

HEADQUARTERS  
11th Engineer Battalion  
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
APO San Francisco 96602

3/JFM/shw  
5750  
8 April 1967  
Ser: 011-67

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division  
(2) Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 March 1967 to 31 March 1967

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8

Encl: (1) 11th Engineer Battalion Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Regrade unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

  
R. L. MULFORD

11TH ENGR BN  
CMD CHRON

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MAR 1967

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

Eleventh Engineer Battalion  
Fleet Marine Force

COMMANDER

LtCol R. L. MULFORD, USMC  
16Aug66-Current

SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Company

1st Lt. W. D. CORNELIUSON, USMC  
16Jan67-Current

Service Company

Capt. J. A. HONSE, USMC  
1Sep66-Current

"A" Company

Capt. W. R. ACREE, USMC  
23Aug66-Current

"B" Company

Capt. P. L. BARTH, USMC  
1Feb67-Current

"C" Company

Capt. W. S. MARSHALL III, USMC  
30Aug66-Current

"D" Company

Capt. N. T. BERTHUSEN, USMC  
1Mar67-Current

2. LOCATION

1 March 1967 - 31 March 1967: Dong Ha, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj. H. L. WELCH, USMC  
16Aug66-28Mar67  
Maj. H. R. SHORTT, USMC  
29Mar67-Current

S-1/Adjutant

2nd Lt. R. G. GULLEY, USMC  
5Jun66-Current

S-2/3

Maj. H. R. SHORTT, USMC  
1Sep66-Current

S-4

Maj. J. T. SCHULTZ, USMC  
25Jul66-Current

Supply Officer

2nd Lt. F. V. RHYDER, USMC  
17Sep66-Current

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Communications Officer

1st Lt. P. C. TRIOLO, USMCR  
1Sep66-Current

Medical Officer

Lt. C. L. HIGHGENBOTEN, USN (MC)  
29Jan67-Current

Chaplain

LCDR. M. A. ONDO, USN  
24Jan67-Current4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
44	1290	2	18	None	None

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of March 1967, the 11th Engineer Battalion continued to provide Engineer support to the 3rd Marine Division (Forward) and other Units located in the Dong Ha Combat Base, Camps J. J. Carroll and Khe Sanh, "C" Company, reinforced, of this Battalion, headquartered at Phu Bai, RVN under the operational control of the III Marine Amphibious Force, continued to provide Engineer support to the 3rd Marine Division units located in the Hue, Phu Bai area. Road maintenance and road improvement projects continued to be accelerated in order to maintain and improve adequate routes of communications commensurate with the tactical situation. Road maintenance and road improvements to the 16.87 miles of road net in the Dong Ha Combat Base, 4.20 miles of road net at Camp J. J. Carroll and 27 miles of macadam surface road on Route Nine from Dong Ha to Ca Lu consisted primarily of ditching, grading, installing culverts for drainage, applying river run gravel to earth surfaced roads and repairing existing macadam surface roads with concrete. This task is being increased daily due to the rapid deterioration of the existing surface caused by age, weather conditions and increased traffic. On 5 March, work commenced to reopen Route Nine from Ca Lu to Khe Sanh. A reinforced Engineer Platoon which had been previously deployed to Ca Lu on 26 February, opened the road on 19 March 1967. It is noted that this portion of Route Nine had been closed to vehicular traffic since 1954. (Photographs, report of accomplishment and congratulatory messages are attached, Tabs A, B, C, and D of part IV).

During the reporting period, construction work on 2.33 miles of new roads that previously commenced during February was completed and construction work commenced on .60 miles of new road.

A limited all-weather, 1.23 miles, class 60, two lane road, 22 feet wide, with river run gravel surface was completed from YD 236594 to YD 238582 as an

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interior Dong Ha Combat Base road for the 9th Motor Transport and 3rd Tank Battalions.

A limited all-weather, .20 miles, class 60, two lane road, 22 feet wide, with river run gravel surface was completed from YD 240594 to YD 241588 as an access road to the 3rd Marine Division (Forward ASP).

