

History of Company 472

Fort Payne, Alabama

By B. J. Moody

Short Segment from the Civilian Conservation Corps District D Yearbook, 1934-1935



Company 472 was organized May 20, 1933, at Fort McClellan, Alabama, with Company strength of two hundred and nine members. Lieutenant Barksdale was first officer to take charge of the company and later Captain Porter and Lieutenant Linkwiler joined the company, making a total of three officers and two hundred and nine members. The men were vaccinated, and put through the process of getting them ready for the forest camp.

Once June 27th orders were received for the company to move to Chula, Georgia, and begin work under the forestry service. They arrived at Chula and began work on the camp site which was located in a pecan grove two miles out from Chula. State foresters were assigned to the company and the men began work building fire lanes through the forest under the forestry service. The men got their first taste of fighting fire when a large forest fire broke out one Sunday afternoon and the entire company was called out. Captain Porter was transferred to another camp and Captain Brooks assumed command of the company September 27th. Lt. Linkwiler was also transferred, and Lt. Burnett was assigned to company and at the end of the first enrollment period the strength of the company was one hundred and fifty-four.

The company remained at Chula until November 14 and moved to Fort Payne, Alabama, and began work on another new camp site which was located within the city limits of Fort Payne on an old ball park. All of the men were glad to get back to Alabama. The men set to making it more beautiful, for it promised to be the best camp in the district. Fifty-two replacements arrived from Fort Benning, Georgia, to take the place of those who were discharged at the end of the first enrollment period. Sixteen local men, also, were assigned to the company. Upon the arrival of foremen and trucks the company started building fire lanes across Lookout and Sand Mountains and fighting fires which were plentiful on the mountains. Lieutenant Griffith was assigned to the company November 18 as medical officer.

At the end of the second enrollment period the camp was complete and all of the men saw the reward of all their work and were proud of it. Captain Brooks was transferred and Captain Harris reported for duty March 15th. Lieutenant Barksdale was appointed educational adviser for the company and a night school was started for the men preparing themselves for jobs after leaving the Civilian Conservation Corps.

At the beginning of the third enrollment period thirty-three new replacements arrived to take the place of those who were discharged. Lt. Stone and Lt. Walker joined the company and the company started to work in the state park near Mentone under the National Park Service.

On June 30th all of the boys who had completed authorized periods of service were discharged. Captain Harris was transferred to another camp and Captain Russell assumed command of the company. New replacements arrived July 26th to take the places of those who were discharged, making the strength of the company two hundred and twenty-four. They were enrolled on a supplementary enrollment period of three months.

All of the men who were with Company 472 when it was organized have completed their authorized period of service and are not members of the company any longer. They do not know how long it will be a company, but they do know that doing their part made Company 472 one of the outstanding companies in the district and are expecting those who took their place to do the same.

Civilian Conservation Corps Company 472 was in Fort Payne, Alabama from late 1933 till March of 1941. See www.Alapark.com >DeSoto State Park>The CCC in DSP

Or visit the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum in DeSoto State Park:
<http://alapark.com/civilian-conservation-corps-museum>

Text transcribed B.M.Hughes 2015