

## THE STORY OF THE 163rd SIGNAL PHOTO CO.

The 163rd Signal Photographic Co was activated at Fort Benning, Georgia from a cadre of the 161 Signal Photo Company. This was one of the few things ever happening in Georgia and also the event that later made the 161st Photo Co famous. (We never heard of it again).

There were twenty enlisted men and one officer in the original cadre. They were carefully trained in everything that was known at the time concerning Photo Companies-- (note: at the time nothing was known and a Combat Camera-man was a hybrid infantryman who shot film and bullets simultaneously--it was decided) So the training was to be naturally how to shoot bullets, naturally.

Today we have three members of that original cadre left in the company, they are three of the better shots, naturally. (see appendix for names and places and facts)

On May 9th the cadre, known as the 163rd Signal Photo Co was in business at FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS, all set to receive replacements, train them, and get ready to photograph any old war that might come along.(it did).

The first LABORATORY was established at the Smith-Young Tower, a modern building in the heart of San Antonio and was the headquarters for the THIRD ARMY to which the new Photo Company was attached.

In August the Company reached full T/O strength of 170 EM and 18 officers. Experience had been gained during July by the three officers and 32 enlisted men with the THIRD ARMY on the Louisiana Manoeuvres running assignment units, and a laboratory. There was also a detachment training in Photo work at Fort HUACHUCA, Arizona with the 93rd Inf. Div. These men returned to the company on Sept. 26th 1942 convinced that War Photography was tougher than the infantry. Then there was five men training at DESERT TRAINING CENTER at INDIO, California.

BY this time one of the barracks had been converted into a lab at the company headquarters and a lot of film was going thru the camera, into the lab and out to the trash file. Pictures were made of everything that would hold still. The company was not destined for a long stay at one of the best military posts in the country, there were rumors of a big landing coming up.



By Sept 26th 1942 the company had three officers under going special training at LITTLE CREEK, Va, in Amphibious Landing--a new term that we were to hear often in the months that followed. By Sept. 29th the 163rd had received Movement Order and somehow managed to do all the myriad of things necessary to be now en route to a new station. It was AP HILL MILITARY RESERVATION, Va. and we were part of TASK FORCE "A" getting ready for the AFRICAN INVASION. All we knew that an invasion would be easy compared to packing and moving those many boxes. It was here that the work SNAFU became something significant in every GI's vocabulary--for definitely this was one--a big one too, for it turned out that not the company was needed for the landing operation--they would take the chance without the 163rd; only four SPECIAL UNITS would go. So the first dribble of personnel of the company that finally got us all over there was off--20 cameramen and 4 officers. They landed and proceeded to win the Tunisian Campaign Star for the rest of us. (all with the little 16mm magazine cameras and the 1" lens) FOR the rest of the company it was to settle down in tents and commune with rodents and foul weather and a bigger and better box-building program--that is until the SECOND ARMY reared it's ugly head and off we go to CAMP SUTTON, N.C. This proved to be a desolate deal--even natives of the state never had heard of this one. However that winter wasn't too bad in our little tent city of smoking stoves and soft coal soot that fell as gentle rain--even as far as CHARLOTTE. In the middle of December 1942 the company was alerted for movement, but by now we knew that something else would happen, and sure enough--only the laboratory platoon was finally alerted and sailed off to Africa--31 men and one officer.

ON the 19th of April 1943, Capt Morehouse rounded up his diminished company of now little over a hundred men and took off like big birds for FORT JACKSON, S. C.--the hottest place since Ft Sam Houston. Here two more segments of the company were separated--never to be seen again. They were Photo Teams number 4 and 7 with Lt Pike and Lt Roth in charge. Twelve men and two more officers gone to FORT ORD, Cal. Later they took part in the landing at KISKA, in the ALEUTIAN, Islands and joined the Pacific forces.



