

HEADQUARTERS, COMPANY E,
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT
A.P.O. #758

16 August 1943.

At 0420, August 1, 1943 enemy planes attacked the harbor, Palermo. Flares were dropped and immediately one plane dove on the middle quay and dropped four bombs. The Ukside was hit amidship and immediately started afire. There was a quantity of gasoline - five hundred, fifty five gallon drums burned. There was ammunition, approximately seventy five cases of 50 and 30 cal. ammunition, also two hundred 155 mm shells. There was also Q.M. and Signal Corps equipment.

Another stick of bombs was dropped, hitting the south section of the harbor. One bomb landed in the motor pool, but did no damage.

One 40 mm gun crew on the quay by the Ukside suffered casualties (Unknown)
Of 450 prisoners working - 100 were at the Central R.R. yards with Lt.

Robinson

Valiant efforts were made by officers and men of Company E to keep some 350 prisoners in the confines of the deck. Gunfire directed overhead failed to deter the rush of prisoners.

Sergeant Davison and Sergeant McMillion evacuated casualties by jeep during the raid.

At approximately 0515 enemy aircraft departed.

The Ukside continued to burn and the ammunition in the Port Railway yard continued to explode. A small fire in a building outside the harbor was noted and checked. Lt. Wagner and Sergeant McMillion and Sergeant Nuzzi went to the second story and found a 155 mm shell with the phosphorous tip afire. The shell was passed out the window and harmlessly exploded on the street. The explosions on the Ukside stopped at 0730 and the explosions in the railway yard stopped at 0745.

THOMAS J. RICE
1st Lt., C.E.
Commanding.