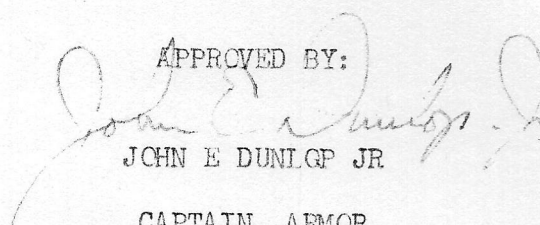


HISTORY OF
DELTA COMPANY SIXTEENTH ARMOR
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THIRD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
1965

PREPARED BY:
COLEMAN J MCDEVITT
1/Lt ARMOR
UNIT HISTORIAN

APPROVED BY:


JOHN E DUNLOP JR

CAPTAIN, ARMOR

COMMANDING

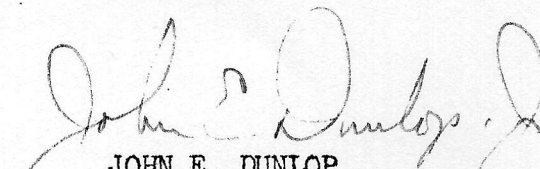
HISTORICAL REPORT OF
COMPANY "D" 16TH ARMOR (AIRBORNE)
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THIRD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

1 January 1965 - 31 December 1965

Prepared by:

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Company "D" 16th Armor (Airborne)

Approved by:



JOHN E. DUNLOP
Capt. Armor

UNITED STATES ARMY, VIET NAM
UNITED STATES ARMY, PACIFIC

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GENERAL

As A separate company of the 173d Abn Bde (Sep), Company D, 16th Armor during the year 1965 both in training and on combat operational missions has provided the Brigade with such support as convoy security and escort, blocking force, road clearing, route reconnaissance, and armored-infantry on search and destroy missions. These missions have been accomplished through the high degree of training this company received on Okinawa prior to the company being committed to a combat zone in May 1965.

MISSION

The mission of Delta Company, 16th Armor is to close with and destroy enemy forces using fire, maneuver, and shock action in coordination with other arms.

ORGANIZATION

The year 1965 brought a few changes to the company. From January to May the company had 3 platoons consisting of 5 M-56 SPAT vehicles each plus the following sections within the headquarters elements, a headquarters section, a communication section, a maintenance section, a mess section and a Supply section. As of 5 May the company received 11 M113 Armored Personnel Carriers and turned in 9 M56 SPAT Vehicles. The company was then organized into one SPAT platoon consisting of 6 SPATs, 2 APC platoons consisting of 5 APC per platoon. The other APC went to the maintenance section in the headquarters elements to be used as a maintenance track vehicle. On the 6th of May all of the company vehicles were taken to Naha, Okinawa for shipment to the Republic of Viet Nam.

The company used the organic vehicles on combat missions in the area surrounding Bien Hoa airfield RVN. Then on 1 July the company received 4 M106 Mortar Tracked Carriers and 1 M577 Command Post Carrier. The 4 M106 vehicles each mounting a 4.2 inch mortar in the vehicle itself added greatly to the firepower of the company. Also they gave the company a 4th platoon. The M577 went to the headquarters section for use by the Brigade Headquarters. The company was then organized in the following manner, with 4 line platoons and various headquarters sections. The 4 line platoons are 1 SPAT platoon, 2 APC platoons and a 4.2 Mortar platoon (Self propelled).

In September the track vehicle that was assigned to the maintenance section was transferred to the headquarters section to be used by the company commander as a company command vehicle.

The company remained organized in this manner for the rest of the year.

HISTORY

The year 1965 was a monumental one in the History of Company "D", 16th Armor. The year found Company "D" as a member of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) deployed to Vietnam.

The month of January saw the company engaged in the usual organizational activities. Lt Gilmore was chosen to attend the 3d Marine Division Embarcation School which lasted nearly a month. The company had one of its key personnel, SSgt Cook, the motor Sgt, depart for his new assignment.