EVERYTHING went along strictly on a garrison basis for the next few months at Fort Jackson--teams were organized and sent to various Posts, Camps and Stations to do actual Photographic work on a training basis. 163rd Teams, (then called Units) were at Jacksonville, Florida with VII Corps; Camp Sutton, N. C. with XII Corps; Camp Blanding, Florida with 66th Inf. Div; Camp Forrest, Tennessee, with 30th Inf. Div.; Camp Ruckner, Alabama, with the 55th Inf. Div.; Fort Bragg, N. C. with the 15th & 22nd FA Brigade; and Camp Gordon, Ga with the 26th Inf. Division. However, true to form everything went to smash about the time the units got to their location and all the company was again alerted, units called back, men qualified in every known type of weapon, insurance, allotment, wills, get the wife home, pack boxes, load freight cars, packing lists, sailing lists, buy this and that and finally off in all directions--the company freight to NEWPORT NEWS, Va, the personnel departing on Aug 12th for OCP KILMER, New Jersey. That was in 1943. Things weren't going to good in Africa, the Atlantic was infested with enemy subs and we were taking a beating in the Pacific. It took only seven days at Kilmer before we all found ourselves really 'at sea' on the SS MONTICELLO, and at 0930 on the 22nd of August 1943 we cleared the STATEN ISLAND PORT OF EMBARKATION and got our last dim view of the Statue of Liberty. However later on we got many more dim views, but not of the Old Girl holding the torch. The trip was uneventful in that most the men crammed below decks recall it all as a bad dream. Life had begun to be very hectic. On 2 September 1943 we landed in AFRICA.



THE OVERSEAS CHAPTER  
OF THE MOVEMENTS, OPERATIONS, TRIALS AND  
.TRIBULATIONS OF THE 163rd SIGNAL PHOTO Co.

.4.

UPON landing in Africa at the port of ORAN, THE company set up a tent bivouac about 15 miles inland at LA SENIA. A barren, sun-drenched dust bowl without even a tall weed for shade--where Arabs prowled by day and night and the jackals howled only at night. There we learned that the T/O unit plan, incorporating laboratory equipment and a 2½ and a weapon carrier vehicle per unit was strictly an old-fashioned, out-moded idea to be thrown to the birds. Just what was to be substituted in place of that wasn't clear, but let's get busy and get reorganized anyway. After several meetings with Colonel M. E. Gillette, the Photo Officer of AFHQ it was clear that our mission would begin with the Italian Invasion, coming up soon, and that the balance of the coverage on the Tunisian Campaign and the Sicilian Campaign would be handled by APS cameramen and the 163rd Units already over and operating. The lab was, during this time, attached to FIFTH ARMY hqrs and in operation at MOSTAGANEM, Algeria. They too would go in on the Italian Invasion and would join the company headquarters when the later came into Italy. All this happened in due time and with many hard days and nights of work. Sicily was mopped up, Italy invaded at SALERNO, the lab went in on D plus 5, the teams on D-Day, and the company on about D plus 45, dragging 214 huge boxes of equipment behind them. That was on the 15th of October 1943 and the place was now BAGNOLI, Italy, around the corner from NAPLES. Italian troops marched about everywhere, American equipment was everywhere also, and in between were dirty kids who had changed the chant from 'bon-bon' as in Africa, to 'caramelli! Everyone seemed to be moving somewhere, at night Jerry came over the harbor filled with shipping to try his luck, the most damage was extreme loss of sleep getting to shelter, and the city of Naples caught the damage. Pretty soon our supplies, on other ships, and our vehicles, on still other ships were tracked down in the harbor, were finally unloaded and away we went in the height of the rainy season (mid-November) for a muddy bivouac 4 miles north of CAIAZZO, about fifty miles from Naples.



