

HEADQUARTERS  
1st Engineer Battalion  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3:RP:msz  
5750  
5 October 1966

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.2A

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, 1st Engineer Battalion (-), 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF, with Appendices A, B, C, D, and E

1. The command chronology of the 1st Engineer Battalion (-), 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF, for the month of September 1966, appended hereto as enclosure (1) is hereby submitted in accordance with reference (a).

*C. O. Newton*  
C. O. NEWTON

Tab (11) to Appendix (A) to Enclosure (1)  
to 1st Mar Div ltr Ser: 00245-66

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY1. Organizational Data

a. First Engineer Battalion (-), 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

b. Location

(1) Headquarters and Service Company (-), Chu Lai

(2) Support Company (-), Chu Lai

(3) Company "A" (Rein), Da Nang

(4) Company "B" (-), Chu Lai

(5) Second Platoon, Company "B" with 5th Marine Regiment

(6) Company "C" (-), Chu Lai

(7) First Platoon, Company "C" with First Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment

c. Period covered. 1 September 1966 to 30 September 1966d. Command and Staff Officers

Commanding Officer	Maj	C. O. NEWTON
Executive Officer	None	
Sergeant Major	Sgt Maj	N. G. MILLS
S-1/Adjutant	2ndLt	F. H. STRIKER
S-2/S-5/Legal Officer	1stLt	R. OSBORNE
S-3	Maj	R. PETROFF
S-4	Capt	J. J. KIRKPATRICK
H&S Company/Supply Officer	Capt	W. D. SMITH(1-2Sep66)
	Capt	T. E. BYRNE(3-30Sep66)
Support Company	Capt	D. R. HINES(1-2Sep66)
	Capt	R. W. BOLSTER(3-30Sep66)
Company "A" (Rein)	Capt	G. R. MEIBAUM(1-2Sep66)
	Capt	H. E. ITCHKAWITCH(3-30Sep66)
Company "B"	Capt	T. P. KILDAY(1-12Sep66)
	Capt	R. W. FALKENBACH(13-30Sep66)

Company "C"

Capt  
2ndLt  
CaptJ. T. KOMAR(1-6Sep66)  
P. J. ZOHLER(7-8Sep66)  
H. L. LUTTRELL(9-30Sep66)e. Average Strength

USMC

USN

OFF  
32ENL  
573OFF  
1ENL  
112. Commander's Narrative Summary.

a. The First Engineer Battalion (-) was in general support of the First Marine Division. The first and second platoons of Company "A", OPCON Third Engineer Battalion, provided direct support to the First and Second Battalions of the First Marine Regiment respectively. The third platoon of "A" Company was in general support of the Third Marine Division. The Battalion (-) participated in three (3) major operations, NAPA, FRESNO, and GOLDEN FLEECE. It also supported an extensive one (1) day deliberate type sweep in search of buried Viet Cong ordnance and one (1) Rough Rider convoy to Da Nang. "A" Company supported one (1) major Operation, Operation CANNON during this period. The Battalion (-) swept 648 kilometers of roads in the First Marine and Seventh Marine Regiments TAORs. "A" Company swept 57.12 kilometers of roads in the First Marine Regiment TAOR. Road construction continued on the peninsula road in the First Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment TAOR. Approximately 2366 meters of military roads were constructed which included installation of 267 meters of thirty-six (36) inch corrugated sheet steel culvert and 5,000 sand bags. The first and second platoons of "A" Company constructed one (1) 12'x24'x6' bunker and eleven (11) 8'x8'x8' bunkers. The third platoon of "A" Company has constructed new living quarters for the company (-) and stood a combined total of 2,824 hours of security watch duties in the Third Engineer Battalion area. During this period, the First Engineer Battalion (-) issued 1,612,465 gallons of potable water and 1,305,100 gallons of shower water. The Demolition and Land Mine Warfare School trained 466 Marines during the month of September. Also, a total of twenty-two (22) LVTE-1 projected line charges were fired in the Second Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment TAOR.

3. Detailed Description of Significant Events.a. Personnel

(1) Strength. Eleven (11) officers and 120 enlisted men rotated to CONUS and eleven (11) officers and forty (40) enlisted men joined during the month.

(2) Casualties. The Battalion sustained a total of eight (8)

WIA's for this period.

b. Intelligence.

(1) Road and Bridge Reconnaissance. Continuous reconnaissance of secondary roads and bridges within and outside the TAOR was conducted by the Battalion (-). Results of the following were submitted

(a) BT555010 - BS736534

(b) BT546016 - BS695635

(c) BT555010 - BT015715

(2) Enemy Ordnance. A total of twelve (12) enemy mines and booby traps were destroyed during the month. Three (3) of the twelve (12) were located on routine sweeps and nine (9) located during operations participated in by the Battalion (-).

c. Training. Newly joined, unqualified personnel became completely involved in on-the-job training.

d. Special Operations.

(1) Operation NAPA. Company "B" (Rein) was in direct support of the Fifth Marine Regiment. A combination water point/shower point was installed at Tam Ky at BT287227. A total of 1,850 pounds of explosives were expended in the destruction of four (4) booby traps and 416 meters of tunnels. TNT proved more effective in tunnel destruction than C4. See Appendix A.

