

U.S. Navy Seabee Cruise book

CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation
Civil Engineer Corps and Seabee Museum
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- Carol Marsh:.....NAVFAC Command Historian
- Lara Bickell :Archivist
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- Andrea King.....Store Manager

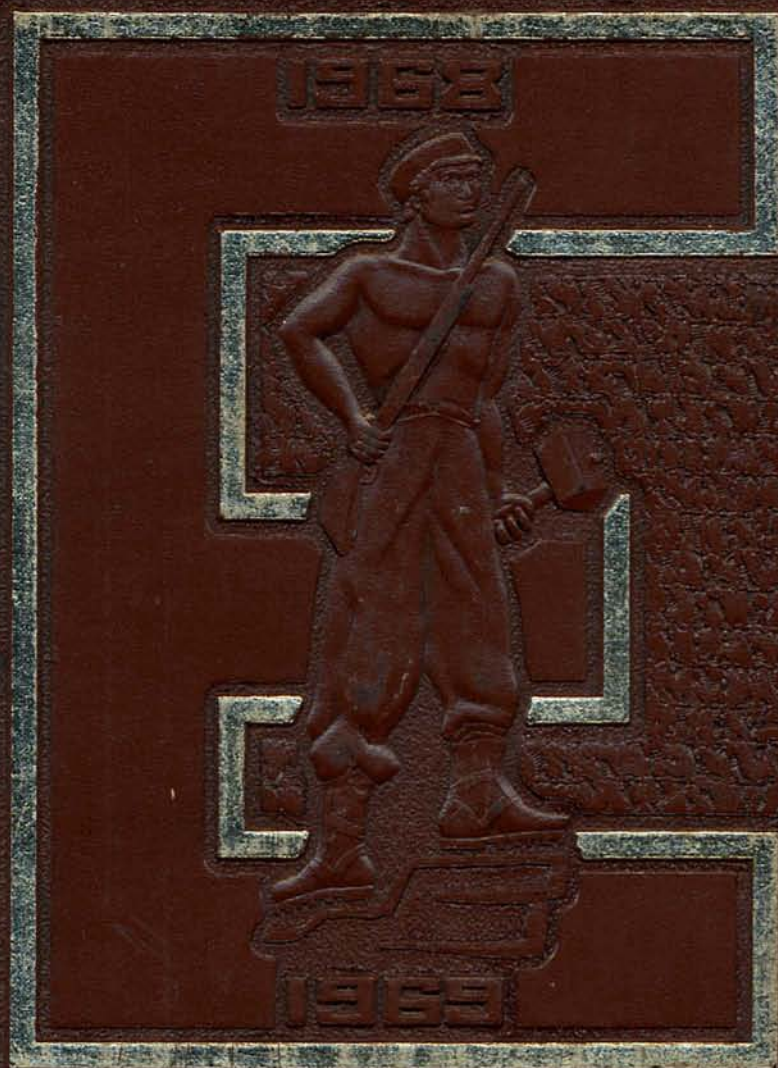
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- MCB-8 Association.
- Steve Thomas of Steve Thomas BMW: Former member of MCB-4 ,1967-68.
In memory of Ronald Harrison MCB-4, Equipment Operator Third Class, KIA Vietnam.
- Vietnam Era Seabees (VNES)
- Navy Seabee Veterans Of America , Island X-7 Port Hueneme
- Paradise Chevrolet, Ventura
- Kinko's, Main St. Ventura
- Pugh & Associates, Ventura
- Ventura County Star Newspaper
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The following volunteer has scanned this cruise book:
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MINUTEMAN



USNMCB-62

CM-2 Ray Drough
1969-1970
905 E. Broad
Mansfield Tx 76063-1772



Dedication:



Glen Charles Ludban
July 1, 1969

Lawrence Walter Glover
August 31, 1969

Donald Francis Horne
September 2, 1969

Darrell Gene Battin
October 5, 1969

To these men who shared moments of our lives and added their pride, laughter and sorrow to our own. They have given all that was theirs to give for the ideals of peace and freedom for all mankind. We pause to honor them for their sacrifice and pray for peace that they might not have died in vain.



MCB 62
Dong Ha, RVN
April-December 1969



A few years from now it will seem strange to say "We were there". It will be hard to remember some of it. This book is to help us remember.

Though we'll forget a lot of the times, both good and bad, there will always be those few special memories—maybe a particular job, maybe just one Sunday afternoon or a conversation with a friend. Maybe the loss of a friend.

Yes, we'll forget a lot. But there's one thing which we must not forget—our reason for being there. Knowing that we did our share to help the proud people of a war-ravaged land gives it all a purpose.

We traded a significant portion of our lives for experiences that changed each of us in some way. In exchange for our sweat, our time, our skills and often our very blood we received the gifts of knowledge, awareness, sincere thanks and a few heart-felt smiles.



Certainly, a fair enough exchange.





The Minuteman

*Published by the
Public Affairs Office of
U.S. Naval Mobile
Construction Battalion 62*

*Commanding Officer . . . John Paul Jones, Jr.
Executive Officer . . . Charles E. Fegley, III
Public Affairs Officer . . . R. R. Crowe*



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JONES

U.S. NAVY

JOHN PAUL JONES, JR.
CDR. CEC. USN

CDR John P. Jones, Jr.

Commanding Officer

Commander John Paul Jones, Jr. was born on August 7, 1932 at Brunswick, Ga. The son of a Navy Dental Corps Captain (Retired), CDR Jones was graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. in 1954. He was then assigned as gunnery officer aboard the attack transport Calvert.

In 1957 CDR Jones received a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. It was then that he transferred to the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps. In 1963 the Commander earned his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering.

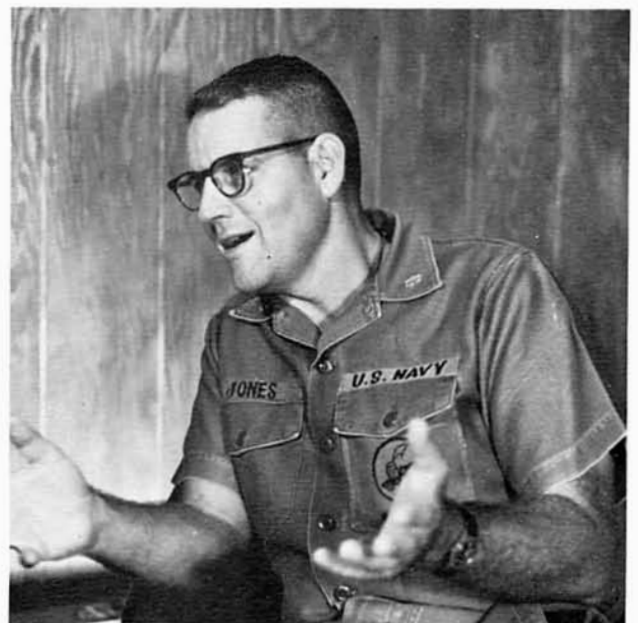
Before assuming command of MCB 62 in Danang, RVN in August of 1968, CDR Jones attended the Naval War College at Newport, R.I.

A little farther along in this book you will find a short history of NMCB SIXTY-TWO. It tells of the fine heritage and tradition of excellence that have been passed on to us. Briefly it pictures the growth of this Battalion and relates the unceasing efforts of the SEABEES to rise above the obstacles presented by any challenge.

Now our deployment to Dong Ha is a part of that history. Each of you can take pride in the fact that your personal efforts were the source of the outstanding success of our latest mission in Vietnam. Remember that what you have done in the past eight months has made a major contribution to the freedom of men everywhere. You have served your country well.

When I first took command of NMCB SIXTY-TWO I knew that it was a fine organization. Now I can say with inexpressible pride and satisfaction that it is the finest.

I commend you for a job well done.





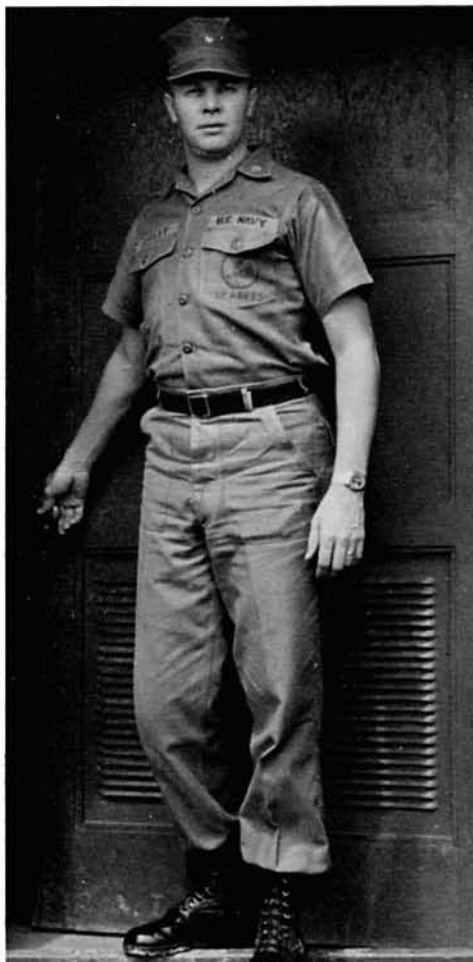
CDR C. E. Fegley III, Executive Officer

The completion of the Dong Ha deployment marks the end of the finest in MCB SIXTY-TWO's history. Every SEABEE in the Battalion can look back with great pride on the multitude of construction projects, both large and small, which have been accomplished in just seven and a half months.

The highways, bridges, boat ramp and Civic Action work we have completed, not to mention the numerous bunkers, gunpads, towers, wells and light frame structures, will serve immeasurably the Free World Forces in their fight against Communist aggression. More than that, they will enhance the commercial, social and governmental development of the people of the Republic of Vietnam long after our departure.

The completion of this deployment also marks the end of my tour with MCB sixty-two. It has been a most rewarding tour of duty, and I extend to you my sincere appreciation for your outstanding support over the past 22 months.

I wish you continued success, both individually and collectively as the finest Mobile Construction Battalion in history. God speed and bless each one of you.



Tradition built on achievement

Just as we were taught in boot camp, Naval service has always been a unique blend of the old and the new. The most modern equipment, methods and knowledge are utilized within a structured framework of tradition and respect for time-honored principles and ideals. Thus, the design used on the cover of this book and continued throughout on section heading pages is a mixture of today and yesterday which mean a great deal to us.

We know, of course, what the "E" stands for. We know that 62 was selected as "Best of Type" Atlantic Fleet SEABEE Battalion for 1968 - 1969. When Commander Jones stood before us at Camp Barnes on August 3, 1969 to announce "We're the best!", he was merely echoing something we all secretly believed to be true. There is something else we all know . . . something that only we know but find it hard to explain. We know from first-hand experience the work, care, "attention to detail" and just plain sweat we expended. We know what the "E" is. We worked for it and we're proud of it.

The figure in the foreground of the "E" design is taken from yesterday. It is the Minuteman, the symbol of the proud men in our predecessor SEABEE Battalion, the Sixty-Second Naval Construction Battalion. The figure is representative of the spirit and valor which are an innate part of the 62 tradition.

Before we relive the most recent chapter of 62's story, perhaps we should trace some of our history, starting with the Sixty-Second Minutemen NCB. NCB 62 was commissioned at Davisville, Rhode Island on December 20, 1942. After a short training period the Battalion, composed mainly of older men who had worked in construction in civilian life, left for Port Hueneme, California where they boarded ships bound for Pearl Harbor. There, as the first military construction unit to take over from civilian builders, 62 constructed repair and service facilities until September of 1944.

Finishing its work in Hawaii, the Battalion went through three months of jungle training, marine, amphibious and weapons instruction. NCB 62 was ready then for the big job ahead—Iwo Jima.

The Battalion landed on Iwo Jima on D-Day plus seven. The island was not yet secured and living conditions were squalid, but the men were SEABEES and there was a job to be done. They started on that first day, working continuously despite mortar attacks and sniper fire. The SEABEES moved inland with other American forces and began to repair captured enemy airstrips as soon as they were taken. This was the first chapter in the gallant history of 62.

The Battalion went to Japan soon after V-J Day and was disbanded there. The Sixty-Second Minutemen returned to their homes and families leaving behind a record of valor and something new—something called "SEABEE Spirit."

Twenty-one years later, on July 2, 1966, Mobile Construction Battalion 62 was commissioned in Gulfport, Mississippi under the command of Commander William J. Richeson.

From July until September, 62's men busied themselves in technical and military training. During the last week in September the entire Battalion deployed to Camp LeJeune, North Carolina for more combat in-

struction. After four weeks they returned to Gulfport. Next stop—Phu Bai, South Vietnam.

Arriving at the Phu Bai Combat Base in Northern I Corps just as the monsoon season started, the Battalion assumed sector command of a 2,000 meter portion of the defensive perimeter. Construction on numerous essential combat-related projects started immediately, despite the foul weather, knee-deep mud and unstable ground.

Finishing its first deployment to Vietnam, MCB 62 returned to the U.S. and homeport at Gulfport. After a one-month leave period, the men began preparing for a second tour in the war-torn country with a program of training similar to that they had taken prior to the first deployment.

At the end of the homeport period, the Battalion's advance party left for Vietnam on December 27, 1967. The main body followed in the middle of January. 62 was at its new home for the next eight months—Camp Haskins, Danang, South Vietnam.

The beginning of the deployment was especially harrowing as the Tet Offensive was in full swing. Battalion men manned their bunkers and lines at night and built for other military units in the area by day. Although assailed by the enemy, the approaching hot summer and many other problems, 62 established a furious work schedule. Morale was high, however, for the men who occupied one of the finest SEABEE camps in Vietnam.

The deployment saw work on ammunition supply points, living huts, mess halls, buildings, towers, tanks, road, bridges and numerous other projects. Despite the loss of four of their comrades, the incessant tropical heat and the beginning of the rainy monsoon season, MCB 62 SEABEES moved over 750,000 cubic yards of earth, poured more than 7,500 cubic yards of concrete, used 500,000 board feet of lumber and 23,000 pounds of nails in providing construction support for the combat forces in Vietnam.

On July 30 a Change of Command was held as Commander John Paul Jones Jr. assumed command of 62, relieving CDR Richeson. Work continued at its frantic pace until the Battalion began mounting out back to the U.S.

With two Vietnam deployments behind them, the men of 62 returned once again to Gulfport to begin retraining and outfitting for a third. This homeport period saw about 75 per cent of the Battalion's men leave for other duty stations or civilian life. New men, many of them fresh from recruit training, stepped into the vacant places. Their abilities and promise were soon shown as they received a rating of "outstanding" during administrative inspections. Intensive military training continued as the men sharpened their weapons ability and tactical skills. Nevertheless, time was still found to work on many projects around the Gulfport area.

62's advance party left for Dong Ha in March of 1969. The main body of the Battalion arrived a month later. Immediately they began tackling jobs around their home at Camp Barnes, Dong Ha Combat Base, South Vietnam. At the beginning of August it was announced that 62 had won the Battle Efficiency "E".

The rest of this book is a continuation of this history. It is a record of the times we shared and the work we accomplished. It writes yet another proud chapter in the story of the Sixty-Second Minutemen.

Officers—leadership to do the job

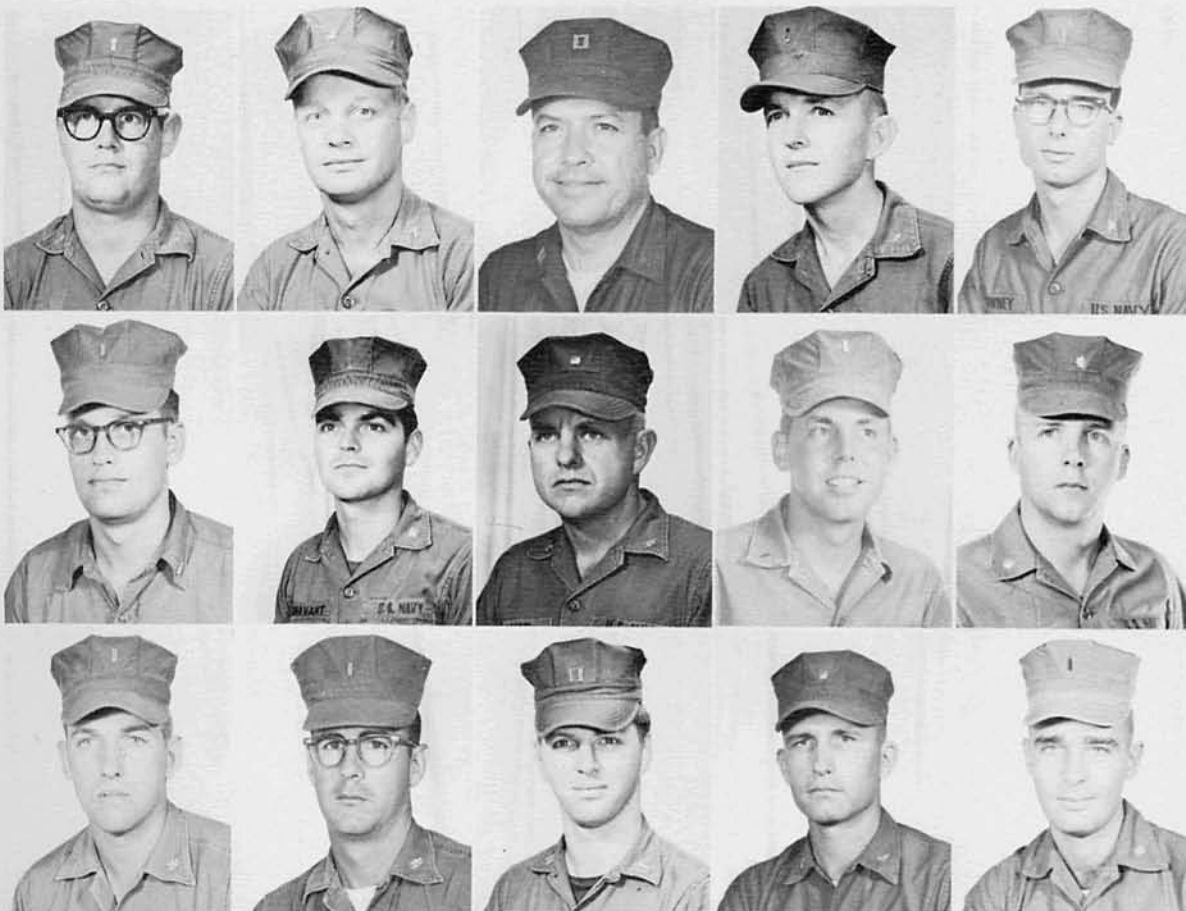
These were the men who led us. These were the men who carried the great responsibility of directing our energies and abilities toward the necessary goals.

The officers of MCB 62, mainly members of the Civil Engineer Corps, are men used to working with facts and figures. They are trained to convert theories and formulas learned in school into tangible plans. They then lead the skilled constructionmen of 62 in building from these plans.

Molding over 700 men of different backgrounds, talents and temperaments into a working unit is an awesome task, but one which these men undertook ably.



Top row: ENS Glenn M. Armstrong, Material Liaison; LT Ronald G. Bates, Alfa Co. Second row: LTJG Hazel P. Beasley, Security; LTJG John O. Blackwell, Embarkation.

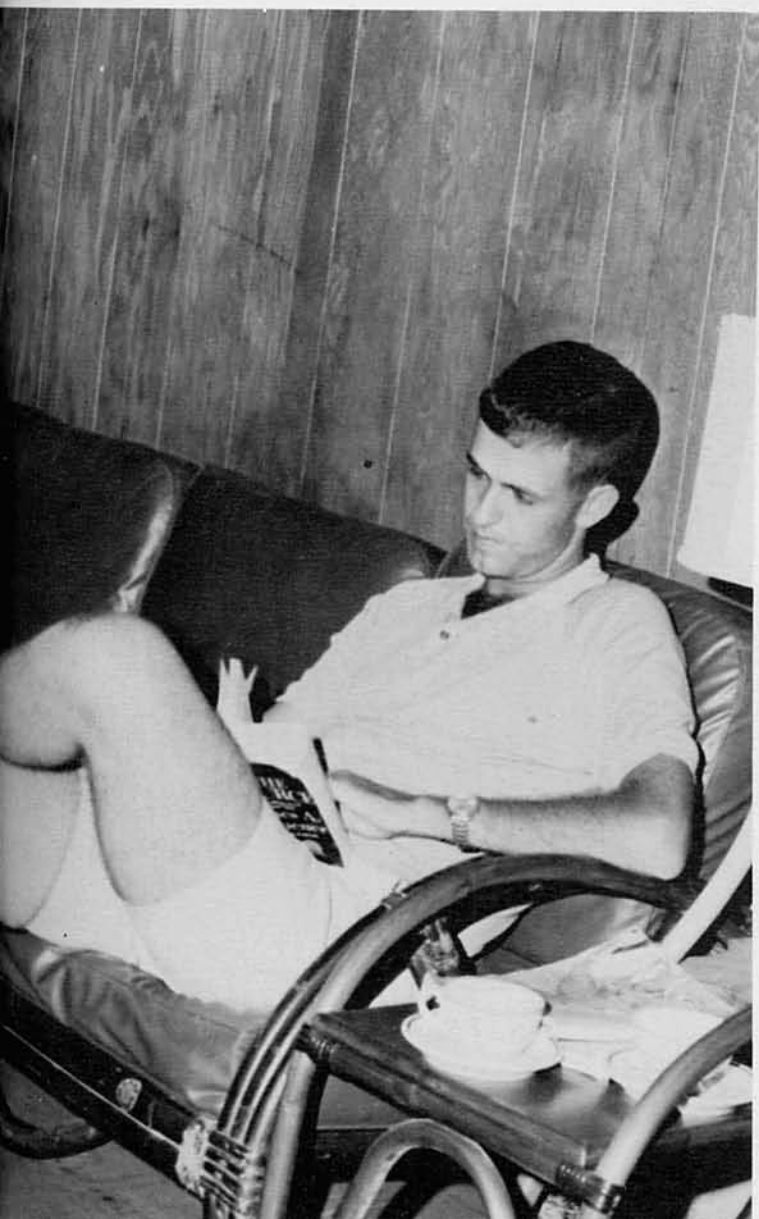
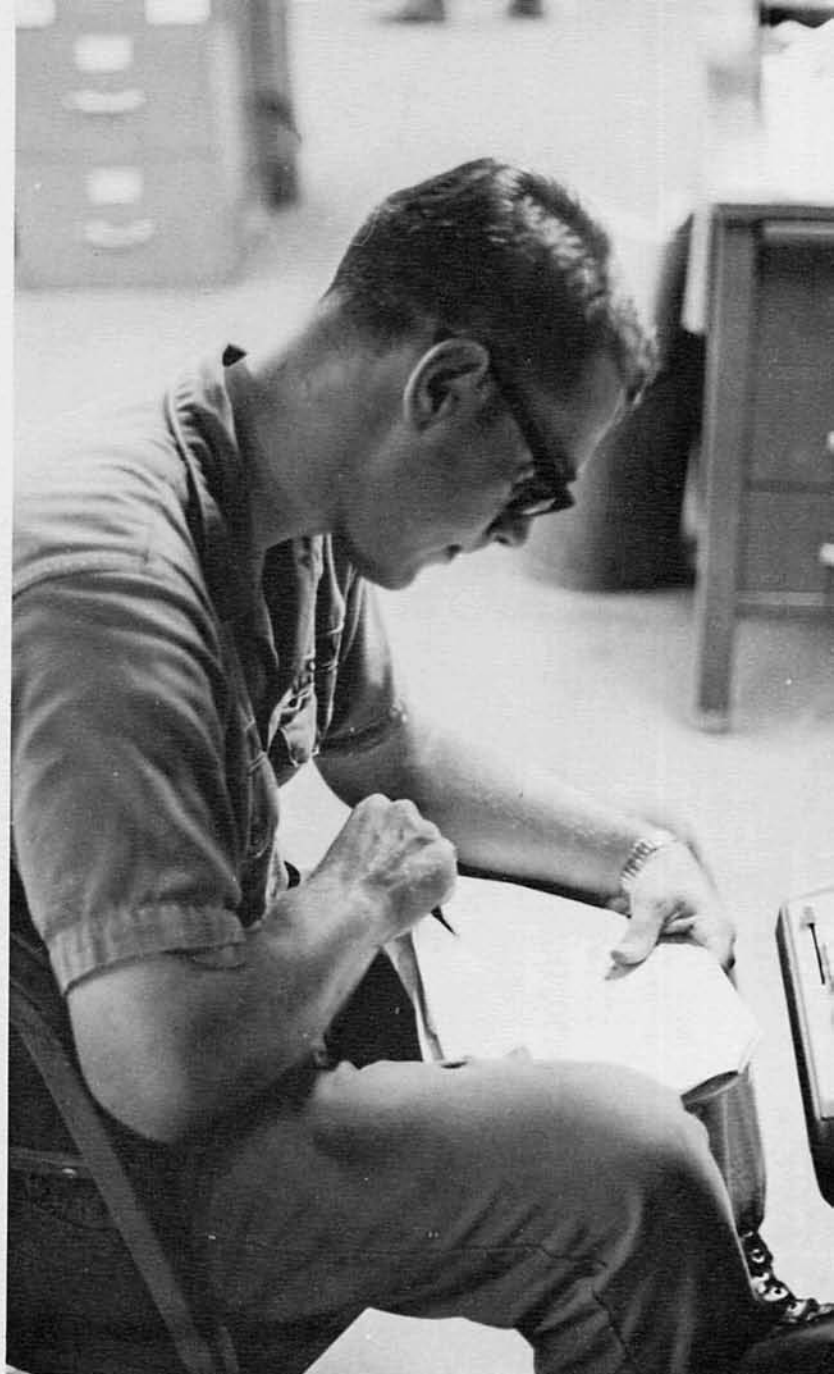


Top row: LTJG Charles J. Bruce, Bravo Co.; LCDR Robert A. Cooper, Supply; LT Richard R. Crowe, Chaplain; ENS Michael W. Delk, Engineering; LTJG John Downey, Disbursing. Second row: LTJG William A. Drummond, Engineering; LTJG David E. Dunnivant, Disbursing; LCDR David H. Gerdel, Operations; LTJG Eugene A. Graves Jr., Civic Action; LCDR William A. Heine, Operations. Third row: LTJG David B. Herrmann, Plans; LT Jeffrey E. Howard, Training; LT Bruce E. Jennings Jr., Dental; LCDR Bobby P. Keith, Supply; LTJG Kenneth W. Lovell, Material Liaison.





Top row: LTJG Richard C. Lundberg, Delta; CWO2 Norman R. Martin, Training; LTJG William R. McDowell, Training. Second row: LT William D. Nunez, Medical; LT Carl J. Orfuss, Medical; LT James M. Ramsey, Charlie.



Top row: LCDR William E. Robertson Jr., Operations; LTJG Daniel T. Schultes, Alfa; LTJG Roger W. Sinnott, Special Services. Second row: LTJG David C. Sopko, Operations; ENS Lawrence J. Stupski, Administration; ENS Thomas A. Wells, Delta.





HOMEPORT





Inspections, inspections and more inspections. Everything from hats and haircuts and boots was checked and double checked. Our lockers were strange and almost frightening in their neatness. Everything looked like boot camp.

Until the seemingly endless round of inspections, we never knew that an M-16 could have so many inaccessible nooks and crannies. We had never before realized how negligent it was not to roll our socks tightly or paint the little eyelets

in our web belts.

Another thing that never crossed our minds was how good we could look out on the grinder during the administrative inspection. The admin was the culmination of all our work. It was the one that really mattered, for its results were a decisive factor in the competition for the Battle Efficiency "E" . . . which we later won . . . naturally. Of course, MCB 62 SEABEES are a notoriously modest group, but let's face it—we looked good.



Administrative Inspection

Far left: Mortar teams stand by as their crew-served weapons are inspected. Left: All personal combat gear receives close scrutiny after being carefully laid out on the SEABEE Center parade field (Bottom). Below: Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee reviews the troops during the admin.



Pomp and Color

At times during homeport the routine of classes, office work and military training was interrupted as we donned our dress blues or inspection greens to take part in a parade. On December 10, the entire Battalion snapped to attention, to parade rest and back to attention as Captain James M. Hill Jr. relieved Captain Robert C. Engram as CBC Commander. New Year's Day was a colorful event for 100 62 men who carried the Stars and Stripes in pre-game ceremonies for the annual Sugar Bowl football game in New Orleans. We may have complained a bit, but when the time came, we marched with heads high, shoulders back and—whether we would admit it or not—a great deal of pride.





Construction Training

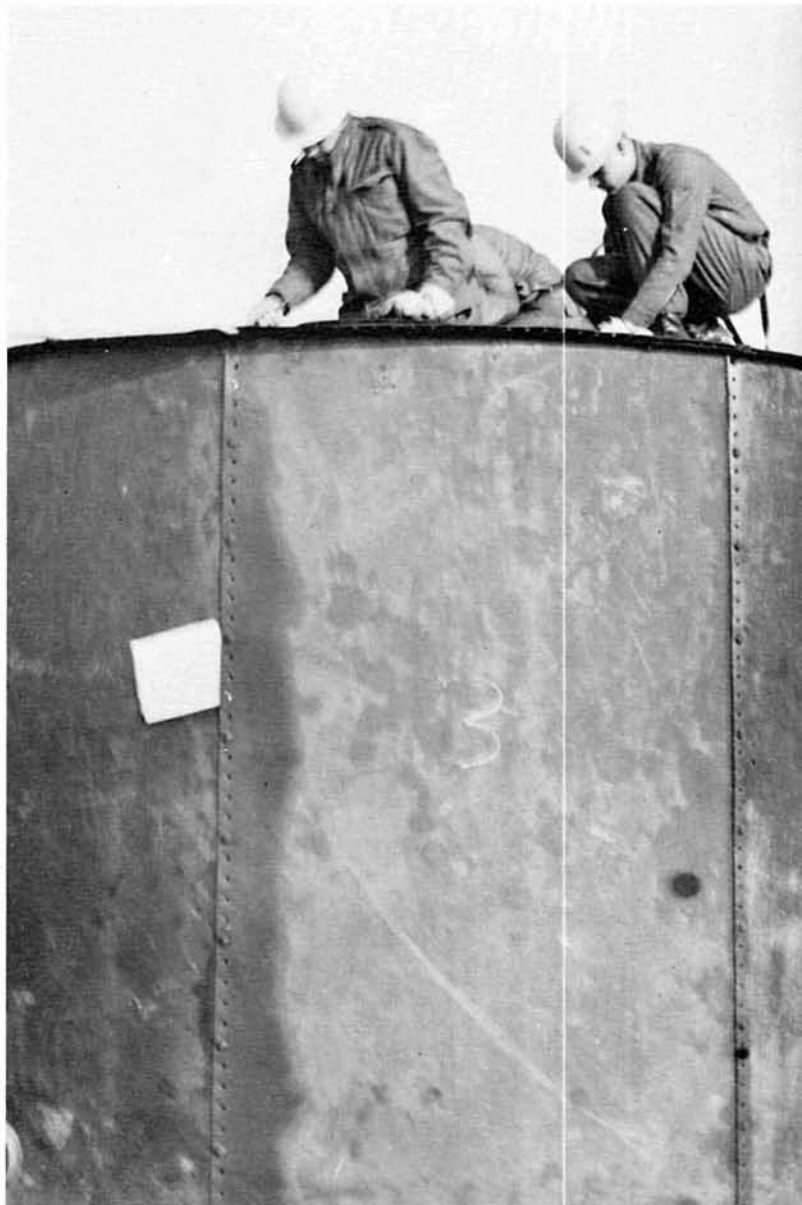
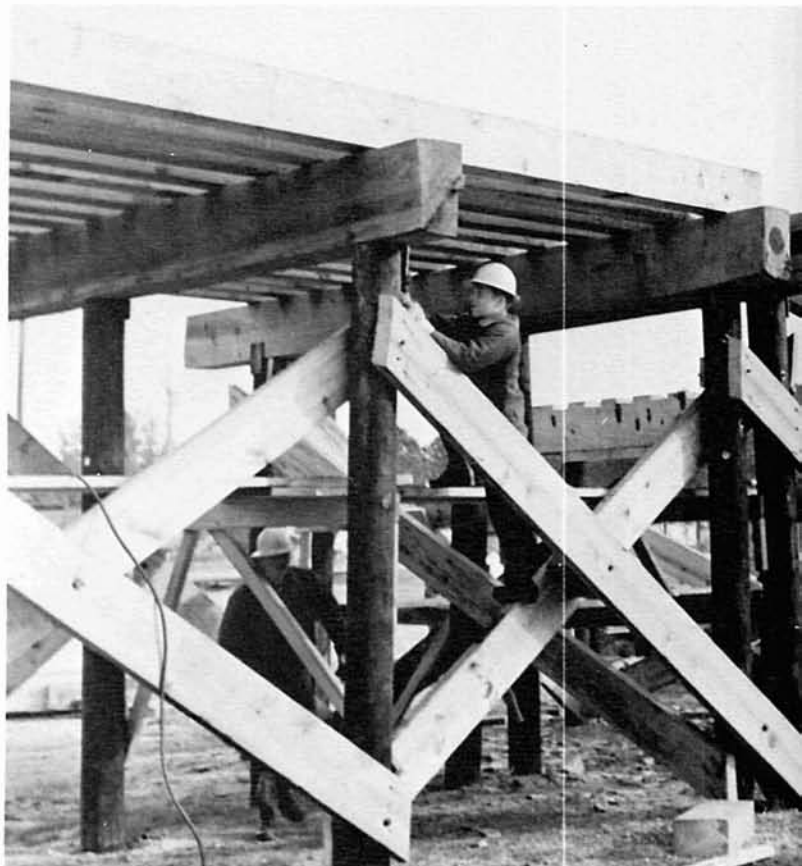
What a job!

