

B29 Completed - But You Can't Drive Over It

Bridge #29, an A Co, 70th Engr Bn project, was completed during the final week of July marking the 3rd bridge to be erected on QL21 by the A Co Engineers. Members of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd platoons all had a hand in the project according to CPT John J. Rice, Commanding Officer of the Combat Engineer Company. During the month of June 1LT Ronald Harrison's 1st platoon battled wet weather and resultant floods to construct the headwall and culvert system. 1LT Harrison's men built wooden forms for the headwalls and enlisted the aid of a crane and cement mixer in pouring the headwalls. The continuous pouring operation required plenty of overtime from the platoon, and the engineers molded the cement structure over the three 72" culverts in the stream bed. Even before the forms were removed from the headwalls, ~~1LT~~^{1Lt} Murray's 2nd platoon and elements of the 3rd platoon under the direction of PSG Rodwell were busy at the site unloading their heavy ^{Earthmoving} equipment. As the forms were ripped from the hardened cement, D7 dozers set to work spreading fill brought to the site by A Co's 5 ton dump trucks. After an estimated 100 tons of fill were compacted, a layer of rock was spread. A thick coat of MC-70 and final compaction completed the bridge. Although bridge 29 can now handle traffic, no traffic has passed over it yet. Less than 100 yards ahead lies the unfinished Bridge #30 which necessitates the use of the 1000 yard long B29 and B30 bypass until both bridges are completed. In the meantime, Co A is busy rushing Bridge 30 to its completion.