(2) Operation FRESNO. The First Platoon of Company "B" was in direct support of the First Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, and Company "C" (-)(Rein) minus the First Platoon (Rein) was in general support. The efforts of "C" Company were almost entirely devoted to rehabilitation and maintenance of four (4) bridges located at BT722578, BT724569, BT733545, and BT728555; and countermine sweep operations of Route 1 in the vicinity of the bridges. See Appendix B.

(3) Operation GOLDEN FLEECE. Operation Golden Fleece was a continuation of Operation Fresno and commenced immediately upon its termination. The Battalion supported this operation with the same units and with the same type of support. However, "C" Company in addition to their employment as described above for Operation Fresno, performed extensive demolition work in and around the vicinity of the village of Van Ha located at BS767514. Approximately 17,180 pounds of explosives were expended in the destruction of 554 bunkers, 123 houses, 130 rice storage bins, 125 wells and forty-one (41) cave tunnel complexes. See Appendix C.

(4) Special Sweep Operation. The Second Platoon of "B" Company in support of "C" Company, First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment conducted an extensive one (1) day deliberate type sweep from BT485118 to BT494083 in search of buried enemy ordnance. The platoon, utilizing a total of fifteen (15) mine detectors was reinforced by a platoon of the Ninth Engineer Battalion which was also equipped with fifteen (15) mine detectors. The sweep located only a small amount of unidentifiable medical supplies. See Appendix D.

(5) Convoy Escorts. Engineer breaching and demolition teams supported two (2) convoys to Quang Ngai during this period.

(6) LVTE-1 Projected Line Charge. A total of twenty-two (22) LVTE-1 line charges were fired in the Second Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment TAOR in the vicinity of BT567917. Two (2) villages and an undetermined amount of mines and booby traps were destroyed.

e. Water Supply. During this reporting period the Battalion (-) operated seven (7) water point/shower points and two (2) shower points in the Chu Lai area. In addition, a water point was operated in support of Operations FRESNO and GOLDEN FLEECE. 1,612,465 gallons of potable water and 1,305,100 gallons of shower water were produced.

f. Road and Bridge Construction. The Battalion (-) constructed approximately 2,366 meters of new military road and installed 267 meters of corrugated sheet steel culvert in the Second Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment TAOR. Four (4) bridges were rehabilitated and maintained during Operation FRESNO. See Appendix B.

g. Civil Affairs/ Civic Action. 354 people from the villages of Dong Binh (1)(BT571993) and Dong Binh (2)(BT564002) received medical aid. A children's party in celebration of the autumn holiday Equinox was hosted for 190 grade school children at the village of Phuoc An (BT572015).

REFERENCE LISTEVENT*Rpp*

- A* - Operation NAPA
- B* - Operation FRESNO
- C* - Operation GOLDEN FLEECE
- D* - Sweep
- E* - Rough Rider

REFERENCE

- Co. "B" AA Rpt of 18 Sep 66
- Co. "C" AA Rpt of (undated)
- Co. "C" AA Rpt of 28 Sep 66
- Co. "B" AA Rpt of 29 Sep 66
- Co. "B" AA Rpt of 29 Sep 66

Company "B"  
 1st Engineer Battalion  
 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
 FFO San Francisco, California 96302

18 Sep 1966

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division  
 Via: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report

Ref: (a) Tam Ky Map sheet 6640 II 17014

Encl: (1) Cave Diagram-Coordinates BT 224237  
 (2) Cave Diagram-Coordinates BT 239211  
 (3) Cave Diagram-Coordinates BT 217233

1. Code Name. Operation NAPA
2. Dates of Operation. 050600Sep66 to 151800Sep66
3. Location. Tam Ky area
4. Control Command Headquarters.
  - a. Commanding Officer, 5th Marines Col. C.F. WILDECKE, USMC
  - b. Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Lt. Col. H.L. COFFMAN, USMC
  - c. Commanding Officer "B" Company 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Capt GAUSHER, USMC
  - d. Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion 5th Marines, Lt. Col. E.J. BRONARS, USMC
5. Task Organization.
6. Supporting Forces.
7. Intelligence. Due to the nature of the operation this company was not provided with prior engineer intelligence estimates. There was not any significant or unusual engineer intelligence information gathered as a result of the operation.
8. Mission. To provide direct combat engineer support to elements of the 5th Marines in the search and destroy operation.
9. Concept of Operation. [REDACTED] 5th Marines and sub units of the Company were placed in direct support of the infantry units as indicated below.
  - a. 1st Platoon, 1st Battalion 5th Marines
  - b. 1st Squad 2nd Platoon, "G" Company 2nd Battalion 5th Marines
  - c. 2nd and 3rd Squads, 2nd Platoon, 2nd Battalion 5th Marines
  - d. 3rd Platoon, 3rd Battalion 5th Marines

APPENDIX A

10. Execution. Approximately 040900 H Sep66 verbal orders were received from the S-3 of the 5th Marines to have elements of "B" Co report to their assigned supported infantry unit immediately. All elements of "B" Co reported to the appropriate location by 041100 H Sep66. D day and H hour were established at 050600 H Sep66. A chronology of significant engineer participation in operation NAPA follows:

