

1961-1963

11TH ORDNANCE COMPANY (DAS)
Fort Devens, Massachusetts

12 March 1964

SUBJECT: Unit History

TO: Commanding General
Headquarters USCONARC
ATTN: Chief of Military History
Army Historical Program

The 11th Ordnance Company (DAS) under the command of 1st Lt. James R. Sommers, left Fort Devens on 22 October 1961 enroute to Metz, France as a Round-out Unit during the Berlin Crisis. This Round-out Unit debarked from the Brooklyn Army Terminal aboard the USNS Rose. Following a routine 8 days at sea, the unit arrived at Bremerhaven, Germany where they debarked, and continued their movement by rail. The 11th Ordnance Company arrived in Metz, France on 1 November 1961. Their mission was to provide Ordnance Field Maintenance support to Metz General Depot.

On 13 November 1961, the long list of transfers and TDY began when 4 officers and 62 enlisted men departed Metz and arrived at Rozilier, France for 160 days TDY. These men were attached to USA Ammo Depot, Trois Fontaines for operational control for support to United States Army Garrison, Verdun, France. In January 1962 the command structure of the 11th Ordnance Company changed, and 1st Lt. Ronald P. Gaudreau relieved Lt. Sommers as Company Commander. The units mission remained the same however there were notable variations in company strength. Effective 21 December 1962 this company was reorganized under USAREUR with authorized strength to be 4 commissioned officers, 5 warrant officers and 114 enlisted men.

The beginning of 1963 saw two major changes in the 11th Ordnance Company, one in the command structure, the other in location and mission. 1st Lt. John P. Waits assumed command of the unit, and under his command this unit moved from Camp De Tournbride at Metz to Toul, France. At Toul the mission of the 11th Ordnance Company was to provide support to Nancy General Depot in the care, preservation and maintenance of depot stock vehicles.

This change was only temporary however and in August 1963, the 11th Ordnance Company was returned to Fort Devens on the USNS Darby, under the command of 1st Lt. John P. Waits. The company assumed the mission at Fort Devens of providing limited 2nd echelon and field maintenance support to all units and activities located at the Fort other than the 2nd Brigade, 5th Infantry Division. The 11th Ordnance Company also has the additional mission of providing backup support to consolidated maintenance and to support ROTC and ANACDUTRA.



John P. Waits
JOHN P. WAITS
Capt. OrdC
Commanding

