

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BATTALION
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT
A.P.O. #758, U. S. ARMY

SAK, jr/jf
2 November 1944.

SUBJECT: Daily Journal Report for the month of October 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer. 540th Engineer Regiment. APO 758. U. S. Army.

1. Daily Journal Report for the month of October 1944.

1 October 1944: Company "D", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Operating shower and water point. Issued approx. 6,125 gallons of water. Continued training on ponton bridge construction: Constructing and dismantled ponton bridge. Battalion Headquarters, Companies "E" and "F", and Medical Detachment, moved from bivouac area, approx. one-half (1/2) mile east of Dole, France, to new bivouac area Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Left Dole, France, at approx. 0730A hours and arrived at Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, France, at approx. 1230A hours. Distance traveled approx. 110 miles.

2 October 1944: Company "D", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Operating showers and water point. Issued approx. 5,750 gallons of water. Continued training on Ponton Bridge Construction: Taking down bridge. Consisted of: Abutment Span, Trestle Span, Hinge Span, Hinge Span Raft, and two Floating Rafts. Company "E", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Continued Storm Boat Training: Orientation Lecture. Starting instructions of motors. Preventative and after operation maintenance. Armature and Carburetor function. Handling of 22 and 50 HP Storm Boats. Motor installation and launching. River operation. Ponton School (Motor Powered Assault Boat Training): Orientation Lecture. Installation and cars of 22 HP outboard motors. Launching of boats and starting of motors. Operation of powered assault boats in fast currents. Operation of powered assault boats in fast currents for four hours in afternoon. Ponton School (Rafting and Ferrying Training): Orientation and familiarization Lecture. Construction of Infantry Support Raft and Landing Stages. Construction of 25 ton Ponton Raft Landing Stage. Company "F", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Repairing motors for training. Training on Storm Boats 22 HP: Received instructions on operating and maintaining motors. Training on Storm Boats 50 HP: Instruction on operating storm boats, crossing stream with and without personnel and landing and beaching craft. Ponton Boat Group: Orientation and Familiarization Lecture. Constructed Infantry Support Raft and Landing Stage. Constructed 25 ton Ponton Raft Landing Stage.

3 October 1944: Company "D", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Operating water point and showers. Issued approx. 7,325 gallons of water. Training on Ponton Bridge Construction: Tore down bridge built on 2 October 1944, on far shore river. Constructed 25 ton Ponton Bridge by successive Ponton Method. Tore down same by rafts.

Company "E", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Continued training on Storm Boats, 50 HP: Launching and operation of storm boats. Site operation and crash landings. Training on Motor Powered Assault Boat: Starting and operation exercises. River Crossings, landing and returns. Training on Ponton, Rafting and Ferrying: Operation of Infantry Support Raft. Construction of far shore landing stage for Infantry Support Raft. Disassembly of Infantry Support Raft and construction. Operation of 25 ton Ponton Raft. Company "F", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Continued training on Storm Boats, 22 HP: Operated 25 ton Pontons and Infantry Assault Rafts. Also landed and beached assault boats. Continued training on Storm Boats, 50 HP: Received instructions on operating storm boats. Crossed river with and without personnel. Also practiced landing and beaching boats. Training on Ponton Raft Group: Operation of Infantry Support Raft. Construction of Far Shore Landing Stage for Infantry Support Raft. Disassembly of Infantry Support Raft and reconstruction. Operation of 25 ton Ponton Raft.

4 October 1944: Company "D", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Operating water point and showers. Issued approx. 6,705 gallons of water. Company went out on night problem to construct ponton bridge for black out efficiency. Continued training on Ponton Bridge Construction: Disassembled two floating barges and six (6) sections of bridge. Constructed bridge consisting of abutement, hinge span raft, 4 ponton raft and disassembled it again. Company "E", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Training on Storm Boats, 50 HP: Operational use of storm boats. Training on Motor Powered Assault Boat: River crossing exercises. Training on Rafting and Ferrying. Construction of far shore 25 ton ponton raft landing stage. Operation of 25 ton Ponton Raft. Disassembly of 25 ton Ponton Raft. Operation of Infantry Support Raft. Construction of 25 ton Ponton Raft. Operation of Infantry Support Raft. Company "F", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Continued training on Storm Boats: Training on Storm Boat, 22 HP: Operated 25 ton Pontons and Infantry Assault Rafts. Also landed and beached assault boats. Training on Storm Boats, 50 HP: Received instructions on operating storm boats. Crossed river with and without personnel. Also practiced landing and beaching boats. Ponton Raft Group: operation of Infantry Support Raft. Construction of Far Shore Landing Stage for Infantry Support Raft. Disassembly of Infantry Support Raft and reconstruction. Operation of 25 ton Ponton Raft.