- a. 5Sep66-Member of the 3rd Platoon destroyed three (3) booby traps (stub grenades) and three (3) dud artillery rounds. Members of the 1st squad 2nd Platoon destroyed one U. S. fragmentation grenade.
- b. 6Sep66-1st squad, 2nd platoon destroyed one 81mm HE round. Members of the 3rd Platoon destroyed five small tunnels.
- c. 7Sep66-"B" Co headquarters and the 1st Platoon were directed to return to the Engineer Battalion CP.
- d. 8Sep66-Members of 3rd Platoon destroyed a 500 lb bomb and four VC stick type grenades.
- e. 9Sep66-Members of the 1st squad 2nd Platoon destroyed one 275mm rocket dud a large tunnel complex was discovered and destroyed by the 1st squad of the 3rd Platoon. See enclosure (1).
- f. 10Sep66-Another tunnel complex was discovered and destroyed by members of the third Platoon. See enclosure (2).
- g. 11Sep66-Large tunnel complex discovered and destroyed by members of the third Platoon. See enclosure (3).
- h. 12Sep66-Members of 1st squad, 2nd platoon destroyed two illumination duds, one 81mm and one 60mm.
- i. 13Sep66-One 105 dud destroyed by members of 3rd Platoon.
- j. 14Sep66-Six VC stick grenades and four 81mm dud rounds destroyed by 3rd Platoon.
- k. 15Sep66-Twelve 60mm HE dud rounds ~~and~~ <sup>AND</sup> one 60mm illumination dud round destroyed by 1st squad, 2nd Platoon. Members of third Platoon destroyed entrance of one small tunnel. Members of 1st squad, 2nd Platoon and third platoon returned to 1st Engineer Battalion CP at 151730 H Sep66 upon conclusion of the operation.

11. Results.

- a. During the operation the third platoon suffered one casualty when on 9Sep66 PFC MILES was over come by tunnel gas. He was evacuated from the area but in a matter of hours was returned to duty status.
- b. There was no engineer equipment or tools lost, or destroyed on the operation.

12. Administration.

a. Supply. The resupply of materials was adequate to meet engineer needs.

b. Transportation. The transportation supplied by the 5th Marines was adequate.

c. Communication. Some communication difficulties were encountered due to a high volume of interference on the engineer frequency. A AN-MRC 83 was employed by the company headquarters and AN/PRC 25 were assigned to the Platoon.

