

**u.s. naval mobile
construction battalion
seventy-four**

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"THE DOES MORE BATTALION"



EUROPEAN DEPLOYMENT

JULY 1975 / MARCH 1976

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09501

S-3/jvl
5213
Ser 2036
18 JUL 1976

From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction
Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR
To: Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U.S. Atlantic
Fleet, Little Creek, Virginia
Subj: Deployment Completion Report; submission of
Ref: (a) COMCBPAC/COMCBLANTINST 5213.1
(b) COMCBLANT Operation Order 4-75
Encl: (1) Unit Location Summary
(2) Administrative Summary
(3) Historical Summary
(4) Training Summary
(5) Supply Summary
(6) Equipment Summary
(7) Operations and Safety Summary
(8) Labor Summary
(9) Project Summary
(10) Detail Summary
(11) Lessons Learned and Problem Areas Summary

1. Enclosures (1) through (11) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a), as required in the performance of reference (b).

2. Unit Location. In accordance with reference (b), U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR deployed to U.S. Naval Station, Rota, Spain. Details and detachment unit locations are indicated in enclosure (1).

3. Unit Moves.

24 JUNE 1975 - LCDR WALTERS, OIC, NMCB-74 Advance Party, 7 officers, and 146 enlisted personnel deploy to the European deployment sites.

14-16 JULY 1975 - CDR LEONARD, Commanding Officer, NMCB-74, and the Battalion Main Body deploy from Gulfport, MS to the European deployment sites.

21 July 1975 - LTJG HUGGINS, OIC, NMCB-74 Haiti MTT, and six enlisted personnel on team.

- 16 JULY 1975 - ADM JOHNSON (CINCSOUTH) visits La Maddalena.
- 18 JULY 1975 - Ambassador VOLPE visits La Maddalena Detachment.
- 21 JULY 1975 - Haiti MTT arrives Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.
- 21-31 JULY 1975 - LT SIMONS, Incoming Operations Officer, visits Sigonella, La Maddalena, Edzell, and Holy Loch Detachments on orientation visit.
- 22 JULY 1975 - Haiti MTT met with U. S. Ambassador ISHAM and Defense Attache LTC KEY.
- 3-8 AUG 1975 - CDR LEONARD, CO, NMCB-74, LCDR PORTER, S4, NMCB-74 and UTCM MAGANDY, MCPOC, visit Sigonella Detachment.
- 8-11 AUG 1975 - Battalion Mount Out Exercise. LCDR BROWN, COMCBLANT, Exercise Rep, LCDR HENDRICKSON, DET NAPLES, and EOC EATON, 20NCR, Embark Office, Evaluators.
- 9 AUG 1975 - Four personnel depart for duty with Nimbus Stream Operations.
- 11-13 AUG 1975 - Visit by CAPT RICKELS, COMCBLANT and MCPOC DEXHEIMER to Rota.
- 13-15 AUG 1975 - CDR LEONARD, CO, NMCB-74, and UTCM MAGANDY, MCPOC, visit Madrid for OICC/COMCBLANT Meeting.
- 18-27 AUG 1975 - CDR LEONARD, CO, NMCB-74, and UTCM MAGANDY, MCPOC, visit Edzell, Holy Loch, and La Maddalena Detachments.
- 19-24 AUG 1975 - LCDR PORTER, S4, LT SIMONS, S3, and BUCS KINDALL, S3C, visit Nea Makri, Greece, and Souda Bay, Crete, to survey sites for proposed NMCB-74 Detachments.
- 21 AUG 1975 - Mr. BEHOTEGUY, Director, USAID, Haiti, and Mr. DOUGLAS, Chief Engineer, USAID, visit Haiti MTT to inspect project site.
- 29 AUG-12 SEPT 1975 - Visit to Detachments by LCDR LEWIS, XO, NMCB-74, LT HOFER, S1, and NCC PILCHER, Career Counsellor.
- 4 SEPT 1975 - CAPT MESLER, NAVACTS LONDON, and LCDR HANSEN, NAVACTS LONDON S1, visit Holy Loch detachment.

deploy from Gulfport, MS, to Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

- 24 SEPT 1975 - EOC WIXON, CPOIC, NMCB-74 Detail Souda Bay, and twelve personnel deploy from Rota, Spain, to Souda Bay, Crete.
- 24 OCT 1975 - LT HUGGINS, OIC, NMCB-74 Haiti MTT, and six enlisted personnel redeploy from Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, to Gulfport, MS, enroute to Rota, Spain, to rejoin the NMCB-74 Main Body.
- 22 NOV 1975 - BUI HASKELL and 15 enlisted personnel redeploy from Edzell, Scotland, to Rota, Spain, and Sigonella, Sicily, closing out the Edzell deployment site.
- 22 DEC 1975 - EOC WIXON, CPOIC, NMCB-74 Detail Souda Bay and Twelve enlisted personnel redeploy to Rota, Spain, from Souda Bay, Crete, closing out work at that site.
- 6 JAN 1976 - EOC WIXSON, CPOIC, NMCB-74 Detail Nea Makri, and twelve enlisted personnel deploy from Rota, Spain, to Nea Makri, Greece, to reestablish the Seabee detachment at that site.
- 28 FEB 1976 - LTJG BERNSTEIN, OIC, NMCB-74 Advance Party, and 111 enlisted personnel redeploy from Rota, Spain, to Gulfport, Mississippi.
- 12-18 MAR 1976 - CDR LEONARD, Commanding Officer, NMCB-74, and battalion Main Body and detachments redeploy from European deployment sites to Gulfport, Mississippi.

4. Significant Events.

- 11-13 JULY 1975 - VADM WILLIAMS (COMCBLANT) visits La Maddalena detachment.
- 14 JULY 1975 - RADM NICHOLSEN (COMSUBGRU 3) visits La Maddalena detachment.
- 14-16 JULY 1975 - Battalion Main Body departs from Gulfport for European deployment sites.
- 15-28 JULY 1975 - CAPT NELSON (NAVFACHQ-CODE 06), LCDR HENDRICKSON, COMCBLANT Det Naples, and MCPOF MCCULLEY visit Rota, Sigonella, La Maddalena, and Edzell.

- 9 SEPT 1975 - VADM LONG, COMSUBGRUTWO, visits Holy Loch Detachment.
- 13 SEPT 1975 - Initiate Human Resources Management Cycle and Phase II Equal Opportunity Program.
- 17 SEPT 1975 - CAPT MOGER, OICC Spain, visits Sigonella Detachment.
- 22-26 SEPT 1975 - MSCS HOUGHTON, Naval Food Management Team, visits Main Body for Food Service Assistance visit.
- 22-26 SEPT 1975 - Major HAND, Military Advisor, COMCBLANT, and three Inspectors visits Rota to inspect Armory, Communications Equipment, and Military Training Program.
- 23 SEPT 1975 - CAPT DEGROOT, COM 20TH NCR, visited Sigonella detachment to review construction progress.
- 24 SEPT-4 OCT 1975 - LCDR HALL, COMCBLANT Equipment Rep, and EOCS STARK visit La Maddalena, Sigonella, Nea Makri, and Souda Bay for Equipment MAV.
- 23-28 SEPT 1975 - CDR LEONARD, CO, NMCB-74, LCDR PORTER, S4, NMCB-74 and UTCM MAGANDY, MCPOC, NMCB-74, visit Edzell and Holy Loch detachments.
- 28-30 SEPT 1975 - CAPT DEGROOT, COM 20TH NCR, LCDR BROWN, COMCBLANT European Projects Rep, and LCDR HENDRICKSON, COMCBLANT DET NAPLES, visit Rota, Spain.
- 28-30 SEPT 1975 - CAPT WIPPLE, CINCUSNAVEUR, Civil Engineering Rep, and LCDR PARKER, CINCUSNAVEUR Seabee Coordinator, visit Rota to review projects.
- 31 SEPT-9 OCT 1975 - Visit to Sigonella and Rota by LCDR HALL, CEC, USN, and EOCS STARK of the COMCBLANT Equipment Office for Equipment MAV.
- 2 OCT 1975 - U.S. Ambassador ISHAM visits Haiti MTT Detachment.
- 6-23 OCT 1975 - Visit by SWCS AMICK, Safety Chief, COMCBLANT and CEC ALVARADO, Safety Chief, NMCB-74, to Edzell, Holy Loch, La Maddalena, Sigonella, and Rota to conduct Safety Inspection.
- 8-22 OCT 1975 - Visit by CWO4 WILLIAMSON, COMCBLANT Project Manager, to Edzell, Holy Loch, and Rota to review construction status and conduct future deployment planning.

16 OCT 1975 - Honorable Jack BOWER, Asst. Sec. Navy for Logistics and Installations visits La Maddalena site.

17-22 OCT 1975 - Visit by CUCM GIERLOFF, COMCBLANT Project Manager, to La Maddalena, Sigonella, Souda Bay, Detachments to review construction status and conduct future deployment planning.

19-21 OCT 1975 - Visit by BUCS DALTON, COMCBLANT DET NAPLES Rep, to Sigonella for orientation visit.

21-22 OCT 1975 - RADM MARSCHALL, USN, CEC, COMNAVFACECOM, visits Holy Loch and Edzell Detachments.

24 OCT 1975 - Haiti MTT departs Haiti for Gulfport, MS for debriefing, and processing prior to return to Battalion Main Body.

3-4 NOV 1975 - RADM MARSCHALL, USN, CEC, COMNAVFACECOM visits Battalion Main Body in Rota, Spain.

10-14 NOV 1975 - Detachment OIC Conference in Rota.

10-14 NOV 1975 - MAV conducted for S1, S2 and S3T by LCDR JACKSON, S2, COMCBLANT, and LCDR LAYMAN, S1, COMCBLANT, assisted by CWO2 DAVIS and PNC ASHLEY.

14 NOV 1975 - Mid-Deployment Party.

16-24 NOV 1975 - Navy Occupational Task Analysis Survey conducted in Rota by SWCS WADE, and EAC ESTEBAN.

18-20 NOV 1975 - CDR LEONARD, CO, NMCB-74, and UTCM MAGANDY, MCPOC, NMCB-74, to Det Souda Bay, Det La Maddalena, and Det Sigonella.

21-22 NOV 1975 - Visit by RADM WALTON, COMNAVFACECOM to Det Souda Bay and Det Sigonella.

22 NOV 1975 - Disestablish Edzell, Scotland Detachment.

24-26 NOV 1975 - Military Training and FEX held.

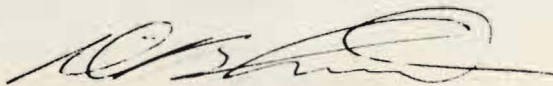
27 NOV 1975 - Visit by RADM WALTON, COMNAVFACECOM to Battalion Main Body in Rota, Spain.

1-5 DEC 1975 - CDR WISENBAKER, S3, COMCBLANT, and LCDR HENDRICKSON, COMCBLANT DET NAPLES, visit Rota for mid-deployment review.

1-7 DEC 1975 - ASI of Supply Department conducted by CDR STONE, S4, COMCBLANT, and SKCS MCLAREN.

