

Rollin down the highway

Two days doesn't seem like a long time, but when you talk to the men of C Company, 720th Military Police Battalion at Long Binh, it means a lot of action and many miles traveled.

With the many convoy commitments that they maintain, the unit is kept constantly on the move. One of the many hazardous and yet diversified missions of C Company is the convoy to Bao Loc.

The preparation starts long before "hitting the road." The night before leaving Long Binh maintenance is pulled on the vehicles and weapons to insure that the fire power of the armored cars is ready if needed.

Early in the morning the crew makes the final arrangements for the day's mission. Such as

drawing C's, filling water coolers and any final weapon adjustments needed. Then, it's a short hop to the staging area to meet the convoy and receive a final briefing from the convoy commander.

Riding high and in command, the might centurion like V-100s pull out and the convoy starts to roll. Jeeps, five and ten ton tractors and trucks carrying everything from badly needed gasoline to wished for ice fall into line and move out. The modern day caravan begins its trek across the countryside supplying fire support bases and base camp areas with their daily needs.

Once on the road the convoy spreads out but constant communication is maintained between the convoy

commander, drivers, V's and any air cover that may be provided by means of radio sets.

Often it rains, soaking the crews as the miles of concrete and asphalt fall far behind the thundering wheels of the convoy. The convoy pushes along Highway QL 20, through the villages and hamlets of Military Region II and III, across rivers and into the mountains of the north.

Although the scenery attracts the eye, the main mission is never forgotten. Weapons are loaded and ready and the men are constantly alert as the convoy passes along the mountain slopes and into "Ambush Alley."

"Ambush Alley" is the perfect place for an ambush. The steep, jungle covered mountainside rises straight up from the road while a sheer cliff drops over 500 feet to the jungle below on the other side of the road.

As the convoy rolls north it is greeted by the Engineers at the Base Camps Snuffy and Charlie Brown and then by the men of Bao Loc.

Once at their destination the unloading procedures are put into action. While waiting, a thorough inspection is made of the Vs and any needed maintenance is performed before shutting down for the day.

Early the next morning the convoy pulls out for home. The long haul home hopefully will be made without accidents or uncalculated risks. The V-100s in Today's Army provide the most important part of the convoy protection.

The hours are long and the duty dangerous, but the men of Chargin' Charlie just keep doing their job and keep the convoys "rollin' down the highway."

White Christmas