

JOURNAL -- Wednesday, 7 July 1943.STATION: Bivouac Area -- 15 Km east of Ferryville, Tunisia.EVENTS: Battalion including Med. Det. of 3 Officers and 15 EM left bivouac area during period 0100B -0300B by Motor Transport to entrucking area. Left entrucking area approximately 0600B for Port of Embarkation (Kruba Airport) Bizerte, Tunisia. Battalion embarked as follows at approximately 1000B.

		<u>Officers</u>	<u>EM</u>
LST	14	1	38
	15	1	38
	16	2	89
	17		3
	18	5	94
	32	6	193
	43	3	78
		<u>18</u>	<u>533</u>
	Totals		
Memo.	Rear Echelon	<u>2</u>	<u>56</u> (1 Med. EM)
	Total Strength	<u>20</u>	<u>589</u>

Left Bizerte at approximately 1300B and stood out to sea.

WEATHER: Clear.

JOURNAL -- Thursday, 8 July 1943.

STATION: At Sea (Mediterranean)

EVENTS. Convoy under way at 0600 this date.

WEATHER: Clear - Warm.

JOURNAL -- Friday, 9 July 1943.

STATION: At Sea (Mediterranean)

EVENTS: Battalion movement by ship convoy.

WEATHER: Clear -- Windy to high winds, latter part of day -- cool.

JOURNAL -- Saturday, 10 July 1943.

STATION: Off shore of Licata, Sicily.  
On shore -- Custom House -- Port of Licata, Sicily.

EVENTS: "D" Day Licata, Sicily Operation "H"<sup>Hour</sup> 0245. Battalion main forces landed as follows:

BN HQ & ATCHD MEDICS--Excluding Major Monnier (with Co. D), Capts. O'Brien, Brown (with Co. E) -- Yellow Beach 1300B.  
COMPANY "D"-- (Including Major Monnier).

1030B at Yellow Beach -- Major Monnier landed approximately at 0800B.

COMPANY "E". Landed at Yellow Beach at 1400, including Capt. O'Brien and Capt. Brown, HQS and Lt. Lee, Medical Det.

COMPANY "F". 1300B at Yellow Beach.

WORK

DONE: Operation of Port of Licata under way at 1400B. Bn. cleaned material off docks, clearing booby traps and mines -- about 15 cleared. Filled in two anti-tank traps, repaired landing points and prepared port for berthing of landing craft.

Craft unloaded: LST'S 2 -- 141 vehicles. 834 Troops.  
(No casualties or prisoners loaded)

ENEMY

ACTION: Battalion not engaged in action with enemy field forces. Enemy air attacks as follows:

- (1) 1200 -- 2 to 4 German planes, dive bombers.
- (2) 1430 -- 1 German plane, dive bomber.
- (3) 1600 -- 6 to 8 German planes, dive bombers.
- (4) 2130 -- X (Night air raid)

WEATHER: Clear -- Warm.

JOURNAL -- Sunday, 11 July 1943.

STATION: Port Of Licata, Sicily.

EVENTS: In German dive-bomber air raid at approximately 1100B, following EM were casualties:

Co. "D".	Pvt 1cl Earl A. Hutsell (Hosp)		
Co. "E".	Cpl Kenneth A. Brostrom (Hosp)		
	- Pvt 1cl James F. Pope Jr. (Hosp)		
	- Pvt Jasper E. Tincher (Hosp)		
	- T/5 Leslie L. Spicer (Not Hospitalized)		
	- Pvt 1cl Cecil G. Bond ( " " )		
	- Pvt 1cl Anthony E. Hennig (Not Hospitalized)		
Co. "F".	Pvt James Salac Jr. ( " " )		
	- Pvt <del>bob</del> Stefan Hreczaniuk ( " " )		
	- Pvt Sharon V. Magnuson ( " " )		

WORK  
DONE: Work continued on repairing docks and salvaging dock material to facilitate berthing and unloading of landing craft.