- 2-5 DEC 1975 - NMCB-4 predeployment party visits Rota.
- 8-10 DEC 1975 - CDR WISENBAKER visits Det Sigonella.
- 22 DEC 1975 - Disestablishment of Souda Bay Detachment.
- 6-8 JAN 1976 - CAPT. J. MOGER, CEC, USN, OICC Spain, Visits Det Sigonella and Det La Maddalena construction sites and inspected detachment personnel.
- 7 JAN 1976 - ADM BAGLEY, USN, COMSIXTHFLT, visited Det La Maddalena.
- 8 JAN 1976 - CDR D. B. LEONARD, CO, NMCB-74, and UTCM MAGANDY visit Det Holy Loch to review construction progress.
- 13 JAN 1976 - EQCM HILBORN, AND EOC CRAWFORD, COMCBLANT Equipment Reps, visit Det Sigonella on Equipment MIV.
- 14 JAN 1976 - CDR WILD, and CDR WEBB of NAVACTSUK visit Det Holy Loch to review construction in progress.
- 14-16 JAN 1976 - CAPT RICKLES, CEC, USN, COMCBLANT, and CUCM DEXHEIMER, USN, COMCBLANT MCPOC, visit Rota to review overall battalion operations.
- 18-24 JAN 1976 - CDR LEONARD, CO, NMCB-74, and UTCM MAGANDY visit Det Sigonella and Det Nea Makri in conjunction with COMCBLANT visit.
- 18-22 JAN 1976 - LCDR HENDRICKSON, CEC, USN, COMCBLANT Det Naples, visit Det Sigonella and Det Nea Makri in conjunction with COMCBLANT.
- 19-24 JAN 1976 - CAPT J. RICKLES, CEC, USN, COMCBLANT, and CUCM DEXHEIMER, USN, COMCBLANT MCPOC, visit Det Sigonella and Det Nea Makri to inspect construction effort of the Detachment.
- 19-23 JAN 1976 - EQCM HILBORN and EOC CRAWFORD visit Rota for Equipment MIV.
- 20-25 JAN 1976 - BUI HARD, NMCB-74 Career Counsellor, visits Det Holy Loch and Det Sigonella to assist detachment personnel.
- 26 JAN 1976 - CAPT RICKLES, CEC, USN, COMCBLANT, and CUCM DEXHEIMER visit Det Holy Loch to inspect construction effort of the detachment.
- 26-27 JAN 1976 - CAPT MESLER, USN, COMNAVACTSUK visits Det Holy Loch and inspects the detachment construction site.

- 5 FEB 1975 - Det Sigonella visited by LCDR HENDRICKSON, OIC COMCBLANT Det Naples.
- 5-6 FEB 1976 - LCDR BELL, XO, NMCB-74, visits Det Sigonella for orientation visit.
- 7 FEB 1976 - Det Holy Loch visited by LCDR HENDRICKSON, OIC COMCBLANT Det Naples, for review of current site projects.
- 18 FEB 1976 - Det Holy Loch visited by CDR LEONARD, CO, NMCB-74 and UTCM MAGANDY, MCPOC, NMCB-74, for final review of detachment progress.
- 26-27 FEB 1976 - CDR LEONARD, CO, NMCB-74, and UTCM MAGANDY, MCPOC, NMCB-74, visit Det Sigonella on inspection visit.
- 27 FEB 1976 - Last personnel depart NMCB-74 Det La Maddalena enroute to Rota for return to homeport as part of the Advance Party.
- 28 FEB 1976 - U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR Advance Party, lead by LTJG BERNSTEIN, redeploy to homeport in Gulfport, MS.
- 29 FEB-13 MAR 1976 - EQCM HILBORN and EOC CRAWFORD, COMCBLANT Equipment Office Reps, visit Rota and Sigonella to monitor BEEP.
- 2-11 MAR 1976 - BEEP conducted and equipment transferred to NMCB FOUR.
- 2-9 MAR 1976 - EQCM ALSTON, Equipment Rep, NAVFAC Code 0632A, visit Rota to observe BEEP and turnover.
- 7-15 MAR 1975 - LCDR HENDRICKSON and BUCS DALTON, COMCBLANT Det Naples, visit Sigonella and Rota to review project and camp turnover between NMCB-74 and NMCB FOUR.
- 8-13 MAR 1976 - Major HAND, COMCBLANT Staff Marine Officer, visits Rota to monitor turnover of Ordnance communications equipment.
- 8-13 MAR 1976 - LCDR LUTZ, COMCBLANT S4 Staff, visits Rota to monitor Supply Department and camp turnover.
- 12-17 MAR 1976 - Redeploy Battalion to homeport from deployment sites.
- 15 MAR 1976 - U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR relieved by U.S. Naval Construction Battalion FOUR as Atlantic Alert Battalion



D. B. LEONARD

Copy to:

COMCBLANT

COMCBPAC

DIR OF NAVAL HISTORY

NAVFACENGCOMHQ (CODE 06)

COM 20TH NCR

COM 31ST NCR

CO CBC PORHUE (CODE 15)

CO CBC PORHUE (CODE 17)

CO CBC GULFPORT

CO NCTC PORHUE

CO NCTC GULFPORT

CO CECOS PORHUE

ALL NMCB'S

CNO (OP 44G)

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMFAIRMED

EURBRANCHLANTDIV

LANTDIVNAVFAC

COMNAVACTS SPAIN

NAVSTA ROTA SPAIN

COMCBLANT DET NAPLES

OICC SPAIN

RNMCB 24

RNMCB 14

UNIT

LOCATION

SUMMARY

UNIT LOCATION SUMMARY

<u>TYPE UNIT & DESIGNATION</u>	<u>OFF/ENL</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ARR/DEP DATE AT SITE</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR MAIN BODY	15/462	ROTA, SPAIN	15-16 JULY 1975 15 MARCH 1976	Atlantic Alert Battalion, Disaster Preparedness, Construction Tasks, Camp Operations.
U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR DETAIL SIGONELLA	2/114	SIGONELLA, SICILY	17 JULY 1975 13 MARCH 1976	Accomplish Construction Projects.
U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR DETAIL LA MADDALENA	1/26	LA MADDALENA, SARDINIA	18 JULY 1975 27 FEBRUARY 1976	Accomplish Construction Projects.
U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR DETAIL EDZELL	1/20	EDZELL, SCOTLAND	15 JULY 1975- 22 NOVEMBER 1975	Accomplish Construction Projects.
U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR DETAIL HOLY LOCH	1/21	HOLY LOCH, SCOTLAND	15 JULY 1975- 15 MARCH 1976	Accomplish Construction Projects.
U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR DETAIL SOUDA BAY	0/13	SOUDA BAY, CRETE	24 SEPTEMBER 1975- 22 DECEMBER 1975	Accomplish Construction Projects.
U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR DETAIL NEA MAKRI	0/11	NEA MAKRI, GREECE	6 JANUARY 1976- 12 MARCH 1976	Accomplish Construction Projects.
U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR DETAIL HAITI MTT	1/6	HAITI	21 JULY 1975- 24 OCTOBER 1975	Civic Action, Training, Road Construction, Blas- ting Equipment Maint, Field Medical Care.
U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR DELAY PARTY, GULFPORT, MS.	0/68	GULFPORT, MS	15 JULY 1975- 1 SEPTEMBER 1975	Accomplish Construction Projects, Training, PRE, Schools, Material Expediting, Medical and Legal Hold.

ADMINISTRATIVE

SUMMARY

LEGAL SERVICES

The Legal Office provided a variety of services to the battalion including the following:

- a. Handled all administrative processing of battalion disciplinary cases.
- b. Provided Legal Indoctrination, general information, and clerical assistance to battalion personnel.
- c. Maintained necessary liaison with both civilian and military authorities.
- d. Handled necessary correspondence with regard to cases of personal indebtedness for battalion personnel.

Since the Battalion Legal Office was not a qualified lawyer, much reliance was placed on assistance from the NAVSTA Rota Legal Office. The cooperation and support from that office was outstanding.

DISCIPLINARY CASE - SUMMARY

NJP Cases - Total - 80

July - 4	Dec - 9
Aug - 7	Jan - 6
Sept 4	Feb - 15
Oct - 13	Mar - 10
Nov - 12	

OFFENSE SUMMARY

Art. 86	Absence Without Leave (UA)	39
Art. 87	Missing Movement	1
Art. 90	Assulting or Willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer	1
Art. 91	Insubordinate Conduct towards a superior Petty Officer	17
Art. 92	Failure to obey an order or regulation	26
Art. 95	Resistance, Breach of arrest and Escape	2
Art. 108	Loss, Damage, Destruction or Wrongful Disposition of Military Property of United States	2
Art. 111	Drunken or Reckless Driving	1
Art. 112	Drunk on Duty	4
Art. 113	Misbehavior of a Sentinel	2
Art. 116	Riot or Breach of Peace	3
Art. 117	Provoking words or Gestures	7
Art. 121	Larceny and Wrongful Appropriation	2
Art. 134	General Article	22

CHAPLAIN

1. Religious Services:

a. Sunday Services - Protestant, Catholic, and Pentecostal services were held in the Silver City Chapel in Sundays. The 0930 Protestant service was offered by the Battalion Chaplain who was assisted from time to time by the Base Chaplain and by civilian clergy. At 1030, each Sunday, a time of fellowship and refreshments took place in the Chaplain's office. This was well received. At 1100, Catholic services were offered by the two base Catholic Chaplains. This service was unusually well attended because of the many base families who preferred Silver City's smaller and attractive chapel. On Sunday evenings at 1930, a Pentecostal service was offered by Lay Ministers, some ordained, from the Battalion. Other types of denominational worship were available at the base chapel and in Rota. Baptisms were conducted by the Chaplain at Rota Churches.

b. Noon prayer meetings were held from 1200-1215 on Mondays and Fridays. These were well received.

c. Weekly Bible Studies and prayer meetings were held at 1930 each Wednesday and were well attended and well received.

d. Morning Watch Services. Late in the deployment, a morning devotional time was started at 0715-0730, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Some variation of this will be continued in homeport.

e. Weekend Spiritual Retreats were held at Benaosan, a beautiful Spanish village in the mountains near Ronda, about 90 miles from Rota. This village was featured in the National Geographic article on Andalucia in June 1975. A retired American lawyer made his home available to, for use as a retreat facility whenever desired. The place itself is an old grist mill which was begun in Roman times, and now has all appearances of a villa. Transportation was limited, but Alpha Company assisted greatly in making the retreats possible. About 60 men in all participated in these retreats from time to time.

f. Bible courses. The Chaplain offered several bible courses for college credit with Navy Campus for Achievement and ESO assistance.

2. Facilities. The Silver City Chapel has a set of wooden pews supplemented by folding chairs and can comfortably accommodate 70-80 people. The Battalion Library is located adjacent to the chapel sharing a quonset hut with the chaplain's office. The chapel and library were completely repainted, redecorated, and rearranged, by volunteers during this deployment. The library itself represents a major effort on the part of a few people. It has been appreciated by the regular users.

3. Instruction and Counselling. A significant number of emergency leaves, Red Cross messages, navy relief cases, humanitarian requests, and other kinds of crisis assistance were handled by the Chaplain during this deployment. A great deal of this involved use of, or support of, the CBLANT Chaplains in Gulfport.

A significant amount of long-term marriage and personal counselling was done along with the usual single visit, problem-oriented counselling usually done by the Chaplain.

4. Other Activities.

a. Boy Scout Assistance. The Chaplain assisted as a liaison in offering volunteer assistance in the Boy Scout Camp Columbus area as well as personally conducting several Sunday worship services for scout groups camping there.

b. Christmas program/party. A very beautiful Christmas Caroling Program was presented with volunteer help. The Chapel was beautifully decorated along with the office/library area. Candles lit up the steps as the people came to the service that night. Afterwards, a delicious spread of refreshments and the decorating of the Christmas Tree. Many hours of planning and work by volunteers made this event a real success. It was a non-denominational program. The Chapel was full, but many missed out on a beautiful evening.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

The personnel of the Medical Department included a Medical Officer and nine Hospital Corpsmen, one of which did not join the battalion main body until November 1975 due to deployment to Haiti with a Seabee Team. The medical facility was a dispensary located within the confines of Silver City. There was space available for a doctor's office/examining room, sick call, medical administration office, pharmacy, laboratory, X-ray and darkroom, a head containing a whirlpool bath, duty corpsman bunk room and a medical storeroom. In addition, six CONEX boxes were available for the storage of mount out and air det supplies.

Sick call was held twice daily on each work day. Those disorders treated were mainly routine complaints and injuries. One notable comment is the number of sprains and fractures treated, especially during the last half of the deployment. Specialty consultations were obtained through the Naval Hospital, Rota and the Air Force Hospital, Torrejon AFB, Madrid, and the Army Hospital at Frankfurt, Germany. Consultations at these latter two were scheduled through the Naval Hospital Medivac office. Due to lack of facilities within the dispensary, all patients requiring in-patient care were admitted to the Naval Hospital. In addition to the facilities at the Naval Hospital, an Alcohol Rehabilitation Drydock (ARD) and a Counselling and Assistance Center (CAAC) were available at the Human Resources Management Detachment at the Naval Station.