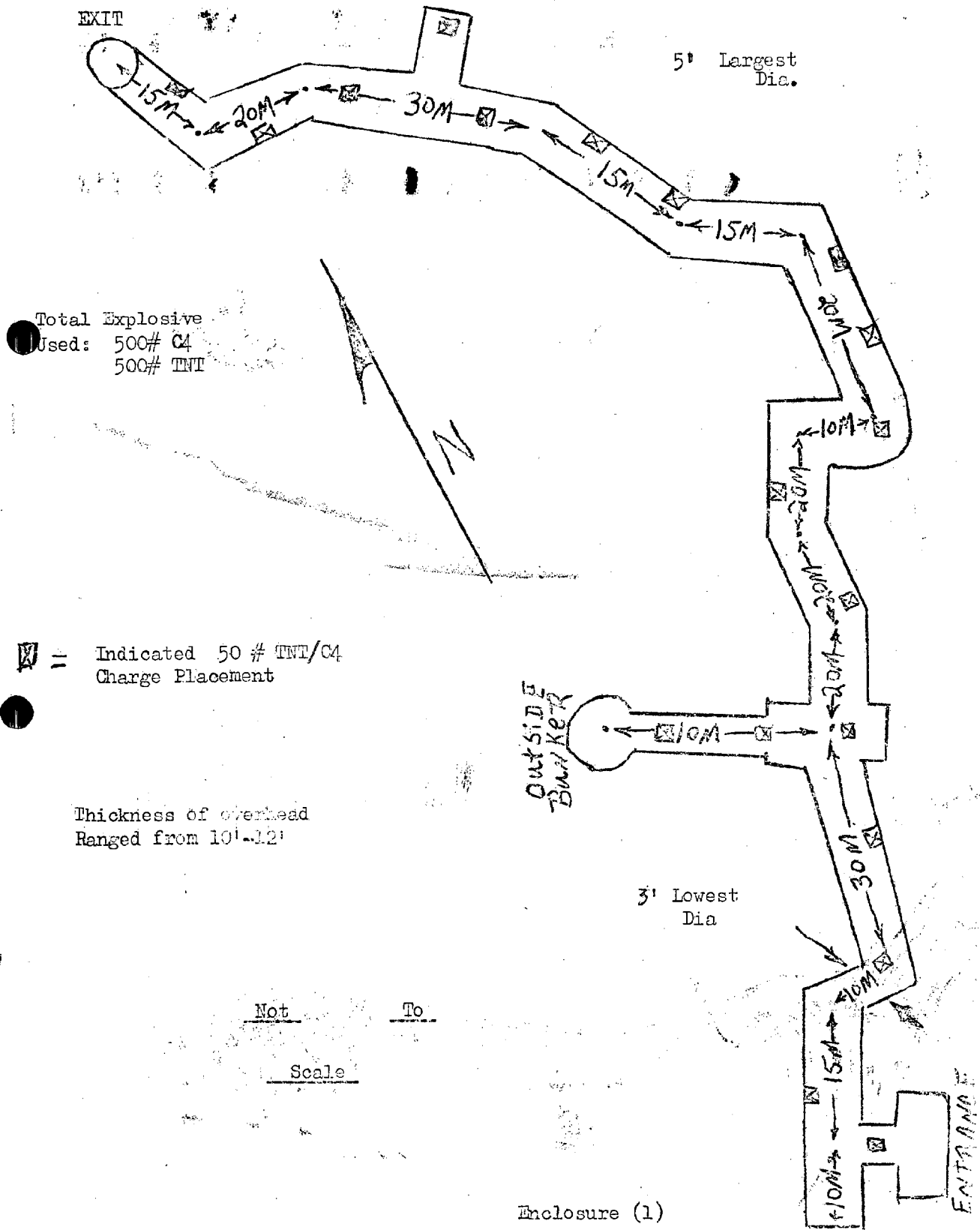


13. Special Equipment. There wasn't any special equipment taken on the operation, [REDACTED]

14. Commander's Analysis. As a result of experiment in the use of TNT and C4 in tunnel destruction assignments is is felt that TNT proved to be the more effective explosive. TNT appeared to have a greater heaving effect which resulted in a more complete destruction of the tunnel complex. [REDACTED]

*RW Falkenbach*  
R. W. FALKENBACH

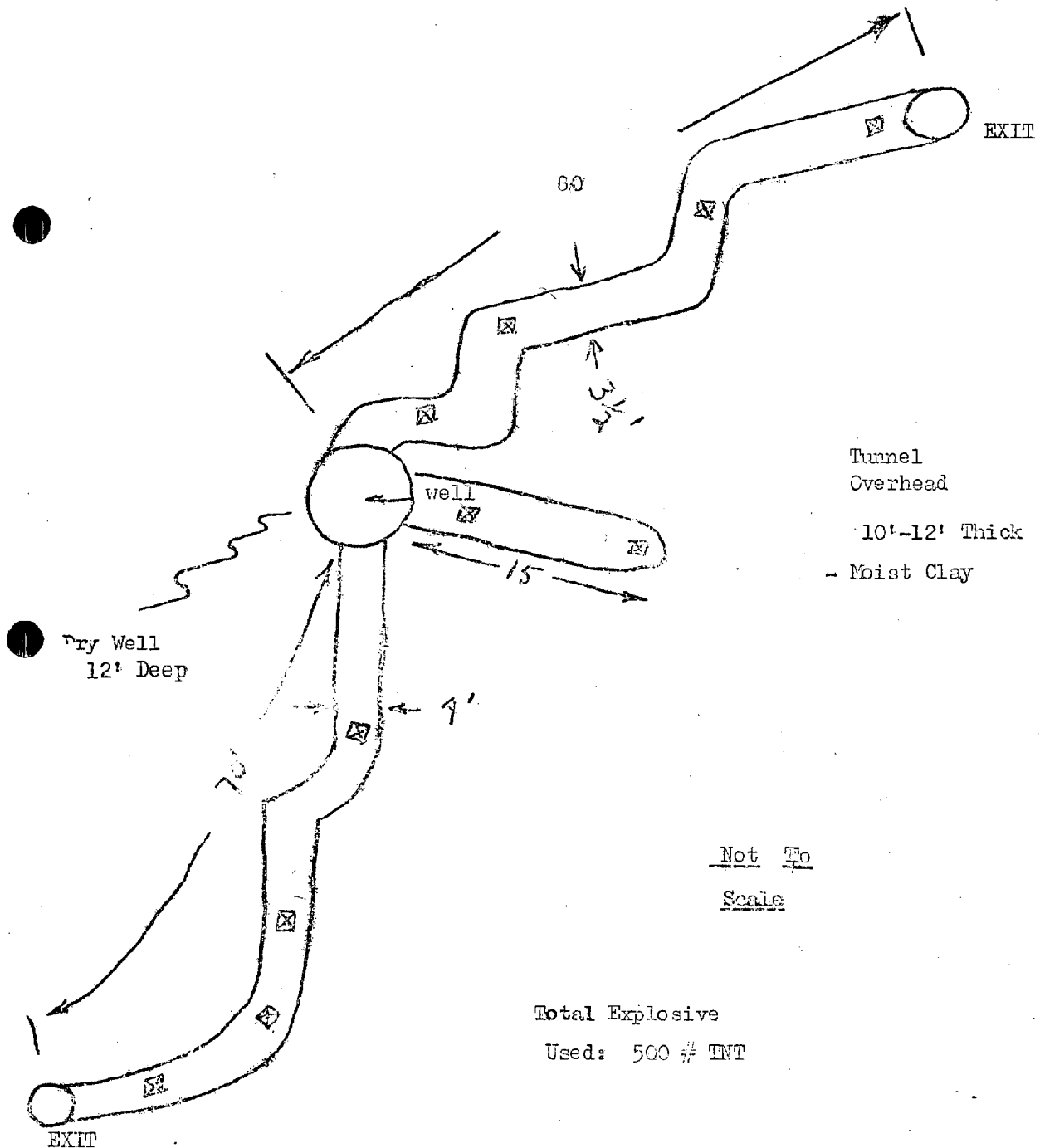
Coordinates BT 224237



Enclosure (1)

