

JDB/ars

May 1, 1942

*Changes on page 2*

Captain Archibald E. Sutton, CE  
Commanding Officer, 505th Engineer Co (Light Ponton)  
Camp Gordon, Ga.

Dear Captain Sutton:

Information received from the Office of the Chief of Engineers indicates that you will be the Commanding Officer of the 505th Engineer Co (Light Ponton). I am writing to acquaint you with the steps already taken to activate your unit.

The activation order will be issued by this headquarters. The 505th will be activated on May 15, 1942. A copy of this order is attached herewith.

The Engineer officer personnel will be furnished as follows:

1 - Commanding Officer (yourself);  
1 - Officer, who will accompany the enlisted cadre;  
4 - Officers to be furnished by the Officers' Candidate School from the class graduating May 30, 1942. These should arrive about June 1, 1942. Concerning these 8 officers -

1. There is a possibility that some of them may be experienced officers from the Officers' pool at Fort Belvoir. If so, they may arrive before May 30.

2. Requisitions for them have already been submitted.

The Engineer enlisted personnel will be furnished as follows:

12 men - cadre from the 75th Engineer Company (Light Ponton), Camp Livingston, La. The Commanding General, Third Army has been requested to have the proper Corps Area Commander issue orders so that the cadre will arrive on May 15, 1942.

183 men - enlisted fillers. These have already been requisitioned, by specification serial number, with the request that they arrive on June 8, 1942. The original War Department letter specified that you would get 146 of these men from an Engineer Replacement Center and 37 from a Reception Center. However, the latest information I have is that all 183 will come from Reception Centers, so you will have to start training raw recruits.

The above is summarized in the "time table" below:

May 1-15,.....C. O. arrives.  
May 15.....Unit is activated.  
                  Cadre and 1 Officer with cadre arrives.  
June 1.....4 Officers from Officers' Candidate School  
                  arrive.

June 8.....Engineer enlisted fillers arrive.

Undoubtedly this timetable, like Hitler's will be upset. It is merely a plan, subject to the misfortunes of "the best laid plans of mice and men".

*Second*

The 505th will be attached to ~~Third Army~~. Their headquarters is ~~Smith-Youn, Tower, San Antonio, Texas.~~ I suggest you report by letter to that headquarters. *Memphis, Tenn.*

Unfortunately, there is very little information I can offer you on supply. The 505th is G-9 in the list contained in WD AGO letter, March 3, 1942, file AG 400 (3-0-42) MSC-D-11, subject: "Distribution of Controlled Items of Equipment." You might check with the Post Engineer Property Officer and the Corps Area Engineer to see if your non-controlled items of Engineer equipment have been requisitioned. As you know, other equipment and supplies can be obtained from Post Supply officers.

There is attached herewith for your information a list of the new Engineer units at Camp Gordon. All are being activated about May 15th, except the 352nd, which was activated on April 13, 1942.

All the above planning is based on the old Tables of Organization, dated November 1, 1940. The new Tables have not yet been approved or issued.

Please do not hesitate to consult me informally about anything connected with the activation of your new unit. Other questions will, of course, be referred to the ~~Third Army~~.

*Second*

We wish you the best of luck with your new organization.

Very truly yours,

*John D. Bristol*

JOHN D. BRISTOL,  
Major, Corps of Engineers,  
Assistant.

2 incls.:

GO No. 15, Hq. EDC & First Army.  
List of Units, Camp Gordon, Ga.