The dispensary laboratory facility was equipped to do most routine procedures. The pharmacy stock was adequate for sick call needs. The X-ray machine was adequate for most routine X-ray; the primary exception being spine X-ray. The dispensary had an ECG machine, but this was unavailable throughout the deployment because of lack of parts. A new defibrillation unit with ECG capabilities was available for emergency use. Other departmental tasks were those normally performed, including vigorous programs in sanitation/industrial hygiene and weight control. Medical Department in-service training included lectures by the Medical Officer and Hospital Corpsmen in a variety of areas. A Golden Flow Program was conducted throughout the deployment.

The following figures are for the entire deployment:

Total patient visits.....	4651
Consults to Naval Hospital.....	209
Patients hospitalized.....	40
Medevac patients.....	36
Pharmacy units.....	3612
X-ray exposures.....	381
Laboratory tests.....	1890
Physical examinations.....	203
Immunizations.....	1455



COMBLANT RECEIVING INOCULATION IN CAMP DISPENSARY

NMCB-74 DENTAL DEPARTMENT

During the Spain deployment, the NMCB-74 Dental Department was housed in the standard Naval Mobile Dental Trailer within the administrative area of the Silver City Seabee Camp. The trailer was equipped to perform all phases of operatories, complete x-ray/darkroom facilities and patient waiting area. The trailer was in fair to good condition and little "down time" was required for equipment repair.

Routine sickcall was held from 0800-0900 and 1230-1300 Monday through Saturday. Emergencies were seen anytime. All phases of dental care were performed for the personnel of NMCB-74. Auxiliary support in the fields of Prosthetics, Oral Surgery, and Periodontics was provided by the Dental Department, Naval Station, Rota. Excellent assistance in the area of dental repair was also received from the dental repair technician attached to that facility.

The Dental Staff consisted of one Dental Officer and two Dental Technicians. Utilization of the technicians was varied and consisted in part as follows: (1) One DT was assigned full time duties in carrying out the department's Preventive Dentistry Program, (2) one DT was utilized as a full time chairside assistant to the Dental Officer, (3) the senior DT was assigned duties involving supply procurement, accounting, reports submission, maintenance, etc., (4) both technicians were responsible for exposing/processing x-rays, maintaining dental records and scheduling dental appointments.

During the deployment the Dental Department received a letter from the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery commending them for production which was at least 20% above the Navy average for the period first quarter fiscal year 1976. A similar letter expected to be received covering the period second quarter fiscal year 1976.

At a point approximately 3/4 into the deployment the Dental Department was able to effect a complete elimination of Class 3 dental patients (individuals requiring extensive and/or early treatment), an achievement not often accomplished by most dental departments. All Class 4 dental patients (individuals requiring prosthetic appliances) underwent evaluation and treatment at the Rota Dental Department; however, due to the heavy workload and limited number of prosthetic dental technicians at the Rota Dental Department, it is advisable to have as much prosthetic care as possible provided for battalion personnel during the homeport period.

Summation of dental treatment accomplished during deployment:

- (1) Total dental treatment procedures.....6,785
- (2) Total dental patients treated.....1,344
- (3) Total Operative/Crown & Bridge procedures.....3,858
- (4) Total Preventive Dentistry procedures.....1,738
- (5) Total Oral Surgery procedures..... 100
- (6) Total Examination & X-ray procedures..... 987

CAREER COUNSELLOR

1. Career information and counseling were provided to the men of NMCB-74 not only through interviews but also in group and seminar type presentations. New personnel arriving in Rota attended an indoctrination briefing shortly after their arrival. There was a concerted effort made to update the duty preference cards of all members of the battalion.

2. The Career Counsellor had a large and adequate office with a waiting area within the administrative spaces in Silver City Camp.

3. During the deployment, NMCB-74 was awarded the Golden Anchor Award for its successful reenlistment program.

4. Deployment Reenlistment Statistics:

First Term Personnel

Eligible -----	68
Not eligible -----	96
Reenlisted -----	25

Career Personnel

Eligible -----	25
Reenlisted -----	25

SPECIAL SERVICES

1. Special Services in Spain encompassed two areas; the facilities offered by the battalion and those offered by Naval Station, Rota.
2. The facilities in Silver City were very limited. The building which housed the camp movie theater, recreation room, and Special Services was inadequate to support the camp population, Movies shown in the camp were provided by NRS for the normal user charges. The recreation room was equipped with pool and ping pong tables.
3. The Naval Station had available a wide variety of recreation activities including a rodeo, go-cart track, and drag racing program. Tours were sponsored with the Station Travel Agency for bus trips within Spain on weekends and throughout Europe for long periods.
4. The EM Club within Silver City was reopened by the Navy Exchange after an extensive renovation. The club called the Silver City Saloon became a popular spot for not only the Seabees, but stationwide country and western crowds. Live music was provided at least one night each week.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The primary mission of the Public Affairs Office was to keep the families at home and the general public aware of the accomplishments of the Battalion and its men. Other objectives included proper recognition for individual achievements and boosting morale and pride.

In order to accomplish these objectives, the Public Affairs staff published a monthly tabloid familygram, the "Beaver Tale", and sent out general news releases on the Battalion to the "Seabee Courier", "All Hands", "Navy Times", "Pac Facts", and the Norfolk Public Affairs Center.

In the start of the deployment the Public Affairs Office assisted the photo lab of the battalion in its job of photographing and processing film and prints. Also assistance was provided in video taping projects and special events for COMCBLANT, the Battalion Wives Club, and for use in a training course for future battalions prior to their deployment to Europe.

ROUTINE

UNCLASSIFIED

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7NR UUUUU

CE1898Z NOV 75

NMCR74-A-12

FM CHCIVENGs ALEXANDRIA VA
TO RUIKSAA/NMCR SEVEN FOUR
INFO RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUCESAA/CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA
RULYCPL/COMBLANT LITTLE CREEK VA
BT

UNCLAS E F T O //N01600//
SEABEE MTT HAITI

A. AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 291833Z OCT 75

1. ON BEHALF OF REAR ADMIRAL MARSCHALL, I WISH TO CONGRATULATE
THE MEMBERS OF NMCR SEVENTY-FOUR'S RECENT HAITI MOBILE TRAINING
TEAM (MTT) ON THEIR EXCELLENT REPRESENTATION OF THE NAVY AND THE
SEABEES. AMBASSADOR ISHAM'S COMMENTS IN REF A REFLECT GREAT CREDIT
ON THE TEAM AND ITS PARENT BATTALION. WELL DONE
REAR ADMIRAL D. G. ISELIN, CEC, U. S. NAVY.

BT

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ROUTINE

UNCLASSIFIED*



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

November 7, 1975

Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, Jr.
Commander in Chief
U. S. Atlantic Fleet
Norfolk, Virginia 23511

Dear Admiral Kidd:

As I promised in my recent telegraphic message to you, I take pleasure in providing further details to support my commendation of NMCB 74, MTF/Haiti, for outstanding performance of duty.

This seven-man Seabee detail, whose members are named in enclosure 1 of this letter, had a most difficult engineering and training task assigned to it. The Cavallion-Baraderes-Pestel road, which I visited during their three-month duty (July 21-October 21), is a vital link between the fertile Southwest plain near Les Cayes and the littoral along the northern side of the peninsula. Because of the extremely mountainous terrain, the limited technical knowledge of the Haitian Public Works Department and the Army Engineers, and the complex engineering problems involved, this stretch of road had long been a narrow rocky trail, suitable only for pack animals and--with dry weather and luck--four-wheeled drive vehicles. The Minister of Public Works identified it as a high priority road in his plan to reconstruct the national road network--a task that, as you know, is of fundamental significance to Haiti's economic development. I decided that, in order to provide speedy and effective support to the Minister and to provide vitally needed training to Haitian engineers, a Seabees team would be ideal. I was delighted when my request was granted. The team's performance exceeded our best hopes.

During this period the team surmounted the usual logistic and supply problems, including difficulty in procuring dynamite in this security-conscious administration, and completed the demolition work on 6 kilometers of road. Four kilometers were gravelled and rolled and are now ready for traffic; the other two kilometers were blasted and are now being cleared by the Public Works Ministry personnel trained by the team.

Training, of course, was the second objective. The team skillfully introduced their Haitian colleagues into such techniques as drilling, blasting, benching, and clearing. I myself witnessed the team's firm and patient instruction; by

the end of the assignment, the Haitian engineers and tractor operators had acquired the self-confidence needed to carry on the remaining 16 kilometers alone. Their training will of course be applied elsewhere in the country once this project is completed.

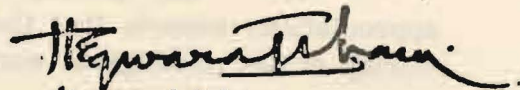
Because the Navy had wisely provided a substantial quantity of medical supplies beyond the immediate needs of the team, USN Corpsman Coleman, working with the local medical authorities, was able to establish a clinic for the rural population of the Cavillon area. Coleman reports that he treated over 2,000 persons in this three-month period. Again, on the basis of my visit, I can attest to his medical skill, his dedication, and his compassion. Two male patients to my knowledge owe to Coleman the fact that they did not lose their right arms through advanced infection. Such examples are many; they add up to humanitarian work in the highest tradition of our Armed Services.

A final accomplishment, in response to the request of the Haitian Armed Forces, was the destruction of some three tons of old and unstable dynamite stored in military installations at Port-au-Prince, Les Cayes, and Jacmel. The Officer in Charge of the team, Lt. Howard H. Huggins, USNR, and two other members have been commended for their work by the Chief of Staff of the Haitian Armed Forces (enclosure 2).

Our national policy objectives in Haiti include strengthening of the traditional ties of mutual respect and friendship between our two peoples and providing vitally needed economic assistance. On both counts, NMCB 74 rendered a signal contribution. Please extend my commendation to each member of the team for his outstanding performance. They represented the Navy and their country with distinction.

With best regards and high esteem,

Sincerely,



Heyward Isham
Ambassador

Enclosures:

1. Members of NMCB, MTT/Haiti
2. Letter of Commendation from
Chief of Staff of the Haitian
Armed Forces

[UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION]

In reply refer to
G-1, #6

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF HAITI
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

30 September 1975

FROM: Chief of Staff
TO: Lieutenant Colonel Melvin R. Bowdan, Military Attache
SUBJECT: Congratulations

1. The General Headquarters, having received the report of Lt. Colonel Serge Coicou, Armed Forces of Haiti, Military Department of the Presidential Guard, concerning the destruction of a quantity of dynamite at Jacmel on September 10, 11, and 12, expresses its warmest congratulations to Naval Lt. Howard H. Huggins, EO1 Donald Huckabay, and EO2 Bruce A. Miller of the Corps of Seabees, United States Navy, for their performance of duty.

2. Their competence and their cooperation with the officers, NCO's, and men of the Armed Forces of Haiti assured the complete success of the operation and have come to the attention of this office. Their devotion to duty and their efficiency enabled the work at hand to be accomplished with complete success. Their high morale and spirit of discipline, notwithstanding certain physical obstacles, deserve praise. They were equal to their mission.

3. The General Headquarters, in sending you this letter of appreciation, expects that these members of the Seabees will always prove worthy of the prestigious corps to which they belong.

BY ORDER OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL HILAIRE:

/s/ PIERRE HYPOLITE
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1

comme référence.

1er-Bureau #-6.



GRAND QUARTIER GÉNÉRAL
FORCES ARMEES D'HAÏTI
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAÏTI

Le 30 Septembre 1975.

Du : Chef d'Etat-Major Général.
Au : Lieutenant-Colonel Melvin R. BOWDAN, Attaché Militaire
des Etats-Unis en Haïti.
Objet : Félicitations.

