

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

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

/lg

7 October 1943.

Subject: S-2, 540th Engineer Regiment Journal for Month of September 1943.

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

1. Submitted herewith is S-2, 540th Engineer Regiment, Journal for the month of September 1943 as requested:

- a. PLANNING FOR ITALIAN LANDINGS. (1 Sept. 43 to 8 Sept. 43)
— S-2 Section, as part of advance echelon of regiment, dealt with Divisional Staff in planning. Prepared guide overlays for embarkation of troops and materiel from Termini Imerese. Assisted S-3 in operational planning and Transportation Quartermaster planning. Maintained liason with A. C. of S., G-2 in security classification. Security was excellent. Being a reserve force made briefing difficult. Even so briefing was handled unsatisfactorily. No responsibility assigned for task and none of Shore Party Company Commanders were classified. We were allowed to look at maps hastily the day before embarkation. Went across as last time with but the haziest notion of tactical situation. Mapping again was very unsatisfactory. There seemed to be no method in distribution. Engineers got maps that Artillery wanted and vice versa. We received very few of the maps that we wanted and three quarters of maps received were entirely useless to our organization. Suggest that Division Engineers consult with S-2's of Regiments before mapping and get their recommendations on scale and sheet number and quantity before issuing. This is especially necessary in case of non-divisional troops such as Engineer Shore Parties whose needs vary widely from divisional regiments.
- b. LANDING OPERATIONS. (9 Sept. 43 to 11 Sept. 43).
— Main duties during this period consisted of reconnaissances for beaches and dumps. Some interrogation, mostly of civilians for items of engineer information, was carried on. Due to being reserve force it was not necessary to operate PW Enclosure, although we were better prepared for it this time. Due to inadequacy of Battalion Staffs (2 Off. and 8 EM) it is suggested that a PW Processing Team be attached to each Battalion until Force takes over cages.
- c. EXTENDED BEACH OPERATIONS. (12 Sept. 43 to 30 Sept. 43).
— Main activities during this period consisted of Engineer Tactical and Technical Surveys, Engineer, Road, Bridge, and Beach Reconnaissance, and large quantities of overlays and sketches. Am enthusiastic over way reconnaissance assignments were handled. Each engineer unit was assigned a specific map area with instructions as to type and frequency of

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of reports desired. This should be SOP. It eliminates overlapping and confusion and permits intelligent organization and planning of reconnaissance. The main difficulty encountered was size of S-2 Section in Combat Regimental T/O (1 Off. and 6 EM). The demands made on 22 x 33 gelatin duplicator far exceeded capacity. Suggest early arrival of Topo Reproduction Section to handle quantity reproduction for Corps Troops. This Regiment was assigned reconnaissance area bounded by ocean on west, highway 13 on east, Sele River on South, and front line on North. Being most active sector the assignment was both interesting and profitable.

Edward L. Fizzle
EDWARD L. FIZDALE
Capt., C.E.,
S-2.

ANNEXES :

1. Annex 4 to Field Order No. 2, Hq., 540th Engr. Regt.
2. Engr. Reconnaissance Report #2-1
3. Engr. Reconnaissance Report #6-1
4. Engr. Reconnaissance Report #7-1
5. Engr. Reconnaissance Report #8-1
6. Engr. Tactical & Technical Report #1-2
7. Engr. Tactical & Technical Report #2-2
8. Engr. Tactical & Technical Report #3-2
9. Engr. Tactical & Technical Report #4-2
10. Special Beach Map.