

A. Co. Atto: P.S.O. HANKS

Here's what Group did with
one of your stories.

LET'S get all your stories together
to date + place them in a folder
for Reference.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ENGINEER TROOPS VIETNAM
INFORMATION OFFICE
APO 96375

0592
5-26-99

- 70*
1. Story was released to civilian media:
 Television
 Wire Services
 2. Story was released to military media.
 - ③ Story was submitted to Castle Courier editors.
 4. Story was sent to Hometown News Center.
 5. Would have made a good hometown if names and home towns of individuals concerned had been mentioned.
 6. Quotes and color would have livened up the story.
 7. A photo would have insured wider distribution.
 8. KILL.

Comments:

05.6.89.
5-26-99 79

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 35TH ENGINEER GROUP (CONSTRUCTION)
APO 96312

9 May 1969

BAN ME THUOT(35th Engr Gp IO) - As part of a project to revitalize National Highway QL-21, five bridges near Khanh Duong are being restored by A Company, 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat). The bridges have been damaged or destroyed by Viet Cong saboteurs during the past 12 months.

Construction is progressing simultaneously on all of the bridges. Plans call for the first of them to be completed by early June; the remainder to be in use by the end of July.

Before any work could be started on the spans, however, several days were spent evaluating the extent of the damage to the bridge supports. The abutments, aprons and footers were all carefully inspected to determine what portions could be salvaged for use in the new bridges.

"We have to be certain that any portions of the old structure we salvage for later use will support the new bridge as well as completely new sub-structures," Lieutenant Harold W. Murray, in charge of operations on two of the bridges, said. "Only then can the real work begin."

After the assessments and preliminary planning, the Company A Engineers cleared the debris from the sites, being careful not to damage the parts to be reclaimed. They delicately and skillfully used explosives to dislodge the twisted beams of some of the bridges.

Flooding of the work site and the resulting mud are constant harrassment for the bridge builders. "Several times we have arrived early in the morning only to discover our previous day's work obliterated by a ramnagin Mother Nature," Lt Murray said.

more

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But despite the occasional set-backs, the stubborn engineers are making steady progress in their effort to bridge QL-21. They are fighting the elements and racing the clock to insure that the coming monsoon rains will fall on new bridges.