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

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10 October 1943.

Subject: Monthly Report.

To : Commanding General, Fifth Army, A. P. O. #464.

1. In compliance with Wrapper Indorsement, Headquarters, Fifth Army, dated 5 October 1943, file AG 314-AM, submitted herewith the monthly report for September 1943 for the 540th Engineer Combat Regiment.

For the Commanding Officer:

John F. SASS
JOHN F. SASS
Capt., C.E.,
Adjutant.

6 Incls:

- Journal - 1st Bn., 540th Engrs.
- " - 2nd Bn., 540th Engrs.
- " - Personnel Officer, 540th Engrs.
- " - S-2, 540th Engrs.
- " - S-3, 540th Engrs.
- " - S-4, 540th Engrs.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L
HEADQUARTERS
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT
A.P.O. #464

6 November 1943

Subject: S-2 Journal For Month of October 1943.

To : Commanding Officer, 540th Engineer Regiment, APO #464.

1. Submitted herewith S-2 Journal for the month of October 1943 as requested:

a. PORT RECONNAISSANCE. (1 Oct 43 to 8 Oct 43)

S-2 Section entered the city of Naples with the advance elements of the 82nd AB Div to reconnoiter Port Area, engineer materiel, and bivouac areas. A survey of storage space adjacent to port and a report on areas available for large troop bivouac in the Bagnoli area were also made. It is believed, in this regard, that the reconnaissance of a city should follow the same general procedure used in the field. Upon entering a municipality, the size of Naples, the city should be sub-divided among the engineer units for reconnaissance. It is felt that if responsibility were thus assigned, and specific periodic reports required of each organization, that within a relatively short period of time there would be accumulated a mass of data which would eliminate over-lapping and confusion.

b. PORT RECONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING CLEARANCE. (9 Oct 43 to 19 Oct 43)

S-2 Section participated in the above details by preparation of overlays, sketches, and supervision. Due to the limited size of the section, assignments for "delousing" were made to the line companies with the section acting as technical advisors. The major problem involved in large-scale "delousing" is, of course, one of inefficiency. It is felt that the only remedy for "mistaking a twenty millimeter shell for a five-hundred pound delayed demolition" is for more general education to be given to all troops in at least recognition of demolitions. Another mistake, it is felt, is the habit of headquarters moving into pretentious buildings during the early phase of the occupation of a city, and then calling for "delousing". Inasmuch as "delousing" is at least fifty per cent deduction (looking for disturbed earth, signs of room occupancy etc.) it was often necessary for the headquarters to move out again before the building to be properly inspected, with ensuing loss of time. In the assignment of clearance jobs it is felt that designations were too vague. An error of .1 in co-ordinates (when it comes to finding a building) means three hours of searching for the clearance party. It is believed that at least fifty per cent of time was spent in looking for the installations.

c. MINFIELD CLEARANCE. (20 Oct 43 to 31 Oct 43)

S-2 sections assisted in reconnaissance for, technical assistance, and sketching of minefield located at N-14754445 (Italy, 1/50,000, Sheet #184 III, POZZUOLI) vicinity of Coroglio. Following observations were made from work in the field: use of the bayonet for prodding is unsatisfactory over an extended period, short and heavy it causes early fatigue, and more important doesn't always reach deep enough, recommend substitution of a slender steel rod about five feet in length; endorse suggestion that canvas shoes with thin sole be issued for use in minefield clearance "S" Mine, taking two steps and hitting the ground worked admirably; use of clips on pulling rope, permitting four mines to be pulled simultaneously.

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J. M. H.

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S-2 Journal cont.

c. MINEFIELD CLEARANCE cont.

worked well and greatly reduced time in the field; "pinning" of boobytrap devices in TM's even if they are to be pulled saves a great deal of useful explosive (the Tellermines were used to great advantage in demolitions in the port area and in reducing concrete road obstacles.)

For The Commanding Officer:

Edward L. Fizzle

Edward L. Fizzle
Capt., CE
S-2

ANNEXES:

1. Storage Space Report.
2. Engr Reconnaissance Report #8-1.
3. Engr Tactical and Technical Report #5-2.
4. Reproduction (19th Engr Regt).
5. Reproduction (Fifth Army Engr Section).
6. Minefield Clearance Report.