

HEADQUARTERS
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT
APO #464

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1. The period of February 1st through February 6th, the 540th Engineer Regiment operated X-Ray beaches on the Anzio Beachhead. This was in continuation of the landing on January 22, 1944.
2. On February 6th Fifth Army took charge of supply operations. The following organization was formed to operate the Port of Anzio: The 540th Regimental Headquarters, supplemented by personnel from the 10th Port Headquarters, formed the Port Headquarters. X-Ray beach was operated by the 1st Battalion, 540th Engineer Regiment, Anzio Harbor by the 2nd Battalion, 540th Engineer Regiment, and Yellow Beach by the 3rd Beach Group (British). In addition, the 387th Engineer Battalion was placed at the disposal of the Port Commander to provide labor for unloading craft. A detachment of the Fifth Army Transportation Section worked with the Port Headquarters to handle the trucks being used on the supply turn-around between Naples and Anzio. The Regiment continued to operate the Port of Anzio throughout the month.
3. Difficulties encountered in port operation were:
 - (1) Weather - High seas prevented operation of X-Ray beaches. Also during the periods of storms it was impossible to lead LCT's from Liberty ships.
 - (2) Enemy shelling - Due to enemy shelling Liberty ships were forced to remain several miles off-shore. This great distance from ship to shore prevented the use of DUKWs for ship-to-dump operation.
 - (3) Lack of craft - Since the LCT's operating from ship to shore were kept in constant operation, the number of craft that could be kept in operational condition was very low, thus making it extremely difficult to maintain the flow of supplies.
4. Experiments were tried using LCI's to transport cargo from Liberty ships to shore. Bulky and heavy cargo is difficult to handle on LCI's; also it is not profitable to use the hatches. All cargo was deck-loaded. LCI's can only be used in very calm weather as the swells cause the top of the bridge on the LCI's to strike the sides of the Liberty ships. However, LCI's can be used very effectively, when weather permits, in handling such supplies as rations, ammunition, and other packaged goods that can be handled by one or two men.

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