

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

/ctm

1 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 November 1943.

1 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Map: Town Plan Naples, Italy, 1/10,000 719.4 747.9, GSGS 4380. Co. "D" cleaned and improved schoolhouse corner of Piazza Carlo, Naples, Italy; blacked-out windows, worked on construction of a 30 head shower, and checked water lines in building. Co. "E" clearing and improving Piers "F" & "G" - Port of Naples, Italy. Co. "F" prepared Civil Military Prison for use as rest quarters; blacked-out windows, dug hole and constructed box for latrine, worked on construction of shower enclosure, cut and treaded pipe for showers. During enemy air attack which lasted from 1840A to 1935A, bomb dropped on "E" Co. kitchen, killing Pvt Howard F. Harris of Co. "E".

2 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" preparing schoolhouse on corner of Piazza Carlo for use as barracks: completed blacking-out of entire building and continued construction of a 30 head shower, cleaned latrine and checked plumbing, installed wash basins in latrines, and installed plumbing for first aid station. Co. "E" continued to clear and improve Piers "F" & "G". Port of Naples, Italy, removed steel & filling bomb craters. Co. "F" preparing Civil Military Prison, Naples, Italy for use as rest quarters; continued blacking out windows, constructed 10 head shower, built wash stands, constructed latrine, prepared first aid station. No enemy action.

3 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" continued to recondition schoolhouse on corner of Piazza Carlo for use as barracks and rest quarters, built and enclosed with plywood, stands for sinks and painted same, constructed and placed dukw-boards and soap racks in showers and painted same, cleaned buildings at berth 39, 42, & 43, cleared crane at berth 39 - Port of Naples, Italy. Co. "E" continued work on Piers "F" & "G", removed debris, cleared buildings, and performed other general improvements. Co. "F" continued reconditioning of Civil Military Prison for use as rest quarters (completed braces on kitchen, blackout of passageway, and repaired pipe line.) Resumed Port improvements - cleared wrecked building at base of Pier "F", removed scrap iron to dump, eliminated S-turn - Port of Naples, Italy. No enemy action.

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4 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" completed cleaning & clearing of dock at berth 39 and cleaning out of building at berth 42, and at berth 43 cleaned and cleared building, constructed roadway in front of building, Port of Naples, Italy. Co. "E" cleaned and repaired Pier "G" and removed wrecked building between pier "F" & "G". Co. "F" started this date to repair railroad tunnel, Naples, Italy - removed debris, constructed operation road to tunnel, cut out steel obstructions. No enemy action.

5 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" repaired docks at berth 39, and cleaned buildings at berth 43 in Port of Naples, Italy. Co. "E" cleared and improved Pier "G" - Port of Naples, Italy. Co. "F" continued to clear & repair RR tunnel - Naples, Italy. Air raid 1800A. No casualties or damage.

6 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" worked at clearing bombed coal pier at Bagnoli, Italy; started to clear wreckage out of bomb hole in pier and hauled debris out of pier to fill tracks to make roadway. Co. "E" Regimental guard duty and furnishing heavy equipment operators to Co's "D" & "F". Co. "F" continued working on RR tunnel, Naples, Italy. Air alert at 1800A, all clear 1810A; alert 1830A, all clear 1845A; alert at 2030A, all clear at 2045A; alert at 2230A, all clear at 2255A. No planes over area.

7 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" continued to clean out debris from hole in pier. Filled in between tracks with brick & ore, Bagnoli, Italy. Co. "E" Regimental guard duty and furnished heavy equipment & operators to Co's "D" & "F". Co. "F" continued work of clearing RR tunnel, Naples, Italy. No enemy action.

8 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" continued repairing coal pier at Bagnoli, Italy - Hauled steel from work site to building 200 yds away removed concrete in order to place piling, rigged crane for pile driving. Constructed Band Stand & Coal Bin at schoolhouse on Piazza Carlo. Co. "E" Regimental guard duty and furnished heavy equipment to Co's "D" & "F". Co. "F" continued to make repairs to RR tunnel, Naples, Italy. No enemy action.

9 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" continued repairing coal pier at Bagnoli, Italy - erected floodlights for night work, drove piling, removed scrap iron, completed rigging of crane, and built cat walk on existing piling just above water level to facilitate spacing in placing of piling. Co. "E" Regimental guard - furnishing heavy equipment & operators to Co's "D" & "F". Hauling steel for 1st Bn, 540th Engr Regt. Co. "F" continued to clear & repair RR tunnel - Naples, Italy. Enemy air raid at approx. 0300A lasting until approx. 0415A. No casualties or damage.

10 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" continued repairing of coal pier at Bagnoli, Italy. Drove 14 (50) ft pilings, completed removal of scrap iron from pier, started welding of braces on piling just above center. Co. "E" Regimental guard, furnishing heavy equipment to Co's "D" & "F". Hauled steel for 1st Bn. Co. "F" continued work on RR tunnel, Naples, Italy.