A limited all-weather, .90 miles, class 60, two lane road, 22 feet wide, with river run gravel surface was completed from XD 991556 to XD 977558 as an access road from Route Nine to the Rockpile at Thon Khe Tri.

A limited all-weather, .60 miles, class 60, two lane road net, 22 feet wide, is currently under construction in the vicinity of Dai An Village at YD 241588 as an interior road net for a new Command Post serving three Infantry Battalions rear areas.

During the month of March 1967, a total of 1,247 man days, 6,420 Engineer Equipment hours, 23,906 cubic yards of materials and 788 feet of nestable culvert were expended on road maintenance and road construction projects.

During the month of March 1967, seven nonstandard bridges were constructed or under construction, three major bridges were repaired, 249 feet of M4T6 standard bridging was retracted and 98 feet was erected.

A single lane, 80 feet long, class 60, pile pier, steel I beam stringer, wood deck, combination pile abutments and retaining wing walls was constructed at YD 026562 Route Nine to replace a 150 feet M-6 bridge. (Photographs attached as Tab E of part IV).

A single lane, single span, 42 feet long, class 60, steel I beam stringers, wood deck on existing masonry abutments was constructed on Route Nine at XD 982543 to replace a 60 foot steel truss bridge, which had been destroyed. (Photographs attached as Tab F of part IV).

A single lane, 160 feet long, multiple culvert causeway/bridge, class 60, 15 foot concrete slab roadway and retaining walls was constructed on the new access road from Route Nine to the Rockpile at XD 988559. (Photographs of construction phases attached as Tab G of part IV).

A single lane, two span, 40 feet long, class 60, pile bent, wood stringers and deck is under construction on Route One at YD 218709 to replace a steel truss bridge partially destroyed.

A single lane, 70 feet long, single span, class 60, steel I beam stringers, wood deck is under construction on Route Nine at XD 942422 to replace a 80 feet Eiffle bridge which had been destroyed.

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A single lane, 50 feet long, single span, class 60, steel I beam stringers, wood deck is under construction on Route Nine at XD 977435 to replace a 60 feet Eiffle bridge which had been destroyed.

Repaired the Dong Ha River bridge at YD 242511 on Route One, 147 meters long by replacing deteriorated and damaged wood deck. A new 3 inch wood deck was constructed over the existing deck and a 3 feet wide pedestrian walkway was constructed by utilizing extensions of new deck.

Repaired existing masonry abutments and replaced a destroyed portion of the concrete deck slab, 44 feet long on Route Nine at YD 002453.

Repaired existing deck, 130 feet long, triple single Bailey bridge and constructed a timber pier mid-span with a concrete base to upgrade to class 60, on Route Nine at YD 008465. (Photographs of construction work attached as Tab H of part IV).

During this reporting period the 11th Engineer Battalion continued to operate and maintain the water supply point for the Dong Ha Complex. Personnel, equipment and materials were provided to maintain and repair the existing structures, facilities and equipment at the Dong Ha Combat Base. During March 1967, a total of 1,134,634 gallons of potable water was produced and 52 projects for repairs to existing facilities and/or cantonment type construction were completed.

During the reporting period the Engineer support provided the 3rd Marine Division units, Phu Bai area by "C" Company, 11th Engineer Battalion consisted of construction of a class 60, timber stringer, wood deck, 16 feet long bridge on Route One at YD 673267; operating and maintaining a water point at the ARVN boot camp cantonment area; providing personnel and equipment to continue construction of the 3rd Marine Division Ammunitions Supply Point Complex, including constructing access and interior roads, construction of bunkers and other related defenses; maintained the 3rd Marine Division trash dump and conducted deliberate mine sweeps daily.

Currently the 11th Engineer Battalion over all cantonment is 97 percent complete. Major item completed during March consisted of a Battalion shower building with concrete deck, screened walls and metal roof. Personnel protective defenses in the living and working areas continued during March and are currently 25 percent complete.

During March 1967, 36 Eimco Tractors were received from CONUS to replace TD-18 tractors on hand and are currently administratively deadlined awaiting necessary attachments and spare parts. A 6000 gallon water trailer was also received and is being utilized in road construction and dust suppression.

