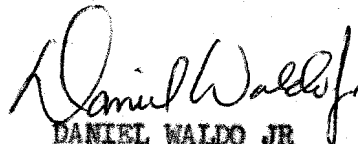


DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
COMPANY A, 70 ENGINEER BATTALION (COMBAT)(ARMY)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96297

1 February 1969

SUBJECT: Narrative of Unit Activities, ORLL, from 1 November 1968 to
31 January 1969

Commanding Officer
70th Engr Bn (Cbt)(A)
APO 96297



DANIEL WALDO JR
CPT, GS
Commanding

A. OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

1. 70th Engineer Battalion Base Camp

During the month of November all platoons were involved with construction and security of the Battalion Base Camp at Ban Me Thout.

1st Platoon was responsible for three (3) of Delta Company's living and fighting bunkers. These were constructed using the Battalion design with materials provided by S-4. The platoons worked on these until it was necessary to prepare for the company's move to Khanh Duong. Work was stopped on 27 November 1968.

2nd Platoon was involved with placing the security wire in the company's sector of the Battalion perimeter. The work consisted of placing four (4) rows of triple concertina. Concurrently the platoon was erecting fighting bunkers, sandbagging tents and providing mortar protection for their personnel.

3rd Platoon at this time was concerned with construction of fighting bunkers and mortar protection for members of the company. In the second week of November, the platoon reoriented the Battalion's A.M. antenna so that communications could be established with the 35th Engineer Group. This was accomplished by moving one of the antenna poles to change the antenna to the necessary azimuth.

Also, during the month the platoons rotated on a daily basis to conduct a visual minesweep along the battalion road. The sweeps provided negative results with no enemy contact being made.

B. CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT

1. Maintenance of QL 21

In conjunction with the upgrading of QL 21; A Company moved to its assigned sector of the road on 1 December 1968. The company's sector is at the eastern boundary of the 70th Engineer Battalion A.O.R. On 24 November 1968 the 3rd Platoon moved to Khanh Duong and set up inside the local M.A.C.V. Compound. Their mission was to place security wire and construct fighting bunkers in the new area prior to the arrival of the company. Materials were transported in the initial convey and two (2) subsequent convoys were used to transport the rest of the material required for the project. In the week preceding the company's move one and a half rows of triple concertina were placed, twelve (12) fighting bunkers (9'x12') and one (1) T.O.C. bunker (9'x12') were constructed. On 1 December 1968 the company moved from Ban Me Thout to Khanh Duong with equipment support from the 131st Light Equipment Company and 70th Engineer Battalion Headquarters. Upon arrival the platoons began to fortify their respective bunkers and work was begun to strengthen our position. In addition work was initiated on facilities in the company area.

1st Platoon was given the job of constructing the water tower for the company shower. The tower was composed of eight (8) twelve inch diameter

telephone poles in two (2) sets. A platform was constructed for each set to support the salvaged 5,000 gallon tanker used for water storage. The towers were braced with 3"x8" material prior to the placing of the tanker.

2nd Platoon erected the shower building which had been prefabricated at Ban Me Thout; in addition to its work on the company defensive set up.

3rd Platoon continued its work on the perimeter wire and constructed the water tower for the Mess Hall.

On 14 December 1968 after conducting a reconnaissance of the area 1st Platoon constructed a hasty bypass at Bridge 15 to provide for a 40 ton crane coming from the coast. Two (2) 30 inch culverts were used, with fill available in the area providing backfill and roadway material. Also on 14 December 1968 the 2nd Platoon and the 3rd Platoon began roadwork in their sectors of the Company A.O. The work consisted of filling potholes using locally available fill. Increased trafficability was attained decreasing the road time of resupply convoys traveling from the coast to Ban Me Thout. In the absence of a grader a drag made from Bailey Bridge Panels was used with satisfactory results.

2. Civic Action

3rd Platoon began reconstruction of a bridge located between two (2) Montangard Villages on 27 December 1968 and completed the project on 29 December 1968. The original decking was removed and replaced with 4"x8" materials for decking, 2"x6" in two layers for treadway and 8"x8" curbing. The work was undertaken to provide access to the villages for Med Cap personnel and to allow the use of a borrow pit located in the area.

3. Base Camp Construction

On 31 December 1968 work was begun to relocate the company two (2) kilometers west of its original location. 1st Platoon placed the initial band of concertina augmented by 2nd Platoon. After moving its bunkers to the new location 1st Platoon moved on 9 January 1969 followed by 2nd Platoon and Headquarters Platoon on 12 January 1969 and 3rd Platoon on 14 January 1969. At the present the company is preparing for the construction of six (6) S.E.A. Huts, fifteen (15) Living-Fighting Bunkers and continuing roadwork on QL21.

