

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BATTALION  
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT  
A.P.O. #464

/ctm  
31 December 1943.

Subject: Daily Journal Report.

To : The Commanding Officer, 540th Engineer Regiment,  
A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army.

1. Daily Journal Report for month of December 1943.

1 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Road Map Italy, 1/200,000, Sheet 19, 704787. Co. "D" WP #109-completed filling in revetment, graveling by-pass, completed bent for bridge. WP #110-completed graveling by-pass, excavating stream bed in preparation for footing of bridge, prepared mud sills and footing, general cleanup of area. WP #120-repaired culvert and patched holes on road running from Nocellelo to RJ 288. Co. "E" Naples, Italy, Map, Town Plan Naples, Italy, 1/10,000, 719.4 747.9 GSGS 4380. Preparing for proposed movement to new bivouac area approx. 2 miles north of Francolise, Italy. Co. "F"  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile west of Francolise, Italy, Road Map Italy, 1/200,000, Sheet 19, 704786. WP #93-removed Bailey Bridge, maintained by-pass, obtaining fill and tamping same. WP #112-filled bomb crater, ditched 2 miles of road. No enemy action. Weather; Cool & Raining.

2 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #109-spreading gravel on by-pass, started to remove Bailey Bridge. WP #110-spreading gravel on by-pass, excavating stream bed in preparation for footing, preparation for erection of first bent. WP #121-filling holes in road. Co. "E" moved to new bivouac area approx. 2 miles north of Francolise, Italy, Road Map Italy, 1/200,000, Sheet 19, 704790. Co. "F"  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile west of Francolise, Italy. Hauled Bailey Bridge to 5th Army Bridge dump, maintained by-pass, obtaining fill. WP #112-filled bomb crater and small holes in road; ditched 2 miles of road. No enemy action. Weather; Cool & Raining.

3 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #109-completed dismantling of Bailey Bridge, started footing, maintained by-pass. WP #110-maintenance of by-pass, started dismantling Bailey Bridge, set footing and sill, working on first bent. WP #120-#121-patching holes, graveling road; draining road. Co. "E" approx. 2 miles north of Francolise, Italy. WP #139-preparation of exit roads from Bailey Bridge, preparation of by-pass. Co. "F"  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile west of Francolise, Italy. WP #93-completed side rails, hauled remaining parts of Bailey Bridge to 5th Army bridge dump, maintained by-pass, obtained rock and gravel for road. WP #112-graded 2 miles of road; ditched 2 miles of road. No enemy action. Weather; Cool & Raining.

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4 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #109-broke pavement with air compressor in order to put in abutement. Put in abutement on both sides. Put in footing for abutement. WP #110-started abutement on far side. Placed diagonal bracing around bent. Placed piling for cat walk. Filled crib around bent with rocks. WP #110-by-pass washed out at approx. 1300A this date. Work started immediately to alleviate situation. Worked throughout the night. Co. "E" erected & placed 80 ft Bailey Bridge over by-pass. Work completed at approx. 0600A, 5 December 1943. Co. "E" approx. 2 miles north of Francolise, Italy. WP #139-preparing roads to Bailey Bridge & improving new bivouac area. Co. "F"  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile west of Francolise, Italy. WP #93-hauled rock and spread over culvert. WP #120-#121-graded and ditched road. No enemy action. Cool & Raining.

5 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #109-put stringers from abutement to bent and pinned them in with drift pins to prevent them from sliding. Covered "I" beams with double flooring. Filled in both sides of bridge to make approaches, set up posts for hand rail. WP #110-completed both abutements. Drove piling. Started to build crib to drop around pile bent. Cut holes in "I" beams to put nailing strips on. Policed Bailey Bridge parts and returned them to 5th Army bridge dump. Maintained by-pass. Finished crib & placed it in water around bent. Put in 20 stringers ("I" beams) 10' x 20'. Started scaffold around piles to put caps on. Co. "E" WP #139-preparing approaches to Bailey Bridge. Constructing Bailey Bridge at "D" Co. WP #110. Co. "F" WP #93-worked on elimination of by-pass; hauled rock for road. Culvert-dug for culvert & set pipe. Worked Bn quarry, loaded rock for "D" & "E" Co. WP #120-#121-worked road grader over roads; ditched 4 miles of road. Hauled piling from San Maria dump for "D" & "E" Co's W P. Helped "D" Co. in construction of fixed bridge. No enemy action. Cool & Raining.

