

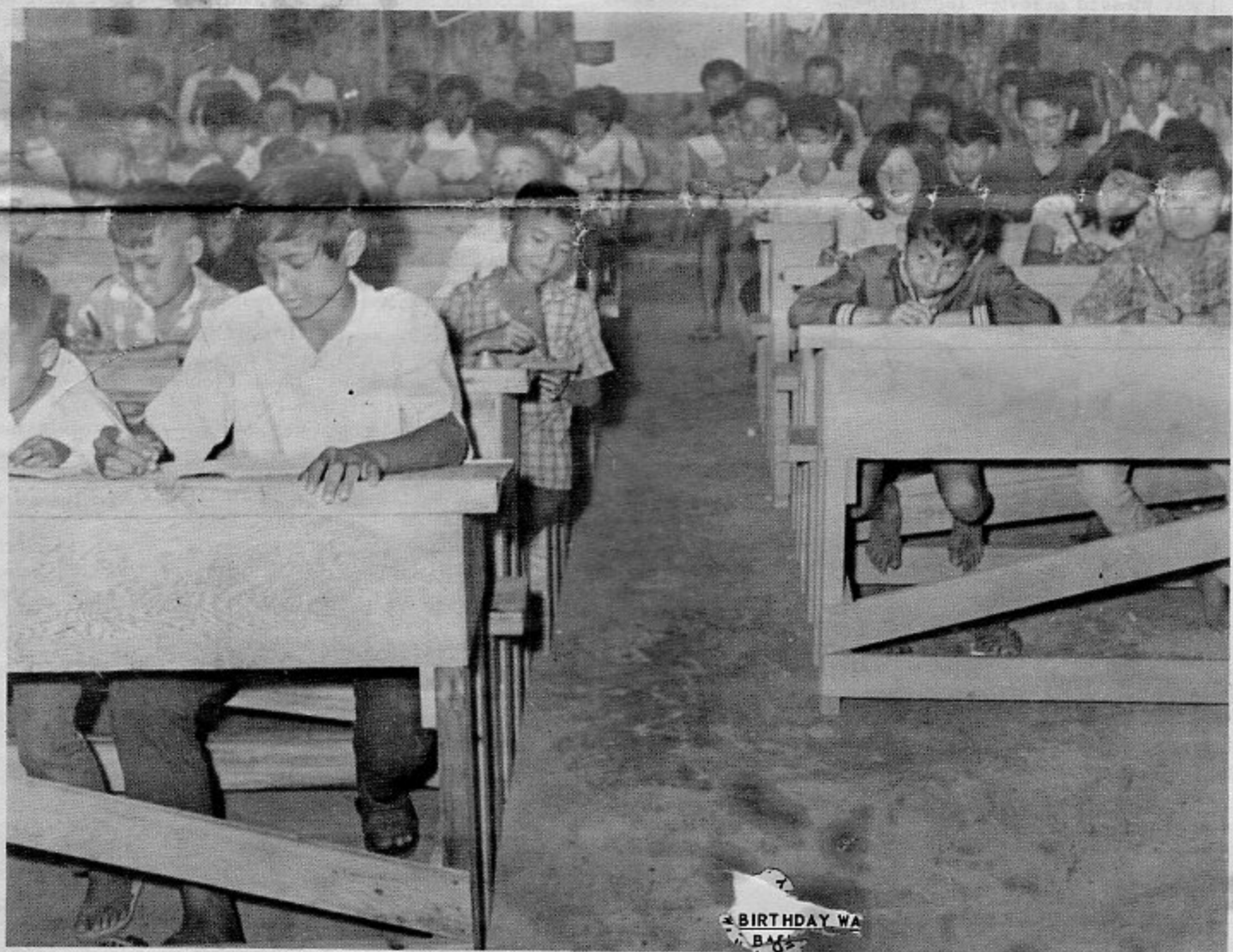


FAMILY-GRAM

DANANG EAST RVN

VOL I NO IV U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
FIFTY-THREE

APRIL 1968



STUDENTS AT SAO BIEN SCHOOL STUDYING AT DESKS CONSTRUCTED BY BRAVO COMPANY



CDR BOWERS TALKING WITH SISTER CECILIA OF SAO BIEN SCHOOL, THROUGH BATTALION INTERPRETER, UPON DELIVERY OF DESKS BUILT BY BRAVO COMPANY