1. Ce Grand Quartier-Général, après avoir pris connaissance du rapport du Lieutenant-Colonel Serge COICOU, F.A.d'H. du Département Militaire de la Garde Présidentielle, relatif à la destruction d'un lot de dynamite à Jacmel les 10, 11 et 12 Septembre du courant, vous adresse ses plus vives félicitations pour le comportement du Lieutenant de Vaisseau Howard H. HUGGINS, du FO1 Donald HUCKABAY et du FO2 Bruce A. MILLER du Corps des Seabees de la Marine des Etats-Unis.

2. En effet, leur compétence, leur coopération avec les Officiers, Sous-Officiers et Soldats des Forces Armées d'Haïti pour le plein succès des opérations ont retenu l'attention de cet Office. Leur dévouement et leur efficacité ont permis la pleine réussite du travail à accomplir. Leur force morale et leur esprit de discipline, malgré certains maux physiques dont ils souffraient, ont été dignes d'éloges. Ils ont été à la hauteur de leur mission.

3. Ce Grand Quartier-Général, en vous adressant cette lettre de félicitations, invite ces membres du Corps des Seabees à se montrer toujours dignes du Prestigieux Corps auquel ils appartiennent.

D'ORDRE DU LIEUTENANT-GENERAL HILAIRE :-

PIERRE HYPOLITE,
Assistant Chef d'Etat-Major G-1.



Chief of Civil Engineers

13 November 1975

Dear Dan,

During my entire trip through the Mediterranean, I heard only good remarks about NMCB 74. Every detail has done great work and was very well received. And, it wasn't any different in Rota. Silver City never looked better.

Many thanks for the tour through the Seabee Camp, for the opportunity to talk to the Chiefs, and for the fine luncheon with the area CEC officers. I really enjoyed my short visit.

Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to you and the "Does More" Battalion.

Sincerely,

A. R. MARSCHALL
Rear Admiral, CEC, U.S.Navy

CDR Daniel B. Leonard, Jr., CEC, USN
Commanding Officer
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74
FPO New York 09501

ROUTINE

U N C L A S S I F I E D

03697

RTTEZYUW RUGRSG39859 3522255-EEEE--RUTKSHH.

ZNY EEEEE

R 182255Z DEC 75

FM COMSUBREFITRAGRU LA MADDALENA IT
TO ZEN/NMCB SEVEN FOUR DET LA MADDALENA IT
INFO RUTKSHH/NMCB SEVEN FOUR
ZEN/USS HOWARD W. GILMORE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O //N05000//

1. I NOTE WITH PLEASURE THE RAPID COMPLETION OF FOUR OF THE FIVE OVERHEAD BAYS IN THE SITE GYMNASIUM THEREBY PERMITTING FULL USE OF THE BASKETBALL COURT WITH A MINIMUM OF DELAY.
2. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONGRATULATING YOUR MEN IN PERSON ON RETURN TO PORT FRIDAY AFTERNOON.
3. COMMODORE SENDS.

BT

#9859

ROUTINE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTINE

RTTEZYUW RUFLSKAC357 3291010-EEEE-RUTKSAA RUTKSHH.

ZNY EEEEE

R 250925Z NOV 75

FM COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
TO RUDONBA/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
RUTKSAA/NMCB SEVEN FOUR ROTA SP
INFO RULYSK/COMCBLANT LITTLE CREEK VA
RUTKSHH/COMNAVACTS SPAIN ROTA SP
RUTKSAA/COMNAVSTA SP

BT

UNCLAS E F T O //N05061//

NEY MEMORIAL AWARDS PROGRAM

1. CINCUSNAVEUR: INITIAL EVALUATION FOR SUBJ PROGRAM COMPLETED AT NMCB SEVEN FOUR GALLEY ON 20 NOV 75.
2. THE EFFORT EXPENDED IN RAISING THE STANDARDS OF QUALITY IN THIS GALLEY IS MOST IMPRESSIVE. A "MOST IMPROVED" CATEGORY, IF OFFERED UNDER SUBJ PROGRAM, WOULD BE WON HANDS DOWN BY NMCB 74. BARRING THE PHYSICAL PLANT LIMITATIONS, THIS GALLEY WOULD BE A VIABLE CONTENDER FOR THE NEY AWARD.
3. NMCB-74: WELL DONE TO ALL CONCERNED.

BT

#0357

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ROUTINE

UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTINE

* UNCLASSIFIED E F T O *

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10921501 0088

RTTEZYUW RUKKSDE0077 0081315-EEEE--RUTKSHH.

ZNY EEEEE

R 081315Z JAN 76

FM NAVCOMSTA GREECE DET SOUDA BAY 68

NM0B-A-12

TO NM0B SEVEN FOUR

BT

UNCLAS E F T O//NO1600//

TRANSMITTAL OF APPRECIATION

A. NM0B-74 121244Z DEC 75.

1. UPON DISESTABLISHMENT OF NM0B-74 DET SOUDA BAY, AS DIRECTED REF A, WE, THE COMMUNICATION DETACHMENT SOUDA BAY WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO EOC WIXON AND ALL THE MEN OF HIS DETACHMENT FOR LENDING US THEIR EXPERTISE AND SPARE TIME TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNICATION AREA. THROUGH THEIR ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE WE HAVE ACHIEVED ONE OF THE BEST LOOKING DETACHMENTS THROUGHOUT THE MEDITERRANEAN. SECONDLY THE MORAL OF THIS DET IS AT A HIGHER LEVEL JUST FROM HAVING ASSOCIATION WITH THIS CB DETACHMENT, AND THIRD, BUT BY NO MEANS LEAST, IT WAS A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH A GROUP WHO STILL HAVE THE MOTTO SO WELL DESERVED, "WE CAN DO".

BT

#0077

NNNN

I RH4 R AJG D PD

2-18

ROUTINE

* UNCLASSIFIED E F T O *



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICER IN CHARGE
U. S. NAVAL DETACHMENT
FPO NEW YORK 09528

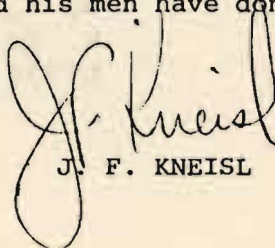
NAVDET:KAS:bu
1650
Ser: 629
22 December 1975

From: Officer in Charge, U. S. Naval Detachment, Souda Bay, Greece
To: Commanding Officer, NMCB 74

Subj: Letter of Appreciation

1. The Seabee detachment from NMCB 74 arrived at U. S. NAVDET on 24 SEP 1975. In the three months that they have been here these men have worked many long and hard hours in completing project P-729 and the electrical portion of P-810. This work will be especially appreciated by NAVDET personnel since it enables the provision of commercial power, heat, and air conditioning to all BEQs and BOQs. In doing their jobs the Seabees have displayed a cheerful and uncomplaining spirit which have been well received at this command.

2. On behalf of the entire NAVDET I would like to extend a sincere thanks to NMCB 74 DET Souda Bay. EOC WIXON and his men have done an outstanding job and deserve a hearty "Well Done!"


J. F. KNEISL

NAVAL AIR FACILITY
SIGONELLA
CATANIA, SICILY

In reply refer to:

2 March 1976

From: Public Works Shops Engineer
To: Officer in Charge NMCB-74 Detail Sigonella
Subj: Seabee "Can-Do" Spirit; appreciation for

1. Throughout the long months of NMCB-74 Detail Sigonella stay at this activity it has proven to be an extremely helpful and professional group of Seabees and CEC Officers. The efforts that you and your men have provided to the Public Works Shops and Transportation have been given unselfishly and in an extremely courteous manner.

2. The support received to aid in restoring power to BEQ 625 and the efforts of your transportation personnel stand out as the most significant efforts of the "Can-Do" spirit received from your personnel. However, we all at Public Works thank you for your total effort to aid and work with the numerous personnel on a daily basis throughout your deployment to Sigonella.

R. P. Fesler
R. P. FESLER
LT(jg) CEC, USNR

Copy to:
Public Works Officer

2-20

ROUTINE

UNCLASSIFIED

RTTEZYUW RULYSK3942 0442157-EEEE-RUTKSHH.

ZNY EEEEE

R 122200Z FEB 76

FM COMCBLANT NORFOLK VA

TO RUTKSHH/NMCB SEVEN FOUR

INFO RUCLSIA/COM TWO ZERO NCR GULFPORT MS

BT

UNCLAS E F T O //N05042//

COMMAND INSPECTION

1. DURING THE PERIOD 12 TO 29 JANUARY, I CONDUCTED AN EXTENSIVE INSPECTION OF NMCB-74 AND ITS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE MEDITERRANEAN AND UNITED KINGDOM. IN ADDITION, IN JULY 1975 I INSPECTED NMCB-74 DURING THE UNANNOUNCED BATTALION MOUNT-OUT EXERCISE AT ROTA. ACCOMPANYING ME ON BOTH INSPECTIONS WAS THE MASTER CHIEF OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET SEABEES.

2. NMCB-74 IS IMPRESSIVE IN THE AREAS OF CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS, LEADERSHIP, MORALS, MILITARY SMARTNESS AND DISCIPLINE. SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS WERE NOTED IN THE PROGRESS AND COMPLETION OF PROJECTS AND THE AGGRESSIVE MANNER IN WHICH YOU ARE PURSUING THOSE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. NMCB-74 HAS BEEN CHALLENGED WITH A VARIETY OF GOOD WORK AND CONSTRUCTION SITES ARE SPREAD FROM SCOTLAND TO SICILY, INCLUDING SPAIN, SARDINIA, AND GREECE. IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT YOU HAVE EAGERLY AND AGGRESSIVELY

PAGE 02 RULYSK3942 UNCLAS E F T O

ATTAINED A LEVEL OF PRODUCTIVITY OF WHICH WE CAN ALL BE PROUD DESPITE THE FRUSTRATION INHERENT IN OBTAINING TIMELY RECEIPT OF LOCAL AND CONUS PROCURED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS. IT IS ALSO DEVOID OF ME THAT THIS VARIETY OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS HAS IMPROVED THE SKILL LEVELS OF THE BATTALION AND THEREFORE ENHANCED THE CONSTRUCTION READINESS OF NMCB-74. THE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AT SIGONELLA, THE LARGEST SEABEE DETAIL IN THE ATLANTIC NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE, ARE ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY AND DESERVE SPECIAL MENTION.

3. I WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE ESPRIT DE CORPS AMONGST THE OFFICERS, CHIEFS AND MEN AND WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THE HIGHLY COMMENDATORY REMARKS ABOUT NMCB-74 SEABEES FROM ALL CUSTOMERS. I RATE NMCB-74 AS AN OUTSTANDING, SQUARED AWAY SEABEE BATTALION, FULLY CAPABLE TO TACKLE ANY ASSIGNMENT. YOUR MILITARY READINESS HAS BEEN TESTED AND MEETS THE HIGH STANDARDS REQUIRED OF AN ALERT BATTALION. I LOOK TO YOUR CONTINUED HIGH PERFORMANCE UNTIL THE DAY OF YOUR REDEPLOYMENT BACK TO GULFPORT IN MARCH. KEEP UP THE FINE PERFORMANCE AND MEET OR BETTER YOUR TASKED MILESTONES. CAPTAIN RICKELS.

BT

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UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTINE

UNCLASSIFIED

RTTEZYUW RULYSDK6912 0772211-EEEE--RUCLBIA.

ZNY EEEEE

R 172154Z MAR 76

FM COMCBLANT NORFOLK VA

TO RUCLBIA/NMCB SEVEN FOUR

INFO RUCLBIA/COM TWO ZER NCR GULFPORT MS

BT

UNCLAS E F T O //N03120//

DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION

A. COMCBLANT NORFOLK VA 220012Z FEB 76

1. UPON COMPLETION OF YOUR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL EUROPEAN DEPLOYMENT, I EXTEND HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF NMCB SEVEN FOUR FOR A JOB "WELL DONE".