Almost 75 per cent of the Battalion left for new duty stations or civilian life when 62 returned from Danang. These veterans were replaced with new men, many of them seeing duty with the Navy and the SEABEES for the very first time. Although a lot of these men had acquired construction skills on the outside, they weren't at all familiar with the SEABEE way of building. There's an old expression that says, "There are three ways to do something—the right way, the wrong way and the Navy way." The job was to teach these new men the Navy way—which really was the only way under conditions of combat.



We trained in all possible aspects of construction. Most of us worked in the Gulfport area, learning to build SEA (Southeast Asia) huts, bridges and other common projects similar to those we would tackle in country. A few of us traveled to various specialized civilian schools or lent a helping hand to civilian projects in the Gulfport area.

Whether we were fresh young "boots" or old veterans of previous deployments, we learned something new with each training project. We became better prepared for those big jobs ahead.





Military Training

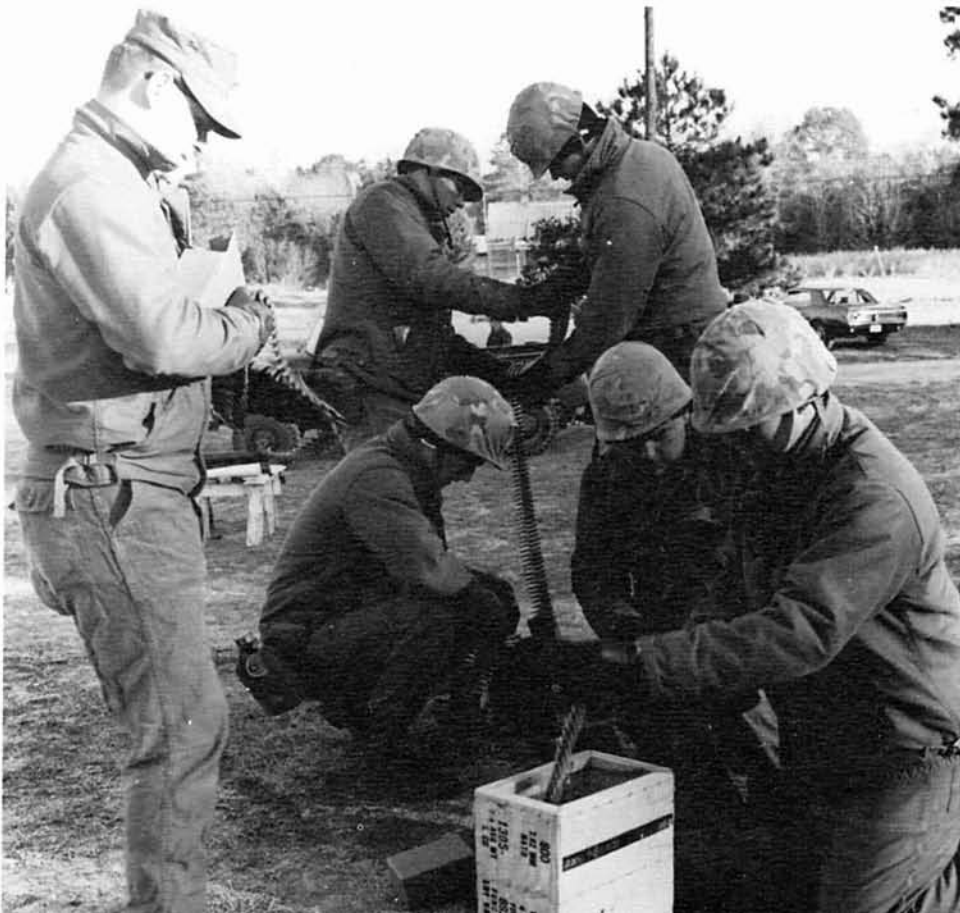
"Bang! You're dead!"

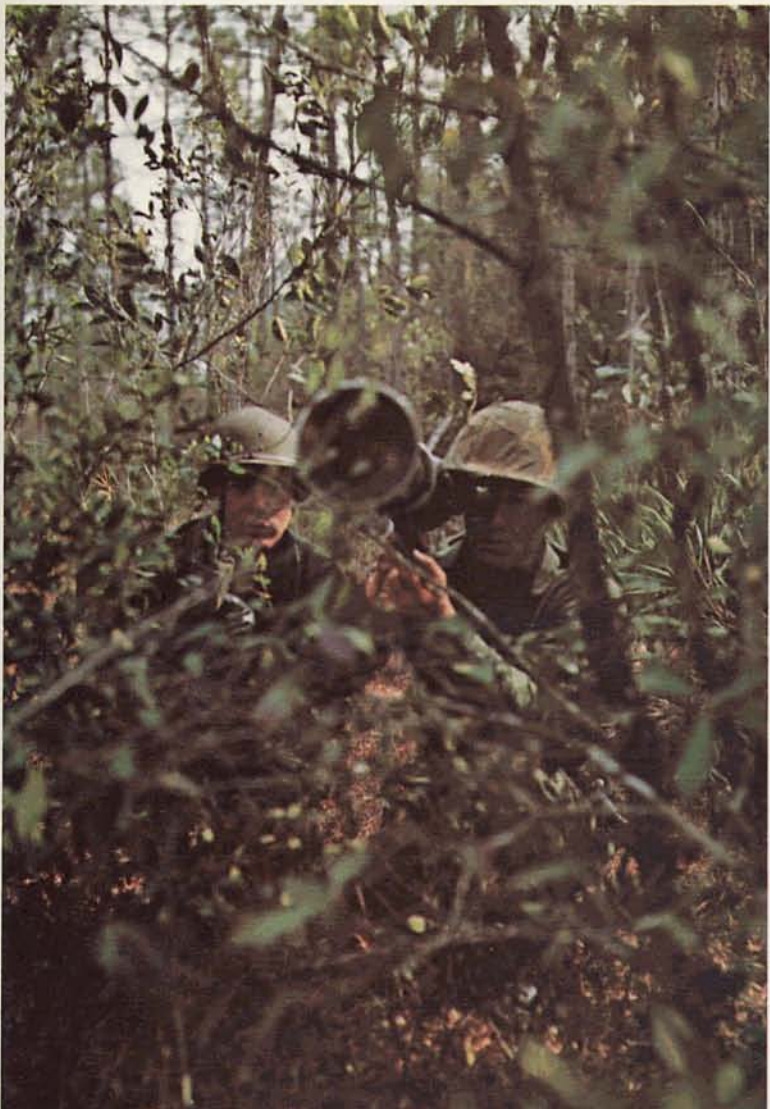
"That's what you think. I'm a referee."

Who can ever forget military training? The days at the rifle range where we checked out a "good sitting position" and the nights spent huddled in muddy holes waiting for our aggressors are, no doubt, indelibly engraved on each of our memories.

We tend to remember the funny things that happened. We also remember the discomfort—the cold, the mud and the long marches. It's easier to forget, though, that all of this served a very real and important purpose. The war games we played were an integral part of the training and conditioning we needed before deploying to a combat zone. Lying on the ground and shooting at targets, setting up defensive positions, running patrols and learning to keep our heads down were far more important than we realized.

Military training wasn't much fun, even though we joked about it. It was a lot of work. It was something we had to do. We learned something from it . . . in these respects it was a lot like our job in Vietnam.





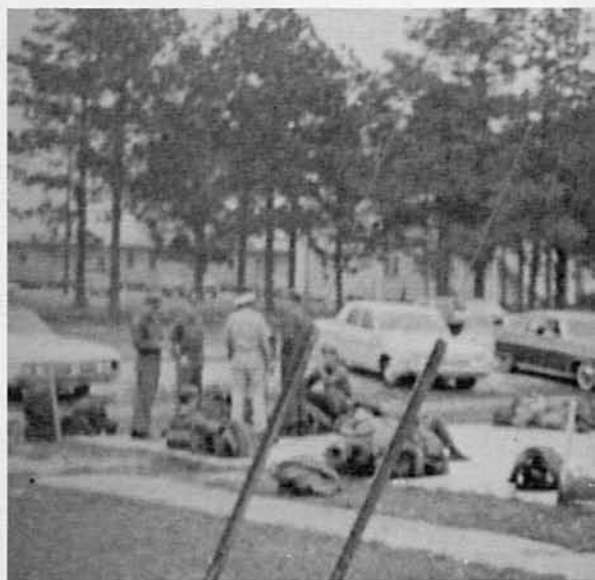


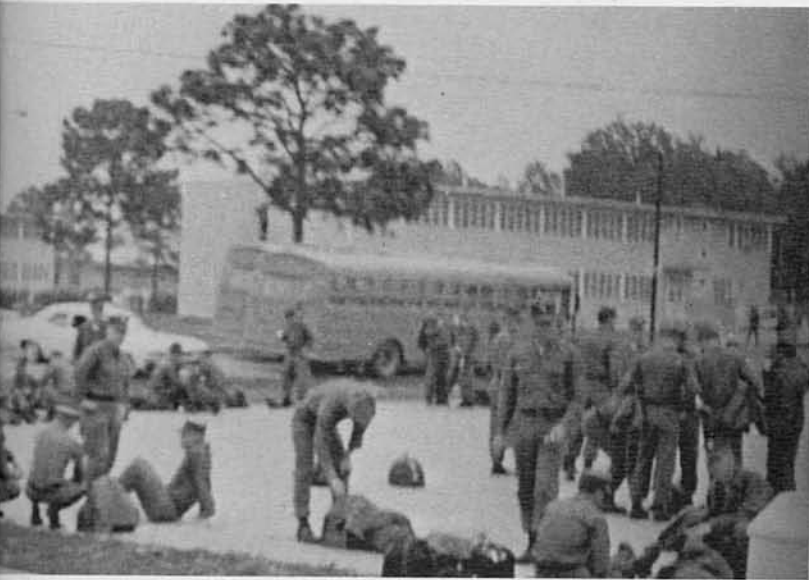
Adding to our military skills



we learned about
weapons,
tactics,
good Navy chow,
warm winter woolies







Next stop . . .



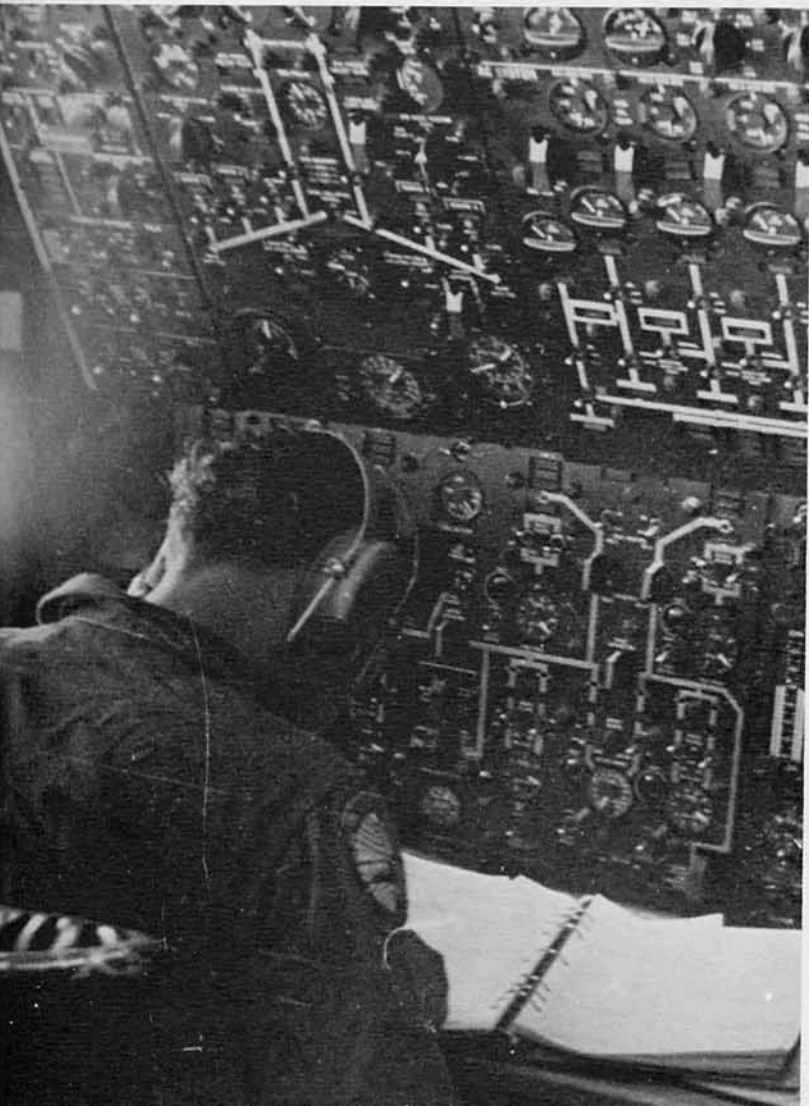
Dong Ha

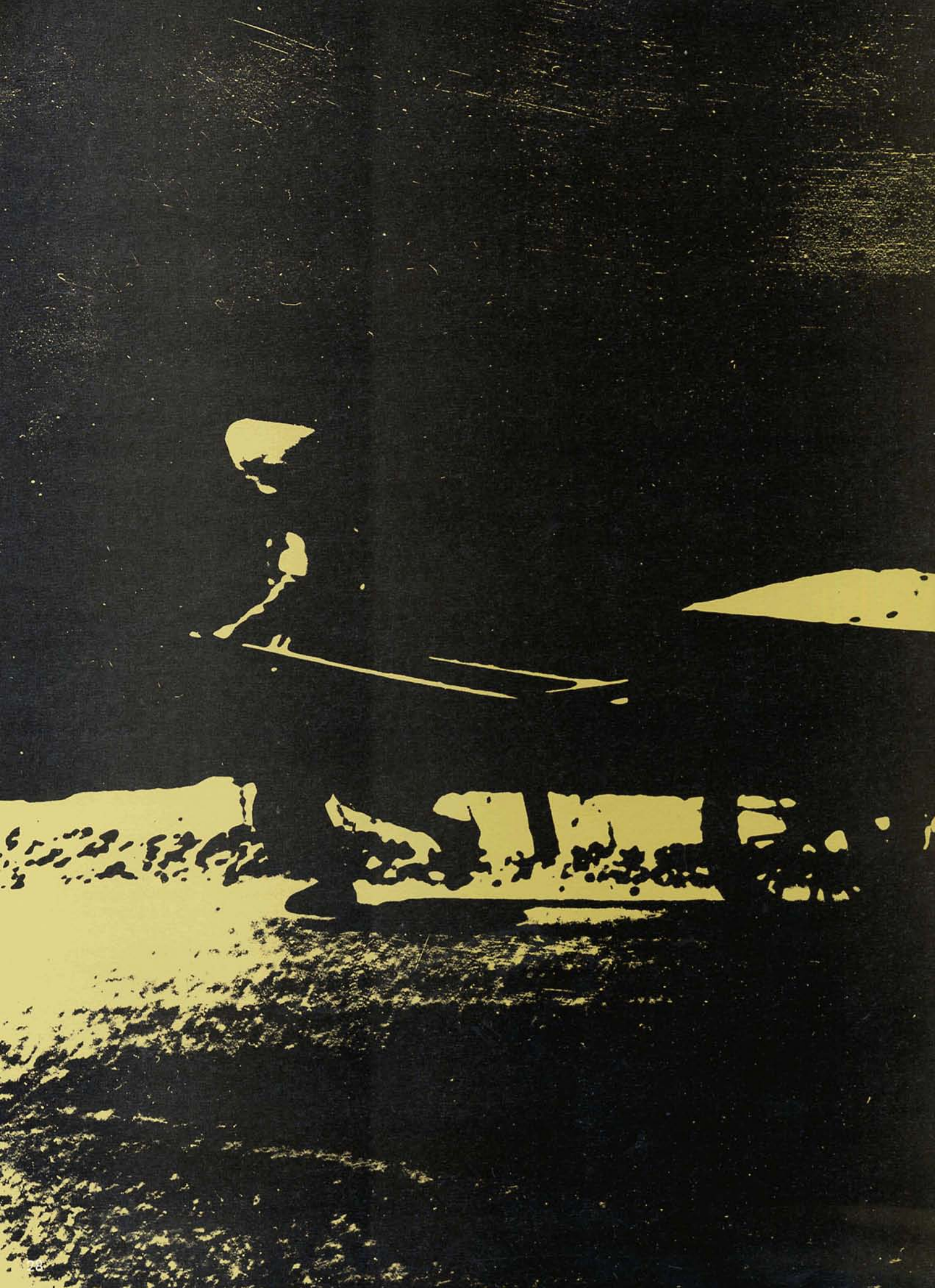
Finally, we were ready. The long months of training and inspections were behind us. We faced even longer months of . . . what?

Flights mustered on the small grinder. Gear was packed and readied. Tearful goodbys were said. After the usual waiting period that stretched on and on we boarded the buses which would take us to the airport.

Naturally, there was more waiting. The wait wasn't long, though, for the plane soon rumbled into sight to crouch on the field, ready to accept its burden.

A last kiss, salty with tears, a jaunty wave and a brave smile said all that could be said. We were on our way.







IN COUNTRY





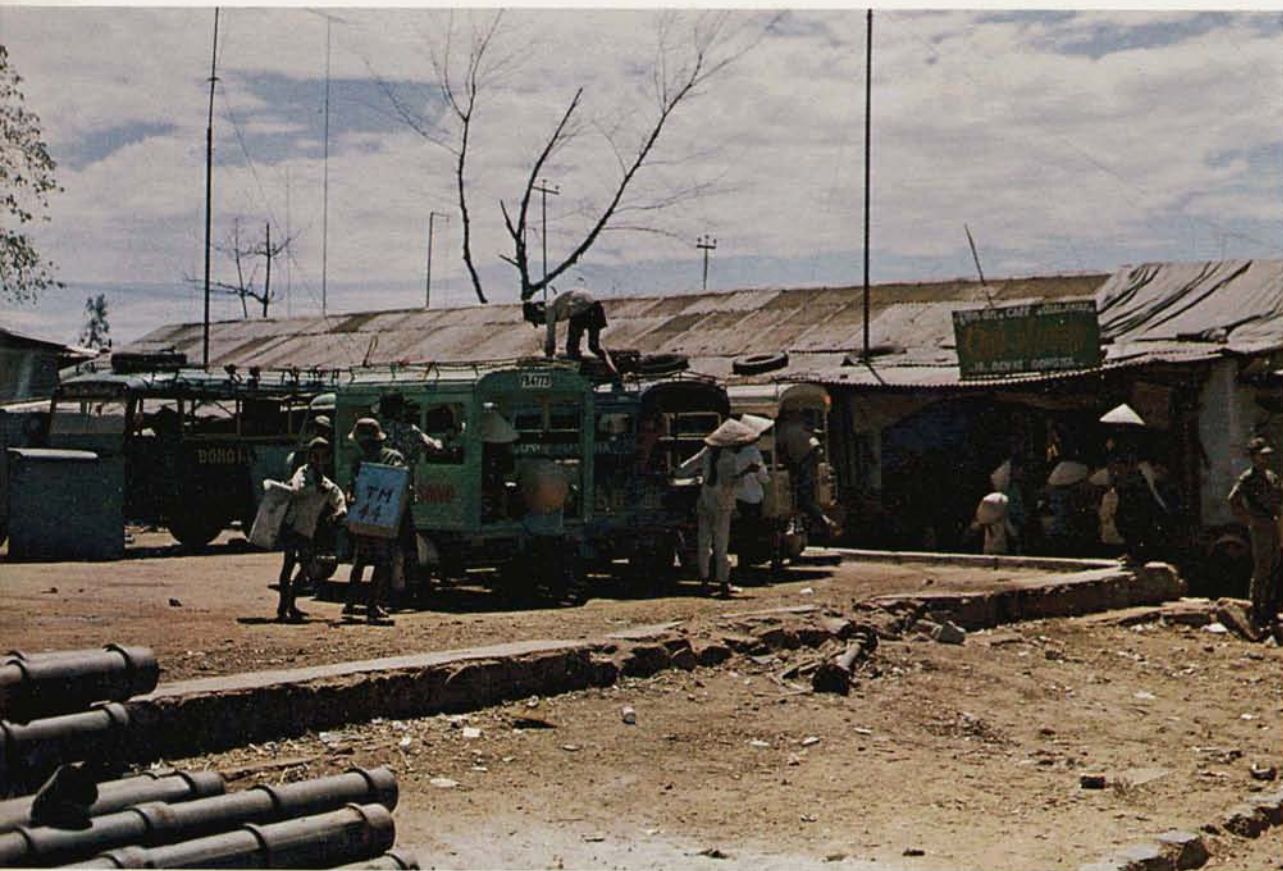
We came to serve

Even the young boot-campers were saying "in country" long before they ever got there. When we did reach Dong Ha it all seemed so unreal. This desolate place was so strange, even to the veterans of previous deployments, that it didn't seem possible that we could ever become used to it . . . but we did.

At times the disorientation, confusion and complete strangeness of the place made you feel like there was no purpose to any of this. It didn't take long, though, for the strange to become familiar, the new to become very old. We became used to the terrain, the climate, the work and the people.

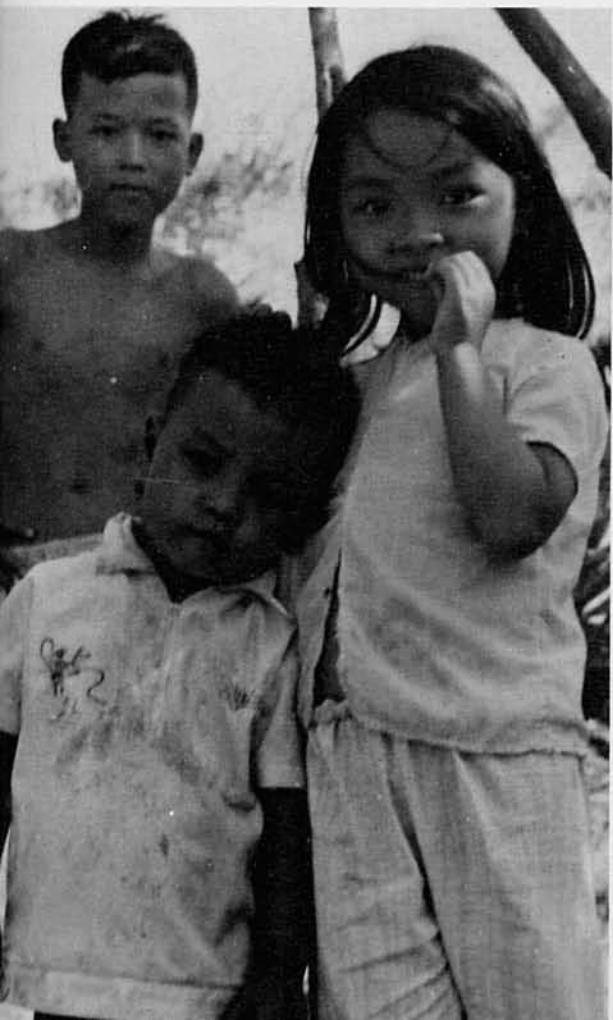
When you come right down to it, the people were what it was all about. It was easy to forget that sometimes. Most days all you really had time to think about was your job, the heat or mud and maybe the letters you got from home that day. But every now and then you saw the people and realized where you were and what your job really meant.

The people, trying to make a life. That was why you were there. And knowing that you were helping them was what it was all about.



A Strange Land







An Industrious People





A Reverent People

It probably came as no surprise to anyone who paid attention in the homeport training classes on Vietnamese habits and customs that some of the most beautiful examples of Vietnamese art and architecture stem from Vietnam's religions. Religions of many types have been extremely significant factors in the course of events throughout Vietnamese history. The lovely and ornate temples, churches, pagodas and shrines demonstrate the people's high regard for religion and the important role it plays in their lives.

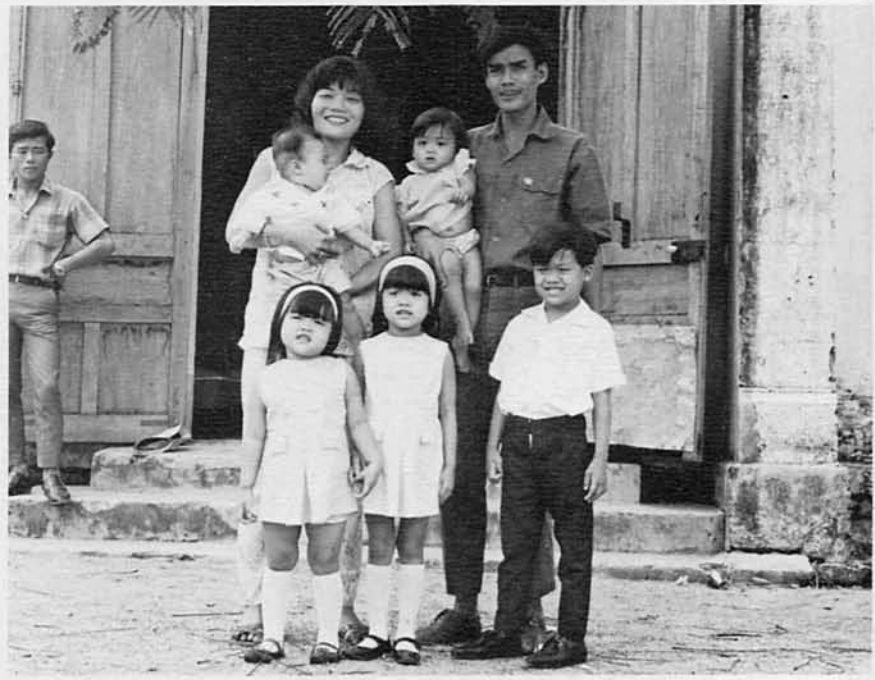
These buildings, ranging from the brightly hued Buddhist temples around Dong Ha to the less colorful but nonetheless spectacular LaVang Basilica near Quang Tri, point out the pride and reverence the Vietnamese have for their many different religious philosophies. Places of worship with designs lost in antiquity often stand side by side with modernistic sacred art work—manifestations of the timeless reverence of a proud and sensitive people.

Left: One of a collection of modern religious art pieces at the LaVang Basilica. Below: Buddhist temple in Dong Ha.





"A shrine at the LaVang Basilica erected on the spot where a vision of the Virgin Mary appeared on September 17, 1798."



A Proud People



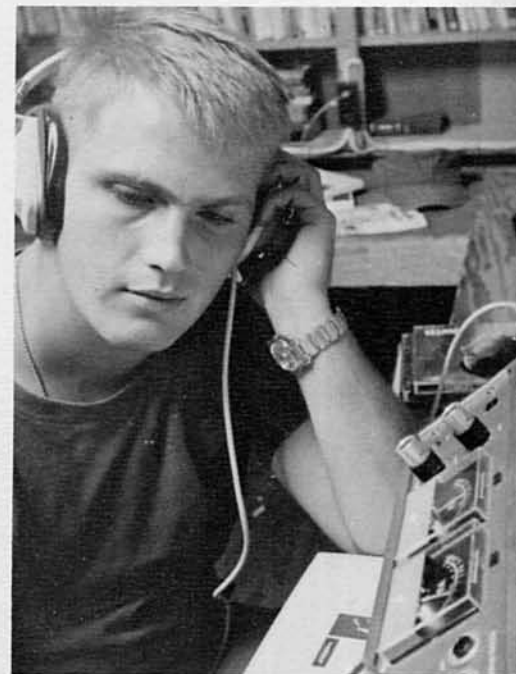




CAMP LIFE



Off-duty time--never wasted



It may have seemed like we worked all the time. Of course, we didn't . . . not even SEABEES do that. We had some free time—not much—and it was very important. During these times our minds were freed from the confines of our work and were able to go off in almost any direction. We could write those letters that provided a tenuous link with home, escape to some far off place—like the U.S.—in a book or sit at the club with friends and recall some of the glories and defeats we knew “back in the world.” Except for the portion of our minds that never let us forget our place in a combat zone, we got away from it all by playing pool, cards or chess, listening to music or just thinking. Even shining boots or getting uniforms ready for inspection didn't seem like such chores. They helped pass the time.

No matter how we spent the free hours—hoarding them to ourselves or sharing them with others—they were precious and never really wasted. These moments, though often forgotten, were the best of the deployment.





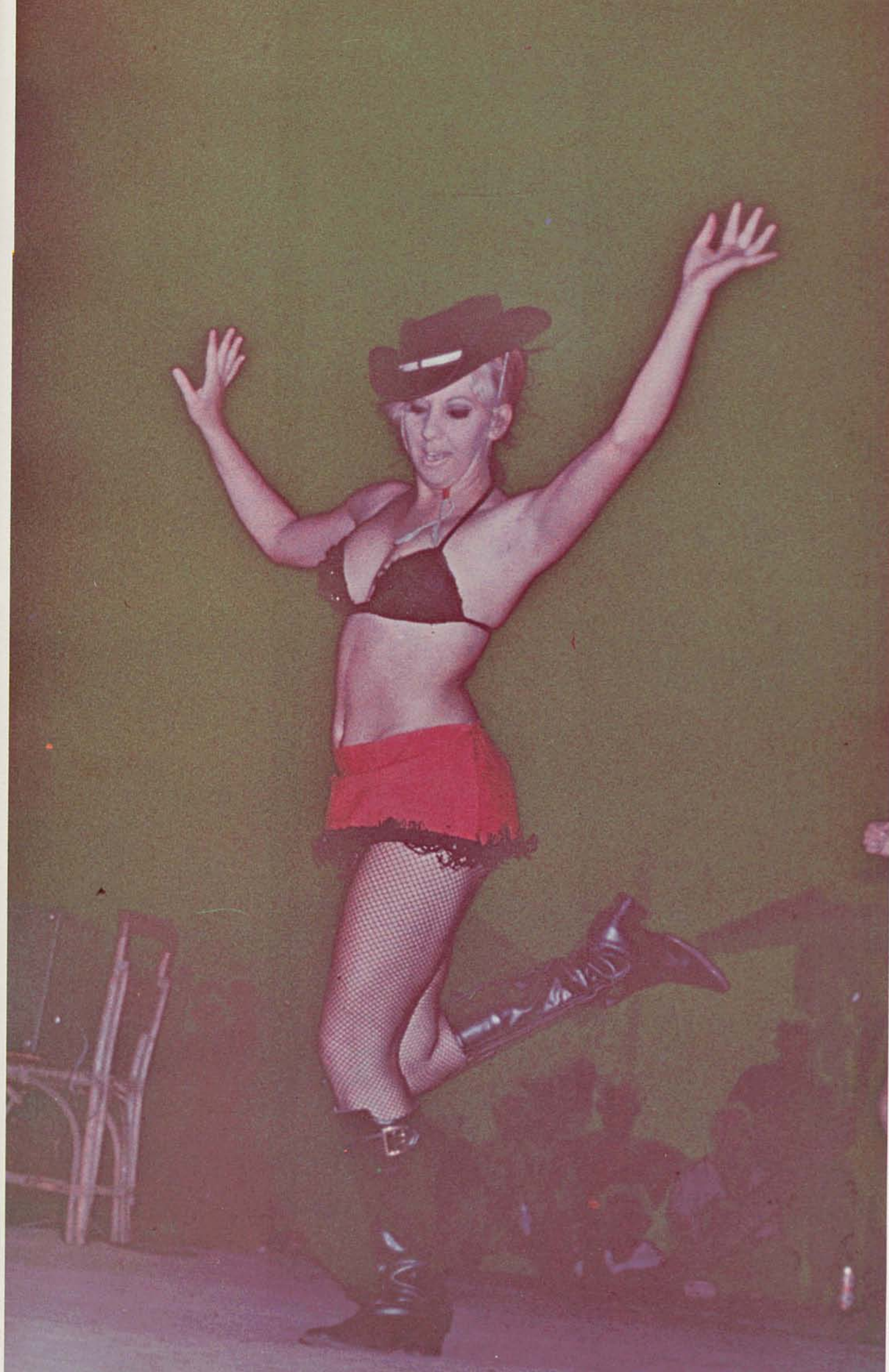
Special Services Shows

Music . . .

laughter . . .