In February the company found itself preparing to support the annual Army Training Test (ATT) of the 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry. This month also saw the arrival of two new officers, Lieutenants Robbins and McDevitt. They arrived in time to join the company on its movement on 24 February for the ATT. The company also provided an aggressor detail to the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry. The detail was composed of the 3d platoon under Lt Lape. The ATT was terminated on 27 February and the company returned to Sukiran to begin maintenance on the vehicles.

The month of March found the company spending most of its time in the field. On 9 March the company moved out to support the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry on a Field Training Exercise (FTX). The exercise lasted two days, and on the 11th, the company road marched back to Sukiran.

On 14 March the future third Platoon Leader, Lt Goldsmith arrived on Okinawa. This was a happy day for Lieutenants Mooney, Gilmore, and Gammon as they were then declared excess and could make plans for return to CONUS.

The 22d of March found part of the company moving out to the Camp Hansen training area in support of Company "A", 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry as aggressor detail. The following day the rest of the company left Sukiran to link up with the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry. During the ensuing few days the company received some valuable Armor-Infantry training. The problem was terminated on the 27th of March.

The early part of April was devoted to maintenance and the usual organizational activities. On 6 April Lt Lape was assigned the duties of the Executive Officer. The middle of April found a serious air floating around the Brigade. The situation in Vietnam was becoming hot and rumors were rampant throughout the Brigade. The Brigade directed that all training cease and Practice Mount Outs be conducted. The company received its basic load of ammunition and loaded all vehicles for a combat check. In the billets the men were busy packing "A" Bags, "B" Bags, and "C" Boxes. The rest of the month elapsed with the company on alert for movement.

On 2 May the key personnel recieved word that we would have an advance party consisting of Lt Lape and SSgt Winzell leaving the following morning. Destination unknown. On 3 May Captain Jordan at last announced the long awaited word. The advance party would leave for Bien Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. On 4 May the company received word we were to receive a change deleting nine (9) M56's from the inventory and replacing them with M113 Armored Personnel Carriers. 5 May saw the company working feverishly preparing the vehicles for shipment the following day. On 6 May the vehicles were

taken to Naha Port to be loaded under the direction of Lt Gilmore, the Embarkation Officer. At 1000 hours on the 7th of May, Company "D", 16th Armor boarded the USS General W A Mann (T-AP112) at Naha Port, Okinawa bound for the Republic of Vietnam.

On 121630 the company arrived at Saigon Harbor and departed by bus for its final destination, Bien Hoa. The company arrived at Bien Hoa at 1819 and began the job of preparing a base camp.

The first combat assignment for the company came in the form of ambush patrols. Company "D" attached 12 enlisted men per day to the 2/503d for a 3 day period.

On 18 May the combat vehicles arrived in country and the company turned to the task of preparing them for combat.

19 May saw the 1st platoon attached to the 3/319th Artillery for a security mission. The attachment terminated on the 20th of May.

The remainder of May the company was engaged in training and improvement of our defensive perimeter.

With the coming of June the company was to see many miles and missions added to our record. On 1 June Lt Gilmore left the company for assignment to the S-1 shop at Brigade. On 3 June the company lent security to a convoy moving to extract the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry. During mid-June the company performed route reconnaissance and show of force type missions. On 14 June Lt Mooney followed Lt Gilmore's path to a staff position in the S-1 shop. 16 June saw the departure of Lt Gammon for the states and reassignment to the Armor School. 23 June saw the company undertake its first river crossing. The PC's entered the Song Dong Nai below

Tan Uyen and swam to the Arvn Compound at Tan Uyen. The troops gained much valuable knowledge which later on would be invaluable.

The 27th day of June saw Company "D" again attached to the 3/319th Artillery for a four (4) day security mission at Phuoc Loc. During the mission the company received its first taste of hostile fire. The company also received its first credit for VC kills. SSgt st Clair was given credit for dispatching a sniper with his 50 caliber while an M56 SPAT under the command of Sgt Jones was credited with five (5) kills.

