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Title: Interview with COL Robert B. Hutchins – Sicilian Campaign and Initial Phases of the Italian Campaign: The General Subjects Section, Part 2.

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Abstract: This report is an interview by COL Robert B. Hutchins on the Sicilian Campaign and the initial phases of the Italian Campaign. This is Part 2 titled: The General Subjects Section.

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Part 2

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GENERAL SUBJECTS SECTION

UNCLASSIFIED

INTERVIEW WITH COL. ROBERT B. HUTCHINS

(Sicilian Campaign and Initial
Phases of the Italian Campaign)

5 April, 1944.

Q. Did you see any of the M-5 Mines?

A. No.

Q. Were any of the foreign mines used?

A. I don't know whether our engineers used them or not. We didn't. We did receive instructions on them as soon as they were captured. We ran into non-metallic mines and had an opportunity in the assembly area to study them.

Q. Did you put out any minefields?

A. We did at Salerno, not in Sicily. We laid out mines, under supervision of the AT company commander. We made an accurate sketch of where we placed them and the number that we placed. We sent parties out at night under the anti-tank officer with guides. They laid these mines, marked them well so we could locate them and covered all the avenues.

Q. How many were involved - how big a coverage?

A. I couldn't say without the sketch, but quite a few - as an average, around 1000.

Q. After you came back from Persano?

A. Yes. When we took up the defense of Salerno Beach. We laid mines and installed barbed wire entanglements.

Q. Your own unit?

A. Yes.

Q. Covering the same avenue of approach or different avenues?

A. Different. Some mines and booby traps were placed in the wire. When we left the area we sent back a detail to pick them up.

Q. Was there any order from corps or army to pick them up?

A. I think it was a division order. We had to increase our mine platoon in the AT Company. We were issued eighteen mine detectors and formed a platoon consisting of three squads with six mine detectors each. Whenever a battalion moved out one mine detector squad was assigned to it. It searched the areas for mines around bypasses, along roads and trails.

Q. Were they from your anti-tank unit?

A. No. We formed the platoon from the whole regiment - each battalion furnished so many men. I selected men who were interested in that type of work. The engineers trained the platoon.

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- Q. Would you search all the way up as you went along or would you just look in the suspicious spots?
- A. We searched along the road. The mine detecting squad worked with the advance guard. No vehicle would pass ahead of them.
- Q. They actually searched the road?
- A. Full coverage along the road and especially when they came to bypasses.
- Q. What was their action in actual attack?
- A. They were employed as the battalion commander directed.
- Q. Did you have a great deal of trouble with these detectors?
- A. No we didn't. They worked well. They would pick up metal of course.
- Q. We had difficulty in keeping ours in operation. I don't know what the trouble is. Ours apparently were new. They came to us after Sicily. Maybe they were a later model than those you have. There may have been certain corrections made. They worked very successfully. The ammunition and pioneer platoons initially had our detectors and we found they were too busy to operate them.
- Q. Couldn't that detail come very easily from the anti-tank mine platoon?
- A. We didn't take the mine platoon.
- Q. Why didn't you take them?
- A. The platoon of anti-tanks is needed with the guns.
- Q. You need the anti-tank mine platoon as a complement to your guns?
- A. Yes, they have to be there for protection.
- Q. We maintain that here but there have been differences of opinion on that. The real reason is that we can't get engineers here at the school. The present directive says they should receive special training in every rifle company.
- A. That isn't going to work - you need those men to fight. Unless you have specific personnel you can't accomplish this task. You should have men right in the regiment attached to the battalion as needed. In our case it worked splendid. If the regiment was going forward and the area was thick with mines the division commander would take my mine detecting platoon for its use.
- Q. Did they take care of personnel mines too?
- A. Yes, they marked them - with the assistance of the engineers.
- Q. Did they just mark them or remove them?
- A. They marked them and if they had the time they would take them out or else the engineers would. That relieved the engineers to some extent.
- Q. To return to the field laid on the beach, was that a deliberate field?

