

2nd Bn

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

8 October 1943.

SUBJECT: Daily Journal Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 540th Engineer Regiment, APO #464,
U.S. Army.

1. In compliance with directive, Headquarters, 540th Engineer Regiment, dated 6 October 1943, the following Daily Journal Report for month of September 1943 is hereby submitted.

1 September 1943: 2 miles west of Termini Imerese, Sicily. Usual camp duties and training. No enemy action.

2 September 1943: 2 miles west of Termini Imerese, Sicily. Usual camp duties and training. No enemy action.

3 September 1943: 2 miles west of Termini Imerese, Sicily. Co's "D" & "F" usual camp duties and training. Co. "E" unloaded military supplies from freight cars in afternoon - Port of Termini Imerese, Sicily. No enemy action.

4 September 1943: 2 miles west of Termini Imerese, Sicily. Co's "E" & "F" usual camp duties and training. Co. "D" preparing and placing burlap on Summerfelt Matting at Port of Termini Imerese, Sicily. No enemy action.

5 September 1943: 2 miles west of Termini Imerese, Sicily. Co's "E" & "F" usual camp duties and training. Co. "D" preparing and placing burlap on Summerfelt Matting at Port of Termini Imerese, Sicily. No enemy action.

6 September 1943: 2 miles west of Termini Imerese, Sicily. Battalion prepared for movement. Co. "D" continued preparing and placing burlap on Summerfelt Matting at Port of Termini Imerese, Sicily. No enemy action.

7 September 1943: Port of Termini Imerese, Sicily. (Aboard LST 12 - Battalion Headquarters) Prepared for movement by water - Battalion less Co. "D" embarked approximately 2000B as follows: Battalion Headquarters - LST 12, Co. "E" - LST 160, Co. "F" LSTR__? No enemy action.

8 September 1943: Battalion less Co. "D" at sea. Co. "D" vicinity of Termini Imerese, Sicily. Entire Battalion less Co. "D" and rear echelon elements left Port of Termini Imerese, Sicily approx. 0500B enroute by water transportation to Italian mainland, beach assault operation, south of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy; arrived at destination approx. 2000B and stood off shore. Convoy attacked by enemy planes approx. 1500B. Bombs dropped near boats transporting this Battalion. Enemy air raid at night lasting from 2230B to 2345B.

9 September 1943: Battalion less Co. "D" off shore-assault operation beach south of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" vicinity of Termini, Imerese, Sicily. Assault operation on Italian mainland began before dawn; 2nd Battalion did not take part in initial operations. Information

~~confirmed that~~

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9 September 1943 cont'd: confirmed that Italy had surrendered. 1 enemy air raid approx. 3 planes at 1630B. No casualties. Enemy bombers attacked operation location at night, beginning approx. 2230B. 2 bombs dropped near Hqs. LST. No casualties.

10 September 1943: Battalion less Co. "D" landed at Green Beach between 1630B and 1900B. Battalion less Co. "D" temporarily bivouaced vicinity of Paestum, Italy. Battalion is in immediate vicinity of front lines. Enemy planes dropped bombs on operational beach at 1445B. No casualties. Night air raids lasting from approx. 2300B to 2400B and from 0230B to 0300B. No casualties.

11 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. GSGS 4829-847088 SG 198 III, Rocca D' Aspide, Italy, 1:50000. Co. "D" vicinity of Termini Imerese, Sicily. Co. "F" attached to Col Darby's rangers left on special beach mission on LCT 30 & 32 at approx. 1800B. Co. "E" operated Class III dump. Battalion is in immediate vicinity of front lines. Set up Headquarters and bivouac area. Co. "E" received 4080 gals. of V-80 gas, 35 gals. oil (aviation) 440 gals. engine oil and 100 GP grease. Issued 135 gals V-80 gas. Several air alerts during afternoon on operational beach. Night air raid lasting from 2300B to 2400B. No casualties.