6 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #110-completed crib; and placed in water around bent. Made scaffold around piles to put caps on. Finished capping bent. Put in diagonal bracing on bent. Re-set sill; laid 21 stringers from near sill to 1st bent; laid 2 stringers across middle bent; cut holes in "I" beams for nailing strips. Placed all beams for middle bent. Bolted nailing strips to "I" beams. Co. "E" WP #139-erecting Bailey Bridge, constructing roadway for pile-driver. obtaining and assembling equipment & materials-preliminary layout for fixed bridge. Co. "F" WP #93-hauled 9 loads of rock for road; removed 40 cu yds of dirt from by-pass. WP #120-#121-ditched & drained  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of road; worked road grader over roads. Hauled 5 loads of fill to repair approach of "E" Co. bridge. Culvert-hauled 2 loads of fill and set pipe in culvert. Worked Bn quarry-supplied "D" & "E" Co's with rock & gravel. No enemy action.

7 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #110-placed longitudinal bracings between bents. Started to build flooring & completely finished flooring. Adjusted and completed diagonal bracing. Filled in approaches. Started to grade abutements to fit approach to bridge. Co. "E" WP #139-constructing Bailey Bridge & fixed bridge. Laying out bridge site. Work on approaches. Co. "F" WP #93-completed removal of by-pass; levelled off ground. WP #120-ditched & drained  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of road; cleaned out 3 culverts worked grader over roads. WP #121-filled in crater; filled in chuck holes; ditched & drained 2 miles of road; hauled 12 loads of fill. Worked Bn Quarry-supplied Co's "D" & "F" with rock & gravel. No enemy action.

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8 December 1943. Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #110-built fence on both sides of road at bridge. Bolted on the curbing and posts on bridge. Placed bituminous surface on approaches. Cleaned up all excess material & lumber and returned to Bn. Equip. dump. Co. "E" WP #139-constructing 110 ft (temporary structure) Bailey Bridge for by-pass, completed approaches to Bailey Bridge. Assembling & hauling material for fixed bridge. Co. "F" WP #93-fixed braces on cribbing. WP #120-hauled 1 load of timber; fixed rail on culvert east of Via Appia. WP #121-fixed 5 craters; ditched and drained  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of road; worked grader over road. Worked Bn quarry-loaded out 68 loads. No enemy action.

9 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #110-completed bituminous surface on both sides of bridge. Finished cleaning out channels between bents. Finished painting hand rails and hub guards on approaches to bridge. Finished policing excess materials & equipment. Co. "E" WP #139-constructing 110 ft (temporary structure) Bailey Bridge for by-pass. Constructing approaches & guard rail to Bailey Bridge & completed layout of fixed bridge. Started to drive piling. Hauled rock for Bailey Bridge approaches. Co. "F" WP #120-ditched & drained  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of road; spread gravel over depressions in road. WP #121-ditched & drained 2 miles of road; fenced off bomb craters. WP #162-marked off dump; hauled 61 loads of rock. No enemy action.

10 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #120-#121-cribbed road near railroad tracks. Built gutter on both sides of road - road left of WP #139. Scraped & cleaned road past WP #110. Maintained secondary roads with grader - also main highway 1 mile south of Francolise, Italy, dug dirt out of culvert and refilled with gravel, made gutter on both sides. Co. "E" WP #139-dismantling & hauling Bailey Bridge to 5th Army bridge dump. Maintaining roads and approaches to Bailey Bridge. Drove piling for permanent bridge. Co. "F" WP #162-hauled 94 loads of rock; built culver knocked down walls of building. Worked Bn quarry-supplied Co's "D" & "E" with rock & gravel. No enemy action.

11 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #110-removed Bailey bridge & returned to 5th Army bridge dump. Built barricade at both entrances to by-pass. WP #120-#121-repaired holes on roads. Scraped mud off main highway. Cleaned, ditched, & filled crater with gravel on main highway. Co. "E" WP #139-dismantling Bailey Bridge & driving piles for permanent bridge. Maintaining approaches to Bailey bridge & road to bivouac area. Co. "F" WP #162-built 2nd culvert; demolished building for rubble; dug 180 ft of ditch 12 inches by 14 inches; hauled 270 loads of rock & rubble. Worked Bn quarry-supplied Co's "D" & "E" with rock and gravel. No enemy action.

