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R.B. Peffing 3/10/77

Signature/date

*1st Engr BN
Command Chronology*

Jan 1967

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TFRAY 337 87

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

3:RP:mhs
5750
Ser:05-67
9 Feb 1967

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Division

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1 January 1967 to 31 January 1967

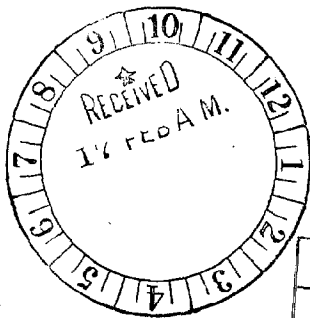
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2b

Encls: (1) 1st Engineer Battalion Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

Newton
C. O. NEWTON

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1ST MARINE DIVISION, FMF
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1ST ENGR BN

JAN 1967

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 January 1967 to 31 January 1967

INDEX

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NOT REPRODUCED IN 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

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1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

1st Engineer Battalion

Maj C. O. NEWTON (1-31 Jan)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company (-)

Capt R. OSBORNE (1-31 Jan)

Spt Company (-)

Maj P. J. SHANK (1-31 Jan)

Company A (Rein)

Capt H. E. ITCHKAWITCH (1-31 Jan)

Company B (-)

Capt R. W. FALKENBACH (1-31 Jan)

Company C

Capt H. L. LUTTRELL (1-31 Jan)

2. LOCATION

Battalion minus A Company (Rein)

1-31 Jan: Chu Lai, RVN

A Company (Rein)

1-31 Jan: DaNang, RVN

3 STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj J. C. FLOYD (1-24 Jan)
Maj E. J. TOWNSEND (25-31 Jan)

Sergeant Major

Sgt Maj F. C. TOMAN (1-31 Jan)

S-1/Adjutant

2nd Lt J. MOUTON (1-31 Jan)

S-2

1st Lt D. N. TOTH (1-31 Jan)

S-3

Maj R. PETROFF (1-31 Jan)

S-4

Capt J. J. KIRKPATRICK (1-31 Jan)

S-5

Capt R. OSBORNE (1-31 Jan)

Supply Officer

Capt T. F. BYRNES (1-31 Jan)

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Communications Officer

1st Lt A. J. BARATELA (1-31 Jan)

Medical Officer

Lt J. A. BACKER (1-31 Jan)

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC	
OFF	ENL
26	647

NAVY	
OFF	ENL
1	15

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The First Engineer Battalion minus "A" Company (Rein), the second platoon of "B" Company, and one officer and 19 men from "C" Company, was in general support of Task Force X-Ray at Chu Lai. One officer and 19 men from "C" Company were under the operational control of the Chu Lai Defense Command. The Battalion (-) continued its participation in a major operation, SIERRA, which began on 11 December 1966; began two additional major operations, DESOTO on 26 January 1967, and CLAY on 31 January; participated in 11 small unit operations; and provided engineer support to 16 convoys during this period. The Battalion (-) swept a total of 604.5 kilometers of roads in the Task Force X-Ray TAOR. "A" Company (Rein) participated in one major unnamed operation and 16 small unit operations. The Company swept a total of 403.5 kilometers of roads in the DaNang TAOR. During the month, the Battalion assumed control of the former Third Division Land Mine Warfare and Demolitions School at DaNang. The first classes were taught by Battalion personnel on 26 Jan 1967. Also, during the month, "A" Company assumed operation of the water points at 1/1 and 2/1. Both the Battalion (-) and "A" Company (Rein) continued improvement of perimeter defenses which included rehabilitating bunkers and protective wire. Troops quarters were also rehabilitated.

PART III

TOPICS

1. PERSONNEL and ADMINISTRATION

a. Gains and Losses. Two Marine officers and 52 Marine enlisted were joined during the month. Zero officers and 19 Marine enlisted were dropped and/or rotated to CONUS.

b. Casualties. The Battalion sustained a total of one KIA and 13 WIA's for the period.