2. AS RECENTLY COMMENTED ON IN REF A, I HAVE BEEN MOST IMPRESSED WITH WHAT I HAVE SEEN DURING MY COMMAND INSPECTIONS OF EACH CONSTRUCTION SITE. I HAVE INSPECTED ALL OF YOUR PERSONNEL AND HAVE BEEN HIGHLY PLEASED WITH THE LEVEL OF YOUR MILITARY APPEARANCE. THE PROFESSIONALISM, DEDICATION, AND ESPRIT DE CORPS OF EACH SEABEE OF NMCB SEVEN FOUR, WHETHER AT ROTA, SIGONELLA, LA MADDALENA, EDZELL, HDLY LOCH, SOUDA BAY, OR NEA MAKRI WERE MOST NOTEWORTHY AND HAVE BEEN COMMENTED UPON BY ALL CUSTOMERS. I THANK EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION. YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED AGAIN THAT

PAGE 02 RULYSDK6912 UNCLAS E F T O

THE ATLANTIC FLEET SEABEES "CAN DO".

3. UPON YOUR RETURN TO GULFPORT FOR A WELL DESERVED REUNION WITH FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, I EXTEND MY BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL HOMEPORT PERIOD. CAPTAIN RICKELS

BT

#6912 NMCB 74 20TH NCR

HISTORICAL

SUMMARY

JUNE 1975

Preparations for the Battalion's upcoming deployment increased in tempo during June. Final plans were made and the homeport cycle completed. On 24 June, the Advance Party of 154 personnel left Gulfport, Mississippi, and fanned out across Europe to the various deployment sites to arrange the turnover of camps, projects, and equipment from NMCB-62.

JULY 1975

The month of July brought Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR's mount out and departure from homeport in Gulfport, being flown to the Alert Battalion site in Rota, Spain, and to the tasked detachments sites in Sigonella, Sicily, Holy Loch, Scotland, La Maddalena, Sardinia, Edzell, Scotland, and Haiti. The relief of NMCB-62 was completed smoothly through the hard work of the NMCB-74 Advance Party headed by LCDR WALTERS in Rota, Spain, and detachment OICs at tasked detail sites and the wholehearted cooperation of NMCB-62 personnel.

The Main Body arrived in Rota, Spain, to find temperatures of 105°F. The weather soon moderated through, and the conditions since were ideal for construction work. Top priority was given to completion of SPN-32, ASTAC Facility. This project had been tasked by COMBLANT for an August completion and due to its operational nature, was a CNO priority project. The late August completion date was met permitting ASTAC van installation.

Picking up from where NMCB-62 left off, a crew from Echo Company went to work on the Auto Mechanic Classroom for the dependent school. It was here where NMCB-74's craftsmen received their first experience using Spanish plastering techniques. While work proceeded slowly at first, the training made here, made later projects such as the Aires Training Room and Cal Lab much easier and more efficient tasks. Progress on the classroom was made at a satisfactory pace and no problems which would prevent turnover in time for the start of school early in September were encountered.

Two new projects in Rota were started by NMCB-74. They were SPN 34, Housing Area Sidewalks and SPN 40, Aviation Fuel Parking. Echo Company was prime contractor on the Housing Sidewalks and progress was outstanding. Sidewalk sections were placed every other day.

At the Aviation Fuel Parking Project, a combined crew of Echo and Alpha Companies pushed ahead. The first two concrete parking pads were placed and surface preparation work begun in later paving. August was to see rapid progress with succeeding pads being poured every other day.

Military training was also begun in Rota with a 782 gear inspection, the issuing of weapons, and platoon drill practice.

In Sigonella, the main body arrived and also found things well prepared by the advanced party. Crewleaders were briefed and work commenced. Major work effort was directed toward the Ordnance Magazine, Theater, PW Shop Stores, and Beach Recreation Projects. Plans and specs for the Seabee Compound Improvement Project were developed and submitted for review to COMCBLANT Det Naples. Training in Italian plastering was begun to improve crew skills for jobs such as the Beach Recreation and PW Shop Stores.

In La Maddalena, the main body arrived and was briefed so as to orient them to the site, projects, and local area. Work was begun on the Bowling Alley and steady progress was made. The stud walls were lengthened, pipe columns and joists were erected, and such work as the suspended ceiling begun. The EM/CPO Club project suffered from a lack of material. Urgent materials procured locally to avoid work stoppages. Electrical and plumbing hookups were begun. An additional project to construct a transit shed at La Maddalena was under consideration for tasking detachment.

In Edzell, Scotland, work was stopped on all projects except the Dependent School Addition in order that it could be completed by Mid-August. As the month came to a close, work was rapidly progressing with a heating system being locally procured in Edzell, the only hold up to a 15 August turnover.

In Holy Loch, Scotland, work was begun on the foundations and sub-slab utilities for the Snack Bar. Progress was slowed by the weather and lack of equipment. During August, work should progress to permit placing of the floor slab by early September.

The Haiti MTT departed Gulfport 21 July 1975 enroute to Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Upon arrival, they met with U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, ISHAM, and the Defense Attache, LTC KEY, for a discussion of the teams' mission. The team then moved on to their base of Operations, Les Cayes. The project site on the Cavillon-Baraderes Road was visited with Mr. JOSEPH, the Haitian District Engineer. Equipment operators and Mechanics begun work with Haitian personnel to establish maintenance program for the assigned construction equipment. Funding problems made securing POL difficult and as a result, operations were to a large extent curtailed. Also difficulties in securing replacement parts hinder progress of the maintenance program. During August, the team expected to complete arrangements for blasting supplies so that training in blasting practices and techniques could be begun.

HM2 COLEMAN was given a building in which to establish his clinic. In addition to the normal medical assistance provided, HM2 COLEMAN assisted Doctor NELSON, an American Missionary Doctor, in setting the arm of a Haitian which had been broken for over a month.

The Delay Party, which remained in Gulfport to continue work on NCTC training classrooms and shops, brought the Cable Splicing Facility to near completion with an expected 1 August turnover date. Work continued on the BU/SW Classroom area concentrated mainly on the Service Building. In the EO/CM Area work progressed as scheduled with plans to set the utilities pull box, oil separator in early August.

So was the month of July; a month of leaving friends and family, a month of new sights, new places, new sounds, a month of new challenges, the beginning of a new deployment with a great deal of important work to be accomplished in over a number of far flunge sites. NMCB-74's "Can Do More" attitude has already taken hold and the prospects for an outstanding deployment seem certain.

AUGUST 1975

In August, the battalion began the first full month of its European deployment. In Rota, construction was underway on a number of projects and substantial progress was made. The appearance of an evaluation team from COMCBLANT changed the tempo of activity as the Battalion launched into a mount-out exercise. For 48 hours, a round-the-clock operation was sustained as battalion equipment, supplies, and personnel were marshalled for a movement to support a hypothetical contingency operation. The exercise was an outstanding success with the Battalion dockside prepared for ship loading well within the 48 hours allowed. The personnel inspection of the battalion in full 782 gear and with weapons was conducted by CAPT RICKLES, COMCBLANT, who flew to Rota to personally view this test of the Atlantic Alert Battalion's readiness.

In conjunction with the mount out exercise, arrangements were made with PHIBRON 2 to permit the practice loading of the tank deck of an LST. A day long exercise was conducted with multiple loadings of the LST, Fairfax County. The training obtained was invaluable and a morale boost for those involved.

However, there was little time to dawdle and emphasis shifted back to the construction effort. SPN 32, ASTAC Facility was ready on 15 August 1975 when C5 aircraft delivered the first vans for installation. Van installation personnel report the site to be the most well prepared that they had encountered. Only minor items such as final site grading, hook up of area lighting, vestibule installation and site cleanup remain to be done.

SPN 35, Auto Mechanic Classroom, then received the emphasis of the construction effort. The classroom, part of the Dependent School, was scheduled for completion in early September to permit its use during the fall school term. All work except the completion of the installation of the heating boiler are expected to be done by the end of the second week in September. Crews from Alpha, Bravo, and Echo Companies combined efforts, overcame a number of material problems, and moved the project rapidly toward occupancy by eager young mechanics.

SPN 34, Housing Area Sidewalks, continued its rapid progress during August. Sidewalks adjacent to the school were completed prior to the opening of classes. Included in this effort was a one day placement of 537 feet of sidewalk. Remaining sections of sidewalk should be completed by the Echo Company crews before the end of September.

Alpha Company began work on the Fleet Recreation Center Facility, SPN 475. Grading work on the football field and running track was begun. Base preparations for the basketball courts was also begun. The project is on schedule and should meet the October turnover date.

Alpha Company shifted into high gear on SPN 40, Aviation Fuel Parking as Echo Company completed work on the concrete parking pads for the project. Final grading and compaction was in progress with the first asphalt to be laid the second week in September. This project should be completed prior to the end of September.

On SPN 39, Aires Training Room, Echo Company is making substantial progress. The footings and beddings were completed during the month. Early September will bring the placement of concrete for the columns. Also during September the floor slab should be completed and wall block laid for the exterior walls.

Bravo Company continue work on SPN451, Repair Lighting Pier I, though progress was slowed by the fact that deterioration of the lighting towards being rehabbed for exceeded the expected scope of the work. Additional materials were being procured for this project.

In Sigonella, construction also was moving ahead. Blastwall footings for SIC 25, Ordnance Magazines were excavated. The built up roof for the Beach Recreation Facility was placed and exterior plastering nearly completed. Design problems on the Theater, SIC 26, were resolved and construction begun once more. Excavation for steam lines for the Golf Coffee House were dug. Near month's end, ground was broken for the GSE Parking Area, SIC 18. Also during the month, a design for improvement of the Seabee Camp was submitted for approval.

In La Maddalena, work was progressing well on the Bowling Alley, SAR 415. The service entrance and rough electrical work were being installed. Work was targeted on having the facility ready for the AMF Tech Rep, who is to assist in the installation of the Bowling Lanes. Also the EM/CPO Club project, SAR 05, work is proceeding better than has been expected. Street lights were installed, permanent power cables run, and appliance and refrigeration items were repaired and reinstalled.

Word crews at La Maddalena also completed punchlist items on the Helo Pad. On the horizon, the tasking of erection of a Transit Shed Building adding a significant work load to the detachment.

In Holy Loch, work on the Snack Bar is proceeding ahead of foundation walls was completed. The floor slab was poured bringing the project to the 33% complete stage. September will bring erection of the exterior and load bearing walls and layout of the interior building partitions. Barring some unforeseen problems, the new Snack Bar facility should be completed prior to the established January 1976 completion date.

In Edzell, the detachment worked feverishly to meet the mid-August completion date on the Dependent School Addition, EDZ 401. The opening of classes 15 August necessitated the use of this space. The rooms were ready on time except for a locally procured heating system. With only minor work yet to be completed on the school, crews turned to on the other Edzell projects. Progress to date should permit departure of the detachment prior to year's end.

In Haiti, some progress was made on both securing explosives and on improving spare parts availability. By the end of August, dynamite had been obtained and early September should bring the beginning of blasting operations. The team assisted in the surveying for a 5000 foot water line for the West Indies Missionary Hospital at Bonne Fin. . The Medcap program moved ahead with the patient load rising to 400 people. Both AID and DAO are very pleased with the program.

The Gulfport Delay Party closed out their stay at CBC Gulfport and prepared to return to the Main Body. Projects were turned over to the 20TH NCR on 29 August after some 892 mandays of work had been completed. Frustrated often by delays in obtaining needed materials, the detail did complete the Cable Splicing Classroom Building and made significant progress on the BU/SW and EO/CM Classroom complexes.

As the month of August ended, the Battalion was once again firmly on track with its construction program. Adjustments in manpower were being planned to compensate for the release of non-designated non-rate personnel. The replacements of some 21 such personnel at Sigonella and the loss of others from the Main Body will limit the capabilities of the battalion and spread even thinner the available talent. However, the SEVENTY-FOUR "Does More" spirit will prevail and challenges of the coming months will successfully be met.