- A. I would say it was deliberate. Carefully buried.
- Q. Did you have any difficulty?
- A. No report. We were about five or six miles from the beach. The ground was like this out here - loam soil with sand mixed in. They raised melons on it. The field was never actually tested. Some of the mines were booby trapped.
- Q. Did they use our standard device?
- A. We used grenades and caps.
- Q. Did they use grenades with trip wires?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you have any warning flares?
- A. No we didn't. Our pyrotechnics were limited to the Very pistol and yellow smoke grenades.
- Q. How much digging in did you do in defense of the beach?
- A. We dug in but had no elaborate defensive system. We didn't have the time.
- Q. What kind of foxhole did you use?
- A. The slit trench.
- Q. For the whole regiment?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What kind of barbed wire fence did they use?
- A. Double apron.
- Q. Did you sight it for final protection?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What type of stakes did you use?
- A. Iron picket.
- Q. Who sited your troops in attack position within 100 to 200 yards?
- A. That was coordinated between battalions. Each battalion commander coordinated with the battalion on the right and left.
- Q. To return to the field laid on the beach again, you say it was marked? In what way did they mark it?
- A. A single strand wire with strips, I believe, to the company.
- Q. Who made that report?
- A. Captain Wiley of the Anti-tank Company. Major Gibbons of the 36th Engineers attached assisted.
- Q. Did you have any occasion to breach the enemy fields?
- A. No. We had areas in which we had to go through but no breaching.

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Q. Bulldozers?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you notice any difference in mine detectors in Sicily and Italy?

A. No. The Germans laid mines in all likely places they knew the troops would go.

Q. Do they cover their fields with fire?

A. They would initially - until we drove them out, but withdrawing along the roads, no. They would blow the bridges and mine the area.

Q. There's a conception in our manuals where you have a protective fire, then we have a field corresponding to protective barbed wire, did you run into tactical barbed wire?

A. No. They ran into it after I left. We had them moving back too fast.

Q. Did the mine platoon lay mines around the positions?

A. Yes.

Q. Would they be close in - or some distance out?

A. I think - dual - to protect the guns.

Q. What about your supply of TNT? Was that limited?

A. We got everything we needed.

Q. Did you do much demolition work yourself?

A. No we didn't.

Q. How about the engineers - did they do very much?

A. I couldn't answer that.

Q. Did you have to ford any rivers or streams of any size?

A. No we didn't. All of ours were easily bypassed. The most difficult was the Calore River - 100 feet wide.

Q. If the Germans blew a bridge, were you round bound in that country?

A. Yes. You had to stick to the roads. Narrow defiles with high mountains on each side.

Q. We've heard a lot about the use of the Bailey Bridge .

A. We used that in Sicily.

Q. How long after you passed would it be before the engineers put it in?

A. I can give you one instance. The Corps put up a Bailey Bridge near me within a day - it took them about thirty-six hours.

Q. How wide a span was that bridge?

A. I would say about a fifty foot span.

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- Q. You had gone past about five miles?
- A. Yes. We had to connect with the first Division on our right.
- Q. What did you use up until that time?
- A. We couldn't get by.
- Q. You just went across on foot?
- A. That's right.
- Q. Where was that exactly?
- A. Just northeast of Cassi el Buono, Sicily. The engineers could have built a bypass but it would have taken longer than to put the bridge in. The Bailey Bridge is fine.
- Q. Did you operate against any pillboxes?
- A. No. The Italians didn't man them very well. In Sicily we had some elaborate ones, but fortunately the Italians manning them gave up as soon as we came near.
- Q. How were division engineers used?
- A. Initially we had a company attached to us. They worked under me, keeping the roads open, constructing bypasses, etc.
- Q. Did you have them far up?
- A. Right up behind the front lines.
- Q. I take it they took them back under division control?
- A. Yes, but the engineers worked better when attached to the RCT.
- Q. How about tools and engineer equipment that you had, did you find that you had need for them?
- A. I never saw them. I don't think they were ever brought up. We could have used them once but the engineers supplied us with tools. Personally I think they are just so much superfluous equipment, requiring an extra vehicle. Under the conditions in which we were fighting, we didn't need them.
- Q. You had the entrenchment shovel?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You think that might be the better system still?
- A. From what I saw I don't see any reason why the engineers can't bring the tools with the wire.
- Q. What sort of compass did you have?
- A. We had the prismatic compass.
- Q. Did you have difficulty with that going out due to water?
- A. We had a lot of difficulty. I understand we have the fluid type now.

