

Officer and NCO from A Co advise MACV team

On the morning of 16 September, A Company received a call from the Commanding Officer of the American MACV advisory team for the Khanh Duong District requesting advice on a bridge which was recently destroyed by the Viet Cong. Lt David McConville and PSG Eddie L. Smith departed this location with the MACV team to inspect the bridge and offer advice.

The bridge was located about 8 clicks north of QL 21 on QL 9B spanning the Ea Edm River. It was a French Eiffel bridge (the French counterpart to our Bailey bridge) of about fifteen years of age. It was a single single Eiffel 70 feet long spanning 46 feet of water.

The bridge was found to be unrepairable and it was suggested (in jest) that they leave some explosives so "Charley can do the job right." Since the bridge is only used for patrols it was decided that it wouldn't be feasible to construct a Bailey bridge due to the small amount of traffic using the bridge. Due to the large amount of rock needed to construct a ford, that was vetoed by the MACV team. It was decided to research the feasibility of moving an existing Eiffel bridge of approximately the same length from its present site where it is no longer used. This possible solution is being checked out by the MACV team.