12 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Cpl Michael Cyb, Co. "E" died from self inflicted rifle wound. Pronounced dead at 0930B by 1st Lt Lee, MC, at Gromola, Italy. Major Monnier, Capt. O'Brien and advance elements of Co. "E", consisting of entire Co less Co. overhead, left today at approx. 1815B by dukw to investigate new beach north of above location, adjacent to British Beach Roger-Green on the north and adjacent to Tusciano river on the south. Map Italy 1:50,000, sheet 1971, Pontecagnano, beach extending from 745203 to 740210. It was anticipated that American troops would land on this beach the following morning. The only way this beach could be reached was by water, as the enemy's action had cut all land routes of communications. Although the journey along the coast was uneventful, as the Co. reached the shore a heavy enemy air attack was directed at a concentration of British ships standing off shore at approx. 2300B. 2 bombs landed directly off shore from "E" Co's landing point. Although no casualties resulted, the blast caused considerable shock to the officers and men of the Co. Approx. 2 hr later 2 enemy shells landed adjacent to the area. Intermittently the sound of German machine gun fire could be heard. The officers of the Co. being unable to contact any friendly troops nearby became worried about the Co's position. At approx. 0100B so much machine gun fire was heard that the Co Commander considered withdrawing from the beach until daylight, but soon the volume of machine gun fire decreased and outposts were established, and the company formed a defensive position for the remainder of the night. At approx. 0430B Capt. Brown arrived by dukw with a message for the Co. to move further north and secure permission from the British to use their beach, (Roger-Amber) since the beach upon which they were located was considered by the Navy not to be feasible landing beach. As Company moved up at the break of day an ensuing tank battle between British and German tanks could be observed approx. 2 miles inland.

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12 September 1943: Cont'd:

By second change of plan Company "E" received word that the anticipated American troop landings on British Beach would not take place and they returned to their station adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Enemy planes fired upon several times during the day. Night air raid at 0430B to 0500B. No casualties. During night raid bomb fell within 50 feet of Company "E" bivouac area and concussion of bomb knocked Officers and Enlisted men out of bed and upset many tents. Lt. Rice knocked out of bed by concussion of bomb. Co. "F" arrived ~~arrived~~ at Maiori, Italy, Sheet 1971, Pontecagnano, 1:50000-530076, proceeded to establish beach, laid beach roads, established dumps (gas, water, ammo. & rations) evacuated wounded by dukw to LCT's. Capt. King, Battalion Surgeon, set up Hospital in church at Maiori, Italy in order to render emergency treatment to the wounded, and perform operations

13 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy: Front lines 5-7 miles north. Co. "D" enroute to this station. Operations of Red Beach North #1 began at 1800B this date, Co. "E" operated beach. Co. "F" operating beach, dumps, and evacuated wounded by LCT's. Alerted as Infantry Troops at 1830B due to strong German counter-attacks.

14 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Front lines 5-7 miles north. Co. "D" reported to this station at 1515B. Co. "D" & "E" operating Red Beach North #1. Co. "D" worked from 2000B to 0800B, Co. "E" worked from 0800B to 2000B. Unloaded: Class I, 10 tons, Class III, 32 tons, Class IV, 61 tons, total tonnage: 103 tons. Personnel disembarked: 183, Vehicles, Combat (halftracks, tanks) 4, Guns & SP Artillery 2, all others, 53. 1st Lt Clifford, Pvt lcl Testa, and Pvt Campbell all of Co. "D" wounded by shrapnel during enemy air attack during the period between 1000B & 1230B this date. Co. "F" operated gas, water, ammo, ration, & signal supply dumps, maintained water point, evacuated casualties by LCT's.

15 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" & "E" operated Red Beach North #1. Unloaded: Class I, 116.5 tons, Class II & IV, 17 tons, Personnel disembarked: 2316, Vehicles, Combat (halftracks, tanks) 18, Guns & SP Artillery 38, all others 170. 1st Lt Rounfort, reld fr asgmt & trfd to 6648 Casual Bn. Front lines 5-7 miles north. Enemy dive bombers approx. 6 in each case attacked location at 1015B, 1210B, and 1530B. Co. "F" operating gas, water, ammo, rations, and signal supply dumps, evacuated casualties.

16 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Front lines 5-7 miles north. Co. "D" & "E" operating Red Beach North #1. Unloaded: Class I, 188 tons, Class II & IV 11 tons, Class III, 387 tons, Class V, 167 tons, total tonnage 751.5 tons. Personnel disembarked: 45, Vehicles, Combat, (halftracks, tanks) none, Enemy dive bombers attacked location at 1000B, 1210 and 1915B, 6 to 8 in each case. Co. "F" operating beach, dumps, & water point at Maiori, Italy, and evacuated wounded.

