

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

COMPANY HISTORY - MONTH OF APRIL 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
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 Sgt. - Morton Kamm, - 6878116
Master Sgt. - George Underwood -
Mess Sgt. - S/Sgt. John W. Pritchett - 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

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Proctor

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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Authority ND 735017
By JE NARA Date 8-21-6

b. Changes in Organization During Period.
Company assigned First U.S. Army and attached to 1128th Engr. entire period.

c. Strengths: Commissioned and Enlisted:

(1) Officer strength at beginning of period - 5

1st Lt. Francis M. Carson, C.E. 0-1100043 - Company Commander
1st Lt. Gilbert F. Moore, C.E. 0-446357 Executive Officer
2nd Lt. Howard D. May, C.E. 0-1110097 Platoon Commander
2nd Lt. John A. McDonald, C.E. 0-1115692 Platoon Commander
2nd Lt. Lambert G. Keach, C.E. 0-1113289 Platoon Commander

2nd Lt. Howard D. May, 0-1110097 promoted to 1st Lt. 3 April 1945, effective 1 April 1945.

(2) Enlisted Strength.

a. Beginning of Period - 197

b. Increase during period - 1

Sexton, Lotchie W., Pvt. 15012476 - Transferred in Grade from 1128th Engr. C. Group.

c. Decrease during period - 2

Hecker, Kurt A., Pvt. 32644921
Kaplan, Milton, Pvt. 32644182

Above 2 EM transferred in grade to 1128th Engr. C. Group.

d. Enlisted strength at end of period - 196

OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

During the first half of this period little or no unit training was engaged in, due to the fact that full bridge equipment and vehicles had not been received. Complete bridge equipment arrived before all vehicular transportation was procured, so basic bridge instruction on "Dry Land" was given. The Light Equipage Platoon trained in Infantry Support Raft Construction and Outboard Motor Operation on a lake at Woodchester Park, near Stroud.

On the 20th of April, 25 men, one officer and fourteen dump trucks were placed on DS with the 164th Engr. C. Bn. for a road construction job in the Forest of Dean at Lydney, near Gloucester.

The company made two motor marches for training purposes, one on 24 April to a location on the Severn River near Gloucester on 24 April; the second near Stroud to Woodchester Park on the 27th of April. Both training exercises combined motor movements, bivouacs and Pneumatic Ponton Bridge construction. In the Exercise on the Severn River, considerable difficulty was incurred by the swift tidal current, but no damage to the equipment resulted.

On the 29th of April, eight men of the Company left to attend a four day course of instruction on the .50 caliber machine gun, at the 158th Engr. C. Bn.

FRANCIS M. CARSON, 1st Lt. C.E.
Commanding.