

The following is a typed copy of a letter written by a former member of the U.S. Navy First Beach Battalion, to Mark Carpenter in Sept of 1986. Attached with it is a two-page SECRET report (now DECLASSIFIED) in which the 540TH Regiment is highly praised for its participation in the ANZIO Invasion(see second page):

Dear Sir,

I was in the U.S. Navy First Beach Battalion, attached to the 540TH Combat Engineer Regiment assault landing at Anzio. We stayed 77 days at that beachhead. I'm sending to you, a copy of a once Secret report mentioning the 540TH Combat Engineer shore party at Anzio. Did you-all get a unit award for that landing? If not you should have, for you-all were excellent. We were also attached to the 36TH Engrs, 40TH Engrs, 35TH British Royal Marine Engrs, 3RD Infantry Division, 45TH Infantry Division and the 46TH British Division, in other beachhead landings. You-all did all the fighting and all of you were one hell of an outfit, the best I believe in World War II. We knew or got to know most of you in the Med Theater of War.

God bless you all and have a great reunion!

John M. Payne