pulchritudinous
femininity







Leisure hours were short

but we stretched them

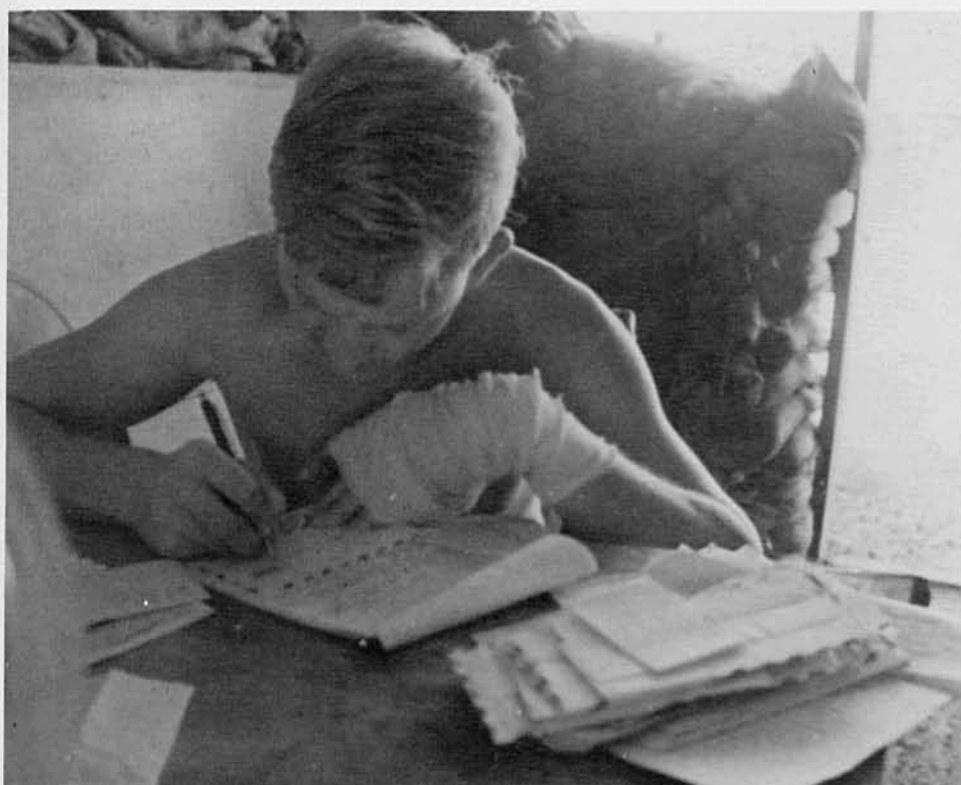


Painted at times

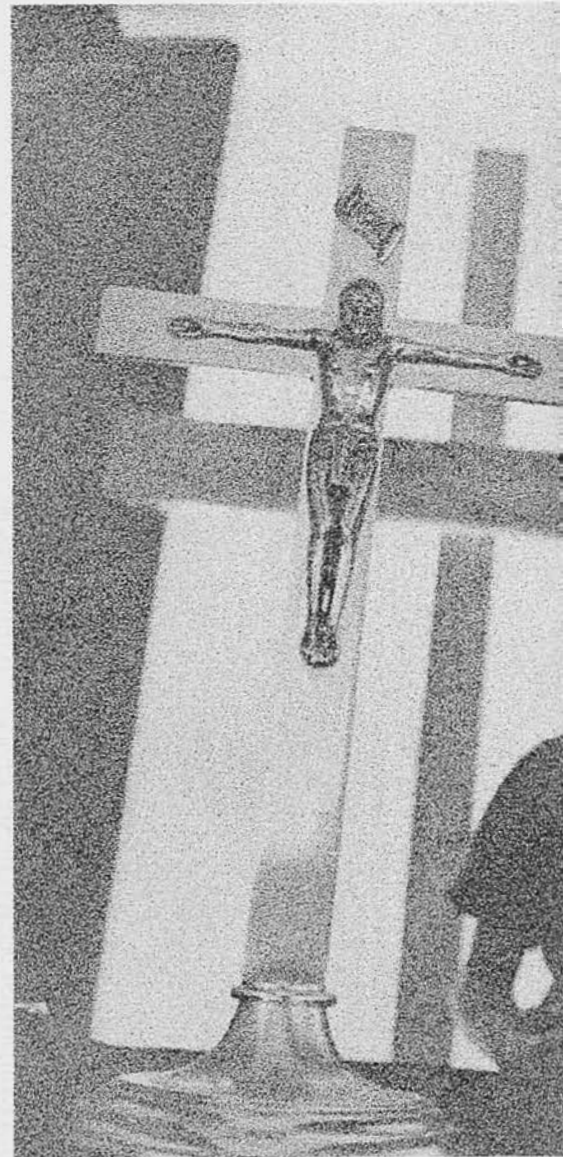
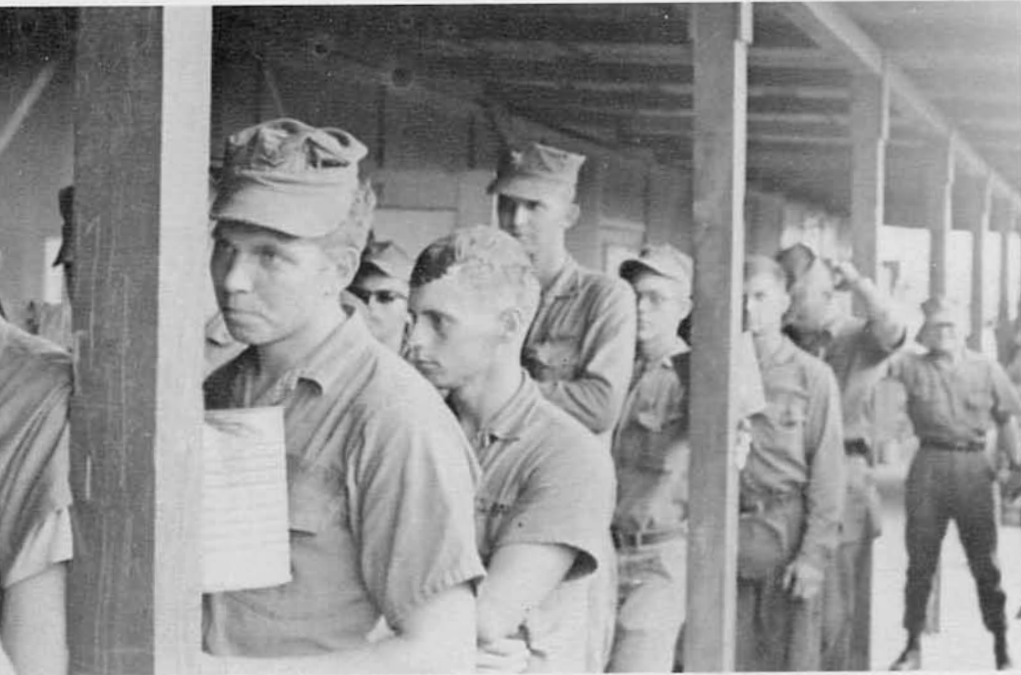


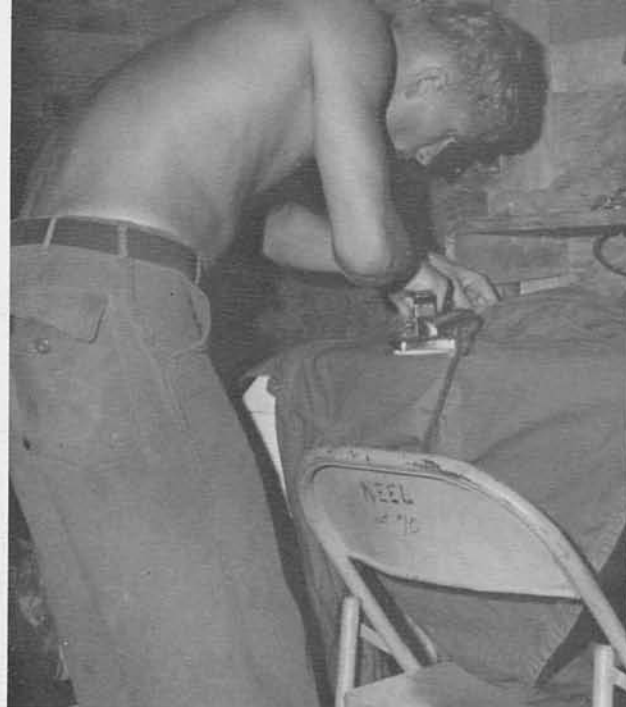
with color and sound

... the hours brought us closer to home



We crowded many things into the free time



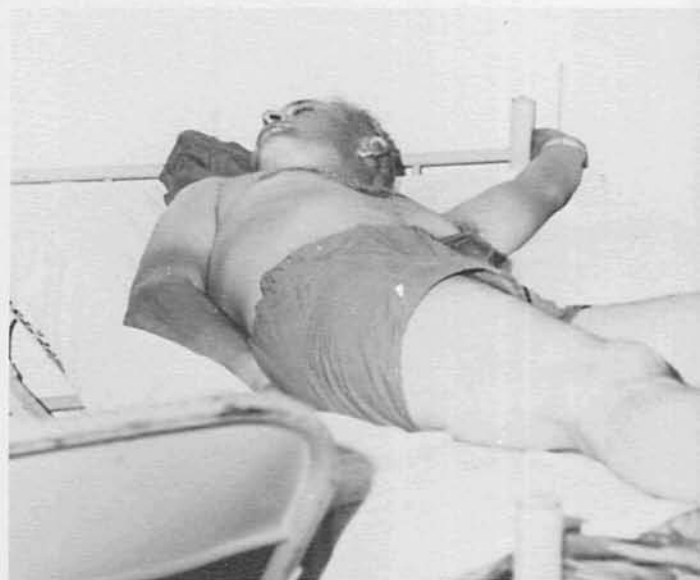


Doing our



“more better thing”





We fought loneliness with



... laughter

... games

... thoughts of home





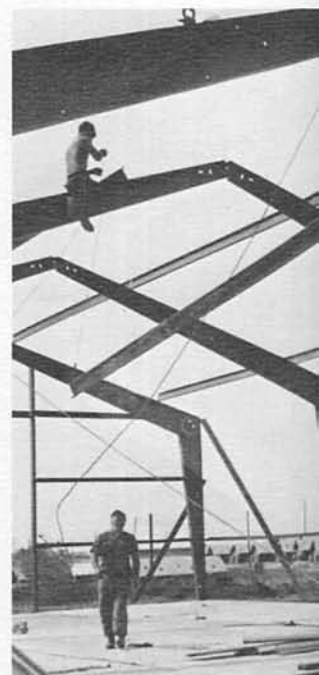


PROJECTS



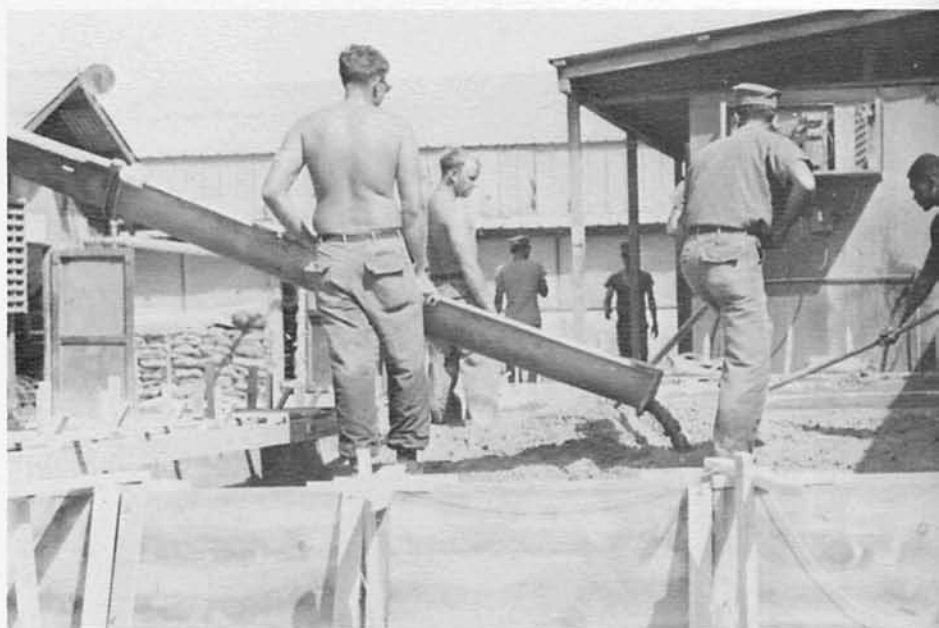
Work? – We did plenty

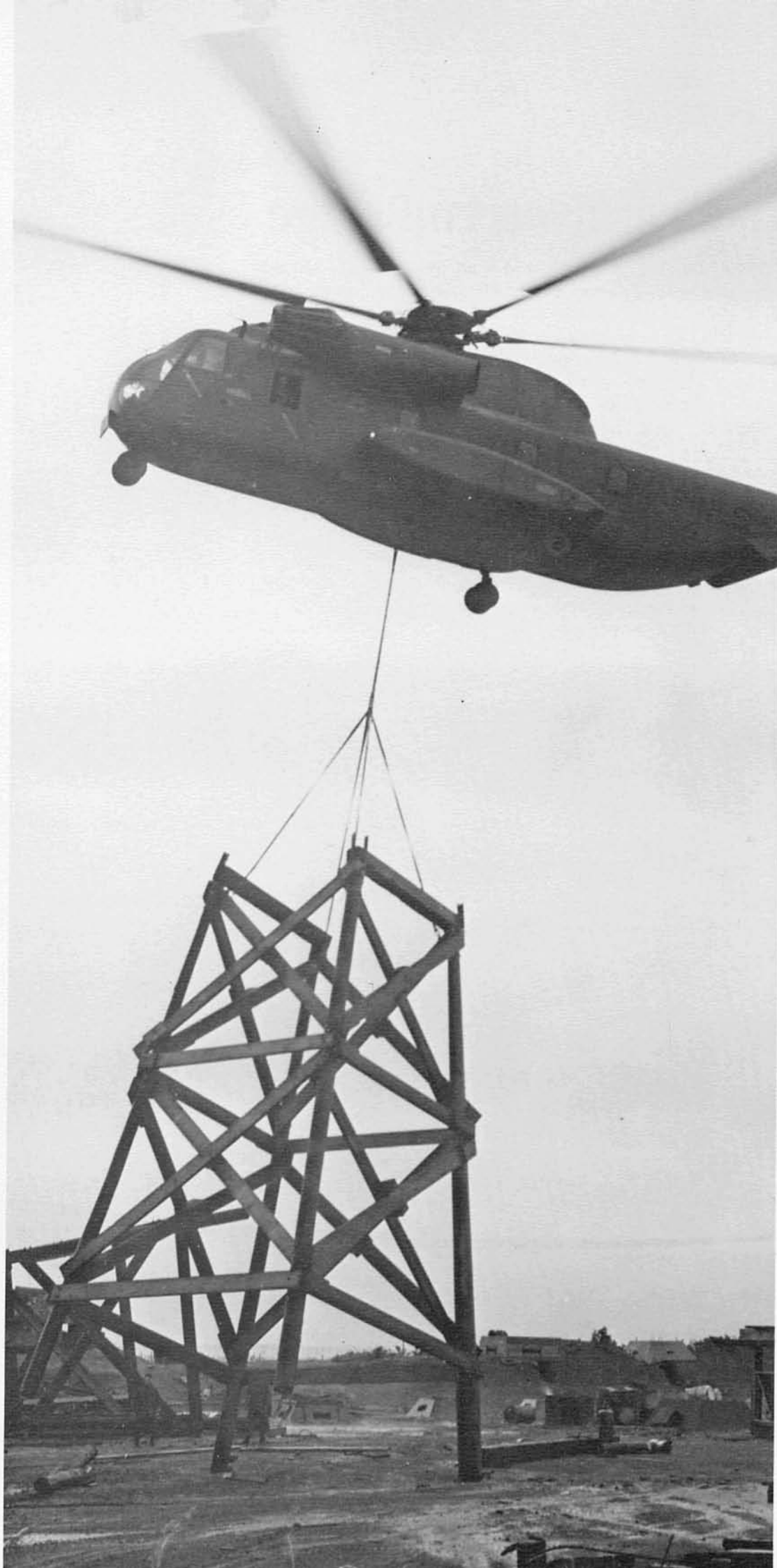
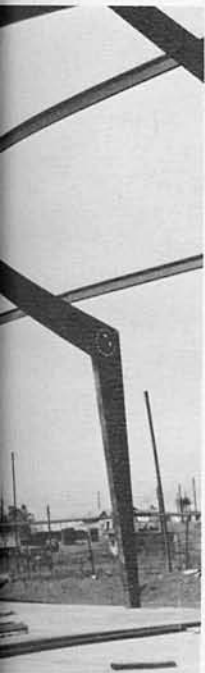
Far right: A tower built in Camp Barnes is airlifted to a Marine fire base. Right: A Butler building goes up for the Third Marine Division. Center: Concrete pads for artillery were among our many assignments. Bottom: The foundation is poured for an ice house behind the Camp Barnes galley. Camp improvement was part of our job. Below: A coffer dam is erected in preparation for construction of a boat landing ramp in Dong Ha.



We dug ditches and moved mountains, built four-holers and constructed bridges like no one had ever seen in Vietnam. At the time we were doing all these things it was hard to really comprehend the full scope of the work our Battalion carried on. "Small cogs in a big machine" is a terrible old cliché, but most of us probably felt that way much of the time. We each had our jobs and we did them. It was that simple. As we drove a truck, twisted a bolt, hammered a nail or pounded a typewriter we didn't give much thought to the way our individual efforts added up and combined with other men's work to do the big jobs. We didn't have time to think about things like that.

Continued





Cam Lo Bridge

You know, it all ties in pretty well with what they call "Can Do" spirit. That phrase doesn't mean much to some of us. We have a tendency to chalk it up as another military "Esprit de Corps" slogan with little application to our work. Think about it though, and you'll see that it really did mean something to us. After all, we were professionals and completing these jobs in the best possible manner was our mission. We knew we could do it. "Can Do" pretty well sums it up.

This spirit really showed through on two of our biggest jobs during the deployment, the bridges at Cam Lo and Dong Ha. Cam Lo was our first really big project.

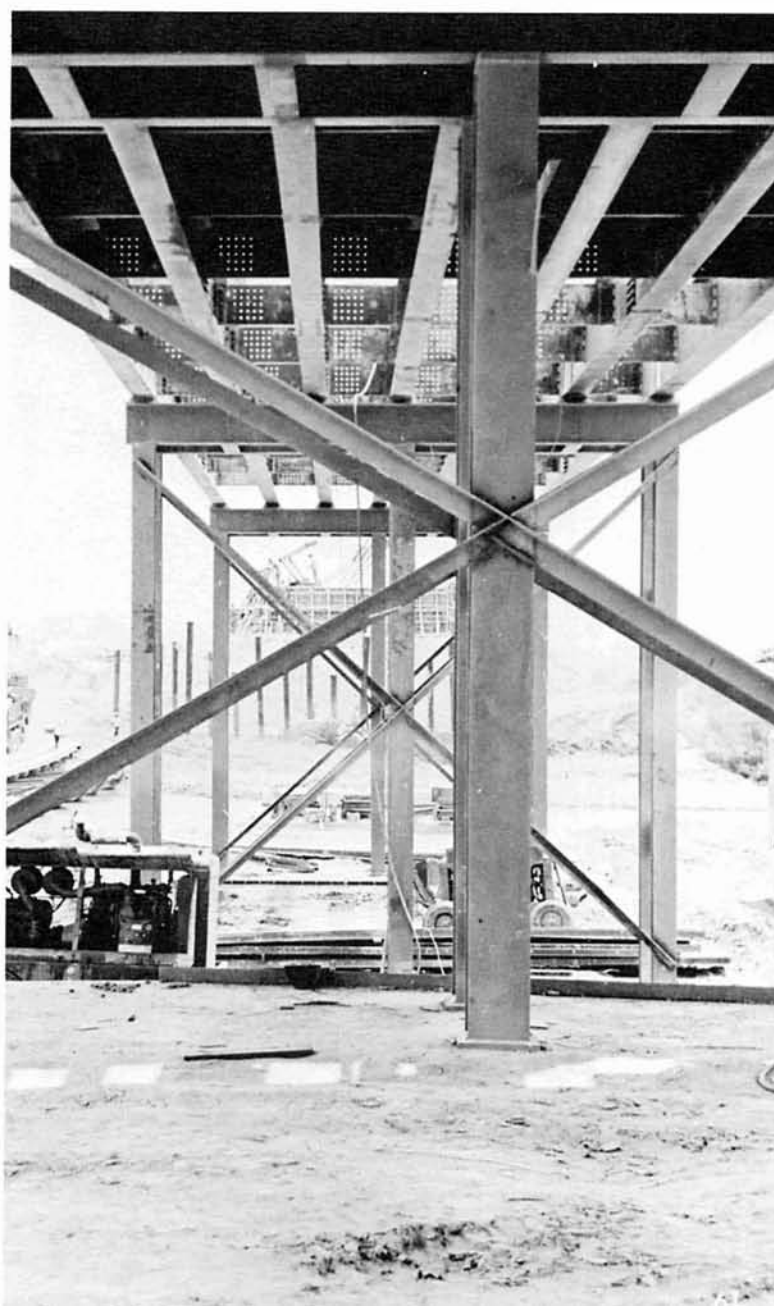
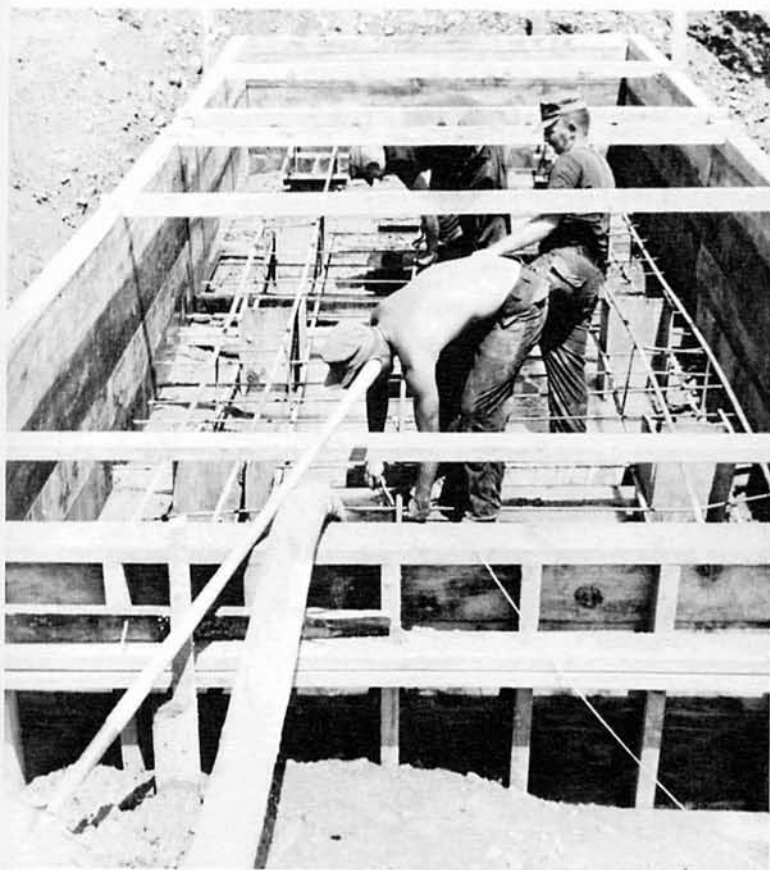


An experimental design

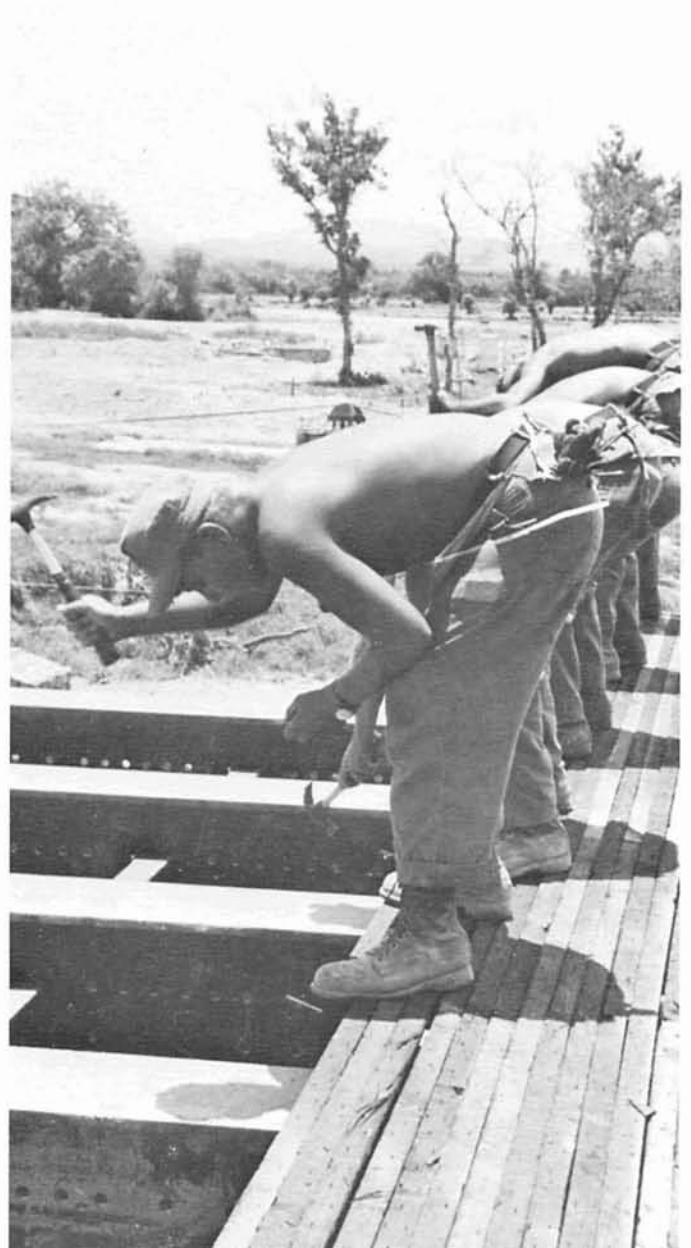


A "one-of-its-kind" bridge. It certainly was that. Few of us had ever seen a bridge built like this. Looking like a series of long tables set end to end, the 486-foot long structure had no diagonal braces between the upright supports. It was hard to see why the thing wouldn't collapse like a row of dominoes, but the engineers said it would work.

We started by setting the piles into the rock bed of the river. Then forms were built for the cement piers and footings. As the structure went into place, equipment operators began working on the approaches. The bridge took shape as steel beams were stretched across the water.



Tactically essential; commercially valuable





Finally, that last big I-beam was lifted into place on June 14. The backbone of the bridge was completed. All that remained was putting down the deck and completing the approaches. Vietnamese workers covered the sloping banks of the approaches with rock as builders laid the wooden roadway.

By July 5 the bridge was finished and ready for the traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony. Colonel Nguyen Am, Quang Tri Province Chief, cut the bright yellow ribbon held by Rear Admiral John G. Dillon, Commander, Third Naval Construction Brigade, and Major General William K. Jones, Commanding General of the Third Marine Division.

Now the bridge stands, stretching its slender length across the Cam Lo. The Cam Lo Bridge has become a familiar necessity for the drivers of heavy combat vehicles who cross it each day and local Vietnamese for whom it is now a main-line of commerce.



**The big machines
were our muscle**





yet,
they were only tools,
useless without our skills



**Roads are built not by machines
but by . . .**





... men

There were 35 miles of roadwork in the Lines of Communication (LOC) project; a sizeable job, but nothing we couldn't handle. Most of it was like any other road job in Vietnam, hot, dusty and hard, but routine. But that last eight-mile stretch on Route #9—that was rugged.

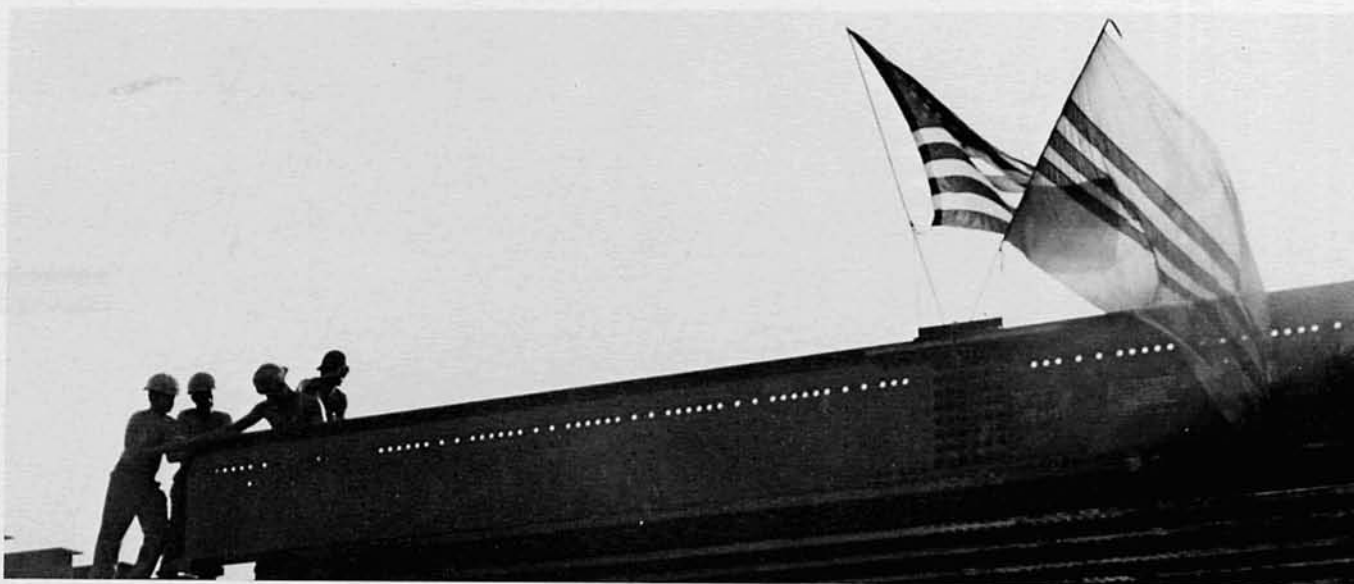
Men from Alfa, Charlie and Delta companies worked together along the tortuous mountain road, using almost every piece of equipment, every type of operation and all the road building knowledge they could muster. Together they blasted away the mountainsides, filled the gorges and valleys, installed huge drainage culverts, upgraded, paved and sweated in a race with time, weather and the enemy to build a highway for Marine supply convoys and, more importantly, the people of Vietnam.





Above: Bridge components were prefabricated on the muddy bank of the Bo Dieu River. Right: Then they were bolted in place to form the trestles to support the mammoth structure. Far right: a traditional topping out ceremony marked the placing of the last girder. Top: Needing only the timber decking to be complete, the Dong Ha Bridge dwarfs the rickety, one-lane French structure it will replace.

Our last big project



We called it the . . .



Dong Ha Bridge

Hurry! Rush! Urgent! "We've got to get the concrete poured before the damned monsoons start!" The monsoons. Blinding sheets of rain, vast fields of sticky mud and a constantly rising river level. This was the sword hanging over the heads of the men who worked on the Dong Ha Bridge. There was little time left, but if they worked hard enough they might just make it.

They did . . . only one day before the rains really started coming down to send the Bo Dieu River overflowing its banks. Five concrete piers, their tops hidden beneath the water, were used as stepping stones by the steel and wood giant that was to lurch across 530 feet of space. Then, with water falling down from above and looming below, the men matched their muscles with steel beams and timber decking of the bridge.

Now it stands, one of the longest highway bridges in Northern I Corps. Throughout the day and night tanks, jeeps and trucks pass back and forth, their drab green color broken only by the colorful clothing of local Vietnamese . . . people to whom the bridge is a highway to better markets and to a better future.









ALFA



Mobility-- the "M" in MCB 62

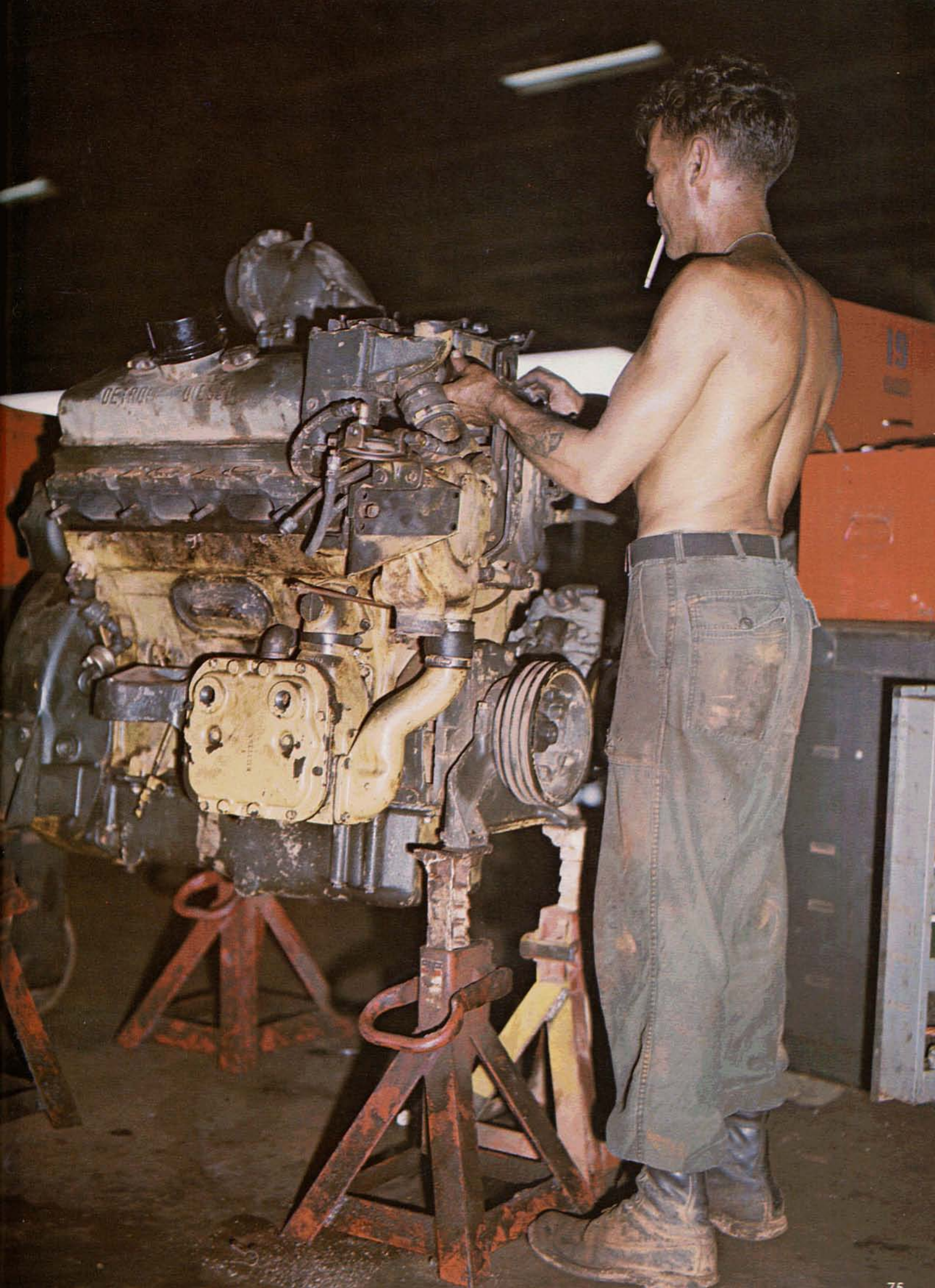
One of the favorite expressions of the SEABEES is, "We have done so much with so little for so long that we can now do almost anything with nothing." This old saw comes very close to the truth more often than not. Combine a SEABEE's muscle, skill and ingenuity with a few materials and you'll usually get the job done. Sometimes, however, even those are not enough. On really big jobs, like the ones we tackled at Dong Ha, we found ourselves faced with the need for more muscle. It was at times like these that we were grateful for the power of the big machines provided, cared for and operated by the men of 62's Alfa Company.