Coordinates BT 239211

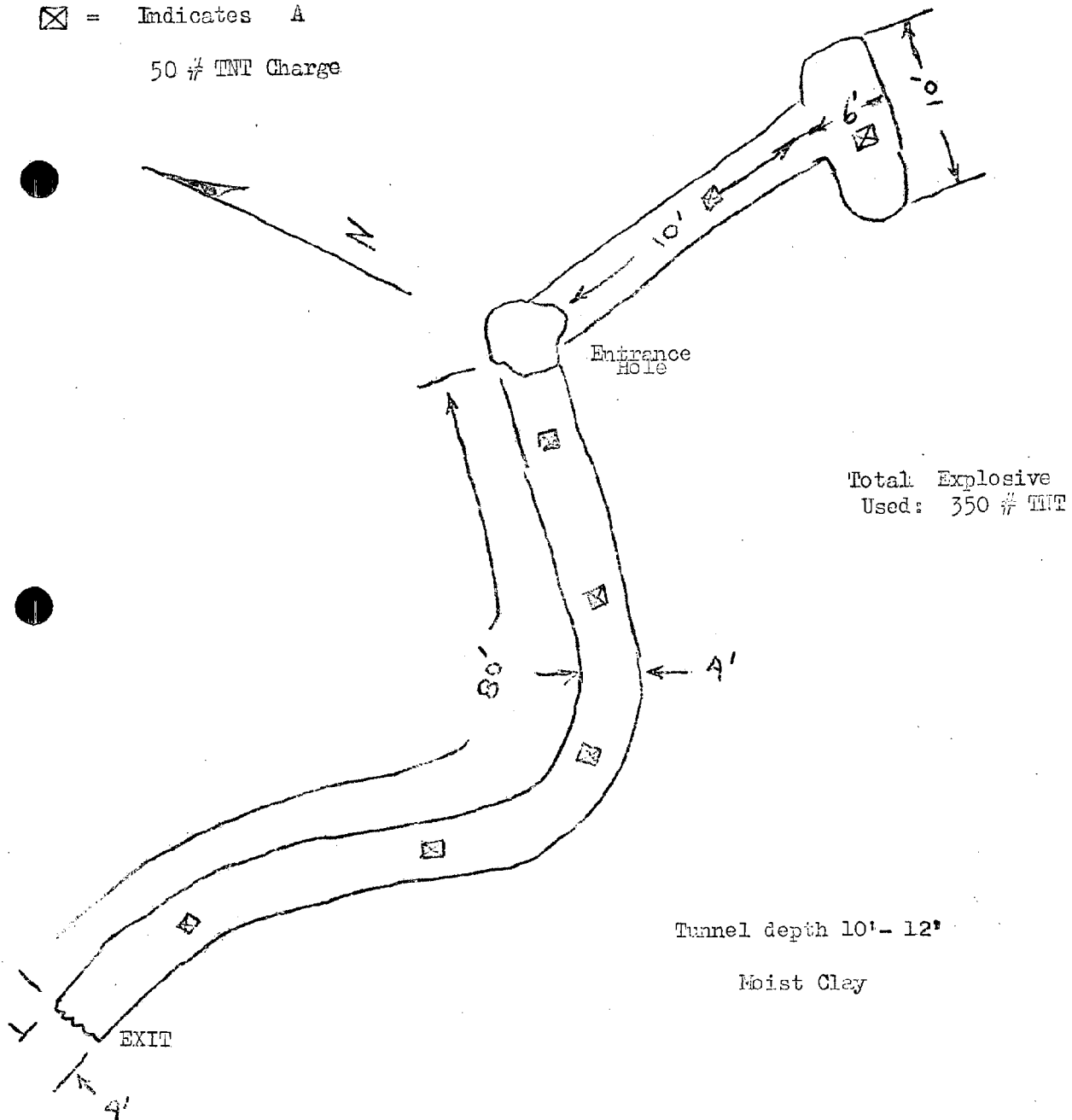
☒ = 50 # TNT Charge



Enclosure (2)

Coordinates BT 217233

☒ = Indicates A  
50 # TNT Charge



Enclosure (3)

Company "C"  
1st Engineer Battalion  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 9602

From: Commanding Officer, "C" Company 1st Engr Bn  
To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion

Subj: Combat After Action Report

1. Code Name. Operation FRESNO
2. Dates of Operation. 060530 September to 162400 September 1966.
3. Location. Mo Duc area, Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Viet Nam
4. Control or Command Headquarters.