17 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Front lines 5-7 miles north. Co. "D" & "E" operating Red Beach North #1. Unloaded: Class I, 210 tons, Class II & IV, 105.5 tons, Class III, 168.5 tons, Class V, 153 tons total tonnage, 615 tons. Personnel disembarked: 355. Vehicles: Combat (halftracks, tanks) 4, Guns & SP Artillery, 3, all others, 37. Cleared 67.5 tons from dumps. Enemy dive bombers attacked "D" & "E" Companies beach operation at approx. 1230B and strafed area of Battalion Headquarters. No casualties. Night air raid at Paestum area occurred at 2400B approx. No casualties. ~~Co.~~

17 September 1943: Cont.

Co. "F" operating gas, water, ammo, ration, & signal supply dumps: evacuated casualties at Maiori, Italy.

18 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Front lines moved further north. Co. "D" & "E" operating Red Beach North #1. Unloaded: Class I, 59.5 tons, Class III, 168 tons, Class V, 69 tons, total tonnage, 304.5 tons. Personnel disembarked: 3610 vehicles, combat, (halftracks, tanks) 22; guns & S P Artillery, 40; all others, 608. 3 Officers and 70 EM of Company "E" left for duty at British beach approx. 9 miles north of above location (Roger-Green Beach) Night enemy bomber attack at 0430B. None during th day. Co. "F" operating gas, water, ammo, ration, & signal supply dumps, and evacuated casualties, at Maiori, Italy.

19 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Front lines moved further north. Co. "D" & "E" operated Red Beach North #1. Unloaded: Class I, 81.5 tons, Class II & IV, 23 tons, Class III, 61 tons, Class V, 80 tons, Total tonnage, 245.5 tons. Disembarked: Personnel, 932, vehicles, Combat, (halftracks, tanks) 11, Guns & SP Artillery, 1, all others, 242, 3 Officers and 70 EM from Co. "E" returned from beach operation at British beach. Co. "F" operated gas, water, ammo, ration, & signal supply sumps, also evacuated casualties, at Maiori, Italy. No enemy action.

20 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" & "E" operating Red Beach North #1. Unloaded: Class I, 47 tons, Class II & IV, 74 tons, Class III, 106 tons, Class V, 133.5 tons; a total tonnage of 360.5 tons. Personnel disembarked: 3255, Vehicles, Combat (halftracks, tanks) 33, all others, 359. Co. "F" operated gas, water, ammo, ration, & signal supply dumps, also evacuated casualties, at Maiori, Italy. No enemy action.

21 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" & "E" operating Red Beach North #1. Unloaded: Class I, 24.5 tons, Class II & IV, 57 tons, Class III, 167.5 tons, Class V, ~~307.5~~ 307.5 tons, total tonnage, 556.5 tons. Personnel disembarked: 1015. Vehicles: Combat (halftracks, tanks) 20, all others, 297. Major Monnier and Colonel Marvin visited Co. "F". This is the first contact made with Co. Co. "F" operating gas, water, ammo, rations, & signal supply dumps, also evacuated casualties, at Maiori, Italy. S/Sgt James P. Hunt trfd to H & S Co.: T/4 Clifford T. Mayberry asgd & jd Hqs. Det. 2nd Bn. Air alert at Paestum area approx. 1100B. No casualties.

22 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" & "E" operating Red Beach North #1. Unloaded: Class I, 113 tons, Class II & IV, 80.5 tons, Class III, 61.5 tons, Class V, 239 tons, total tonnage of 484 tons. Personnel disembarked: 2, Vehicles, Combat (Halftracks, tanks) 0, all others 2, Co. "F" operating beach, dumps, and water point at Maiori, Italy. No enemy action.

23 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" & "E" operating Red Beach North #1. Unloaded: Class I, 164 tons, Class II & IV, 128 tons, Class III, 248 tons, Class V, 372.5 tons; total tonnage, 912.5 tons. Personnel disembarked: 383, Vehicles, 0, Co. "F" operating dumps, water point at Maiori, Italy. No enemy action.

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24 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" and "E" operating Red Beach North #1. Unloaded: Class I, 272.5 tons, Class II & IV, 66 tons, Class III, 131 tons, Class V, 384 tons, total tonnage, 853.5 tons. Disembarked: Personnel, 388, Vehicles, combat (halftrack - tank), 55, all others, 9. 2nd Lt. Allan M. Gardner and 59 EM reld fr atehd to Co, "E" and rejoin their company at Maiori, Italy. Co. "F" operated beach, dumps, water point at Maiori, Italy. First reports reed fr Co. "F" reports to date approx. 500 tons of supplies had been removed across Maiori, Italy.