PORT OPERATIONS: 7 LST'S.

	<u>Unloaded</u>		<u>Loaded</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
7 LST'S	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Prisoners</u>	
	433	2404	800	45

ENEMY

ACTION: 3 -- German Dive Bomber attacks in morning consisting of from 2 to 6 planes.  
2 -- German Dive Bomber attacks in afternoon consisting of from 1 to 3 planes.  
3 -- Night air raids during hours 2100 - 2300.

WEATHER: Clear, Windy, Warm.

JOURNAL -- Monday, 12 July 1943

STATION: Port of Licata, Sicily.

EVENTS: Private Hiram Travis, Co. "E" 540th Engineer Regiment willfully refused to carry out official lawful orders, threatened company and personnel with hand grenade and was fatally wounded by Lt. Charles E. Robinson at approximately 2315B. ~~INJURED & DEFERRED~~ Capt. John C. O'Brien appointed Investigating officer -- s/o # 18 HQ 2nd Bn., 540th Engr. Regt. 13 July 1943.

OPERATIONS:

Getting docks in repair to facilitate unloading, removing sunken boats from harbor, additional check for booby traps and mines and erected 3 - 50 cal. gun emplacements.

PORT OPERATIONS ON 12TH.

	Unloaded		Loaded	
	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Prisoners</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
2--LST	96	589	976	

(Including cargo on LST 34)

ENEMY

ACTION: 2 Enemy Dive Bomber air raids at 1030B and 1130B consisting of from 2 to 4 <sup>enemy</sup> planes.  
 1 Enemy Dive Bomber air raid at approx. 1600B. Apparently 1 plane.  
 1 Enemy air raid at night approx. 2130B (1 truck, 1 DuKW slightly damaged in raid.)

WEATHER: Clear, Windy, Warm.

JOURNAL -- Tuesday, 13 July 1943.

STATION: Port of Licata, Sicily.

EVENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

OPERATIONS: Co's "D" & "E".

	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Unloaded Troops</u>	<u>Cargo</u>	<u>Loaded Casualties</u>	<u>Prisoners</u>
4-LST } 8-LCI }	62	1500	Unloaded Cargo on LST 309 & 378.		400

Co F: Repair, maintenance & improvement of harbor facilities, interior guard harbor area.

ENEMY ACTION: None

WEATHER: Clear, Warm.

JOURNAL -- 14 July 1943, WEDNESDAY.

STATION: Port of Licata, Sicily.

EVENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK DONE: Co's "D" & "E".

	Unloaded			Loaded	
	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Cargo</u>	<u>Prisoners</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
7-LST } 2-LCI }	11	1996	241 Animals		123

Co. F: *Repair, maintenance & improvement of harbor facilities, interior guard harbor area*

ENEMY ACTION: None

WEATHER: Clear, Windy, Warm.



JOURNAL -- Thursday, 15 July 1943.STATION: Port of Licata, Sicily.EVENTS: Col. Marvin, Capt. Fizdale visited 1300B to 1430B.  
Major General Ridgeway, 82nd Airborne Division visited dock 1730B.WORKDONE:

Co's "D" &amp; "E":

	<u>Unloaded</u>		<u>Loaded</u>	
	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Casualties</u>	<u>Prisoners</u>
1-LCT )	308	3479	103	264
6-LST )				
10-LCI )				
1-Navy )				
Ponton )				
Barge )				

Co's "F" &amp; "E":

Interior guard, Port area, cleaning up and misc. usual details, rations, water, sign painting, general maintenance of Port Area.

ENEMYACTION: NoneWEATHER: Clear, Warm.

