

Preface

Between October 1952 and July 1953 two bridges of unusual design were built over the Imjin River in central Korea within range of the enemy's light artillery. One was a high-level highway bridge which would be a credit to any state highway system in the United States; the other was an experimental "low-water" bridge which is expected to survive being submerged by the river which it spans. This monograph explains why these bridges were built, and presents some of the problems which had to be solved, obstacles overcome, and hardships endured by the 84th Engineer Construction Battalion that built them.

The narrative is written to be understood by the professional soldier who may have little or no knowledge of engineering and its special language. For the engineer, however, who might be interested in the technical aspects, many of the engineering details are included in the supporting documents. In addition, completed "as-built" tracings of the high-level bridge (Libby) have been forwarded to the Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, by the 84th Engineer Construction Battalion.¹

The initial research and rough draft of the narrative were done by Major William R. Farquhar, Jr. After his departure from this organization the project was completed and put in final form by Major Henry A. Jeffers, Jr.

When this project was reviewed by the Commanding Officer, 2d Engineer Construction Group, he suggested that a resume of the designing phase of the two bridges might be of interest to other Army Engineers. This informal resume was prepared by his headquarters and is attached.

Seoul, Korea
21 September 1953