

HEADQUARTERS
505TH ENGINEER LIGHT PONTON COMPANY.
A.P.O. 513, U.S.ARMY

COMPANY HISTORY - MONTH OF AUGUST, 1944

a. Original Unit:-

- (1) Designation - 505th Engineer Light Ponton Co.
- (2) Date of Organization - 15 May 1942.
- (3) Place of Organization - Camp Gordon, Georgia.
- (4) Authority for Organization - General Order #15, Hq Eastern Defense Command and First Army, dated 15 May 1942.
- (5) Sources from which original personnel were obtained.

(a) Officers

1. Company Commander - Capt. Archibold E. Sutton, O-304319, C.E. by transfer from the Engr. Repl. Training Center, Ft. Belvoir, Va.
2. Executive Officer - 1st Lt. Gerald L. Bilbro, C.E. by Transfer from the 75th Engr. L. Pon. Co., Cp Beauregarde, La.
3. Platoon Commanders and Motor Officer - By assignment from the Fourth Engr. Officer Candidate School, Ft. Belvoir, Va. as follows:

Francis F. Carnes, 2nd Lt., C.E. O-1100038
James J. Carnes, Jr. 2nd Lt. O-1100039, C.E.
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 Engr. L. Pon. Co., Cp Beauregarde, La. in May 1942 as follows:

First Sergeant - Morton Kamm - 6878116
Master Sergeant - George Underwood -
Mess Sergeant - S/Sgt. John W. Pritchett - 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 School, Fort Belvoir, Va. on 15 May 1942, as follows:

Pvt. Balmer E. Sinegar, 33118318
Pvt. Harold A. Geese, 38047063

3. Enlisted Fillers.

The First group of Enlisted fillers consisting of eleven (11) Selective service Privates were received on 29 Sept. 1942 by transfer from Co. "D" of the 82nd Ord. Bn., Cp Gordon, Ga. per SO 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 Recep. Cen. Cp Upton, N.Y. on 5 Dec 1942, per par 1 SO 332 Hq 1222nd Recep Cen, Cp Upton, N.Y. dtd 3 Dec. 1942.

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b. Changes in Organization during Period:

- (1) At beginning of period, company was assigned to First United States Army, and attached to the 1128th Engr. C. Group.
- (2) On 22 August the Company was relieved of attachment to the 1128th Engineer C. Group and attached to the 1105th Engr. C. Group.

c. Strength: - 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
Clifton M. Hanks, 2nd Lt. CE, O-116497 Platoon Commander

No Change During Period

(2) Enlisted Strength

- a. Beginning of Period - 192
- b. Increase during period - 1

Smithy, Mason W. 34439674 - Transferred to this organization from 4th Convalescent Hosp. per VO CO.

- c. Decrease during Period - 1

Zatrepaek, William A., 32640871, T/5 - Transferred to European Civil Affairs Div. 6th C.A. Unit, APO 658 per SO 10 Hq. European Civil Affairs Div.

- d. Net Gain During Period - 0

Enlisted Strength of Co. at End of Period - 192

d. Stations:

- (1) On 1st August 1944 unit moved by motor convoy from Cibrontot, O-364006, to St Georges d' Elle, T-575665.
- (2) On 2nd August unit moved by infiltration from St Georges d' Elle to Le Bois d' Elle, T-596701.
- (3) On 9 August unit moved by infiltration to Brectouville, T-549526.
- (4) On 17 August 1944 Company moved by motor convoy to Campagnolles, T-613370.
- (5) On 24th August 1944 Company moved by motor convoy to La Madeline, France, O-965072.

OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

At beginning of month the Second Bridge Platoon was engaged in clearing and widening the streets and traffic turn in the badly battered town of Pont L' Abbe. This job finished on 6th August.

On 7th August 1944 the complete M-3 Pneumatic Ponton Bridge was turned in to the Army Engineer Depot. This equipment was dispensed with because it was felt that M-3 Ponton Bridge had been completely outmoded by the Steel Treadway Bridge and the Key Bridge. Furthermore, turning in this equipment would mean more ready use of Bridge Platoons' 32 dump trucks for road construction work.

During this period up until 20 August the company was assigned a small area for General Engineer Maintenance, in the Torigny-sur-Vire; Tessy-sur-Vire Area. The prin-

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cipal job was that of continuous maintenance on the main road between the two above mentioned towns. Marking of minefields, mine removal and disposal, and sign posting were also included.

Other operations during the period were principally hauling road construction material for the combat battalions of the 1128th Engineer Group.

On 22 August notification was received that the company was to be attached to the 1105th Engr. C. Group, and would carry Units of Fixed Bailey Bridge. Accordingly, on the 23rd of August the Bridge Platoons loaded two units of Fixed Bailey at the First Army Engineer Depot. The following day, the company made the long motor march to the town of La Madeline, which was near La Loupe.

On 26 August, orders were received to change the bridge equipment over from Fixed Bailey to Floating Bailey Bridge, which was needed by XIX Corps to bridge the Seine River north of Paris. This exchange of equipment was to be made at the Depot at Senonches, but in the hurried displacement forward of the Army Engineer Depots many essential parts were missing. Vehicles had to be sent miles back to the previous depot, which was at Alencon. It was not until the night of the 27th August that all equipment was procured and all vehicles assembled in the Company area at La Madeline. Movement to the XIX Corps Engineer Dump was commenced in the early morning of 28 August, and this location was reached around noon of the 28th. It was learned from the 234th Engr. C. Bn, which was to construct this bridge, that enemy fire was still being received on the bridge site, and they did not expect to commence construction until the following day. Accordingly, the vehicles were disbursed in fields near the Corps Dump and the men got a chance to catch up on their sleep. By noon the following day, the 508th and the 512th Engr. L. Pon. Co's. arrived with the remaining equipment. Movement to the Bridge site, unloading of equipment and construction of the bridge commenced on the afternoon of 29 August. Work was discontinued after dark, so the construction was not completed until the afternoon of the 30th of August. The majority of the vehicles returned to La Madeline on the 30th, but a few remained until the 31st to pick up leftover equipment and return it to the XIX Corps Engineer Dump.

The equipment of the Light Equipage Platoon was again unloaded on the ground at La Madeline, and the platoon vehicles were used to transport Engineer material for the Army Depot. The Light Equipage Platoon continued in this capacity through the close of the month.

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

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