25 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" and "E" operating Red Beach North #1. Co. "D" worked from 0800B to 2000B, and Co. "E" from 2000B to 0800B. Unloaded: Class I, 69 tons, Class II & IV, 20 tons, Class III, 8 tons, Class V, 269 tons, total tonnage, 348 tons. Disembarked: Personnel, 553, Vehicles, combat (halftrack - tank), 5, guns and SP artillery, 3, all others, 296. Co. "F" unloaded at Maiori, Italy, the following: Class I, 60 tons, Class V, 140 tons, total tonnage, 200 tons.

26 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" and "E" operating Red North Beach #1. Unloaded: Class I, 23.5 tons, Class II & IV, 20 tons, Class III, none, Class V, 45.5 tons, total tonnage, 99 tons. Disembarked: Personnel, 19, no vehicles. Co. "F" unloaded at Maiori, Italy the following: Class I, 29 tons, Class V, 102 tons, total tonnage, 131 tons. Effective 0200B, 26 September 1943, clocks were set back one hour. Hour was then 0100A which is GMT plus 1 hour.

27 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" and "E" moved to new bivouac area approx. (1) mile north of Paestum, Italy. No beach operations today. Co. "F" unloaded: Class I, 9 tons, Class V, 64 tons, total tonnage, 73 tons. Also operated beach, dumps, and water point at Maiori, Italy.

28 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" and "E" improving new bivouac area, and maintaining roads. No beach operations. Co. "F" operated beach, dumps, and water point at Maiori, Italy, unloaded, Class III, 48 tons, Class V, 15 tons, total tonnage, 63 tons. Gale with wind velocity of approx. 45 miles per hour commenced approx. 1830A. Received 43 replacements from 29th Replacement Pool, and assigned as follows: Co. "D", 15, Co. "E", 12, Co. "F", 16.

29 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" and "E" policing Red Beach North #1, and maintained roads at Red Beach North #1. Co. "F" operated beach, dumps, and water point at Maiori, Italy. Unloaded: Class I, 18 tons, Class III, 14.4 tons, Class V, none, total tonnage, 32.4 tons.

30 September 1943: North of and adjacent to Paestum, Italy. Co. "D" and "E" improved roads to Battalion Motor Pool. Co. "F" operated beach, dumps, and water point at Maiori, Italy. Unloaded: Class I, 2.5 tons, Class III, 56.5 tons, Class V, 77 tons, total tonnage, 136 tons. Disembarked: Personnel, 22.

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Unloading Statistics: Red Beach North #1 from 15 September 1943 to 30 September 1943.

Class I	1456 tons
Class II & IV	773.5 tons
Class III	3267.5 tons
Class V	315.5 tons
	<u>7509.5 tons</u>

Vehicles discharged: Combat (halftracks-tanks) 840
 Guns and SP Artillery: 111
 All others: 1389

Personnel disembarked: 13335

Unloading Statistics: Maiori Beach, from 25 September 1943 to 30 September 1943. (Company "F")

Class I	222.9 tons
Class III	24.5 tons
Class V	345.0 tons
	<u>592.4 tons</u>

Personnel disembarked: 13,813

Casualties sustained by Battalion during month of September 1943:

Non-Battle Casualties - 1
 Battle Casualties - 3

Enemy action encountered during month of September 1943:

Air Raids - 22

Battalion strength as of 1 September 1943:

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Enlisted Men</u>		
Hqs. Det.	4	Hqs. Det.	8	
Co. "D"	4	Co. "D"	188	
Co. "E"	4	Co. "E"	185	
Co. "F"	5	Co. "F"	189	
Med. Det.	<u>2</u>	Med. Det.	<u>15</u>	
	19		585	Total present & absent

Battalion strength as of 30 September 1943:

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Enlisted Men</u>		
Hqs. Det.	3	Hqs. Det.	8	
Co. "D"	4	Co. "D"	208	
Co. "E"	4	Co. "E"	207	
Co. "F"	4	Co. "F"	204	
Med. Det.	<u>2</u>	Med. Det.	<u>15</u>	
	17		642	Total present & absent

C. S. McWier
 C. S. McWIER
 Major, C. E.,
 Commanding.