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2. Intelligence

a. Road and Bridge Reconnaissance. A deliberate reconnaissance was made of National Highway 1 from BS560006 to BS771461. Enemy resistance precluded accomplishment of that portion of the highway from BS771461 to BS808378.

b. Weather. The 23 inches of precipitation received in the Task Force X-Ray TAOR during the month deteriorated roads and bypasses, delayed rehabilitation and new construction efforts, and increased equipment maintenance requirements.

c. Enemy Ordnance. A total of 58 enemy explosive devices were located and destroyed during this reporting period. 52 of the devices were located during Operation SIERRA which began on 11 December 1966. See Tab 1 of Appendix A. Six devices were located and destroyed on routine sweeps conducted in the TAOR during the month.

d. Tunnel Destruction. 1,720 feet of tunnels of various sizes were destroyed with demolitions. 1,700 feet of the tunnels were destroyed on operation SIERRA. See Tab 1 of Appendix A.

3. Training

a. General Military Subjects Proficiency Testing. 404 enlisted men (64% of the average strength) were administered the MCI General Military Subjects Proficiency Test.

b. Generator School. Six men attended school on the operation and maintenance of generators conducted by a team from FMFPAC at the FLSC-B CP on 27 January 1967. Instructions included nomenclature, trouble shooting, echelons of maintenance, use of SLI's, and paralleling.

Ref: CG TFX msg 240223ZJan67.

c. 30 men were instructed on the LVTE-I Projected Line Charge.

d. 30 men attended the Division Land Mine Warfare and Demolitions School and received instructions in mine sweep procedures and techniques.

4. Operations

a. Operation SIERRA. "C" Company minus the first and second platoons and reinforced by detachments from H&S, Support, and "B" Companies began direct support of the 7th Marines (Rein) minus the 1st and 3rd Battalions on 11 December 1966. Engineer efforts were primarily concerned with road and bridge maintenance and rehabilitation, convoy escort, and close combat support. A water point was also established at the LSA located at the Quang Ngai airfield on 12 December 1966, the second day of the operation, and is still in production. The operation terminated on 21 January 1967.



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Ref: (a) 7th Marine Frag Order 33-66
 (b) CO "C" ltr HHL:ejo over 3480
 Sent 03-67 of 28Jan67 (c) (AA Rpt) (Tab 1 to Appendix A)

b. Operation DESOTO. The second platoon of "C" Company reinforced by detachments from H&S and Support companies began direct support of 3/7 (Rein) on 26 January 1967. The operation is being conducted in an area surrounding Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province. To date engineer efforts have been primarily concerned with close combat support, operation of a water point and shower point (including bath unit) and the operation of a D-4 tractor (bulldozer), procured from MAG-13. Unique to the operation is that all equipment (including the bath unit and tractor), personnel, and supplies had to be air lifted into the area, due to the impassible condition of the highway leading into it. The CH-53A helicopter was utilized to lift the tractor and the bath unit.

Ref: (a) TFX-Ray OpPlan 1-67 (S)
 (b) TFX-Ray Admin Plan 1-67 (S)
 (c) 3/7 OpO 1-67 (C)
 (d) 7th Marines FragO 1-67 (C)
 (e) 3/7 AdminO 1-67 (S)
 (f) CG TFX-Ray msg 271715ZJan67 (S)

c. Operation CLAY. The third platoon of "B" Company began direct support of 1/5 on 31 January 1967. The operation was a search and destroy mission in the vicinity of BT3809. Engineer efforts were all directed toward close combat support. The operation terminated in early February. The after action report will be appended to the Command Chronology for that month.

Ref: 1/5 FragO 8-67 (C)

5. Water Supply. During this reporting period, the battalion(-) operated eight water points and nine shower points. 791,000 gallons of potable water and 845,400 gallons of shower water were produced and issued. "A" Company assumed operation of the water points at 1/1 and 2/1 during this month. Production and issue figures for these water points will be appended to the February Command Chronology.

6. Road and Bridge Construction/Rehabilitation

a. Road. In spite of the heavy rainfall of approximately 23 inches during the month, the Battalion(-) rehabilitated 14,300 meters of roads in the Task Force X-Ray TAOR. Rehabilitation included installation of 94 linear feet of 36" corrugated sheet steel culvert and 1,200 sand bags in culvert headwalls, and placement of 2,300 cubic yards of sand and earth fill.

b. Bridge. Bridges located at BS726564, BS728556, BS733546, BS728555, BS736533, and BS707616 were rehabilitated during Operation SIERRA. See Tab 1 of Appendix A.