12 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #110-removed pipe from culvert. Cleaned channel through rock fill. WP #120-filled and tamped holes on main highway. Cleaned out drains on both sides of road. WP #121-made drains on both sides of road-cleaned road & repaired holes. Co. "E" WP #139-driving piles for permanent bridge; preparing abutments; dismantling Bailey Bridge; & maintaining approaches to Bailey Bridge on by-pass. Co. "F" WP #162-demolished building; hauled & spread 180 loads of rubble; dug 150 ft of ditch; moved and set up "D" Co. crane for operation at 235th Engr quarry. No enemy action.

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13 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D"; WP#120 - filled and tamped craters, cleaned out drains on both sides of road, scraped mud from road. WP#121 - cleaned out ditches and patched holes in road. Co. "E"; WP#139 - continued removal of Bailey Bridge parts to dump, maintenance of bypass, placed cribbing around piling of bridge under construction and worked on construction of abutments. Co. "F"; WP#162 - hauled and spread 168 cu yds of stone, worked Bn quarry - supplied Co's "D" and "E" with rock and gravel. No enemy action.

14 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D"; WP#110 - removed 9 pipes (20' in dia x 30' long) from culvert. WP#120 - filled craters and spread gravel on road, scraped mud from road surface. WP#121 - filled craters in road surface and cleaned out drains. Co. "E"; WP#139 - continued maintenance of bypass, hauled Bailey Bridge parts to dump, drove piling for bridge under construction, and prepared material for construction of bents. Co. "F" WP#162 - loaded and hauled 199 loads of rock and gravel for dump roads and area, blasted for rock. Worked Bn quarry - supplied Co's "D" and "E" with rock and gravel. No enemy action.

15 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D"; WP#120 - hauled stone and rock from quarry and spread on road, leveled roads with road-grader, scraped mud from surpace of road. WP#121 - filled craters in road, filled ruts in road with gravel, built shoulders on hard surface where needed. Co. "E"; WP#139 - continued maintenance of bypass, drove piling for bridge under construction and prepared bents for 1st span. Co. "F"; WP#162 - blasted for rock, hauled and spread 130 loads of rock over dump roads and area. Worked Bn quarry - supplied Co's "D" and "E" with rock and gravel. No enemy action.

16 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D"; WP#110 - removed 10 cu yds of rock and gravel from culvert. WP#120 - cleaned out drains on sides of road, filled craters and spread 8 cu yds of gravel on road. WP#121 - cleaned out drains on sides of road, built up shoulders of road, made drainage ditches from road to gutters. Removed and loaded 16 cu yds of gravel for maintenance of roads. Co. "E"; WP#139 - continued maintenance of bypass, drove piling for south approach of bridge under construction, preparing bents for bridge, excavating road for bridge seat. Co. "F"; WP#162 - worked section of 235th Engrs. quarry for rock and gravel; blasted and hauled 117 cu yds of rock and gravel, spread 117 cu yds of rock and gravel over dump area and dump roads. Worked Bn quarry - supplied Co's "D" and "E" with rock and gravel. No enemy action.

17 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D"; WP#110 - completed work on culvert; removed 4 cu yds of rock and dirt. WP#120 - road maintenance, filled craters, graveled road, built up shoulders. WP#121 - road maintenance, filled holes in road, graveling road. Bn quarry was worked - removed and loaded onto trucks 18 cu yds of rock and gravel for maintenance of roads. Co. "E"; WP#139 - construction of bridge; continued maintenance of bypass, preparing bents for bridge, driving piling, working on abutments. Co. "F"; WP#162 - construction of Bailey bridge dump; hauled and spread 304 cu yds of rock and gravel over dump area and dump roads. Worked Bn quarry - supplied Co's "D" and "E" with rock and gravel. WP#120 and 121 - maintenance of roads, graded road with road-grader. No enemy action.

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18 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #120-maintenance of road; filled and surfaced craters, built up shoulders, cleaned out drainage ditches. WP #121-maintenance of road; repaired holes, built up shoulders, spread gravel & cleaned out gutters. Worked Bn quarry-removed and loaded onto trucks 18 cu. yds of rock & gravel for maintenance work. Maintained and graveled road leading to bivouac area. Co. "E" WP #139-constructing fixed bridge; maintained by-pass, drove piling, completed first span on north side, preparing bents. Co. "F" WP #162-construction of Bailey Bridge dump; hauled and spread 165 cu. yds of rock over dump roads and area. Completed job this date. WP #120-#121-maintenance of roads; graded roads with road grader, repairing and cleaning culverts. Worked Bn quarry-supplied Co's "D" & "E" with rock & gravel. No enemy action.