During the month of March the Battalion joined 5 Marine Corps Officers and transferred 5; 66 Marine Corps enlisted were joined and 12 were transferred. On 31 March 1967, the 11th Engineer Battalion personnel strength by major area of deployment was as follows:

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DONG HA

<u>MARINE CORPS</u>	
Officers	Enlisted
34	880

<u>NAVY</u>	
Officers	Enlisted
2	15

PHU BAI

<u>MARINE CORPS</u>	
Officers	Enlisted
6	209

<u>NAVY</u>	
Officers	Enlisted
0	2

CA LU

<u>MARINE CORPS</u>	
Officers	Enlisted
1	57

<u>NAVY</u>	
Officers	Enlisted
0	0

KHE SANH

<u>MARINE CORPS</u>	
Officers	Enlisted
4	120

<u>NAVY</u>	
Officers	Enlisted
0	1

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 11 March 1967 Operators and equipment were provided to operate gravel pits and haul materials for MCB-5 to assist in repairs to the Dong Ha Airfield. To date 4,400 cubic yards of materials have been delivered, 80 man days and 652 Engineer equipment hours have been expended.
- 11 March 1967 The Battalion suffered a nonhostile death when a member died from injuries sustained when he was struck by a Navy LARK in Da Nang while returning from R&R.
- 14 March 1967 The right front wheel of a M-52 tractor detonated an explosive device of unknown origin at coordinates YD 219636 on Route One. The tractor was a total loss and two Marines were slightly injured by the explosion.
- 19 March 1967 This Battalion opened Route Nine from Ca Lu YD 003542 to Khe Sanh XD 845380 (15.2 miles).
- 19 March 1967 A member of this Battalion was seriously injured when he detonated a M-16 mine while clearing vegetation to provide security for a Engineer element constructing a bridge at XD 913405 on Route Nine.

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27 March 1967

Personnel, equipment and materials were transported to Khe Sanh by Rough Rider convoy to install an electrical distribution system in accordance with III MAF work order 9023. Conducted (by helicopter) a preliminary road reconnaissance from Route One YD 214727 to Nui Con Thien YD 115700.

29 March 1967

Conducted a deliberate road reconnaissance from Route One YD 214727 to Nui Con Thien YD 115700 to determine the feasibility of transporting construction materials to Nui Con Thien by vehicular traffic.

## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Tab A Photographs showing typical section of Route Nine.
- ✓ Tab B Report of opening Route Nine from Ca Lu to Khe Sanh.
- ✓ Tab C Commanding General, Military assistance Command, Vietnam, congratulatory message.
- ✓ Tab D Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force, congratulatory message.
- ✓ Tab E Photographs of a class 60, bridge constructed on Route Nine, RVN.
- ✓ Tab F Photographs of a class 60, bridge constructed on Route Nine, RVN.
- ✓ Tab G Photographs of a 160 feet long culvert causeway under construction, access road to Route Nine, RVN.
- ✓ Tab H Photographs of a 130 feet long Bailey bridge being upgraded to a class 60.

