

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

/ctm

1 February 1944.

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 January 1944.

1 January 1944: Francolise, Italy, Road Map Italy, 1/200,000, Sheet 19, 704787. Co. "D" WP #179-construction of culvert; filled down stream at end of culvert with rock to prevent it from washing out. WP #206-removed trees from across highway #87 approx. 1.5 miles south of Casserta. Removed telephone poles from Rt #7, approx. 1.5 south of Casserta. Co. "E" WP #139-constructing fixed bridge; maintaining cribbing around bents, maintaining approaches to Bailey Bridge, maintaining approaches to permanent bridge. Co. "F" WP #179-clearing storm damage on Rt #6 & 7 and Sparanise Cut. Removed debris and opened up drainage ditches on Rt #6 & #7. No enemy action.

2 January 1944: Francolise, Italy. Road Map Italy, 1/200,000, Sheet 19, 704787. Co. "D" WP #179-construction of culvert; completed sheeting on both sides of culvert, floored atop stringers, policed area around culvert site, preparing for proposed movement to new bivouac area. Co. "E" WP #139-construction of fixed bridge; painted guide rails, policed area around bridge site, completed work on bridge this date. Preparing for proposed movement. Co. "F" WP #179-hauled bridge timbers from bivouac area to "D" Co. WP #179 and to Dump #27. Preparing for proposed movement. No enemy action.

3 January 1944: Francolise, Italy. Hqs. Det., plus advance elements of Co's "D", "E", & "F" left bivouac area, Francolise, Italy at approx. 0900A this date for new bivouac area - di Cuma, Italy - Road Map Italy, 1/200,000, Sheet 19, 704749. Arrived at di Cuma, Italy at approx. 1200A, set up and improved bivouac area. Remainder of Co's "D", "E", & "F" left bivouac area - Francolise, Italy at approx. 1900A. Arrived at di Cuma, Italy at approx. 2300A. No enemy action.

4 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Road Map Italy 1/200,000, Sheet 19, 704749. Co's "D", "E", & "F", setting up and improving bivouac area, moving balance of material from old area at Francolise, Italy. No enemy action.

5 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co. "D" Improving bivouac area - started training program - tested mine detectors and trained as to their proper use. Co. "E" Improving bivouac area - started training program - Orientation lecture from 1500A to 1630A. Co. "F" Improving bivouac area - started training program - Orientation lecture from 1500A to 1630A. The following named Officers assigned to this Bn from 29th Repl. Bn., Personnel Center #6, assigned within Bn as follows; 2nd Lt. HOCH, 2nd Lt. JANECEK - Bn Hqs., 2nd Lt. GUNNING, 2nd Lt. ZITZMAN - Co. "D", 2nd Lt. WILLIAMS, 2nd Lt. NICOL - Co. "E", 2nd Lt. KONCHAK - Co. "F". No enemy action.

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6 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co. "D" Training program - physical exercise, orientation of beach operations, hike, and beach obstacles. Co. "E" Training program - same as "D" Co. Co. "F" TRAINING Program - same as "D" Co, also widened culvert of exit road from area. 2nd Lt. HARE and 16 EM from 29th Repl Bn, Personnel Center #6, assigned to this Bn as follows: 2nd Lt. HARE, - Co. "F" , 7 EM to "D" Co., 7 EM to "E" Co., and 2 EM to "F" Co. No enemy action.

7 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co. "D" Training program - physical exercise, close order drill, beach road network & dump operations, hike, mechanics & development of teams for road building. Co. "E" Training program - same as "D" Co. Co. "F" Training program - same as "D" Co., also clearing road blocks at 0645490 - Sheet 184 - IV, Map Italy, 1/50,000. No enemy action.

8 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co. "D" Training program - physical exercise, landing crafts, beach markers, hike, beach reconnaissance - road and dump sites, general beach operations. Co. "E" Training program - same as "D" Co. Co. "F" Training program - same as "D" Co. No enemy action.

9 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co. "D" Training program - physical exercise, clearing beach obstacles, preparing and marking beach exit roads and roadways, hike, mine clearance and dump establishment. Co. "E" Training program - same as "D" Co. Loading of equipment in preparation for problem. Co. "F" Training program: Same as "D" Co., plus various phases of landing operations, walked thru (dry run) a beach landing operation. No enemy action.

