

UNIT HISTORY

541st TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (LIGHT TRUCK)

124th TRANSPORTATION BATTALION (TRUCK)

USA SUPPORT COMMAND, QUI NHON

January 1969 thru December 1969

Prepared By

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541st TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (LIGHT TRUCK)

Date Prepared

1 March 1970

Approved By



THOMAS D. WARD

CPT, TC

Commanding

APO 96318

## I. INTRODUCTION:

For the past year, the 541st Transportation Company has been stationed in Fleiku under the 124th Transportation Battalion located at Camp Wilson.

## II. MISSION AND RESOURCES:

a. To provide transportation for the movement of general cargo and personnel by motor transport.

### b. Capabilities:

(1) For Line Local: 720 short tons of cargo (4 tons per truck) based on 75 percent availability of vehicles and 4 trips daily on highway, 3,600 passengers (20 passengers per truck) on or off highway.

(2) For Line Hauls: 360 short tons of cargo (4 tons per truck) based on 75 percent availability of vehicles and 2 trips daily on highway, or 1440 passengers (16 passengers per truck) on or off highway.

(3) 112.5 short tons of cargo ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  tons per truck) in one lift off highway.

### c. Organization:

Organization consists of a company headquarters, three (3) truck platoons and a maintenance section. Each platoon consists of two (2) truck squads.

### d. Personnel:

(1) Company Headquarters is authorized twenty (20) personnel to include Company Commander, First Sergeant, Truckmaster, Company Clerk, Assistant Truckmaster, Mess Personnel, Supply Personnel, Armorer, and Dispatcher.

(2) Three (3) truck platoons consists of Platoon Leaders, Platoon Sergeants, Assistant Platoon Sergeants, Squad Leaders, and Light Truck Drivers for a total of one hundred thirty-eight (138) personnel.

(3) The Maintenance Section consists of a Maintenance Technician, Motor Maintenance Sergeant, Shop Clerk, Mechanics, Mechanics Helpers, Maintenance Data Specialists, and a Wrecker Operator for a total of seventeen (17) personnel.

The Company is authorized a total of one hundred seventy (170) enlisted men and five (5) Officers.

e. The vehicles the unit is authorized are sixty-six (66) 2½ ton trucks, five (5) ½ ton trucks, one (1) 5 ton wrecker, twenty-two (22) 1½ ton trailers, and five (5) ½ ton trailers.

f. The Company has Mess, Bathing, and Recreational Facilities available. The men are billeted in standard type army barracks. A Chapel, Theater, Library, and Photo Lab are available on the compound for the use of all personnel.

### III. OPERATIONS AND TRAINING:

a. Each month the company has a practice alert exercise.

b. Mandatory subject training consists of character guidance, CBR, safety, Physical Training, Command Information, Military Justice, Code of Conduct, Prevention of Heat Injury, Weapons Qualification, and Familiarization, Psychological Warfare, Armed Forces Qualification and Familiarization, Armed Forces Censorship, Safeguarding Defense Information, and Survival Escape and Evasion. In addition, personnel of this unit are constantly undergoing driver and maintenance retraining.

c. Combat Action during the early part of the year was nil, but in late April, Camp Wilson was hit around tower five (5) by a ground probe which was easily repelled by gun trucks.

During the months of May and June, company gun trucks escorted convoys to Ben Het while it was under seige, having to fight their way in and out on an almost daily basis.

In July, Sergeant Gary Baird, NCOIC of "Cold Sweat" was wounded by sniper fire just south of Kontum. His wounds were not serious.

In September at a new fire base called "Hard Times", five (5) miles North East of the Ankhe Pass, a convoy escorted by gun trucks, "Hell on Wheels" and "King of the Road" received incoming rounds just after arriving. The gun trucks returned

fire in the direction of the muzzle flashes of the mortar tubes, silencing them. Thirteen (13) rounds were received, but none of the vehicles were hit.

On the 15th of November, there was an ambush at bridge 30 on QL 19. Several vehicles were damaged. "Quantrells Raiders" got two confirmed enemy kills.

On the 19th of November, a convoy escorted by "Quantrells Raiders" was ambushed one mile west of bridge 31. No vehicles or personnel were hit. The number of enemy kills was undetermined.

While on a troop movement to Ban Me Thout on November 29th, "Duce is Wild" was the target of two (2) B-40's and AK 47 fire. Unfortunately for Charlie, he was a bad shot. The "Duce" returned fire, silencing the enemy.

This marked the end of combat action for the year 1969.

#### IV. PERSONNEL:

During the year, the unit was normally not assigned sufficient personnel to bring it to its authorized strength. In November, the company had a personnel strength of eighty-four (84) and in order to meet commitments due to the critical shortage of drivers, clerks, supply personnel, and mechanics were put on the road.

In the last year, the company has had Commanding Officers from Leigh H. Buckner 16 January 1969, Gregory L. Debrocke 19 January 1969, John K. Kovary 1 April 1969, and Thomas D. Ward 23 August 1969 to present.

In December, Master Sergeant James M. Mize returned to the company as First Sergeant. First Sergeant Mize has been assigned as a platoon sergeant with the company in 1961-62 during the Berlin build-up.

#### V. LOGISTICS:

There was much difficulty in obtaining sufficient  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ton trucks to keep the company at its authorized levels early in the year. In July, the company received all new  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ton trucks with drop sides.