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- Q. I am interested in maps and aerial photographs, did you find any inability on the part of the officers to read maps and aerial photographs?
- A. None in my organization. We had lots of instructions in them. I was fortunate in having a group of Westerners who were especially good on map reading and map work. Our maps were fine. We had much better maps than I expected. Scale of 1/100,000.
- Q. What type of engineer training do you think The Infantry School should give? We teach simple demolitions, some mine training, some hasty field fortifications. Do you have anything in particular in mind that the engineer training should include?
- A. They should certainly include all of that - mines, laying minefields, field fortifications, removal of mines and amphibious underwater obstacles. There should be some instruction with the pioneer platoon in bridges, simple construction that this platoon would encounter.
- Q. How about explosives?
- A. Yes, explosives and booby traps - how to set the traps and remove them.
- Q. You think every man should have some of that?
- A. Yes, every man. Camouflage too.
- Q. These 1/100,000 and 1/200,000 maps, were they topographical maps?
- A. Yes. Elevations were given in meters.
- Q. Did you use the British system in designating points on the map?
- A. We used the thrust system in the majority of cases. Sometimes we would use coordinates.
- Q. Did you have a school in how to read maps?
- A. Yes we did.
- Q. On the subject of aerial photographs, did you have good aerial photographs of the beaches before landing?
- A. Excellent in Sicily. In Italy the material was limited. We did have photographs of Salerno Beach. We didn't have much time for detailed study so what I say I'm not definite about. As I remember, the aerial photographs were not as good as in Sicily.
- Q. Prior to the Sicilian campaign, you had plenty of opportunity to study the aerial photographs of the beaches?
- A. Yes. We had at least five days before we left Oran and five days on the ships before we landed.
- Q. How far down in the scale of units in your regiment did they have opportunity to study?
- A. The regimental commander and the battalion commander were the only ones allowed access to aerial photographs before we left Oran. When we sailed, July 5th, the company commanders were given an opportunity to study the aerial photographs and

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relief maps. They were then passed to the platoon leaders, sergeants, etc.

Q. Did you have occasion to call on the Air Corps for aerial photographs?

A. I didn't and we weren't authorized to.

Q. I asked that question merely to determine how long it took.

A. We didn't call on them at all. The calls we did make on them they never executed. They had too many missions.

Q. Did you have aerial photograph interpreters as low as regiment?

A. No. We had them in division. We had a good interpreter before we went to Italy.

Q. Were the photographs that you received what you call annotated or explained?

A. Yes they were.

Q. Did minefields show on these photographs?

A. I'm sure they did.

Q. The ordinary lay person has difficulty in picking up minefields?

A. Yes, but the interpreter could do it.

Q. Did you ever have occasion to see vestographs - something like a stereo pair used by the Air Corps? You can look at it through a pair of special glasses.

A. We did have one in Sicily. The field artillery commander had one.

Q. Did you have a gadget called the autograph?

A. No.

Q. Did you have any occasion to use sketching parties?

A. I didn't. Our own battalions would make a sketch and send it back to me.

Q. You had an abundance of topographical maps? Plenty for everybody?

A. Yes.

Q. When you sent in a defensive position and decided to put up wire, where did you get it from and how long did it take?

A. The only instance when we used wire was at Salerno Beach. Early one morning the division called me and inquired about wire we would need. We gave them an estimate and the point where we wanted it brought and the engineers delivered it late that afternoon, and that night we put it in. We were close to the beach and there was no difficulty or loss of time in getting it up.

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- Q. Did you have to bend the wire?
- A. No, we didn't do anything with the wire itself.
- Q. The wire we have here is barbed wire and we planned to bend it. We had to. We found some other wire that looked like it had been galvanized and that worked fine.
- A. As I remember ours, it was that dark barbed wire.
- Q. What trouble did you have reading foreign maps?
- A. We didn't have any foreign maps. We had reproductions.
- Q. You were supported by the Navy to a certain extent?
- A. Yes. We went in with the Navy.
- Q. What type of road traps did the enemy use?
- A. They felled trees and had the mine.
- Q. Any cribs built of logs?
- A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. Did they blow many craters?
- A. No.
- Q. Any road blocks?
- A. They blasted narrow roads at Olivetto. It was mostly demolition.
- Q. Did you find they were using more improvised mines or were they using their standard mines?
- A. Their standard mines; they seemed to have millions of them.
- Q. What method did you use for marking mines?
- A. We used a little flag like a pennant. We marked them with strips of cloth or anything we could get.
- Q. Did our troops use any standard markers about 5 feet high, painted red and white?
- A. No. We didn't use any of those.
- Q. Did you sandbag your vehicles?
- A. Yes we did. Jeeps.
- Q. You mentioned eighteen mine detectors, according to the T/E there are nine per regiment.
- A. We were issued an additional nine.
- Q. Who was responsible for repairs?
- A. I think the engineers.
- Q. Did you use map template?
- A. Yes, we did use template.

