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HEADQUARTERS  
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SUPPLY OFFICER  
A P O # 464

7 November 1943

SUBJECT: Journal for the Month of October, 1943.

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

1. The period from 1 October 1943 to 31 October 1943 was spent in replacing losses of equipment incurred during the invasion of Italy. My observations are as follows:

a. The level of supply in all classes of supply was not high enough during the first 20 days of October to more than partially fill requisitions submitted.

b. An additional difficulty encountered in drawing supplies was the fact that front line troops had priority on all supplies coming in.

2. From 26 October 1943 to 1 November 1943, I was special detail for the Engineer Section, Fifth Army. The special detail consisted of the following:

a. To deliver and explain the mechanism of time bombs and booby traps encountered by allied troops in Italy. These time bomb mechanisms and booby traps were delivered and explained to representatives of the Engineer Section, Allied Force, Headquarters per instructions from Engineer Section, Fifth Army.

b. Per instructions from Engineer Section, Fifth Army I contacted various engineer units in North Africa to ascertain the dates of arrival of these units in the Italian Theater.

*S. G. Hardeeman*  
S. G. HARDEMAN  
1st Lt., C. E.  
Supply Officer.

*Good*

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HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE COMPANY  
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT  
A.P.O. #464, 8 Postmaster, N.Y., N.Y.

31 October 1943.

SUBJECT: Journal for Month of October.

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, 540th Engineer Regiment, APO #464.

1. In accordance with Memorandum, Headquarters, 540th Engineer Regiment, APO 464, dtd 23 October 1943, the following information is submitted:

October 1st: 10 Enlisted Men were sent as advance group to select bivouac site in Naples, Italy for Regiment, as per VOGO Colonel MARVIN.

October 2nd: Prepared for movement from Paestum, Italy to Naples, Italy.

October 3rd: Departed from Paestum, Italy in convoy formation at 0700 hour and arrived in Naples, Italy at 1310 hours.

October 4th: Eleven Enlisted Men were put on Special Duty with the 405th Water Supply Battalion to operate ten water points for the purpose of alleviating the civilian water shortage. Began placing barbed wire and concertinas around Regimental Headquarters and Company areas to exclude civilians from bivouac area.

October 5th: Began the construction of frames for pup-tents for Enlisted Men and installed latrines for Officers and Enlisted Men.

October 6th: Began construction of Mess tables and chairs for Mess Hall. Two enlisted men were sent on Special Duty with air-compressor to Colonel COLONA, of the 15th British Airdrome Group to repair nineteen crater-holes in airplane run-way at the Pomigliano D'Argo Airport and put same in operating condition.

October 7th: Finished construction of tables and chairs for Mess Hall and erected recreation tent for Enlisted Men.

October 8th: Began building trailer for 15 KW and electrical supplies.

October 9th and 10th: Checked Regimental and Company areas for bombs and possible booby-traps, also cleaned and policed building for Engineer Base Section Headquarters.

October 11th: Checked three buildings for R.A.F., for bombs and booby-traps. Set up generator plant to furnish lights for soldiers who were excavating and removing bodies of men of the 36th Engineers.

October 12th: Repaired leaking roof of "Naples Public Aquarium".

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## SUBJECT: Journal for Month of October. (CONT)

October 13th, 14th, 15th & 16th: Men and fifteen trucks with trailers were detailed to haul eight hundred tons of ammunition, gasoline and rations from Maori to Caserta, Naples and front-lines on the Volturna River.

October 17th: Repaired and checked water lines and mains in Regimental Headquarters and throughout Regiment, as a result of water being turned on throughout the city. Loaned generator to 29th Replacement Depot to show movies and sent two men to operate generator.

October 18th: Repaired and repainted kitchen truck.

October 19th: Showed movie in Company area for the Regiment and troops in surrounding areas. Loaned generator to 5th Army Base Section and sent two operators to operate generator and string in wire for movie.

October 20th: Began the erection of two field-trailers, for the Regimental Medical Dispensary, for the purpose of setting up Dispensary on short notice while in the field. Also built dark-room for the photographer.

October 21st: S/Sgt Borakowski, Stephen (NMI); T/5 Cowan, Ransom W.; and Private Haley, William P., were awarded the Purple Heart medal as a result of injuries received during enemy action.

October 22nd: Showed movie in Company area for all Companies of Regiment and troops in the surrounding areas.

October 23rd: Checked two tunnels and bridges for enemy demolitions, bombs and mines for British troops.

October 24th: Showed movie in Company area for all Companies of the Regiment and troops in the surrounding area. Performed at Regimental Parade.

October 25th: Constructed an Air-raid shelter for personnel of the Company and Regimental Headquarters.

October 26 & 27th: Erected stand for 17-piece band, and put in drop-cords for lights to illuminate stand for band. Showed movie in area for all Companies of the Regiment and troops in surrounding areas. Went on training schedule from 0700 hr to 0800 hours.

October 28th: Secured 17 piece band from 5th Army Headquarters, Special Service Group to entertain the troops of the Regiment and troops in the surrounding area. Company on training schedule from 0700 hr to 0800 hrs.

October 29th: Company on training schedule from 0700 hr. to 0800 hrs.

October 30th: Showed movie for all troops of Regiment and troops in the surrounding areas.

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SUBJECT: Journal for Month of October. (CON'T)

October 31st: Ten trucks and drivers were dispatched to 1st Battalion Headquarters for the purpose of policing and hauling away debris from **Rock** areas.

From October 1st to 31st the following named Sections were operated daily by the COMPANY:

Regimental Headquarters, S-1, S-2, S-3, & S-4,. Regimental Motor Pool, (This section services and repairs all Regimental vehicles). Regimental gas dump, which supplies on an average of 1,050 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel per day. Generator is operated daily for the purpose of furnishing lights for the entire Regiment. (Turned on at 0400 hr and turned off at 0800 hrs. and turned on again at 1800 hr. and turned off at 2300 hr.) Officer's Mess is operated daily. Company sections are operated daily by Company; Company Headquarters, Company Mess, Company Supply and Company Motor Pool. (Trucks and supplies are used and lent out constantly. Trucks being dispatched thru Company Motor Pool and serviced by Company.) Other daily details of the Company are: repairing and fixing up Regimental Headquarters building and policing the area. Collecting garbage of the Regiment and disposing of it. And the other usual bivouac duties.

*Decater Brown*  
DECATER BROWN  
1st Lt., C.E.  
Commanding.

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