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11 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" continued repairing of coal pier at Bagnoli, Italy (drove pilings and welded 5 inch angle iron to piling.) Co. "E" Regimental guard duty & hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" continued to clear & repair RR tunnel, Naples, Italy. No enemy action.

12 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" continued to work on coal pier at Bagnoli, Italy; pile driving, welding of braces and sections for replacements. Co. "E" hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" continued clearing RR tunnel, Naples, Italy. No enemy action.

13 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" continued repair work on coal pier at Bagnoli, Italy, drove piling and welded sections of structure. Co. "E" hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" continued work of clearing RR tunnel, Naples, Italy. Air alert at 2130A to 2145A & from 2240A to 2250A, no damage or casualties.

14 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" continued to repair coal pier at Bagnoli, Italy - welded braces, channel iron caps, and stringers to piling, and cut off tops of piling to correct uniform height. Constructed floor at 5th Army rest camp on Via Foria. Co. "E" continued hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" continued work of clearing RR tunnel, Naples, Italy. No enemy action.

15 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" continued to repair coal pier at Bagnoli, Italy, welded "I" beams, braces, and channel iron caps to piling. Co. "E" hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army Dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" completed RR tunnel job this date. Summary of work accomplished from 4 November to date; (Removed 6609 cu. yds - 2023.5 tons of rock, dirt, timbers, and concrete blocks. Cleared 45 box cars from railroad track, removed 17 box cars from tunnel, sloped bank of tunnel, removed two sections of canopy, blasted crown of tunnel, removed 15 sections of track. No enemy action.

16 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" completed job at coal pier, Bagnoli, Italy - welded braces to piling, welded plating on top of stringers, laid and bolted rails, cleaned and cleared tracks and switches. Co. "E" continued to haul steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" 1 Officer and 73 EM moved to new bivouac area, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Francolise, Italy, Road Map: Italy, 1/200,000, Sheet 19, 704786, remainder of Co. preparing for proposed movement and policing of bivouac area. No enemy action.

17 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" preparing for proposed movement. Co. "E" hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army Dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" remainder of Co. consisting of 4 Officers and 126 EM left bivouac area, Naples, Italy at approx. 1600A for new bivouac area, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Francolise, Italy, Road Map: Italy, 1/200,000, Sheet 19, 704786. No enemy action.

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18 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Co. "D" 2 Officers & 60 EM left bivouac area, Naples, Italy for new bivouac area, Francolise, Italy, Road Map, Italy, 1/200,000, Sheet 19, 704787, remainder of Co. preparing for proposed movement. Co. "E" hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" improving new bivouac area and preparing for proposed work project. No enemy action.

19 November 1943: Naples, Italy. Bn. Hqs Det., left bivouac area Naples, Italy at approx. 1000A this date for new bivouac area, Francolise, Italy, arrived Francolise, Italy at approx. 1200A. Remainder of Co. "D" Co. left bivouac area, Naples, Italy for new bivouac area, Francolise, Italy at approx. 0845A arrived Francolise, Italy approx. 1200A, distance travelled by motor convoy 35 miles. Co. "E" hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Francolise, Italy. Working on Jobs #92 & #93, Job #92-improving by-pass, route #7. Job #93-cleared area for by-pass, route #7, no enemy action.

20 November 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" repaired approach on south side of F. Sauone river $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Francolise, Italy in preparation for by-pass. Transported supplies for project from Bagnoli, Italy. Co. "E" Naples, Italy - hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Francolise, Italy. Job #92-improvement of by-pass for tracked vehicles; dumped 8 tons of crushed rock on summerfelt matting. Job #93-improvement of by-pass; laying of summerfelt matting. Job #93-improving by-pass; laying of summerfelt matting, obtaining material for use in culver No enemy action.

21 November 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" Job #109- dug drainage ditches on sides of approach, smoothed and reinforced approach. Job #110-placed 80 ft culvert using 200 board ft of lumber on side of approach. Co. "E" Naples, Italy-hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" Job #92-finished by-pass, removed dirt from creek bed, Job #93-working on by-pass, cut timber for culvert. No enemy action.

22 November 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" Job #109-working on by-pass; construction of culvert. Job #110-working on by-pass; construction of culvert, demolished old bridge. Co. "E" - Naples, Italy hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" Job #92-working on by-pass, removing dirt from creek bed. Job #93-working on by-pass, removing dirt from creek bed, hauling rock from quarry. No enemy action.

23 November 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" Job #109 continued work on by-pass. Job #110-working on by-pass; construction of culvert. Co. "E" Naples, Italy-hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" Job #92-obtaining steel pipe from Naples, Italy, excavated for end dams and set one in, built two whalers and obtained timber for same. Job #93-working on by-pass; obtaining rock from quarry, working on culvert; obtaining logs for cribbing and end of dam. No enemy action.

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24 November 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" Job #109-working on culvert, cleared and prepared river bed for bridge footings. Job #110-working on by-pass. Co. "E" Naples, Italy-hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" Job #92-obtaining timber and fill for culvert, completed end dams. Co. "F" obtaining timber for ramp in quarry, hauled rock from quarry, set two pipes in creek bed, built whalers, marked by-pass for night driving. Job #112-worked 2 miles of road with scrapper. No enemy action.