The month of July proved to be quite a busy one for the company. The company in addition the never ending track maintenance was employed on some five (5) separate operations. The first operation was on 5 July and was in conjunction with elements of the 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry. The type mission was a search and destroy. The period 6-9 July found the company on security mission with 3/319th Artillery. During this operation the company became proficient in all type of foot patrols. Sgt. Smith, Ssg Dechman, and Ssg Boog were among the NCO's leading these patrols. On 16 July the company in conjunction with elements of the 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry and the Engineer company conducted a search and destroy operation.

On 19 July Ssg Boog relinquished his position as Operations Sergeant to Sgt Dechman. Sgt Dechman had barely begun his task when the company moved out on a 3 day blocking mission with the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry. The company closed its base area on 22 July.

On the 24th of July the company was augmented by the arrival of four (4) new M106 4.2 mortar carriers. The Brigade chose the disbanded Davy Crockett platoon to form the crew members for the new platoon. P/Sgt Trent began training his crews on the 25th and after 3 days of hard training they were ready to fire on the 28th. In addition to the M-106's the company was further augmented by the arrival of a command track, M-577.

From 28th July to 2 August the company found itself operating in the Vung Tau area. During this mission the company found itself performing everything from armored patrols to a foot patrol led by Captain Jordan to exploit a suspected VC stronghold.

On 5 August the long rumored and long dreaded announcement of the PCS of the Brigade was made.

On 6 August the company again made a river crossing to deliver the RAR to their area of operations.

13 August saw the Mortar Platoon and the M56's of the 1st Platoon join forces to fire both direct and indirect fire on selected targets in War Zone "D". During their mission the 1st Platoon proved it was possible to fire the 90mm cannon in indirect fire with a fair degree of accuracy.

On 17 August the 2d and 3d Platoons along with the command track left for an extended operation in the Pleiku area. During their stay at Pleiku Lt Robbins' 2d Platoon scored a first for the company by penetrating the valley where the French armored force met its defeat several years earlier.

During the time the 2d and 3d Platoons were at Pleiku the

Mortars and 1st Platoon in addition to their short missions were securing the companies area on the Brigade perimeter.

To wind up the month of August, Psg Trent led a show of force mission. During this mission contact was made just outside the perimeter however the VC resorted the their fleet feet and evaded Psg Trents persueing troops.

As September arrived the tempo of operations both at Brigade and company level stepped up. On 3 September a joint operation consisting of the Mortar Platoon and the New Zealand Artillery fired supporting fires into War Zone "D". On 5 September the first element of the company arrived back from Pleiku. The company was completely closed in by the end of the 7th.

On 9 September Captain Jordan relinquished his command of Company "D", 16th Armor to take a staff position with Brigade. Captain Dunlop, formerly Headquarters Company Commander, was the recipient of the company guidon and assumed the command. On 14 September, after having command for only 1 day, Captain Dunlop led the company on the Ben Cat I operation. The first day saw the company move to a position east of Ben Cat and occupy the perimeter. The first night there, VC infiltrated and threw two (2) grenades which bounced off SSgt Wentz's track. He immediately repulsed them with his 50 caliber machine gun. On D+4 the 1st Platoon reinforced was moved to the vicinity of Ap Ben Cau to secure a bridge to allow a resupply column to move up Highway 13. D+5 saw the company move to Ap Bau Bang to secure the New Zealand Artillery. While there the company was called on to extract

Battery "A", 3/319th Artillery from mud flats when they were immobilized. There the company earned the name, "Saviors of "A" Battery", from the Battalion Commander. From Ap Bau Bang the company took up a perimeter position at the Lai Khe plantation while the company conducted weapons recovery patrols which were instrumental in recovering several lost weapons. During this operation the company saw its first Purple Hearts awarded. P/Sgt Trent, SP/5 Carillo, Pfc's Baker and Adams were all awarded the purple heart as a result of receiving mortar fragment wounds. Also during this mission SP/4 Craig was credited with saving the lives of two comrades and was recommended for the Soldiers Medal. On the 28th of September the company closed on its home base.

The early part of October found the company busily engaged in maintenance and area improvement.