Almost every job we undertook depended in some part upon Alfa's trucks, bulldozers, concrete mixers, cranes, ditch diggers or other pieces of mobile equipment. In fact, these vehicles and machines were what made us a truly "mobile" construction battalion.

The men of Alfa Company were responsible during the deployment for keeping the Battalion's wheels rolling. They operated the transportation pool, machine shop and auto and heavy equipment maintenance shops. Construction mechanics were behind every job, tearing the huge machines down to basic parts to be cleaned, repaired and rebuilt. Equipment Operators handled the metal monsters on the jobs.

Continued





Alfa Company served as sub-contractor for site preparation, excavation, hauling, pile driving, concrete batching and numerous related projects. Their importance in this capacity was demonstrated on such jobs as the bridges we built. On these jobs the men of Alfa drove pilings, hauled in concrete for the piers, delivered materials, hoisted steel beams for the bridges' structures and built the approaches.

Of course, Alfa Company also served as prime contractor on other important projects. 62's Lines of Communication (LOC) highway improvement tasks were the best examples of this. Using up to 60 pieces of equipment at a time, the Alfa Company men upgraded, widened and surfaced more than 35 miles of highway.

On Vietnamese National Highway #9 from the Khe Gio Bridge to Vandegrift Combat Base, just one nine-mile stretch, the men of Alfa removed more than a half million cubic yards of dirt, enough to bury 30 football fields under ten feet of earth. More than 300,000 cubic yards of fill material had to be hauled to other sections of the highway to bring the road to its finished level. More than 64,500 tons of rock was required for the nine miles of highway, and a five-inch-thick layer of asphalt provided the finished surface.

With behemoth jobs such as this, it's easy to see the extreme importance of the mighty machines of Alfa Company. But whether the jobs were large or small, the whole Battalion depended on the men of the Company to help get the work done.



Bottom: CM2 Jim Wright changes a drill bit in the Alfa machine shop. Far right: Alfa's "Chevron island" gas station. Right: EOCN Calvin Crane cleans a truck engine.

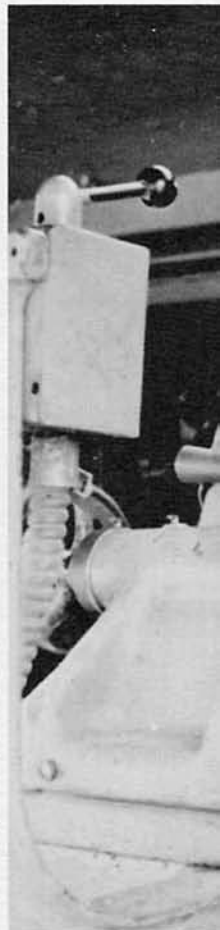
William W. Allison, CMC
Jimmie D. Beard, EOC
Billy G. Byrd, EQCM
Donald E. Connell, EOC



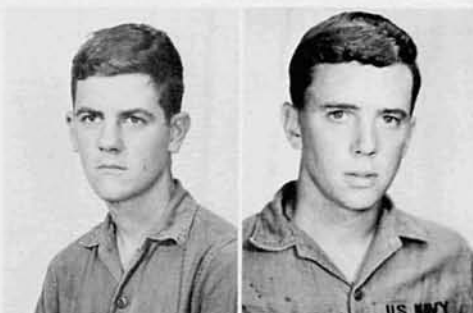
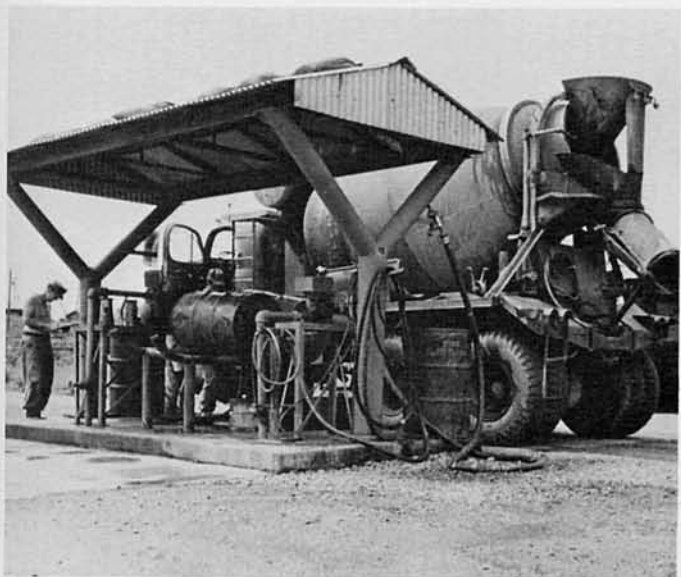
Arnold J. Davidson, CMCS
Roy M. Emmons, CMC
Richard L. Furne, EOC
Kenneth D. Jackson, CMC



James M. Jacobs, EOC
Clarence G. Thurman, CMC
Jarvis O. Wood, EOCS
William F. Yates, CMC



Alfa—one-stop car service



Frederick A. Abacherli, EOCN
Curtis K. Acton Jr., EO3



Dennis W. Alexander, CN
John A. Allen, EO3



George E. Almond, CM3
Albert H. Altrock, EO3



Daniel L. Anderson, CM1
Sherman L. Andis, EO2



Alton L. Archer, CM2
James L. Arnold, CM3



Working together





To change the earth



Dispatchers keep equipment busy

James D. Bailey, CM3
Dennis A. Barber, EO3
David J. Barry, CM3
Raymond W. Bartels, EO2
Hubert D. Bass, EO1



Calvin R. Beal, EOCN
David P. Becker, EO1
James F. Behan, CM3
Stanley R. Bell, EO3
Joseph R. Benno, MRFN



Michael J. Berg, CM3
Curtis W. Bierer, CM3
Jack C. Bounds, EO2
Barry Bouwens, CM3
Jeffrey F. Brainard, EOCN



Lannie E. Brant, CM3



Gerald M. Brown, EO3



EO2 Thomas J. Liesfeld, Alfa's heavy equipment dispatcher, maintains radio contact with work sites to send vehicles where they are needed.





Marshall J. Brown, EO3
Adriel B. Buchanan, CM3
Kenneth W. Buettner, CM3
William J. Burke Jr., CN
Donald E. Burnham, EOCN



Richard C. Buschmann, CM2
Joel D. Buss, EOCA
Joby B. Butler Jr. EO3
Beverly G. Carmack, CM3
Gilbert S. Carnighan, CM2



Edward N. Carroll, CM3
John B. Chamberlin, EO2
Roger D. Champine, YN3
Leslie A. Child, EO3
Raymond R. Clair, EO2



Robert G. Clark, EOCA
Donald G. Cook, EO2
William M. Cooley, CM3
Denzil D. Cooper, EO3
James M. Coshatt Jr., EO3



Francis E. Costanzo, EO3
Kenneth W. H. Cottelli, EOCA
Calvin Crane, EOCN
Jack N. Cross, EO3
Michael S. Curran, EO2



Robert J. Dacy, EOCN
Claude R. Daigneault Jr., EO2
Patrick N. Dalton, EO2
John M. Damron, CM3
Clyde A. Dann, Jr. EO2

Willis E. Darden Jr., EO3
 Charles E. Davis, EO3
 Charles W. Davis, EO3
 Stephen M. Delaney, CM3
 William H. Delaney, EO3



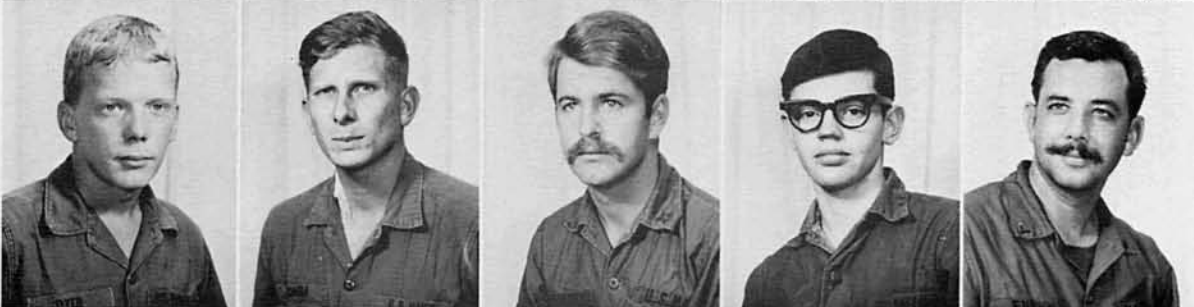
Paul R. Demaster, EO3
 Raymond H. Denison, EOCA
 James E. Dexter, CM2
 Richard A. Dial, CN
 Larry L. Diamond, EO2



William D. Disalvo, EO3
 William R. Dorrough, CM2
 Paul J. Driver, CM3
 John A. Durkee, EOCN
 Michael J. Durki, EO2



Richard A. Dyer, EO3
 Michael R. Echola, EOCA
 Bradley L. Edwards, EO3
 Thomas P. Eells, CMCN
 Gerald W. Ehmke, EO3



Aldrick P. Eldridge, EO3
 Clive K. Ellifritz, CM1
 Martin A. Emrick, CMCR
 Michael H. Esslin, EO3
 Dale W. Fabian, EO3



Louis J. Fedor, EO3
 Lawrence B. Ferris Jr., CM3
 Robert F. Follett, CM3
 Rona E. Foran, EO2
 James B. Foster, EO3





Robert E. Fulton, CA
John W. Fyke, EO2
Stephen D. Gard, EO3
Michael J. Garvey, EO3
Edward L. Gates, EO3



Joseph Giannone, EO3
Tommy J. Giddens, EOCN
Kenneth G. Gilbert, CM3
Ralph E. Gill, CM2
Maurice L. Gouin, CM3



David A. Grasman, EO3
George L. Grogan III, EO3
Hoffman J. Gurley Jr., CM3
Ronald F. Haaf, EOCA
Tim T. Halbert, EO3



Courtney W. Hall, EOCA
Wyne H. Hammack, CMCR
Larry M. Hammer, SA
Donald R. Hamrick, EOCN
Terry W. Hannah, EO3



Douglas M. Hart, EOCN
James H. Hartman, EO2
Gary L. Henzen, EO1
Raymond C. Herd, EO3
Kenneth L. Heumann, EO3



Paul E. Hicks, EO2
Frank E. Hight, EO3
Kenneth D. Hobson, CMCN
Louis D. Hollingsworth Jr., EO2
Danny E. Horn, CM3

Roger W. Hornsby, ADJ3
James E. Howe, SW2
David E. Hughes, CM3
Vernon L. Hunt, CN
Joseph J. Izvorski III, CM3



Alphonso B. Jackson, EOCA
Dennis C. Jamison, EO3
Jerry W. Jay, CM3
Benjamin F. Jeans Jr., EO3
Stephen W. Jenkins, CM3



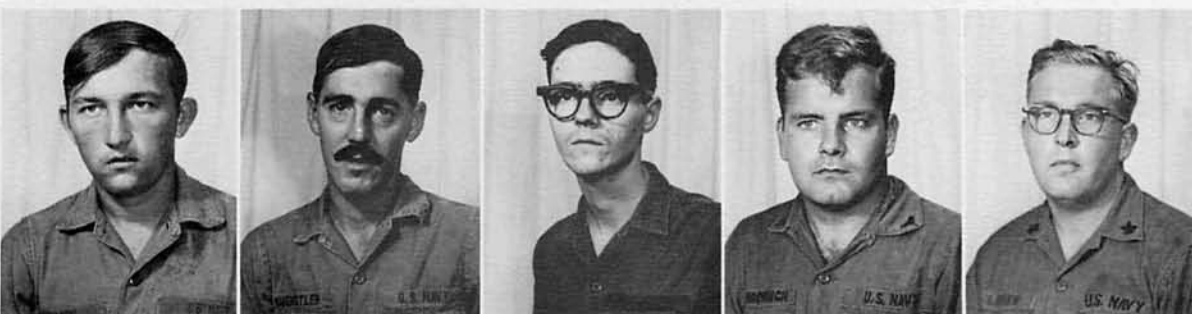
Thomas L. Johnson, EO3
Irving R. Jones, CM3
Joel R. Keller, EOCN
John E. Kendrick, EO2
James I. Keosky, CM2



Jeffrey B. Kiedrowski, CM3
Randal L. King, CM3
Curtis J. Kiser, CM2
Charles E. Koberlein, EO3
Fritz Kohler, CM2



Bruce W. Korando, EOCA
John A. Kuentler, EOCN
Terry G. Kydd, CMCA
Frederick N. Langenbach, CM2
James L. Larsen, CM2



Larry R. Lawrence, EO1
Kenneth J. Leavitt, EO3
Terry L. Lebkicher, EO2
Robert E. Lee, EO2
Bertram C. Legg, EO2





Left: Alfa's modern fire truck and well-trained crew were on call to fight fires anywhere in the Dong Ha area. Below: Equipment operators used bulldozers to contain a fire in a 62 supply yard.

Alfa firefighters meet emergencies



Dayle Lewis, EOCN
Thomas J. Liesfeld, EO2
Edmund L. Lish, EO2



Fred A. Livermore, SWCN
Raymond C. Long, EOCA
John P. Losurdo, CM2



Peter A. Losurdo, EO3
Lawrence R. Lucey, CM3
Alfred Lukus, CM3
Paul C. MacDonald, EOCN
Edward J. Mainguy, EO2

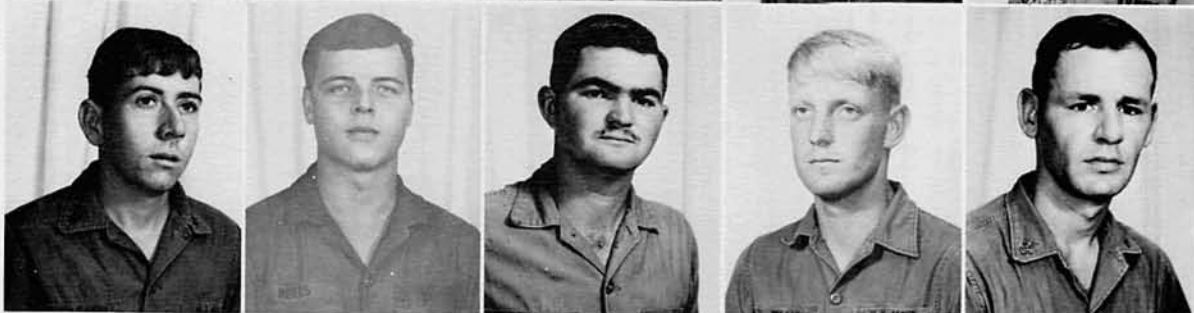


Carl R. Marsh, EO3
Robert L. Martin, CM2
Steven L. Massey, CMCA
Stephen Mate, EO2
Carnell A. McAlister, CM3

James E. McCarthy, EO3
 Billy G. McCormick, EO3
 James W. McCormick Jr., EO3
 Robert C. McCue, CMCN
 David M. McDowell, EO2



Daniel R. McFadden, CM3
 Lawrence R. Meres, EO3
 Gordon S. Merrill, EO3
 Neal L. Miller, CN
 Richard E. Miller, EO2



Darrel L. Miner, EO1
 Joe G. Mitchell, EO3
 David L. Monter, EO3
 Robert L. Montouri, EO2
 Roger L. Moore, CM3



Robert F. Morey, EO1
 Michael E. Morisoli, EO3
 George D. Moskoganis, CM3
 David S. Murry, EO3
 Michael Myers, CM3



Thomas A. Nederhoff, EO3
 Arnold Neel, MR2
 Russell D. Ness, CM3
 Gregory E. Nichols, EO2
 Roy W. Nunn, CM3



Norman F. Obrien, EO2
 Frank J. O'Connell III, EO3
 Stephen D. O'Neill, CM2
 Jeffrey L. Parker, CM3
 John R. Parmeter, EO1





Jimmy B. Patteson, EO3
Harvey J. Petras, EO3
Andrew S. Pezzato, CN
Jerry E. Phillips, CM3
Marvin H. Philyaw, CM3



Samuel J. Picker, EO3
Joseph M. Popovich, EO3
Greg A. Powell, EOCN
Daniel K. Priest, EO3
Michael C. Purello, EO3



Marvin C. Quarles, EO1
Calvin G. Rager, CM3
Marion H. Ramsey, SW3
Dionicio P. Rebujio, EO1
Charles E. Reeves, CM3



Leo L. Ricci, EO3
Buford B. Richardson, EOCA
Oakley P. Richardson, CM3
David L. Roberson, EO2
Lourienzo Robinson, EOCA



Melvin L. Ross, EO3
Gary L. Russell, CN
Mark E. Sabotta, EO3
Ricky C. Schlegel, CM3
Edward F. Schmidt, CM2



Mark F. Schmitz, CM3
George P. Scott Jr., EO3
William D. Seale, CM2
Richard W. Sharp, CMCN
Harvey L. Sherrod, EOCN

Larry L. Shipley, CM3
James T. Sickles, EOCN
Peter J. Simmons, CM3
Douglas J. Slack, CM3
John J. Slavin, EO3



David W. Smith, EO3
Donald E. Smith, EO3
Hubert R. Smith, EOCN
Jack R. Smith, EOCN
Malcolm W. Smith, EO3



William H. Smith, CN
Karl L. Stebbins, EO3
Michael R. Steel, EO3
David L. Steenwyk, CM3
Henry G. Stewart Jr., EO2



John J. Stoltman, EO3
Lawrence A. Straw, EO3
James D. Strickland, EO2
Brian J. Sullivan, CM3
Dennis L. Sumerfelt, CM3

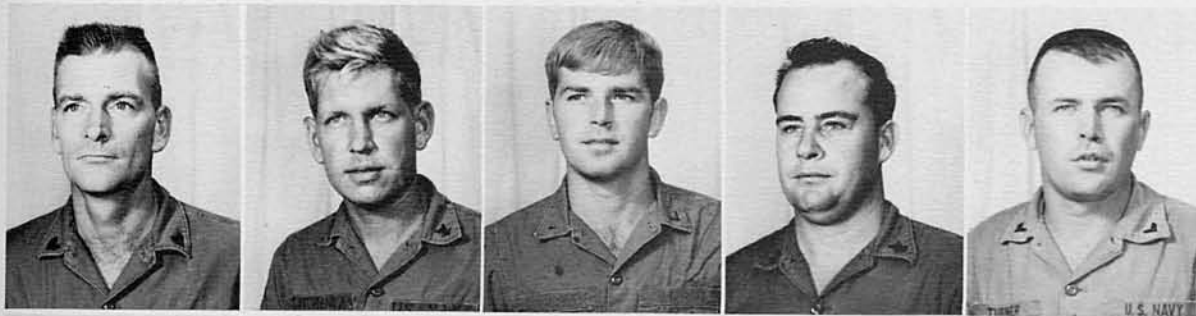


John E. Sutliff, EO3
Samuel J. Swank, EO2
Robert L. Taylor, CM3
Lawrence W. Tharnish, EO3
James M. Thelen, EO2



Jerry E. Thew, EO2
James J. Thiel, CM1
Gary H. Thomas, CM3
Barry H. Thompson, CM2
Norman A. Tofte, CM3





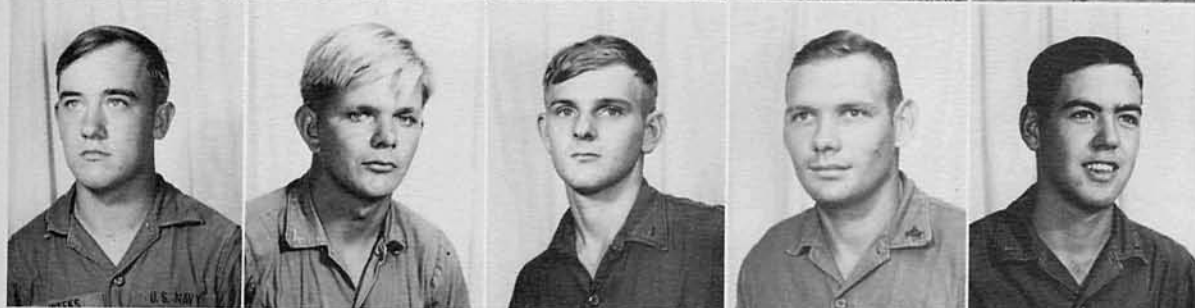
Richard W. Totten, CM1
 Marcus A. Treadaway, CM3
 Robert D. Treible, EO3
 Mike H. Trim, CM2
 Robert L. Turner, EO2



John F. Tye, EO1
 Lawrence D. Vance, EO3
 David W. Vernon, EO3
 Kenneth S. Vodden, SW2
 Wayne A. Vogel, EO2



Earl H. Wadkins, EOCN
 Kenneth W. Waite, EO3
 Paul W. Waltman, CMCN
 Quinton J. Wasden, EO1
 Leonard R. Webber, EO3



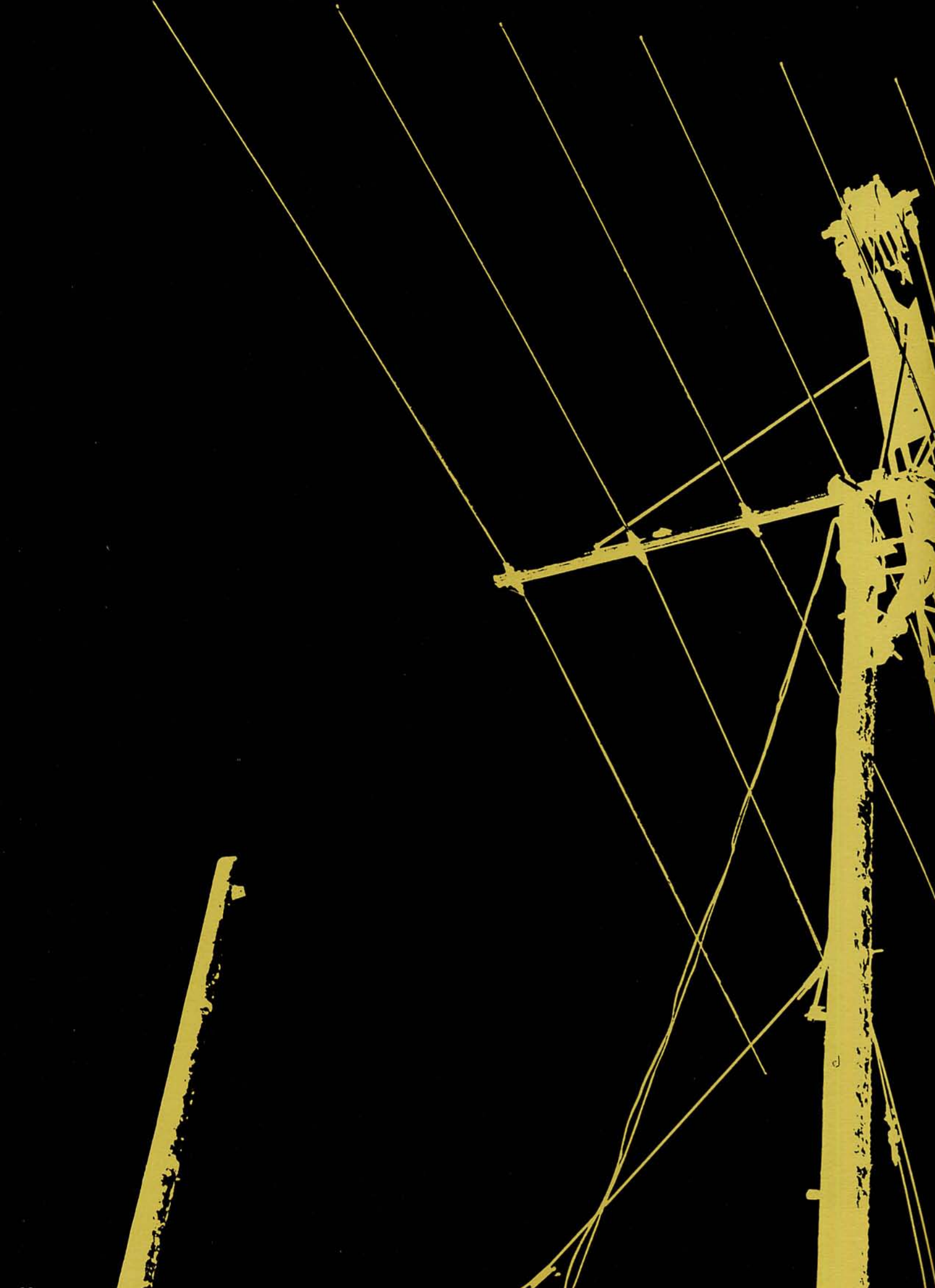
Dennis O. Weeks, EOCN
 Gary R. Welch, EO3
 Roger I. Wetzel, CM3
 Carl E. Wheeler, EO2
 Rodney D. Williams, EO3

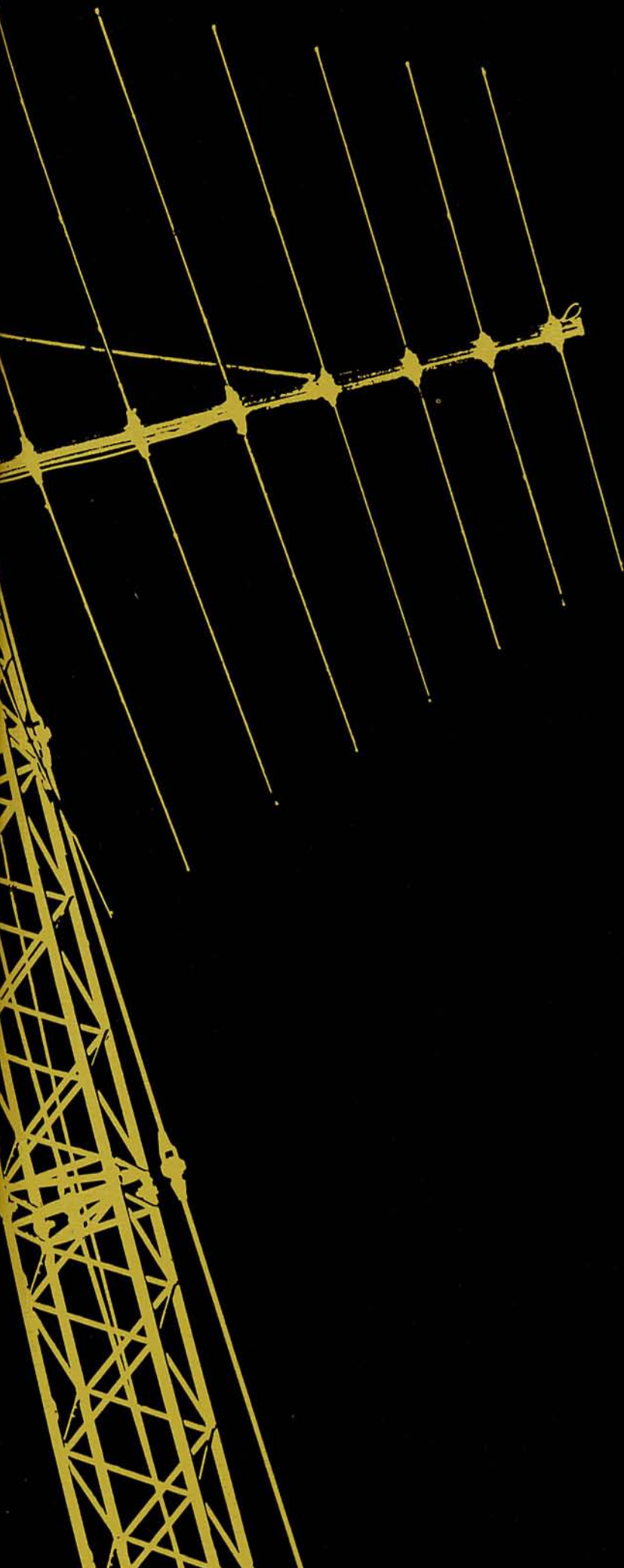


Gene R. Wilson, EO3
 Thomas A. Wilson, MR2
 Russell D. Winter, CM2
 Gary M. Woodward, EO3
 Elbert S. Woolley III, EO3



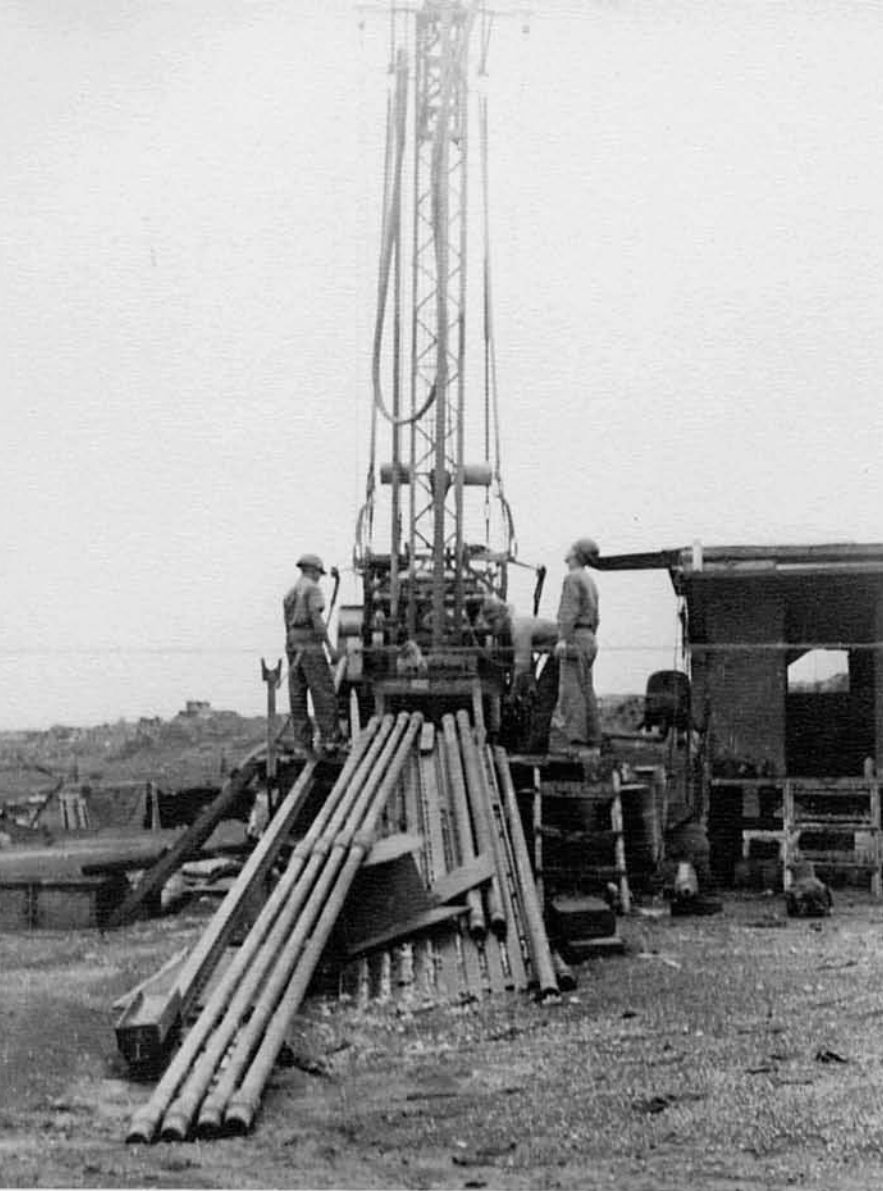
James R. Wright, CM2
 Virgil P. Yablonski, EO2
 Robert M. Yager, EO2
 Edward J. Yost, EO3
 Bruce C. Zulauf, EOCN





BRAVO





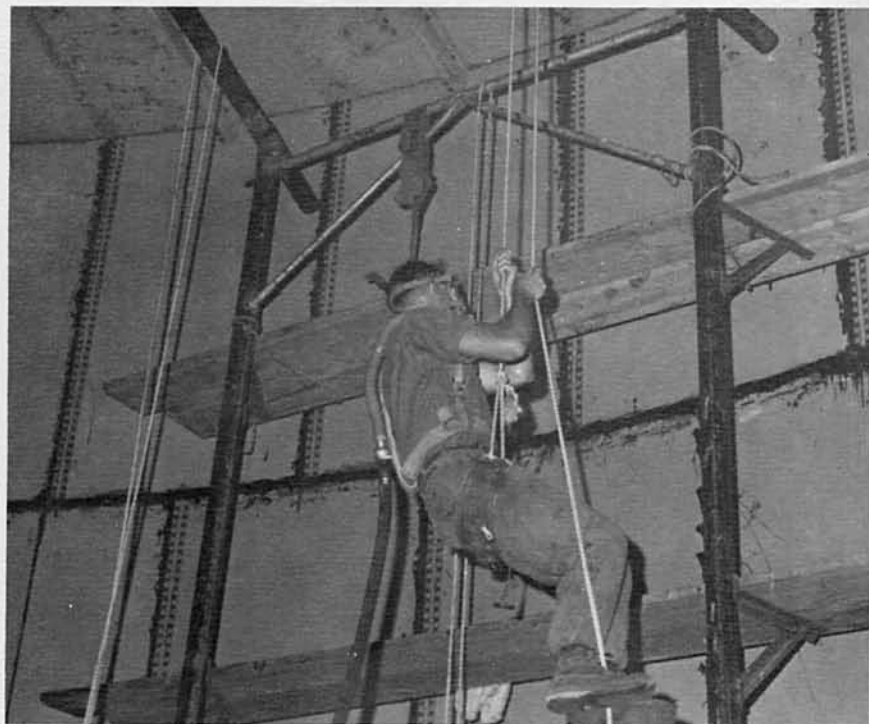
Power and water- - Bravo tasks

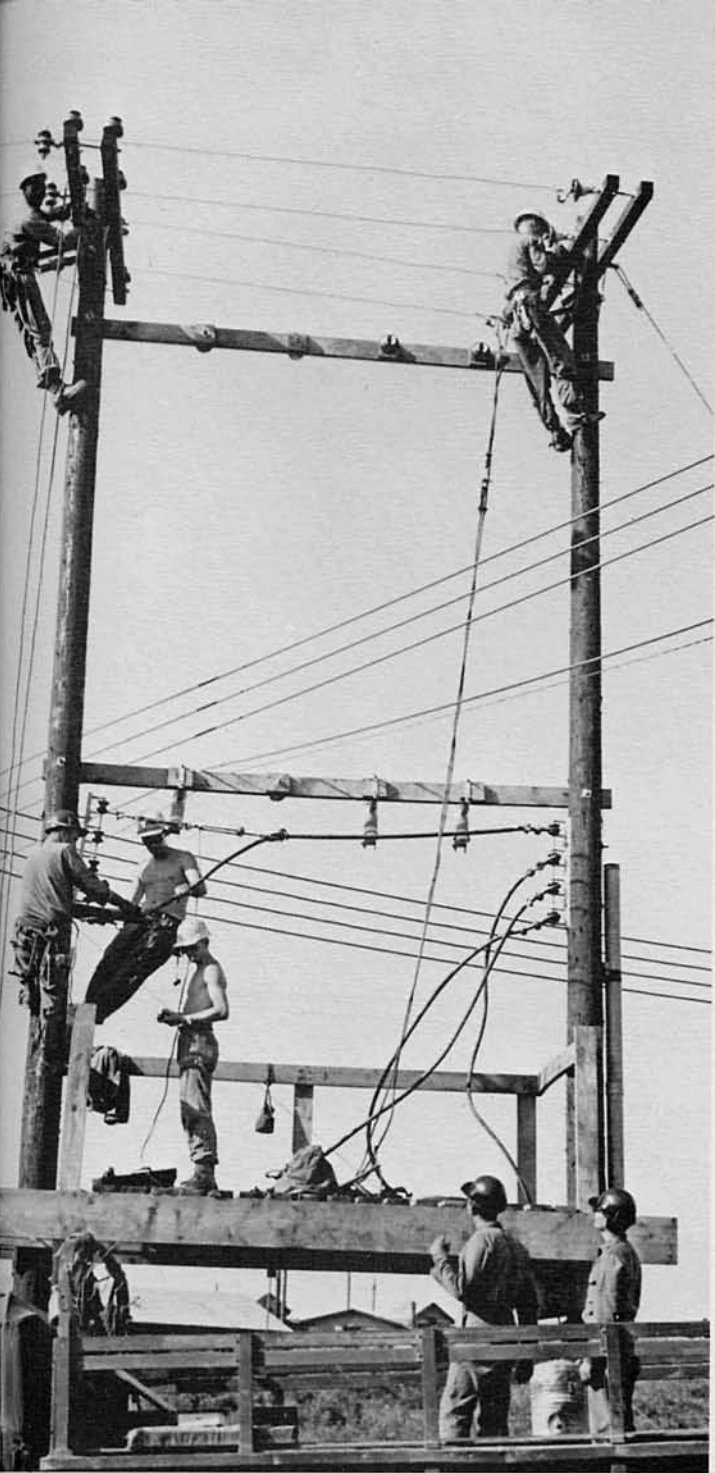


How could we have made it through some of those days without knowing that we could go to the club that night and have a cold beer or soda and see a flick? Or, if not that, maybe we just wanted to listen to some music, write a letter or read for a while after a shower.

