

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

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1 October 1943.

JOURNAL - S-3 - 1 September to 30 September 1943.

The period September 1st to 7th was spend in intensive plans and training with the 45th Division preparatory to embarking for invasion of Italy. The Regiment (less H & S Co. and Co. "F") embarked at Termini Imerese, Sicily.

September 8th to September 10th was spent on the sea. The 45th Division being a reserve unit was landed on 10 September, and the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 540th Engineer Regiment assisted the 157th and 179th Infantry respectively.

After getting the initial troops and equipment ashore, Red Beach #1 North and Blue Beach #2, both south of the Sele River, were organized by the Regiment and operated until the end of September. Company "F" arrived on 11 September and was sent to Maiori, Italy, to operate beaches and dumps for the Rangers.

During the early stages of the landing the beaches were subjected to enemy artillery fire, and later to bombing and strafing from the enemy air force; however, the beaches were kept in continuous operation. In addition to the use of LCI for unloading personnel the Dukws proved very successful in speeding up the operation and getting the troops ashore dry.

It is recommended that road matting material be furnished ready for use; that is, with extra rods removed and backed with burlap. This type of supply has often arrived very late and sufficient time is not available to properly prepare the mats.

Reserve units should not be landed over an established beach. The 45th Division was landed over beaches established by another shore unit. This made it extremely difficult for the 540th Engineer Regiment to coordinate the landing of the 45th Division as we did not control the beach commander and beachmaster. It is believed advisable to land such a reserve within the beach head, but allow the shore party of the reserve unit to organize and operate a special beach.

S. A. Knapp
S. A. KNAPP
Major, C.E.,
S-3.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

**HEADQUARTERS
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT
A.P.O. #758**

JOURNAL S-3 7 September - 18 September 1943.

- 7 Sept. Colonel Marvin, Captain Knapp, Captain Fisdale, Lt. Hardeman and Major Smith from Regimental Headquarters, 1st Battalion less a rear echelon and 2nd Battalion less one Company less a rear echelon loaded with elements of 179th and 157th Infantry (45th Div.) at Termini Imerese, Sicily.
- 8 Sept. Convoy sailed night of 7-8 for Italian Coast. Received news of surrender of Italy at 1800.
- 9 Sept. Remained on ships off coast of Italy south of Salerno where American beachhead was being established.
- 10 Sept. Maj. Smith, Capt. Knapp, Capt. Fisdale, Lt. Hardeman landed on North Red Beach #1 at 10:45 A.M. Also elements of Company "C" landed on this beach at this time. The beaches were being bombed and strafed at this time.

The 1st Battalion was then helping with the operation of Red #1 (South) and was being assembled in that general area. I arrived here about 1400 and found Colonel Marvin and Lt. Col. Manning were looking for a location of a new beach further north. North Blue Beach #2 was picked and Company "B" was sent to establish this beach. Companies "A" and "C" were sent to dump area for this beach which was near Highway #18.

During late 10th 2nd Battalion was landed over South Beaches which were being operated by 45th Division. Regimental CP was located at H843085, Map Italy 1/50,000 Sheet 198 III. Relieved from attachment to 45th Division - attached to Corps Engrs. VI Corps (1800).
- 11 Sept. Company "F" sent on special mission north of Salerno. Company "E" operation of Gasoline dump for Blue Beach #2. Companies "A" and "C" operation of all other Blue Beach #2 dumps and Company "B" in charge of Beach (Blue #2).
- 12 Sept. Company "E" sent to establish North Yellow #2 (North of Sele River). Beach was established at 2200.
- 13 Sept. Navy could not land at North Yellow #2 so moved Company "E" to take over the south most British Beach. Company "C" sent to reinforce Company "E" in operation of this beach.
- 14 Sept. Companies "C" and "E" ordered back from British Beach to take over operation of Red North #1. Company "A" sent detail to operate this beach until Companies "C" and "E" returned about 1600. Company "C" then moved to vicinity of Blue Beach #2. VI Corps had taken over all

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dumps by this time, however, Company "A" still continued to furnish labor for Ammunition dump of Blue #2.

Company "D" arrived and assembled at Red North #1 to help Company "E" in operation of this beach.

15 Sept. Colonel Connors and Captain Sass arrived with additional men from Regimental Headquarters sections.

2nd Battalion operation of Red #1 North (not dumps).
1st Battalion operation of Blue #2 North and labor in Ammunition Dump.

16 Sept. No change.

17 Sept. No change.

18 Sept. Ordered to assist operation of 3rd Division landing. Company "D" to operate Red #1 North and unload vehicles from LSTs and LCTs. Company "E" established special landing beaches and guides to assembly areas for personnel unloading from LCI's. This area was north of Sele River. 1st Battalion to unload cargo from all LST's over Blue #2 to Blue #2 Dumps.