19 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #120-maintenance of roads; filling craters and tamping same. cleaning out drains, repaired shoulders. WP #121-maintenance of roads; dug drainage ditches, repaired shoulders, filled holes. Worked Bn quarry; blasted for rock loaded onto trucks 27 cu. yds of rock & gravel for maintenance work. Co. "E" WP #139-construction of fixed bridge; maintained by-pass, excavated for abutment on south side, drove piling for 2nd bent on north side. Co. "F" Care & cleaning of equipment. No enemy action.

20 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #179-construction of culvert approx.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Sparanise on Rt #7 to replace previous structure that failed. Maintenance of road; removed dirt & fill with bulldozers from under bridge, general road maintenance; repaired shoulders, filled small holes. Bn quarry-removed and loaded onto trucks 24 cu. yds of rock & gravel for maintenance work. Co. "E" WP #139-construction of fixed bridge; maintained by-pass, prepared and laid stringers for 1st & 2nd bent on south side, drove piling on north side, placed bent for 2nd span into position on south side. Co. "F" WP #179-maintained roads; clearing and ditching shoulders, hauling excess dirt away from roads, maintained guards on Volturno River bridge to check flow of water. No enemy action.

21 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #179-construction of culvert, maintenance of roads; removed dirt and fill from beneath present Bailey Bridge with bulldozers, cleaned & filled holes in road, cleaned ditches along road. Bn quarry-removed & loaded onto trucks 10 cu. yds of rock & gravel for maintenance work. Co. "E" WP #139-construction of fixed bridge; maintaining by-pass, constructing bents, laying stringers, driving piling. Co. "F" WP #179-maintenance of road; cleared & ditched  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles of road, demolished severely damaged building and cleared road. No enemy action.

22 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #179- construction of culvert; maintenance of roads; obtaining material for culvert from Sparanise and assembling material at culvert site, cleaned & ditched sides of road, removed excess mud from road, stocking piles of rock & gravel along road for future maintenance. Bn quarry-removed & loaded onto trucks 8 cu. yds of gravel for maintenance purposes. Co. "E" WP #139-construction of fixed bridge; capped last rows of piling on north and south side, erected bent on north side, maintained by-pass. Co. "F" WP #179-maintenance of roads; maintained shoulders, ditched and drained 8 miles of road, checked water level of Volturno River. No enemy action.

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23 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D"; WP#179 - construction of culvert, maintenance of roads; cleaned out stream under bridge, procured material for construction of culvert, filled pot-holes in road, maintained shoulders of road, dug drainage ditches on sides of road. Bn quarry - removed 16 cu yds of rock and gravel for maintenance purposes. Co. "E"; WP#139 - construction of fixed bridge; maintaining bypass, assembling and erecting bents, laying stringers. Co. "F"; WP#179 - maintenance of roads; checked water level of Volturno River at Capua bridge, hired and supervised 95 Italians for work of maintaining roads, ditched and drained roads, repairing culverts, maintained  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles of road. No enemy action.

24 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D"; WP#179 - maintenance of roads, construction of culvert; filled pot-holes, maintained shoulders, dug drainage ditches, cleared clogged drains, cleared stream bed in preparation for footing of culvert, cutting and preparing lumber for footing of culvert, obtaining material for job. Bn quarry - blasted and removed 24 cu yds of rock and gravel for road maintenance purposes. Co. "E"; WP#139 - construction of fixed bridge; bracing bents, preparing and laying stringers. Co. "F"; WP#162 - maintenance of roads; repairing washout on Rte #7, drained 5 miles of road shoulders on Rte #6 and 7, and Sparanise Cutoff, hired and supervised 87 Italian laborers for road work, constructed small culvert on Rte #6. No enemy action.

25 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Work curtailed for the day. No enemy action.

26 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D"; WP#179 - construction of culvert, maintenance of road; excavating for footing of culvert, cutting timber and lumber for footing, lowered stream bed permitting water to recede faster, maintained road shoulders, cleaned drainage ditches along road, removed excess mud off of roads. Bn quarry - removed 60 cu yds of rock and gravel, established stock piles along road on Rte #6 and #7 for future road maintenance. Co. "E"; WP#139 - construction of fixed bridge; working on bents of bridge (braced and bolted), maintained bypass, laid stringers atop bents. Co. "F"; WP#179 - maintenance of roads; maintained shoulders, hauled two loads (3 cu yds) of rock and gravel for washout on Rte #7, graded roads with road-grader, hired and supervised 88 Italian laborers for work on roads. No enemy action.

