HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS DIVISION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION WASHINGTON 25. D. C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

By Col. Robert A. Clubb, USMG

WITH THE FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING IN KOREA-The Seabees have landed and the Marines are happy again.

Their old affinity was renewed when a hard-charging crew of Navy Construction Battalion Men "nailed down" a horrible mountain road for a semi-isolated Marine ground control intercept squardron. The Marines were 21 miles from their source of supplies and were hampered for months by bridge washouts.

The Seabees were directed by Chief Petty Officer Charles H. Gamble, of 80 Kimball Road, Fitchburg, Mass. They worked in cooperation with First Lieutenant Roland O. Smith, the Marine squadron transportation officer, and built four bridges capable of supporting a heavy tank in two weeks.

The Seabees worked from dawn to dusk in five-below-zero temperatures. They had to strengthen several bridges before they could get at the real job. Their equipment: spikes, handsaws, hammers, and four-by 12-inch timbers. Chief Gamble took measurements and promised the Marines the Seabees could rebuild any of the bridges in six hours.

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After dark, in their "spare time", the Seabees improved the Marines' camp site. They built a cement sidewalk around the mess hall, an almost unheard-of luxury in Korea.

The Seabees have been in Korea since last October when they arrived from duty on Guam and Saipan.

Gamble has been a Navy man for 12 years, a Seabee for 10. His wife, Anja H., lives in Fitchburg. His mother, Mrs. Zella Kempfer, lives at 90 Fenway St., Boston, Mass.

Lt. Smith, his wife, Hazel, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Smith, reside at 5601 Roberts Ave., Oakland, Calif. -USMC-