JOURNAL -- Friday, 16 July 1943STATION: Port of Licata, Sicily.EVENTS: Usual Port Operations.  
Major Miles liason officer between Port Hq. and IAC Hq. killed in action on trip to Porto Empedocle, Sicily.  
Cargo Vessel "Svanholm", 1,262 T Ar. 1545B. Cargo Vessel "Mars", 1,644T Ar. 1600 docked outboard of "Svanholm"  
Cargo Vessel "Kroman" 1657T anchored in harbor 1630B.WORK  
DONE:

1. Unloaded 264 T from "Svanholm"  
" 127 T " "Mars" (by Dukw)  
" 59 T " "Kroman" " "
2. Constructed harbor road and improved beach to facilitate use Dukws in unloading of cargo vessels.
3. Interior Guard, Port Area, cleaning up and maintaining harbor area, grading grounds.

ENEMYACTION: Enemy plane at approximately 1100B dropped load of bombs in Licata area, but not near Port. Location established as near airport on outskirts of Licata.WEATHER: Clear, Warm.

JOURNAL -- Saturday 17 July 1943.STATION: Port of Licata, Licata, Sicily. Customs House.EVENTS: Bn. Hq. moved from custom House Building to 2nd Floor of Bureau of Maritime Building 1800B.WORK  
DONE:

1. Unloaded 664 T from "Svanholm"  
" 432 T from "Mars"  
" 326 T from "Kroman"
2. Loaded 47 casualties on <sup>US</sup> Army Hospital Ship Seminole.
3. Interior Guard, Port Area, cleaning up and maintaining harbor area, grading grounds.

ENEMYACTION: Red alert at 2130. All clear at 2200.WEATHER: Clear, Warm.

JOURNAL -- Sunday, 18 July 1943.STATION: Port of Licata, Licata, Sicily.EVENTS: Fire at Yellow Beach Ammunition dump or ammunition train 0700B, under control 1100B.WORK  
DONE: Port Operations:

	Unloaded		Cargo	Loaded	Casualties
	Vehicles	Troops		Prisoners	
9 LSTs	739	1399		2978	40
1 LCT			128T (Coal)		
Svanholm)			273T	Completely Unloaded	
Mars )	Coasters		132T	Sent to Porto Empedocle	
Kroman )			198T	for completion of unload.	

Interior Guard Port Area, cleaning up, maintaining and improving harbor area, grading grounds.

ENEMY  
ACTION: NoneWEATHER: Clear, Warm.

JOURNAL -- Monday, 19 July 1943.STATION: Port of Licata, Licata, Sicily.EVENTS: Received 3 replacements 0250B from 3rd Division:

Pvt. Don Doverspike 39559021 (Co D)  
 Pvt. Jose A. Delagarza 38144653 (Co E)  
 Pvt. Edgar (NMI) Darius 38113163 (Co F)

(Col. Marvin, Lt. Col. Connors visited Hq.)

WORK  
DONE:

Port Operations:

	Unloaded			Loaded	Casualties
	Vehicles	Troops	Cargo	Prisoners	
10 LSTs	547	1268	150T	.756	26 (13 Ital.)

2 Coasters:

Lewant (Docked	1845)	298T
Bollsta ( "	2020	192T
Outboard of Lewant)		

Interior Guard Port area, cleaning up, maintaining and improving harbor area, grading grounds.

ENEMY  
ACTION:

None.

WEATHER: Clear, Warm.

JOURNAL -- Tuesday, 20 July 1943.STATION: Port of Licata, Licata, Sicily.EVENTS: 17 EM Rear Echelon arrived at Station.WORKDONE:

Port Operations;

Coasters"Lewant"  
"Bollsta"Cargo Unloaded880 T (Completed)  
390 T

Casualties evacuated -- 260 (Oxfordshire, Br. Hosp. Ship)

Interior Guard Port Area, Cleaning up, maintaining and improving harbor area, grading grounds.

ENEMYACTION: NoneWEATHER: Clear, Warm.