25 November 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" Job #109- working on by-pass, clearing and preparing creek bed for footing of new bridge. Job #110-working on by-pass, removed D-7 that was stuck in stream, obtaining gravel and timber for cribbing and revetments. Job #121-filled bomb crater on main highway south of Francolise, Italy. Co. "E" Naples, Italy hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" Job #92-maintaining by-pass, set and connected pipe, started end cribbing. Job #93-maintaining by-pass, set and connected pipe, obtaining rock at quarry, set loading ramp at rock quarry. Job #112-ditched $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of road. No enemy action.

26 November 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" Job #109-obtaining gravel for bridge site, excavating creek bed to establish sound base for footing of bridge. Job-#110working on by-pass, laying and fitting pipe in stream bed, obtaining gravel for fill for revetment. Job #120-filling in bomb crater and small holes on highway. Co. "E" Naples, Italy-hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" Job #92-obtaining logs for cribbing, obtaining sand for fill in culvert, set 24 logs in cribbing. Job #93-working on culvert; setting pipe, obtaining pipe from Naples, Italy, obtaining rock for by-pass, completed one wingwall. Job #112-ditched road, obtaining rock for bomb crater. No enemy action.

27 November 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" Job #109-excavated stream bed for footing of bridge. Setting footing in position. Job #110-working on by-pass; constructed cribbing, obtaining trees for use in revetment, set pipes in for by-pass. Job #120-patching small holes, draining small holes along edge of road. Co. "E" Naples, Italy, hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army Dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" Job #92-obtaining filling, set 36 logs in cribbing, fixed ramp at quarry Job #93-set 20 logs in cribbings, obtaining fill and using same over pipes. Job #112-filled three bomb craters and a few small holes.

28 November 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" Job #109-Put in footing, sill, posts, and cap for bridge. Started to put in rock around sill. Removed some of fill to remove saplings. Job #110-continued to build revetment. Filled in with rocks. Removed debris from under Bailey Bridge to prepare for footing. Cut holes in steel to put on nailing strips. Job #120-patched small holes on main road approx. 1 mile south of Francolise, Italy. Built out shoulder on main highway 1 mile north of Francolise, Italy. Co. "E" Naples, Italy-hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy. Co. "F" $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Francolise, Italy-Job #92-obtaining fill, hauled ~~steel~~ 40 logs and set 17 in cribbing, removed Bailey Bridge, and broke remaining portion of road. Job-#93-hauled logs and fill, set 35, 10x10x18 ft logs in cribbing, set 40 logs 20 inches above culvert pipe. Job #112-ditched $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of road.

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28 November 1943 cont'd: Co. "F" Minefield #3-checked $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of road, four feet on each side, found nothing. No enemy action.

29 November 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" working on jobs #109, #110, #120, & #121. Job #109-working on footing and diagonal sway bracing for bridge, working on by-pass; removing existing rock, dirt, etc. and excavating center in preparation for refilling same and strengthening. Job #110-completed revetment across stream, excavating stream bed in preparation for footing of bridge, maintained Bailey Bridge. Jobs #120-#121-patching shoulders of roads. Co. "E" Naples, Italy-hauling steel from Bagnoli, Italy to 5th Army dump, E-26, San Maria, Italy, completed job this date. Total tonnage removed from Bagnoli, Italy from 9 November 1943 to 29 November 1943; 826.6 tons. Co. "F" working jobs #92, #93, & #112, Job #92-working on cribbing, construction of side rails, obtaining fill and logs. Job #93-obtaining fill and logs, working on wingwalls. Job #112-ditched one mile of road. Minefield #3; checked one mile of road - 4 ft each side. Result: nothing. One tellermine was found in an adjoining field off of road. Field to be checked further. No enemy action.

30 November 1943: Francolise, Italy. Co. "D" Job #109 - put in upper half of bent. Continued to remove saplings, dirt, and matting from by-pass and refilled with rocks. Job #110 - laid saplings on by-pass, covered with small gravel & dirt and then laid 2 rolls of summerfelt matting on top of that and covered with gravel and dirt. Finished building crib in stream 6' x 26' and dug out $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft of dirt in preparation for footing. Co. "E" Naples, Italy - preparing for proposed movement. Co. "F" hauled Bailey Bridge to British Engr Dump at Spartanese; hauled two loads of rock; painted guard rails white; Job #92, completed. Job #93-hauled 163 loads of fill from quarry; blasted for rock fill. Job #112 ditched $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile of road; fixed bomb crater. Mine fields # 3 - 092 786, Italy, 1/100,000, Sheet 172, picked up 40 # 3 teller mines. No enemy action.

Casualties sustained by Battalion during month of November 1943:

Non-Battle Casualties - 0
Battle Casualties - 1

Enemy action encountered during month of November 1943:

Air Raids - 3

Battalion Strength as of 1 November 1943:

Officers: 20 Enlisted Men: 619

Battalion Strength as of 30 November 1943:

Officers: 18 Enlisted Men: 609

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