

HEADQUARTERS
505TH ENGINEER LIGHT PONTON COMPANY.
A.P.O. 758, U.S. ARMY

SECRET
: Auth: C.G. 7th US Army :
: Initials: *ME* :
: Date: 19 May 1945 :
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ACTION AGAINST ENEMY, REPORTS AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORTS APRIL, 1945.

a. Original Unit: -

- (1) Designation - 505th Engineer Light Ponton Company.
- (2) Date of Organization - 15 May 1942.
- (3) Place of Organization - Camp Gordon, Georgia.
- (4) Authority for Organization - General Order No. 15, Headquarters Eastern Defense Command and First Army, dated 15 May, 1942.
- (5) Sources from which original personnel were obtained.

(a) Officers

- 1. Company Commander - Captain Archibald E. Sutton, O-304319, C.E., by transfer from the Engineer Replacement Training Center, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.
- 2. Executive Officer - 1st Lt. Gerald L. Bilbro, C.E., by transfer from the 75th Engineer Light Ponton Company, Camp Beauregarde, La.
- 3. Platoon Commanders and Motor Officer - By assignment from the Fourth Engineer Officer Candidate School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, as follows:

Francis F. Carnes, 2nd Lt., C.E. O-1100038
 James J. Carnes, Jr. 2nd Lt. C.E. O-1100039
 Burrel D. Carney, Jr. 2nd Lt. C.E. O-1100041
 Francis M. Carson, 2nd Lt., C.E. - O-1100043

(b) Enlisted Men.

- 1. Enlisted Cadre of twelve (12) N.C.O.'s by transfer from the 75th Engineer Light Ponton Company, Camp Beauregarde, La. in May 1942 as follows:

First Sergeant - Morton Kamm - 6878116
 Master Sergeant - George Underwood ---
 Mess Sergeant - S/Sgt. John W. Fritchett - 6966756
 Supply Sergeant - S/Sgt. William Blankenship --
 Motor Sergeant - S/Sgt. Kenneth F. Whitehead - 33035175
 Platoon Sergeant - S/Sgt. Carlton L. Allen - 6994429
 Platoon Sergeant - S/Sgt. Thomas L. Beckham - 6971589
 Platoon Sergeant - Sgt. Earl Northrup - 32033188
 Mechanic - Cpl. Ival Cooper - 32035482
 1st Cook - Pvt. Spec.3rd Cl. - Stanislaus J. Andersiak - R-2340718
 1st Cook - Pvt. Spec.4th Cl. - J.B. Walker - 7088340
 Co. Clerk - Cpl. Robert M. Mayo, - 7086178

2. Two (2) Mechanics by assignment from the Engineer Heavy Equipment Detachment Belvoir, Virginia, on 15 May, 1942, as follows:

Cpl. Balmer E. Sinegar - 33118318
 Pvt. Harold A. Geese - 38047063

CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Downgrading Committee 25 Sept 46

*14788
Morton*

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3. Enlisted Fillers.

The first group of Enlisted Fillers consisting of eleven (11) Selective service Privates were received on 29 September, 1942 by transfer from Co. "D" of the 82nd Ordnance Battalion, Camp Gordon, Georgia, per S.O. #54, 3rd Hq. & Hq. Det. Sp. Troops, 2nd Army, dated 29 Sept. 1942. The second, and principal group of Enlisted Fillers, consisting of 210 Selective Service Privates, were received by transfer from the 1222nd Reception Center, Camp Upton, New York, on 5 December 1942, per par. 1, S.O. 332, Hq. 1222nd Reception Center, Camp Upton, New York, dated 3 December 1942.

b. Changes in Organization During Period.

- (1) Company relieved from Assignment to First United States Army and Twelfth Army Group and Assigned to Sixth Army Group per Troop Assignment #88, Hq. 12th Army Group, File 322 (AG-O) dated 8 April 1945, effective 8 April 1945.
- (2) Company relieved from Assignment to 12th Army Group, from Attachment to 6th Army Group, and assigned to 6th Army Group, and further assigned to 7th United States Army per Letter Hq. 6th Army Group, Subject, Unit Assignment Order #65, File AG 370.5/VC-O, dated 13 April 1945, effective 8 April 1945.