SEPTEMBER 1975

September brought the first quarter of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR'S European deployment to a close. The month saw a shifting of manpower between the main body and sites to fill the losses experienced by the detachments due to the non rate separation program. The loss of these men placed a significant manpower drain on the Battalion Main Body in Rota as losses at the detachments were replaced on a man for man basis. With the reductions being planned in the overall strength of battalions and the number of detachments currently operating in the European area, future battalions in Rota will have more limited capability to take on projects of any size.

With the battalion mount out having been held in August, September's efforts in Rota were centered on the Battalion's construction program. At the ASTAC Facility, SPN 32, the user had completed installation of the ASTAC Trailers and work resumed on site clean up. Construction of vestibule at the trailer complex entrance was begun. What had been expected to be a simple erection of a prefab kit, turned into a drawn out job of modifying and jerry-rigging materials so that they would fit together. The savings in dollars achieved by buying or using stock material rather than buying a prefab unit was more than offset by the tremendously more complicated erection process. Currently the final completion date of all aspects of SPN 32 is set for 15 October.

Work on placing concrete SPN34, Housing Area Sidewalks, was completed during the month on September by Echo Company crews.

All that remains to be completed is the final cleaning and dressing along the sidewalks route. Final inspection by ROICC is planned for 10 October, well ahead of the March 76 date called for by the BOD.

Echo Company also brought SPN 35, Auto Mechanic Classroom, to turnover status. While the minor checklist items such as installation of window screens remained, the classroom was available for the schools use by mid-September. Bravo Company completed installation of the school heating system boiler and was ready for certification testing which was scheduled for early October. Final inspection and ribbon cutting are planned for 10 October.

SPN 40, Aviation Fuel Parking, shifted into high gear as the Alpha Company asphalt crew moved in and paved the area. After a slow start as new personnel were trained and became familiar with the operation, the crew paved the main parking area in two days placing 300 tons and 450 tons respectively. After an extended curing period, a Jet Seal sealing compound will be placed, completing the project well before the March 76 BOD called for.

Alpha Company crews were also busy on SPN 475, Fleet Recreation Center Facility. Work neared completion on bringing the football to grade. Work began on the soccer field stripping top soil so grading operations could start. A San Cristobal base course was placed on the running track. Echo Company moved into the basketball court site and placed forms for the 58 yard concrete pour planned for early October. As October passes, activity on this project will increase as efforts are concentrated on meeting the established October completion date.

In the Ordnance Area, crews from Alpha, Bravo, and Echo Companies turned to on SPN 20, Ordnance Area Security, moving to meet the 15 November target completion date. Alpha Company concentrated on bringing storage berm areas up to grade while Bravo and Echo Companies centered their activity on the Ordnance Area Maintenance Shop.

Bravo Company finished the first lighting tower under SPN 451, Repair Pier I Lighting. Relamping of second tower was underway at month's end. Work has begun on another tower with rebuilding of deteriorated structural members being accomplished prior to sand blasting and repainting.

In non-construction efforts, the battalion continued its military training program with classroom sessions, close order drill and weapons cleaning being scheduled. Also on 13 September, the Human Resources Management Cycle and Phase II of the Equal Opportunity Program was started with the battalion completing the survey forms. The training programs was opened with the "Actions to Counter Racism" seminars. The program will continue through October.

In Sigonella, work continued on all projects. Construction on the Theater Addition, SIC 26, and Ordnance Magazines, SIC 25, moved ahead. Readjustments to crews made necessary by the non rate separation program and increased work load were made. GSE Parking SIC 18, PHII, moved past the 25 per cent point even though numerous problems with hidden, unmapped utilities were encountered. Finishing work continued on SIC 30, Beach Recreation Facility, SIC35, Public Works Shop Stores, and SIC 488, Golf Coffee House.

In La Maddalena, work forged ahead on the Bowling Alleys, SAR 415. An AMF representative was on site to assist in installation of the lanes and equipment. With the delivery of the heating system and insulation early in October, this project should reach completion on schedule with no further difficulties. The roof of the EM/CPO Club, SAR 05, has been fixed to prevent further leakage. Work on the interior is proceeding ahead of schedule. Exterior work on the power supply for the building is also continuing without problems. Work began on the Transit Shed, SAR601, which was tasked to the detachment during the month. Work preparing the slab was begun. Depending on the building kit delivery date, this project should be ready for erection of the building during October. The detachment also completed a major fill-in job, building a soccer field for the local Italian residents.

In Edzell, work continued on the Tape Equipment Room, EDZ 409, with completion by mid-November expected. Hardwood flooring for the Squash Court, EDZ 406, remains on order and must be received before that project can be completed. The outstanding progress being made at Edzell will permit movement of personnel to augment the Sigonella detachment with the first transfer to occur in mid-October.

In Holy Loch, the Snack Bar, UNK 503, reached the halfway point well ahead of schedule. Progress continues to be made even though the weather and living conditions are less than favorable. Unless additional projects are made available for work, this detachment could possibly complete all assigned work by mid-January.

In mid-September, EOC WIXSON and 12 personnel deployed to Souda Bay, Crete to complete CRE 09, Advance Base Facility. The detachments first days were spent bringing equipment back on line and inventorying materials. Work was begun on substation pads and trenching for electric power cable burial.

The Haiti MTT initiated blasting operations and training early in the month. Difficulty in obtaining parts continued to hinder the equipment maintenance program. The medical assistance effort continued to service a large number of patients with 100 being cared for in a two week period. Currently the Haiti MTT expects to redeploy to Gulfport, MS, on 24 October 1975 prior to returning to the main body.

As the September passed over the horizon and October dawned, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR looked forward in anticipation of another month of continued progress throughout the European theater. Progress made during the first two months would serve as the stepping stone to continued progress in the months ahead as the Battalion illustrated its "Does More" spirit.

OCTOBER 1975

With passing of October, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR moved closer to the Mid-point of its deployment. In Rota, a number of projects were completed. These included SPN 32, ASTAC Facility, SPN 35, Auto Mechanic Classroom, SPN 34, Housing Area Sidewalks, SPN 42, Hospital Hearing Booth, and SPN 01-04, Seabee Camp Armory. Work proceeded on a number of other projects

with the largest effort being placed on SPN 20, Ordnance Security Zone. On this project, a combined effort of Alpha, Bravo, and Echo Companies moved to complete the job by early December. The base course in the storage berm area was brought to grade and a grounding system installed. In other parts of the ordnance area, work continued on bringing fences to specified heights, and sealing gaps through which intruders might pass. The ordnance maintenance shop was nearly completed except for installation of a CO2 fire extinguisher system which has not yet arrived.

Alpha Company's other crews were spread between constructing the Fleet Recreation Center Facility, SPN 475, and repairing the ordnance area roads, SPN 29. While work is just beginning on the road project, at month's end all but the fertilizing and seeding of the recreation fields had been completed.

Bravo Company concentrated on the repair of Pier I Lighting SPN 451. At month's end, five of the 9 poles had been rehabbed and reinstalled. No problems should be encountered in meeting the December 1975 BOD of this project. Bravo Company also continued concentrating on the Seabee Camp area. Besides the usual camp maintenance effort, work on the Part II Warehouse, SPN 01-02, and Camp Heads Rehab, SPN 01-07, moved ahead with expected November completion for both projects. The next phase if approved by COMCBLANT will be a renovation of the quonset huts in the Seabee camp at Silver City.

Echo Company continued ahead of the Aires Training Room though construction was slowed by a lack of funds to purchase needed materials. Using materials excess from earlier projects has permitted this job to continue. The company also made outstanding progress on a rehab of BEQ 35, SPN 601, where Echo Company is billeted. Converting the open bay barracks into individual rooms was an improvement sought by the men as their enthusiasm on the job revealed. Echo Company began work on the piers for water crossings on SPN 476, Water Service Test Cell. This work should be completed the first week in November, thus completing preparations for span support and installation, and pipe placement. The delivery of other materials necessary to support this project are required if the January 1976 BOD is to be met.

The major construction projects forecast for the deployment remain in hold status. The Navy Lodge, SPN 15, cannot be begun until a new Spanish/American agreement is reached on the status of U. S. basis in Spain. The new Seabee Camp BEQs and utilities SPN 01-06, and SPN 0110, have run into siting problems and are in an indefinite hold. Work on the completion of the Calibration Lab, SPN 462, still is awaiting receipt of needed materials. A number of small jobs are being planned to fill in the gap left by these delays. Also detachment personnel who would normally return to Rota as their sites close are being programmed to augment other detachment work forces instead. At those detachments the workload is heavy and the construction pace furious.

In Sigonella, work continued on a number of jobs and was started on one other. In the Ordnance Area, SIC 25, the last lift needed to complete the walls on the magazines was placed and form work for the roofs was erected. Difficulties with scaffolding required redesign of the roof support system. Rebar erection continued for the blast walls at each of the three magazines.

The Beach Recreation Facility, SIC 30, continued toward a late November completion date. Finish plastering and other interior finish work was in progress. The Theater Addition at NAF I, SIC 26, proceeded to the column forming stage as the footings for the entire addition and the slab for the vestibule area were completed. Questions on the roof system to be used still continue to arise raising the possibility of future delays. Work on the interior of the Golf Coffee House, SIC 438, and the utility raceways to support it also continued during October. Excavation and grading work for GSE Parking, SIC 18 PHII, was completed after some difficulty in obtaining required fill for the site. Form work was starting as the month ended. At the Paint Spray Booth site, SIC 18-I, work begun with the base course being prepared and footings poured. Planning began for work on the AIMD Shop, SIC 18, PH III, which should begin in December. Also site work began within the Seabee Compound for the erection of an MLO facility. This building, vitally needed to protect currently exposed project materials, should hopefully be erected by early December.

In La Maddalena, a last push is underway to finish all projects in time to permit a closing of the detachment by Christmas. In the Bowling Alley, SAR 415, the lane installation was completed and the breakin tests performed. Work continued in the snack bar area and utility room with walls being finished and the suspended ceiling being installed. A mid-November completion date is expected on this project.

During the month, the Transit Shed, SAR 601, moved from a hole-in-the-ground to a nearly completed structure. An all hands effort for 24 hours was required to place the footings using a 16S mixer. Then working around rain, the slab was completed readying the site for building erection. At month's end, the completion of the roof and installation of sliding doors remained to be done. The concrete apron to be placed around the building was being designed by the detachment. Turnover of the Transit Shed is scheduled for mid-November.

The EM/CPO Club, SAR 05, on the island of La Maddalena has been slowed by a lack of materials. Lack of Linoleum had stopped work in the kitchen area but has since been delivered and work resumed. The temporary roof repairs have held during heavy rains and no further problems are expected. The turnover of this project by mid-November is totally dependent on receipt of stateside materials. The power project to support the EM/CPO Club, SAR 504, is still awaiting receipt of materials. Upon receipt of materials, the designers will have to visit the site to clarify currently foreseen problems.

November will bring the start of the Gym Overhead, SAR 04. Shortages of ZX4 had forced a redesign by the detachment of the fabrication plans for the job. With the current rate of progress, the detachment should be able to return to Rota approximately 20 December 1975.

As the Edzell detachment enters its last month, work continues on the Tape/Equipment Storage Room, EDZ 409. Slowed slightly by the non-availability of spray guns, painting continues. Already some personnel have been redeployed to either Holy Loch or Sigonella. 22 November is the expected date for final closing of the site.

In Holy Loch the Snack Bar, UNK 503, continues to forge ahead. Exterior and loadbearing walls were completed. The roof was 40% complete at month's end. Interior work on utilities and lighting within the Officers Club has begun. No problems are expected in meeting the January 1976 BOD.

In Souda Bay, excellent progress is being made on both the trenching for the distribution cable and the installation of air conditioning/heating units. A total of 1300 feet of trench has been dug, and 787 feet of cable placed. Two air conditioning/heating units are installed and a start has been made on wrapping of ducts. At the current rate of progress, a December project completion and site closure is forecast.

