

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

COMPANY HISTORY - MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944

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 #15, Hq. Eastern Defense Command and First Army, Governors Island, New York, dated 15 May 1942.
- (5) Sources from which personnel were obtained during period: Third Reinforcement Depot, First United States Army.

b. Changes in Organization:

On 24 December 1944 the unit was relieved from attachment to 1105th Engr. C. Group, and attached to the 1111th Engr. Combat Group, which was, in turn, attached to VII Corps, per par 15, Troop Assignment #3, (Administrative) Hq. VII Corps file 370.5, dated 28 Dec. 1944.

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:

- (1) Officer strength at beginning of period: - 5
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

On 19 Dec. 1944, 2nd Lt. William H. Meier, O-1592436, joined the organization from 3rd Reinforcement Depot having been assigned per par 15, S.O. 211, Hq. 3rd Reinforcement Depot, dated 15 Dec. 1944.

(2) Enlisted Strength:

- a. Beginning of Period: - 201
- b. Increase during Period:

4th Dec. 1944:

- Benton, Fred P., 39410049, Pvt.
- Perry, Cecil, 36346974, Pvt.
- Popkowski, Peter P., 42080880, Pvt.
- * Ozarnecki, Stephan W., 32644928, Pvt.

Four Enlisted Men transferred in Grade to this organization per par. 6, S.O. 196, Hq. 3rd Reinforcement Depot, dated 30 Nov. 1944 and arrived for duty at 1500 hours.

- * Pvt. Czarniecki, a former member of this unit having been originally assigned 5 Dec. 1942, had been hospitalized 24 July 1944 for non-battle injuries received while the Company was engaged in cleaning out the town of Pont L' Abbe, Dept. Manche, France.

30 Dec. 1944

- ** Cohen, Milton, 32644724, Pvt. - Assigned to this organization per par 40, SO 194 Hq. 3rd Reinf. Depot, dated 29 Dec. 1944 and reported for duty at 1830 hours.



c. Decrease During Period: - 4

Newman, Joseph, Pfc. 32640505 - Transferred in Grade to 1105th Engr. C. Group, per par. 1, SO 98 Hq. 1105th Engr. C. Gp., dated 2 Dec. 1944.

Lenno, James, T/4 32644748 - Lost to Hospital 7 Dec. 1944, as non-battle casualty resulting from receiving burns on eye while welding.

Arico, Peter V., Pvt. 32643682 -

Franklin, Leroy M. Pvt. 37725787 - Lost to Hospital 9 Dec. 1944 as a result of Arico's accidentally discharging a pistol, shooting himself through the hand, Franklin through the stomach.

d. Strength at end of Period: - 202

** Pvt. Cohen, originally assigned to the unit on 5 Dec. 1942 was lost to hospital 9 Sept. 1944 because of a non battle injury received while the two bridge platoons were delivering a Floating Bailey Bridge to vicinity of Meulan on the Seine River.

d. Stations (Permanent or Temporary) of unit or parts thereof.

- (1) Company Locations: Map Ref: Nord De Guerre Zone, Sheets 9 & 13, GSGS 4336.
 - a. Vicinity of Huy, Belgium, K-230164 from beginning of period until 5 Dec. 1944.
 - b. Vicinity La Brouke, Belgium, K-533222, from 5 Dec. until 20 December.
 - c. Vicinity Xhenenmont, Belgium, K-643283, from 20 Dec until 24 Dec.
 - d. Vicinity Terwagne, Belgium, K-308087 from 24 Dec until 26 Dec.
 - e. Vicinity Nandrin, Belgium, from 26 Dec. until end of period.

(2) First Bridge Platoon Locations:

- a. Vicinity Verviers, Belgium, K-668226 from beginning of period until 18 Dec. 1944.
- b. See par (1) Company Locations, for location of First Bridge Platoon for remainder of period.

(3) Second Bridge Platoon:

- a. Vicinity Dolhain, K-732262, from beginning of period until 18 Dec. 1944.
- b. See par. (1) Company Locations, for location of Second Bridge Platoon for remainder of period.

e. Motor Marches:

- (1) Purpose: To re-locate Company with 1111th Engr. C. Group and VII Corps, to which the Company had been attached. Instructions to move were contained in Field Message #590, Hq. 1105th Engr. C. Group, dated 24 Dec. 1944.

- (2) Length of March - Approximately 36 miles.

