

DATELINE

40 YEARS AGO....MAY TO JULY 1970

During the first 50% of this report period, the major portion of the battalion was concerned with the primary mission of upgrading 81 kilometers of National Highway QL-20 from Di Linh to the II/III CTZ boundary. Major emphasis was placed on upgrading 42 kilometers from Camp Smith to the II/III CTZ boundary.

On 20 June 1970, C company became reattached to the 19th Engineer Battalion from the 864th Engineer Battalion (Construction), and had been primarily involved with operational support projects in the BMT area.

On 16 June 1970, LTC Pleasant West assumed command.

There were 13 reenlistments during this quarter. Other personnel action included the presentation of 115 awards, including ARCOM's, Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, and Legion of Merit medal. 23 Field Grade Article 15's and 7 Court Martial were dispensed during this period.

Enemy activity in the 19th Engineer Battalions old area of operations had decreased from the previous report period. The battalion moved to a new area of operation on 15 June 1970 and had experienced very light enemy activity.

In the old area of operations there were reported 15 sniper incidents. On 16 May 1970, a 3/4 ton truck detonated a mine on the road, the only damage was to the steering wheel and there were no casualties.

On 25 May, a D7E dozer detonated an anti-personnel mine with no casualties or damage.

On 19 June, an Engineer convoy returning to Camp Swampy received small arms fire and a B-40 rocket, with no casualties. The only damage were two flat tires on a 10 ton truck. There was one mortar/sniper attack by D/19 at Bu Prang on 4 July 1970. There were no casualties, 15 barrels of Diesel were destroyed. Also, several satchel charges, Chi Com grenades and 2 B-40 rockets were captured.

On 22 July, a D/19 minesweep team found a home made 15 pound mine on the shoulder of the road.

During the past three months the major health problems were injuries from accidents. they occurred from improper use of weapons, as well as vehicles & machinery. There were six reported cases of malaria, the majority were where men reported they were not taking the C-P tablets for prophylaxis. The number of psychiatric cases with diagnosis of neurosis or psychosis had been negative for the previous three months, however there had been cases of situational anxiety reactions and many actions under AR 635-212

due to inability to adjust.

There were efforts being made to improve the living quarters and sanitation in base camps.

Potable water was being used in washing facilities to prevent occurrence of diseases due to contaminated water.

Due to the battalion headquarters move to Nha Trang, S-4 was greatly occupied with logistical planning and coordination. A major problem was coordination because of the remoteness at Bao Loc and the long distance involved between there and Nha Trang.

The manpower of company B, 19th Engineer battalion was spread over a variety of projects initiated in this quarter. LOC restoration consumed a majority of manhours and equipment hours. Recurring maintenance of potholes and ditches were given special attention from YT965669 to YT999792 in the old area of operations.

On 18 May 1970, company B initiated the first phase of a unit movement to a new area of operations. The 19th accomplished complete movement of all equipment and personnel on hand, between the dates of 18 May 1970 and 3 June 1970. The movement was divided in three distinct phases calling for a total of four separate convoys.

Source:

19th Battalion Operations Reports

LTC Pleasant West, CE, Commanding

EDITOR'S NOTE: The remainder of this report was unreadable because of being printed on a defective mimeograph machine.

Also, this is the last record of 19th Operational Reports in my possession, for the remainder of 1970.