

VOL. 1, NO. 10

QUI NHON, VIETNAM

MAY 1, 1967

19TH FINISHES 'FINEST' HELIPORT

Engineers have placed the final piece of MSA1 matting for what Brigadier General Charles M. Duke, 18th Engineer Brigade Commanding General, has described as "the finest heliport in Vietnam."

Located 12 miles northwest of Qui Nhon in the ROK (Republic of Korea) valley, the 16-pad heliport will be the home base for the 196th Aviation Company, 14th Aviation Battalion.

The men of C Company and the 554th Engineer Company (Float Bridge), 19th Engineer Battalion (Combat) expended 31,000 man-hours during the construction.

In preparing the heliport for MSA1 matting, C Company engineers placed 11,200 tons of crushed rock from a nearby river bed; 73,000 cubic yards of laterite fill and 680 barrels of asphalt over the rock base.

The heliport consists of sixteen 100 by 60-foot pads and a 1,250-foot taxiway. At one end of the taxiway, the engineers constructed a 99,000-square-foot maintenance area which will greatly increase the maintenance effort and should significantly increase the aircraft availability.

Around the pads 850 barrels of peneprime were placed to prevent dust and small rock chips from being sucked into the

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'SEARCH AND DESTROY'

It isn't every day that engineers conduct their own search and destroy operations. But this is exactly what the 2d and 3d Platoons of Company A, 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat) did.

Suspicious of a village on Highway QL-1 as a source of sniper fire, Viet Cong ambushes and land mine teams, the engineers conducted a two-day search and destroy operation.

Encountering sniper fire on both days, the platoons fired and maneuvered to the wood line and began their search of the area.

Coming upon their objective, the engineers discovered a VC trench and bunker which commanded a sweeping field of fire along Highway QL-1, camouflaged with vines and bamboo. The bunker system was completely

(Continued on Page 4)

WAREHOUSE DEDICATED

A refrigerated warehouse that will add 30,000 cubic feet of cooling and freezing storage space to the U. S. Army Depot at Qui Nhon, has been completed by Army Engineers. The facility was dedicated by Major General Robert R. Ploger, Commanding General, U. S. Army Engineer Command, Vietnam and turned over to Brigadier General George H. McBride Commanding General, Qui Nhon Support Command.

The 40- by 110- foot prefabricated structure was built by the 1st Construction Platoon of Company D, 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction). 1LT Vidas P. Kleiza and SFC Gerald G. Martin supervised the project. SFC Martin was awarded the Bronze Star for his part in the project by General Ploger.

Because of the warehouse, troops throughout the II Corps area of Vietnam will get better food faster. Fresh vegetables, dairy products and frozen meats unloaded in Qui Nhon harbor will be transported directly to the warehouse.

The warehouse consists of a small reception room and an 18,000-cubic-foot

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COMMANDERS 35TH SAVES TIME WITH COLUMN FIELD EXPEDIENTS

By COL George M. Bush

During the past 12 months I have had the high honor of commanding the largest and best engineer group in the U. S. Army. In this, my final commander's column, I would like to express my admiration for the soldiers of the group. Your accomplishments during the year have been amazing. Quick response; a can-do attitude; long hours of hard work; a fierce pride; and a strong desire to do well are the characteristics of this group which have drawn high praise.

Cam Ranh Convalescent Center; Dong Ba Thin; ROK Log Base; HL-1 bypass; Dien Khanh bridge; QL-1 moving north; White Horse Division at Ninh Hoa; the Screaming Eagles of Port Lane, Vung Ro; Tuy Hoa Cantonment; monsoon emergencies everywhere; Cung Son; Van Canh; Tiger Hound; Long My Depot; the world's strongest heliport; QL-1 south to Song Cau and north to Bong Son; Cha Rang; Hammond and the 1st Cav; the crater; the Qui Nhon causeway; hot mix asphalt for Route 73; incredible amounts of rain; huge billowing clouds of dust and noisy helicopters; brave soldiers and booby trapped mines. These are some of the many things indelibly printed on my memory.

Every commander is sad when he leaves his command. I am no exception. But I am pleased that COL Ken Sawyer has been nominated to replace me. He is an outstanding soldier and engineer. I'm sure that 45th Group will continue to be the best under his skillful leadership.

I hope to have the privilege of serving with all of you again.