JOURNAL -- Wednesday, 21 July 1943.STATION: Port of Licata, Licata, Sicily.EVENTS: 24 EM, Rear Echelon arrived.WORK  
DONE:

Port Operations:

Cargo Unloaded

"Lewant"	737 T	(Completed -- Grand Total 1915 T)
"Bollsta"	573 T	

	Unloaded			Loaded
	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Cargo</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
4 LSTs }	232	692	708	11
*2 LCTs }			27 T	
1 Troop Ship				
"Chateau Theiry"		1533		

\*Supplies from Liberty Ships at Yellow Beach rehandled at Port.

Interior Guard Port Area, Cleaning up, maintaining and improving harbor area, grading grounds.

ENEMY  
ACTION:

None.

WEATHER: Clear, Warm

JOURNAL -- Thursday, 22 July 1943.STATION: Port of Licata, Licata, Sicily.EVENTS:WORKDONE:

Co's "D" &amp; "E", Port Operations:

	Unloaded			Loaded	
	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Cargo</u>	<u>Prisoners</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
5 LSTs )					
*5 LCTs )	296	550	1779 T	478	
*3 LCMs )					

\*Cargo rehandled from Liberty Ships at Yellow Beach 542T.

Co. "F": Interior Guard Port Area, Cleaning up maintaining and improving harbor area grading grounds.

ENEMYACTION: NoneWEATHER: Clear, Warm.



JOURNAL -- Friday, 23 July 1943.STATION: Port of Licata, Licata, Sicily.EVENTS:WORKDONE: Co's "D" & "E": Port Operations.

	Unloading			Loading	
	Vehicles	Troops	Cargo	Prisoners	Cargo
10 LSTs)					
3 LCTs)	587	2357	418T	1935	
3 LCMs)					
"Bollsta"		553 T	556T		
4 LCTs	(Special combat load -- rations & ammo. 100T Apprx)				

Co. "F": Interior Guard Port Area, cleaning up, maintaining and improving harbor area.

ENEMYACTION: Red Alert 2200B - All Clear 2220B (No action in Port Area)  
Enemy parachutists reported landing in Licata zone.WEATHER: Clear, Warm.

JOURNAL -- Saturday, 24 July 1943.STATION: Port of Licata, Licata, Sicily.EVENTS: 10 - 12 freight cars ammunition, gasoline, oil, and supplies destroyed by fire in vicinity of railway station (0445 first noticed) approximately 6 full cars and 5 to 6 empties saved.WORK  
DONE:

Co's "D" &amp; "E", Port Operations:

	<u>Unloaded</u>			<u>Loaded</u>		
	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Troops</u>	<u>Cargo</u>	<u>Casual.</u>	<u>Pris.</u>	<u>Cargo</u>
1 LST)						
5 LCM)	87	508	480T		640	
2 LCI)						
1 LCT)						
"Bollsta"						
(Completed)			327T			
3 LCT						191 T (Rations)

Co. "F": Interior Guard Port Area, cleaning up, maintaining and improving harbor area.

ENEMYACTION: NoneWEATHER: Morning - (Cloudy), Afternoon - (Clear, High Winds)

JOURNAL -- Sunday, 25 July 1943.

STATION: Port of Licata, Licata, Sicily.

EVENTS: "Bollsta" left 0725.  
"Brisk" arrived 2340.

WORK DONE: Co's "D" and "E" -- Port Operations.

	Unloaded			Loaded		
	Vehicles	Troops	Cargo	Cas.	Pris.	Cargo
3 LSTs	103	713	7T			440
* 5 LCTs			366 T			
* 1 LCM						
** "Brisk"			203 T			
4 LCTs (Rations, Gasoline & Oil)						441 T

\* Cargo rehandled from Yellow <sup>Beach</sup> and from Coaster "Crackshot"  
\*\* Left for Palermo for completion at 2000 on 26th.

Co. "F" -- Interior Guard, Port Area, cleaning up, maintaining and improving harbor area.

ENEMY ACTION: None.