All of these things were made possible by Bravo Company. Bravo's utilitiesmen and electricians were responsible for keeping us constantly supplied with plenty of water and electricity throughout the deployment. Dong Ha may not have been just like home, but think how unbearable it would have been had we not had these little conveniences.

Comforts and conveniences, however, were not the only things supplied by Bravo Company. Its men were also responsible for maintaining and operating the hundreds of power and communication lines in the camp, the boiler room which provided steam and water for the galley and laundry, and the ice plant.





Bravo Company also installed and serviced all the air conditioning equipment around Camp Barnes. The refrigeration equipment was used to provide storage for perishable food in the galley, as well as keeping the drinks at the club cold.

Camp maintenance was another big job for Bravo Company. Builders and steelworkers worked with the electricians and utilitiesmen to repair damaged structures or build new ones. The company also operated carpentry, steelworking and paint shops.

Bravo Company not only maintained the water and electrical systems, but they made several improvements and additions in these areas.

One extensive task that spanned much of the deployment was the installation of an electrical distribution system for the Dong Ha Combat Base. This system required 230 poles, 135 transformers and over 11 miles of high voltage wire.

Utilitiesmen also handled well drilling projects for the Battalion, providing fresh water for numerous fire support bases around the area.

We were very lucky to have the services of the Bravo Company. They kept us going with a steady flow of water and power . . . well, pretty steady.

Upper left: Bravo well drillers brought in a well at Con Thien where attempts by other units had failed. Center: "B" Company builders put up a beer and soda storage house adjacent to the EM Club. Lower left: UT3 Thomas Steiskal hoists himself to the top of a water tank the company repaired. Left: A power distribution system for the Dong Ha Combat Base was a major Bravo task. Bottom: UT2 John Harbison cuts pipe in the Company shop. Below: Bravo repaired the wreckage after typhoon Doris swept the camp.



Robert L. R. Ashley, CEC



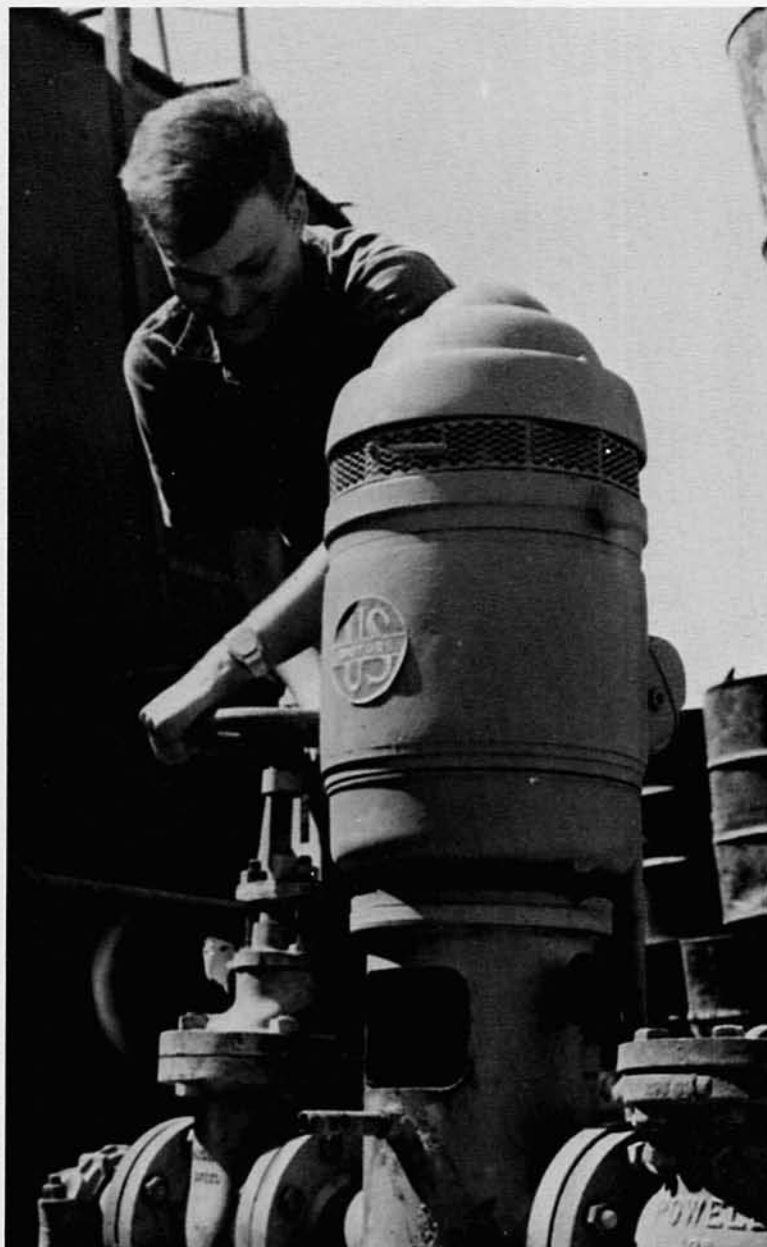
James R. Cobb, UTC



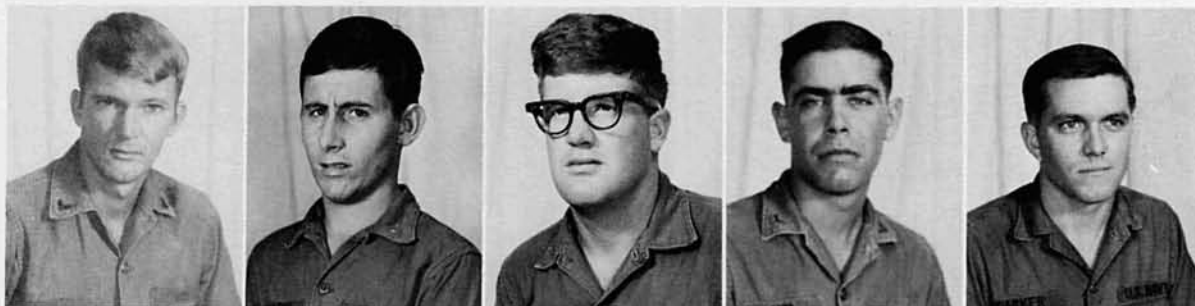
Donald E. Norman, CEC



Robert F. Richmond, BUC

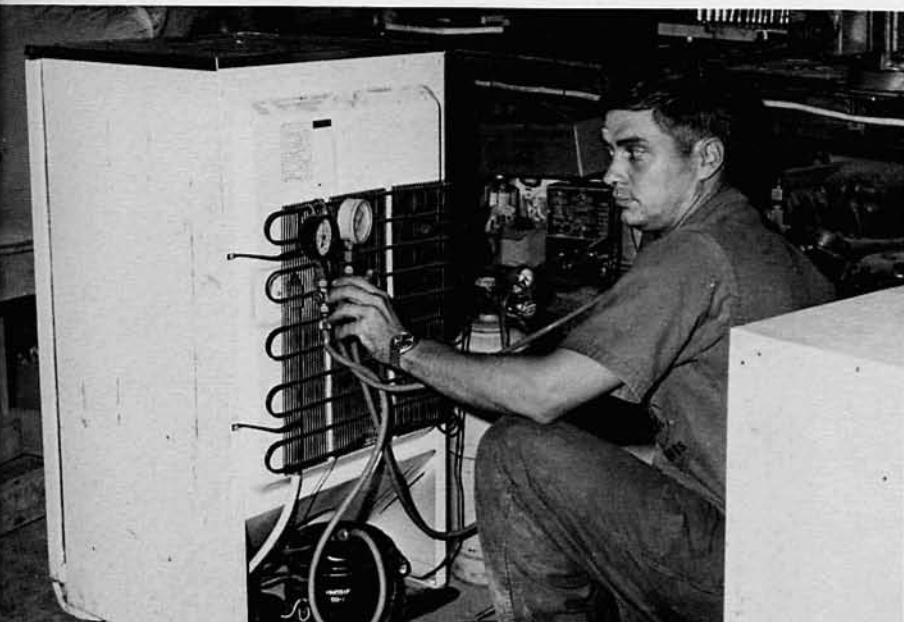


Terrell W. Abernathy, SFM2
Timothy W. Anderson, UT3
Gary M. Armstrong, UT3
Robert W. Ayer, CE3
Daniel C. Barker, CE2



John M. Behe, UT3
Walter W. Bennett, CECN
Glen D. Bielss, CE3
Furman R. Bishop, UT3
Joseph A. Brenny, CE3





Bravo brings conveniences

Far left: CE3 Paul Jaksich opens a valve at the Camp Barnes water plant. Left: UT2 Claude Mercer checks out a refrigerator. Below: UT3 Ray Garvey tests drinking water.



Gerald W. Brooks, SA
Van V. Bushnell, UTCN
Michael A. Cadwell, CE3



Anthony Campos, YN3
George M. Carter, CE3
David C. Chambers, UT1



Clarence P. Charpentier, CE2
Norman K. Y. Chung, SFM2
John F. Clinton, CA



Walter L. Coen, CE3
Michael J. Coldiron, UT3
Jerry L. Cole, CE3

Right: ETN3 Michael Sweeney repairs a movie projector in the electronics shop. Far right: ETN3 Aubrey Savage checks out telephone circuits. Bottom: CE3 William Usry and UT3 T. L. Carmichael run switchboards in the Battalion Command Post.

Alvin P. Cook, UTCN



Dan A. Dahlquist, UT3



Edmond G. DeBerry, CE1
Claude D. Dennis, CE2
John J. Doherty, UT2
Malcolm D. Donaldson, CE2
Alan E. Dupuis, CECA



Michael B. Eckhout, CE2
Donald E. Edwards, CE2
David E. Fagan, BU3
Ricky D. Flatt, CE3
Stephen H. Floyd, UT3



Harold F. Fuller Jr., UT1
Daniel L. Gammell, UT3
Raphael J. Garvey, UT3
John C. Gilbert, UT3
Howard S. Greenman, CE2



Power, communications important Bravo jobs



John J. Harbison Jr., UT2
James G. Hendee, UT1



Paul R. Hite, UT1
Robert E. Howald Jr., CE3



Steven H. Huber, UT2
Paul F. Illemann, UT2



Ronald S. Jackson, UTCN
Paul J. Jaksich, CE3



Philip J. Jaunet, CE2
Ferrell D. Johns, CE3

Service is our product





The MARS station, a link with home

MARS station operators Ferrell Johns, CE3, and Jerry Brooks, SA, provided emergency communications and helped us to make those occasional phone calls stateside.



John F. Kelly Jr., CE3
Alvin A. Kennedy, UT2
Donald R. Kernechel, CE3
Paul M. Kitchens, BU2
Michael F. Landes, UT3



Robert L. LaRose, CE3
Curtis K. Lott, UT2
Douglas D. Lottman, CECN
Theodore S. Mathiesen, UT3
William J. McConnell, UT3



Ronald J. Mecoli, CECN
Claude A. Mercer Jr., UT2
John E. Misenheimer, UT2
Stephen W. Morse, UT3
James L. Nicholson, CECN



Oliver Noel, CA
Ralph E. Norman, UTCN
Harold A. Olivier Jr., UT3
Ronald E. O'Loane, CE2
Thomas E. Palmer, UTCN





William C. Peacock, UT2
Daniel R. Pegram, CE3
Gary T. Piehl, CECN
Michael F. Prendergast, CE3
Patrick J. Raftary, CE2



William R. Rayfield, ET1
John Rivera-Franklin, SN
Richard D. Robbins, UT3
Bruce R. Russell, UT3
Rupert M. Scharoun Jr., CE3



William E. Schonemann, SW3
Charles F. Schreiber Jr., CE1
James W. Scott, CN
Kenneth W. Seppanen, CE2
Dennis L. Spartz, CE3



Robert E. Spire, CECN
Thomas J. Steiskal, UT3
Michael N. Sweeney, ETN3
Kenneth L. Ulander, BU3
William J. Usry, CE3

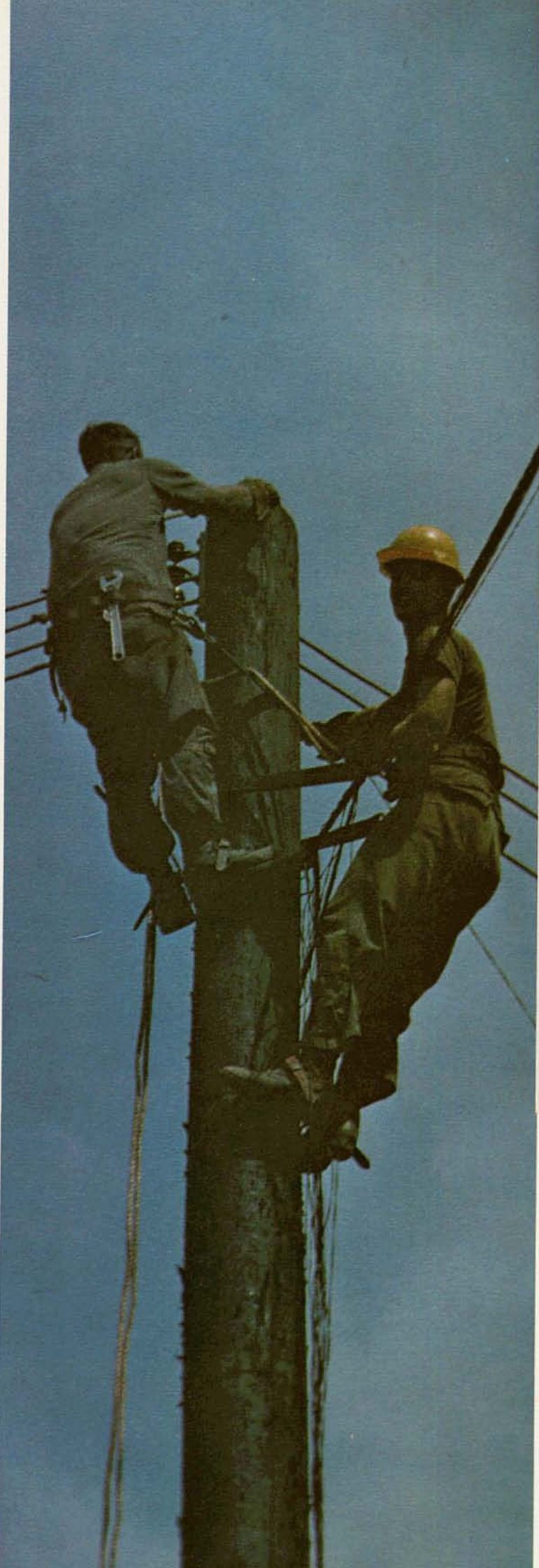


John E. Vance Jr., UTCN
Warren H. Van Deusen, CECA
Miles H. Wardlaw, UT3
Kenneth A. Weston, CE2
Michael L. Whiting, CE3

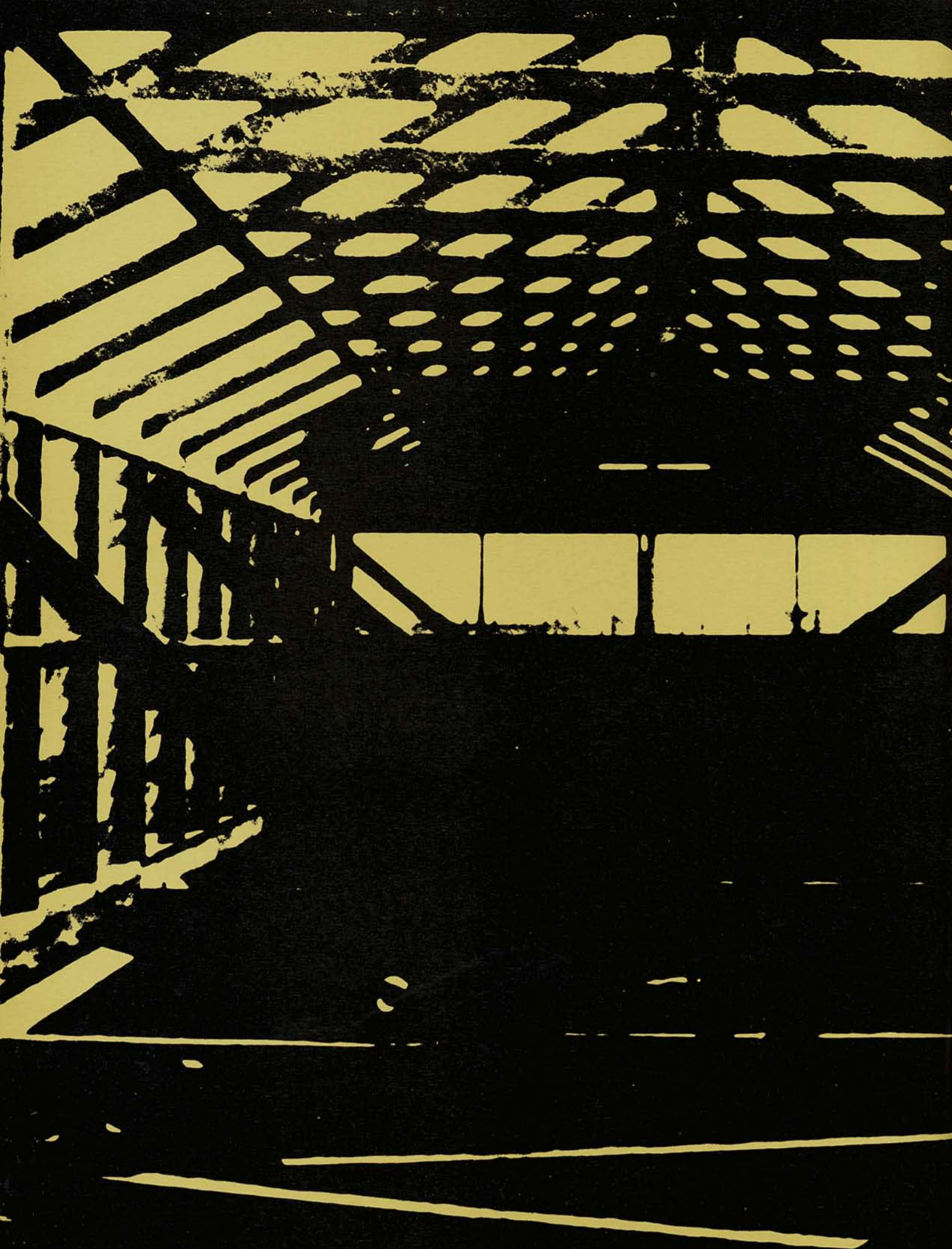


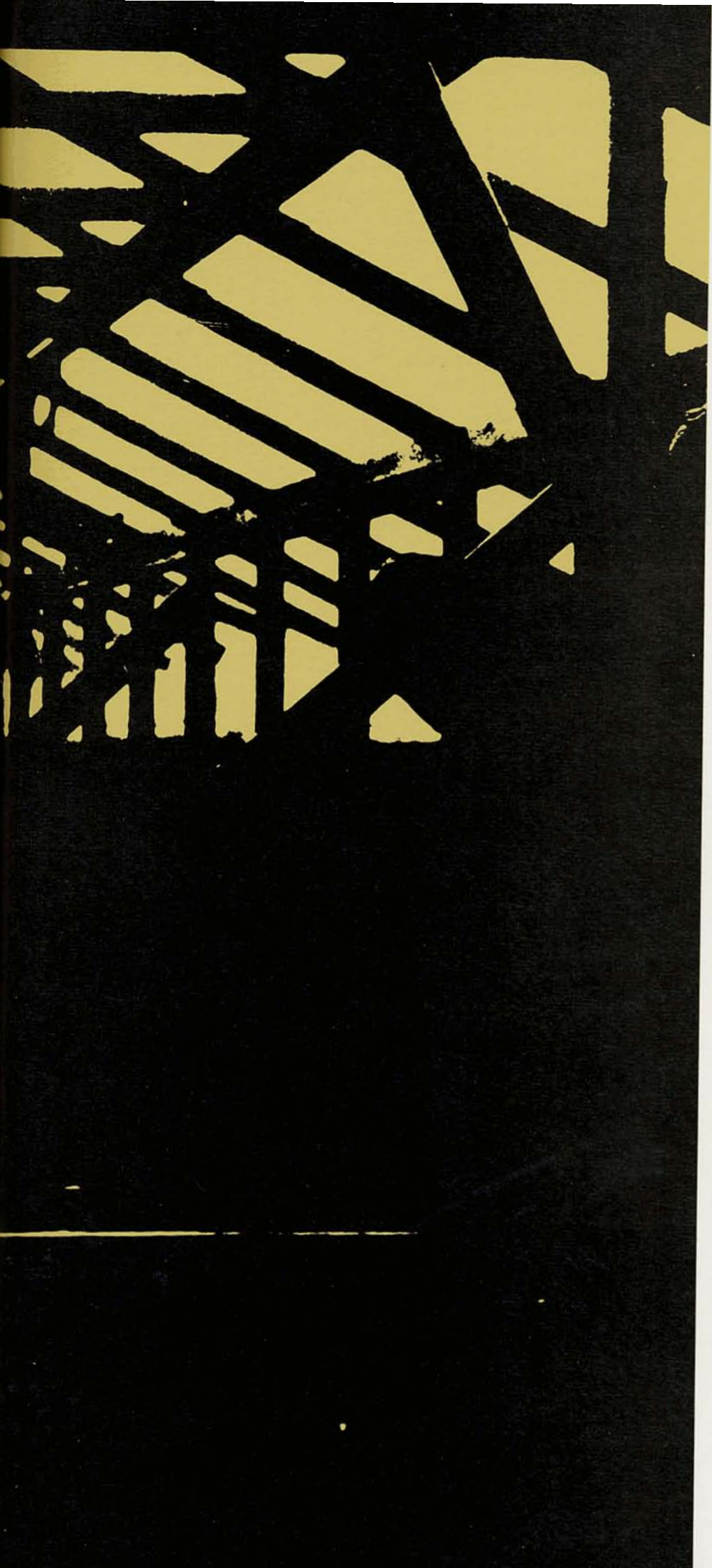
Henry R. Williams, UTCN
Robert M. Wingard Jr., UT3
Frederick J. Withrow, CE3
Joseph J. Wojnarowicz Jr., CE3
Joseph H. Wyse, CECN

Pole sitters set records









CHARLIE



Bridges, culverts— big Charlie projects

The men of Charlie Company seemed to spend most of their time during the deployment swinging hammers, tightening bolts, cutting steel or pouring concrete. Sometimes they would climb towers or dig holes.

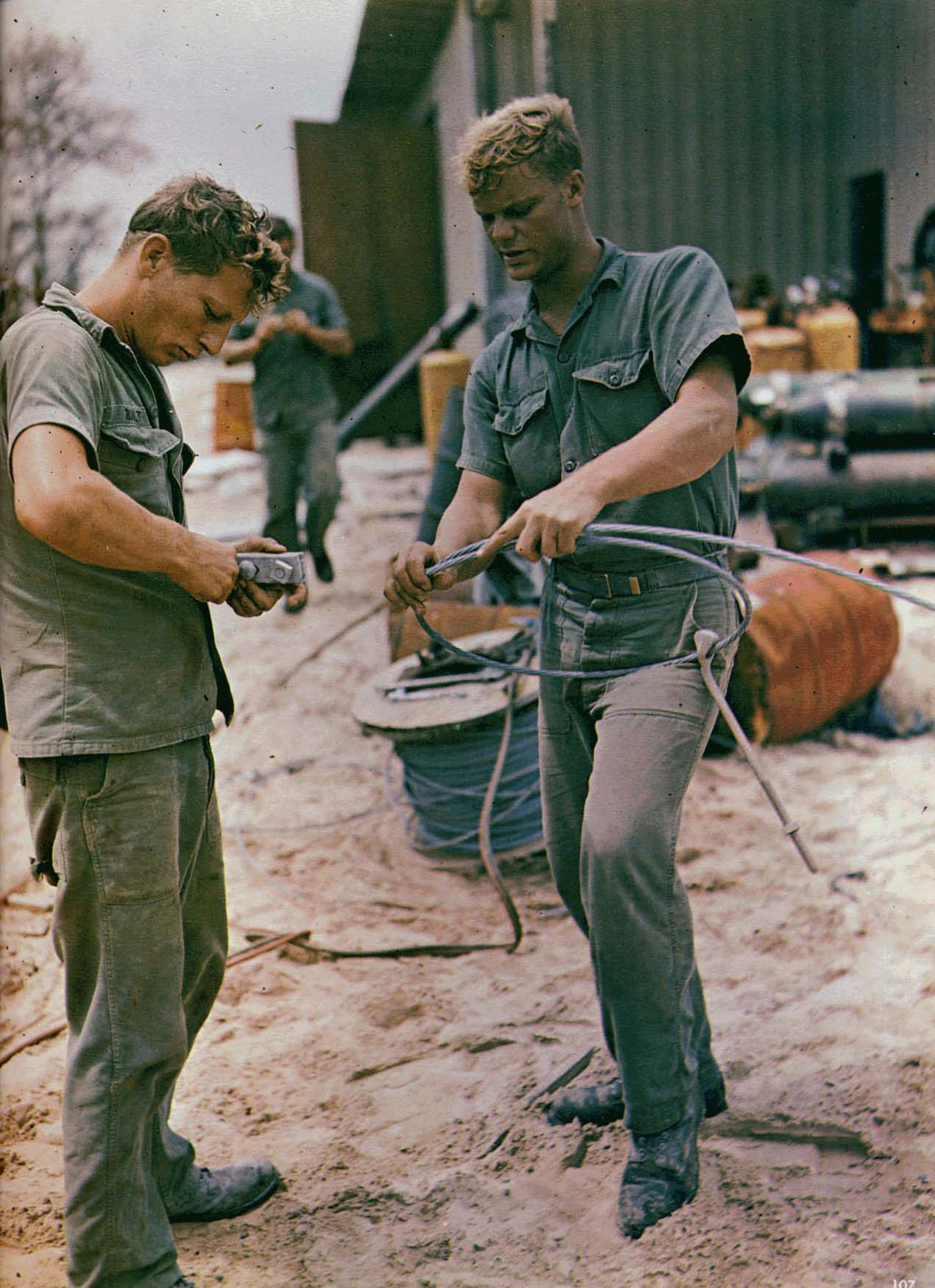
"C" Company is one of 62's two general construction companies. It's composed of builders and steelworkers, men who are responsible for, naturally, wood, concrete and steel construction.

Since basic construction of these types is necessary to almost any project, Charlie's BU's and SW's could be found applying their skills to a great many Battalion jobs. They had primary responsibility for 62's first major project of the deployment, the Cam Lo Bridge. Builders and steelworkers together erected the 488-foot long steel and timber structure, handling almost all aspects of the construction. SW's prefabricated about 10,000 linear feet of steel components for the span as BU's put together forms and then poured over 500 cubic yards of concrete for piers and footings.

Charlie Company's next big job came as the Battalion tackled the Vietnamese highway system. Men from the Company again worked together to build the numerous small bridges along the highways, often replacing enemy-destroyed structures in remarkably short periods of time. One of the main problems involved with the highway work was the installation of concrete box culverts, endwalls and culvert extensions.

Continued





Charlie SEABEES – – 62's backbone

In Dong Ha, near the site of the Battalion's bridge project there, Charlie Company Builders completed an addition to a loading ramp. The ramp, used to unload supplies brought up the river from Cua Viet, required about 500 cubic yards of concrete. The work was done in sections with each part requiring about 20 cubic yards of concrete to cover the soft riverbank.

At Cua Viet, northeast of Dong Ha, a detail of "C" Company men provided construction support for Marines. One of their jobs was the placement of 13 heavy timber bunkers and three 20-foot security towers. These were constructed in Camp Barnes and then the bunkers were trucked to Cua Viet while huge helicopters moved the towers into place.

Throughout the deployment, "C" Company was involved in literally hundreds of smaller projects. The men built SEA (South-east Asia) huts, towers bunkers, messhalls, clubs and prefabricated steel buildings.