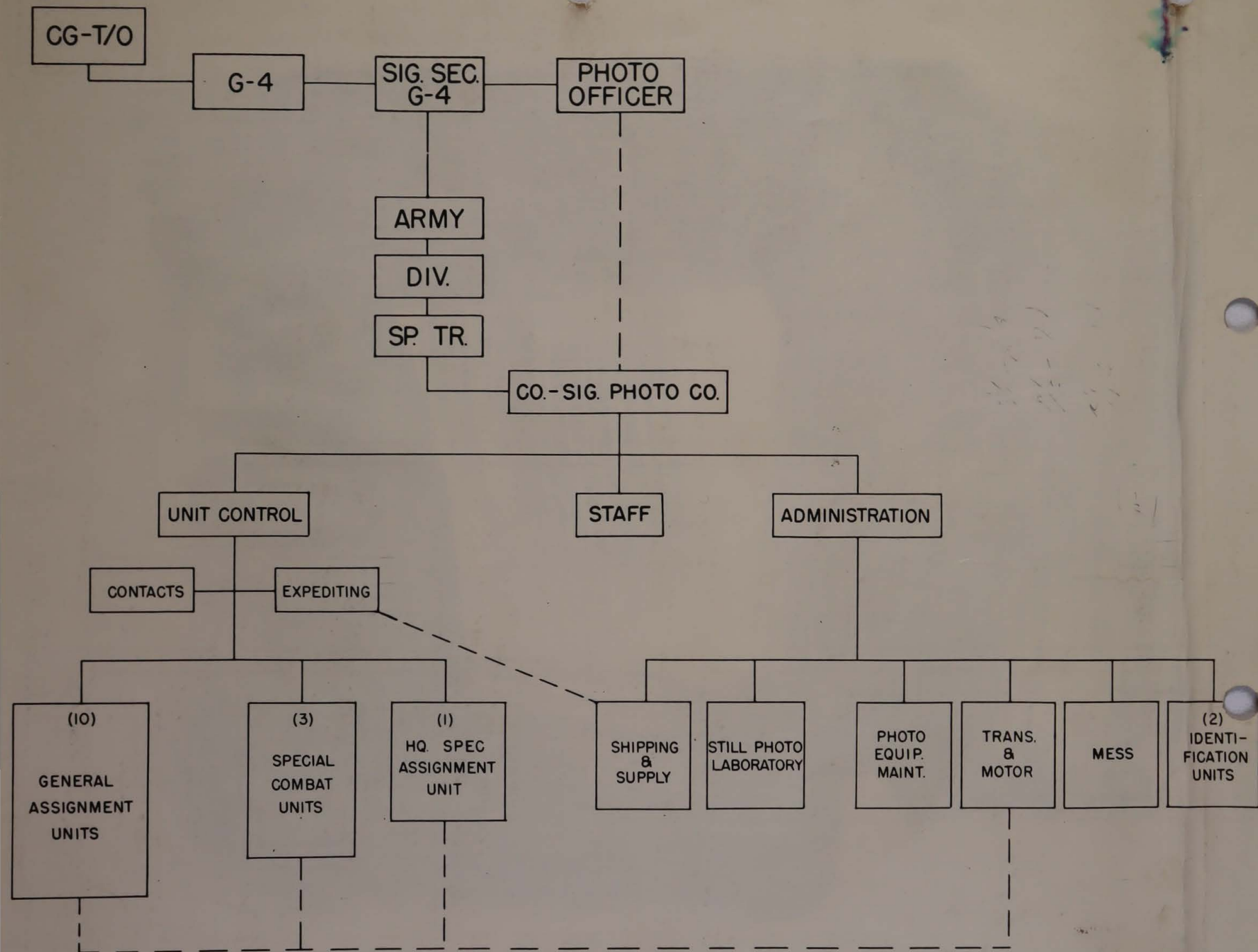
WE didn't know it then, but CIAIZZO was to be our home base while the Italian Campaign dragged on into winter and spring without much advance through the extremely difficult terrain and weather conditions. Our location for the next six months was the ancient hilltop city known before the war by only a few tourists who came to look but left when they smelled what Ciaizzo smelled like in fly-time. During this time the lab detachment operated in comparative grandeur in a modern building about 25 mi. south in the city of Caserta--famous for the Palace of Caserta built in the 17th century by one of the Bonaparts. During this period methods of Photo Team operation were developed, the 3-man team in jeep and trailer was it. Production at the rate of over 75,000 feet of motion picture coverage per month rolled in from thirty cameramen and spot news in still pictures went out via wire-photo directly from Caserta. This was big time by one complete Signal Photo Company operating in spite of the WD handicap known as the Table of Organization. All the smaller camera units previously in operation were either absorbed by the 163rd or went into oblivion back at Algiers where base section maintained a provisional Photo battalion, most the supplies and also much spare equipment. The brains behind the operation were located with Fifth Army in what was known as APS standing for Army Pictorial Service and otherwise know as Colonel M.E. Gillette. About this axis, with the lab at one end and the company headquarters operation at the other, rotated every thing pertaining to photo coverage in the Italian campaigns, the lab handled most the Pool work, made their releases, during those hectic days when all was for one and all was for one. THE big time became bigger time when what a special group of four officers and ten non-commissioned brass rolled into our confines with new equipment and material. Our troops had been delayed long enough, an end run was rumored--this became operation Avalanche, better known as the ANZIO BEACHHEAD, and later the 'beachhead'. For this the 163rd put forth it's stellar teams--four officers and over thirty cameramen--this was it. It almost was--for a while. By now the 163rd felt the loss of three cameramen who would never return home. War was all that Sherman said and people got hurt and the '88' was as common a term as 'flak'. These and many other things we hadn't heard about in basic training. This was basis training in it's most primitive and fearsome form.