4. Reconnaissance Patrol

Daily patrols have been conducted to provide information on the surrounding area and to locate and report any signs of enemy activity.

7. LESSONS LEARNED

1. Fastening Nailing Strips To Steel Stringers

a. Observation:

When special clips are not available to attach nailing strips to stringers; anchorage can be accomplished by using material of the same thickness as the strips. 3rd Platoon encountered this problem when working on a bridge with steel I-beam stringers.

b. Evaluation:

One piece of bracing is cut to fit perpendicularly to the nailing strip. The second is cut to fit the web and is notched to encompass the flanges. The anchorage is then bolted together to provide a strong and secure anchor for the nailing strips.

c. Conclusion:

This device prevents lateral shifting of the nailing strip, is quickly and easily made and should hold up under normal use without frequent replacement necessary.

See Inclosure No. 1

2. Expedient Bunker For Mortar Crew

a. Observation:

Suitable materials for building a bunker for mortar crew were not available, however; an abundance of unservicable bailey bridge parts could be salvaged from a bridge which had failed nearby.

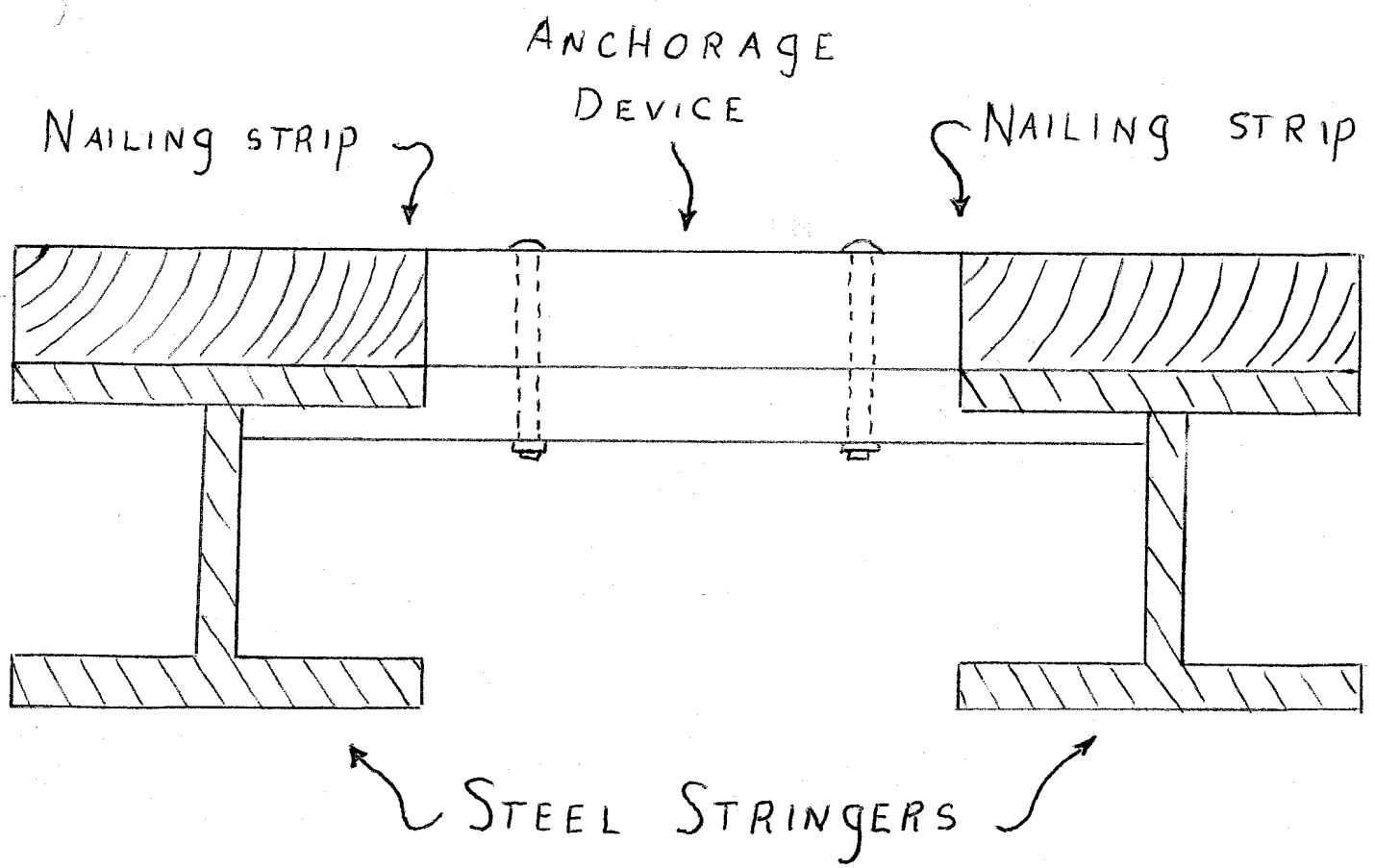
b. Evaluation:

Unservicable bailey bridge parts consisting of four (4) panels, two (2) transoms, and four (4) stringers were used to fabricate the framework for an effective 10'x10' bunker. The only equipment necessary was an arc welder. Unservicable (bent and warped) MSA matting was used on the roof and sides. The bunker was constructed and ready for fill in four (4) hours using a six (6) man detail.

c. Conclusion:

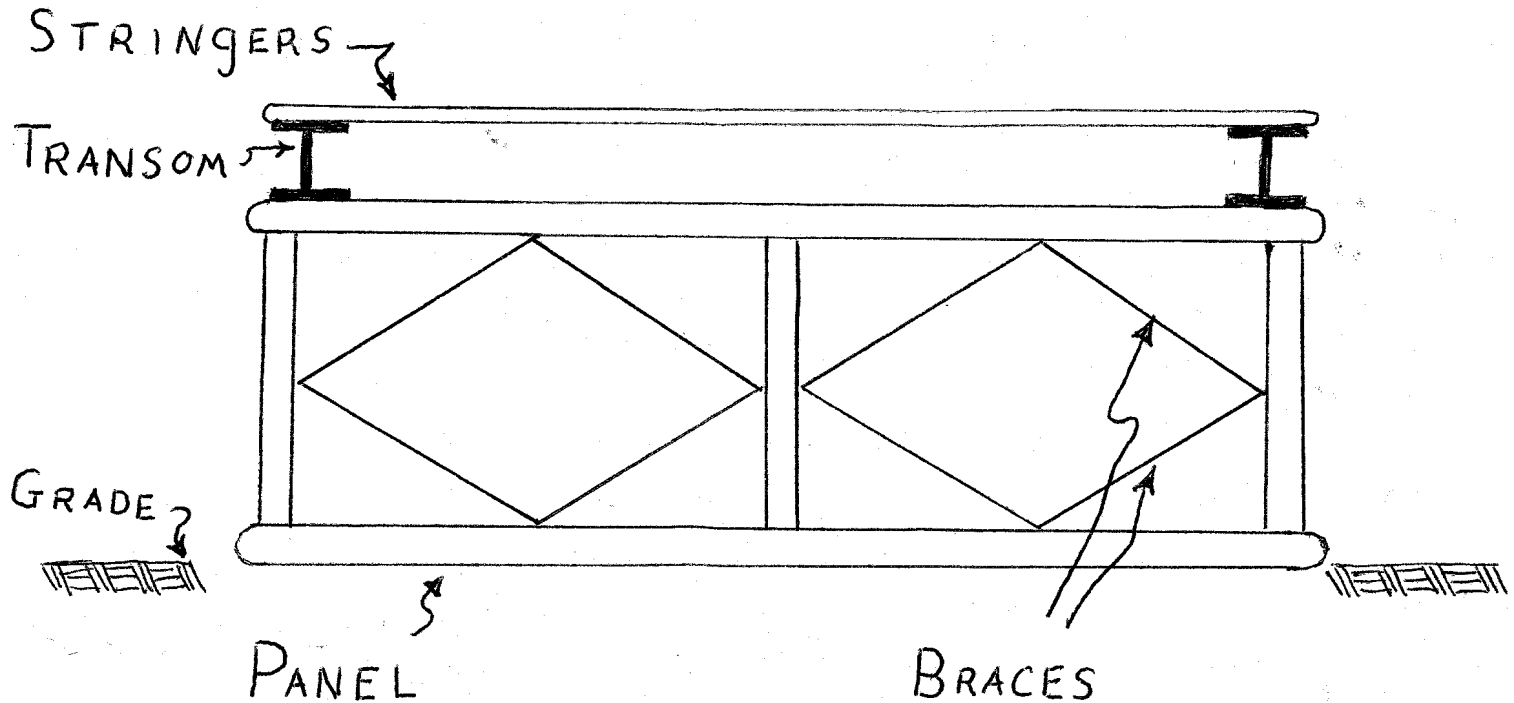
The bunker serves as a strong, protective shelter. It can be constructed easily and with minimum equipment and man hours. It's strength allows it to be backfilled or sandbagged.

See Inclosure No. 2



FASTENING NAILING STRIPS TO
STEEL STRINGERS

EXPEDIENT MORTAR CREW BUNKER



NOTES:

1. SIDE VIEW - TYPICAL
2. BRACES REMOVED TO PROVIDE DOOR
3. COVER SIDES & TOP WITH M8A1 MATTING