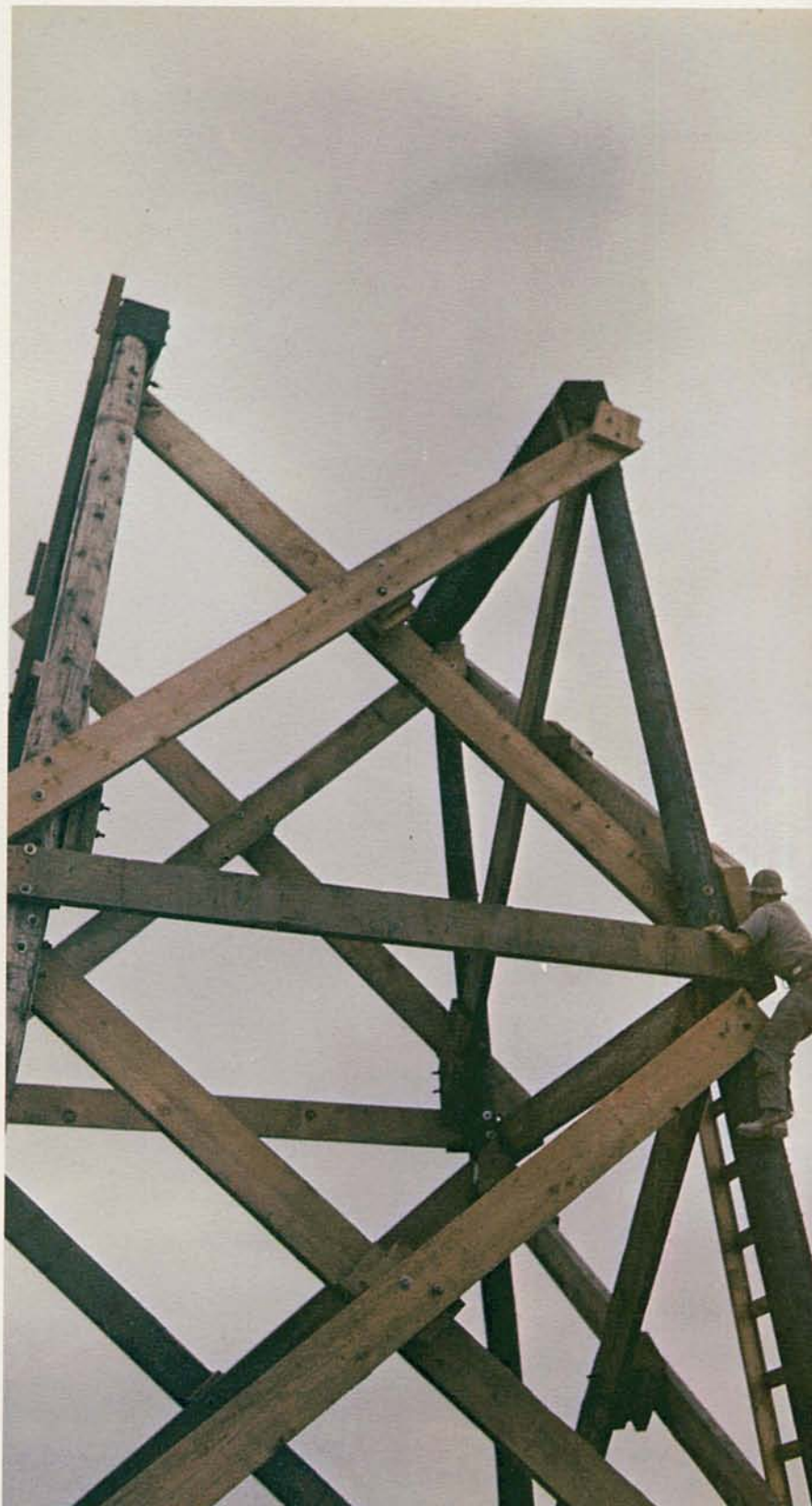
In Camp Barnes, Charlie's BU's were responsible for the operation of a builders' shop and a saw sharpening shop.

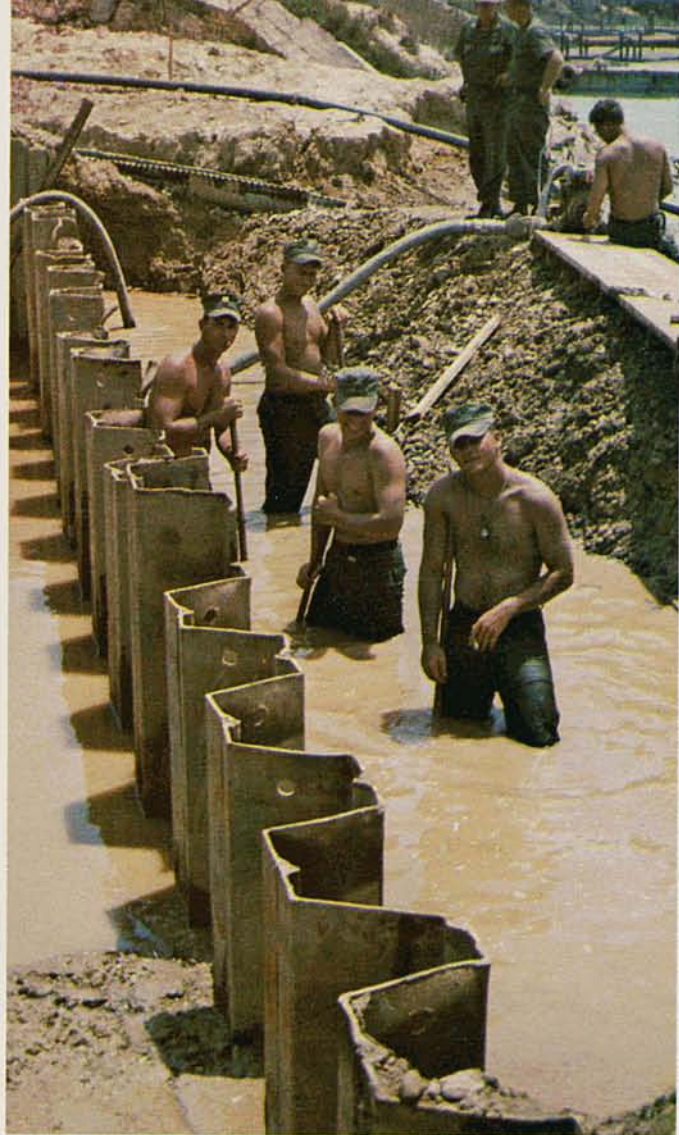
As we saw demonstrated again and again during the deployment, it was the Battalion's builders and steelworkers who were the backbone of the construction unit. And the Charlie Company SEABEES more than proved that they could handle any assignment.





Bridges, Bunkers, Buildings





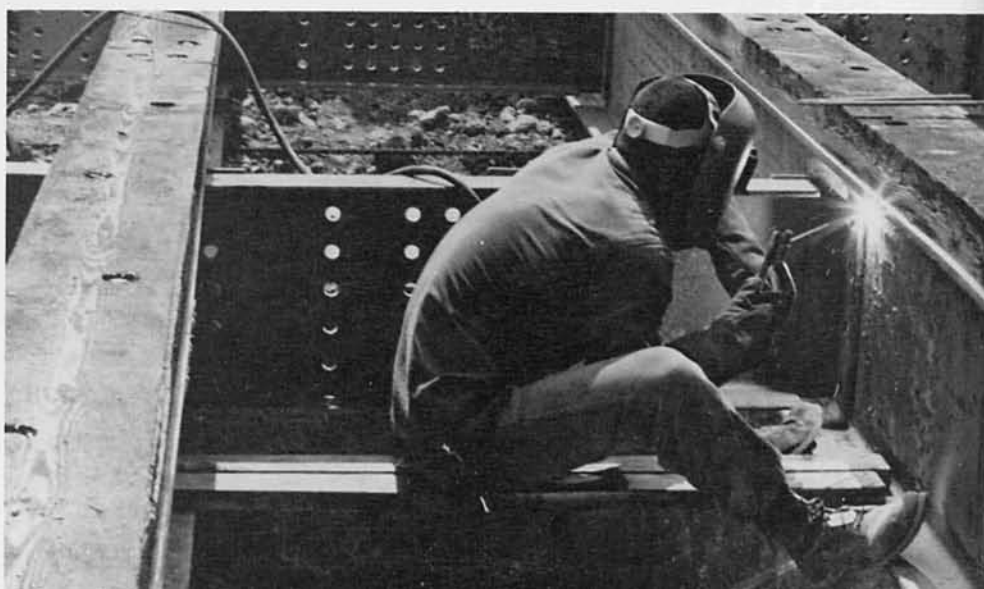
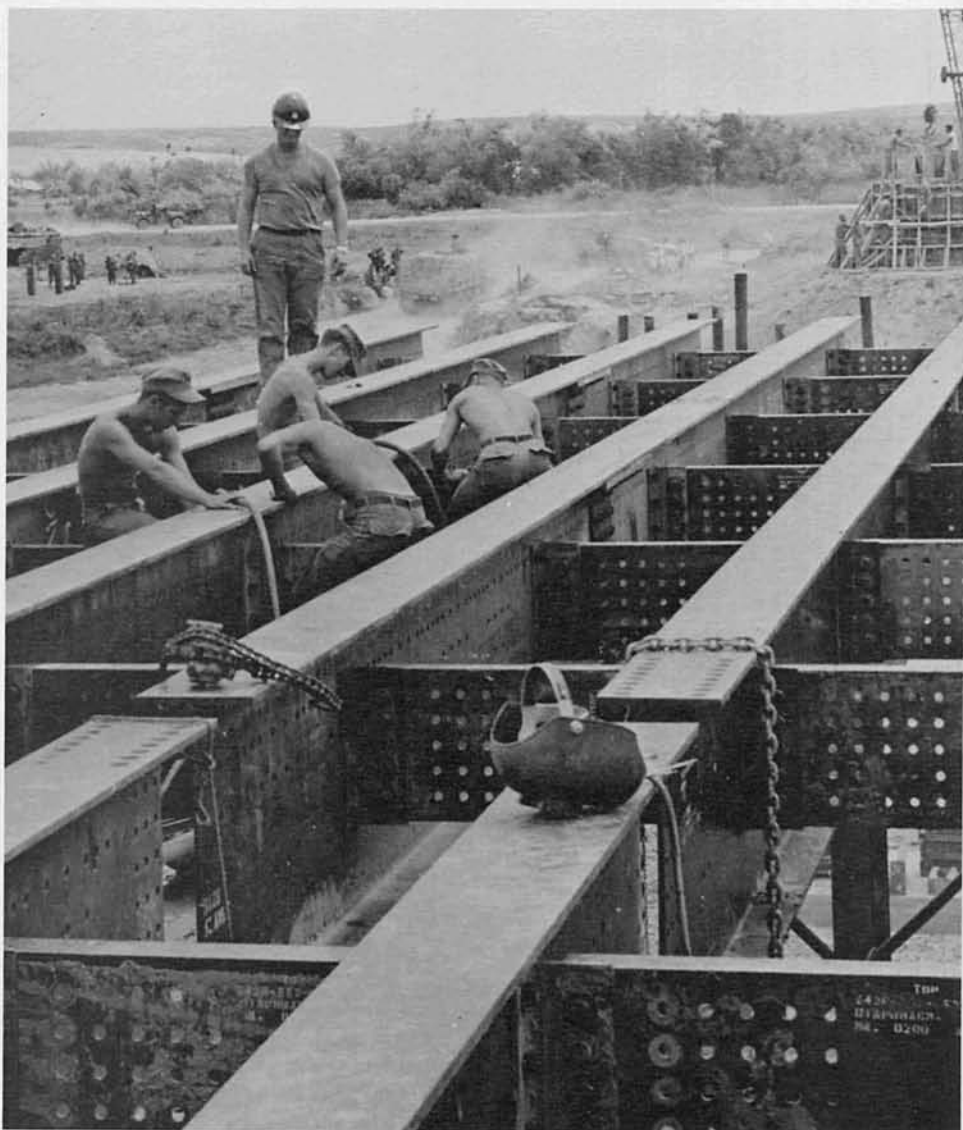
Bigger,
Better

Charles M. Austin, BUC
Lawrence H. Ball Jr., SWC
Jesse L. Cassel, BUCS
Francis Vollono, BUC



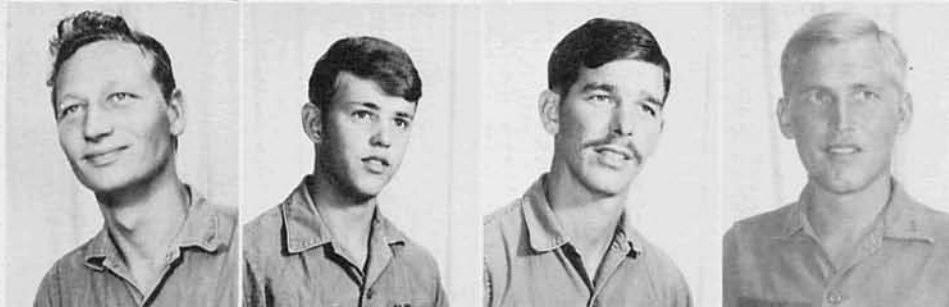
Bridging any gap

Far right: A Charlie crew assembles a steel tank at Vinh Dai for an asphalt plant to be operated by MCB 53. The plant provided asphalt for the Route #9 project. Center: BU3's James Cusato, Eldon Cox and James Cone nail decking on the Cam Lo Bridge. Right: Steelworkers bolt together the framework for the Cam Lo Bridge. Bottom: SW3 Joseph Rozgony welds at Bridge 910. Below: A prefabricated steel frame assembled in Camp Barnes is positioned at Bridge 910, destroyed by enemy.





Arthur E. Anderson, SW3
Andrew J. Antczak, BU3
Lawrence A. Baird, SWCN
Ruffin G. Baker, SW3



Thomas M. Bault, BU3
James W. Berry, BU3
Michael A. Bertucci, SWCN
Warren D. Bessex, BU3



Douglas E. Bingham, BU3
Jay R. Blatchley, SW3
Anthony B. Blua, SW2
Raymond L. Boes, BU3



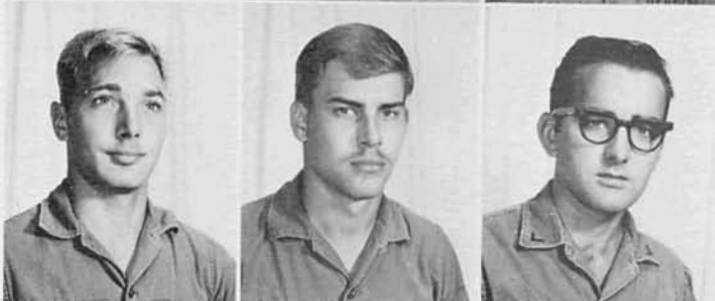
Willie G. Boggan, SW2
Robert G. Bunt, SW2
Larry D. Cargill, BU2



James A. Cone, BU3
Eldon E. Cox, BU3
James J. Cusato, BU3



Dennis A. Dietrich, SWCN
Charles P. Doom, BU3
Thomas E. Dunn, SW3



Far right: BU2 Duane Vance, BUCN Joseph Mazza and BU3 John Lang prepare a form for a concrete spillway at a culvert on Route #9. Center top: SN Tom Fritsch and BU3 James Cusato help swing a concrete culvert top into place on Route #9. Above: BUCN Weldon Scott, BU3 James Cusato and BU2 Joseph Lisuzzo build forms for concrete culverts at Elliott Combat Base. Right: A Charlie Company crew headed by BUC Frank Vollono prepares forms for the next pour.





Culverts protect roads from monsoon floods



Robert D. Ford, BU2
Donald J. Francis, CN
Floyd A. Franklin, BU3

John C. Frederick, SWCN
Thomas W. Fritsch, SN
Willard A. Gravius, BU3

Roy P. Haley Jr., BU2
William D. Hammock, BU2
Robert L. Hanson Jr., SN
Robert H. Harris, BUCN



John C. Helmert, BUCN
William C. Hendrix, BU3
Lowell G. Hicks, CN
Michael R. Howard, BU3



Carl J. Jenkins, BU3
Lewis M. Johnson, BU3
John Lang, BU3
Don L. Larsen, BU2



Don S. Lewis, BU3
Joseph Lisuzzo, BU2
Charles R. Manuel, SN
Andrew L. Matsko, BU3



Charlie's projects widespread



Far left: Charlie builders work to finish the surface of a concrete slab poured for the MACV advisory staff quarters at Quang Tri. Left: EA3 Daniel Witmer and BUCN Fredrick Kimball work on the 3rd Marine Division Staff NCO mess facility at Dong Ha. Below left: BU3 Francis Ryncarz, BU3 James Berry, BUCN Robert "Philly" Harris and BU3 Calvin Navis construct towers in the Camp Barnes precast yard for use at Cua Viet. Below: EA3 Witmer works on the roof of the 3rd Marine Division mess facility.



Alex E. May, SW3
Joseph A. Mazza, BUCN
Samuel N. McLennan, BU2
William F. Mears, BUCN

Linus M. Miller, BUCN
Calvin H. Navis, BU3
James P. Neary, SW3
George M. Nesbit, BU2

Wyman E. Ogden, BU2
Ronald A. Osborne, BUCN
Roger M. O'Shields, CN
David F. Peterson, BU3

Charles L. Riggs, BU1
Lawrence J. Rose, BU3



Joseph W. Rozgony Jr., SW3
Michael C. Ryan, BU2



Francis Ryncarz, BU3
Raymond G. Schmidt, BU3



Joseph D. Schreckengost, BU3
Neal C. Seeman, SW3



Top left: BU3 Ronald Osborne finishes a concrete floor at the MACV advisory quarters. Top right: BU3 Raymond Boes, BU3 Andrew Antczak and BU3 John Lang nail siding at the same site. Middle left: Charlie crew installs chain link fence around a new storage yard and a section of the Dong Ha ramp. Middle right: A crew places concrete for one of the 20 sections in the ramp addition. Bottom left: BU2 Joseph Lisuzzo and BU2 Kenneth Ward pour cement into a transit mixer at Gio Linh. Bottom right: BU1 Prentice Walker, head of several Charlie Company projects including culvert building jobs along Rt. #9.



Company made concreate contribution



Kenneth D. Smith, CN
Kenneth D. Stanley, SWCN



Harry J. Thomas, SW1
Guy V. Travaglio, BU3



Duane R. Vance, BU2
Prentice W. Walker, BU1



Kenneth J. Ward, BU3
Larry A. Weber, BU3



Dennis J. Wisenbaker, BU2
Jimmy L. Womack, BU3



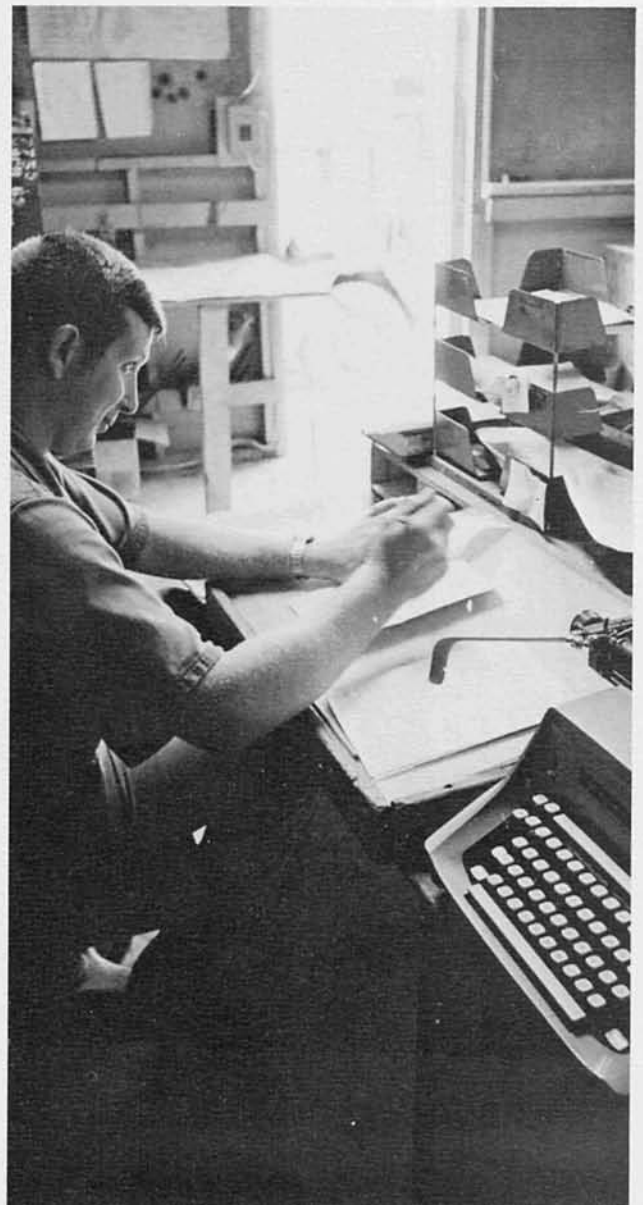




DELTA



Four-holers to mammoth bridges





"Everything from four-holers to one of the longest highway bridges in I Corps."

That might well have been the motto for Delta Company during the Dong Ha deployment. The company's builders and steelworkers demonstrated their versatility and construction expertise on an almost unimaginable variety of jobs. From towers to tanks, Delta's SEABEES were always there with the abilities to overcome any large or small task.

One Delta Company job which may have amused some of us was the construction of over 100 four-hole heads. Amusing or not, these all-important structures were gladly and warmly received by Marines and Army personnel stationed at many remote fire support bases around I Corps.

Of course, Delta's largest project was also one of the largest for the Battalion. This was the Dong Ha Bridge, a 560-foot-long steel, concrete and timber structure spanning the Bo Dieu River. For this job Delta's BU's and SW's "turned to", together with other Battalion men, to complete the massive bridge.

As with all of 62's construction efforts, the projects undertaken by Delta Company were completed through organization and teamwork. An average structure was begun when Delta's builders, working from plans drawn up by other Battalion men, stepped in to perform such tasks as building forms and pouring footings or foundations to form the structure's base. Then the builders began vertical construction, handling all aspects of a job from masonry to carpentry and finish.

Continued



On jobs requiring metal work, the steelworkers handled the construction. Some steelworkers concentrated on joining units and sections of steel and sheet metal, and forming, cutting, welding and riveting ducts, panels and reinforced steel. Other SW's then took these fabricated sections and raised them, positioned them and welded them together.

During the deployment Delta's constructionmen accomplished such tasks as the erection of lubrication and wash racks, storage tanks, many large and small wood frame buildings and steel ribbed structures around the Dong Ha area.

Delta also provided men for Detail Snapper, a contingent of SEABEES who worked and lived at Vandegrift Combat Base to give construction support to the Marines.

With both variety and quality, Delta Company helped us add to our reputation as the "Can Do" Battalion.



John W. Brown, SWC
Donald T. LaFlamme, SWC
Charles B. Sizemore, BUC
Roy G. Treadaway, BUCS



Teamwork was Delta key



Ronald C. Adkins, BU3
Jack D. Baldrige, SW2
Eugene M. Battistoni Jr., BU3



George Bello, BU1
Jack G. Bickley, BU2
Peter P. Birchmeier, BU3



Martin M. Bliersch, SW2
Leo H. Boeding, SW3
Thomas M. Bredhold, BU3



Donald W. Brown, BU3
Richard M. Burns, BUCN
James C. Cannoy, SW3



Top: A Detail Barracuda crew places concrete for a culvert endwall on Rt. #9. Middle left: A concrete grease rack is poured for Force Logistics Support Group Bravo at Dong Ha. Middle right: Delta men precast endwalls in Camp Barnes' precast yard. Left: A crew pours a concrete slab for a generator shed in Camp Barnes.

Richard S. Carney, BU2
 Jeffrey G. Danko, BU3
 Ronald F. Darszewski, BUCN
 William M. DeLancey, SW3



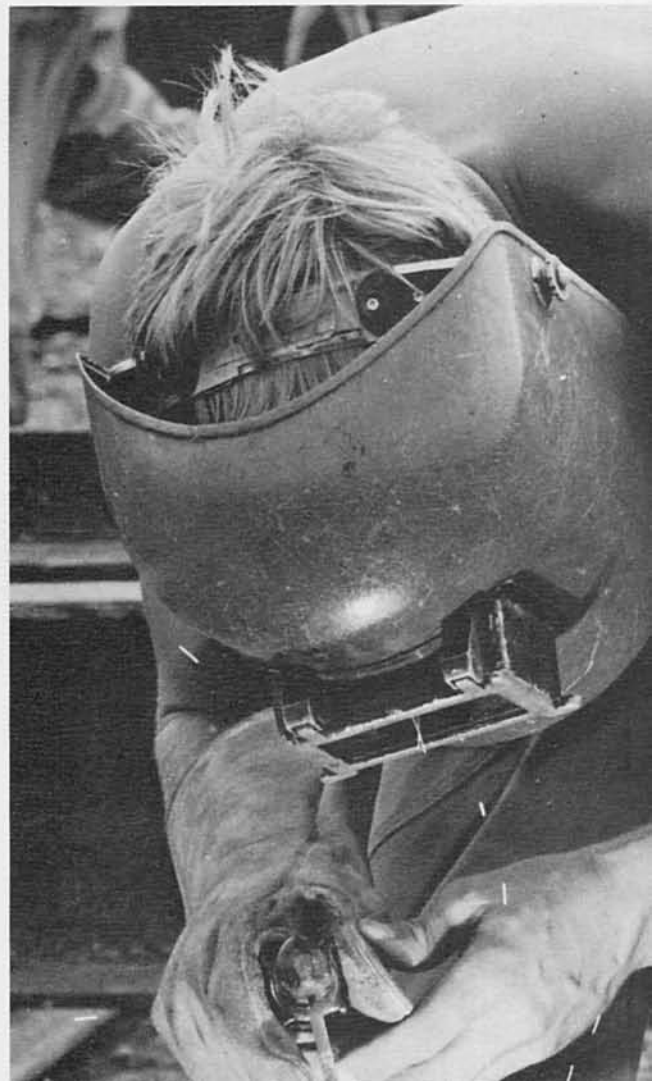
Paul D. Difebo, BU2
 Larrimore Drown, BU1
 Stephen C. DuBois, BU3
 Larry S. Duff, BUCN



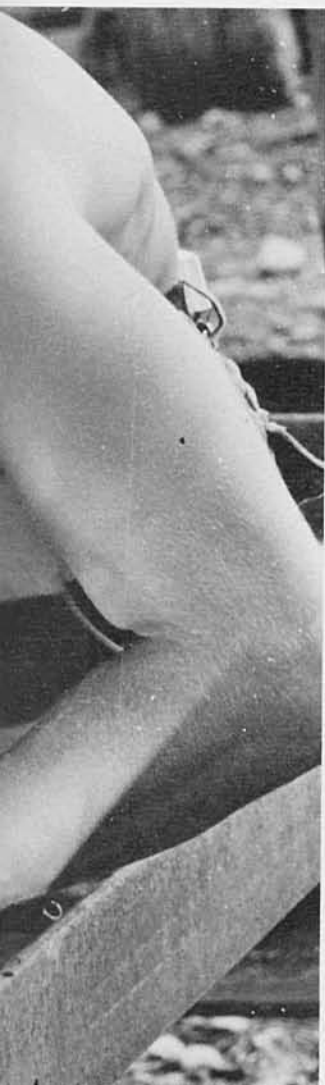
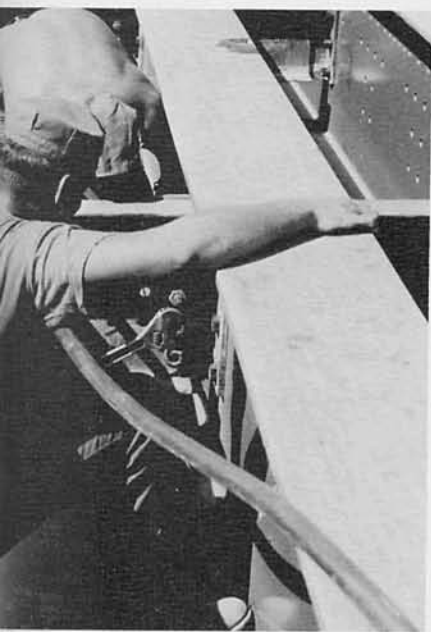
Ronald E. Elwell, SW3
 Thor R. Eriksen, BUCN
 Timothy B. Filler, CN
 Jim R. Fisk, BU3



Above: SW3 Robert Porter and SW2 William Steffen assemble trestles for the Dong Ha Bridge. Right: SW3 Leo Boeding welds a wire cage used to enclose the bridge trestles. Opposite page, left: SW2 Steffen and CN Gary Russell tighten bolted joints on the bridge. Opposite page, right: BU2 Kenneth Struewing, BU3 Daniel Griffith and BU3 Gregory Mascio set steel plates over pile cap anchor bolts.



Spanning the Bo Dieu River



Martin G. Flynn, BU2
James D. Gilbert, BUCN
Daniel E. Griffith, BU3



William E. Hall, BU1
Edward B. Harris, CN
Carlos F. Hernandez, BUCN



James A. Hollatz, BU3
Benjamin L. Howell, BU2
Roy A. Jones, BUCN



Albert B. Kennedy, BUCN
Joseph E. Kuhaneck, BU3
Kerry D. Luttrell, SW3
Olin T. Lynn, BU3
Alan G. Marshall, BU2



Harry G. Marshall, BU3
Steven B. Marshall, BU3
Robert G. Martinez, SWCA
Gregory A. Mascio, BU3
Herman R. McKay, CN



Billy C. McPike, BU2
Eugene M. Mishler, SW2
Donald D. Morris, CN
Jean K. Murray, CA
Jose E. M. Negron, BUCN



Delta projects— the bigger, the better



James W. Nicholson, BU2
Duane W. Ott, BUCA
Ted S. Owens, BU3
Stanley R. Park, BU3
Frank W. Parker III, CA



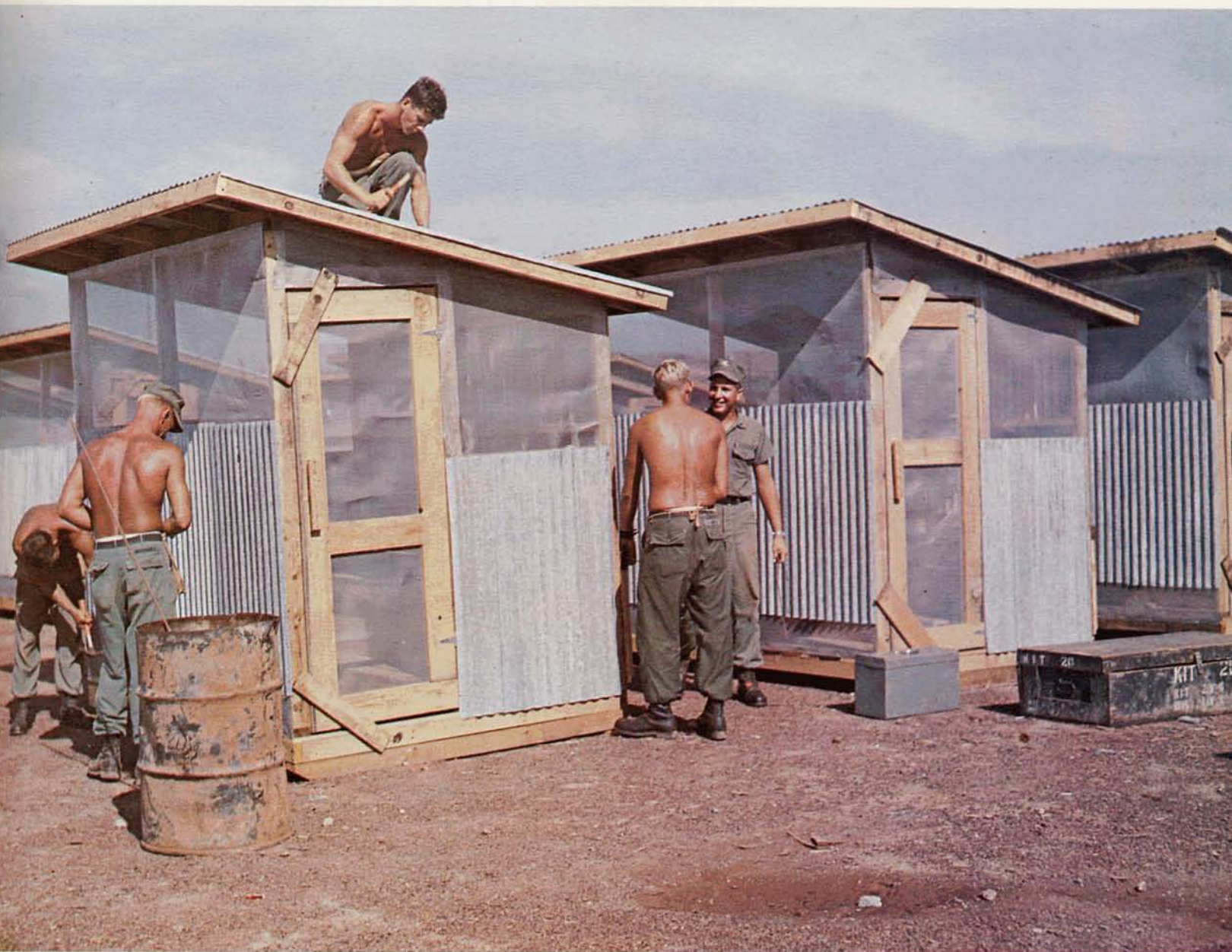
Stanley Patrakis, SWCN
Billy C. Pike, CN
Robert W. Porter, SW3
James L. Prawitz, SWCN
Gary A. Prince, BU2



Far left: BU3 Tom Bredhold and BU3 Steve Marshall work on one of the many bunkers built by the company. Middle top: BU1 Otto Pursifull and BU3 Peter Birchmeier haul in a line on a barge at the Dong Ha Bridge. Left: BU3 Perry Marshall and BU2 Gary Prince build forms for pile caps at the bridge. Above: An entire crew works to build the pile cap forms.