By now CASINO had become a household word, and the pictures had won national acclaim, and the Signal Corps rushed more men into Photographic training to form more of these companies of men who take to battle with a camera. "Combat Cameramen" became a respected term recognized with awards like the Legion of Merit and the Silver Star and the Purple heart. Spring finally came in Italy, so did the mud, we had crossed the Rappido and the Garigliano--things began to move--so did the 163rd. Off to San MARCO, in an Olive Orchard near the via APPIA. This was now on the road to ROME. It was a peaceful pastoral bivouac, where at night under the olive trees the 16 m/m prints of the work of the cameramen was screened. By now there was II Corps, VI Corps and French Corps--twenty teams were recording the action. BY the middle of May the drive was on, by the 25th the first pictures of the historic meeting of the II corps troops and the VI corps troops that broke thru from the beachhead were in the States--names like Formia, Itri, and Gaeta marked piles of rubble left in the advance toward ROME. ON June 5th the Eternal City was liberated from the enemy and the cameramen who had trained with the special "S" Force entered and obtained spot coverage--in fact the pictures were in the papers simultaneously with the story! The following day the NORMANDY INVASION shocked the enemy and scooped the follow-up value of the Fall of Rome. By now plans were made to move the company from NINFA to ROME and the lab had a beautiful deal all set in a former swank motion picture lab in ROME--these were the fruits of victory. The company didn't have long in ROME--soon of to TUSCANIA, leaving the lab. in it's Roman 'Taj Mahal'. One more jump to the 'Cork Grove' near Roccastrada was to mark the furthest advance by the 163rd in Italy. Hear the Company was to get bigger and better assignments .



# FUNCTIONAL DIAGRAM OF SIGNAL PHOTO COMPANY IN T/O





HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
Camp Sutton, N.C.

February 10, 1943

HISTORY OF THE 163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY

1. The 163rd Signal Photographic Company was activated at Fort Benning, Ga, effective April 10, 1942; the Cadre being furnished by the 161st Signal Photographic Company of that Post. The Cadre consisted of twenty (20) enlisted men and one (1) officer. It was trained by that officer for a period of approximately three weeks at Fort Benning prior to activation. The training program for the Cadre consisted of intensive course in teaching methods based upon notes used by the Signal Corps Replacement Training Center, Redband, Fort Monmouth, N. J. and upon TM 2260-5 (Training of Signal Corps Personnel). This training was intended to make qualified instructors of all members of the Cadre and the results were highly successful.