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XD 983437

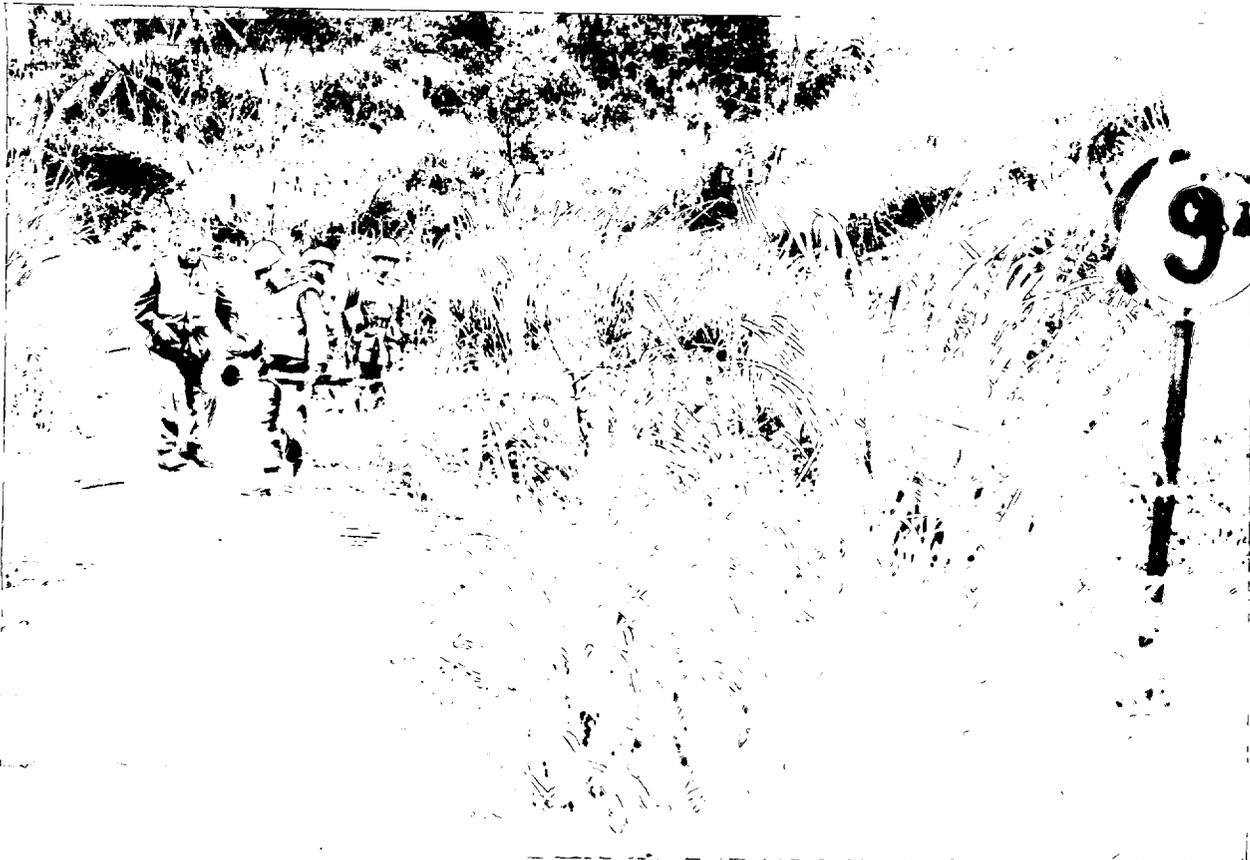
Photographs showing typical sections of Route nine between Ca Lu and Khe Sanh, RVN, prior to vegetation being cleared from road shoulders and right-of-way.

TAB A to Enclosure (1)

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XD 993443



XD 997448



XD 977435

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Report of accomplishing project 9024: Open Route #9 to Class 25 traffic from Ca Lu YD 003542 to Khe Sanh XD 845380 (15.2 miles).

On 26 February, a reinforced Engineer Platoon, from "A" Company, consisting of 3 Marine Corps Officers and 56 Enlisted with materials and equipment was deployed to Ca Lu to establish a Command Post and base of operations. Security was provided by "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines. Immediate construction of bunkers, vehicle and equipment protective positions and perimeter defenses was initiated.

On 1 March, the protective positions and perimeter defenses were 80% completed and "K" Company was deployed, replaced by a platoon from "E" Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. Approximately 40 Engineer personnel were employed daily during the hours of darkness to augment infantry security for the Command Post.

On 3 March, protective positions and perimeter defenses were completed. Montagnard personnel were employed for the clearing of vegetation from road shoulders and right of way. Payment consisted of "Bulgar" and salad oil procured from the G-5, 3rd Marine Division (FWD).

On 4 March, another detachment of 2 cooks and 34 Combat Engineers was deployed to Ca Lu to augment the Engineer Force, to provide security personnel and establish a field mess.

On 5 March, bridge repairs and a bypass at YD 002453 was initiated. Repairs consisted of forming and pouring concrete on existing abutments to reinforce the deck slab and to strengthen the existing abutments.