Versatility





Know-how

Otto M. Pursifull, BU1
Robert L. Rodgers, BU3
Peter M. Schmidt, BU3
Anthony M. Skrypek, BU2
Arthur R. Smith, BU1



Jimmy J. Smith, SW2
Will A. Stanbaugh, BU3
William H. Steffen, BU2
Kenneth L. Struwing, BU2
Arthur Sullivan, SW3



Above: Delta builders construct a grease rack at FLSG-B at Dong Ha. Right: Formwork is built for a catch basin on Rt. #1. Opposite page, left: BU2 Anthony Skrypek and CN Herman McKay assist Vietnamese builders at the Quang Tri Children's Hospital. Opposite page, right: BU2 James Nicholson, BU1 William Hall and BU2 Robert Mauney build four-holders in the Delta Company yard at Camp Barnes.





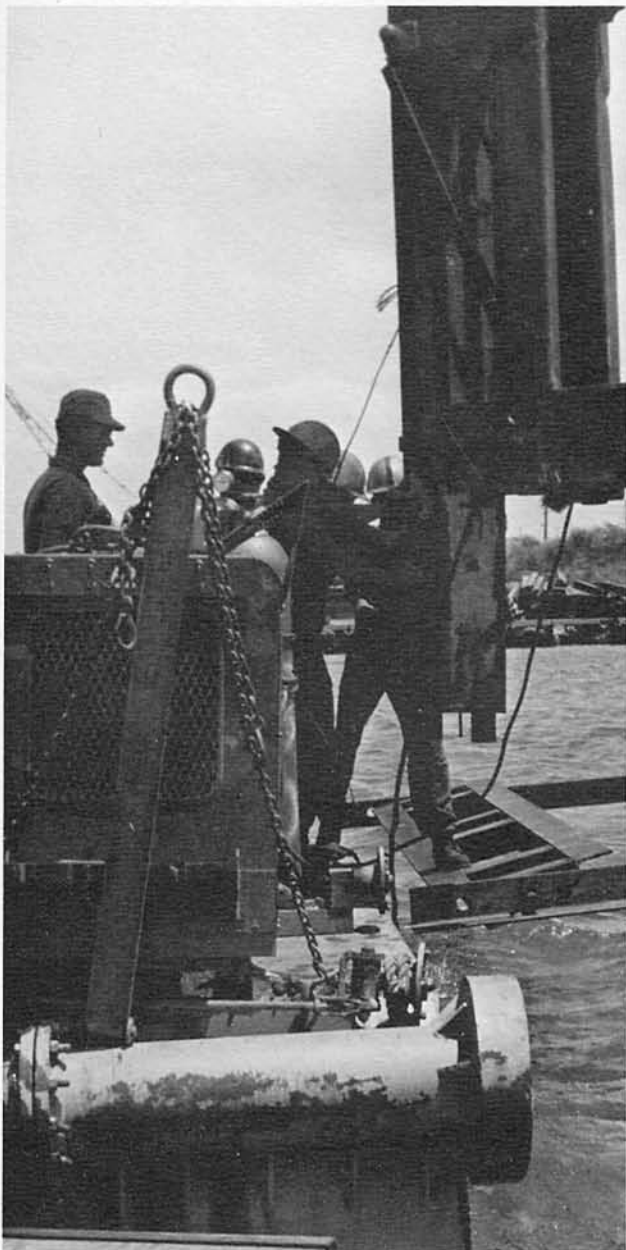
"D" Company- - hammer jockeys



Jens A. Thoresen, BU3
Philip L. Thornbery, SW3
Charles L. Wade, BUCN
Jeff D. Warr, SW1

Donald D. Wilson, BU3
Terrill L. Woolsey, CN
Dana A. Young, BU3
Frederick W. Zinn, BUCN





Delta worked till the last day

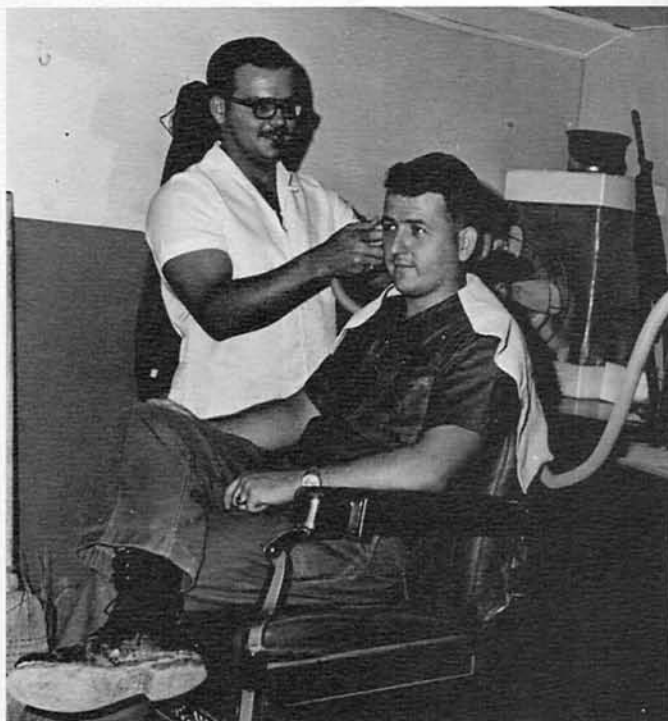
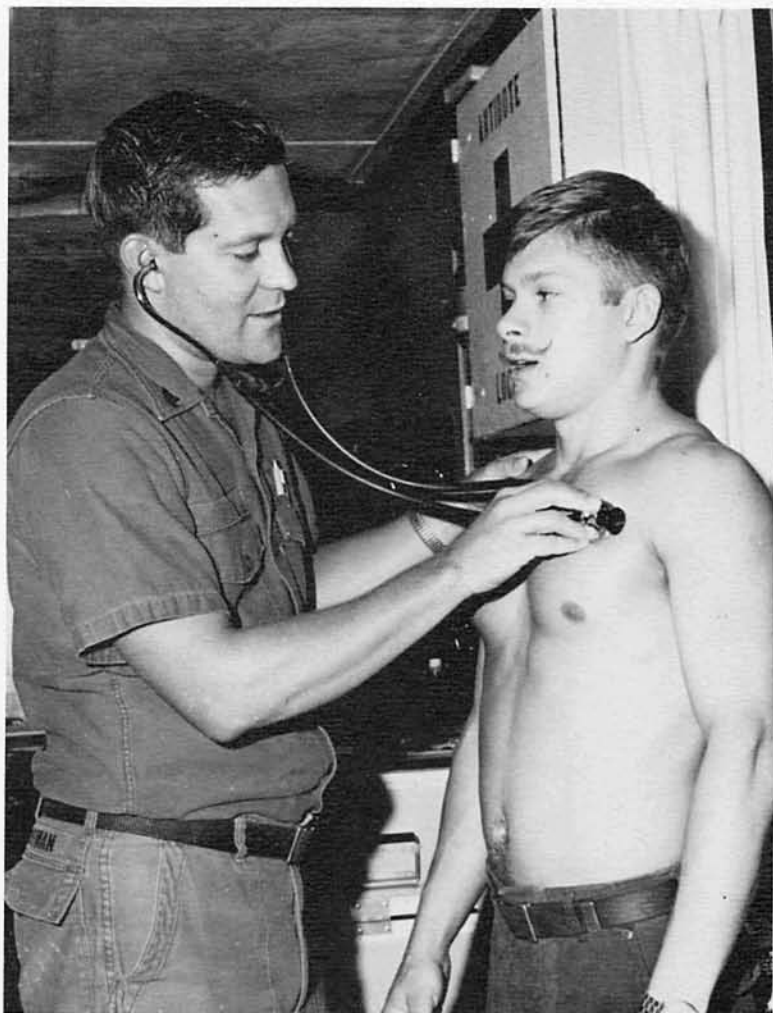
Left: Men work from a barge while driving piles for the supports of the Dong Ha Bridge. Below: BUCA Dan Ott takes a break during work at the precast yard. Bottom: A Delta crew installs culvert along Rt. #1.





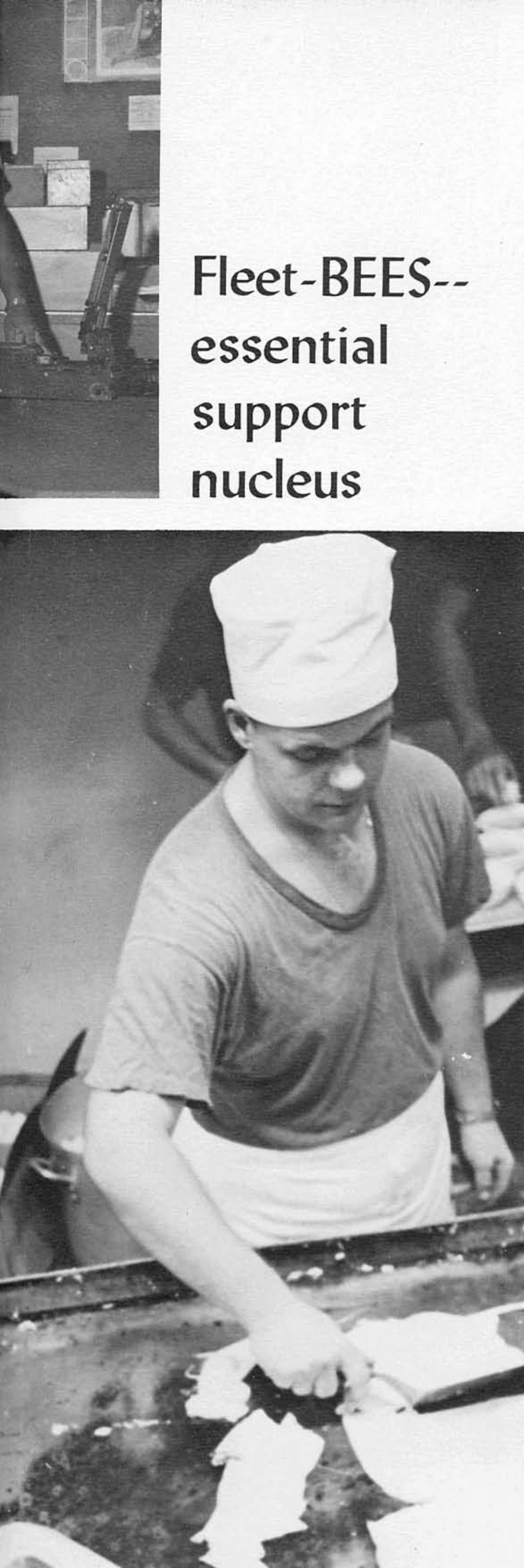
HEADQUARTERS





Top: GMG3 Jerry Oglesby and SN "Tommy T" Turner clean a machine gun in the Battalion armory. Above: HM3 John Hoffman checks a patient during sick call. Center: SH3 John Mott, MCB 62's head barber. Right: SK3 Wally Dahl runs the Camp Barnes exchange. Far right: CS3 Ronald Roth cooks something closely resembling fried eggs.





Fleet-BEES-- essential support nucleus

Headquarters Company fleet sailors, or fleet-BEES as they were called, felt more comfortable in blues or whites than greens and were more concerned with work involving pen and paper than hammers or bulldozers. Nevertheless, they were an integral part of the SEABEE building-fighting force.

Except for the SEABEE engineering aides of the Second Platoon, not many H Company men did much building. The important administrative work they did, though, made it possible for the rest of us to carry on our building projects.

We came into contact with them every day. Every time we went to chow, to sick bay, the laundry, the post office, a warehouse or any office we had to deal with a member of H Company.

Maybe most of them sat behind a desk all day, but they put in a lot of hours and did a lot of work. They went through many of the same things we did, too, like military training. They received the same weapons and combat technique instruction as the rest of us. In fact, members of the company made up the only operational mortar crew in Dong Ha Combat Base.

Luckily for all of us, fighting was not a part of a normal day's working routine. The work H Company men did do, though, was extremely essential.

Medical care is, of course, of utmost importance to any military organization. Throughout the deployment the Battalion's hospital corpsmen and dental technicians saw to it that the men of 62 received the finest health services available. Daily sick calls, periodic inoculations and a close scrutiny of Camp Barnes' sanitary conditions were among the services which H Company's medical men provided.

Being fed, paid and supplied rank high on any SEABEE's list of important things. These functions were taken care of by, respectively, the commissarymen, disbursing clerks and storekeepers in the company.

Personnelmen and yeomen worked together in the main administrative building to handle the huge volumes of paperwork which frequently threatened to inundate the Battalion.

Personnelmen were responsible for the job of keeping all service records up to date as well as keeping track of advancements, processing performance evaluations, issuing medals and many other tasks.

Battalion yeomen took care of typing and filing all Battalion correspondence and instructions as well as caring for all classified material.

Mail call, everyone's favorite time in Vietnam, was taken care of by the postal clerks. These men also sold stamps and insured packages.

Boatswain's mates were responsible for camp cleanliness and internal security. Their main job was the enforcement of rules and regulations.

Gunners mates provided services extremely important in the combat zone. They issued and repaired weapons and distributed ammunition.

Journalists and photographers mates worked together to keep the rest of the world informed of 62's activities with thousands of words and hundreds of pictures.

Ships servicemen operated 62's laundry and barber shop and helped to run the camp exchange.

Stewards prepared meals and attended living spaces for the Battalion's officers.

The SEABEE engineering aides planned jobs, estimated material, drafted blueprints and surveyed job sites.

These men were Headquarters Company, the administrative support nucleus which kept MCB 62 running smoothly.

Operations-- behind every job

Engineering Aides are the backbone of the Operations Department. Right: EA3 Bill Skoglund tests soil samples. Below: EA3 Larry Siebold helps survey a portion of Route #1. Below right: EA3's Tim Day and Danny DeSantis work on project blueprints.



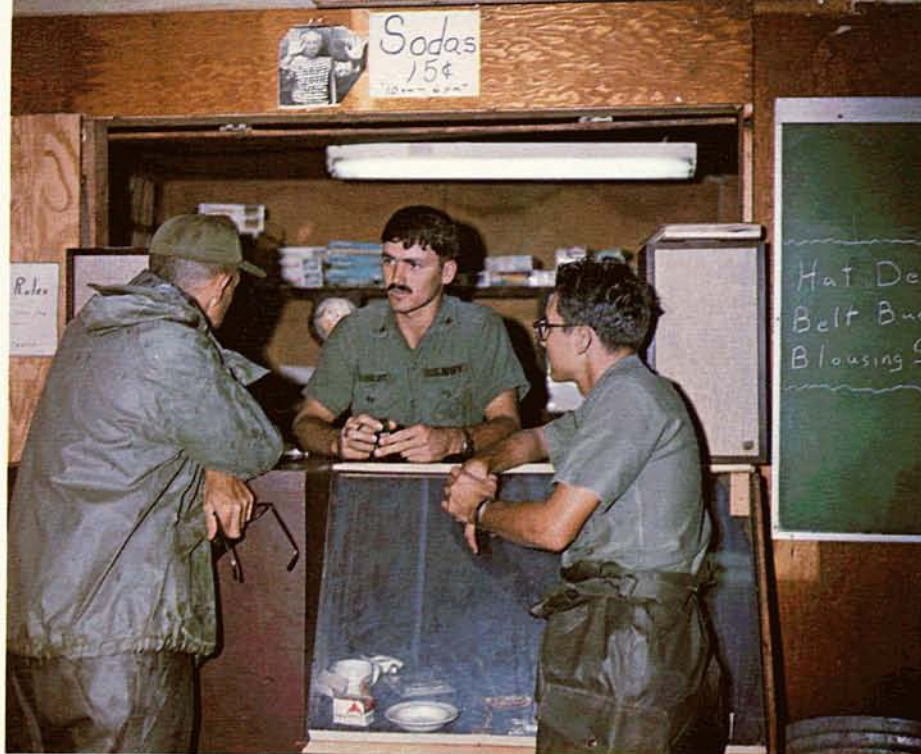
CUCM Melvin A. Bell,
Battalion Chief

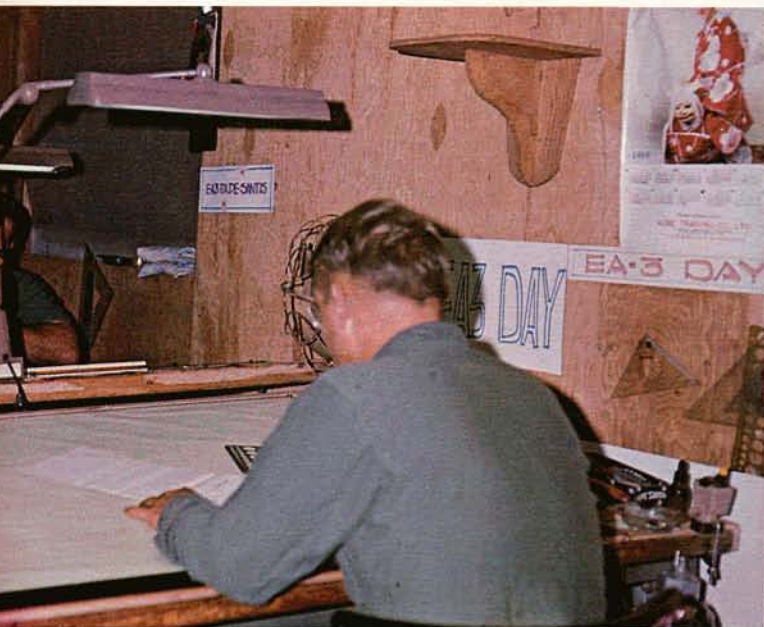


Administrative Offices—mountains of papers



Top: PN3 C. B. Paquio makes a diary entry at the front desk of the Personnel Office. The Administration Office is at the rear. Left: CE2 Billy Smallwood charts enemy activity in the Intelligence Office. Above: YN2 Dave Swindell makes minor adjustments to an electric typewriter in the Administrative Office.





**Pen and paper SEABEES
handle Battalion's supply
and administration**



Supply Department- - all you need is the stock number

Lenton W. Copeland, BUC
Jerry M. Felts, SKCS



Charles L. Ferguson, CECS
Arthur F. Hotopp, BUC



Donald E. Iddings, CSC
Edward J. Juchartz, EAC



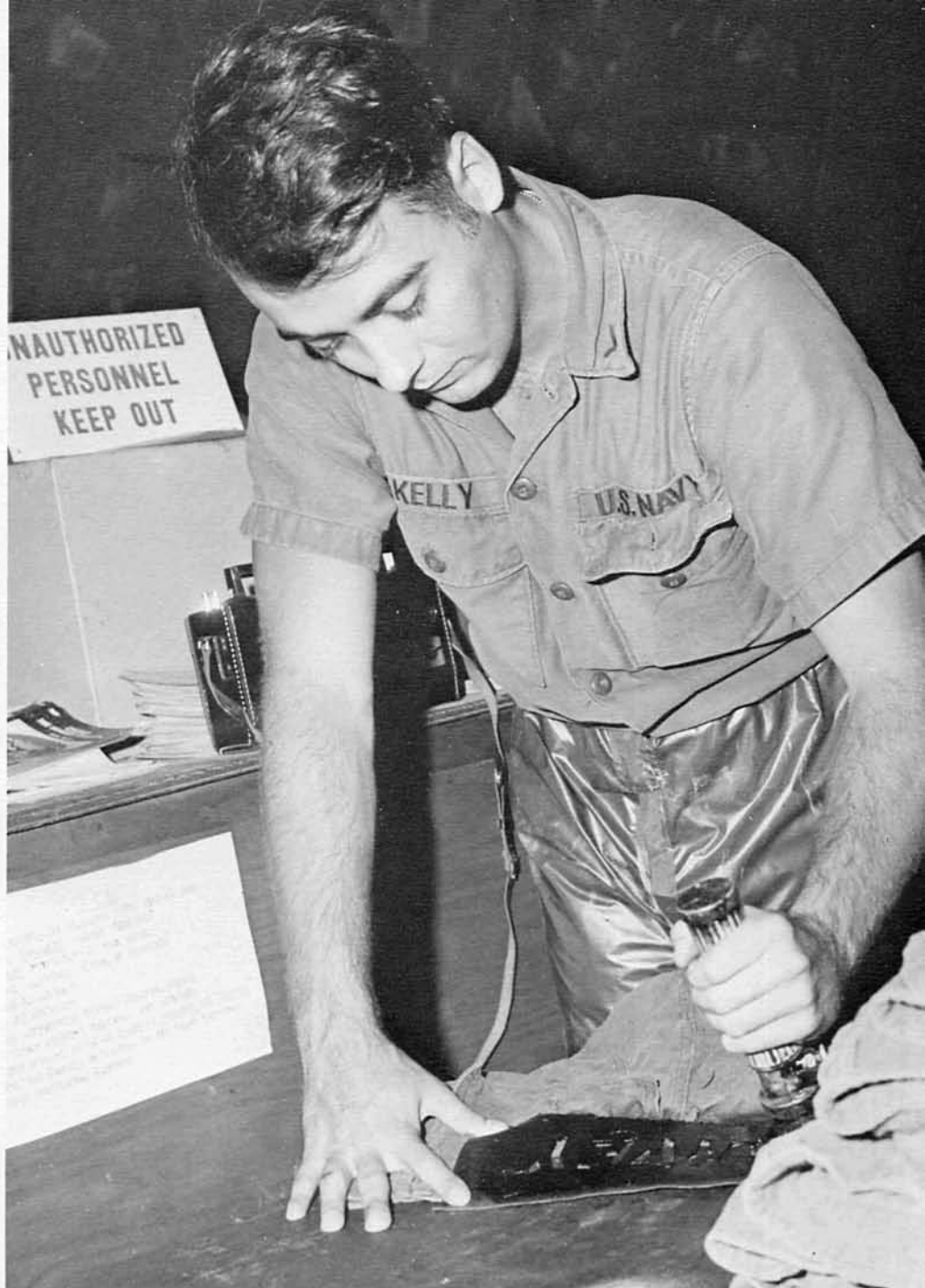
Whitney Meyers, EOC
Freddie J. Peele, BMC



Willie E. Tucker, UTC
Arland L. Williams, CSC



Lower left: CE3 Jeff Fritz unpacks tools in a supply warehouse. Upper left: DK3 "Ditty Bop" Bynum, LTJG D. E. Dunnavant and DK3 Raymond MacDonald hold pay day in the galley. Below: EOCN Robert Clark assists in the laundry. Right: SK3 F. P. Kelly surveys old uniforms in greens issue.



Raymond W. Abbey, CM3
James L. Anderson, PN1
Donald E. Bandman, SK3
Leonardo R. Bautista, SD3
Dennis G. Bloomingdale, HM3



Edward L. Boullion, BU3
Alvin A. Breaux Jr., PN3
Gary L. Brown, SK2
David S. Bryant, PH3
Boyd C. Burnett, BU3

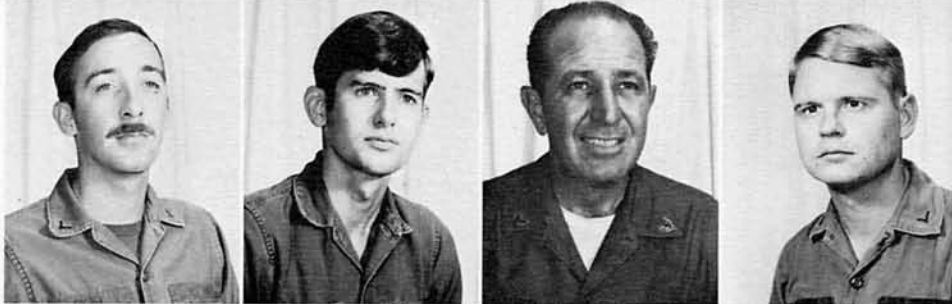
Bruce A. Burton, SN
 Donald A. Burton, SN
 Lee H. Bynum Jr., DK3
 Andrew P. Byrtus, BU2



Conrado D. Cajulis, EA1
 Frank C. Cataldo, EA3
 Thomas R. Chupek, CS3
 Donald S. Colunga, HM2



Thomas A. Cooper, BU3
 Wallace J. Dahl, SK3
 Joseph A. D'Amico, BU1
 Timothy R. Day, EA3



Serving on the Battalion Master at Arms force, boatswain's mates enforced camp regulations. They also had occasional chances to demonstrate their seamanship. For example, BM3 Roger Tudor (above) operated a water taxi for crews working on the Dong Ha Bridge. BM1 "Mitch" Mitchell protected MCB 62 SEABEES from formidable Special Services show performers.





Second platoon mans mortars

EA2 Carl Hix, EA3 Richard Holmes and EA2 Bobby Jones prepare to fire one of the 81 mm mortars on the Camp Barnes perimeter. MCB 62 provided the primary mortar support for all units in the Dong Ha Combat Base.



Donato A. DeSantis, EA3
James C. Dickey, EA2
Leonard T. Dill, DK1
Joseph C. Dixie, PN3
Dennis E. Doherty, SN



David R. Donei, EA3
Jerry D. Donley, PC3
Delmer D. Dunning, CS3
Jay F. Eberhard, HM2
James E. Evans, EO3



Ernesto C. Fabay, TN
Bruce H. Fiene, BU2
Dennis E. Fink, EA3
Harold J. Forshey, CE3
Paul R. Francisco, CS3



James R. French, YN3
Jeffrey A. Fritz, CE3
Romeo R. Gameng, TN
Richard Gatz, SH3
Otto F. Ghrist, HM1

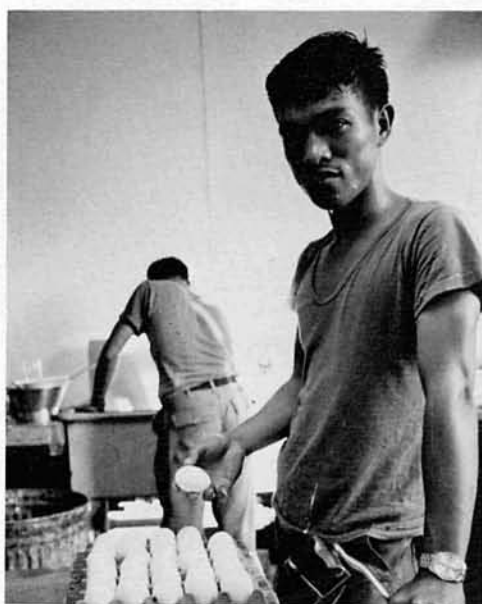
John J. Golwacki, HM3
Paul L. Gobeil, CS2
Harry B. Goforth, EA2
Keith A. Goodwin, SN
Clarence E. Gorham, YN1



Donald M. Grubb, YN3
Francisco Gutierrez, EA3
Fred A. Hammond, EO3
Dannie T. Hawes, EA3
Willie L. Hawkins, SD2



Carl W. Hix, EA2
Travis G. Hobson, UT3
Richard H. Hochrein, EA3
John R. Hoffman, HM3
Dennis J. Holder, JO2



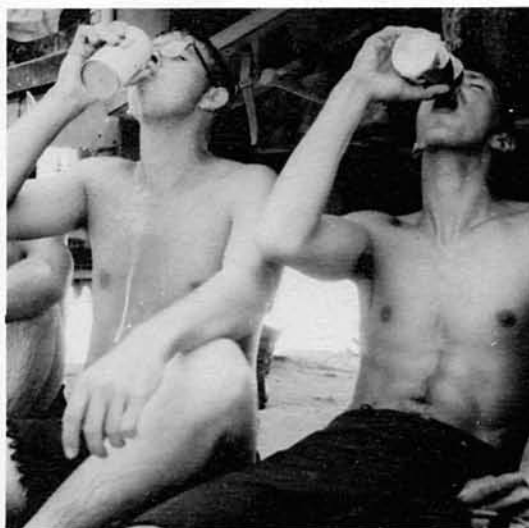
Stewards prepare food in the wardroom and serve meals to the officers. Above: SD3 Demetrio Tuzon prepares breakfast as TN Magno Quismorido washes dishes. Right: SD2 "Hawkeye" Hawkins, the wardroom's head cook, readies a gourmet delight.



H Company known for hard work



... Well, most
of the time



Richard F. Holmes, EA3
David P. Hosken, YN2
Stephen L. Howell, DT2
John E. Ingram, SK1
Bobby E. Jones, EA2

Daniel L. Joyce, HM2
Peter G. Kamishlian, PH1
Francis P. Kelly, SK3
William J. Kirkes II, SH2
Jimmy S. Lamm, SK2

Servillano R. Lazarte, SD1
Joseph J. Leeds, CE2
Alberto D. Leyson, SD2
John J. L'Heureux, PH3
Billy W. Long, GMG1



Henry A. Lounders Jr., DK3
Leonard R. Lowder, CM1
Raymond P. MacDonald, DK3
Charles E. Marken, SK3
James C. Massey, BM1



Robert E. Mauney, BU2
Frank D. McCoy, EA3
Michael W. Mercer, HM3
Eric C. Metzler, SK3
Arthur L. Mitchell, BM1



Jack L. Moore, SK2
John A. Mott, SH3
Guy F. Nadeau, SH2
Terry D. Neal, CM3
Charles D. Noel, PC1



George E. Nye, SK3
Jerry R. Oglesby, GMG3
Carlos B. Paguio, PN3
David C. Parker, CE2
Magno L. Quismondo, TN



Stephen D. Rabak, DT3
George D. Raub, UT2
Jesus Rivera Jr., CA
Jack G. Roberts, CS2
Ronald J. Roth, CS3

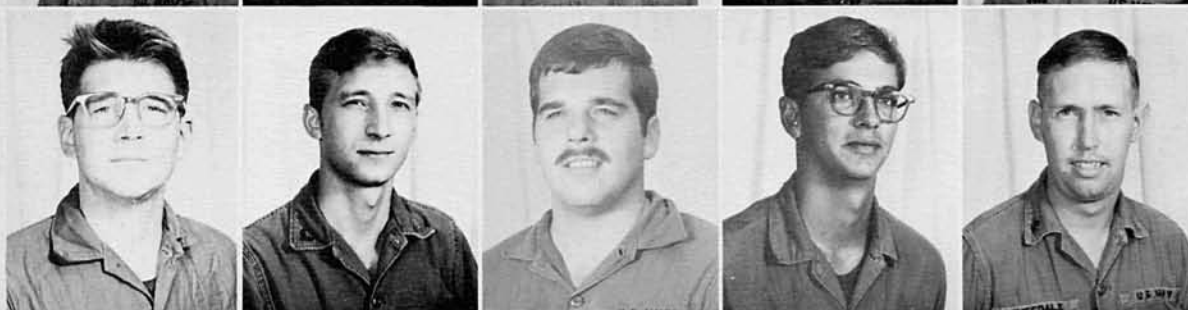




Raymond R. Ruiz, PN2
Lawrence J. Siebold, EA3
Angelo P. Silvestro, EA3
William L. Skoglund, EA3
Billy G. Smallwood, CE2



Jerry W. Smith, SN
Roland D. Standish, HM3
David L. Stelly, EA3
Robert G. Stovall, CM3
Edgar H. Sugg, EA3



Glen E. Sullivan, CS3
David R. Swindell, YN2
Raymond Temprano, SK3
Charles E. Thibodeaux, EA3
Raymond C. Truesdale Jr., GMG2



Roger L. Tudor, BM3
Algie L. Turner, SN
Demetrio C. Tuzon Jr., SD3
Tom VanZwol, EA3
Larry G. Voight, BU3



Bruce E. Walpole, BU3
John J. Watkins, SK3
Jimmy L. Whitaker, EO1
Kent D. Willard, EO1
John H. Wilson, CS1



Warren E. Wilson, EA3
James C. Wiora, BU1
Paul E. Wollenhaupt, EA3
Michael W. Woolley, JO3
Larry L. Young, HM1

The guys on the Civic Action Team really seemed to enjoy their work. Maybe this was because most of the time their tasks didn't really seem much like work. They did their share of physical labor, but as they worked with the Vietnamese people—helping them to help themselves, as they say—it was less like a job and more like giving a helping hand to a friend.

The word friend is an important one in the concept of Civic Action. Working in a capacity similar to the Battalion's SEABEE Team, the men of the Civic Action Team set out to win friends among the Vietnamese. They worked neither for nor over, but rather, with the people. Civic Action provided skills, material and a desire to help. The Vietnamese provided labor, a willingness to learn and a great appreciation for the Americans working in their midst.

The Team had one of the most diversified project lists in the Battalion. They constructed dispensaries, public buildings, sewage systems, an irrigation pumping station and an underwater wall. They also coordinated the efforts of other men in the Battalion who wished to help the Vietnamese by distributing vegetable seeds to farmers or candy to children.

One of the goals of the Battalion as a whole and of each man, that of doing something to help the Vietnamese people, was realized, in large part, through the work of the men of the Civic Action Team.



Robert R. Ward, CEC
Lonnie G. Blackwell, BU2
Charles R. Brown, BU2



Civic Action- - Dialogue of progress



Willis W. Hopkins, BU1
William B. J. Nelms, BU2
Philip D. Pool, EOCN
James E. Thomas, BU2



One of the bigger projects the Civic Action Team tackled was the construction of a children's hospital in Quang Tri. Top: BU2 Nelms talks with one of the Vietnamese laborers at the job site. Far left: Delta Company men, augmenting the Team for the hospital work, assist Vietnamese workers putting up roof supports. Bottom: The Vietnamese teach SEABEES some of their construction methods. Left: BU2 Thomas and EA3 Paul Wollenhaupt, who joined the Team late in the deployment, work as masons.



Far right: EOCN Phil Pool and LTJG E. A. Graves, Civic Action Officer work with Vietnamese laborers to make concrete block at Cam Vu. Upper right: The Team constructs a dispensary at Benh Xa Hamlet near the Cam Lo Bridge site. Center: BU2 Blackwell finds the ever-present children irresistible. Right: Battalion men not assigned to the Civic Action Team also contributed to the effort to build good will. Battalion SEABEES passed out candy to the children in a hospital in Dong Ha. Above: LTJG H. P. Beasley distributed vegetable seeds sent to him by the people of a church in his home town.