- (3) Points between which marched: Vicinity Xhenenmont, K-643283 to vicinity Terwagne, K-308087, 24 Dec. 44.

- (4) Condition of Roads and Weather:

a. Roads - Dry.

b. Weather - Skies were perfectly clear, and blue, the sun was bright and temperature was well below freezing.

- (5) Remarks:

The above march was made at a time when the German Offensive power, following the Ardenne Breakthrough the previous week, was still high. The German Air Force was up in comparative strength. During the course of this march numerous "dog fights" were observed off to the South and East of the route of march.

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On two occasions, two German fighter planes came close to the column. Since it appeared that they were coming in to strafe, several cal. .50 machine gunners opened up on them, but with no results. However, the planes never did open upon our column, and one was definitely seen going down as a result, presumably, of other Anti Aircraft fire.

The above was the only motor march the company made as a complete unit during the period. All other changes of location were accomplished by infiltration of small groups, usually a section at a time.

OPERATIONS FOR PERIOD

At the beginning of the period, the company was mainly engaged in hauling various types of Engineer Supplies for the combat Engineer Battalions of the 1105th Engr. C. Gp.

First Bridge Platoon was on an operational DS with "B" Co. of the 49th Engr. C. Bn., remaining at this job until the morning of 18 Dec. 1944. The work engaged in there consisted almost solely of hauling rock, slag, and cinders to construct roads in an Ammunition Dump in the area lying between Herve, Battice, Soumagne, and Verviers.

Second Bridge Platoon was on operational DS with the 61st Engr. C. Bn., likewise remaining there until the morning of 18th Dec. 1944. The work consisted of hauling road material and cinders for various road construction, road maintenance and repair jobs being performed by the 61st Bn.

Fourteen trucks of Light Equipage Platoon did hauling work for the 300th Engr. C. Bn., from beginning of the period until the 18th of Dec. These vehicles and drivers were scattered out through the Battalion, four or five being on operational DS with each Company. The work consisted of hauling metal for road construction, and hauling timbers to sawmills operated by the battalion to be cut up for lumber.

Four outboard motor operators and some Infantry Support Raft Equipment worked with the 61st Engr. C. Bn. and the 164th Engr. C. Bn. on Floating Boom Projects at training sites on the Meuse River until 18th Dec. 1944. Assault boats and other Infantry Support Equipment was loaned to the 1111th Engr. C. Group and the 552nd Engr. Hv. Pon. Bn., for training purposes during the same period.

A detail of one half section was placed as a maintenance guard on a Class 40 Steel Treadway Bridge over the Meuse River in Liege from the beginning of the period up until 12 December when the bridge being no longer needed, was dismantled by the Company and returned to the Engineer Dump E-7 vicinity Montzen. During the period prior to dismantling the bridge, the maintenance detail opened the bridge twice weekly to allow river traffic to pass through.

From 6 Dec. 1944 to 15 Dec. 1944 an outboard motor school was conducted by the Light Equipage Platoon Commander and six outboard motor operators at a training site in the vicinity of Cheratte, K-524327. The school was conducted for the purpose of training twenty men of the 61st Engineer C. Bn. in operation and maintenance of the 22-1/2 H.P. Outboard Motor.

On the 18 December, ten First Bridge Platoon trucks were dispatched to Spa, to assist in moving the 654th Engr. Topo. Bn. Twenty additional trucks were dispatched to Stavelot to move the First Army Map Depot, but were unable to get into Stavelot due to the tactical situation. These twenty trucks were then diverted to Spa, and assisted in moving the 654th Engr. Topo. Bn. to its new location, vicinity Hannut, K-123337. All thirty trucks returned to the Company 21 Dec. 1944.

On the 18th of December the Light Equipage Platoon vehicles were dispatched to Engr. Dump E-41, vicinity Elsenborn, to move equipment there to a new location five miles south of Verviers. While loading equipment at Engr. Dump E-41 vicinity Camp Elsenborn, the Light Equipage Platoon was subjected to strafing and bombing by enemy aircraft, but no casualties were sustained. Removal of equipment from this forward

dump was completed on 20 December 1944.

Upon completion of moving the 654th Engr. Topo. Battalion from Spa to Hannut, the First and Second Bridge Platoons were loaded with Fixed Bailey Bridge at E-41, vicinity Jalhay, K-760184, and returned to the Company area on 21 December 1944.

The Light Equipage Platoon was reloaded with its basic equipment and all vehicles remained in that state to the end of the period.



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

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