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7. Other Construction

a. The Battalion(-) completed construction of the following:

- (1) One 24'x24' Class V storage bunker for 3/11.
- (2) Rehabilitated the Task Force X-Ray USQ building.
- (3) Wired SP Battalion CP.
- (4) Constructed alternate firing pits and cleared fields of fire for "A" Btry, 94th Arty Bn, USA.

b. "A" Company (Rein) accomplished the following:

- (1) Devoted 1,440 man hours toward construction projects at the Division CP.
- (2) Constructed an 8'x8' bunker for storage of class V for the company.
- (3) Completed construction of two 8'x8' security bunkers for local security.
- (4) Constructed an addition to the EM Club and the Battalion Chapel at 1/1.
- (5) Constructed four six hole heads; replaced 100 trip flares; and assisted in construction of a double apron protective fence for 2/1.

8. Division Land Mine Warfare and Demolitions Schools. Marines trained during the month of January are as follows:

	<u>Chu Lai</u>	<u>* DaNang</u>
Infantry	308	43
Engineers	98	3
Other	61	0

* for the period 26-31
January 1967

9. Civil Affairs/Civic Action

a. Medical Treatment. 307 people from the village of Phuoc An located at BT572015, were provided medical aid.

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PART IV

CHRONOLOGY OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

EVENT

✓ Operation SIERRA

REFERENCE

CO "C" Co AA Rpt.
HLL:ggg over 3480 of 28Jan67,
Ser:04-67

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COMPANY "C"
1st Engineer Battalion
1st Marine Division (Reinf) FMF
APO San Francisco, California 96602

1ST ENGR BN

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HLL:ggg

3480

28 Jan 67

04-67

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment
Via: Commanding Officer, 1st Engineer Battalion

Subj: Combat after action report

Refs: (a) DivO 3480.1

(b) Map Viet Nam 1:50,000 Series L7014 Sheets 6739: II & III
6738: I & IV

1. Code Name: Search and Destroy Operation "SIERRA"
2. Dates of Operation: 111300 H December 1966 to 211200 H January 1967
3. Location: Mo Duc Area, Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Viet Nam
4. Command and Control Headquarters:

7th Marines (-) (Reinf)	Col L. F. SNODDY
2nd Bn, 7th Marines	Major W.P. KUTTERMAN
Company "C", 1st Engineer Bn	Capt. H. L. LUTTRELL

5. Task Organization:

"C" Co, (-) (Reinf) 1st EngBn

Squad "B" Co, 1st EngBn

Det H&S Co, 1st EngBn

Det Supt Co, 1st EngBn

6. Supporting Forces: N/A

7. Intelligence: 7th Marine Regiment ESURM

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TAB A

8. Mission: To provide close combat engineer support to the United States Marine Corps forces in the area of operation and to maintain National Highway 1, including bridges, from Quang Ngai, BS 605721 to Mo Duc, BS 725540.

9. Concept of Operation: The company headquarters reinforced by elements of H&S, Support, and "B" companies was in direct support of the 7th Marines (-) (Rein) command group. The 3rd platoon, reinforced with personnel from the 1st and 2nd platoons provided close combat engineer support to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines (-) (Rein). Two (2), five (5) man teams were in direct support of "A" Battery, 2nd Battalion, 94th Field Artillery and "H" Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines. The teams with each battery provided mine sweep and convoy support. The company was reinforced with the following personnel and equipment from H&S, Support and "B" companies.