7th Marines (-) (Rein)	Col SNODDY
1st Bn, 7th Marines	Maj WALLER
1st Engr Bn	Maj NEWTON
Company "C" 1st Engr Bn	Capt LUTTRELL
2nd Plt, Co "C", 1st Engr Bn	2nd Lt VANKIRK
3rd Plt, Co "C", 1st Engr Bn	2nd Lt FRANKLIN
5. Task Organization. N/A
6. Support Forces. N/A
7. Intelligence. N/A
8. Mission. To provide combat engineer support to the 7th Marines (-) (Rein). Specifically, to keep the MSR passable to programmed traffic between coordinates 724569 and 732545.
9. Concept of Operation. A CP was established at Nui Dep, coordinates 708608. Highway #1 was swept for mines daily between coordinates 708608 and 732545. Four (4) bridges within Co "C" area of responsibility were repaired and a traffic control / security team assigned to each daily. 2nd Plt Co H, 1/7 provided security. H&S Co and Support Co, 1st Engr Bn provided the following:

Personnel	
H&S Company	2 Communicators
	2 Corpsmen
	1 Cook
Support Company	5 Motor Transport
Equipment	4 Heavy Equipment
Motor Transport	5 M51 Dump Trucks
	1 M54 Cargo Truck
	1 Mark 83 Radio Jeep
Heavy Equipment	2 MRS 100

Appendix B

2 Bridging Trailers  
1 105 Trailer

10. Execution.

*Demolished*

6Sep66 At 0230 the VC the bridge at coordinates 726563. Enough of the bridge remained intact for single file foot traffic. ARVN engineers installed a light tactical floating bridge at this location. At coordinates 722578 a culvert was repaired using fill from preloaded dump trucks. A bridge at coordinates 724569 was repaired. Part of the upper chord protruding into the roadway was cut to permit an MRS 100 to pass. The approaches to the bridge were scarified and the fill obtained was placed in dips in the center of the span. This bridge required constant repair throughout the operation.

7Sep66 Repairs began on the bridge at coordinates 728555. A new treadway and some new decking were installed. Barbed wire stakes used for decking on the bridge at coordinates 733545 were replaced with 3 X 12 timber.

8Sep66 Part of the span of the bridge at coordinates 728555 rests on the ruins of an old BAILEY Bridge. Trucks crossing bridge struck a protruding upper chord and jarred this section. The deck settled under water. A crib was installed and solved the problem.

9Sep66 Assigned section of Route #1 swept for mines; traffic control security teams assigned as before. Minor repairs made to bridges.

10Sep66 Assigned section of Route #1 swept for mines; traffic control security teams assigned as before. Minor repairs made to bridges.

11Sep66 Assigned section of Route #1 swept for mines; traffic control security teams assigned as before. Minor repairs made to bridges. CP received sniper fire; fire was returned. Natives reported 2 VC hit with 50 caliber rounds and 2 VC hit with W.P. from 3.5 rocket.

12Sep66 Assigned section of Route #1 swept for mines; traffic control security teams assigned as before. Minor repair made to bridges.

13Sep66 Assigned section of Route #1 swept for mines; traffic control security teams assigned as before. Minor repairs made to bridges.

14Sep66 Assigned section of road swept for mines; traffic control security teams assigned as before. Minor repairs made to bridges. A four (4) man engineer team supported 2nd Platoon, Co "H", 1/7 in a sweep.

15Sep66 3rd Platoon Company "C" 1st Engineer Battalion, returned to Battalion CP.

16Sep66 Operation FREZNO ended. 2nd Platoon Company "C" 1st Engineer Battalion remained in Nui Dep area in support of Operation GOLDEN FLEECE.

11. Results. After initial repairs were completed, all four bridges remained passable for duration of operation.
12. Administrative Matters. Each traffic control/security team was equipped with a PRC-25. This proved a tremendous help in control and repair work. A TL-16 was badly needed to refill dump trucks.
13. Special Equipment and Techniques. The light tactical floating bridge mentioned in Paragraph 10.
14. Commanders Analysis. This unit does not have the organic equipment

necessary to make major structural repairs to a bridge on short notice. It is not within this units capability or mission. Prior to this operation, as prior to Operation OAKLAND, a reconnaissance was made of the MSR. In both cases this recon indicated that the required work was within this units capability. Yet in both cases a key bridge was destroyed less than three hours before the operation was to begin. On Operation OAKLAND the 9th Engineers erected an M6 bridge; on this operation ARVN engineers installed a light tactical floating bridge. In neither case was the repair work of any value to the lead elements of the operation. These units either waited several hours or walked in. [REDACTED]

10. Recommendations. Any operational planning particularly when road or bridge repair is anticipated, should include an engineer officer as a member of the planning staff. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Adequate dependable security should be provided for bridges the night prior to an operation. (also see paragraph 12)

*H. I. Luttrell*  
H. I. LUTTRELL

Company "C"  
 1st Engineer Battalion  
 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
 FPO San Francisco, California 96602

28Sep66

From: Commanding Officer, Company "C", 1st Engineer Battalion  
 To: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion 1st Marine Division

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report

Ref: CG message 151335Z Sep66

1. Code Name. Operation GOLDEN FLEECE (S and D Operation)
2. Dates of Operation. 170001 Sep66 to 271000 Sep66
3. Location. Quang Ngai Province, RVN BS 7451
4. Control or Command Headquarters.