27 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D"; WP#179 - construction of culvert, maintenance of road. Culvert; completed one (1) footing and reinforced with rock, erecting sillssand posts and nailing and bolting cribbing, excavating for second footing, drove sheeting in entrance way to make curtain wall. Road maintenance; filled holes, repaired craters and shoulders, improved drainage ditches, stocked piles of rock and gravel along road for future use. Bn quarry - removed and loaded 30 cu yds of rock and gravel for maintenance purposes. Co. "E"; WP#139 - construction of fixed bridge; maintaining bypass, placing and welding sway braces, laying stringers, constructing cribbing around bents, bolting bents that had been temporarily nailed. Co. "F"; WP#179 - maintenance of roads; ditched, drained, and dressed shoulders on Rte #6 and #7 and Sparanise Cutoff, constructed culvert on Rte #7, obtained 6 cu yds of rock for washout on Rte #6 and #7, graded Rte #6 and #7 with road-grader, hired and supervised 97 Italian laborers working on roads.

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28 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #179- construction of culvert, maintenance of roads. Culvert; working on bents and curtain wall. Maintenance of roads; cleaned & improved drainage ditches, filled small holes, maintained shoulders, stocked piles of rock & gravel along road for future use. Bn quarry-removed 40 cu. yds of rock & gravel for maintenance purposes. Co. "E" WP #139- construction of fixed bridge; maintained by-pass, placing & welding sway braces, laying flooring, constructing cribbing for bents. Co. "F" WP #179-maintenance of roads: hired and supervised 110 Italian laborers for road work, stocked piles of rock & gravel along roads for future use on washouts of culverts & general road maintenance, ditched, drained, and dressed  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles of road. No enemy action.

29 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #179-construction of culvert, maintenance of roads. Culvert; prepared "I" beams for placement atop bents, erected center bent, sheeting sides of culvert. Maintained roads; filled pot holes, maintained shoulders, stocked piles of rock & gravel along road for future use. Bn quarry-removed 50 cu. yds of rock & gravel for maintenance of roads. Co. "E" WP #139-construction of fixed bridge; maintained by-pass, welding sway braces, laying flooring, constructed cribbing around bents, prepared approaches. Co. "F" WP #179-maintenance of roads; ditched, drained, and dressed shoulders of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles road, obtained gravel & lumber for future use on maintenance of roads, hired and supervised 103 Italians for work on roads. No enemy action.

30 December 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" WP #179 - construction of culvert, maintenance of roads; Culvert; working on bents, excavating in preparation for wing-wall. Maintenance of road; maintained shoulders; filled pot holes, cleaned drainage ditches. Bn quarry; removed 50 cu yds of rock & gravel for maintenance purposes. Co. "E" WP #139-construction of fixed bridge; laid flooring, constructed cribbing for bents; prepared approaches, put up railing, maintained by-pass. Co. "F" WP #179-maintenance of roads; constructed 3 culverts, stocked piles of rock & gravel along roads for future use, maintained 4 miles of road, hired and supervised 112 Italian laborers who worked on roads. No enemy action.

31 December 1943; Francolise, Italy, Co. "D" WP #179-construction of culvert; maintenance of roads; Culvert; completed sheeting on north side of culvert. Completed all steel work; 1/6 of decking finished. Started laying culvert floor. Completed strut in middle bent. Road maintenance; cleaned & ditched road. Worked Bn quarry-loaded out 30 cu. yds of stone & gravel for maintenance purposes. Co. "E" WP #139-construction of fixed bridge; preparing approaches, placing side rails, repairing approaches to Bailey Bridge, constructing cribbing around bents. Co. "F" #179-maintenance of roads; Hired and supervised 98 Italian laborers who worked on roads; scraped road with road grader, ditched, drained and dressed  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles of road (both sides) Rt #6 & #7. Obtaining rock & gravel for repair of approaches to Capua bridge, no enemy action.

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Casualties sustained by Battalion during month of December 1943:

Non - Battle Casualties	- 1
Battle Casualties	- 0

Battalion Strength as of 1 December 1943: (Including Medical Detachment)

Officers:	18	Enlisted Men:	616
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Battalion Strength as of 31 December 1943: (Including Medical Detachment)

Officers:	17	Enlisted Men:	598
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*C. S. Monnier*  
C. S. MONNIER  
Major, C. E.,  
Commanding.