Personnel:

H&S Company	1-Cook
	2-Communicators
	1-Corpsmen
Support	1-Mechanic
	5-Motor Transport Drivers
	7-Heavy Equipment Operators
"B"	15-Combat Engineers

Equipment:

H&S Company	1-Field Range
	1-MRC/83
Support	1-M52 w/lowbed
	3-M51 Dump Trucks
	1-M54 Cargo
	2-MRS 100

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Support

1-M60 Crane

1-Arc Welding Unit

1-TL 16

"B"

2-ANFRS/4

2-PL53

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10. Execution:

At 1100 on 11 December 1966, a warning order was received by telephone that an operation would commence the following day. The first elements were to depart at 1600 to support the operation. A meeting was scheduled for 1700 at the 7th Marines Headquarters to issue orders and to make liaison with appropriate headquarters. At 1620 a five (5) man team departed for the 175MM gun position at coordinates BS 629851 to support the movement of guns to their alternate firing position. At 1740 the 3rd platoon departed for the 2/7 CP. At 1830 the engineer squads were assigned to the supported companies. The next morning, at 0230, the headquarters element departed with the Regimental Convoy, arriving at Quang Ngai 0530. At this time the engineer team to support H Battery 3/11 left the convoy and joined the battery. H Battery moved to coordinates BS 61 6641. The Regimental Convoy moved on to its destination, from coordinates BS 714606 to BS 701600. At 0700 two (2) 175MM guns moved to the alternate position at coordinates BS 636753. The team in support swept the road in front of the guns and installed protective wire around the guns at their alternate position. Beginning about 0930 elements of the 3rd platoon departed by helicopters for the objective area I. At about 2300 one (1) man in support of 2/7 was medical evacuated due to fragmentation wounds.

On the 13th the headquarters element conducted a road mine sweep from coordinates BS 701600 to BS 714606. This became a continuous, daily road sweep until 19 December 1966. One (1) 155MM round discovered at 1200 was destroyed at coordinates BS 680571. The 175MM guns returned to their

[REDACTED]

primary positions at 1430. The road was swept for mines prior to the movement of the guns. The team in support helped retrieve one of the guns that was stuck at coordinates BS 629826 utilizing an MRS-100 with snatch block. After the return to the primary position the engineer teams mission being completed, they returned to the 1st Engineer Battalion CP. The next afternoon at 1500, one (1) 105 MM (WP) round and one (1) 60 MM mortar round that was found in the Regimental CP area was destroyed with two (2) pounds of C-4.

On the 15th the headquarters element reconnoitered the road and bridges from coordinates BS 714606 to BS 734541. The third platoon closed the entrance to a small cave at coordinates BS 624523 with five (5) lbs of C-4 at 1130. The next morning at 1030 the third platoon located and destroyed eighty (80) pounds of VC made ammonium Nitrate at coordinates BS 611503. On the 16th fifteen (15) cu yds of fill were hauled to coordinates BS 718592 to backfill a culvert that was repaired. The VC had blown the culvert prior to the start of the operation. At 1000 repair work was commenced on the bridge at coordinates BS 726564. An arc welding unit was utilized along with one hundred (100) lineal feet of angle iron to increase the load capacity of the bridge. At coordinates BS 562545 the 3rd platoon destroyed one (1) 155 MM round, one (1) BLU (aerial bomb) and a VC made bangalore torpedo with four (4) pounds of C-4. The ordnance was destroyed at 1200 hours. Early the next morning the headquarters element provided engineer support in the form of escorting and sweeping the road in front of the convoy that was moving the regimental CP to a new location at coordinates BS 725538. The new CP location was established for 2/7 and the regimental command group returned to Chu Lai. At 1000 the welding repairs were completed and a new deck and treadways were installed on the bridge. Prior to the movement of the CP to the new location a four man bridge guard team was stationed at the bridges.

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located at coordinates BS 732545, BS 728555, and BS 726564. Their mission was to assist the convoys in crossing the bridges and to insure the bridges were safe for traffic to pass. Twenty (20) cubic yards of fill were hauled in the afternoon to repair holes in the road between coordinates BS 718592 to BS 724569. During the repair work one man was wounded but did not require medical evacuation. The 3rd platoon destroyed two (2) cave complexes, one (1) 1 X 1.5 X 70 Meters and the other 1 X 1.4 X 40 M, with 450 pounds of TNT. An entrance was closed to another cave with 50 pounds of TNT at coordinates BS 625545. This destruction of caves occurred in the afternoon.