CAPTAIN'S LETTER

I was pleased to review this particular issue of 53's Familygram since it places so much emphasis on the line company, on the men responsible for the success or failure of the battalion. Recognition of their work and accomplishments is certainly just and deserved, as the men have performed brilliantly in the past months. Those men honored today, from BRAVO Company, are representative of hundreds more who are rapidly giving MCB 53 the right to its motto: The action Battalion.

Very truly yours,

R.A. BOWERS
Commanding Officer

COMMANDING OFFICER.....CDR R.A. BOWERS CEC., SN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER.....LCDR R.H. KNAUF CEC, USN
STAFF.....LT J.R. FIOL CHC, USNR
ENS B.L. CRAIN USNR
JO2 R.D. BURNS
SN F.F. HUTCHINS
PHOTOGRAPHERS.....PH3 EDWARD L. WESTHUSING
EAD3 MICHAEL R. SUTTON

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A SHORT MESSAGE
FROM MR. SPENCER:

ZZZZZ



In the coming months for our "Familygram" we are going to be concentrating on each of the five companies. We hope that by doing this you will be able to have an overall picture of the function of a Construction Battalion and in particular, 53. Also we feel that in this way you will be able to know the type of projects we have been doing while over in Viet Nam.

This month we want to focus on Bravo or "B" company. The primary purpose or function of "B" Company is to provide support for the rest of the battalion. This means support of the main camp as well as support of the various projects.

As far as the camp goes, they have the responsibility of seeing that we have water, electricity and that the camp is maintained in a good state of repair. When the boiler malfunctions-- a call is immediately made for Bravo's UT boiler-men. Or when the reefers breakdown, the call goes up again for the refrigeration men of Bravo Company. The same is true with the water or electrical systems in camp.

Situated in the "shop" area of Bravo company is the carpenter shop, equipped with woodworking machinery, machine and hand tools for the construction of cabinets, windows, doors, frames, tables, signs, and all related wood items for the battalion.

One of the other ways in which Bravo supports the other companies is in the operation of the Block and Batch plant. This is where cinder block and concrete are made for the other jobs.

On just about every job we have, the personnel of Bravo company can be seen, installing plumbing fixtures or hooking up a hot line on the pole.

In the remainder of this "Familygram" we hope the pictures will give you a good idea of Bravo's "in country" support of 53.

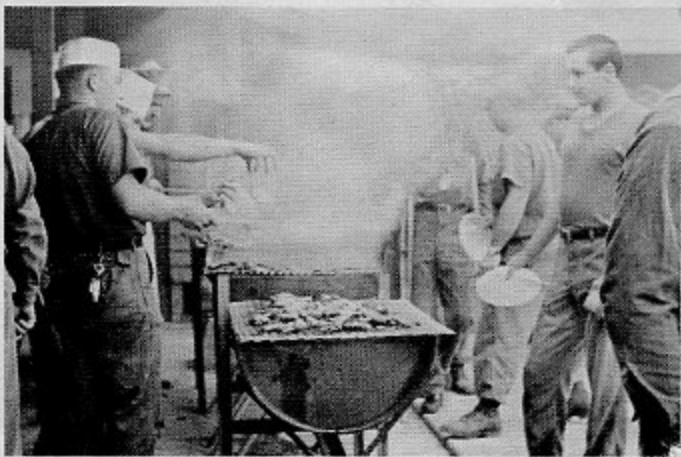
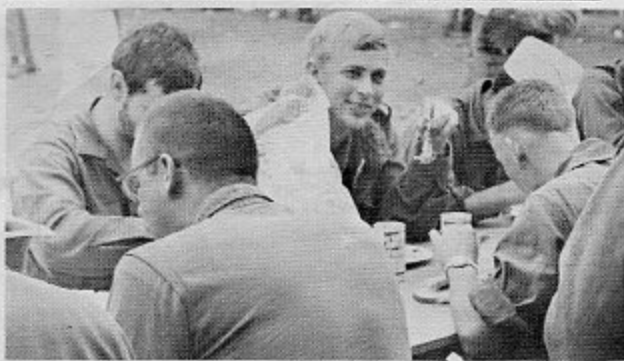