2. Following activation the Cadre proceeded to its permanent station at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and was assigned an area in a tent camp; however, on May 9, 1942 the organization was assigned to permanent barracks on the main post and moved that date. During this period further training of the Cadre was accomplished and the organization began to receive equipment. On May 16, 1942 the first group of replacement fillers was received from Camp Crowder, Mo. composed exclusively of chauffeurs, mechanics and clerks. The organization reached T/O strength on August 17, 1942 with the arrival of additional photographers from Fort Monmouth, N. J. A number of detachments were from time to time ordered from the company on various photographic missions. These assignments follow:

a. On June 11, 1942 one (1) officer and five (5) enlisted men established a laboratory in Headquarters, Third Army, Smith-Young Tower, San Antonio, Texas to furnish photographic services to the Third Army Headquarters. This laboratory was in continuous operation from that date until September 28, 1942.

b. A Third Army Louisiana Maneuver Detachment was placed on detached service on July 16, 1942 and served in the Maneuver Area for Directors' Group Headquarters Third Army from that date until September 24, 1942. This detachment consisted of three (3) general assignment units and a small laboratory unit; a total of one (1) officer and thirty-two (32) enlisted men. On August 1, 1942 the detachment was augmented by three (3) officers to command the three assignment units. Until they joined the detachment the Unit N.C.O.'s commanded the assignment units.

c. Four (4) enlisted men and one (1) officer were placed on detached service August 27, 1942 and proceeded to Fort Huachuca, Arizona to furnish photographic services to the 93rd Infantry Division. They returned to the company September 26, 1942.

d. Five (5) enlisted men under the command of a sergeant were placed on detached service to Headquarters, Desert Warfare Training Center, Indio, California on September 3, 1942 and served with the Desert Warfare Training Headquarters and Desert Warfare Board until their return on September 26, 1942.



3. Prior to July 25, 1942 the officer strength of the organization was a total of four (4) officers; however, on July 25, 1942 and July 27, 1942 sixteen (16) officers, graduates of Officers' Candidate School, arrived at the organization bringing the officer strength to twenty (20).

4. On September 19, 1942 one (1) officer departed on secret orders for Little Creek, Va. to take special training in Amphibious Landings. Two (2) other officers departed on September 26, 1942 for the same purpose. On the afternoon of September 28, 1942 the organization received movement orders and proceeded to box and crate all equipment, departing from Fort Sam Houston, Texas September 29, for A. P. Hill Military Reservation, Va., a temporary change of station for training; arriving on October 3, 1942. Upon arrival the organization passed to control of Commanding General Task Force "A". The Signal Officer of Task Force "A" had planned that four (4) special motion picture units would proceed with the initial assault of Task Force "A" on "D" day, taking with them four trucks. These four special units left the company during the first weeks in October; each on separate orders at the verbal call of the Commanding Officer of each Sub-Task Force to which it had been attached. Further plans called for approximately fifty (50) men and three (3) officers to depart on "D 40" which would include the laboratory unit plus certain drivers and maintenance personnel. On "D 90" the balance of the company was to follow. These plans did not materialize.

5. Sometime in the early part of November the remainder of the organization was reassigned to the Commanding General, Army Ground Forces and attached to Second Army for administration and supervision of training with temporary station at Camp Sutton, N. C. The organization departed A. P. Hill Military Reservation, Va. by truck the morning of November 20, 1942 and arrived at Camp Sutton, N. C. November 21, 1942. The convoy consisted of this organization, the 185th Ordnance Company (D), and the 906th Ordnance Company (HM), a total of 85 vehicles. The Commanding Officer of this organization was designated as convoy commander; the entire journey being accomplished at the average speed of thirty miles per hour without mishap or loss of any vehicles. On December 14, 1942 this organization was alerted for immediate movement overseas and spent the week of December 14 to 19 inclusive, packing and crating. On December 19, 1942 orders were received that only a laboratory unit would be sent which departed this organization on December 27, 1942. This unit consisted of thirty-one enlisted men and one officer. It was placed on detached service at the time of departure.

