

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

COMPANY HISTORY - MONTH OF MAY 1944

a. Original Unit:-

- (1) Designation - 505th Engineer Light Ponton Co.
- (2) Date of Organization - 15 May 1942.
- (3) Place of Organization - Camp Gordon, Ga.
- (4) Authority for Organization - General Order No. 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. Archibald E. Sutton, O-304319, C.E. by transfer from the Engineer Replacement 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 Engineer Officer Candidate School, Ft. Belvoir, Va. as follows:

Francis F. Carnes, 2nd Lt. C.E. O-1100038
James J. Carnes, Jr. 2nd Lt. C.E. O-1100039
Burrell 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 Sgt. - Morton Kamm - 6878116
Master Sgt. - George Underwood -
Mess Sgt. - S/Sgt. John W. Fritchett - 6966756
Supply Sgt. - S/Sgt. William Blankenship -
Motor Sgt. - S/Sgt. Kenneth F. Whitehead - 33035175
Platoon Sgt. - S/Sgt. Carlton L. Allen - 6994429
Platoon Sgt. - S/Sgt. Thomas L. Beckham - 6971589
Platoon Sgt. - 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, Ft. 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 Ordnance Battalion, Cp. Gordon, Ga. 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, Cp. Upton, New York, on 5 December 1942, per par 1 SO 332 Hq. 1222nd Reception Center, Camp Upton, New York, dated 3 December 1942.

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- b. Changes in Organization During Period.
Company assigned to First U.S. Army and attached to 1128th Engr. C. Group during entire Period.
- c. Strength - Commissioned and Enlisted.
1. Officer strength at beginning of period.
 - 1st Lt. Francis M. Carson, C.E. 0-1100043 Company Commander.
 - 1st Lt. Gilbert F. Moore, C.E. 0-446357 Executive Officer.
 - 1st Lt. Howard D. May, C.E. 0-1110097 Platoon Commander
 - 2nd Lt. John A. Mc Donald, C.E. 0-1115692 Platoon Commander
 - 2nd Lt. Lambert G. Keach, C.E. 0-1113289 Platoon Commander
- On 2 May 1944 1st Lt. Carson was promoted to Capt. effective 28 April 1944.
On 5 May 1944, 2nd Lt. McDonald was promoted to 1st Lt. effective 1 May 1944.
2. Enlisted Strength.
 - a. Beginning of Period - 196
 - b. Increase during period - 5

Bettis, William E. 13019408 - Pvt. Transferred in Grade from 1128th Engr. C. Group.

Erwin, Robert R. 35693142 - Pvt.
Layman, George W. 33897651 - Pvt.
Leonard, Gustave R. 42042876 - Pvt.
Lighter, Joseph M. 42028170 - Pvt.

Above 4 E.M. transferred in Grade from 16th Repl. Depot 15 May 1944.

 - c. Decrease during period.

Simmons, Edward 33723601 - Pvt. Transferred in Gr. to 1128th Engr. C. Group.

 - d. Net Increase during period - 4
 - e. Enlisted Strength at end of period - 200
- d. Stations: Company Headquarters stationed at Westonbirt, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire, during entire period.

OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

The entire month was devoted to various types of training.

During the first half of the month one officer and eleven NCO's were engaged in instructing the Combat Battalions of the Group - the 158th, 164th, and the 1278th in construction of the M-3 Pneumatic Ponton Bridge at Woodchester Park Lake, near Stroud. Two days training was devoted to each Company.

Also during the first half of the period all truck drivers were given instruction in waterproofing of vehicles. This work was carried on in the Company motor pool, and tests were conducted on waterprofed vehicles in a nearby stream.

From the beginning of the period until the 10th of May, the trucks and drivers

of the Second Bridge Platoon worked on a road construction job in conjunction with the 164th Engr. C. Bn. This work consisted of putting in gravel and crushed rock roads in a large ammunition dump near Lydney in the Forest of Dean.

The remainder of the Company not otherwise engaged in the above listed training moved by motor convoy on the 1st of May to Decombe Woods, near Stroud, where a program of one weeks training in mines and booby traps was conducted by Lt. Richardson of the 164th Engr. C. Bn. At the completion of the weeks training the Company returned by motor convoy to Westonbirt.

On 8 May the Company moved by motor convoy to Swyncombe Downs, near Wallingford on the Thames, for training in Bailey Bridge construction. During this week long bivouac, training was conducted in both Fixed and Floating Bailey Bridge construction. Also during this week the Company's fifty caliber machine gunners proceeded to the Anti-aircraft range near Plymouth and fired complete courses with the machine guns. On Saturday morning, 13 of May, a physical fitness test was conducted and on Saturday afternoon the motor march back to Westonbirt was made.

On 15 May the Company moved by motor march to a bridge training site at Wainlode Hill on the Severn River, near Norton, Gloucestershire, for additional training in Fixed and Floating Bailey Bridge construction. This training was terminated on 17 May 1944, and the Company returned to Westonbirt by motor march on that evening.

Several days additional training was given in M-3 Pneumatic Ponton Bridge construction at a lake at Woodchester Park. Three days of training were devoted to fixed bridge construction on a small stream near Westonbirt. Each platoon completely constructed a Class 24 Timber Trestle Bridge, 70 feet long, and dismantled it, after running vehicles across as a test.

The remainder of the period was devoted to completing instruction in water proofing vehicles for all drivers, and to practical loadings in anticipation of the expected invasion and moving out.

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

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