BRAVO COMPANY AT QUARTERS.



BRAVO COMPANY STAFF: (L TO R) J.J. CERMINARO CEC, T.W. GREEN UT1, S.S. WILLIAMS UT1, (COMPANY COMMANDER) S.T. SPENCER CWO, J.A. COLE UT1, T.L. BAKER CE1.

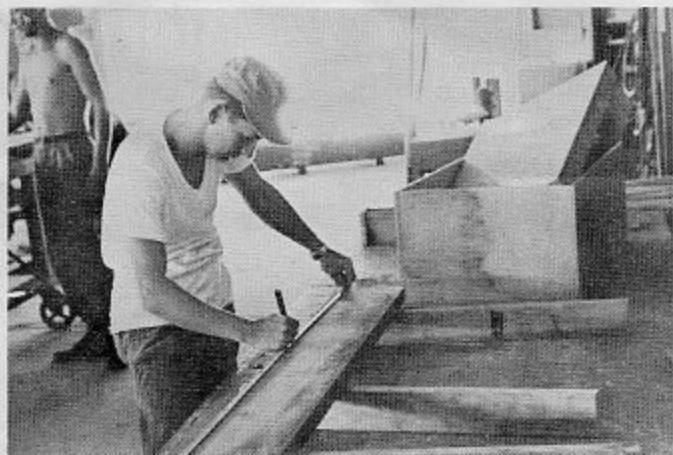
SEABEE BIRTHDAY



THE SEABEE BIRTHDAY WAS CELEBRATED IN MARCH.
ABOVE: THE BASKETBALL GAME BETWEEN MCB 128 AND MCB 53.
UPPER LEFT: MEN ENJOYING THEMSELVES AT THE OUTDOOR COOK-OUT.
LOWER LEFT: THE COOKS DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF GRILLING THE STEAKS.

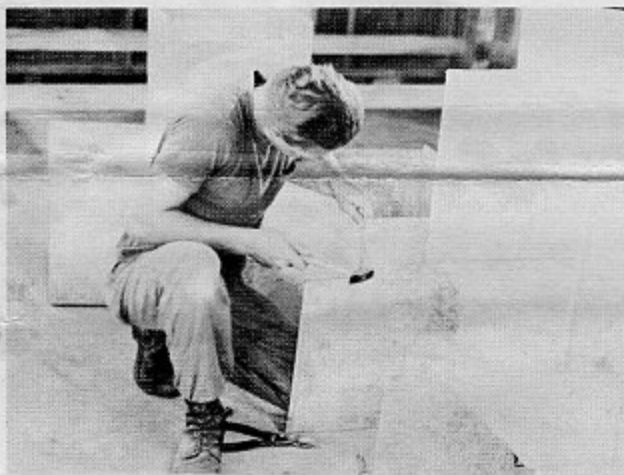


R.D. QUINN SWF3 BENDING SHEETMETAL IN THE STEELWORKER SHOP.



R.A. PETERS BUL3 MEASURING BOARDS FOR USE AS SIDEWALKS IN CAMP ADENIR.