6. Training was resumed following the week of December 14 to 19 and has been continued steadily ever since. The loss of the laboratory unit has handicapped training somewhat but the motion picture and still photographers are doing some laboratory work; each man was rotated through the laboratory as part of his individual training, and it is considered that satisfactory progress is being made in this phase of training.

7. Motion picture photographers are taking pictures in both 35 and 16mm black and white and 16mm in Kodachrome. Processing was handled by the Signal Photographic Laboratory, Army War College, Washington, D. C. and by the Eastman Kodak Company.

8. At the present date this organization is in the first week of the second period of training, having completed the MTP test February 4, 1943 and completed the thirteenth week of the first period of training, February 6, 1943.



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*File Copy*

HEADQUARTERS  
163rd Signal Photographic Company  
(Less Detachments)

APO 464  
U. S. Army

NRM:hbm

This report includes information concerning past 24 November 1943  
as well as a report of current activities.

SUBJECT: Report

TO : Signal Officer, Fifth Army, APO 464.  
(Thru: Col. M. E. Gillette, photographic officer, Fifth Army)

1. Attached is report requested by your office. A weekly report  
will be submitted hereafter.

2. The Unit has alerted for overseas movement, and departed for A. P.  
military reservation 29 September 1943, where it was assigned to Task  
Force "A". Four special photographic units, totalling four officers and  
twenty enlisted men departed with Task Force "A2".

NED R. MOREHOUSE

Capt. 163rd Sig. Photo Co.  
Commanding

Incl:  
Report (in dup)

3. The remainder of the Company stayed at  
A. P., remaining there until 1 June 1943 when it was transferred to Fort  
Jackson, S. C. While at Camp Station, S. C., the Laboratory Detachment was  
ordered overseas and departed 28 December 1942. Personnel included one  
officer and thirty-one enlisted men.

4. Training of personnel in the U. S. during this period was conducted  
in the use of all types of cameras with which the organization was equipped,  
developing and printing, and field operation of photographic units as well  
as military subjects. In July, two photographic units were transferred to  
the Western Defense Command, Fort Ord, California.

5. Difficulty in delivery of T/BA cameras was experienced for a year.  
Final shipments of T/BA motion picture cameras was received 3 April 1943.  
The organization has not received to date the ground camera authorized.  
These are not considered essential for successful accomplishment of the  
organization's mission.

6. Some statistics on the organization follow:

a. Reported officer Candidates . . . . .	27
b. Total number of men assigned while in the U. S. . . . .	37
c. Number of men qualified in their primary weapon . . . . .	211
d. Men on F.S. while organization was in the U. S. . . . .	51
e. Officers on F.S. while organization was in the U.S. . . . .	5
f. Weight, T/BA equipment and supplies shipped from the U. S. (less vehicles) . . . . .	211,000 lbs
g. Weight of T/BA equipment and supplies shipped from the U. S. (less vehicles) . . . . .	4,000 lbs

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The organization (less detachments) departed the U. S. 21 August 1942, for the theater, arriving 13 days later at HEADQUARTERS, North Africa. It remained there pending arrival 163rd Signal Photographic Company. After arriving in the theater, a further delay (less detachments) waiting for vehicles to arrive, which was in early the day of 13 APO 464, and the company departed the theater on 10 November for the front U.S. Army by motor convoy.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES TO 20 NOVEMBER 1943