On 8 March, bridge repairs were commenced at XD 987441 by replacing a missing concrete stringer with a timber stringer, installing one span of wood decking, and the repair of remaining existing deck and abutments.

On 11 March, construction work on bypass at XD 994445, was initiated. Work on this bypass was completed on 12 March 1967.

During the period 13-15 March bypasses were constructed at XD 943424, XD 925421, and XD 921419.

On 16 March, construction work was started on approaches at bridge site XD 913403 in preparation for the erection of a fixed span bridge made from deck balk of the M4-T6 bridge.

On 18 March 1967, a detachment from "D" Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, consisting of 3 Officers, 70 Enlisted and 1 Army Officer, 18 Army Enlisted, from 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery Regiment were deployed to coordinates XD 913403 on Route #9 to provide adequate security and assist in the maintenance and upkeep of Route #9. The detachment from "D" Company, 11th Engineer Battalion was increased to 4 Officers and 104 Enlisted on 19 March 1967.

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TAB B to Enclosure (1)

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A forward observer team was attached to "D" Company from the 1st Battalion, 94th Artillery Regiment.

On 19 March, the 1st Bridge Platoon transported and erected 45 feet of fixed span, class 35 bridge. With the completion of this work on 19 March, Route #9 was opened to Khe Sanh.

Reinforcements, supplies and additional engineer support were convoyed over Route #9 from Dong Ha to Khe Sanh on 27 March 1967.

Road and bridge maintenance along Route #9 from Ca Lu to Khe Sanh will be continuous. Bridge construction will not close traffic as bypasses are available.

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ZNY EEEEE

R 290358Z MAR 67

FM CG III MAF

TO CO ELEVENTH ENGR BN

INFO CG THIRD MARDIV

P 281236Z MAR 67

FM COMUSMACV

TO CG III MAF

BT

UNCLAS E E T O 10359 FROM MACJOO

WESTMORELAND SENDS.

SUBJ: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND THE 11TH ENGINEER BATTALION  
ON REOPENING NATIONAL ROUTE 9. THIS DIFFICULT TASK WAS  
COMPLETED IN AN AMAZING SHORT PERIOD OF TIME AND IS TANGIBLE  
EVIDENCE OF YOUR DETERMINATION AND THAT OF YOUR MARINES.

TAB C to Enclosure (1)

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ZNY CCCCC  
R. 260046Z MAR 67  
FM CG III MAF  
TO ELEVENTH ENGINEER BN  
INFO CG THIRD MARDIV  
CG THIRD MARDIV (FWD)  
BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L  
OPENING OF RTE NINE

1. THE OPENING OF RTE NINE FROM CA LU TO KHE SANH BY ELEMENTS OF THE ELEVENTH ENGR BN IS A SIGNAL ACHIEVEMENT OF WHICH I AM GENUINELY PROUD AND APPRECIATIVE. SINCE KHE SANH HAD BEEN ISOLATED TO VEHICLE TRAFFIC FOR OVER TWO YEARS, THE RESTORATION OF NATIONAL RTE NINE TO SERVICES AN EVENT OF GREAT TACTICAL, LOGISTICAL, AND ECONOMICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

2. THAT THE ELEVENTH ENGR BN WAS ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION OF OPENING THIS MOST DIFFICULT STRETCH OF RTE NINE, WHICH IS DEEP WITHIN UNSECURED TERRITORY, IN A PERIOD OF ONLY TWO WEEKS, IS A TRIBUTE TO ITS POSITIVE ATTITUDE, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, AND AGGRESSIVE ENGINEERING PLEASE ACCEPT MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