Civic Action meant getting involved



SEABEE Team 6202

As most of us toiled in Dong Ha near the DMZ, 13 of our men journeyed to the Go Cong Province south of Saigon on a mission of aid and instruction for the Vietnamese. The 13 members of SEABEE Team 6202 set forth with the common goal to help the people of Go Cong improve their standard of living. One officer, four builders, one steelworker, one electrician, two equipment operators, two construction mechanics, one utilitiesman and a hospital corpsman—those were the men whose job it was to help shape a new future for some of these people.

Training was the key word as team members tackled numerous jobs. The men worked as teachers and supervisors for crews of Vietnamese. The trainees labored on projects of great importance to their people. As they worked they learned new skills which would enable them to continue such projects long after 6202 would leave.

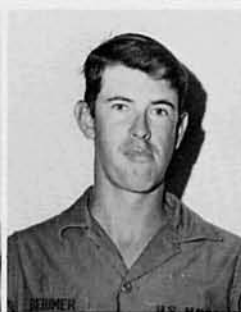
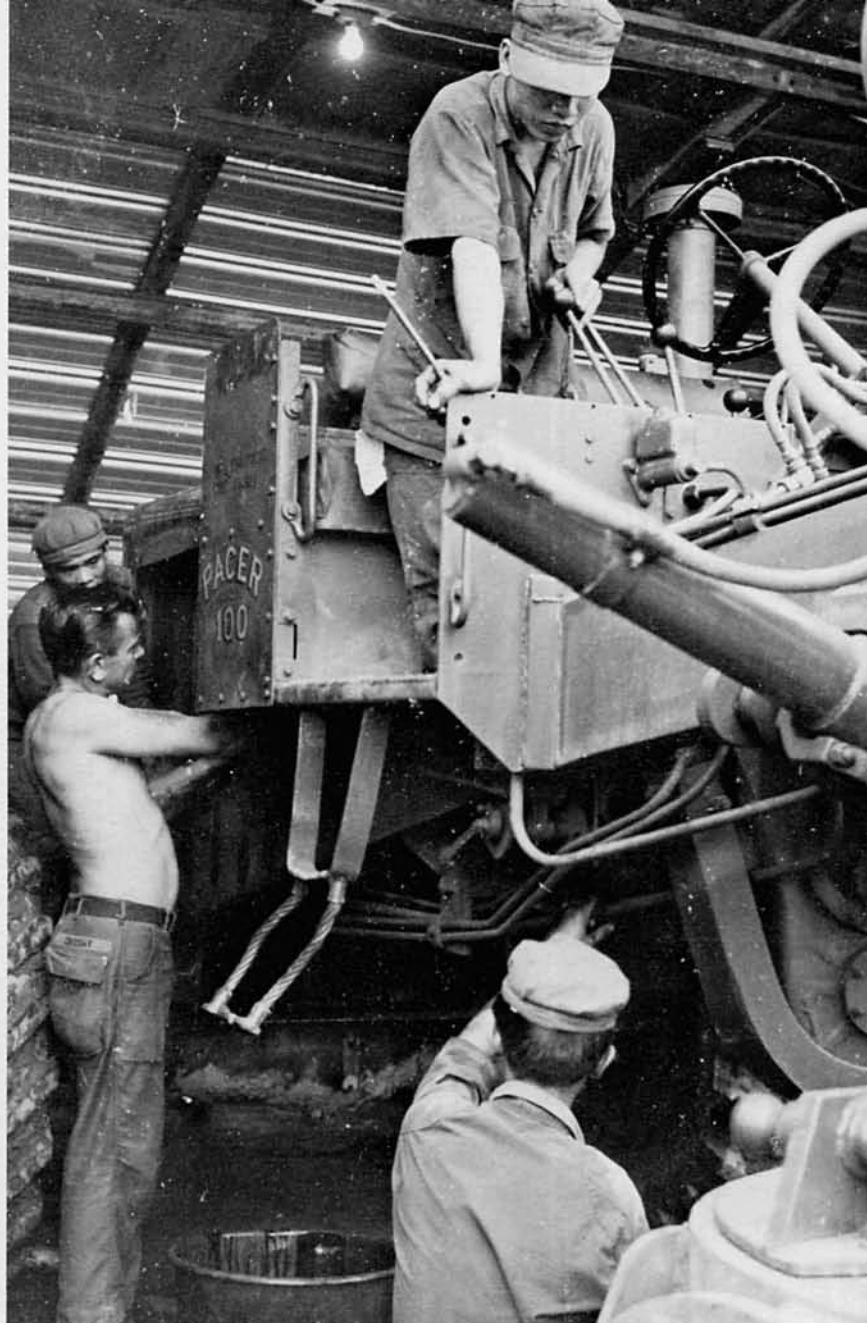
Roads and medical treatments, buildings and village gates, bridges and a new hull for a ferry boat. All this plus new knowledge and skills were left behind by the men of 6202.



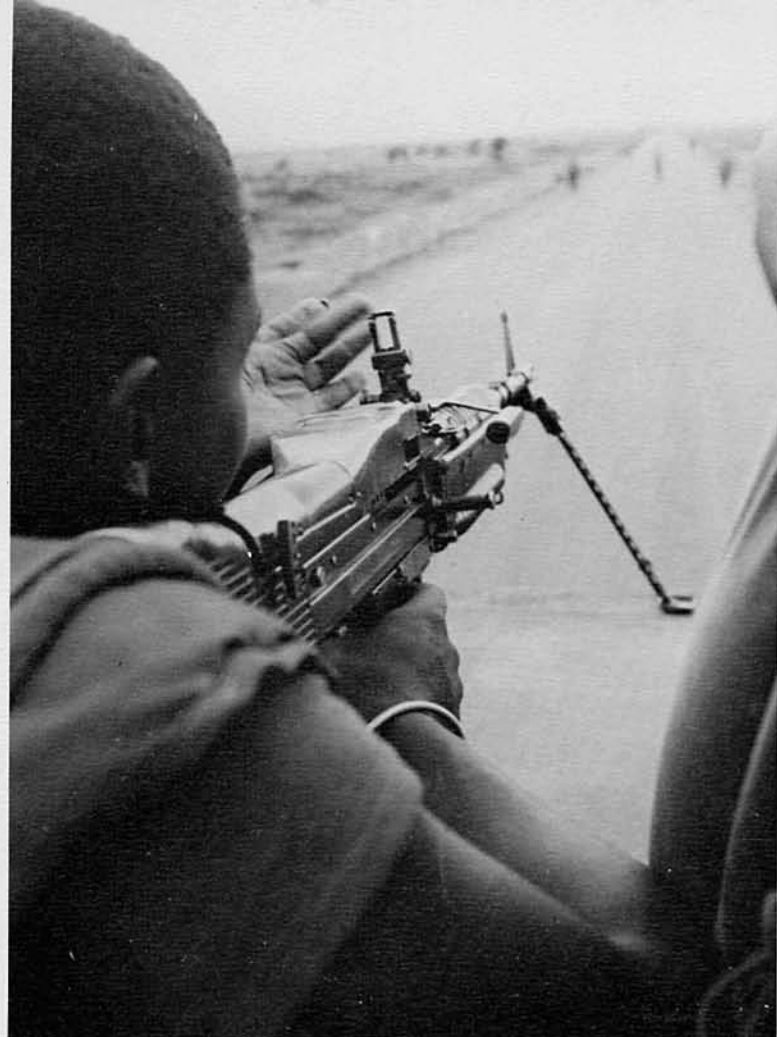
LTJG John T. Bouey, Officer in Charge



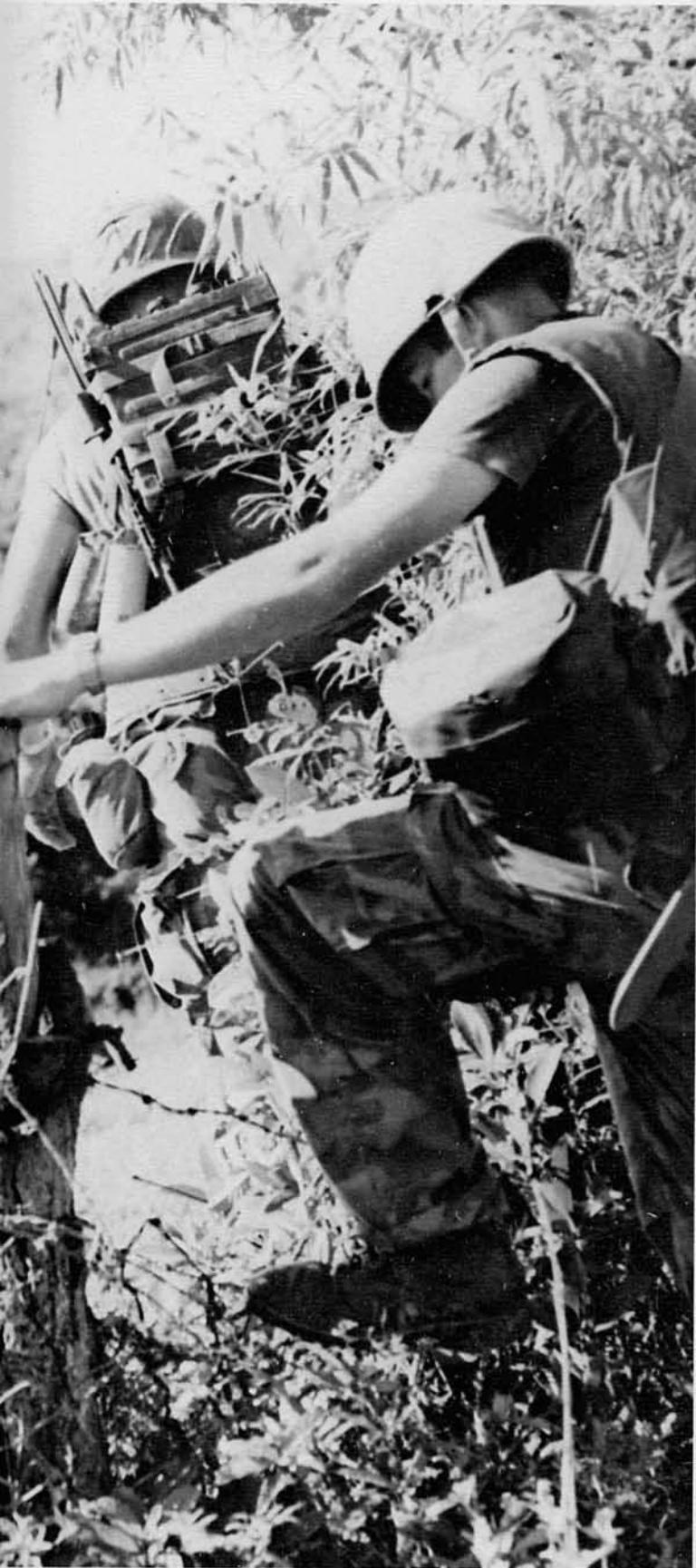
CE2 Harold F. Jessmore (not pictured below) installs wiring to bring electricity to 75 rural homes. BU2 Samuel R.-Behimer and SW2 Douglas L. Riley construct a bridge linking an isolated village to nearby markets. BU1 Herman E. Chadbourne instructs a Vietnamese laborer working on a living complex for the National Police Field Force. CM2 Robert C. Crosby helps trainees repair a road grader.



Top row: John P. Dauria, BUC, Assistant Officer in Charge; Samuel R. Behimer, BU2; Kenneth E. Brown, CE3; Horace F. Brundridge, UT2; Herman E. Chadbourne, BU1; Robert C. Crosby, CM2. Lower row: William K. Cupp, EO2; Theodore R. Day, BU2; Howard Farley, CM3; Roger W. Parks, HM1; Douglas L. Riley, SW2; William G. Tankovich Jr., EO3.



Security—serious business



Security was a serious business for some of us. Although we might have joked about playing "John Wayne", there was little joking and no playing out there on the lines. Starting about six every night the lines were manned. As twilight crept up and pushed the sun below the horizon, all eyes strained to reach past the concertina wire to catch a flicker of movement, a light—anything that shouldn't be there.

Rainy nights were the worst. Clouds shrouded the moon and the sky dropped a drenching curtain, impenetrable to even the sharpest eyes. Nights like this made us realize that all the military training back in Gulfport really had some purpose. We watched and listened very closely, knowing that if someone sneaked up on us he wouldn't just say "Bang!"

The days weren't bad, though. Except for a few strategic positions, the lines were secured in the morning. After chow there were musters and a little work—nothing too bad, usually. Mostly we worked on our bunkers or strung concertina wire. Some days we had a patrol. They weren't too bad either except, well, we did get tired sometimes—and that "uptight" feeling inside was none too pleasant.

After working for a while it was time to hit the rack and catch some sleep. It was hard sleeping in the heat, but we managed. We had to. We had an important job to do that night out on the lines.



Base defense—a joint effort

GYSGT Charles Schlader
(Military Advisor)

Ozro T. Mills, BU1
Floyd McKamey, BU2
Billy L. Sandifer, BU2
Wilbur Garrett, CN
(All members of
permanent Security force)



Above: A watch in one of the Security bunkers. Right: BU1 Mills, BU2 McKamey, Security Officer LTJG Beasley and BU2 Sandifer check the perimeter. Top center: Headquarters Company EA's provide mortar support for the base. Lower center: A helicopter gunship fires just outside Camp Barnes. Far right: Bunker watches settle in for the long night ahead.



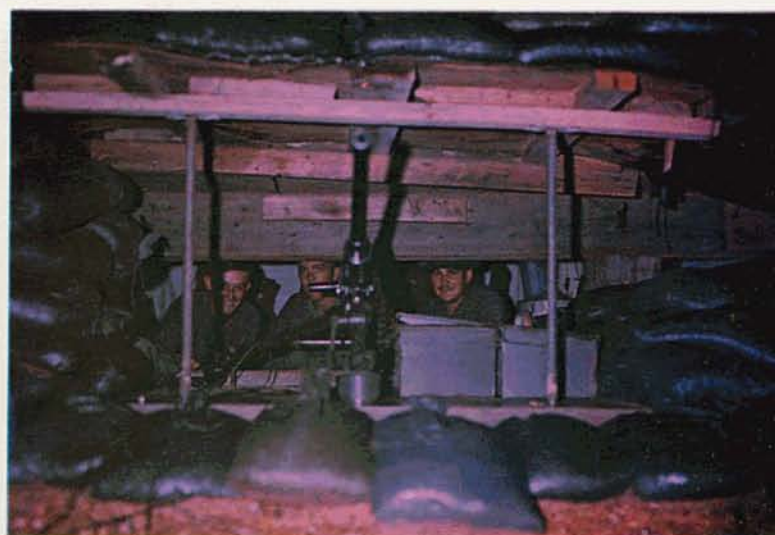


Security Company men weren't the only ones who looked out for us at night. We also had mortar teams. We all know about the mortar teams. They're the guys who used to make all the noise at night. At the beginning of the deployment, how many times did you almost run through a wall when one of those blasted things came roaring out of the tube? The mortar men did more than merely keep us up at night. They also gave us all that pretty illumination to look at while sitting out on our bunkers.

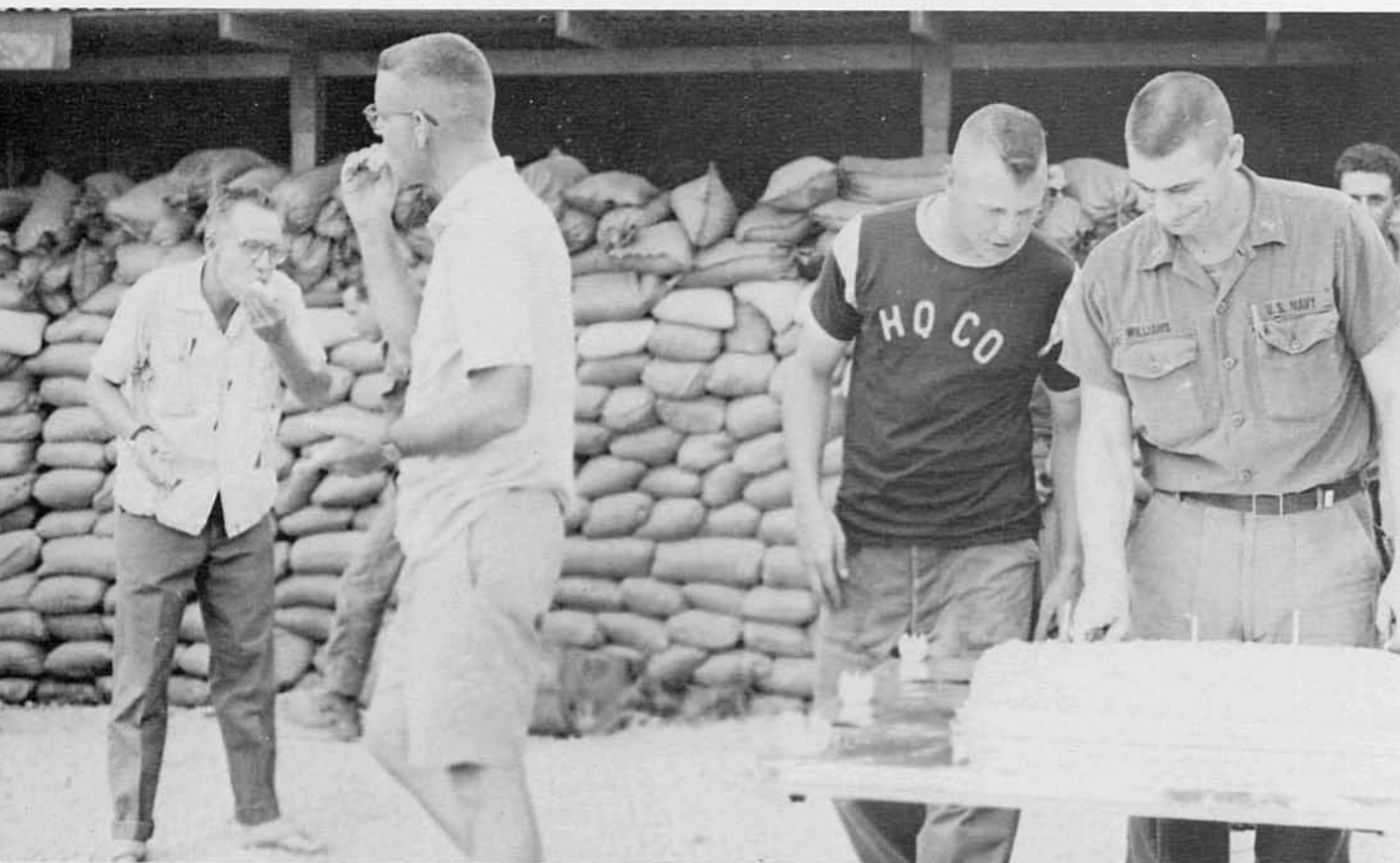
Seriously, our mortars were extremely important, not only to us but to all the units of Dong Ha Combat Base. They provided illumination and explosive ordnance fire for Dong Ha's entire perimeter. This was a big job and one that they handled well. The Marines were constantly amazed that "those damned SEABEES" laid down more accurate fire than their own mortars.

The men on security and the engineering aides of "H" Company's Second Platoon who manned the mortars gave us one of the best defensive set ups on the base.

Not bad for a bunch of SEABEES, huh, Marines?



And we remember . . .



Above: CUCM Melvin A. Bell, CDR Jones, LCDR Fegley and CSC Arland L. Williams sample the cake at 62's third anniversary celebration. Right: CDR Jones holds personnel and weapons inspection prior to the Battalion's return to homeport. Opposite Page: CUCM Bell and LCDR Fegley display the "Meatball" Battle Efficiency "E" pennant before the Camp Barnes administrative offices.





As the deployment wore on each day seemed more and more like the last. The days, weeks and even months blended into each other, usually marked by little more than the completion of one job and the beginning of another.

There were, however, a few events of particular significance. These were times that each of us marked down as definite steps toward that day when we would return home. Events of great importance to us in this respect were the Battalion's third anniversary (the celebration of which also marked the half-way point of the deployment), the winning of the coveted Battle Efficiency "E" as Best of Type Atlantic Fleet SEABEE Battalion and the final pre-return inspections.

The Battalion birthday was the third time in as many years that 62 had marked off another year while deployed to Vietnam. The atmosphere was one of celebration and relaxation as Battalion men played games, consumed huge amounts of free beverages, were entertained by a Special Services show and were treated to a special barbecue-style evening meal.

The winning of the "E" was, of course, a high point for all of us. The news that we were "the best" was our reward for the many long hours of inspections and preparation while in homeport, as well as recognition for the work we were doing. Needless to say, we were all proud.

The deployment-end inspections were probably the first inspections that any of us were glad to stand. They were a heartening sign that our long, hard tour was almost over.

We all had our individual important memories, but these are the ones which meant an especially great deal to us as members of 62.

Looking back helps us put things in their proper perspective. Yet, we can't really see the full scope of our mission in Vietnam without looking ahead to the future. The guiding purpose behind all our construction was the building of a brighter future for the people of Vietnam.

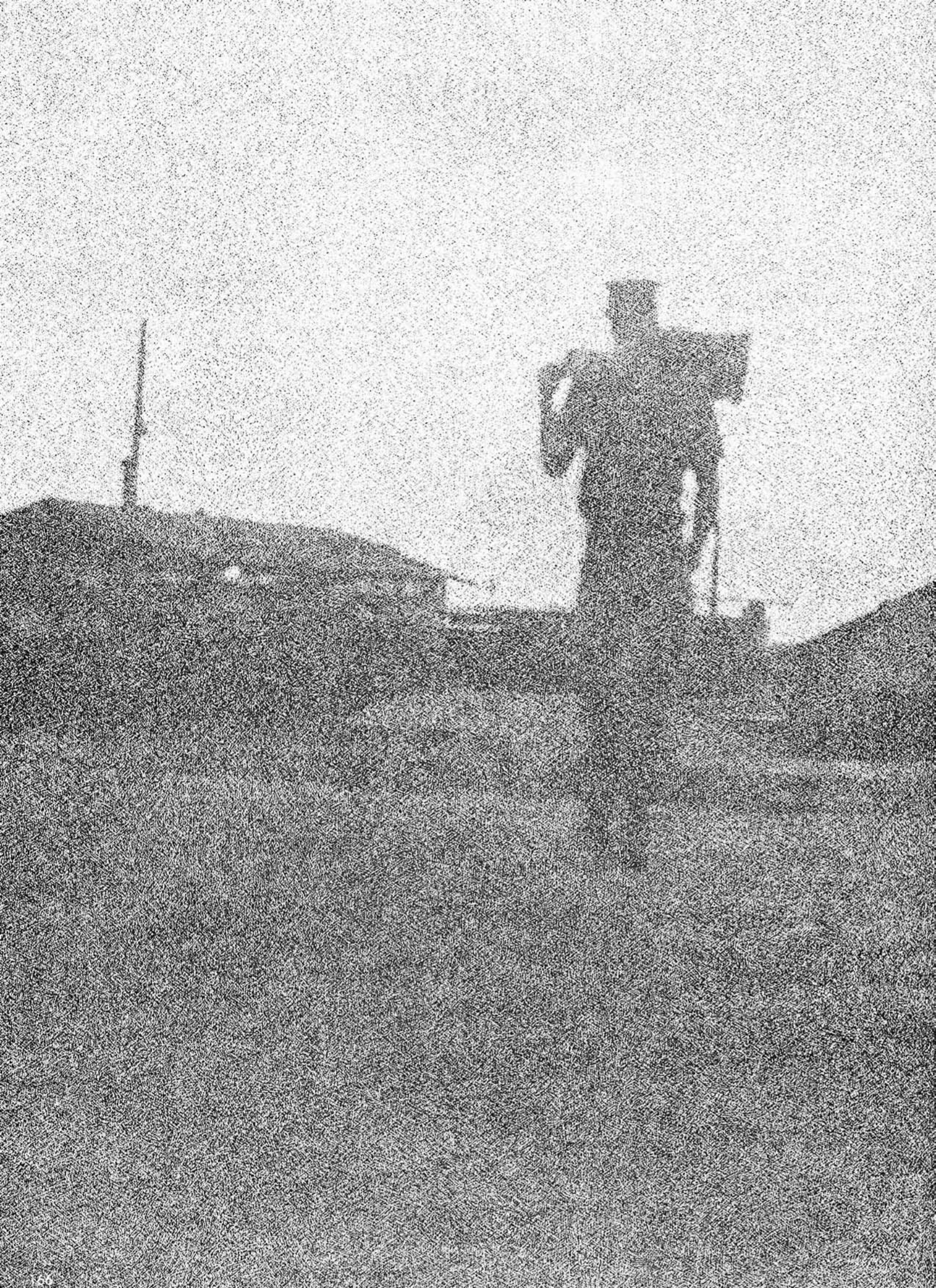
Vietnam- -moving into the modern age

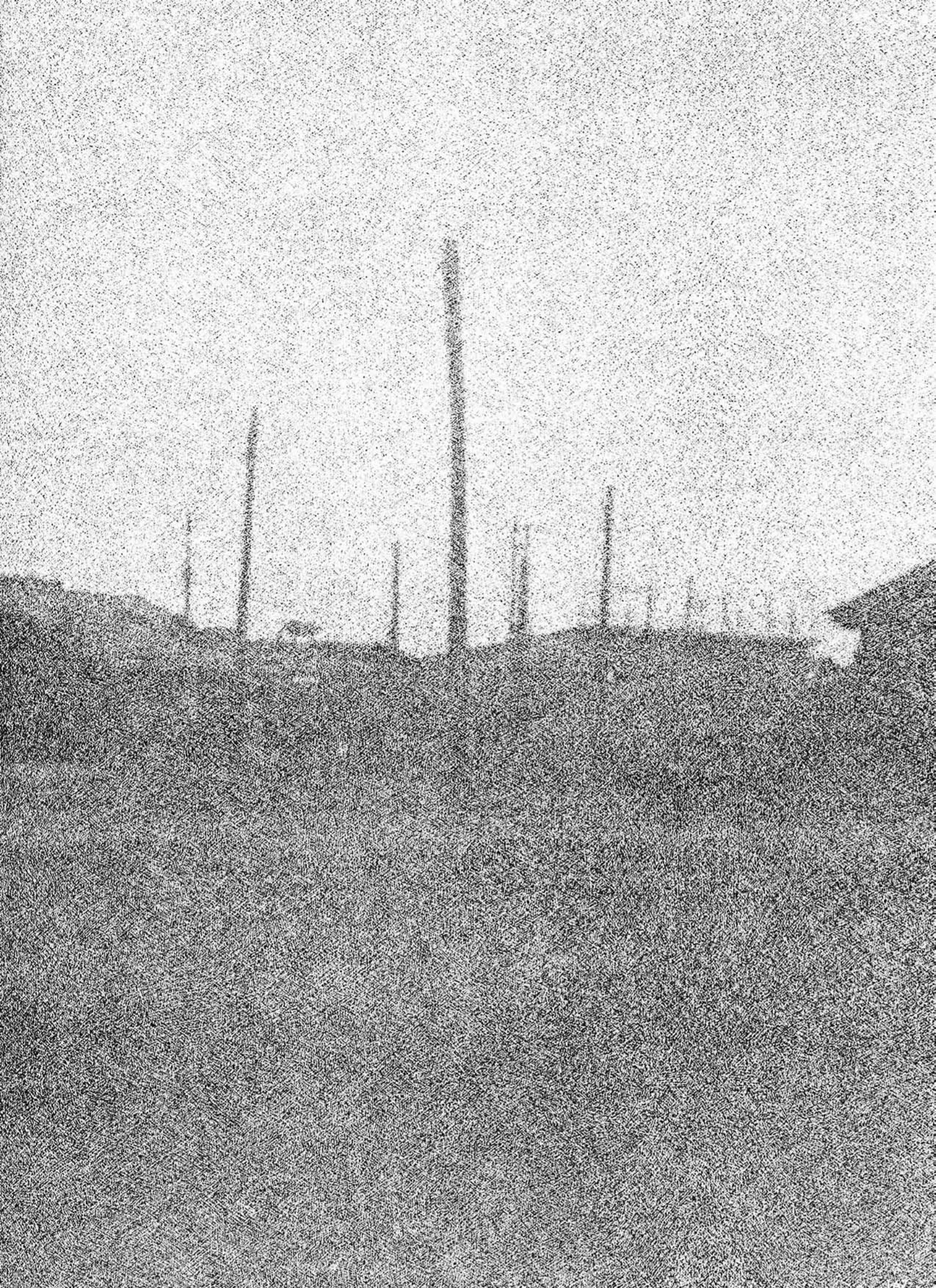


Top right: A member of the Republic of Vietnam's National Police Force directs traffic at a Saigon intersection. Above: One of many sedate parks in bustling downtown Saigon. Right: The palace of the President of the Republic of Vietnam, located in central Saigon. Opposite: The old meets the new as MCB 62 erects a concrete and steel bridge in the city of Dong Ha.







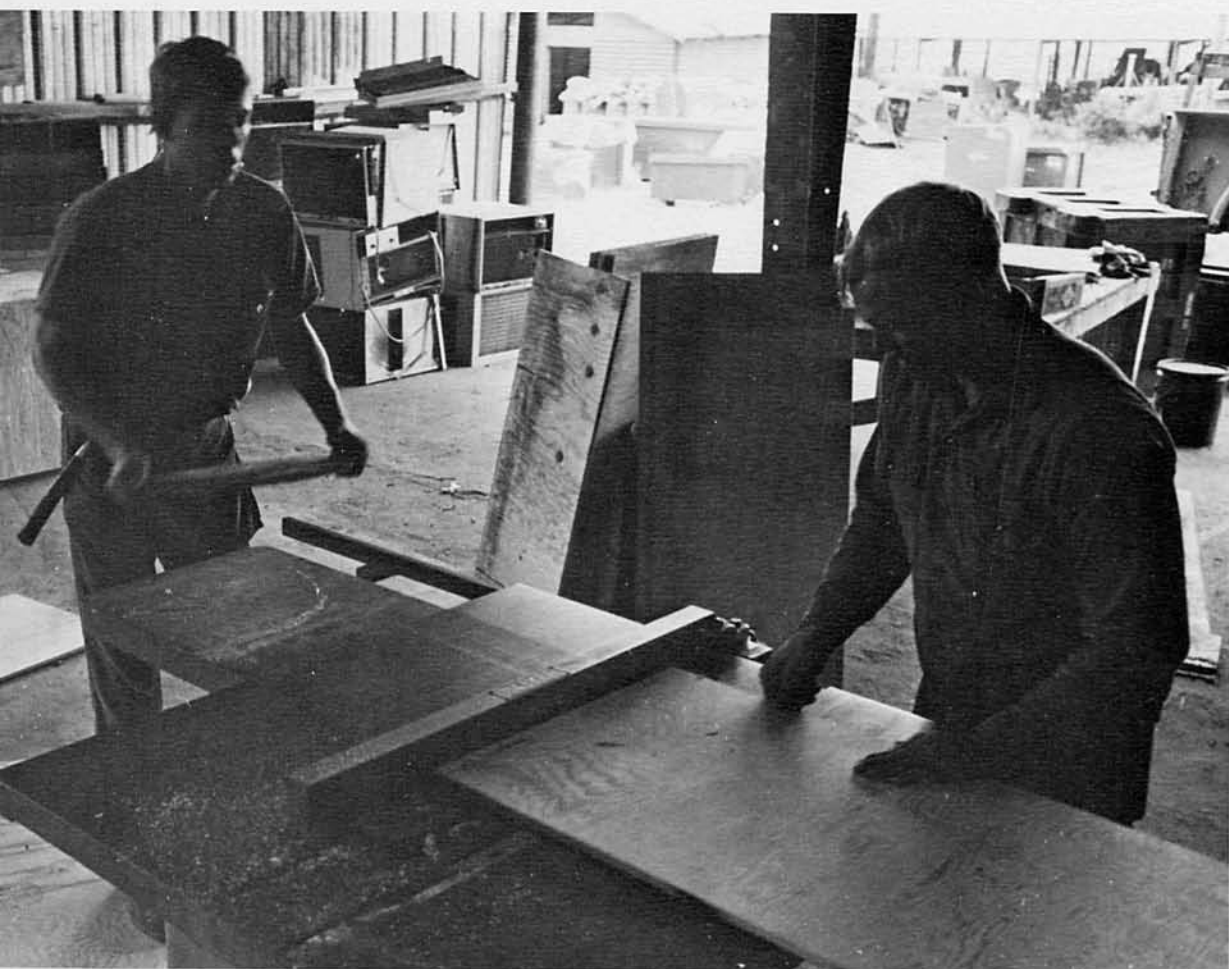


At last . . .





... It's over





Mount Out

Frantic activity was a familiar and expected part of our lives in Vietnam. Never before, however, had we worked so hard and so willingly as those last days of preparation for going home. Camp Barnes was stripped to its bare essentials. Equipment of all types was cleaned, inventoried and packed up. Dozens of gallons of olive-drab paint covered mount-out boxes as we prepared to return to that magic place—home.



Homecoming





Finally

The last few hours of waiting were the longest and most frustrating. The months of the deployment, seemingly endless as they occurred, now seemed like an illusion that never really was. The only reality was the time remaining between us and our loved ones.

"Back in the world" our families and friends also waited, looking forward to the end of so many lonely months.

Somehow the hours passed. Tension grew until, finally, the plane touched down.

We were home.





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PH3 David S. Bryant—Photography



PH3 John J. L'heureux—Photography

EA2 Harry B. Goforth—
Layout and Photography