The Haiti MTT wound up its stay in Haiti and returned to Gulfport, MS. On 2 October 1975, U. S. Ambassador ISHAM visited the detachment at its deployment site. Explosive training for Haitian personnel continued. Excess Haitian government dynamite was destroyed. The equipment maintenance program which the detachment attempted to establish was to the end handicapped by a lack of spare parts. A total of 325 people were treated by the clinic during the last month of deployment. The team also helped with work at the West Indies Mission Hospital site at Bonne Finn blasting for the hydroelectric project and housing access road. The team proceeded to Port-Au-Prince on 22 October, and returned to Gulfport on 24 October for debriefing and processing prior to returning to the main body in Rota, Spain mid-November.

As the Battalion reached the midpoint in its deployment, a look back revealed much accomplished during the first four months in Europe. Ahead many challenges and a whole lot of construction to be completed. The "Does More" Battalion would rise to the occasion and move ahead making the deployment even more productive, and successful than the first half had been.

NOVEMBER 1975

November marked the midpoint of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR's European deployment. At the halfway point, it is possible to look back on the accomplishments gained from a lot of hard work and the memories of many good times. Ahead lies even more work as the push to accomplish the most possible prior to NMCB-4's arrival is on. If all goes well by mid-March, only one job will be turned over in Rota, leaving NMCB-4 a clean slate from which to start.

During November, work in Rota centered primarily on SPN 39, Aires Training Room, and SPN 20, Ordnance Security Zone. At the Aires Training Room, Echo Company moved ahead completing the exterior wall blockwork and forming for the bond beams and roof. Progress slowed as the crew experimented with the Spanish quick beams and roof tiles, gradually gaining confidence in their use. By the end of the month, all was nearly ready for the placing of concrete. A February completion date for this job still appears likely if lingering funding problems can be resolved.

On SPN 20, Ordnance Security Zone, work within the LAA area and Ordnance Maintenance Shop neared completion with only minor items left to be accomplished. In the berm munitions storage area, Alpha Company finished final earthwork to bring the base to grade and by month's end had laid over half the asphalt called for. December will bring Echo Company onto the job to grout the drainage ditches and Bravo Company to complete installation of the grounding system and overhead lightning protection system (SPN 496, Ordnance Area Lightning Protection).

Early in November, Alpha Company and Echo Company rounded up all work on SPN 475, Fleet Recreational Center Facility except for fertilizing and seeding which was delayed until more favorable planting conditions prevailed. Currently a mid-December turnover date is expected on this project.

Work on Repairing Pier I Lighting continued with seven poles now completed including one which had to be removed and later reset within a warehouse structure. Bravo Company expects to be completed by 18 December 1975, with all touch up work completed and turnover achieved by 31 December 1975.

Echo Company moved into the site for Phase II of Addition to Calibration Lab (SPN 462) during November. Work began on laying the block for the interior partitions within the existing building shell. Crews for this job were first given some training in block laying techniques at a camp improvement project SPN 01-24, Alpha Company Battery Shop. With the experience gained there, work on the Calibration Lab walls should proceed with little difficulty.

Within the Seabee Camp, Bravo Company worked on a number of projects. Repairs to the building skin sheet metal on the Part II Warehouse continued. Mid-December looks to be the time frame for completion of the building sealing efforts and turn on equipment. The last head requiring work on SPN 01-07, Seabee Camp Heads was also nearing completion at month's end with mid-December again appearing to be a reasonable completion date.

During November, go ahead was received on SPN 01-08 to rehab the BEQ's within Silver City. The project which breaks the open bay buildings into individual modules encountered some initial material problems but now should move ahead on a two BEQ per week schedule which will permit project completion prior to NMCB-74's departure from Rota.

In Rota, all was not work though. In November, military training played an important role. Besides the usual Saturday training sessions, a three day military training/FEX was held. Operating in remote areas on NAVSTA Rota, a reinforced Alpha Company was pitted against a combined force of Bravo and Echo Companies reinforced with part of Headquarters Company. Tactical marches, defensive perimeters, combat patrols, ambushes, and assaults filled the schedule as the sound of M16s and M60s filled the air. By the end, a weary battalion happily secured for a long Thanksgiving weekend.

At the detachment sites, construction not military training was the order of the day. In Sigonella, the highlight of the month was the placing on concrete for the roof of the second magazine. This represents a major step forward on SIC 25, Ordnance Magazine Project.

Efforts on SIC 18 Phase I, Paint Spray Booth, SIC 18 Phase II GSE Parking, SIC 26, Theater Addition, SIC 30, Beach Recreation Facility and SIC 438, Golf Coffee House all received an added boost as crews were augmented by personnel redeployed from the Edzell Scotland detachment which was closing out. A further boost in manpower is expected early in December when additional personnel were deployed to Sigonella from Rota. With this additional manpower projects should press ahead at an increased pace. Also, work on the Seabee Compound Improvements (SIC 02-01) were increased with the MLO Building being the first priority.

The pace in La Maddalena during November was also, to say the least, hectic. Early in the month a major effort was made to complete both the Bowling Alley (SAR 415) and the Transit Shed (SAR 601). At month's end, 3 of 14 punchlist items were left on the Bowling Alley and 1 of 5 was left on the Transit Shed. With the completion of these two projects, two others remain to be complete prior to the detachments departure from La Maddalena.

At the EM/CPO Club (SAR 05), the biggest problem looming ahead is a question over the adequacy of the power distribution system design. Disagreements still were to be resolved between the design engineer, the Italian Power Company and the Det as the month ended. Any major change in the design of the power tie-in most probably would slip closeout of the site.

The other remaining project is installation of the Gym Overhead, (SAR 04A). Work began in earnest on this job as manpower was freed from the Bowling Alley and Transit Shed and required materials arrived. An 6 man augment crew was sent to La Maddalena from Rota to assist on this job. An around-the-clock effort will be made to complete the job as quickly as possible to permit the gymnasiums reopening for full use.

During November, NMCB-74 closed out its Edzell Scotland Detachment. Work on EDZ 409, Tape/Equipment Storage Room, was completed as were those remaining punchlist items on other projects previously work on by Seabees at the site. Edzell personnel were redeployed to NMCB-74 detachment Holy Loch, Scotland, Sigonella, and to the main body in Rota.

At NMCB-74's other Scotland detachment, Holy Loch, work continued on the Snack Bar (UNK 503). The project through still ahead of schedule has been slowed rain and heavy frost which have prevented sealing of the roof. As the month closed work on the roof, the finishing of exterior walls and the installation of power and lights in the Officers Club were all nearing completion. The installation of plumbing was about half done and finishing of interior walls had just begun. A January completion date is still expected on this project.

In Souda Bay, the detachment continued to make excellent progress on completing CRE 09, Advance Base Facility. By month's end, only minor work was still required before a tie-in to base commercial power could be made. At the current rate of progress, the Det should be able to complete all its assigned work, ship all equipment, tools and vehicles, and be ready to return to Rota prior to Christmas nearly a full month ahead of schedule.

So as November faded into memories, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR launched into December striving to continue its record of doing more and completing more. The closeout of two detachment sites with all assigned work complete was likely. A number of projects would be completed and turned over to the user. With only three months left in the European Theater, NMCR-74 was well on its way to leaving a favorable lasting impression throughout the Naval Community in Europe as the battalion that delivered with a job well done.

DECEMBER 1975

Even though December marked the Holiday Season, the men of NMCB-74 made good progress on projects at Rota and all detachment sites. In early December, the NMCB-4 predeployment party, which included CDR MACDONALD, CO, LCDR HILDEBRAND, S4, LT SHELTON, S3, EQCM RUTHERFORD, MCPOC, and CMCS MALEPORT, Alpha Company Maintenance Supervisor, visited NMCB-74 at the deployment sites. Also during early December, the Annual Supply Inspection (ASI) was conducted with outstanding results. This was the second year in a row that the ASI was graded outstanding. Heavy rains for two weeks in the Rota Area did little to improve the water situation. At present, the Naval Station Rota is faced with curtailment of water service during certain hours of the day. The short range forecast is for little rain.

Alpha Company continued work on SPN 20, Ordnance Area Security Zone. In spite of the rain, asphaltting of the berm munitions storage area was completed. Earthwork and paving was started on other areas throughout the Ordnance Area. If the weather holds, all paving work is expected to be completed by the end of January. Work started on the drainage ditches with cement grout to prevent erosion and to provide adequate drainage.

After considerable delay due to inexperience with Spanish construction material and techniques, Echo Company reached a major milestone with the placement of the roof for SPN 39, Aires Training Facility. Exterior walls were plastered, and the project should be completed by the end of February. Echo Company also continued work on the addition to the Cal Lab, SPN 462. A substantial amount of the interior brick walls was placed, and electricians started running electrical conduit throughout the addition.

Bravo Company continued work on its projects at Pier II and throughout Silver City. The repair to lighting at Pier II, SPN 451, continued with a mid-January completion expected. Rehab projects throughout the Seabee Camp were in full swing. SPN 01-07, Seabee Camp Heads, neared completion with only punchlist items remaining. Good progress was made with the rehab to the BEQs within Silver City. Barracks life has improved with the construction of individual rooms.

At Signella, as usual, many visitors paid calls on SEVENTY-FOUR's largest detachment. The most important construction event of the month was ROICC's acceptance of the Beach Recreation Facility (SIC 30). Substantial progress was made on GSE Parking (SIC 18II), the Ordnance Magazine (SIC 25), and the Theater Addition (SIC 26). Work started on the erection of four Porta-Camps for the Line Operations Project (SIC 508). Work also began on the Air Frames Shop (SIC 18III). The new MLO Building for the Seabee Compound is expected to be completed in January. During December sewer and water service for the Seabee Compound took a step closer to reality with the installation of eighty feet of sewer and water line.

In La Maddalena, the size of the detachment was reduced from thirty one to eighteen on 23 December 1975. Four bays of the gym (SAR 04) were completed with the fifth bay awaiting procurement of materials. The Bowling Alley (SAR 415) and Transit Shed (SAR 601) projects have only punchlist items remaining. Exterior painting continued on the EM/CPO Club (SAR 05) and power distribution work continued for the substation (SAR 504). Unless the recreation field (SAR 11) is started, Det La Meddalena will be disestablished in late January or early February.

In Holy Loch, the Snack Bar (UNK 503) showed much progress. The roof was sealed completely with only the installation of the skylights remaining to complete the roof. Since the building was roofed and the interior sheltered from the elements plastering of the walls and installing of the ceiling moved quickly. Windows were installed, and some radiators made operational. Mechanical and electrical work continued to show substantial gains with the installation of heat ducts and overhead electrical service.

Detachment Souda Bay was disestablished on 22 December 1975, with redeployment to the main body. However, two construction electricians stayed behind in Crete to test the new electrical system. Tests should be completed by the middle of January, and the two men will be sent to the new detachment located at Nea Makri, Greece.

JANUARY 1976

As Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR rolled into the new year, it also entered the home stretch of its European deployment. Projects were pushed toward completion in Rota and at the detachment sites of Sigonella, La Maddalena, Holy Loch, and Nea Makri.

In Rota, projects moved ahead as the weather remained dry and sunny except for a few days at month's end. In the Ordnance Area (SPN 20), Echo Company moved into the berm area and began the tedious task of forming and pouring drainage ditches. A month of hard work left only a little more than one week of work to completion of the CO2 system in the Ordnance Maintenance Shop upon arrival of parts in the outstanding item on that phase of the project. Weather permitting, mid to late February should see the final turnover this long standing project.

Cable over storage sites was strung to contractor erected towers. Final tie into the grounding grid was also completed.

Echo Company moved ahead on two projects that will service the aircraft maintenance functions in Rota. Aires Training Room (SPN 39) surged ahead with the built up roof being applied, exterior plastering completed, and interior walls being erected. Bravo Company UT's and CE's worked along setting hangers for lights, running interior wiring, and completing piping for connection of the heating and sprinkler systems. Completion by the end of February still appears possible. At the addition to the Calibration Lab, (SPN 462), erection of interior block walls continued. On wall sections completed, plastering was started. Electricians continued to keep pace with the rapidly rising walls, setting conduit in place to support the elaborate electrical and mechanical needs of the building.

