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

S-2 Journal for September:

LIAISON: The S-2 Officer maintained liaison with Higher Headquarters at all times during the month, making use of information gained there to publish S-2 Summaries and keep Situation Maps up to date.

SITUATION MAPS: Late in the month, when all map sheets were available for the area, a "super-situation" map was prepared when the Section was at Gray. As of this date (October 8, 1944) the map now includes 22 sheets of the 1/1,000,000 strategic map of Europe. It measures approximately 7 by 9 feet and shows at a glance all European fronts. To add to the graphic aspect of the map, Orientation Section material has been used to show where American, British, Russian and German forces are situated. New developments are labeled and the course of the war actually is plotted on the map day by day. Concentric circles, designed to show quickly the distances from the outer fringes of Europe to the Berlin radius have been plotted.

In addition to the "super-situation" map, the Section has been keeping two smaller, tactical maps and a world map and on all of these has plotted the various fronts.

RECONNAISSANCE: A number of new-type mines were examined by the S-2 Officer, together with caps and igniters, and information on these devices was relayed to Higher Headquarters. In company with Capt. Stephens, the S-2 Officer inspected a large German ammo dump area in wooded fastness near Bourg.

The Intelligence Sergeant inspected buildings requisitioned by the Regiment at Gray for the possible presence of mines or booby traps. A particularly thorough inspection was made at Gray where Germans had left a wall sign "Welcome American and Tommie Soldiers...We come Back--The German Soldiers."

DISTRIBUTION: Among the overlays and drawings made by the section during the month were the Secret ORDER OF BATTLE, locations of Hospitals in the area, October Calendars.

The Section also prepared and distributed 400 air mail envelopes and 1,000 V-Mail forms. These were decorated with humorous sketches portraying "life of the GI in France." The sketches included five different drawings for the V-Mail forms and nine for the air mail envelopes.

MAP DISTRIBUTION: The section continued its distribution of maps upon authorized requests, to units, and on occasion, to men of the regiment.

BRIDGES: During the month of September, the Regiment returned to the field and the S-2 section was called upon to photograph various of the bridge construction projects in order that graphic reports on these jobs might be furnished the Seventh Army and Sixth Army Group Engineers.

A rather elaborate set of progress photos was made on the two "upside down" Bailey's on the railroad line leading north from Pont D'Ain, and a lesser number of pictures were taken at Baumes Les Dames and at Clerval. Later the Clerval project was turned over to the French and no further photographs were made on that project.

These pictures were turned over the S-3 section where they were mounted, labeled and prepared in report form which included engineer drawings.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Through contacts of the Section with the Public Relations Office of Seventh Army, arrangements were made to bring T/5 Byrne, of that office to the Regiment to interview officers and men and prepare copy which would be sent to home town newspapers in the states. The Regiment has been "released to the press", together with a complete story of its background, which has been furnished all correspondents in the European theater. As a result of conferences between the Seventh Army PRO and the Section, an intensified Public Relations program is being undertaken. The Section has been told the type and quantity of copy desired and advised as to all details concerned with its handling.

PUBLICATION: The Section has continued the "almost daily" publication of the Lager Beaver, the 540th Engineer's own newspaper. Momentary lapses of publication have come as a result of moves or impossible radio reception.

*A. D. GAVURA*  
A. D. GAVURA,  
Capt., S-2,  
540th Engineer Regiment