

HISTORY

4TH SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION BATTALION

THE 4TH S&T BATTALION WAS CONSTITUTED ON 19 NOVEMBER 1917, AND ORGANIZED ON 31 DECEMBER OF THE SAME YEAR AS THE 4TH SUPPLY TRAIN--AN ELEMENT OF THE 4TH DIVISION. DURING WORLD WAR I, THE UNIT TOOK PART IN THE ALSNE-MARNE, CHAMPAIGNE, LORRAINE, ST MIHIEL AND MEUSE ARGONNE CAMPAIGNS. IT RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE SUMMER OF 1919 AND WAS INACTIVATED TWO YEARS LATER.

REACTIVATED ON 1 JUNE 1940 AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, THE UNIT UNDERWENT TWO REORGANIZATIONS PRIOR TO BEING COMMITTED TO THE EUROPEAN THEATRE AS THE 4TH QUARTERMASTER COMPANY. LANDING WITH THE 4TH DIVISION ON D-DAY 1944, IT TOOK PART IN THE NORMANDY, NORTHERN FRANCE, RHINELAND, ARDENNES-ALSACE AND CENTRAL EUROPE CAMPAIGNS. FOR ITS ACTIONS IN BELGIUM AND THE ARDENNES, THE COMPANY WAS CITED IN THE ORDER OF THE DAY OF THE BELGIUM ARMY AND AWARDED THE BELGIAN FOURRAGERE.

ON 1 OCTOBER 1963, THE COMPANY WAS AGAIN REORGANIZED, AND REDESIGNATED THE 4TH SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT BATTALION. BATTALION ELEMENTS DEPLOYED FROM FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON TO VIETNAM WITH THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN 1966. SINCE THAT TIME THE BATTALION HAS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE DIVISION/~~IN~~ SUCH OPERATIONS AS PAUL REVERE III AND IV, ADAMS, GREELY, FRANCIS MARION, SAM HOUSTON, MACARTHUR, AND HINES. FOR ITS ACTIONS WHILE IN SUPPORT OF THE 1ST BRIGADE FROM 18 TO 26 MAY 1967 DURING OPERATION FRANCIS MARION, THE SUPPLY SECTION OF HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY RECEIVED THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION.

THE BATTALION WAS AWARDED THE MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION FOR EXEMPLARY SUPPORT RENDERED DURING THE PERIOD 1 JUNE 1967 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1968.

THROUGHOUT THE HIGHLANDS OF VIETNAM, THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 4TH SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT BATTALION HAVE EXEMPLIFIED THEIR UNIT'S MOTTO, "STRENGTH THRU SUPPORT."

* THE QUARTERMASTER CORPS WAS FOUNDED ON 16 JUNE 1775.

REMARKS

4TH SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT BATTALION

AS YOU HAVE JUST HEARD, THE 4TH SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT BATTALION WAS FORMED 53 YEARS AGO AS A UNIT OF THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION DURING THE ARMY'S MOBILIZATION PRIOR TO WORLD WAR I. SINCE THAT TIME, THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE BATTALION HAVE ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED A TRADITION OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE THROUGH TIMES OF BITTER WAR AND UNEASY PEACE. NEVER ONCE DID THEY FAIL TO PROVIDE "STRENGTH THROUGH SUPPORT", WHEREVER AND WHENEVER THE DIVISION NEEDED IT.

AS ASSISTANT DIVISION COMMANDER-MANEUVER OF THIS DIVISION, I HAVE OFTEN HAD OCCASION TO OBSERVE THE MEN OF THE 4TH S&T AT WORK. ON EACH OCCASION I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE SPIRIT AND DEDICATION YOU SHOWED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TASK. AS YOU KNOW, WE WERE OPERATING IN THE LARGEST AREA OF OPERATIONS OF ANY DIVISION IN VIETNAM. BUT IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF SUPPLYING OUR FAR FLUNG COMBAT ELEMENTS, THE 4TH S&T NEVER FAILED TO DELIVER. IT HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN EASY. YOU ARE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE WEARINESS OF THE LONG, UPHILL GRIND, THE UNRELENTING PRESSURE OF YOUR BUSINESS. YOU HAVE HAD TO KNUCKLE DOWN ON MANY OCCASIONS TO NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE DEADLINES AND DEMANDS. BUT THE IMPOSSIBLE NEVER SEEMED TO BE A PROBLEM FOR YOU.

YOU SERVED US WITH RATIONS, MOGAS AND JP-4, CLOTHING, MAPS, AND BATH SERVICES IN THE VAST AREA FROM BAN ME THOUT TO DAK TO, FROM AN KHE TO TUY HOA. GENTLEMEN, THIS HAS BEEN A HUGE ORDER OF WORK AND EACH ONE OF YOU SHOULD BE JUSTLY PROUD OF YOUR PART IN IT. THERE IS A TENDENCY FOR ALL THE PRAISE TO GO TO THE COMBAT UNITS WHEN THE PLAUDITS ARE PASSED OUT. I AM HERE TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU KNOW THAT EVERY MAN IN THIS DIVISION UNDERSTANDS WHAT YOU HAVE DONE AND APPRECIATES IT.

AND NOW, BECAUSE YOU AND OTHERS HAVE DONE SUCH AN OUTSTANDING JOB, THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION IS LEAVING THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. MANY OF YOU WILL BE REASSIGNED TO OTHER UNITS IN-COUNTRY. TO YOU I SAY, WEAR THE IVY PATCH PROUDLY ON YOUR RIGHT SHOULDER, SERVE YOUR NEXT UNIT AS WELL AS YOU HAVE SERVED US. THE REMAINDER OF YOU WILL BE RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES. I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF YOUR TOUR, AND I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS. TO ALL OF YOU, I WANT TO SAY THANKS, GOOD LUCK, AND TO ASSURE YOU THAT IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR FOR ME TO HAVE SERVED WITH YOU.