7th Marines (-) (Rein)	Col SNODDY
1st Bn 7th Marines	Maj WALTER
1st EngrBn	Maj NEWTON
"C" Co 1st EngrBn	Capt LUTTRELL
5. Task Organization. N/A
6. Supporting Forces. N/A
7. Intelligence. N/A
8. Mission. To provide close, combat engineer support to the 1st Battalion 7th Marines and to keep the MSR passable to programmed traffic from coordinates 724559 to 732545.
9. Concept of Operation. The 2nd platoon "C" Company (Rein) was in support of the MSR at all times. The 2nd platoon (-) (Rein) provided close combat support in the form of demolition teams during the period 22 Sep66 to 26Sep66. The 2nd platoon "C" Company was reinforced with the following personnel and equipment from H&S Company and Support Company:

Personnel

H&S Co            2 communications  
                     1 corpsman  
                     1 cook

Support Co        3 Motor Transport  
                     2 Equipment Operators  
                     1 Mechanic

Motor Transport   1 Mark 83 Radio Jeep  
                     3 M-51 Dump trucks

Heavy Equipment   1 Bridge trailer  
                     2 MRS-100

*APPENDIX C*



10. Executions. 18Sep66 2nd platoon (Rein) "C" Co 1st Engr Bn established CP at 724574 from coordinates 611718. The platoon began clearing area from coordinates 580722 to 570724 covering 200 meters on each side of route 1. One squad of the platoon used as traffic control on bridges at coordinates 724569, 726564, 728555.  
 19Sep66 Continued clearing area. Expended 1,000 lbs of C-4, in clearing mission. Two (2) MRS 100's used to push down partially destroyed buildings. One (1) squad used as traffic control on same three (3) bridges as previous day.  
 20Sep66 Continued clearing. Expended 3,000 lbs of C-4. Two (2) MRS-100's used again as on previous day. One squad used to control traffic on same bridges from previous day.  
 21Sep66 Continued clearing same area. Expended 2,000 lbs C-4. The two (2) MRS-100's completed leveling area. One squad used as traffic control on the three (3) bridges at coordinates listed on 18Sep66. One welder and operator used to improve railings on bridge at coordinate 728555. One (1) US Army Jeep burned on bridge as welding was taking place.  
 22Sep66 Moved to VanHa Village. Established CP at coordinates 518760. One four (4) man team established a CP at 724538. The four men were for traffic control on bridge at coordinates 728555. All motor Transport and Equipment went to LSA at coordinates 611718.  
 23Sep66 Five Demo teams used 3,000 lbs of demo. Destroyed 163 bunkers, 17 houses, 12 tunnels. Five (5) secondary explosions occurred.  
 24Sep66 Five (5) Demo teams expended 3,000 lbs of demolitions. Destroyed 144 bunkers, 56 houses, 3 with cave tunnel complex, and 14 caves. Had five (5) secondary explosions.  
 25Sep66 Five Demo teams expended 3,300 lbs of demolitions. Destroyed 153 bunkers, 32 houses, 63 wells, 45 rice storage sheds, and 15 caves. Six (6) secondary explosions occurred. Destroyed five (5) booby trapped hand grenades.  
 26Sep66 Five (5) Demo teams expended 1,880 lbs of demolition. Destroyed 94 bunkers, 18 houses, 62 wells, 85 rice storage sheds, 9 caves. Eight (8) secondary explosions occurred. Destroyed 4 booby trapped hand grenades.  
 27Sep66 2nd PLATOON (Rein) "C" Company returned to Battalion CP.
11. Results. 2nd platoon "C" Company 1st Engr Bn suffered four (4) casualties (three (3) casualties as a result of secondary explosions, one as a result of burns)
12. Administrative Matters. Adequate
13. Commander's Analysis. Some difficulty was experienced due to the lack of ability to communicate with local civilians. The difficulty was encountered by the traffic control teams on the bridges in our area of responsibility.
14. Recommendations. It is recommended that an interpreter be provided to the engineers when the engineers are in general support role separated from the reported unit CP.

COMPANY "B"  
1st Engineer Battalion  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO, San Francisco 96602

29 Sep 1966

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
Via: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report

Ref: (a) Tra Bong Map Sheet 6739 IV, Series L7014

1. Type of Operation. Sweep.
2. Date of Operation. 260630Sep66 to 261700Sep66.
3. Location. BT 485118 to BT 494083.
4. Control or Command Headquarters. Captain SULLIVAN, Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.
5. Task Organization. One Engineer Platoon from 1st Engineer Battalion and one Engineer Platoon from 9th Engineer Battalion in direct support of Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.
6. Support Forces. Seven AmTracks were used to transport troops to and from the area to be searched. Fifteen ARVN were used with good results as interpreters.
7. Intelligence. No contact with VC was anticipated. Intelligence reports indicated mortars used against the Chu Lai Air Facility were hidden in area indicated in paragraph 3 above. There was no VC contact and no mortars were found. A small amount of medical supplies were found but it could not be determined if the supplies were of VC origin.
8. Mission. Find mortar tubes used against the Chu Lai Air Facility.
9. Concept of Operation. Two engineer platoons abreast were to follow the infantry units and sweep with mine detectors half of the island in the morning and the other half in the afternoon.
10. Execution. The order was received at 1600, 24 September 1966 and the sweep began at 0630 on 25 September 1966. The 2nd Platoon, 1st Engineers used the trail, running north and south dividing the island in half, as a left boundry and swept south using the 9th Engineers as their right boundry. After reaching the southern most part of the island, 2nd Platoon, turned around and swept north again using the trail as the left boundry and 9th Engineers as the right boundry. The sweep was completed at 1630 on 26 September 1966.