On 8 October the company departed Bien Hoa with the Brigade on a search and destroy operation taking place within the "Iron Triangle". Enroute to Ben Cat, a PC commanded by SSgt St Clair developed trouble and pulled over to the side of the road. The company continued on to Ben Cat. Once the company arrived at Ben Cat a wrecker was dispatched to retrieve D-35 and its crew. While the PC was being towed to Ben Cat, it hit a command detonated mine killing the driver, Pfc Michael Brancato, and injuring SSgt St Clair, SP/5 Day, SP/5 Westerman, and SP/5 Moore. The PC was destroyed. The rest of the company in Ben Cat continued transporting the Australians across the river on the southern side of the town, and into the "Iron Triangle". After the Australians

arrived at their objective, Company "D" was released from 1/RAR and attached to Brigade. Brigade ordered the company to report to position red and secure the northern half of the perimeter.

The company moved into position about dark, and remained at position Red for the rest of the mission. On the last night there, an 81mm mortar round landed about twenty (20) feet from the Company Commanders tent, but failed to go off. On 14 October the company returned to Bien Hoa with no further incidents.

The company departed Bien Hoa on 23d of November on OPLAN "New Life", transporting elements of the 1st Infantry Division. The company arrived at Vo Dat and discharged the 1st Infantry Division personnel. The company was then attached to the 2/503d to search and destroy an area south of Vo Dat. On the 27th the 2/503d Infantry departed on a search and destroy mission that was to take them to another area.

The company was then attached to the 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. The company remained in the same location to secure a battery of artillery that remained behind. On the morning of the 29th one platoon was attached to 3/319th Artillery. On the 30th of November the company was alerted for a mission on the 1st of December. That evening the company moved to the vicinity of the Vo Dat airfield, attached to 2/503d effective at 1700 hours. On the morning of the 1st of December, with elements of the 2/503d riding on the Personnel Carriers, the company approached the banks of the Song La-Nga river. After conducting a successful river crossing the company

moved on to secure the objective, which was the town of Than Duc. The objective was secured and many suspects were apprehended. The company moved into a perimeter and remained at the town for the night. On the 2d of December the company moved with elements of Company "C", 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry attached, through open paddy land to the village of Sung Nhon I. Again many suspects were apprehended. The company returned to Than Duc where the Battalion had remained and set up a base camp. By this time the overland route had been secured and the 1st platoon consisting of M56 SPATS and the headquarters element had arrived at the Battalion location. On the 3d of December the company, with Company "C" again attached, moved to search and clear the town of Sung Nhon II. There were not many suspects taken from the village. That night the company returned to the Battalion perimeter. The next few days were devoted to much needed maintenance. Many rice caches were being found every day. The next few days the company with various Infantry companies attached performed search and destroy operations in the areas to the north and east of the Battalion location. On the 8th of December, three tractors were located on the northeastern edge of the town where the Battalion was located. They were hidden in the edge of a rice paddy in some tall weeds. Also two more tractors were later found near Sung Nhon II. The tractors were taken to the company maintenance area where under the direction of Psg Herlihy, two of the tractors were returned to operational condition. The tractors were then turned over to the Vietnamese people for use with their annual

rice harvest. During the time the company was at that location it went to the towns. On the 16th of December the company was detached from 2/503d and attached to Brigade. The company returned to the Vo Dat airfield for the night. The 16th of December ended operation "New Life". On 17th of December a new operation was started under the code name "Operation Smash". The morning of the 17th found Company "D" leaving the Vo Dat area and heading to an area south of Xaun Loc. Once the company reached the objective area it was attached to 1/503d. In searching the local area a few suspects were found and turned into the Brigade S-2. On the 18th of December the company was attached to the 3/319th Artillery. The company then moved west about 1000 meters where the company occupied a perimeter around some artillery batteries. On the 20th of December two Personnel Carriers from the mortar platoon were attached to the 17th Cav for 36 hours. They returned at about 1300 hours on the 21st of December. On the 22d the company departed the operational area and returned back to base camp at 1200 hours.

The remainder of the year was spent reconditioning the tracks in anticipation of the next missions.