Bravo Company began work on the water line to the Jet Test Cell (SPN 476). Trenching, bed laying, and pipelaying operations were all underway. The crossing of the first low point had been completed. Completion by early March of the entire project is possible if fair weather continues.

Alpha Company while primarily concentrating on the Ordnance Area did do work elsewhere. The failed road section of the Aviation Fuel Parking Area (SPN 40) was excavated, rebuilt and repaved. Also repaved were the locations of the various spills from customer vehicles which are utilizing the area.

Echo Company completed another sidewalk project; this one being the from the Rota Gate into the main base area.

Within the Seabee Camp the rehab of BEQs continued with 21 huts completed. All huts are to be completed by the arrival of NMCB-4's Advance Party. A paint out of the entire interior space of each BEQ is currently planned to start early in February. The older head facilities within the BEQ area are being restored by Bravo Company personnel (SPN 01-35). This involves a change-out of all the 20 plus year old piping which has gone beyond its useful life due to age and the extremely hard water in this area. These projects in addition to an aggressive camp maintenance operation have improved the habitability of the Silver City BEQ's immensely.

In Sigonella, the month of January brought the rains and a slowdown of construction progress. Work on the footers and piers at the Airframes Bldg (SIC 18 PH III) was made difficult to say the least by the muddy conditions encountered. The installation of portacamps was completed on SIC 508, Line Ops Bldg, and preparations made to begin the interior rehab of VR-24's line operations hut. GSE Parking (SIC 18 PH II) reached the end of January in find the missing fence gate finally arriving on site, thereby allowing completion of the job early in February. Work continued on the Base Theater Addition (SIC 26) and the Ordnance Area Magazine (SIC 25) as the detachment strove to reach their turnover progress goals inspite of the rain. The Golf Coffee House (SIC 438) was receiving finishing touches at month's end and should be completed the first week in February. Within the Seabee Compound the MLO Bldg (SIC 02-01) was finished and movement of previously exposed supplies into its protection was completed. Worked on both Collateral Equipment Storage and Soils Lab is halfway completed.

In La Maddalena, punchlists on the Gymnasium (SAR 04), Bowling Alley (SAR 415), and T-Shed (SAR 601) were all closed out. SAR 04A, Gymnasium Overhead, remained in a hold status pending the arrival of additional materials for the 5th bay. Within the area already completed, a basketball tournament started. At the EM/CPO Club, site work was progressing well. Painting of both interior and exterior was done. Final cleanup of many areas has begun. Installation of appliances, flooring, wall covering, gutters and windows was underway. Repair of the parking lot should be completed early in February. Hook-up of commercial power was being held up at month's end as a result of ENEL's (Italian Power Co) disapproval of the designed system. A EURBRANCH REP is to visit the site in mid February to resolve the problem. If all goes well the EM/CPO Club and power hook-up should be completed by late February.

Much further north in Scotland, the Snack Bar (UNK 503) moved nearer and nearer to completion even though weather has been less than favorable. The outdoor refrigerators were finally installed after numerous bouts with the wind. Inside the snack bar, kitchen equipment was moved into place and installation begun. In the dining room and entrance hallway, final painting, finishing and cleanup work was in progress. At the current rate of progress the facility should be ready for turnover by early February.

January saw the opening of NAVCOMSTA Nea Makri Greece as a Seabee detachment site. Thirteen personnel deployed 6 January 1976 from Rota to Nea Makri. Under OIC, EOC WIXON, the detachment of the equipment house turned to on GRE 648, Sewage Chlorination System. Work on laying block for the walls had begun by month's end. At the current rate of progress the chlorination system should be ready for use by 1 March. On GRE 649, Rehab Air Conditioning Units, progress to date has been quicker than expected. While no completion date can be forecast due to the large number of units to be done, completion ahead of the Jan 77 BOD is probable.

The battalion, then, moves into the last full month of its European deployment. The fruits of many long months of labor are reaching completion. The remaining month and a half in Europe will see the completion of many projects and the reaching of turnover progress points on others. The arrival of NMCB-4's Advance Party in late February should find construction throughout the Mediterranean proceeding forward, ready for a smooth and eventful turnover in March.

FEBRUARY 1976

For Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR, February was the last full month of a long and highly successful deployment to the European theater. In Rota and at all the detachment sites, that little extra effort needed was exerted to complete many jobs that were in their final stages.

Road repair work within the Magazine (SPN 29) was completed with sand sealing operations and road shoulder grading being finished during February. Alpha Company also completed repair work on a failed section of the Aviation Fuel Parking Area (SPN 40) and applied the jet sealer required to protect the recently laid asphalt from fuel spills.

Echo Company tackled three major tasks during February. First a painting of all three decks of NAVSTA Rota BEQ 35 in order to prepare it for the arrival of NMCB-4, while not a complicated task, the shortened time frame allowed for the project required a significant company effort. Echo Company this month moved past the 90% completion point on the Aires Training Room (SPN 39). Block for interior walls has been laid up, plastering completed, and painting begun. Bravo Company working alongside the Echo Company crews, finished the building's electrical hookup and also made operational tests of the sprinkler and heating systems. Completion with the exception of minor punchlist items is expected by 10 March. At the Calibration Lab site (SPN 462), block work continued with the interior partitions very close to completion. Plastering crews closely followed block crews applying scratch and finish coats. The mechanical room building addition was also erected. At month's end the likelihood of all feasible builder and steelworker work being done by turnover was within reach. NMCB-4 will primarily be faced with installation of the multitude of pieces of mechanical equipment and ductwork required for the project.

Bravo Company concentrated its efforts in two areas. On the project front, the work at laying the pipeline to the test cell (SPN 476) reached the hydrostatic testing stage. If the line holds the pressure and no leaks develop, backfilling of the pipeline route will be completed prior to turnover. NMCB-4 will only have the 300 foot run of 3 inch pipe called for by a late change order to install and test.

On the Seabee Camp front, Bravo Company completed the partitioning of the BEQ's into individual cubicles (SPN 01-08). The electrical modifications (primarily lighting), are awaiting the delivery of required materials and will be a part of NMCB-4's tasking. A rehab of the older heads within the camp also received extra effort. As the time for turnover approaches, three heads have been completed and the fourth is awaiting the delivery of plumbing materials prior to the start of work.

During February, a problem of overloaded primary electrical feeder transformers was discovered. An urgent project was funded and through the combined efforts of Bravo Company and Public Works, the overload condition was relieved by stringing a new primary feeder to the Seabee Camp BEQs. During this period, a paint out of the entire BEQ area was also in progress. Current plans call for all BEQs to be painted prior to turnover to NMCB-4.

In Sigonella, the rains still dictate the rate of construction progress. February like January saw many days of inclement weather. On the Air Frames project (SIC 18 Phase III), the placing of concrete for piers and grade beam became extremely difficult with weather the primary cause. By turnover, at least part of the slab as well as grade beam and piers will be completed. The GSE Parking area (SIC 18 Phase II), was completed and the entire job sold to the ROICC. At the Base Theater, (SIC 26), blockwork on the addition was begun. Electricity and other utilities were installed within the new addition. The concrete for the roof of the third and final Ordnance Magazine was placed (SIC 25). Work pressed ahead on the remaining sections of the blast and retaining walls to be completed. Final touches on the Golf Coffee House, (SIC 438), were completed and the project turned over to the ROICC. Within the Seabee Compound, work continued on installing required utility lines and connections (SIC 02-01).

In La Maddalena, February saw all efforts concentrated on completion of the FM/CPO Club (SAR 05) and its connection to commercial power (SAR 504). While work on the final finishing touches continued inside the club, outside a major problem was developing over hook up of commercial power. ENEL (Italian Power Co) disagreed with the designed tie in and refused to proceed with the job. A EURBRANCH Engineer was sent from Naples to resolve the items at issue. Some minor material changes were made and by 20 February, power hookup was completed. On 23 February, a final inspection by ROICC, Det La Maddalena OIC, S3 NMCB-74, and OIC COMCBLANT Det Naples was conducted. A list of punchlist items was prepared, many of which could not be completed without delivery of parts already on order. The detachment worked long into the nights the last week in February, completing all punchlist items not dependent on materials, preparing equipment for shipment, arranging for movement of camp gear to Rota, and accomplishing all actions necessary to close the detachment. On 27 February, the last personnel departed La Maddalena enroute to Rota and seats on the Advance Party aircraft home.

Det Holy Loch brought the Exchange Snack Bar to completion during the first week of February. The turnover inspection was held 7 February. On 24 February, a grand opening was held and attended by COMNAVACTSUK, COMSUBRON FOURTEEN, and others. High praise for the work done on the facility was heard from all attending. There was no rest for the men of Det Holy Loch as they turned to on the Rankine Garage alterations and rehab, (UNK 504). Work on a number of phases of this job were begun. A target of 50% completion by the time of turnover is expected.

In Nea Makri, work proceeded ahead of schedule. The Sewage Chlorination System (GRE 648) was completed except for the hook up of commercial power which was delayed due to rain and snow late in the month. No problem is expected in completing the job prior to turnover. Also proceeding on or ahead of schedule was the rehab of Comm Van air conditioners; 16 of 78 units have been completed and a possible total of 20 may be completed prior to turnover of the site to NMCB-4.

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As March arrives, so does the Advance Party of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR. Ahead are the BEEP, and camp and project turnovers. Soon, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR will be relinquishing its position as Atlantic Alert Battalion, and boarding aircraft for the flight home. Behind will be left an impressive and outstanding construction record which will challenge all those who follow.

MARCH 1976

For U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR, the coming of March brought the beginning of the BEEP and turnover necessary to pass the reins to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR. In Rota and at the detachment sites of Sigonella, Sicily, Holy Loch, United Kingdom, and Nea Makri, Greece, one last push was made to complete as many projects as possible prior to Seventy-Four's departure from Europe.

In Rota, only one major project was to be turned over, SPN 462, Calibration Lab. Echo Company, working up until the last few days, finished erecting all walls and accomplished a major part of the plastering required. The mechanical room addition was completed except for its roof. NMCR-4 should be able to begin the installation of the extensive mechanical support systems shortly after arrival on site.

A number of Rota projects were completed in the last few days of the deployment. SPN 20, Ordnance Area Security Zone, was sold to ROICC after the completion of the CO2 System installation in the Ordnance Maintenance Shop by Bravo Company. Many long hours by crews from Echo Company also permitted SPN 39, Aires Training Room, to be turned over to the customer. The training room addition was a project which Seventy-Four had built from the ground up and had encountered all phases of the unique styles of European construction. Bravo Company completed the main segment of the Water Line to the Jet Test Cell, SPN 476, leaving only a short run to a fire training area to be accomplished by NMCR-4. The spur had been added by change order in January and pipe necessary to it had not yet reached Rota.

In Sigonella, work was concentrated on finishing those final punchlist items on projects completed during the deployment. The Beach Recreation Facility (SIC 30), Public Works Shop Stores (SIC 35), Golf Coffee House (SIC 438), Paint Spray Booth (SIC 18 Phase I), and GSE Parking Area (SIC 18 Phase II), all received a last once over to insure everything possible was completed. Two sections of the floor slab for the Air Frames Shop (SIC 18 Phase III) were also placed prior to turning that project over to NMCR-4.

In Holy Loch, work on the rehab of the Rankine Garage (UNK 504) continued. The project was over halfway completed by turnover. Prior to departure from the site, as many as possible of the outstanding punchlist items on the Snack Bar (UNK 503) were completed.

On 14 March the first flight of the Main Body left Rota to be followed on the 15th by the remainder of the Main Body after the formal turnover between CDR LEONARD, CO NMCB-74, and CDR MCDONALD, CO NMCB-4. Det Sigonella and Det Holy Loch traveled separately and arrived in homeport 13 and 18 March respectively. Upon return to NCBC Gulfport Mississippi, the men of Seventy-Four were reunited with loved ones and families. Behind in Europe was left an outstanding record of quality construction, accomplished in many cases in the most trying of conditions. For this all can be proud. Those who follow have a high standard set for which they may strive.