On the 20th, the bridge at coordinates BS 728556 was repaired utilizing an arc welder and salvaged angle iron at the site. Repair consisted of reinforcing stringers and panels. The treadway on the bridge was repaired. The 3rd platoon destroyed two (2) WP grenades with one (1) pound of C-4 at 1000 at coordinates BS 668560. In the same location at 1300 five (5) 3.5 rounds were destroyed with three (3) pounds of C-4. Beginning at 0730 the headquarters element conducted a road sweep on the road from coordinates BS 719590 to BS 706618. The 3rd platoon destroyed a large cave complex, 1 X 1.5 X 370M, using one thousand&five hundred (1,500) pounds of TNT, twenty-five (25) forty (40) pounds cratering charges, two-thousand (2000) feet of detonating cord at coordinates BS 676555. Two (2) 20MM booby trapped shells were destroyed with one (1) pound of TNT at the same location.

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At 1600, the third platoon destroyed one (1) 5" rocket round employed as a booby trap at coordinates BS 839417. At 1630 they destroyed a 5" rocket round (dud) at coordinates BS 835416. At 1700 a booby trapped area was cleared at coordinates BS 835415. The area consisted of fourteen (14) 5" rocket rounds and one (1) 250 pound bomb. The area was at an excellent site for a landing zone. The rockets and bomb were employed with trip wires and a pressure detonating system. If a helicopter set down on one of the rounds or if troops debarking from the helicopter tripped one of the trip wires the round would have exploded. The area was cleared and the ordnance was consolidated into three (3) groups and each group was destroyed using three (3) pounds of C-4 on each. EOD personnel assisted with the work.

On the 28th, the 3rd Platoon used twenty-five (25) pounds of C-4 for blasting holes in hedge rows, allowing a passageway for troops. One (1) man in the platoon was evacuated due to GSW. The next morning major rehabilitation of the bridge at coordinates BS 733546 was completed. The repairs consisted of constructing a new intermediate support made from 12" X 12" timbers, replacing damaged deckmembers and installing a new treadway. The third Platoon destroyed one (1) 5" rocket round employed as a booby trap at coordinates BS 842415 with one (1) pound of C-4.

At 1300 on the 30th the TL-16 was damaged when it struck a mine at coordinates BS 709599 while loading a dump truck. The area was swept for mines and one (1) 81 MM round employed as a mine was found and removed. The TL-16 was moved to coordinates BS 714615 with the MRS-100. A ten (10) man security detail was left to guard the TL-16. The security detail remained with the TL-16 until it was evacuated on 3 January 1967. The 3rd platoon destroyed two (2) 5" rocket rounds at coordinates BS 845415 with two (2) pounds of C-4 at 1400. The next morning at 0900 the 3rd platoon destroyed a one-thousand (1,000) pound bomb, three (3) 3.5 pounds and a one (1) pound block of ChiCom TNT at coordinates BS 845409 with twenty (20) pounds of C-4.

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On 2 January 1967 seven(7) cubic yards of fill were hauled to repair holes in the road at coordinates BS 720585. At 1500 on 3 January 1967 the TL-16 was evacuated to the 1st Engineer Battalion CP. The recovery team was provided by Support Company of the battalion.

On the 4th, minor repairs consisting of replacing and renailing deck & treadway members, were made to the bridges that was damaged by high water located at coordinates BS 728555. Nine (9) cubic yards of fill were hauled to repair holes in the road.

On the 6th the sweep team, conducting the daily road sweep received heavy and accurate sniper fire at coordinates BS 719593 from concealed positions approximately six hundred (600) meters due east at 1030 hours. The sweep team returned fire. The engagement lasted 1.5 hours and resulted in three (3) members of the team being wounded. A medical evacuation was required for two(2). Communications during the engagement were adequate. An infantry reaction platoon arrived at the second approximately thirty (30) minutes after requested. The sweep team continued and completed the sweep. At 1300 as they were returning to the CP sniper fire was again encountered. The location was the same as the prior engagement. and lasted 30 minutes. One man was KIA and one (1) man WIA as a result of the engagement. Both were evacuated to 1st Medical Battalion. At 1600 a reconnaissance of the bridge at coordinates BS 736533 was conducted to determine requirements to make bridge passable to jeep traffic.