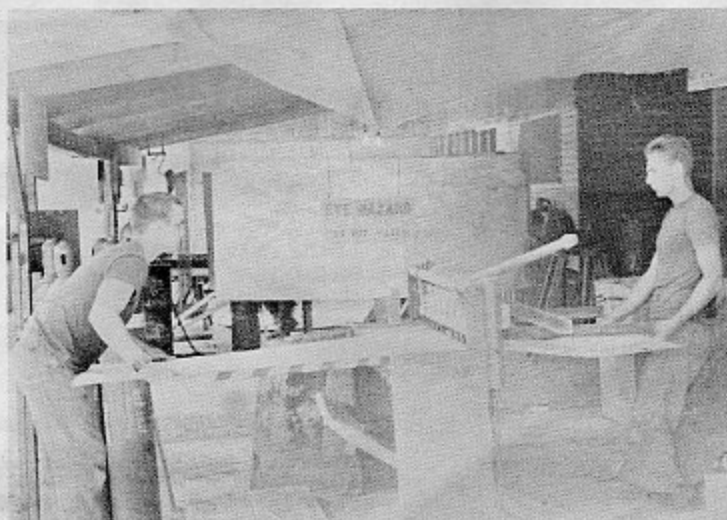
BRAVO COMPANY SHOPS FIRST PLATOON



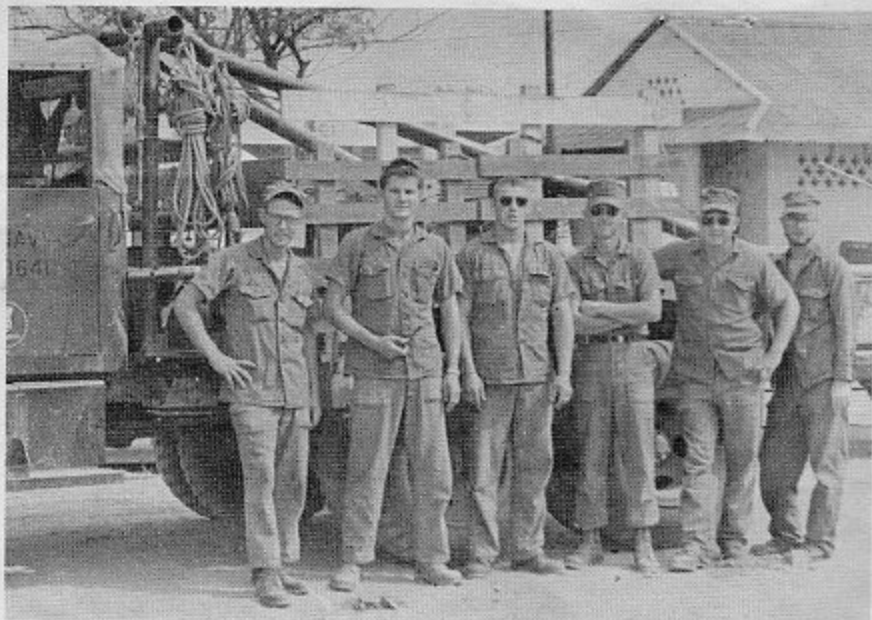
R.D. WHITE SWE3 PRE-FABRICATING AIR-CONDITIONING DUCTS FOR NSA HOSPITAL.



P.R. RISELL BUL2 AND W.L. THOMPSEN BULCN WORKING IN THE CARPENTER SHOP.



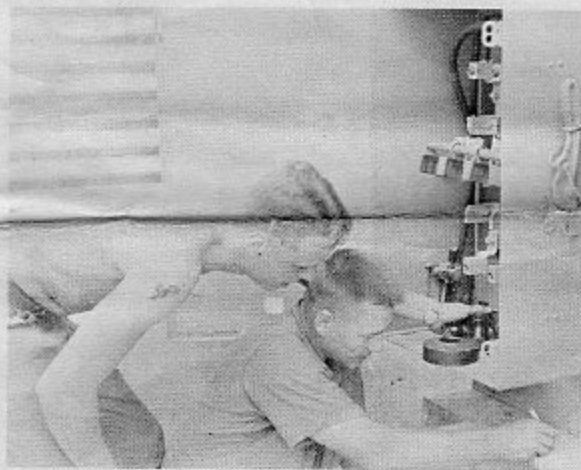
R.D. WHITE SWE3 AND R.C. BALLARD CN CUTTING SHEETMETAL IN THE STEELWORKER SHOP.



