

1st CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

MISSION

The 1st Construction Company mission was bricklaying.

LINEAGE¹

1st Construction Company

Organized, Jan 1918

Demobilized, Apr 1919

STATIONS

Kelly Field, Texas

Camp Sevier, South Carolina, Jan 1918

Garden City, New York, Mar 1918

Port Of Hoboken, New Jersey, Mar 1918

Europe, Mar 1918

Flower Down

Challis Hill

Failsworth, England

Knotty Ash, England

Garden City, New Jersey, Mar 1919

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Capt Frederick C. Blodgett

1st Lt John L. Sheed

HONORS

¹ Steven E. Clay. *US Army Order of Battle 1919-1941*. Combat Studies Institute Press. US Army Combined Arms Center. Fort Leavenworth, KS. Nd.

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS²

The 1st Construction Company was authorized in late December 1917 as a bricklaying unit at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas. Men began being assigned to the company on December 22, 1917, and by the 27th 160 men had enlisted. While the vast majority were bricklayers, the company was also composed of other construction trades, such as carpenters and mechanics. Following their assignment, the men had their respective trades tested by examiners at Kelly Field and on January 5, 1918, the company was mustered into service under the command of Captain Frederick C. Blodgett. 1st Lieutenant John L. Sheed, who had briefly commanded the company prior to Blodgett's appointment, was placed second in command.

The 1st remained in Kelly Field for only a short period of time after their organization, departing on January 10 to Camp Sevier in South Carolina. They arrived on the 13th and began the military training and procurement of equipment needed for service in England. While stationed at Camp Sevier the unit was attached to the 30th infantry division, as they also were preparing for going overseas. On March 5 the company left for a camp in Mineola, New York, arriving at midnight the following day. On the 16th of the same month, they boarded the RMS Baltic and began their voyage overseas, along with a convoy of other ships.[5] The company arrived in England as part of the Service of Supply, or S.O.S., troops that were attached to the American Expeditionary Force. In England they were under the authority of Base Section Number 3.

On March 28 the company landed in Liverpool, England, and on the 29th the company was ordered to Romsey, England. Also in March came the authorization of increasing the personal of construction companies from 160 to 250. The 1st only stayed at Romsey for a few days before leaving on April 3 for Chattis Hill in Stockbridge. On July 13 came the arrival of the additional 90 men mentioned earlier, under the command of 2nd Lieutenant John Thomas. The company built many of the buildings at Cattis Hill, including an Aerodrome, Chapels, Military houses, and numerous other construction projects. The 1st was one of five construction units that worked on Chattis Hill, the others being the 471st, 472nd and 478th Construction squadrons, as well as a detachment of men with the 13th construction company. All work at Chattis Hill was completed

by October 30th, at which point the company was ordered to U.S. Base Hospital No. 204, then to Southampton, then to Failsworth in Manchester. Failsworth was the site of an Aerodrome and 3 construction companies, including the 1st, arrived to construct it. The armistice, signed on November 11, stopped these plans as the company began the process of returning equipment to America.

On November 28 the company moved to Knotty Ash in Liverpool but later received orders to begin the process of returning to America. These orders were canceled shortly after however, on January 3, 1919, and the company returned to Knotty Ash to resume their previous construction work. They would remain in England until March, 1919, when they were ordered to return to the U.S. According to an Army Air Service report of March 5, 1919, the company had over \$1,000 worth of equipment when they were ordered to return to America. The 1st arrived back to the U.S. by the end the end of march and were stationed at Garden City in New York. By April 3, all enlisted men had either been transferred or discharged, with the final company roaster being dated on April 5, 1919.