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HEADQUARTERS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WITH THE SEABEES IN KOREA--Amphibious Construction Battalion One's 'Charlie' detachment recently received a "Well Done" from Major General Christian F. Schilt, commander of the First Marine Air Wing in Korea, for helping to keep a forward air strip in operation. The praise was contained in a dispatch to Rear Admiral Tom B. Hill, Commander Task Force 90.

The Battalion solved a tough transportation problem. They rammed a causeway pier on to the beach within hearing distance of front line artillery to supply the advance Marine fighter strip. Aided by warping tugs, LST's (Landing Ship's Tank) made fast to the pier, and units of the South Korean Army rolled ashore the fuel, napalm and other supplies.

Previous operation of the airfield was dependent upon supplies that had to be flown in or trucked across 18 miles of rough mountain roads. The road became a bottleneck and the fighter group fell behind schedule. Front line ROK forces needed fighter support, so the First Marine Air Wing switched to the plan of supply by sea.

The ROK's also maintained the perimeter guard as security against some two to four thousand guerillas in the surrounding hills. Security against infiltration is maintained by the Seabees themselves, who throw up a guard around their own bivouac area and on the piers.

The Seabees, after setting up the pontoon pier, busied themselves with camp improvements, repairing rolling stock, installations and roads.

The forty-odd men of the battalion are under the supervision of Lt.(jg) J.S. Freel of 1176 S. Wenonah Ave., Oak Park, Ill.

WITH THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION IN NORTH KOREA (Delayed)—The longest telephone line ever strung by air in a combat zone was laid by Marine communicators from a helicopter during a recent air-borne infantry operation on the Korean eastern front.

After giant helicopters discharged "waves" of infantry troops on a new hill position, wire teams of the First Signal Battalion, First Marine Division, laid over 24 miles of telephone line.

Two wire teams alternated in laying two lines from the helicopter, double assurance of communication between the new hill position and a command post more than 10 miles away.

Sgt. Duane S. Wimmer of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Cpl. Gerald F. Skorupski of Detroit, Mich., payed out the first line. Sgt. Wimmer teamed with Cpl. Arthur J. Ryan of Big Springs, Tex., in laying the second line.

Commenting on the communication teams part in the operation, 1st Lt. William J. Botts of Narbeth, Pa., a Signal Battalion officer, said: "If we had used conventional methods to string that wire it would have taken us three or four days to get the job done. And we would probably have lost some wire teams to enemy fire."