During the course of time spent in the Republic the company was participating in civic action projects under the direction of Lt Goldsmith, the civic action officer. The major civic action project was the sponsorship of the Ke Sat Orphanage. During the Christmas Holiday the company sponsored a Christmas party for all the orphans.

As 1965 drew to a close, Company "D", 16th Armor could look back with pride and satisfaction with full realization that they had accomplished the mission and accomplished it well.

COMMANDERS BIOGRAPHY

CAPTAIN JOHN E. DUNLOP JR. 05001049

Captain John E. Dunlop Jr. was born in Sommervill, Massachussetts on 14 July 1936. He later moved to Saugus, Massachussetts, where he graduated from Saugus High School in 1954. He enrolled at Norwich University the same year. In June, 1958, he graduated from Norwich with a BA Degree in Political Science. In August of 1958 Captain Dunlop entered active duty and has since seen service with the 101st Airborne Division, the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) on both Okinawa and Vietnam, the 2nd Infantry Division and 197th Infantry Brigade.

In January 1962, Captain Dunlop was selected to attend the Special Forces Officer Course at the Special Warfare Center located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was graduated from the course in Febuary of the same year.

From October 1963 to March 1964 Captain Dunlop was attending the Associate Armor Officers Career Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In early March of this year Captain Dunlop arrived for duty with the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) on Okinawa. His first assignment with the Brigade was that of Brigade Headquarters Company Commander. On the 13th of September Captain Dunlop took command of Company "D" 16th Armor (Airborne) 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate).

ANNEX A
KEY PERSONNEL AND POSITIONS
DELTA COMPANY, 16TH ARMOR

COMPANY COMMANDER

Captain Josef C. Jordan Jr.	1 January to 13 September
Captain John E. Dunlop Jr.	13 September to 31 December

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1/Lt George A. Gammon	1 January to 6 April
1/Lt Jerry V. Lape	6 April to 31 December

1ST PLATOON LEADER

1/Lt Gary B. Gilmore	1 January to 2 March
1/Lt Coleman J. Mcdevitt	2 March to 31 December

2ND PLATOON LEADER

1/Lt Lowell T. Mooney	1 January to 2 March
1/Lt William Y. Robbins	2 March to 31 December

3RD PLATOON LEADER

1/Lt Jerry V. Lape	1 January to 6 April
1/Lt Richard H. Goldsmith	6 April to 31 December

MORTAR PLATOON LEADER

PSg Herman L. Trent	25 July to 31 December
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1ST SERGEANT

1/Sgt Theodore J. Pozzi	1 January to 31 December
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1ST PLATOON SERGEANT

PSg Dan Guiton	1 January to 31 December
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2ND PLATOON SERGEANT

PSg Marvin L. Muse	1 January to 31 June
SSg Autry Reed	1 July to 24 July
PSg Roger E. Casavant	24 July to 31 December

3RD PLATOON SERGEANT

SSg Rudolph Wentz	1 January to 2 November
PSg Robert Rudolph	2 November to 31 December

MORTAR PLATOON SERGEANT

SSg Ralph E. Sprinkle III 25 July to 31 December

OPERATIONS SERGEANT

SSg Karl Boog 1 January to 12 July
SSg Theodore Dechman III 12 July to 31 December

MAINTENANCE SERGEANT

SSg John P. Cook 1 January to 11 January
SP/5 Stephen S. Riddle 11 January to 20 June
PSg John H. Herlihy Jr. 20 June to 31 December

MESS SERGEANT

SP/5 Harold T. Northington 1 January to 19 January
Sgt Gerald Barger 19 January to 8 May
SSg James O. Layne 8 May to 31 December

COMMUNICATIONS SERGEANT

Sgt Lee W. Rowlette 1 January to 24 July
Sgt Thomas Stanley 24 July to 5 September
Sgt Felix L. Bennett 5 September to 31 December