CONFIDENTIAL

Q. You thought it was a good gadget?

A. Yes, I like it.

Q. Were the German maps better than ours?

A. They had maps smaller than the ones we had. They were excellent. The ones we got were a little more in detail.

Q. Larger scale?

A. Yes, as I remember, a larger scale.

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GENERAL SUBJECTS SECTION

INTERVIEW WITH COL. ROBERT B. HUTCHINS

(Sicilian Campaign and Initial
Phases of the Italian Campaign)

6 April, 1944.

Supply.

Troop Movement.

- Q. Based on the conference in which you stated that you lost your S-4, among other members of your staff, I am curious to know what effect that had the next day on supply and whether another officer was prepared to take over?
- A. It had no effect whatsoever. I trained subordinates two deep for each position on the staff and the supply officer who took over was more than qualified. He had been the regimental transport quartermaster, in making the invasion in Sicily and Italy and was well qualified. He had been in his course of preparation, munitions officer, commanding officer of the service company, and on occasion he had been used as supply officer.
- Q. At the time, what was his assignment?
- A. At the time he was munitions officer.
- Q. When he stepped up, his assistant, the warrant officer, could carry on?
- A. Yes, that's what he did.
- Q. Can you tell us how close the echelons established supply points?
- A. Our division pushed up very close behind - around 5 to 10 miles; well within the convenience of the regiment.
- Q. Did you have occasion to use pack-boards?
- A. In Italy and in Sicily too, but they were the mountain pack-boards, not the standard pack-boards. They worked very well, especially going across country.
- Q. Were they assigned originally to the heavy weapons company?
- A. Yes, they had a certain number. I think the proportion was about 30 in communications, 50 in the rifle companies and 75 to 100 in the heavy weapons companies.
- Q. What personnel carried these pack-boards?
- A. I don't remember exactly; they were designated by the company commander.
- Q. Did they carry weapons and ammunition too?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You didn't have special carrying groups?
- A. No. All the men were taught how to lash and put equipment on pack-boards.

- Q. You mentioned 50 in connection with rifle companies, is that per company?
- A. That may be excessive.
- Q. Could you get along with fewer?
- A. Yes. I think I may be mistaken in that number (50 per rifle company).
- Q. I know heavy weapons has 76.
- A. I remember 30 for communications but I'm not certain about the rifle companies.
- Q. Did you have occasion to use mules?
- A. Once in Sicily. We got them from the Italians.
- Q. You didn't use civilians for that?
- A. They assisted.
- Q. Did regiment make those arrangements?
- A. Yes. Regiment made the arrangements. We had funds and hired the mules through the mayors.
- Q. They didn't go through WNG?
- A. No. You might be interested to know that the S-4 had a large amount of money to expend as he saw fit, for hiring, supply, etc.
- Q. Who handled the vouchers?
- A. There were no vouchers. They required only statements.
- Q. Your officer wasn't involved?
- A. No. I think he received \$4000 and was authorized to spend that without any questions asked. The same thing was done with the S-2 - he was given a certain amount of money.
- Q. Did you use all pack mules?
- A. Yes, around twenty within the regiment.
- Q. What were the mules used for?
- A. Ammunition, rations and water.
- Q. Do you remember what weight they could carry?
- A. 150 to 200 pounds.
- Q. About barracks bags - we heard reports of their being a nuisance - what dispositions were made in your regiment of barracks bags?
- A. They were placed in the hold of the ship going over. The "B" bag. The men kept their "A" bag. On landing they left both the "A" and "B" bags on the ship. They were unloaded on shore, placed in a dump, collected by the S-4 and moved to warehouses. As we moved they jumped these bags forward to different warehouses. This required a lot of hauling. A lot of them were lost and a lot were ransacked on the beach. Bedding rolls

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especially were stolen on shore. When we had the opportunity in Sicily, the S-4 delivered both the "A" and "B" bags to the men. They extracted what they needed and the bags were collected and returned to the warehouses.

