

Co. A Enemy Contacts on the Rise

For several months engineers of Co. A, 70th Engr. BN (Cbt), have been receiving sporadic B-40 rocket and small arms fire from VC agents operating along QL-21. The engineers, engaged in paving and bridge construction, have had little opportunity to return the fire of the hit-and-run attackers until recently.

Most of the incidents have consisted of 2 or 3 B-40 rockets followed by small arms fire being directed at A Co.'s convoys. A few isolated rocket attacks have also been carried out against work sites along QL-21 although they have not caused a work stoppage or slowdown.

On July 17 a single ~~EX~~ B-40 was fired at an A co. $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck one-half mile ~~west~~ west of Bridge 29x on QL-21. News of the attack was flashed to Capt. John Rice, commander of C. A, as he drove toward Bridge 29 from a point less than five miles away. Within minutes a nearby helicopter was over the scene and in radio contact with Capt. Rice. The chopper acting as the "eyes" of the engineers ~~has~~ spotted three VC scurrying from the area in a southerly direction. Members of the second and third platoons ~~and~~ working at Bridge 29 quickly laid down their equipment and converged on the area. With the Huey chopper marking the VC position with smoke the engineers were able to pour intensive fire into the wooded area~~x~~ which concealed the enemy's position from the troops on the ground. M-14's, M-16's, M-79's, and a .50 caliber machine gun sent a storm of bullets and grenades into the trees. It was not determined if the action resulted in any enemy casualties but it is believed that such swift and heavy retaliation may discourage VC ambushes to some degree in the future.