c. Strengths - Commissioned and Enlisted:-

(1) Officer strength at beginning of Period -

Francis M. Carson, Capt. C.E., O-1100043 - Company Commander
Gilbert F. Moore, 1st Lt. C.E., O-446357 - Executive Officer
Howard D. May, 1st Lt. C.E., O-1110097 - Platoon Commander
John A. McDonald, 1st Lt. C.E. O-1115692 - Platoon Commander
Randal Holden, 2nd Lt. C.E., O-1114169 - Platoon Commander
William H. Meier, 2nd Lt. C.E. - O-1592436 - Supply Officer

No Change During Period

(2) Enlisted Strengths:

- a. Beginning of Period: Present 188; Absent 12.
- b. Increase during Period - 7

Connell, Matthew, 32643582, Pfc. Asgd. organization per par 40, SO 103, Hq. 2nd Reinf. Depot, dated 16 April 1945.

Nuss, Robert H., 35545511, Pfc.
Dugan, Carl C. Jr., 33267749, Pvt.
Ippoliti, Alfred J., 32644023, Pvt.
Lewis, Ernest H., 34548427, Pvt.
Marrow, Jake M., 36653191, Pvt.

Above 5 E.M. Assigned per par. 19, SO 105, Hq. 2nd Reinf. Depot, dated 18 April 1945. Joined organization 20 April 1945.

Broderick, John P., 32643373, Pfc. Returned from Hosp. to duty, 24 Apr 1945

- c. Decrease During Period: - 4

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Murray, John J., 32640587, Pfc., Died in Hospital 17 April 1945 while undergoing operation for appendicitis.

Berry, James F., 35360330, Pfc. Lost to Hospital as Non Battle Casualty. (Illness) 20 April 1945.

Blaylock, Joe L. 14015945, Pvt. Lost to Hospital 20 April 1945 as Non-Battle Casualty (Bullet Wound)

Dugan, Carl C. Jr., 33267749, Pvt. Lost to Hospital 20 April 1945 as Non-Battle Casualty (Previous leg injury)

d. Net gain during period - 3

Enlisted Strength at end of period: - Present 190 - Absent - 13

d. Stations:

- (1) At Beginning of period unit was stationed at Kaiserslautern, Germany, WR 0293.
- (2) Company moved by motor convoy from Kaiserslautern, Germany to Wurzburg, Germany (W N 5934) on 14th April, 1945, establishing new C.P. at 1830 hours.
- (3) Company moved by motor convoy from Wurzburg, Germany, to Ulm, Germany. (W X 6679) 30th April 1945, establishing new C.P. at 0030 hours.

3. Citations:

- (1) On 17th April 1945 at a Company formation, the Bronze Star Medal was presented to Captain Francis M. Carson, O-1100043, 505th Engr. L. Pon. Co. for "Meritorious Service in support of active combat operations from 14 February 1945, to 8 March 1945, in Germany." The presentation was made by Lt. Col. Everett, 1144th Engr. C. Group Commander.
- (2) On 22nd April, 1945, at a Company formation, the Silver Star Medal was presented to "Pfc. Melville I. Kramer, 32644006, Corps of Engineers, 505th Engineer Light Ponton Company, United States Army for gallantry in action and disregard for personal safety displayed on 23rd Feb. 1945 in Germany, which reflects highest credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States." The presentation was made by Brigadier General Garrison Davidson, the Seventh United States Army Engineer.

OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

The operations of the Company during this period consisted almost solely of the transportation of Engineer materials from Army Dumps at Luneville, to Kaiserslautern, and thence to more advanced dumps successively at Walldurn, Wurzburg, Hall, Crailsheim, Goppingen, Ulm, and Donauworth,

These operations were distinctly hampered during the period by a lack of ordnance replacement parts for 2-1/2 ton trucks. Where an average of 50 trucks should have been kept on the road, it was only possible to keep about 40 in constant operation. At that, most of the major assemblies obtained, came from wrecked vehicles in Ordnance collecting points.

On the 5th of April, a River Reconnaissance was begun for the purpose of determining the possibility of transporting Engineer materials in River Barges from Worms,

on the Rhine River northward to the confluence of the Main River with the Rhine, thence Eastward along the Main River to Bamberg. This reconnaissance was accomplished by one officer, a power Utility Boat Operator, a boat mechanic in a power utility boat. The reconnaissance clearly revealed that transportation on River Barges was impossible due to the large number of demolished bridges obstructing the River. The reconnaissance was concluded on the 19th of April, 1945.

Francis M. Carson

FRANCIS M. CARSON,
Capt. 505th Engr. L. Pon. Co.
Commanding.

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