Q. During the campaign?

A. During and after the campaign.

Q. Do you feel that was an uneconomical way to do it?

A. Very uneconomical. I'd rather see the quartermaster issue clothing as needed. I think we should train our soldiers to use a light pack instead of the heavy pack and have a field pack, consisting of a shelter half, a blanket, extra pair of shoes, etc., to be moved up with the rations at night for the men. When the equipment is diminished it could be resupplied by the quartermaster.

Q. In replacement of individual clothing and equipment - did the quartermaster start sending this up soon or after some time?

A. As soon as we were back in the bivouac area - not while in actual combat.

Q. Ammunition - what is the expenditure of ammunition in these operations - do you recall the daily average?

A. I don't recall. We established a unit of fire based on our experience in Sicily.

Q. I understand it's about half of the estimate.

A. Not exactly. We found the unit of fire we carried in Sicily was not sufficient in mortar ammunition, consequently, we revised it to increase the amount of mortar ammunition carried. We decreased the amount of 30 caliber, 45 caliber and one or two other types.

Q. Did you have a cannon company?

A. Yes, one platoon of 105's and two platoons of 75's - self propelled.

Q. How did you get ammunition for the 105's?

A. They carried what they could on prime movers and when in need of more, went through the munitions officer. He got it up from the munitions dump.

Q. Normally your 105 ammunition was along with the 57 and small arms?

A. Yes.

Q. On gasoline and oil, was the method of replenishment as covered in the doctrine here?

A. That's right. It worked very successfully.

Q. Were any cans lost?

A. I imagine so, but not an abnormal number.

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- Q. Did regiment have extra cans?
- A. They issued us extra cans when we went into Italy.
- Q. No tank vehicles of any type?
- A. No, just the cans and we didn't have any trouble.
- Q. In connection with individual cooking, did you have any of the new one-burner stoves?
- A. Yes we did. We had one per squad, which isn't sufficient. I think we should have at least two and possibly three per squad. With a squad including a group of twelve you haven't equipment enough to heat enough coffee. When twelve men gather around, that's too many to bunch up.
- Q. That brings up the point of where they are to be carried.
- A. Couldn't they be carried in a light pack and change the K ration box?
- Q. You would favor one man in the squad carrying it rather than carrying it on the kitchen truck?
- A. Yes.
- Q. The only angle is, there will be times when you can feed a hot meal from the B ration.
- A. We moved the kitchens up very close many times - whenever it was possible to do so.
- Q. You mean the kitchens themselves?
- A. Yes. Right up in the reserve areas.
- Q. In the reserve company?
- A. Yes, where we weren't in the front line, but close to it. Whenever possible we used the kitchen.
- Q. That was all under cover of guards?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You would leave it there for supper and breakfast?
- A. That's right.
- Q. What about maintaining spare parts for vehicles, weapons, communications?
- A. There was some lag in supply but not excessive. Replacement generally was very good and within a reasonably short period.
- Q. You mentioned Sicily - was that true during the Italian Campaign?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was the German gasoline the same octene as ours?
- A. I don't know whether it was or not but we operated on it.
- Q. In connection with train bivouac, did you use any means other than organic protection of service company?

CONFIDENTIAL

- A. We had an SOP in the shape of a hub of a wheel for the train bivouac.
- Q. In other words, the reserve battalions were never asked to contribute?
- A. No. I never let the train area get that close.
- Q. What about drivers? Did you have enough?
- A. We went over 15% over-strength and we did have enough drivers for the trucks.

Troop Movements.