10 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co. "D" proposed problem (cancelled) hiked 4 miles south of bivouac area and returned. Co. "E" RCT landing problem. Co. "F" Training program - physical exercise, hike, walked thru (dry run) a beach landing operation. No enemy action.

11 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co. "D" participated in RCT landing problem. Co. "E" RCT landing problem. Co. "F" Training program - physical exercise, hike, instruction in nomenclature, care, and use of all weapons. No enemy action.

12 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co. "D" returned from RCT landing problem, care and cleaning of equipment. Co. "E" returned from RCT landing problem, care and cleaning of equipment. Co. "F" RCT landing problem in conjunction with "C" Co. 1st Bn. No enemy action.

13 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co's "D" & "E" firing various weapons on the firing range; M1, O3, carbine, pistol, machine gun, 30 & 50, Fired Bazooka's, 50 cal. & 37 mm. "F" Co. RCT Landing problem in conjunction with "C" Co. 1st Bn. 1st Lt. OBLER assigned to "F" Co. from 29th Repl. Bn, Personnel Center #6. No enemy action.

14 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co's "D" & "E" Critique of landing exercise of 11 January 1944. Detailed rehearsal of beach landing operations. Co. "F" returned from RCT landing problem, care and cleaning equipment. No enemy action.

15 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co's "D" & "E" Training program - continued to rehearse all phases of beach landing operations.

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15 January 1944 Cont'd. Co. "E" gave demonstration of "Beach Marking" to Skipper's & coxswains of Landing Craft (LST's, LCT's, & LCI's) at 1000A this date. Approximately 50 American and British Naval Officers and Naval Enlisted Personnel attended. Co. "F" Training program - (dry run) M1, O3, carbine, pistol, machine gun, 30 & 50 cal. Fired bazooka's and 50 cal. - 37 mm. No enemy action.

16 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co. "D" Training program - Physical exercise, hike, re-rolled Summerfeld Matting and loaded on Dukws. Preparing for proposed movement. Co. "E" left this date for beach landing problem. Co. "F" Training program - Physical exercise, hike, nomenclature of all weapons. No enemy action.

17 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co. "D" Training program - Physical exercise, hiked 4 miles north of bivouac area and returned - preparing for proposed movement. Co. "E" on beach landing problem. Co. "F" Training program - physical exercise, hike, rehearsing various phases of beach operation. No enemy action.

18 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co. "D" - preparing for proposed movement. Co. "E" returned from beach landing problem this date. Co. "F" - preparing for proposed movement. No enemy action.

19 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Co. "D" left bivouac area by M/T enroute to Port of Embarkation (Bagnoli, Italy) at approx. 0700A. Arrived at Port at approx. 0900A. Boarded LST #367, ASN 228 at 0910A. Co. "E" preparing for proposed movement. Co. "F" left bivouac area by M/T at approx. 0900A enroute to Port of Embarkation (Nisida, Italy), boarded LST 427, ASN 221, LST 408, ASN 223, at approx. 1030A. No enemy action.

20 January 1944: di Cuma, Italy. Bn Hqs., & "E" Co. left bivouac area at approx. 1000A by M/T for Port of Embarkation (Pozzuoli, Italy), arrived at Port at approx. 1030A, boarded as follows; Bn Hqs., LCI #3, ASN 138, & LCI #4, ASN 139. Co. "E" LCI #3, ASN 138, LCT #32, ASN 4, LCT #33, ASN 5, LST #358, ASN 208, LST #379, ASN 202. Co. "D" at Sea aboard LST #367, ASN 228. No enemy action.

21 January 1944: Battalion minus rear echelon elements at Sea, headed for beach assault operation, vicinity of Anzio, Italy. No enemy action.