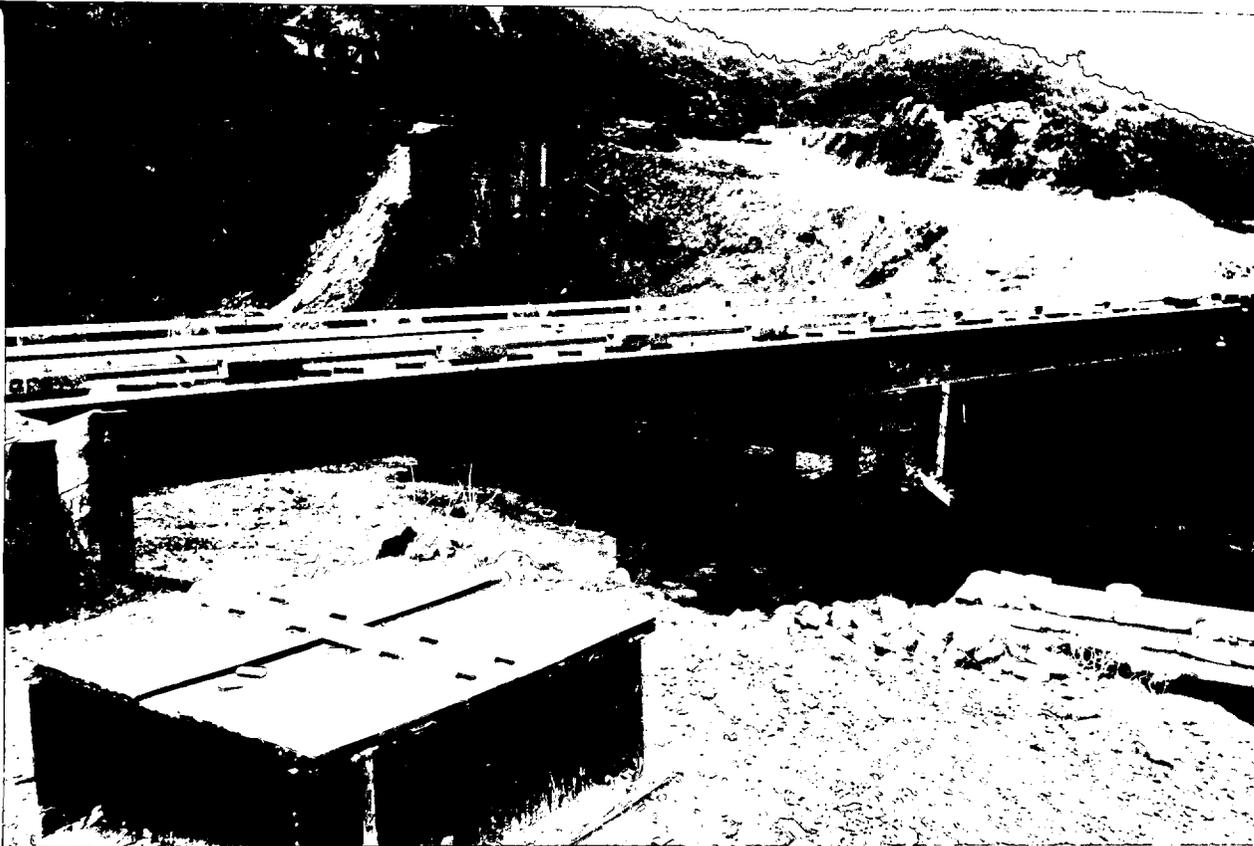
LIEUTENANT GENERAL WALT SENDS.

BT

TAB D to Enclosure (1)  
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Photographs of a class 60, pile pier, length 80 feet, bridge constructed at coordinates YD 026562, Route Nine, RVN. Completed on 6 March 1967 by the 11th Engineer Battalion

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Photograph of a class 60, single span, length 42 feet, bridge constructed at coordinates XD 982543, Route Nine, RVN. Completed on 1 March 1967, by the 11th Engineer Battalion. The four (4) 24I80, 43 feet long stringers used in construction of this bridge were provided by the RVN. Minister of Public Works, Quang Tri Province. The beams were located in the Hamlet of Cam Lo and were transported to the bridge site and utilized as bridge stringers.