If there's more than one way to skin a cat then C Company, 35th Engineer Battalion (Combat) will find a way by using a field expedient.

Until recently the refueling of C Company's earthmoving equipment and dump trucks was a time consuming operation. It involved borrowing fuel trucks to transport fuel to the work site at the Cha Rang maintenance area whenever a dozer or tractor-scraper ran out.

To remedy the situation CPT David C. Cottingham, company commander, erected two wooden piles with

553RD AIDS IVY DIVISION

A dramatic example of engineer support of the infantry is the assault crossing of a river or bay, where engineers transport infantrymen to a new area of operations.

The 553d Engineer Company (Float Bridge) gave this type of support to elements of the 4th Infantry Division during Operation Sherwood north of Tuy Hoa. As dawn was breaking over the rice paddies that dot the area 15 engineers slipped into five light tactical raft pontoons equipped with outboard engines. They loaded up the platoon-size infantry unit and started across the Dam O Loan Bay.

After the infantrymen were unloaded and started their sweep of the area, the engineers began to patrol the shoreline, stopping all suspected Viet Cong traffic. The 553d also added firepower to the operation by clearing several villages thought to be held by the VC.

a cross bar and suspended 500 gallon collapsible fuel containers on hooks. Now 830-Ms (tractor-scrappers), D7Es (dozers) and dump trucks pass underneath the fuel lines and are able to fuel up with either gasoline or diesel in the company area every morning.

The new device avoids having the equipment wait for fuel and allows it to run for 10 hours without refueling.

Another field expedient being put to efficient use is located at the company's batch plant. Taking the beds of 5-ton trucks which are no longer serviceable, the engineers have mounted them on concrete piers and are using them as hoppers. These pour directly into the two concrete mixers.

And as if that weren't enough they also made chutes from 55 gallon oil drums split in half to pour concrete from the mixers to waiting trucks.

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35TH MINE TEAMS KEEP ROAD OPEN

An eight-mile stretch of Highway QL-1 from Landing Zone (LZ) Uplift to Bong Son has been a target of Viet Cong mine-planting teams. Keeping the road passable is vital to elements of the 1st Cavalry Division at LZ English, north of Bong Son. And given this task are mine-sweeping crews of the 35th Engineer Battalion (Combat).

Each morning a 100-plus vehicle convoy is halted at LZ Uplift, packed high with supplies for the 1st Cav's northern operations. Not until engineers from A and B Companies of the 35th have finished their daily mine sweep can the convoy get the "go ahead" from the military police escort.

Starting at 7 a.m., two mine sweeping teams start from LZ Uplift and Bong Son, working north and south, respectively.

Each team is composed of two NCOs, two sweepers with mine detectors, two probers and three additional engineers in case the need arises to trace a wire or blow a mine in place. All these men are demolition specialists, highly trained in land mine warfare.

The most troublesome locations on the eight-mile stretch are the five bypasses. Most of the incidents have occurred here, so naturally the engineers devote more time to these areas. After checking the shoulders, they move to the culverts and the roadway itself, looking for grenades or any evidence of mines.

One of the big problems in mine sweeping is that the sweeper (a highly sensitive device) will pick up anything from

(Continued on Page 5)

PERSONAL GLIMPSES

"Ghost Riders in the Sky" is a popular song about a mythical herd of red-eyed cattle and the cowboys who drive them. Perhaps the title of this story about PFC Enrique T. Falls and his vehicle should be titled "Ghost Riders in the Jeep."

It all began one morning when Falls, who is assigned to Headquarters Company, 45th Engineer Group, turned in his jeep for an inspection. The examiners found several deficiencies and Falls left the jeep at the motor pool for mechanics to correct the faults.

By 3:30 p.m. the repairs and adjustments had been made and the jeep was returned to its spot in front of Group Headquarters.

About five minutes later, men in the headquarters office heard the jeep starting. But somehow, it didn't sound quite right. They looked out the window, and were astonished to find that no one was in the drivers seat!

Falls rushed out and quickly silenced the "ghost." Here's what had happened: in starting the vehicle at the motor pool, the driver had pushed the floor starter down as far as it would go, and it stuck. After he parked the jeep, the starter loosened and gradually edged up to the point where it usually starts the engine when pressed. This triggered the starting mechanism and its familiar "rrr-rrr-rrr" sound.

