

UNIT HISTORY

360TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY  
(MEDIUM TRUCK PETROLEUM)

"You Name It, We've Been There"

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## PREFACE

The 360th Transportation Company (Medium Truck Petroleum) arrived in Vietnam on 21 October 1966 and at the beginning of the calendar year 1967, was split, with the Headquarters and Third Platoon at Tuy Hoa and the remaining two platoons in Cam Ranh Bay. In the course of the year the company was subdivided further extending its fuel hauling mission to the far corners of the II Corps Area and beyond. The end of the year found elements of the 360th Transportation Company in Duc Pho and An Khe, with the headquarters in Cam Ranh Bay. This account is an attempt to relate as accurately as possible the events which transpired in the course of the calendar year 1967.

The beginning of the year 1967 found the 360th Transportation Company (Medium Truck Petroleum) divided between two (2) locations. The Company Headquarters and the Third Platoon were assigned to the 39th Transportation Battalion in Tuy Hoa and the two (2) remaining platoons in Cam Ranh Bay were assigned to the 36th Transportation Battalion.

The Company was commanded by Captain William R. Lippencott Jr, TC, with MSG Earl Leach the Company First Sergeant. The element in Tuy Hoa supplied the Tuy Hoa Air Force Base and other military units in the area. The two (2) platoons in Cam Ranh Bay performed both local and line haul missions.

April was a rather erratic month for the 360th Transportation Company. That month the two (2) platoons returned to Cam Ranh Bay from Tuy Hoa and the company was once again united and was reassigned to the 57th Transportation Battalion. That same month the 360th sent twelve (12) 5 ton tractors and twelve (12) 5,000 gallon trailers under 1LT Charles Russell Jr, TDY to Duc Pho. At Duc Pho they were further subdivided and part of that group, with SP4 Johnson in charge, moved to Chu Lai.

The platoon at Duc Pho/Chu Lai was involved in the clearing of the Sa Huynh Port Operations, which is located approximately sixteen (16) miles south of Duc Pho and seventeen (17) miles north of Bong Son. The platoon was also involved in the general support of Task Force McDonald and direct support of the Special Forces/CIDG Camp. The 360th Transportation

Platoon did line haul operations to Chu Lai and Qui Nhon and has performed drive away missions. Their task vehicles hauled POL, dry cargo, refrigerated cargo, and bulk and engineer equipment by using various types of tractor trailer combinations.

In June, LT Charles R. Marken joined the company as platoon leader. Shortly thereafter his platoon was sent TDY to An Khe. The element in An Khe aided the 359th Transportation Company in keeping the 4th Infantry Division, the 173rd Airborne Brigade and units of the 1st Air Cav in Pleiku supplied with direly needed POL products. LT Charles R. Marken left the platoon in October and Sergeant Bobby A. Williams was the NCOIC. During the Dac To Crisis in December of 1967, this platoon kept the 1st Air Cav supplied with POL by running continuous convoys between An Khe and Dac To.

In July, the 360th Transportation Company withstood the impact of the IG Inspection and came through with flying colors.

During the months of August and September, the 360th witnessed a complete turnover in personnel. The "veterans" who had come over with the unit from Fort Riley, Kansas, rotated back to the states as their replacements arrived. 1SG Earl Leach returned to the CONUS and 1SG Earl Brown took over as Company First Sergeant. 1LT Gary W. Zimmerman arrived and was assigned to the platoon in Duc Pho to replace 1LT Charles Russell. On 18 September 1967, Captain Samuel F. Broadie arrived and then assumed command of the 360th Transportation Company from Captain William Lippencott on the 23rd of September 1967. At the end of September the company moved out of their tents to billets in the contonement area.

CW4 Howard K. Perry took over CW3 Virgil White's position as Maintenance Officer. SFC Mack Stewart left the unit shortly after being commissioned a 1SG and SFC Bernard Frazier replaced him as truckmaster. 1LT Danny G. Harowitz was assigned late in the month as platoon leader.

In October, the 360th Transportation Company managed to claim a historical "first" in Vietnam. The Company was the first to haul Sea Land roll-on, roll-off trailers and the first convoy, marked by fanfare and parades, departed for Phan Rang. SSG William F. Lucas arrived to replace SSG Phillip Wilson as Supply Sergeant. In the Motor Pool, SFC Milburn Myers rotated back to the states and SFC David Shotwell was assigned as Motor Sergeant.

The GMMI inspection team pounced on the 360th in mid-October and gave the company an outstanding score. One (1) 5 ton tractor in the motor pool came through the inspection unscathed. The drivers SP4 Clarence Johnson and SP4 Richard Ciurzynski were awarded an additional R&R, a three day pass, and a letter of commendation for managing to pass their equipment without one gig. In the Mess Hall SSG Sammie Gray replaced the departing SSG George Dillard as Mess Sergeant.

In November, the 360th Motor Pool was moved to its present location and this helped a little to ease the burden of the maintenance crew. 1LT Benjamin Burford arrived and was assigned to the platoon in Duc Pho to replace 1LT Gary W. Zimmerman. Another momentous incident in November was the arrival of eight (8) new vitally needed tractors.

1SG Earl Brown rotated back to the CONUS in December and 1SG Billie Stokes arrived to replace him as Company First Sergeant. On the 19th of that month the 360th Transportation Company was reassigned to the 262d Quartermaster Battalion (Petroleum), commanded by LTC Billy A. Spinks.

The highlight of the month occurred when the 360th Mess Hall, under the direction of SSG Sammie Gray won the award as Best Mess of the entire Camp Ranb Bay area.

In retrospect, 1967 was a difficult but highly successful year. It was a period of many disappointments and obstacles which had to be conquered. However, the obstacles were outnumbered by the innumerable successes and achievements which were made possible only by the hard work and the desire to succeed by the officers and men of the 360th Transportation Company. New Year's Eve found the unit looking back proudly on the year past and with confidence to the year ahead.