22 January 1944: (Beach Assault Operation) approx. 2miles south of Nettuno, Italy. Road Map Italy, 1/200,000, Sheet 17, F9216. Bn Hqs., plus "E" Co., and advance elements of Co's "D" & "F" landed on assault beach at approx. 0300A this date. No immediate enemy action encountered by Bn. During initial phases of operation at approx. 0400A, Pvt Haggerty Co. "E" seriously wounded when he entered a heavily booby trapped enemy mine field. Air raids: 0830A, 1030A, 1240A. During enemy air attack at approx. 0830A, Cpl Luttrell, & Pvt O'Neill both of "F" Co wounded by bomb which dropped on operational beach. Co. "E" started operations of Red Beach this date. Co. "D" landed in support of "E" Co. at approx. 1830A. Co. "F" landed in support of "C" Co. 1st Bn at approx. 0130A,

23 January 1944. Unloaded as follows: Class I - 15.5 tons, Class II & IV - 19.5 tons, Class III - 74 tons, Class V - 86.5 tons, total all classes - 194.5 tons. Halftracks & tanks - 144, Guns & SP Artillery - 61, all others 611, total vehicles - 819. Personnel disembarked - 9,176.

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23 January 1944: Approx. 2 miles south of Nettuno, Italy. Road Map Ital. 1/200,000, Sheet 17, 9216. Co's "D" & "E" setting up defensive position on Red Beach, unloading craft. Co. "F" disembarked at approx. 0130A this date. Unloaded as follows: Class I - 161 tons, Class II & IV - 3 tons, Class III - 55 tons, Class V - 323 tons, total all classes - 542 tons. Halftracks & tanks - 16, Guns & SP Artillery - 13, all others - 288, total vehicles - 217, Personnel disembarked - 727. Air raids at 1130A, 1240A, 1530A, During the 1130A raid Pvt Pederson, Co. "D" wounded slightly. No damage to operational beach.

24 January 1944: Approx. 2 miles south of Nettuno, Italy. Red Beach secured at 0800A because of sea conditions, and did not resume operations until 1200A, 25 January 1944. Unloaded as follows: Class V - 32 tons, Halftracks - tanks - none, all others - 8. Co's "D" & "E" maintaining and improving exit roads from beach. Co. "F" started this date to operate "Yellow Beach" at Anzio, Italy. Unloaded as follows: Class I - 106, Class II & IV - 228 tons, Class III - 153 tons, Class V - 611, total tonnage discharged - 1098 tons. Guns & SP Artillery - 1, Personnel discharged 2. Air raids at approx. 0630A, 1700A, 1805A, & 2200A. No damage to operational beach or casualties.

25 January 1944: Approx. 2 miles south of Nettuno, Italy. Red Beach resumed operations at 1200A this date. Secured again at 2100A this date because of storm, and resumed operations at 0800A 27 January 1944. Co's "D" & "E" operating Red Beach, unloaded as follows: Class I - 8.5 tons, Class II & IV - 9.5 tons, Class III - 54.5 tons, Class V - 163 tons. Total tonnage discharged - 235.5 tons. Guns & SP Artillery - 3, all others - 40. Personnel - 729. Co. "F" operating "Yellow Beach" - Anzio, Italy, unloaded as follows: Class I - 32 tons, Class II & IV - 7 tons, Class III - 56 tons, Class V - 150 tons, total tonnage discharged - 245 tons, these figures for "Yellow Beach" include unloading to 1000A, 26 January 1944, when beach was turned over to the British for operation. Air raids - 0830, 1215A, during 1215A raid Pvt Szczepaniak, Co. "E" fatally wounded.

26 January 1944: Approx. 2 miles south of Nettuno, Italy. Red Beach secured, no operations this date. Co's "D" & "E" maintaining and improving roads to and from beach. Co. "F" operating "Yellow Beach", Anzio, Italy, completed unloading at "Yellow Beach" at 1000A this date and returned to Red Beach. Air raids at 0930A, 1200A, 1545A, 1730A, & 1900A. No damage to operational beach or casualties.

27 January 1944: Approx. 2 miles south of Nettuno, Italy. Red Beach resumed operations at 0800A this date. Co's "D" & "E" operating Red Beach, unloaded as follows: Class I - 92.5 tons, Class III - 14 tons, Class V - 71.5 tons. Total tonnage discharged: 178.0 tons. Halftracks & tanks - 34. Guns & SP Artillery - 23, all others - 147. Co. "F" setting up defense of X-Ray Beach against airborne or seaborne attack. 4 KM from 2nd Repl Depot assigned to this Battalion - assigned to Companies within Battalion as follows: "D" Co. - 1, "E" Co. 2, "F" Co. 1. Air raids at approx. 0100A, 0745A, 0930A, 1145A. No damage to operational beach or casualties.