* * *

PFCs Jeffery Roberts and Walter Schneider of HHC, 39th Engineer Battalion received two sand wedges and 24 golf balls after writing to golf pro Arnold Palmer. Now they spend their spare time getting out of the "sand traps" in their company area near Tuy Hoa.

523RD DIVERS RETRIEVE WANDERING PIPELINE

Scuba divers from the 523d Engineer Company (Port Construction) went down 40 feet in Qui Nhon's inner harbor to retrieve part of a submarine pipeline which was dragged out of position during a recent storm.

The four-inch steel line runs from the Esso Oil Corp. pier along the harbor bottom until it is attached to a 100-foot flexible, rubber hose called a sea hose. The hose is then linked to a mooring buoy on the surface by a chain. When tankers are ready to unload fuel they merely come alongside the mooring buoy, raise the sea hose and unload their fuel.

A Chevron Oil Corp. tanker was unloading fuel when rough waters and high winds snapped the manila rope that held the tanker to its mooring. As the tanker started to drift, the sea hose soon broke loose from the tanker, but by the time the submarine pipeline came to a halt it had traveled 1,500 feet, and had been almost completely turned around.

Divers from the 523d, led by 2LT Rod Nichols, worked one day on the project. With a crane mounted on a barge borrowed from the 497th Port Construction Company, the divers disconnected the sea hose, un-kinked the pipeline, returned the pipeline to its original position and then re-connected the hose.

VILLAGE PROFITS AS 577TH OPENS ROAD SEARCH AND DESTROY

In a war intertwined with as many frustrations as accomplishments, the phrase Revolutionary Development or Civic Action pops up as a key instrument in winning the hearts and minds of the people.

Phi Thu is a small hamlet eight miles north of Tuy Hoa. With a one-time population of some 2,000 Vietnamese, the figure slowly dwindled to less than 200 when the Viet Cong swept through the village. This is the way the situation remained, with the small segment indoctrinated and working for the VC, until the Republic of Korea Army recently secured Phi Thu.

The Republic of Vietnam provided assistance in the form of a rehabilitation team, food, seed and organization as the Koreans continued to pull day and night security on the area.

Gradually the situation began to change as 1,500 Vietnamese began drifting back into the village. A school was started with 157 students; houses went up; fields were planted and new roads were formed.

One section of roadway leading from the village out to the main highway, QL-1, across 100 feet of low swampy land, presented a major problem to the villagers. The road was impassable in wet weather.

Responding to a request by the commander of the 28th Advisory Team, D Company, 577th Engineer Battalion (Construction) volunteered their equipment and knowhow for a civic action project.

All told one tractor-scraper, a three-quarter-ton truck and a grader worked on the road. Supervised by SGM Gail J. Keefover, the engineers

hauled 324 cubic yards of fill in four hours.

The road opening provides a much-needed supply route into and out of Phi Thu whereby the villagers may transport their products to the Tuy Hoa market.

Perhaps the value of this type of civic action or Revolutionary Development project may be seen in the words of a Vietnamese farmer who made this comment to the engineers: "You accomplished in four hours what it would take our villagers months to do. We thank you for your assistance."

(Continued from Page 1) concealed from aerial view.

From all indications it appeared that a company-size VC unit had recently set up a defensive perimeter. An abandoned house with punji stakes encircling it was found to contain stored ammunition.

The engineers set fire to 50 houses and 30 haystacks. Small arms ammo in five houses was detonated by the heat while large size ammunition was discovered in others.

The larger type explosive was thought to be the type used for VC land mines on Highway QL-1.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