On the 7th fifteen cubic yards of fill were hauled to repair holes in the section of road swept each day. The 3rd platoon at 1130 destroyed one (1) 500 pound bomb and one (1) 155MM round with five (5) pounds of C-4 at coordinates BS 793506. At 1500 a 105WP round was destroyed with one (1) pound of C-4 at coordinates BS 788350. The next morning minor repairs were made to the deck and tread way of the bridge at coordinates BS 728556. The 3rd platoon, at 0745, destroyed four (4) Chi Com grenades with

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three (3) pounds of C-4 at coordinates BS 782503. At 1000 a 105 booby trapped round was destroyed with two (2) pounds of C-4 at coordinates BS 768522.

On the 9th, the 3rd platoon at 0845 destroyed two (2) M-79 rounds that were booby trapped with one (1) pound of C-4 at coordinates BS 765512 and at 1300 three (3) Chi Con grenades were destroyed with one (1) pound of C-4 at coordinated BS 727594. On the 10th ten meters of deck and treadway was replaced on bridge at coordinates BS 728556. The 3rd platoon at 0900 destroyed a Z-10 mine, with one (1) pound of TNT, at coordinates BS 775593.

On the 11th the 3rd platoon, at 1000, destroyed a booby trapped 5" rocket round with one (1) pound of C-4 at coordinates BS 748602. The next morning the 3rd platoon at 0900 destroyed a 500 pound bomb booby trapped with an 81 MM mortar round with five (5) pounds of C-4 at coordinates BS 727597. Construction of the bridge at coordinates BS 736533 began on the 15th utilizing the MRS-100 to winch steel beams into position.

On the 17th the sweep team received sniper fire, at coordinates BS 717597 from concealed positions 600 meters to the east, during the daily road sweep. The engagement lasted one (1) hour and resulted in one (1) WIA requiring medical evacuation. The 3rd platoon, at 1700, destroyed a VC observation post with forty (40) pounds of C-4 at coordinates BS 695357.

On the morning of the 18th a reconnaissance was made of the

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The material arrived to build the bridge that was destroyed the previous day. The construction commenced at 1130 and the bridge was open to programmed traffic at 1500. The recovery of the M-60 Crane, utilizing an M-62 and MRS-100, commenced at 1530 and was completed at 1730. The next morning the bridge, damaged by the M-60 Crane, was rehabilitated at 0930 and open to program traffic.


11. Results: The company had eight (8) men WIA and one (1) man KIA. Five (5) VCS were apprehended by the company. A TL-16 was damaged when it hit a mine. One-hundred and forty (140) pounds of C-4, two-thousand (2000) pounds of TNT and twenty-five (25) cratering charges were used to destroy four (4) caves and fifty (50) pieces of ordnance employed by the enemy. Eighty (80) pounds of ammonium nitrate was captured from the enemy and was destroyed. Over one-hundred and twenty-five (125) cubic yards of fill were hauled to repair the road. For the repairs of the bridges in the area over 12,000 board feet of 3 X 12 inch boards and more than 600 board feet of 12 X 12 inch timbers were expended.

12. Administrative Remarks: Resupply of engineer items and all other items were adequate. Several items requested by this unit were not in stock at the LSA but all items not in stock and requested were later furnished in a reasonable time. Maintenance support at the LSA in motor transport was outstanding. All personnel in the section were very cooperative and proficient and made frequent visits to the field to repair deadline vehicles. Ordnance and communication maintenance was also adequate.

13. Special Equipment and Techniques: None

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14. Commanders analysis: The area encountered on the 27th of December as listed in this report was the first time anything of this nature has been encountered by this unit. The engineer team, along with EOD personnel, successfully detected and cleared the area. This employment


of the rockets and bombs would have taken the lives of many Marines and destroyed several helicopters had the area been used as a landing zone.

15. Recommendations: It is recommended that landing zones in VC territory be checked, as the situation permits, before landing helicopters to determine if the zone is booby trapped or mined.

H. L. Luttrell
H.L. LUTRELL *car*

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