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HEADQUARTERS
540TH ENGINEER REGIMENT (C)
A.P.O. # 758

S-2 Journal for December

LIAISON: During December, 1944, which found companies of the Regiment assuming new combat duties and engaging in all-important Engineering work on the Sixth Corps front line, liaison, a normal S-2 function, increased in amount, difficulty and importance. The Section occupied offices in five different French towns during the period and regular trips by the S-2 Officer from the Regimental CP to Higher Headquarters ranged in distance from about three kilometers, when the CP was at Weerth to about 60 miles when trips were made from Gerbeviller. Besides the regular trips to Higher Headquarters, trips also were made by the S-2 Officer and/or the Intelligence Sergeant, to Battalion headquarters and to the companies for the personal delivery of liaison material. These functions were carried out in addition to the publication of a daily S-2 Summary.

MAP DISTRIBUTION: For the same reasons set out in the foregoing paragraph, Map Distribution to the Officers and other authorized personnel of the Regiment during December did fair to set an all-time high. Early in the month, F Company requested and received a set of 1/100,000 maps on the Seventh Army Front. A set of 1/1,000,000 maps of the same front was requested by Second Battalion. Later 1/25,000 and 1/50,000 map sets on Sixth Corps work areas assigned to the Regiment, Battalions and Companies were furnished. In addition, Defense Overlays, pertaining to the work on the Maginot defenses were obtained by the section and distributed within the Regiment. Numerous individual requests, to fill special map needs, were satisfied.

EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ORIENTATION: On Dec. 17, 1944, the S-2 Officer left the Regimental CP for Paris where he attended a six-day school and conference on education, orientation and information. Covered in the sessions were plans for these programs in the ETO when this Theater becomes inactive, and during the period which will precede removal of troops (1) to The States, (2) to another Theater. The programs also are designed to find use by the Army of Occupation troops.

In the absence of the S-2 Officer, the Intelligence Sergeant took over the work of Liaison and maintained liaison with Higher Headquarters and with units of the Regiment.

ROAD RECONNAISSANCE: About the middle of the month, S-2 was assigned the mission of reconnoitering roads and bridges in the Fifteenth Corps area, and of locating all available Engineer material and sources for same. The reconnaissance trips covered more than a week; were made by the Intelligence Sergeant and another noncommissioned officer. Reports accompanied by overlays, were turned in on all roads covered. After assignment of the Regiment to the Sixth Corps, additional road, bridge and engineer material reconnaissance were made in the new area.

DRAFTING, REPRODUCTION: Among the drafting, art and reproduction assignments accomplished by the Section during December were: Overlay showing 540th Unit locations; Road Reconnaissance Overlays to accompany Road Reconnaissance reports; Overlay for First Battalion showing the route from Weerth to the Battalion's next bivouac area at Petite Pierre; Cash Blotter for S-4; the January calendar for the Regiment; Christmas Memento card from Officers of the Regiment to their Commanding Officer, Col. George W. Marvin; Invitations to the French to attend dancing parties staged by Headquarters and Service company and C Company.

SABOTAGE SCHOOL: On December 27 a Sixth Corps Instruction team, with a program on German sabotage means and methods presented a demonstration at Weerth for representative Officers and Noncommissioned officers of the Regiment. Arrangements for the school and the collection of material needed by the demonstrators was accomplished by the Section.

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 By *CP* NARA Date *12/10/08*

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S-2 Journal for December (Cont'd)

PUBLICATION: In addition to the regular publication of the S-2 Summary, the Section continued its publication of THE EAGER BEAVER, Regiment newspaper.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Photographic work during December was highlighted by a series of pictures taken of 540th engineer-soldiers experimenting with proposed Mine Barriers on the Moselle river near Bayon.

These pictures, together with technical data furnished by Officers of the participating companies and written by S-3, were subsequently reproduced in a Secret Seventh Army Engineering Report.

During the month the Regimental Photographer also made photo reconnaissance trips to Hirschland, Berthelming and Buhl for progress pictures on 540th bridge jobs and to Saerenthal, Philippsbourg, Ingwiller and Mattstall for finish bridge pictures.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: In addition to writing Public Relations Stories during December, the Section furnished the Seventh Army Public Relations Office with ten copies of a picture of "old timers" in B company. The pictures went out to home town papers in the states together with copies of a story which the Section prepared the previous month. The Intelligence Sergeant and the Regiment Photographer accompanied Signal Corps still and motion picture cameramen to 540th work sites at Hirschland and Berthelming in order that they could photograph engineer-soldiers at work. Two trips were made and the men spent two afternoons shooting pictures. The Section assisted in the preparation of feature material to accompany the photos on their return to the States. The still cameraman of the team also took pictures of three H & S men.

A. D. Gavura
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