5 October 1944: Company "D", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, 3.2 miles (approx.) southeast of Valbonne, France. Operating water point and showers. Issued approx. 6,850 gallons of water. Continued training schedule on Ponton Bridge Construction. Company "E", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Continued training on Storm Boats, 50 HP: Launching and landing on unprepared sites. Operational use of Storm Boats. Maintenance of boats and motors. Critique and review. Continued training on Motor Powered Assault Boats: River crossing exercises. Review and critique. Training on Rafting and Ferrying: Disassembly and reconstruction of Infantry Support Raft.

Operation of 25 ton Ponton Raft. Disassembly of far shore landing stages. Disassembly of rafts and near shore landing stages and stock piling of equipment. Company "F", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Training on Storm Boats 22 HP: Practiced Landing (Infantry) with 5 boat Ponton Assault Rafts. Practiced Infantry load landing (near shore to far shore). Test run from near shore to far shore. Training on Storm Boats 50 HP: Crossed river with and without personnel. Practiced landing and beaching boats. Training on Ponton Raft Group: Disassembled and reconstructed Infantry Support Raft. Operated 25 ton Ponton Raft. Disassembled far shore landing stages. Disassembled rafts and near shore landing stages and stock piling of equipment.

6 October 1944: Company "D", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Operating water point and showers. Issued approx. 8,150 gallons of water. Followed training schedule on Ponton Bridge Construction. Battalion Headquarters, Companies "E" and "F", and Medical Detachment moved from Champ de Tirde la Valboone, France, at approx. 0730A hours, and arrived at new bivouac area, approx. 1/2 mile northwest of Renicourt, France, at approx. 1730A hours. Traveled approx. 192 miles. S/Sgt. Joseph R. Cipriano, Company "F". awarded Legion of Merit.

7 October 1944: Company "D", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Operation of water point and showers. Issued approx. 7,500 gallons of water. Helped 36th Engineers and 40th Engineers build a complete heavy ponton bridge, 625' long across the Rhone River. Maintained the bridge and left a ten (10) man detail to guard the bridge from 1800A-0730A. Company "E", Company moved from Renicourt, France, at approx. 1300A hours, to new bivouac area Hymont, France, at approx. 1330A hours. Company "F" moved from Renicourt, France, at approx. 1315B hours, and arrived at new bivouac area, Velotte, France, at approx. 1400A hours. Battalion Headquarters and Medical Detachment moved from Reincourt, France, at approx. 1630A hours, and arrived at new bivouac area, Velotte, France, at approx. 1715A hours.

8 October 1944: Company "D", Champ de Tirde la Valbonne, approx. 3.2 miles southeast of Valbonne, France. Operation of water point and showers. Issued approx. 7,475 gallons of water. Helping 36th Engineers and 40th Engineers to take down heavy ponton bridge, 625' long erected on 7 October 1944, across the Rhone River. Battalion Headquarters moved from Velotte, France, at approx. 1000A hours, and arrived at new bivouac area, Mirecourt, France at approx. 1030A hours. Medical Detachment moved from Velotte, France, at approx. 1400A hours, and arrived at new bivouac area, Mirecourt, France, at approx. 1430A hours. Company "E", Hymont, France. Working at 21st General Hospital in Mirecourt, France. Inventoried utilities in buildings 3, 5, and 7. Checked water system and cleaned buildings, 3, 5, and 7. Company moved from Hymont, France, at approx. 1530A hours, and arrived at new bivouac area, Mirecourt, France, at approx. 1600A hours. Company "F2", Company moved from Velotte, France, at approx. 1710A hours, and arrived at new bivouac area, Darney, France, at approx. 1815A hours.

