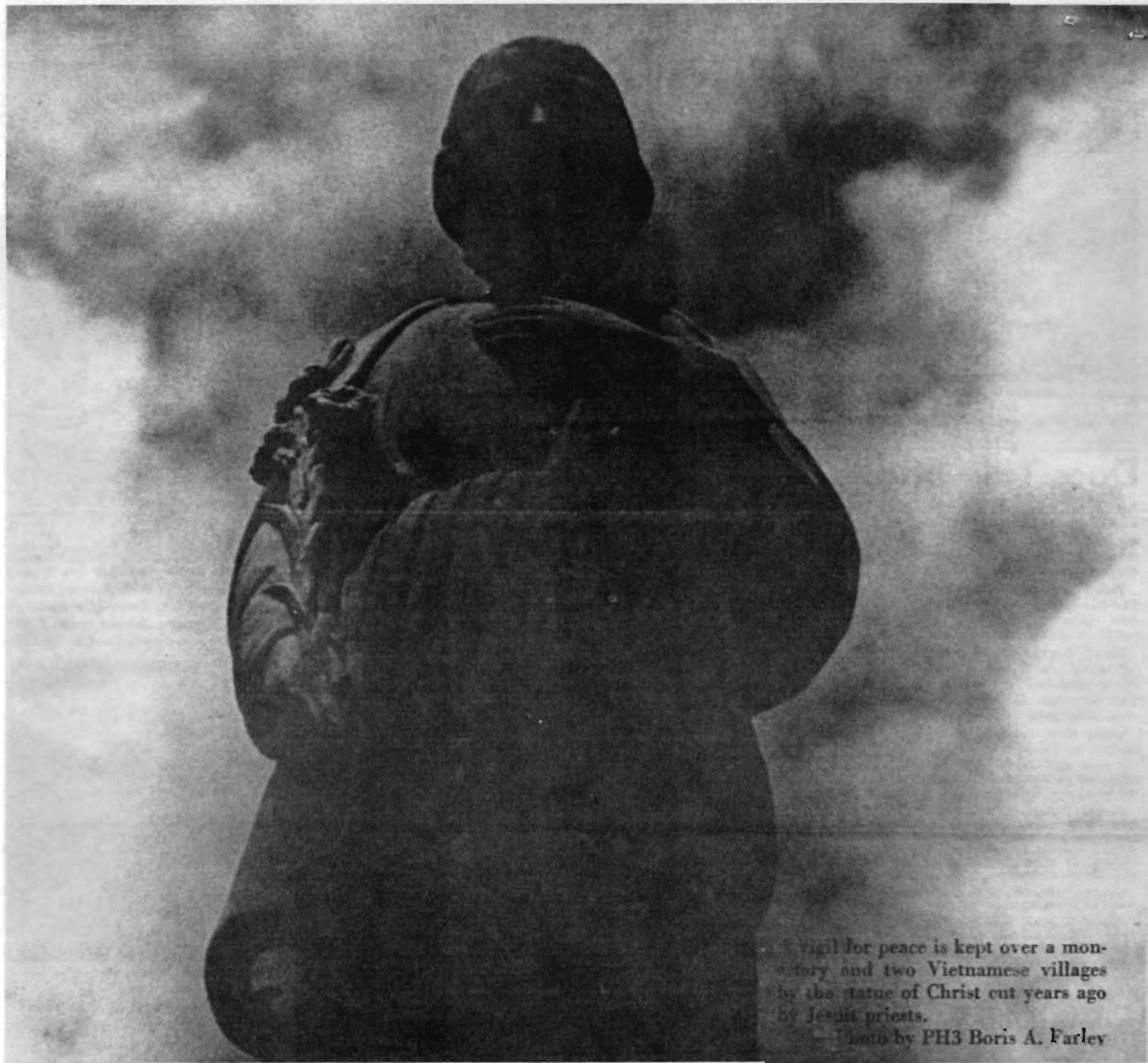
Dispatched trucks unload cement on Col Co Road and Vietnamese laborers spread the soil and cement. 40 such laborers are supplied to this job site.

—Photo by R.F. COTTER



What the Vietnamese can't do, EIGHT'S SEABEES do on soil cementing and asphaltting the Battalion's top project, COL CO ROAD.

—Photo by R.F. COTTER



A vigil for peace is kept over a monastery and two Vietnamese villages by the statue of Christ cut years ago by Jesuit priests.

Photo by PH3 Boris A. Farley



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