THE MEMBERS OF THE BRAVO LINE CREW ARE J.M. SCHEER CEP3, J.S. SCRUGGS CEP3, H. BURTON CEP3, B.E. BROOKS CEP2, C.T. MOXLEY CEP3, L.J. FORSYTHE CEP3.

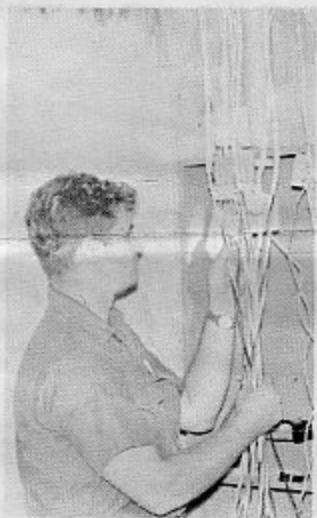


SINCE COMING TO VIET NAM BRAVO'S ELECTRICIANS HAVE HAD MANY DIFFICULT TASKS.



F. CARLSON CEW3 AND R.W. SUNDQUIST CEWCN INSTALLING CIRCUIT BREAKER.

CE PLATOON



W.F. HUFTILL CEP3 INSTALLING WIRING FOR PANEL BOX.



C.E. GENTRY CEW2 GOING OVER PLANS OF WIRING FOR PROJECT AT NSA HOSPITAL WITH W.N. SOUER CEP3, J.R. CURTIS CN, D.J. MAGYAR CN.



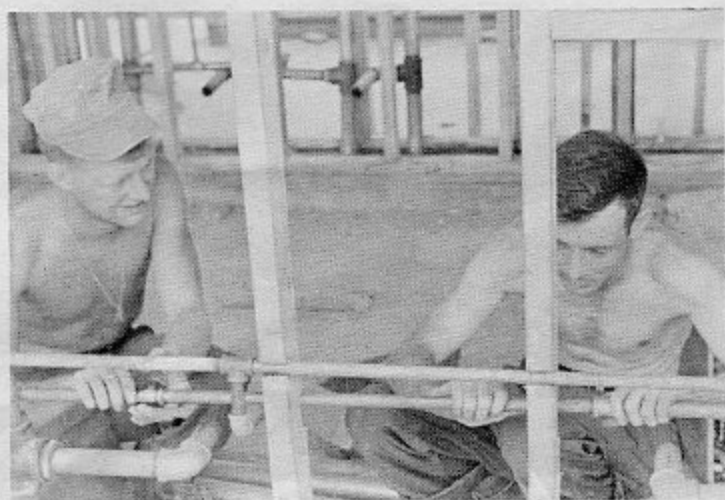
R.D. WHITEHEAD CE2 AND H.T. LUNDGREN CEW3 ASSEMBLING A CIRCUIT BREAKER PANEL.



UT PLATOON



P.D. MAZIEKA UTP3, J.W. JENKINS UT3, C.T. TIBBS UTP2 THREADING PIPE AT III MAF BARRACKS PROJECT.



D.J. GRAHAM UTP3, AND K.H. O'KEEFE UTW3 INSTALLING PLUMBING AT NSA HOSPITAL.

"You ought to have seen this place when we first arrived here," said Utilitiesman second class Ross E. Likens from Burlington, New Jersey, the Assistant Petty Officer in charge of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-THREE's Hoi An detachment. "The place was just filthy. The hospital staff had been trying hard, but the proper facilities just weren't available!"