28 January 1944: Approx. 2 miles south of Nettuno, Italy. Co's "D" & "E" operating Red Beach, unloaded as follows: Class I - 84.5, Class II & IV - 9, Class III - 133, Class V - 199, total tonnage discharged - 425.5 tons. Halftracks & tanks - 99, Guns & SP Artillery - 29, all others - 195, Personnel disembarked - 304. Air raids - 0745A, 1700A, 1800A. During 1700A raid bombs dropped adjacent to Army Beach CP. Pvt. Gomez slightly wounded during 1700A raid. Co. "F" defending X-Ray Beach. Co. "F"

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29 January 1944: Approx. 2 miles south of Nettuno, Italy. Co's "D" & "E" operating Red Beach. Co. "F" defending X-Ray beach against airborne or seaborne attack. Unloaded from Red Beach as follows: Class I - 55.5 tons, Class II & IV - 130 tons, Class III - 134.5 tons, Class V - 430 tons, total tonnage discharged: 750 tons. Air raids at 0830A & 2200A. During 0830A raid Tec 5 Simmerman, Co. "D" slightly wounded by shrapnel. During 2200A raid the Liberty Ship "Huntington" and the British cruiser "Sparton" severely damaged when hit by bombs. At approx. 0330A, Pvt Zerface, Co. "E" fatally wounded when accidentally run over by dukw, while asleep in his tent.

30 January 1944: Approx. 2 miles south of Nettuno, Italy. Co's "D" & "E" operating Red Beach. Co. "F" defending X-Ray Beach against airborne or seaborne attack. Unloaded as follows from Red Beach, Class I - 82.5 tons, Class II & IV - 238.5 tons, Class III - 110 tons, Class V - 480.5 tons, total tonnage discharged - 911.5 tons. Lt. JANECEK, Bn Hqs injured when he attempted to get out of his tent during the explosion of the Liberty Ship "Huntington" at approx. 0300A, suffered severe laceration of leg, inflicted by iron stake in front of his tent. Pvt lcl Gravelle, Co. "F" fatally wounded when he accidentally entered an enemy mine field at approx. 1900A this date. No enemy air attacks this date.

31 January 1944: Approx. 2 miles of south of Nettuno, Italy. Co's "D" & "E" operating Red Beach. Co. "F" defending X-Ray beach against airborne & seaborne attack. Unloaded from Red Beach as follows: Class I - 68 tons, Class II & IV - 300 tons, Class III - 107 tons, Class V - 540 tons, total all classes - 1015 tons. No enemy action this date.

Unloading statistics: Red Beach - from 22 January 1944 - 31 January 1944.

Class I	-	568	tons
Class II & IV	-	799.5	tons
Class III	-	682	tons
Class V	-	<u>2527</u>	tons
		4,576.5	tons (total)

Halftracks & Tanks	-	306
Guns & SP Artillery	-	128
All others	-	<u>1273</u>
Total vehicles	-	<u>1707</u>

Personnel disembarked - 13,037

Unloading statistics: Yellow Beach - 24 January 1944 - 26 January 1944.

Class I	-	138	tons
Class II & IV	-	235	tons
Class III	-	209	tons
Class V	-	<u>761</u>	tons
		1,343	tons

Guns & SP Artillery	-	1
personnel disembarked	-	2

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Casualties sustained by Battalion during month of January 1944

Battle Casualties - 6  
Non-Battle Casualties - 5

Battalion Strength as of 1 January 1944.

Officers - 17 (Inc. Med. Det.)  
Enlisted Personnel 598 " " "

Battalion Strength as of 31 January 1944.

Officers - 25 (Inc. Med. Det.)  
Enlisted Personnel 612 " " "

Enemy action encountered by Battalion during month of January 1944.  
Air Raids - 26.

*C. S. Monnier*  
C. S. MONNIER  
Major, C. E.  
Commanding.