- Q. What percentage of motor movement involved shuttling?
- A. Practically all of it.
- Q. Using your own organic?
- A. Yes, plus what division sent from the other regiments.
- Q. Did you ever make a move using your own only?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you use intermediate trucking points?
- A. No, the trucks returned back to the in trucking points.
- Q. You didn't walk out to meet them?
- A. No.
- Q. How frequently was double banking prohibited?
- A. I never saw any orders on it, but I think everybody was instructed that there would be none. It did occur though.
- Q. Did the foot troops interfere with motor movements?
- A. No. We marched in single file on either side of the road.
- Q. Did division shuttle as a whole or would each regiment move by itself?
- A. We moved by regiment.
- Q. What were the average rates of movement? Day and Night? What was the speed of the motor columns?
- A. We traveled somewhere between 30 and 35 miles and at night slowed down to 20 to 25.
- Q. Were any lights used?
- A. We used blackout lights.
- Q. Who furnished the control on the roads?
- A. Division ordinarily had MP's out but we operated a little differently than the procedure ordinarily followed. The Division broke up its MP Company and an attached detachment was placed within with an officer to each regiment. The regiments used this detachment for guides at the regimental CP for guarding prisoners and as guards at the CP.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- Q. Did your S-3 make use of the graph in planning troop movements?
- A. No.
- Q. We teach that he should make his own but not to issue.
- A. We didn't issue any.
- Q. You used the standard march order?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you have reconnaissance of route made by a party of your own?
- A. Yes. Whenever we moved by vehicles.
- Q. How much ahead was that?
- A. Normally, an hour ahead of the movement.
- Q. How about the quartering group?
- A. It went with the guides, approximately an hour ahead of movement.
- Q. Did you have your column units organized in march serials?
- A. All the time.
- Q. Battalion serials?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you use open and closed column methods of movement?
- A. The closed column at night and open in the daytime.
- Q. What was the distance?
- A. 75 to 100 yards. Never closer than 50 yards.
- Q. Was a standard order used for daylight?
- A. No, it depended on the situation.
- Q. Did you ever use infiltration?
- A. No. I did with my regimental headquarters company.
- Q. Do you remember what vehicles were used for the advance group?
- A. We used vehicles of the communications section plus trucks of the regimental headquarters company.
- Q. Did you use their trucking point or area?
- A. Area. The trucks usually reported to the motor officer and he dispatched them to different intrucking points selected.
- Q. Did you use the road at night?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. What action was taken by the truck column when attacked by a plane?
- A. We were trained to have the column stop and men detruck, but that isn't what happened.
- Q. Did the column halt?
- A. No. The column continued and this seemed to work better than stopping.
- Q. Did you increase the speed or continue at a normal rate?
- A. They probably increased it a little bit, I couldn't say. They just maintained their distance.
- Q. Did troops fire from the trucks?
- A. No.
- Q. What characteristics of march discipline were violated?
- A. There was constant double banking and instances of getting too close together.
- Q. What action was taken when you ran into a road block? Moving by motor?
- A. Ordinarily we never moved where there was a road block. We reconnoitered about time to insure there was no block.
- Q. Did you ever have one block when making a move?
- A. We never did.
- Q. In the bivouac area, were battalion motors assigned parks?
- A. They were assigned battalion parks and dispersed at certain distances.
- Q. What was the minimum distance?
- A. Around thirty yards.
- Q. Did you dig your vehicles in?
- A. No, we tried to get cover under trees and camouflage.
- Q. Did you use sandbags?
- A. Yes, we sandbagged our 1/4 tons. The mine didn't seem to affect personnel in 2 1/2 tons but in the jeep it was different.
- Q. In foot marches, did the platoon leaders march in rear or at the head?
- A. In the rear of their platoons.
- Q. What were the normal rates of foot marches, day and night?
- A. In most of our marching we were going against the enemy - they averaged about 2 1/2 miles per hour day and night.

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- Q. Did you have any set distances - SOP distances between platoons, companies and battalions?
- A. No standard SOP. In Italy we had to go off the road.
- Q. Did you have your men dig foxholes or slit trenches?
- A. Both types, but slit trenches mostly.
- Q. Did you have an SOP bivouac formation?
- A. Not for battalions; we did for regimental headquarters.
- Q. Would you briefly describe this formation?
- A. The message center was closest to the road, then the S-1 tent centered with respect to the S-3, S-2 and G. O's tent.
- Q. Was there any set location for battalions?
- A. Ordinarily I tried to locate them with regimental headquarters in the center.
- Q. Did you try to maintain all-around protection?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How were you informed if on movements, by lack of control of the roads by higher echelons?
- A. Usually through the division MP Company.
- Q. How about organic and non-organic units when they organized within the company?
- A. We kept organic vehicles in serials and made additional serials for personnel carriers.
- Q. Did you have them at the head of the organics?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you have any use for radio on patrols?
- A. We used radio extensively.
- Q. When necessary to continue march from darkness to daylight, how did you arrange that when traveling in close column at night?
- A. None of our movements were extended from darkness into daylight. We moved almost entirely at night.

