

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

COMPANY HISTORY - MONTH OF NOVEMBER 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 during period: Unit attached to 1105th Engineer Combat Group for entire period.
- c. Strength: Commissioned and Enlisted:
- (1) Officer Strength at beginning of period:
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
 - (2) Enlisted Personnel:
 - a. Beginning of Period - 204
 - b. Increase during Period - None
 - c. Decrease During Period - 3

Walker, J.B. 7008340, Pvt. Transferred in Grade to 1278th Engr. C. Bn. per par 6, SO 304, Hq. First U.S. Army, dtd 5 Nov. 1944.

Bilik, Mike Jr. 33033881, Pvt. Transferred in Grade to 62nd Engr. Topo. Co.

Colantonio, Patsy J., Pfc. 32643658 Lost to Hospital as Non Battle Casualty
- d. Strength at End of Period - 201
- d. Stations: (Permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof.
- (1) Company Locations:
 - a. Vicinity of Vierzet Barse, Belgium, K-274123, from beginning of period until 10 November 1944. This station at Vierzet Barse was the Company's last outdoor encampment for the winter.
 - b. Vicinity, Huy, Belgium, from 10 November 1944 until end of period. The station in Huy consisted of two large three story private homes on Avenue Godon, along the Meuse River, and a smaller house in the rear, which was used as a C.P., Supply Room and P.X.
 - (2) First Bridge Platoon:
 - a. At company location vicinity Huy from beginning of period to 14th Nov.

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- b. Vicinity Verviers - with "B" Company, 49th Engr. Combat Bn. from 14th November until end of period.

OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

For the most part during the first phase of this period, the two Bridge Platoons were engaged in transporting Engineer Equipment and Supplies to and from Engineer Depots E-6 vicinity Modave, and E-7 vicinity Montsen, and various other locations.

On 13 November, the entire First Bridge Platoon was placed on operational D.S. with "B" Company of the 49th Engr. Bn. located in Verviers to assist in road construction work by hauling rock and other construction materials.

During this period the Second Bridge Platoon and L.E. Platoon supplied vehicles for transporting road construction materials and lumber for the 61st Engr. C. Bn., and the 300th Engr. C. Bn.

Also the Company was engaged in the following activities:

1. Guarding and maintaining a Class 70 Bailey Bridge across the Meuse River in Liege.
2. Guarding and maintaining a Class 40 Armored Steel Treadway Bridge on the Meuse River in Liege. This detail also called for opening and closing the bridge twice each week to allow river barges, usually loaded with coal to pass through.
3. Supplied infantry support rafts, outboard motors, and outboard motor operators to the 164th Engr. C. Bn., and the 61st Engr. C. Bn., to assist in experimentation on floating boom calbes. These experiments were both conducted on the Meuse River, the 61st in the vicinity of Huy, and the 164th north of Liege.
4. Supplied a Crane and two operators to assist the 49th Engr. C. Bn. in logging operations west of Aachen.
5. Broke in and serviced 57 - 22 H.P. outboard Motors for the Army Engineer Depot. This work was done at a training site on the Meuse River, in Huy.
6. Engaged in some Infantry Assault Training on the Meuse River in Huy. Special emphasis was placed on bringing outboard motorboat operators to a higher degree of proficiency, and in training additional operators. Some footbridge construction training was also conducted. This was the first experience in which the Company encountered a stream with a relatively swift current. All previous training had been conducted on stillwater lakes or slow moving streams such as the Thames and Severn Rivers in England.

During the 1st half of this period the company was in an outdoor bivouac at Vierset Barse, Belgium, a small village about 9 miles from Huy. While it was cold at night and damp almost all the time, the men made themselves fairly comfortable by living under their truck tarps on the bows placed on the ground, spreading straw over the floor, and buying or improvising heaters. Toward the middle of the month however, it became so cold, and in fact on one occasion snowed, and the bivouac became such a quagmire, that billets were secured in Huy. Entertainment in the form of movies and U.S.O. shows were occasionally available at Vierset Barse, and more

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frequently available at Huy.

Many men of the Company made acquaintences with the village folk in Vierset-Barse, and in later months some, while on pass, came back to visit.



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

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