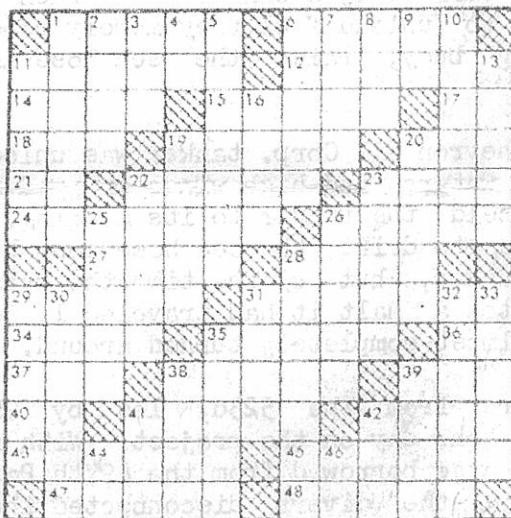
Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Climbing plant
- 6 Decay
- 11 Flag
- 12 Awaited settlement
- 14 Matured
- 15 River in Germany
- 17 Symbol for nickel
- 18 Fish eggs
- 19 Holds on property
- 20 Shallow vessel
- 21 Note of scale
- 22 Washes
- 23 Head of Catholic Church
- 24 Looked pryingly
- 26 Evergreen trees
- 27 Free ticket
- 28 Sow
- 29 Girl's name
- 31 Funeral car (pl.)
- 34 Religious devotees
- 35 Chimes
- 36 Football position (abbr.)
- 37 It is (contr.)
- 38 Closes securely
- 39 Sailor (colloq.)
- 40 Printer's measure
- 41 Cubic meter
- 42 Gaelic
- 43 Iterate
- 45 Examine again
- 47 Loved ones
- 48 Walks

DOWN

- 1 Body of water
- 2 Arrow poison
- 3 Conjunction
- 4 Compass point
- 5 Comes onto scene
- 6 Twirls
- 7 Writes
- 8 Number
- 9 Cyprinid fish
- 10 Delaware Indian
- 11 Poets
- 13 Cats
- 16 Pay attention
- 19 Fall into disuse
- 20 Bodies of water
- 22 Grants use of
- 23 Docks
- 25 Uncloses
- 26 Tolls
- 28 Dealers
- 29 Bury
- 30 Devastated
- 31 Listen to
- 32 Wipes out
- 33 Scatter
- 35 Vegetables
- 38 Heavenly body
- 39 Stumble
- 41 Ocean
- 42 Girl's name
- 44 Hebrew letter
- 46 Latin conjunction



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HELIPORT COMPLETED

(Continued from Page 1)
Chinooks' turbo-jet engines.

Following the completion of the heliport, the 196th Aviation Company treated all the engineers who had worked on the project to a chopper ride throughout the ROK valley.

The heliport will be a staging area for CH-47 choppers flying combat support missions throughout the II Corps zone of Vietnam.

35TH SWEEPS FOR MINES

(Continued from Page 3)
used ammo shells to C-rations cans or batteries. It may be only an M-14 round but then again it may be a grenade that will cost a life, so you have to check everything no matter how long it takes.

By 9 a.m., the two companies link up at the halfway point. Continuing south to LZ Uplift, one can see the importance of what has become a daily routine mine sweep operation. Lined up for at least three-quarters of a mile are close to 200 trucks of various Qui Nhon Support Command units, hauling much-needed supplies to the 1st Cav at LZ English.



"... BUT WHY WOULD YOU PREFER LEFTOVERS, AT MY PLACE TO TURKEY, ABOARD SHIP?"

TAKE FIVE 'WHAT'S YOUR PURPOSE?'

By Chaplain (CPT) Calvin V. Swearingin
19th Engineer Battalion

Most things that soldiers do have a purpose, such as a soldier and his girl in a parked car, the man on a weekend pass, a letter written home to loved ones, soldiers studying a correspondence course together, or a soldier bowing his head to worship in chapel this Sunday. There is a purpose to each of these actions.

The difference in these things is that some are only for the moment or a few hours at most; while others have a lifetime value. There is no wrong in a short lived purpose if it is part of the total effort. However, without this being "part of the whole," we end up with an unrelated piece and therefore no value. It does not belong to the rest of our life.

I believe the best way to build a life is to get a long range purpose and then take it one step at a time. If we keep working at it even the hard to identify pieces will find a place to fit in. An action that does not fit into the over-all picture should be thrown away for it will only clutter and confuse your life.

Someone once said that our lives should be formed like an arrowhead, every effort forged to point in one direction. Others may not agree with your direction but they will never be in doubt about its existence. We always respect the man who knows where he is going because he has a "big purpose" and every effort he makes fits into that purpose.

On the other hand the story is told of a friend who was asked what he thought of a speech. "Well," he answered, "it reminded me of the man who mounted his horse and attempted to ride off in three directions at the same time." It can't be done! So it is with the man who has no "big purpose" in life.

WAREHOUSE DEDICATED

(Continued from Page 1)
freezer room that will store meat at 5 degrees below zero, and a 12,000-cubic-foot chill room for vegetables and dairy products at 37 above.