It was to make these facilities available that 17 of MCB-53's Seabees were sent to Hoi An from the battalion's base camp at Camp Adenir, DaNang East, Vietnam, and through their actions added another chapter to the proud Seabee story in Vietnam.

Under the direction of Utilitiesman first class Samuel S. WILLIAMS from Baltimore, Maryland, the detachment primarily made-up of "B" personnel was convoyed to the small village of Hoi An, about 30 miles south of DaNang, on January 21, 1968. They undertook a job that had already been started by MCB-7, the battalion MCB-53 relieved at Camp Adenir. It consisted of installing a sanitation system (water and sewer) for twelve buildings, and running outside electrical lines and interior wiring for thirteen old French buildings. This construction spanned a number of trades and required four separate Seabee ratings; builders, construction electricians, utilitiesmen, and equipment operators.

The men were also called upon to provide night security, as well as being alert during the day while on the job for possible enemy action.

BRAVO COMPANY CIVIC ACTION



BRAVO COMPANY MAN WORKING ON SLIDE FOR VIETNAMESE ORPHANS.

One of the first projects undertaken by Bravo Company was the Civic Action project at the Hoi An hospital. The detachment of men pictured here, primarily from Bravo Company, were at Hoi An for a little over a month working.

"B" Company has also made available their shops for other Civic Action projects.



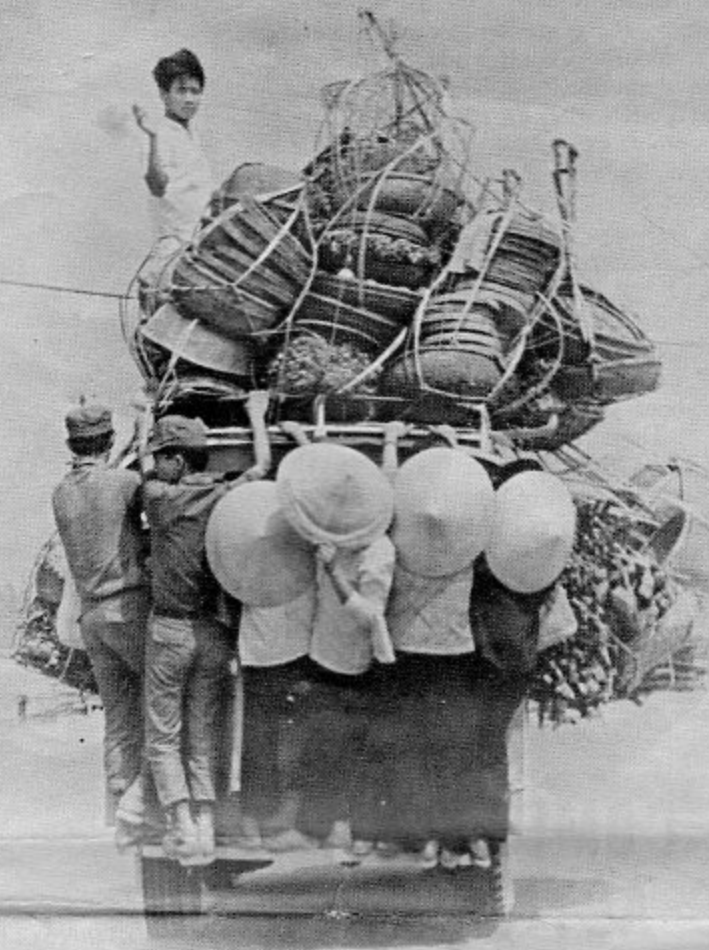
CDR BOWERS GIVING BRIEFING TO MEN OF HOI AN DETACHMENT.



CONVOY LEAVING FOR HOI AN



SCHOOL DESKS MADE BY BRAVO COMPANY BEING DELIVERED TO SAO BIEN SCHOOL.



FROM: COMMANDING OFFICER
U.S. NAVAL MCB FIFTY-THREE
FPO, NY, N.Y. 09501

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY



MRS. M. VONO
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