Medical.

- Q. The number of cases of psychiatric disorders in relation to leadership of junior officers, did you find there was an increase in the number or did you have an opportunity to observe that?
- A. I don't think I can answer that. We had quite a few of these cases. We handled them by sending them first to the regimental aid station where they gave them a shot of morphine and a day's rest. If the doctor thought they were

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over it he would send them back to their unit; if not, the patient was evacuated to the collecting station and stayed there while. He either returned from there or was evacuated to the rear.

- Q. Did you have much trouble with mess discipline or disposition of garbage?
- A. No we didn't; we were living mostly on C and K rations. They buried all the garbage.
- Q. Did you have trouble with flies?
- A. We had lots of flies.
- Q. How about control of malaria?
- A. We gave the men atabrine - one each day for four days, skipped a day, then four more consecutive days. We found the men would forget about it in the front lines. Finally we had to have an officer supervise them to see that they got their proper amounts, then the malaria rate dropped.
- Q. Did they have any insect repellent?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did they have mosquito bars?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What was your method of control of VD?
- A. We had very little of that; they were too active in the first place and were restricted to the area.
- Q. Did you find you had to reinforce your medical troops with litter bearers?
- A. On one occasion I sent some bearers from the regimental section, and on another occasion took a section from the reserve battalion to reinforce another section.
- Q. You took a medical section and reinforced your other battalions?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How far to the rear were your aid stations?
- A. Normally, anywhere from 1000 yards or more to the rear. We found that satisfactory. They were constantly calling back for something in the way of medical supplies.
- Q. Did you establish any aid posts in the company area or did they keep it in one aid station?
- A. Generally in the battalion aid station.
- Q. Do you think the liaison was pretty good between the medical officers and units?
- A. It was very fine. I can't give the medical corps too much credit.

Q. Did you have occasion to use pack animals for evacuation of the wounded?

A. Not while I was with them. We used the jeep as far as we could go.

Q. Would you tell us how you accomplished burial?

A. When we went into Sicily we had not given a great deal of thought to the burial of the dead and we had our chaplains in charge of burial. In my case I used the band for digging the graves. They didn't have any transportation. We had to get it when we could and it didn't work satisfactorily so we changed and made the special service officer head of the graves registration and gave him a 2½ ton truck and jeep. Originally they went back to division and operated under division graves registration officer. This proved unsatisfactory so we changed the system and made burial the responsibility of the regiment, with a detail of a special service officer and the band, including a grave registration NCO. They were given a 2½ ton truck and a jeep to operate with. Each time the regiment was engaged in combat this detail immediately went out over the area and collected the bodies, selected the cemetery, reported to division and did the burying. This system worked much better. They moved right in behind the attacking troops. I understand later they worked a system where division would establish cemeteries and the burying detail turned the bodies over to division for the actual burying. Division had a labor company attached to it for digging the graves.

Q. What type of graves registration did they have?

A. A platoon. I understand they were asking for a company.

Q. Did you attempt to make use of ammunition vehicles?

A. No. We had a special vehicle which was ample.

Q. Burial in general was accomplished at the division cemetery?

A. Later. Initially we selected the cemetery and reported its location to division.

Q. You didn't give your chaplains any special training?

A. We did, but it didn't seem to work too well. The Chaplains have a better use working through the aid stations, administering first aid and last rights.

Q. How was assembly, did the litter bearers carry the dead back to the aid stations?

A. No. If they died they were left where they fell. They carried back only the wounded. The burying detail combed the area after the fight.

