

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

COMPANY HISTORY - MONTH OF JUNE 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 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, Fort 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, Fort 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 Sergeant - 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 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.

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b. Changes in Organization During Period:
Company assigned to First U.S. Army and attached to 1128th Engineer C. Group, during entire period.

c. Strength - Commissioned and Enlisted:

(1) Officer strength at beginning of period - 6

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
Lambert G. Keach, 2nd Lt. C.E. O-1113289 Platoon Commander
Clifton M. Hanks, 2nd Lt. C.E. O-116497 Platoon Commander

2nd Lt. Clifton M. Hanks, O-1116497 was placed on Detached Service with the organization on the 2nd of June and assigned to this unit by the 1128th Engr. C. Group on 7 June 1944.

(2) Enlisted Strength:

- a. Beginning of Period - 200
- b. Increase during period - 0
- c. Decrease during period - 6

Goldstein, Jack, Pfc. 32644787
Kinsella, Mathew P. Cpl. 32641117
Moran, Francis J. T/5 32641354
Giorgi, Joseph T/5 32644990

Above men transferred to Hospital due to sickness.

Greenawalt, Ralph C., Pvt. 14008641
Norman, William D. Pvt. 15041501

Above 2 men transferred to 29th District Guardhouse, resulting from Courts-Martial conviction on charge of manslaughter.

d. Net loss during period - 6

Enlisted Strength at End of Period - 194.

d. Stations:

- (1) At beginning of Period Company was stationed at Westonbirt, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire.
- (2) On 19 June, Company left above location and moved by motor convey to Southampton, England, on instructions from Transportation Office, Gloucester R T O.
- (3) On 26 June 1944, Company debarked on Utah Beach, assembled in Transit Area B, and proceeded to a bivouac location at Cibrantot, France on 27 June 1944.

OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

Having received "Notice of Concentration" on the 1st of June, indicating a movement readiness date of 13th June, all further training was suspended on 3 June, and complete equipment loading was commenced. This together with turning in and re-drawing certain new items of individual equipment was completed on about 10 June.



On 10 June vehicle waterproofing was commenced, taking up the better part of a week. Also during this week all personnel fired a familiarization course with individual weapons on the British Home Guard Range near Tetbury. Likewise crews of .30 caliber machine guns fired familiarization.

Notice to move to the Marshalling Area at Southampton, England, was received shortly after noon on 19 June. The Company left Tetbury at 1900 hours and proceeded to above destination, arriving there at about 0300 hours on 20 June. The motor march was made in very poor time because of the heavily congested roads.

At about 1500 hours on 20 June, the Company moved out of the Marshalling Area, down to the docks. The 1st Bridge Platoon, with Lt. May and Capt. Carson completed loading on a Liberty Ship #MT 232 by 0600 hours on the 21st. At about 0700 hours the above ship swung out into the harbor, and anchored there.

The other three platoons remained at the Marshalling Area until 25 June, when Headquarters and Light Equipage Platoon were loaded on L.S.T. 534 and Second Bridge Platoon was loaded on L.S.T. 396. On 26th June the convoy on which the Company was loaded commenced moving across the Channel, arriving off Utah Beach at about 1630 hours. A few vehicles of First Bridge Platoon were unloaded on the evening of the 26th and proceeded to the Transit Area. The remainder of the Company completed unloading on the following day, and by mid-night the entire company was assembled in the Transit Area. At 0930 on the 28th the Company moved out of the Transit Area, and established a bivouac at the village of Cibrantot, France.

The following day, the 1128th Engineer C. Group Headquarters arrived, and established headquarters in an orchard adjacent to the Company.

On 30 June, the First Bridge Platoon was detached from the Company and joined the 299th Engr. C. Bn. near Orlandes, to provide that Battalion with transportation for road work, since its organic transportation had not yet arrived.

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

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