Appendix 1

11. Results. No mortars were found.

12. Administration Matters. Administrative plans seemed to be adequate.

13. Special Equipment and Techniques. None.

14. Commander's Analysis. Due to the nature of the operation there were good reasons why the sweep should have been conducted in one day, i.e. maintaining the element of surprise. It is also apparent however, that due to the limited time available, the extremely large area to be swept (Approximately 7,000 square meters) and the number of mine detectors available (Approximately 30) that the operation had little real chance of success. The mine detector operators were forced to move so rapidly during this operation that the effective use of their equipment was greatly reduced.

15. Recommendations

a. That in future operations of this nature sufficient time be allocated to insure the effective and efficient use of the mine detectors. Proper use of the detectors in many cases outweighs the desirability of conducting an operation within a given time frame.

b. That the responsibility for planning and controlling operations of this nature should lie with the engineer personnel.

*R. W. Falkenbach*  
R. W. FALKENBACH

COMPANY "B"  
1st Engineer Battalion  
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO, San Francisco 96602

29 Sep 1966.

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
Via: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report

1. Code Name. Operation Rough Rider - Convoy
2. Dates of Operation. 260500Sep66 to 271600Sep66.
3. Location. RVN Highway #1 from Chu Lai to Da Nang and return.
4. Control Command Headquarters
  - a. Convoy Commander, Captain SEYBOLD, XO, 1st Motor Transport Battalion.
  - b. Infantry Commander, Captain MARESCO, CO, Company "K", 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.
5. Task Organization. None.
6. Supporting Forces. None.
7. Intelligence
  - a. Weather for the mission was generally clear, with occasional clouds and afternoon and evening showers.
  - b. Engineer intelligence, gathered from the 1st Engineer Battalion S-2 Office, indicated that the route was clear, and all the bridges enroute were trafficable.
8. Mission. To provide direct engineer support for the convoy.
9. Concept. A detail from 3rd Platoon, Company "B", 1st Engineer Battalion, elements of Support Company and Communications Platoon were assigned in support of the Rough Rider convoy.
10. Execution
  - a. Approximately 251400Sep66 verbal orders were received to support Operation Rough Rider.

APPENDIX

E

b. Personnel were assigned to the engineer portion of the convoy as follows:

- (1) One (1) Officer.
- (2) Fourteen (14) combat engineers.
- (3) One (1) Corpsman.
- (4) Two (2) radio operators (CommPlat, H&SCo).
- (5) Six (6) drivers and assistant drivers (SptCo).

c. The following motor transport vehicles were assigned to the engineer section of the convoy:

- (1) Three (3) M51 dump trucks.
- (2) Two (2) M37 cargo trucks.
- (3) Two (2) M101 trailers.
- (4) One (1) MRC 83 radio jeep.

d. The following engineer equipment and materials <sup>was</sup> were included:

- (1) Two (2) mine detectors.
- (2) Two (2) squad tool kits.
- (3) One (1) chain saw.
- (4) Forty (40) feet of 36" culvert.
- (5) Two (2) Loads of fill.
- (6) Four (4), 12" X 6" X 16' timbers.
- (7) Ten (10), 3" X 12" X 16' timbers.
- (8) Twelve (12) eight foot metal stakes.
- (9) Fifty (50) pounds of 60 d nails.
- (10) Tool kit for culvert assembly.
- (11) 100 pounds of C4.
- (12) 40 non-electric caps.
- (13) 100' time fuze.
- (14) 1000' detonating cord.
- (15) Two, (2) AN-PR9-25 radios.

e. The engineer support element departed the Engineer CP area at 260400Sep66 and proceeded to the convoy forming location at the 9th Engineer water point. BT 522044.

f. The convoy was formed with the engineer vehicles occupying slots 4 thru 10. The convoy departed the Chu Lai IP at 260530Sep66.

g. The journey to Da Nang was uneventful and there was no engineer activity enroute.

h. The convoy arrived at Da Nang at 261245H, all elements were united, and adequate billeting was arranged for all personnel in the convoy.

i. The convoy departed Da Nang in the same sequence as was followed in the journey to the destination. The vehicles started their move at 270930Sep66.

j. Again, the return trip proved to be uneventful and there was no engineer activity. The convoy arrived at the Chu Lai IP at 271535H and this element was detached to proceed to the Engineer CP. Upon arrival all Support Company and H&C Company personnel were detached, and all materials carried on the M-51 dumps were unloaded.

11. Results. No casualties were taken on the operation, and no engineer equipment was lost or captured.

12. Administration matters

a. Supply - No engineer re-supply was required.

b. Transportation - The vehicles provided were completely adequate for the mission.

c. Communication - All communication's equipment functioned perfectly, and all procedures arranged by the 1st Engineer Battalion and the convoy commander proved to be ideal.

13. Special Equipment and Techniques. No special equipment was taken or needed on the operation.

14. Commander's analysis

a. The personnel and equipment provided for the operation were more than adequate.

b. Engineer placement in the convoy was appropriate.

c. The proposed use of the engineer support by the convoy commander was realistic and efficient.

15. Recommendations. Engineer support similar to the provided subject convoy be utilized for future operations.