

Annual Historical Summary
AKPCH-630EN
630th Engineer Company (Light Equipment)
21 June 1963 to 31 December 1963

The 630th Engineer Company (Light Equipment) was activated effective 21 June 1963 under TO&E 5-54D, by general order number 28, Headquarters Fort Chaffee, Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. Authorized strength: 5 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 180 enlisted men. The company is attached to the 31st Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Army) under the command of Lt Col Walter Fade.

Captain (then First Lieutenant) Thomas A. Longman assumed command and was the only person assigned to the unit until 26 June when 5 enlisted men were assigned. On 9 July, 85 enlisted men joined the unit from Fort Bliss, Texas. Second Lt Wilmer J Herman joined the unit on 27 August and assumed command on 8 September upon the departure of Capt Longman to school at Fort Belvoir.

On 22 July the first equipment platoon, consisting of 25 men, departed for Camp Gruber, Oklahoma to remove pipe from the old hospital and transport it back to Fort Chaffee. Approximately 9,000 feet of various sizes were recovered when the platoon returned on 26 July.

On 11 August the First and Second equipment platoons consisting of 40 men departed for Camp Gruber to recover more pipe. They returned on 16 August after removing approximately 14,000 feet of various sizes of pipe.

On the 13 of September the unit conducted the physical combat proficiency test. Personnel of the unit participated with great rigor and aggressiveness and produced overall outstanding results.

On 30 September, 1 officer and 409 enlisted men departed Fort Chaffee to participate in Greers Ferry Dam dedication at Heber Springs, Arkansas. This unit's mission was to assist the 31st Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Army) in transportation and erection of a Bailey Bridge to be raised at the dedication site. They returned to Fort Chaffee on 4 October.

During the period 31 October to 2 November 16 members of the unit were engaged in fighting a forest fire near Mena, Arkansas. The fire destroyed many acres of timber, but this unit received no personal injuries and no equipment loss during this fire. At the same time 51 men were engaged in fighting a forest fire near Heavner, Oklahoma. The military assistance was invaluable to the civilian populus and fire fighting experience and techniques were gained.

On 7 November, the unit received a directive from Hq, 31st Engr Bn to undertake a training mission excavation Engineer Lake located on the military reservation of Fort Chaffee. This project was assigned to the three equipment platoons. The equipment operators gained much needed experience and some of the operators were classified as qualified operators after this project was completed on 9 January 1964.

On 2 December this unit received a directive from Hq, 31st Engr Bn (C)(A) to repair the spillway of Green Leaf Lake near Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. this project was given to the third equipment platoon. On 21 December the platoon moved back to Fort Chaffee until after the holidays with 50 percent of the project completed.

By 31 December 1963 the unit's REDCAT rating raised to 3. Approximately 70% of the authorized equipment had been received.