

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

/lk
8 December 43

SUBJECT: First Battalion, 540th Engineer Regiment, Journal for month of November 43.

TO : Commanding Officer, 540th Engineer Regiment, A.P.O. #464.

1. Submitted herewith is First Battalion, 540th Engineer Regiment Journal for month of November 43.

2. Personnel and equipment of this command were employed in NAPLES from 1 November 43 to 6 November 43. For the balance of the month they were employed in the CANCELLO area. Certain of the most important of these activities are described as follows:

a. Port Clearance and Reconstruction:— Personnel and equipment employed to clear docks "F", "G", "H", and "K", and areas in-shore and off-shore to those docks. Constructed steel bridge connecting "F" and "G".

b. Rescue Work:— Battalion heavy rescue squads formed in October were alerted 2 November by an air raid and worked 50 hours continuously, digging out 32 bodies from the building next to the Bank of NAPLES. Seven were still living.

c. Troop Movement:— Moved to CANCELLO, 6th November 43.

d. Road Repair and Maintenance:— Repaired and maintained road between CANCELLO and CASCANO, BREZZA, and GRASSANISE for Class 40, two-way traffic by filling craters, building culverts and bridges. Bailey bridges were replaced by Class 40, two-way, fixed bridges. A large culvert job were started on Route 7 near CASCANO.

e. Mine Field Clearance:— Cleared mine field #9, and searched suspected areas, numbers #5, #6, #7, and #8. No mines were found in suspected areas.

For the Commanding Officer:

James L Rankin
JAMES L. RANKIN
1st Lt., C. E.,
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