To aid in maintaining these temperatures, the floors in the warehouse were constructed in three layers: an 8-inch bottom slab of reinforced concrete that sits on footers; a 6-inch layer of insulating material called Styrofoam; and a top 4-inch reinforced concrete slab.

'INSTANT' SURVEYORS

Three members of Company A, 19th Engineer Battalion (Combat) are being trained as surveyors to meet a need for these technicians during expansion of the ammunition supply point near Qui Nhon.

SP4 Phillip G. Rowe, PFC Juan F. Davis and PFC Anthony P. Mihalevich are learning the fundamentals of measuring distances and using a transit from their platoon leader, 2LT David A. Paddock. They are alleviating a great demand for surveyors and learning another valuable skill.

45TH GROUP PROMOTIONS

AWARDS

HHC, 45TH ENGR GP

LLT Robert Jefferies
SSG Mateo V. Fogata Jr.
SSG William T. Lucas
SGT Jesse H. Carney
SP5 Bruce D. Patterson
SP5 Robert C. Pulley
SP5 Jay H. Stecher
SP5 Ronald E. Stephens
SP5 Gordon L. Thompson
SP5 John J. Tripp
SP5 Theodore A. Swider

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HHC

SP5 Joseph J. O'Connor
SP4 Thomas M. Deane
SP4 Daniel P. Van Cott
SP4 James W. Napier
SP4 Donald M. Carr
SP4 James C. Dumsday
SP4 Douglas C. Aufmuth
SP4 John Bonafede
SP4 Daniel T. Buck
SP4 Robert F. Varza

CO B

SSG Jimmie D. Feraldo
SP4 Brian W. Coates
SP4 Robert J. Marthe
SP4 Dale L. Ashley

CO C

SP5 George A. Hansen
SP4 Harold W. Bryan
SP4 McArthur L. Williams
SP4 Joseph J. Csabi Jr.
SP4 Wayne L. Stevenson
SP4 Richard T. Stanek
SP4 John Kaminski

554TH ENGR CO

SP4 David M. Mandrell
SP4 Clifton H. Dennis

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SSG Max Hawkins
SP5 Albert E. Balensiefen
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SP4 Walter J. Rabatin
SP4 Homer P. Holder
SP4 Patrick W. McIntyre
SP4 Donald S. Chase
SP4 Melvin E. Wall
SP4 Rodney Nicholson

CO C

SP4 Paul Wright
SP4 Donald K. Sanborn
SP4 Walter Hamilton
SP4 Joe C. Bratton

39TH ENGR BN

HHC

LLT Roger L. Abel

84TH ENGR BN

HHC

LLT Alan S. Harper

CO D

SP4 Thomas B. James
SP4 Larry J. Hood

577TH ENGR BN

HHC

SP5 Garry L. Hathorn
SP4 James H. Vitaro
SP4 Horace L. Montgomery
SP4 Edwin Parsons
SP4 Robert M. Dean, Jr.

CO A

SSG William E. Proctor
SP4 John P. Migliore
SP4 Carmel J. Stone
SP4 Kenneth D. Storjohann

523D ENGR CO

SP4 William J. Boyle Jr.
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SP4 Michael D. Littrell
SP4 Arnold L. Carpenter
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SP4 James H. Simpkins Jr.
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SP4 Larry S. Bliss
SP4 Donald H. Holmes
SP4 George W. Stephens
SP4 Jerry L. Hatmaker
SP4 Ronald E. Porter
SP4 Jerry N. Flowers

Bronze Star with "V" Device

SP4 David L. Bryant, Co B
39th Engr Bn
SP4 Roy L. Taylor, Co B,
39th Engr Bn

Bronze Star

CPT Paul A. Croce, HHC,
45th Engr Gp
W2 Foy E. Nowlin, HHC,
45th Engr Gp
SFC Gerald G. Martin, Co
D, 84th Engr Bn
SSG Kenneth Huffman, HHC,
45th Engr Gp

Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device

PFC Roger Harmon, Co B,
39th Engr Bn

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LLT Robert D. Smith, Co A
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SP4 Arthur P. Ward Jr.,
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SP4 Ernest E. DePew, Co
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PRETTY SUE—Pretty girl in picture is Sue Hamilton of the movies. Lots of fellas say she's the girl they'd like most to climb a ladder with.

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