

1969

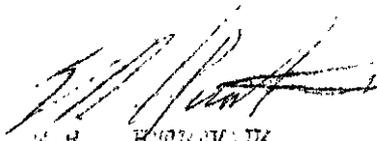
ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

63rd Transportation Company (Light Truck)

1 January 1969 - 31 December 1969

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United States Army Vietnam

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The year 1969 was possibly the most stable one the 63rd Transportation Company has seen since its arrival to the shores of the Republic of Vietnam. Only one complete PCS was made during the entire year when the unit moved from Phu Bai to Chu Lai on 24 January 1969. It came under the control of the 57th Transportation Battalion as it was when the company was at Wunder Beach in 1968 (March to August).

With the command of 1LT Mark N. Cornett as commanding officer and SFC Calvin C. Deeds as First Sergeant, the unit hauled all forms of cargo in support of the Americal Division and its forward areas for the majority of the year. The Third Platoon supported the Duc Pho area where they have been for the last two years under the command of Task Force 80-2 (later changed to Task Force 57-2 and LZ Baldy).

During its PCS from Phu Bai, the unit picked up the Second Platoon in Da Nang where the platoon was TDY for four months with the 363rd Transportation Company. Upon arrival, the company immediately set up tents and lived in them for the next seven months. In 24 hours, the unit was on commitment but only through the alacrity of the Operations Section was this possible.

On 9 January 1969, SSG James E. Sweeney arrived to take charge of the Supply Section of the unit. His arrival filled the TOE position left vacant when SSG John T. Weeks left the unit in August 1968. Through his supervision, the unit was never in need of essential supplies.

On 2 February 1969, SFC Sam A. Dickey arrived to take over the Maintenance Sergeant position which was being held by SFC James B. Applegate. SFC Applegate departed this unit on 16 March 1969 for normal DEROS back to the states.

On 6 February 1969, 1SG George E. Terry arrived to take over as First Sergeant. SFC Calvin C. Deeds who was holding the First Sergeant's position returned at that time to Duc Pho to take charge of the Third Platoon.

On 13 April 1969, 1LT Allan J. Matchie arrived to this unit from the 23rd S&P Battalion, Americal Division. 1LT Matchie made the officer's section up to strength as it had been short one officer for the last eight months.

On 29 April 1969, the 4th Quartermaster Detachment (Bakery) was attached to this unit. Previously, it was independent. On 27 June 1969, the bakery had its IG Inspection, through the excellent command of SFC James N. Manley, they were adjudged outstanding in military bearing.

On 23 May 1969, 1SG George W. Terry was medevaced to Japan due to poor health. Replacing him was SFC James N. Manley who had previously held the Truckmaster's position.

On 8 June 1969, the unit received twenty-seven (27) new vehicles from Da Nang. This was an effort to get the unit's TOE task vehicles up to strength. A convoy was dispatched on 9 June from Da Nang with almost fifty percent of the unit participating in the convoy to bring the 2½ ton trucks to the unit.

On 10 June 1969, after almost four years of service in Vietnam, SFC Calvin C. Deeds returned to the states. SFC Deeds was the last original member of this unit which came to Vietnam from Ft Eustis, Virginia in 1965. He had served with the unit for a total of six years.

On 14 June 1969, CPT Kit B. Mansfield was assigned to the 63rd Transportation Company. He replaced 1LT Mark N. Hornett who later left on 28 June for normal rotation back to the states.

The Third Platoon on 22 June 1969 once more saw another ambush in an area which is known as the "Kill Zone". Two persons were injured, one seriously. SGT Max L. Sills was medevaced to Japan for intensive care from injuries sustained. A total of three vehicles were washed out as combat losses from this ambush.

On 8 July 1969, SFC James D. Susi departed this unit for normal DDAOS back to the states. He had held the position of Truckmaster (and Platoon Sergeant when the Second Platoon was in Da Nang) while in the unit. Replacing him as Truckmaster was SFC George J. Rael.

1LT John B. Brentlinger arrived at the unit on 27 July 1969. He replaced 1LT Ruben E. Trevino as Property Book Officer and Platoon Leader. 1LT Trevino was transferred to HHD, 57th Transportation Battalion on 28 July 1969.

On 11 August, the day of MPC Conversion, the unit moved from LZ Mudd to the old 737th Transportation Company area. At this time, the unit picked up sixty-six personnel who remained in Vietnam from the 737th Trans Co. In addition to personnel, the unit received eighteen tankers, forty-six five ton tractors, twenty S&P Trailers and six 2½ ton trucks. Also, on 11 August, the unit picked up the 569th General Support Company (-) (Class I) on attached orders.

1LT James W. Anderson left this unit on 1 September back to the states for discharge purposes. When he left, the unit was short one officer and would remain so for the next two weeks. On 14 September 1969, 1LT Robert H. Stromquist arrived to this unit and was immediately sent to Duc Pho to take charge of the platoon.

On 4 September 1969, WO2 Alfred E. Wynne departed this unit after a year of service in Vietnam. The warrant officer's position remained unfilled until the end of the year when WO1 James F. Short arrived on 31 December 1969.

S<sup>SG</sup> Jaime Henriquez-Pabon arrived to this unit on 10 September from the states. He held the position of Mess Steward which was vacant for a period of thirteen months when S<sup>SG</sup> Garcia left. (S<sup>SG</sup> Henriquez was transferred to another unit at the close of the year)

On 20 September 1969, 1SG James A. Pinder arrived to this unit to assume the position of First Sergeant. The position was vacant since May, but the unit managed to function in a most capable manner through the outstanding leadership ability of S<sup>FC</sup> Manley. Upon the arrival of 1SG Pinder, S<sup>FC</sup> Manley took charge of all convoys until his departure from Vietnam.

On 4 October 1969, 2LT Edward J. Coleman arrived to replace 1LT Allen J. Matchie on the Second Platoon who left for separation back in the states on 7 October 1969.

After two years of service with the 63rd Transportation Company, SP5 Gerald W. Mitchell departed to return to the states for separation. He was with the Third Platoon in Duc Pho and was the last of the original members who went there in August 1967 supposedly on 60 days TDY. He was awarded the Bronze Star for "service upon departure.

On 6 November 1969, while the unit was on convoy to Duc Pho, PFC Charles L. Shepherd's S&P was hit by several RPG rounds. Though his truck was burning, PFC Shepherd continued to drive his truck until he was out of distance from a hamlet. As a consequence, his truck was completely demolished (he carried powder charges) and washed out as a combat loss. The following day, COL Smith, the Da Nang Support Commander came down to the unit and presented PFC Shepherd the Bronze Star for Valor.

24 November 1969 marked the assumption of command for CPT E.R. Quatrevaux. He was transferred from the 403rd Transportation Company in Da Nang and CPT Kit B. Mansfield was transferred to the 92nd Transportation Battalion (Provisional) as S-3 Officer in Da Nang.

On 18 December 1969, the 4th QM Detachment (Bakery) was released from the 63rd Transportation Company. It was re-attached to the 226th S&S Company. This left only the 569th Class I Platoon attached.

25 December 1969 was the day S<sup>SG</sup> James E. Sweeney departed for rotation back to the states. Replacing him was S<sup>SG</sup> Sidney T. Dennis who was transferred from HHD, 57th Transportation Battalion.

As the year closed, the unit began to experience it's yearly turnover of personnel. By the closing of the decade, 50% of the unit, to include 75% of the NCO's departed to the states and replacements came in slow lots.



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