SUPPLY SERGEANT

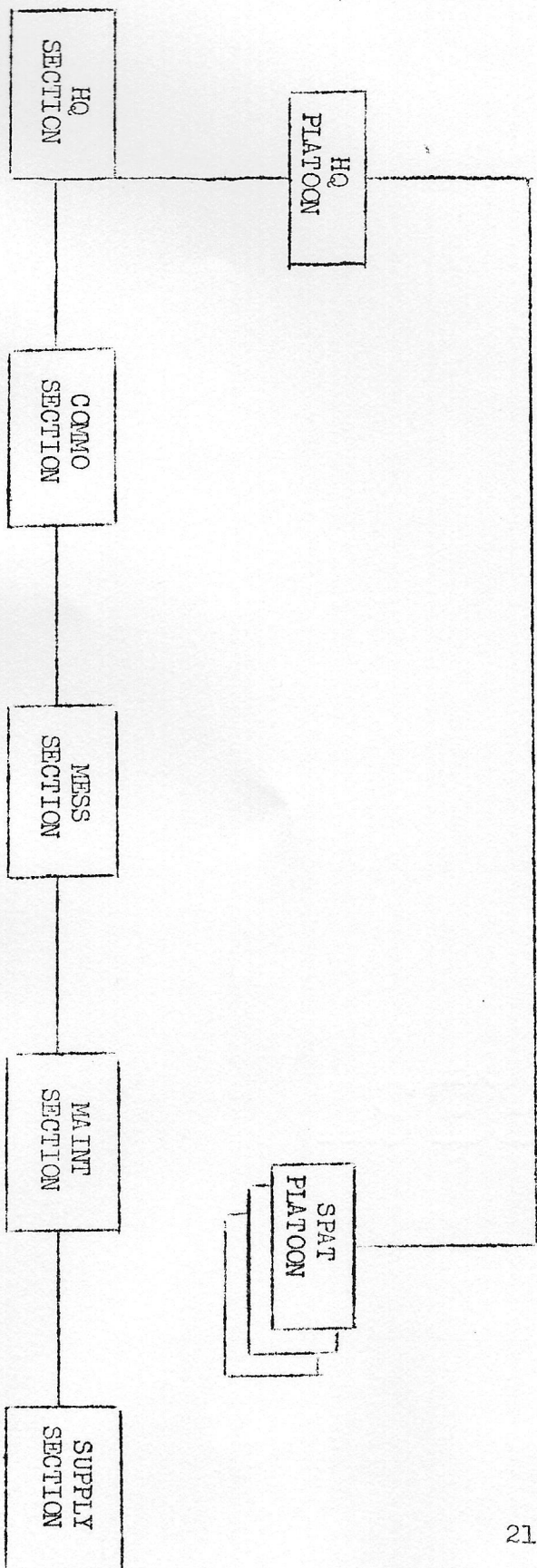
SSg Dubar Hubbard 1 January to 31 December

ANNEX B
VEHICLE STATUS
(As of 31 Dec 65)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>On Hand</u>
1. Truck Utility 1/4 ton	M151	3	3
2. Truck Cargo 3/4 ton	M37B1	2	2
3. Truck Cargo 2½ ton	M35A1	8	8
4. Truck Tanker Fuel 2½ ton	M49C	1	1
5. Truck Wrecker 5 ton	M543	1	1
6. Gun Spat 90MM	M56	6	6
7. Carrier Personnel	M113	11	11
8. Self Propelled 107MM Mortar	M106	4	4
9. Carrier Command Post	M577	1	1