In April, Sergeant Norman Sather took over the supply room and from May to December, the 541st Transportation Company took first place for the best supply system in the 124th Transportation Battalion.

VI. Special Events:

The company had its annual Inspector General Inspection by the US Army Support Command, Qui Nhon, on 4 June 1969, and received a satisfactory rating.

ANNEX A

LINEAGE AND HONORS

541st TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (LIGHT TRUCK)

Constituted 1 May 1936 in the Regular Army as Company E, 48th Quartermaster Regiment

Activated 15 October 1939 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Redesignated 1 August 1942 as Company E, 48th Quartermaster Truck Regiment

Reorganized and redesignated 2 December 1943 as 3525th Quartermaster Truck Company

Converted and redesignated 1 August 1946 as 3535th Transportation Corps Truck Company

Redesignated 30 June 1947 as 541st Transportation Truck Company (Troop)

Reorganized and redesignated 1 April 1954 as 541st Transportation Company (Light Truck)

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War II - AP

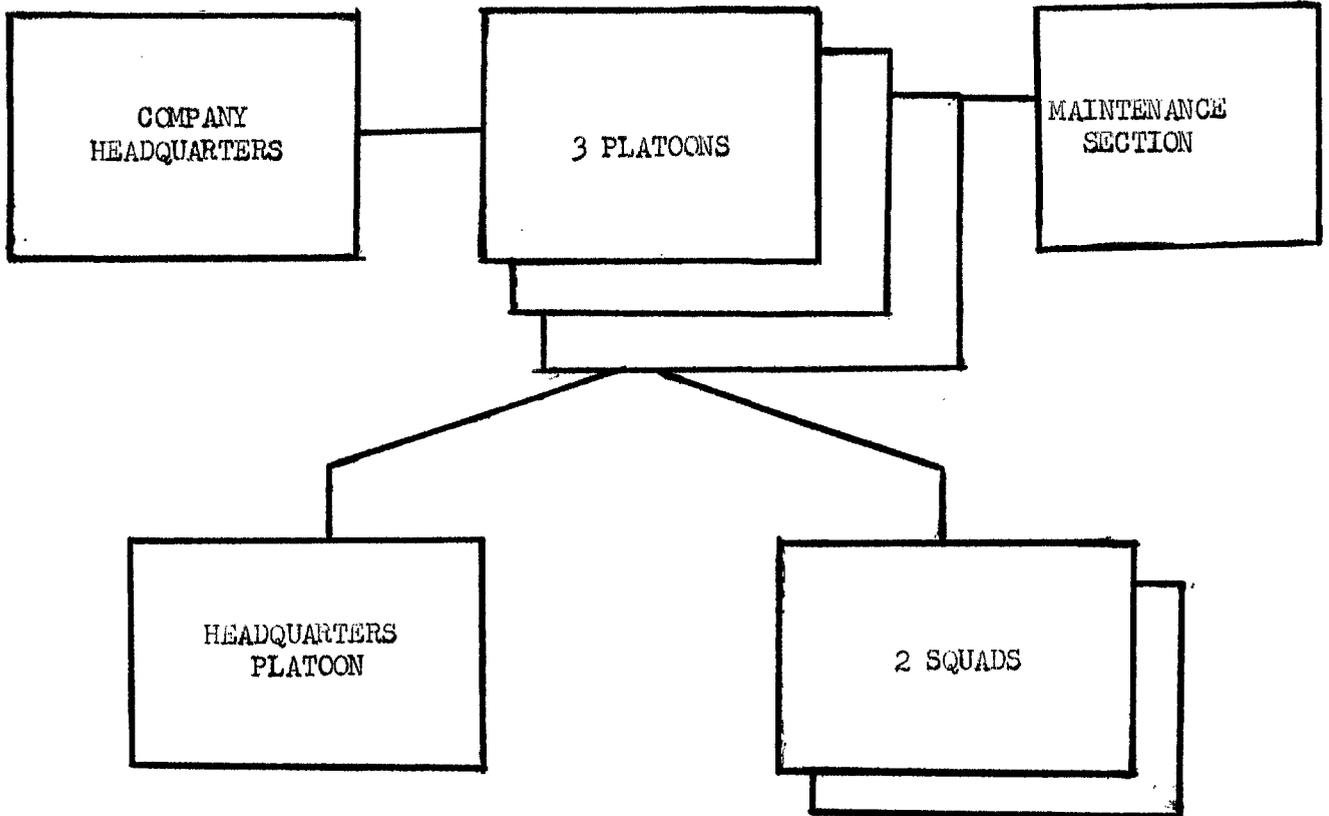
East Indies  
Papua  
New Guinea  
Luzon

Korean War

UN defensive  
UN offensive  
CCF intervention  
First UN counteroffensive  
CCF spring offensive  
UN summer-fall offensive  
Second Korean winter  
Korea, summer-fall 1952  
Third Korean winter  
Korea, summer 1953

ANNEX B

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART  
541st TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (LIGHT TRUCK)



## ANNEX C

### TRAINING PROGRAM

#### 541st TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (LIGHT TRUCK)

New personnel arriving at the unit are sent for five (5) day In-Country Orientation at 4th Division. The men are further trained when they return to the unit in a Driver Training Program designed to orient the new driver to conditions peculiar to the areas in which the unit is operating as well as helping instill confidence necessary to master the roads of Vietnam. Each man receives weapons training on the M-16 Rifle, M-60 Machine Gun and the .50 Caliber Machine Gun if appropriate.