TAB 1 Enclosure (1)  
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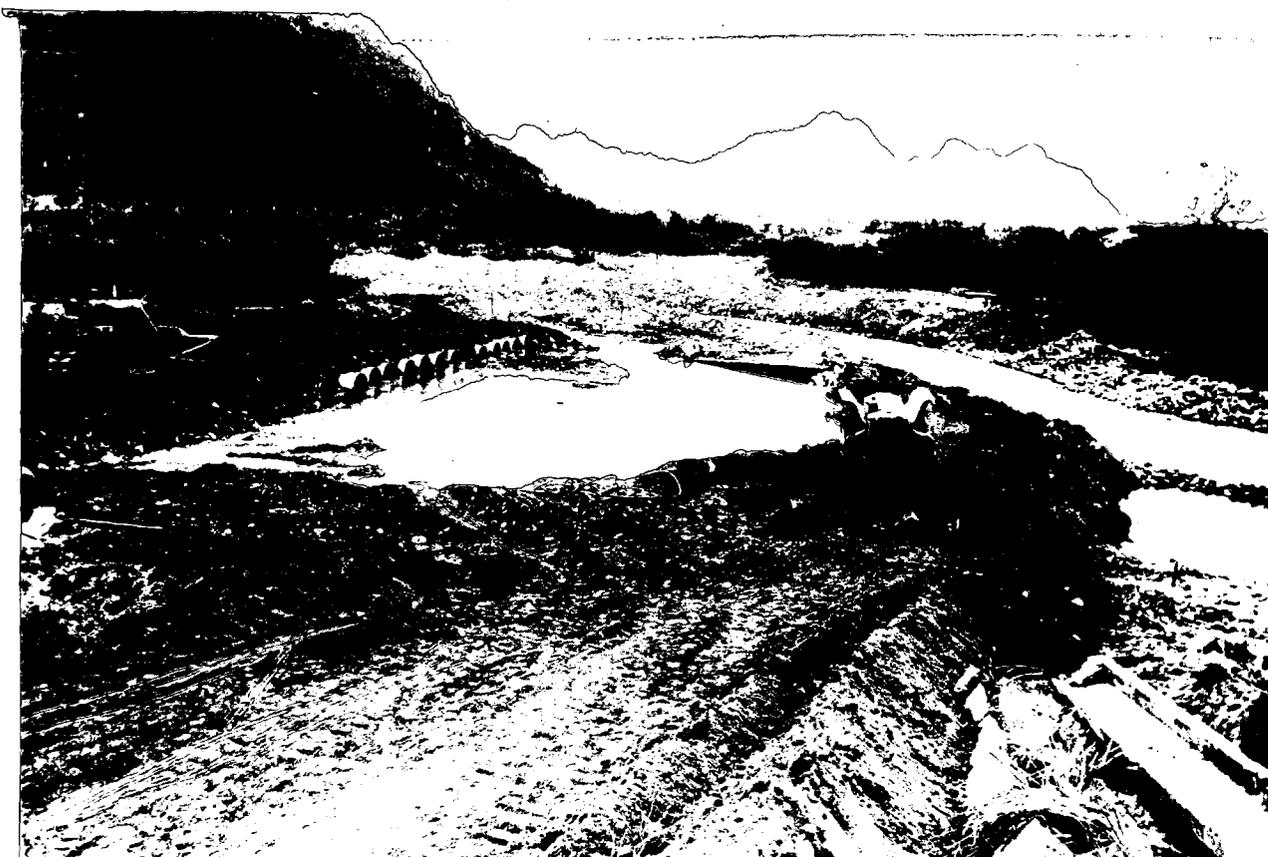
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Photographs of a multiple culvert causeway/bridge, length 160 feet, being constructed at coordinates XD 988559 on the access road from Route Nine to the Rockpile. Completed on 20 March 1967 by the 11th Engineer Battalion. The Razorback is the prominent terrain feature in the background.

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Photographs of a triple single Bailey bridge, length 130 feet, being up-graded to a class 60 by constructing a timber pier at mid-span on Route Nine at coordinates YD 008465 RVN. Completed on 11 March 1967 by the 11th Engineer Battalion.

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Photographs of a triple single Bailey bridge, length 130 feet, being up-graded to a class 60 by constructing a timber pier at mid-span on Route Nine at coordinates YD 008465 RVN. Completed on 11 March 1967 by the 11th Engineer Battalion.

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