WEATHER: Clear, Warm.

JOURNAL -- Monday, 26, July 1943.

STATION: Port of Licata, Licata, Sicily

EVENTS:

WORK  
DONE: Co's "D" and "E" -- Port Operations. Port of Licata

Co. "F" -- Interior Guard, Port Area, cleaning up, maintaining and improving harbor area.

ENEMY  
ACTION: None.

WEATHER: Clear, Warm.

JOURNAL -- Tuesday, 27 July 1943.

STATION: Port of Licata, Licata, Sicily

EVENTS: Coaster "Jan" docked for loading at 0905

WORK  
DONE: Co's "D" and "E" -- Port Operations, Port of Licata

Co. "F" -- Interior Guard, Port Area, cleaning up, maintaining and improving harbor area.

ENEMY  
ACTION: Enemy air raid apparently in vicinity of Gela - Red alert at 2315B -  
All clear at 2345B

WEATHER: Clear, Windy

JOURNAL — Wednesday 28 July 1943.STATION: Port of Licata, Licata, Sicily

- EVENTS:
1. Prepared for Battalion movement.
  2. 1st Lt. James Chisholm, 0414966 reld as C.O. Co. "D" and assigned to Co. "F". 1st Lt. Richard P. Ferry, 04101432 reld from asgd to Co. "F" and asgd to Co. "D" Duty - Commanding Officer S/O #22(Par 1 and 2) Hq. 2nd Bn., 540th Engr. Regt. (25 July 1943)
  3. 2nd Bn., 540th Engr Regt received from 36th Engr Regt and 1st Engr Special Brigade and is asgd to Seventh U.S. Army (and WP fr Licata to Palermo without delay (Ltr 370.5-C-Hq Seventh Army -7/27/43) Par 12 S/O #148 Hq 1st Engr. Special Brigade 28 July 1943.

WORK  
DONE: Co's "D" and "E" — Port Operations, Port of Licata

Co. "F" — Interior Guard, Port Area, cleaning up, maintaining and improving harbor area.

ENEMY  
ACTION: None.

WEATHER: Clear, Warm

JOURNAL -- Thursday 29 July 1943.

STATION: Enroute from Port of Licata, Sicily to Palermo, Sicily.

EVENTS: Left Port of Licata (Assembly Area) 0630 by motor transport enroute to bivouac area, vicinity of Palermo, Sicily (Change of Station) Arrived at new bivouac area 1530. Distance travelled 128 miles. Roads poor narrow mountainous. Rain 1:15 PM - 1:40 PM.

WORK  
DONE:

ENEMY  
ACTION: None

WEATHER: Clear (showers 1315B - 1340B)

JOURNAL — Friday 30 July 1943.

STATION: Bivouac Area - Vicinity of Palermo, Sicily

EVENTS: 1st Lt. William A. Lee, 0472619 MC atchd MC reld from atchd  
and atchd to 1st Bn., 540th Engrs Per Ltr. Hq. 540th Engrs.  
28 July 1943 Subject - Orders

WORK  
DONE: Preliminary administrative and operational work at Port  
of Palermo preparatory to operating Port.

ENEMY  
ACTION: None

WEATHER: Clear - Warm



JOURNAL — Saturday, 31 July 1943

STATION: Bivouac Area - Vicinity of Palermo, Sicily

EVENTS: Bivouac area change - moved to area formerly occupied by 1st Bn., 540th Engrs - vicinity of Palermo.

WORK

DONE:

1. Commanding Port of Palermo, Sicily
2. Working docks (not Ships) - Ships worked by 384th Port Bn.,) Supervised prisoner labor (over 350 prisoners). D and E Co. unloaded cargo nets onto trucks of Truck Bn., and loaded supplies on freight cars - unloaded materiel at ammunition dumps. Co. F furnished interior guard port area.

ENEMY ACTION: None

WEATHER: Clear - Warm