Q. Did they mark the dead so they could identify them?

A. Yes.

Q. Did they stick rifles in the ground?

A. On occasions.

Q. Did division issue any directive to regiments in regard to returning salvage or bringing captured enemy material in?

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- A. Yes, we had instructions from division.
- Q. Was any captured material booby trapped?
- A. Yes, some of it.
- Q. You had a special salvage detail?
- A. No. The S-4 would gather it up and take it back. The division engineers did do a lot of it.
- Q. How often did you see your S-4 in the front lines?
- A. The way I worked it, I required a representative of the S-4 to be at my CP at all times and the S-4 himself was to be there sometime during the afternoon of each day. In that way I kept contact with the supply section.
- Q. Did you ever have to change a task plan due to the supply situation in the regiment?
- A. No, we didn't. We had a lot of difficulty in getting the proper ration. The S-4 kept a ration dump at the train area of G and K rations and some 5 in 1 so that if we got an order and weren't equipped with proper rations he could issue them without delay. When the train bivouac moved this supply of extra rations would be moved with it. It was a good system. Our instructions lots of times were issued by higher headquarters without thought of rations.
- Q. Did you have any extra trucks there?
- A. We had one or two we captured.
- Q. Was that in regiment?
- A. Just my regiment.
- Q. Did the supply officer have anything to do with that?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did they carry a reserve?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you ever draw on that?
- A. Yes.
- Q. About what proportion of the three rations would you have?
- A. I think seven days' extra altogether - 3 or 4 "5 in 1," 2 "G" and 2 "K" It worked out nicely.
- Q. In actual combat did you ever feed "B" rations?
- A. No.
- Q. In school we insist on feeding hot meals to troops in actual combat. Do the men care, or will they eat anything?

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A. They will eat anything they can get their hands on. They had these little stoves I spoke of to heat coffee. In Salerno we had nothing for seven days but "C" and "K" rations.

Q. Was any part of your regiment ever supplied by dropping supplies?

A. No.

Q. How does our kitchen equipment compare with the German's?

A. From what I saw of the German equipment, ours was better, in my opinion.

Q. Did you use standard gasoline in your kitchen?

A. Yes.

Q. In our present T/E we have no cocoa sets, do you think it advisable that these be returned?

A. Yes I do.

Q. Did you have the battalion entrenchment set?

A. We had regimental entrenching tools. If we are going in a defensive position I don't see why the engineers can't deliver these tools. We never use them. I think they are superfluous. When we wanted tools the engineers brought them to us.

Q. Did you have use for flame throwers?

A. No flame throwers.

Q. Did you have assault squads?

A. Not when I left.

Q. To what extent was the ammunition dump up there?

A. We tried to keep it mobile.

Q. Did you find that the vehicles of your train were sufficient to haul ammunition?

A. We had to put ammunition on everything.

Q. Did you find any roads mined?

A. The roads were always mined.

Q. How did you overcome that?

A. We formed a mine detector platoon, and made it a part of the mine platoon and anti-tank company. We had 18 detectors issued to us and with them formed 3 squads of 6 detectors each. When a battalion moved we attached a detached squad to the battalion to search for mines. If we needed more and other battalions weren't employed, we gave them two or three. If we were in reserve and division needed our platoon for another regiment, they would take it from us. It worked very satisfactorily. These men were right at the head and if they came to a bypass they searched it before the engineers reached there. If we were going across country the men followed along and searched as they went along.

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- Q. Is there any place where we could cut down on vehicles?
- A. No. I don't think we should.
- Q. I was thinking of the heavy machine gun and heavy weapons company, could they get along with fewer jeeps per squad?
- A. I don't think so. They are all overloaded as it is. No one took into consideration all the paraphernalia to be carried and as a result there were a lot of broken axles.
- Q. What souvenirs were allowed to be picked up?
- A. We didn't place any restraint on collecting souvenirs, other than to prevent the men from stealing watches and personal equipment from prisoners and dead. You would find a lot of that before the graves registration detail got up. We required that all captured weapons be turned in. They did keep knives and compasses.
- Q. How about replacement of troops and weapons, did you have any SOP?
- A. No SOP but we did augment the heavy weapons company by giving them additional personnel.
- Q. What if a machine gun was knocked out, how did you secure replacement?
- A. We requisitioned replacement through division ordnance officer.
- Q. Normally you would send a vehicle back to get it?
- A. Yes. Sometimes we got it and sometimes we didn't.
- Q. You didn't operate a supply point? We teach that here. We think that's a solution.
- A. Is that recent?
- Q. No, the school has been teaching it for two years.

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