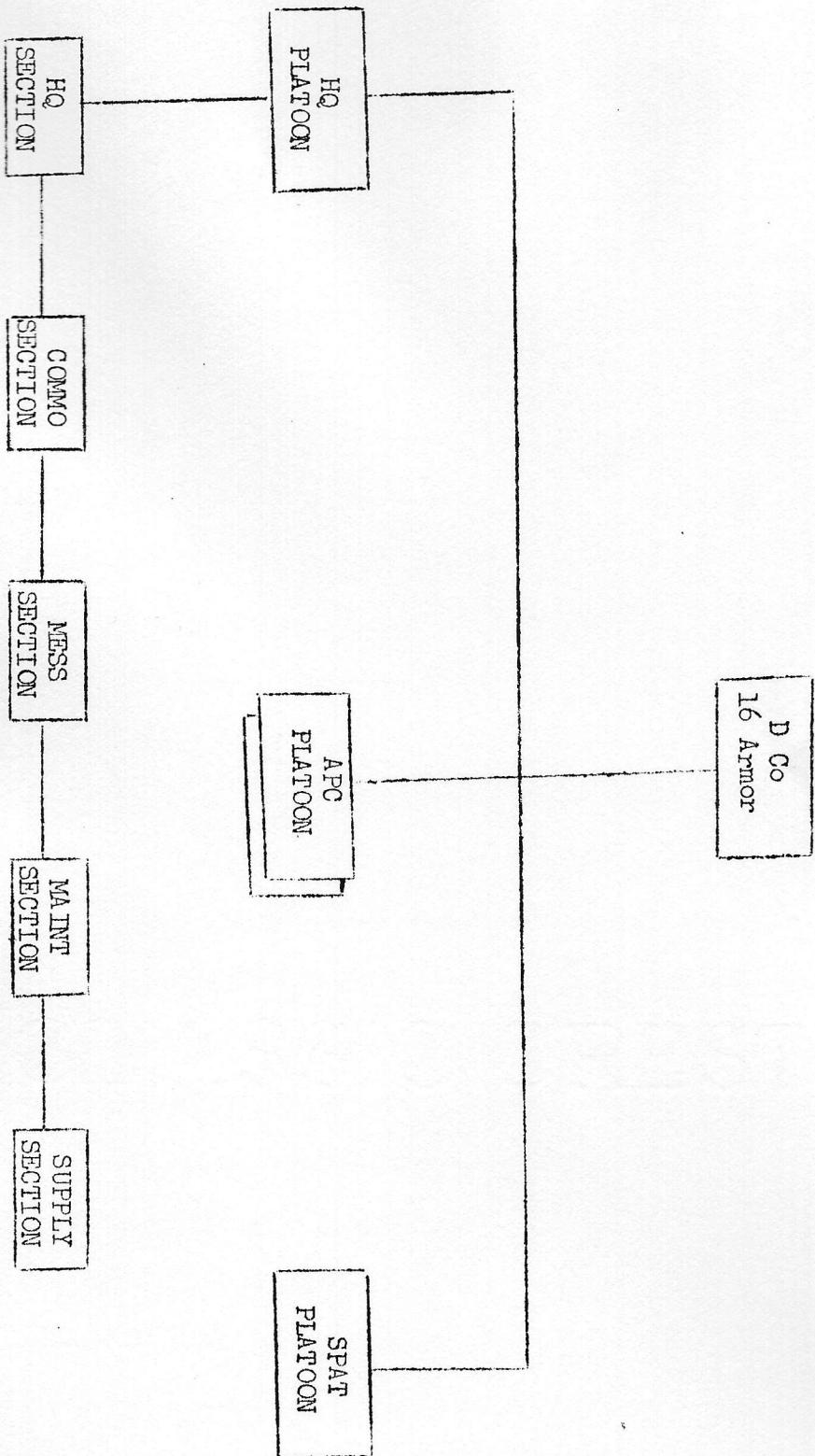
Organization of Company D, 16th Armor
From 1 January 65 to 4 May 65

D CO
16 ARMOR



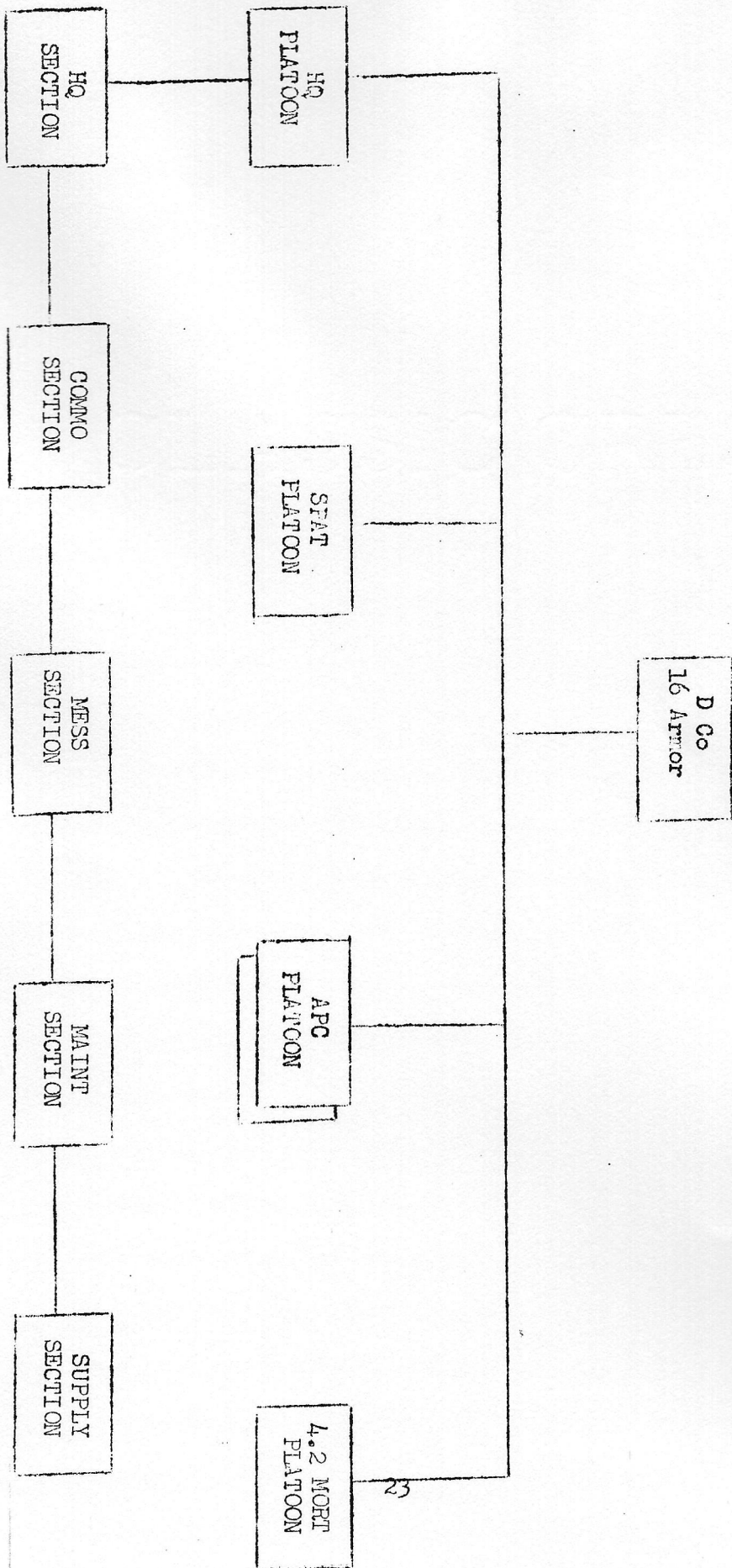
ANNEX F

From 5 May 65 to 30 June 65



ANNEX G

From 1 July 65 to 31 December 65



ANNEX H
COMPANY STRENGTH 1965

Authorized by TO&E:

5 Officers 95 Enlisted Men 100 Total

<u>Month</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>	<u>Percentage of Authorized Strength</u>
1 Jan 65	5	102	107%
1 Feb 65	5	102	107%
1 Mar 65	7	109	116%
1 Apr 65	7	107	114%
1 May 65	8	101	109%
1 Jun 65	7	102	109%
1 Jul 65	5	106	111%
1 Aug 65	5	107	112%
1 Sep 65	5	120	125%
1 Oct 65	5	131	136%
1 Nov 65	5	133	138%
1 Dec 65	5	138	143%

NOTE: All strength over 100% is due to the fact that the company is operating under an obsolete TO&E which does not provide the necessary manpower to operate the vehicles which the company now possesses.