1. This report includes information concerning past history for background, as well as a report of current activities. of two officers and ten men at forward camp, Marsoulles, for front line coverage.
2. The 163rd Signal Photo Company was activated at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 10 April 1942, the cadre being furnished by the 161st Signal Photo Company. Fillers were received during April, May, and June. In July, a detachment was sent to the Louisiana maneuvers. In addition, detachments were sent to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and Desert Training Center, Indio, California. work is being hampered by continual rains.
3. The unit was alerted for overseas movement, and departed for A. P. Hill Military Reservation 29 September 1942, where it was assigned to Task Force "A". Four special photographic units, totalling four officers and, with twenty enlisted men departed with Task Force "a2", for immediate dispatch to the U. S.
4. The remainder of the Company stayed at A. P. Hill Military Reservation for approximately one month and was then transferred to Camp Sutton, N. C., remaining there until 1 June 1943 when it was transferred to Fort Jackson, S. C. While at Camp Sutton, N. C., the Laboratory Detachment was ordered overseas and departed 28 December 1942. Personnel included one officer and thirty-one enlisted men. In this way, the necessary photographic picture-taking equipment. In this way, the necessary mobility can be maintained.
5. Training of personnel in the U. S. during this period was conducted in the use of all types of cameras with which the organization was equipped, developing and printing, and field operation of photographic units as well as military subjects. In July, two photographic units were transferred to CG, Western Defense Command, Fort Ord, California. The team will be placed on assignments as directed by the photographic officer.
6. Difficulty in delivery of T/BA cameras was experienced for a year. Final shipments of T/BA motion picture cameras was received 8 April 1943. The organization has not received to date the sound cameras authorized. These are not considered essential for successful accomplishment of the organization's mission.  
Capt. 163rd Sig Photo Co.
7. Some statistics on the organization follows:
  - a. Successful Officer Candidates . . . . . 27
  - b. Total number of men assigned while in the U. S. . . . . 274
  - c. Number of men qualified in their primary weapon . . . . . All
  - d. EM on F.S. while organization was in the U. S. . . . . 51
  - e. Officers on F.S. while organization was in the U.S. . . . . 5
  - f. Weight, T/BA equipment and supplies shipped from the U. S. (less vehicles) . . . . . 111,000 lbs
  - g. Cubage of T/BA equipment and supplies shipped from the U. S. (less vehicles) . . . . . 5,000 cu ft

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3. The organization (less detachments) departed the U. S. 21 August 1943, for this theater, arriving 13 days later at Oran, North Africa. It remained there awaiting arrival of equipment until 25 October 1943. After arriving in this theater, a further delay was caused while waiting for vehicles to arrive. These came in during the day of 13 November, and the company departed the staging area 16 November for the present bivouac by motor convoy. Two (2) other
9. From 10 November to date, the following has been accomplished:
- Furnishing two officers, nine EM with equipment for photographic duty with HQ. Fifth Army.
  - Furnishing four photographic teams, total of two officers and ten EM to APS forward camp, Marzanello, for front line coverage.
  - Unpacking of supplies and equipment not unpacked since leaving the U. S.
  - Miscellaneous coverage in motion and still picture of events in range of the bivouac area. 400 feet exposed to date.
  - Motion picture footage and number of still pictures exposed as yet unreported. Work is being hampered by continual rains.
10. Photographic Officer, AFHQ, has directed that the primary missions of the company are:
- News coverage of the operations in still and motion pictures, with expediting of all exposed film to a central point for immediate dispatch to the U. S.
  - Technical photography for the use of the Army in the theater.
11. In compliance with the above, the majority of the photographic personnel (exclusive of the laboratory detachment) has been organized into 3-man teams, each team consisting of one motion picture photographer, one still photographer, and one chauffeur, to be equipped with one 2-ton C&R truck and the necessary photographic picture-taking equipment. In this way, the necessary mobility can be obtained. The placing of the majority of these teams in operation is delayed by lack of the 2-ton C&R trucks, two of which have been received out of an increased authorization of 21. inclusive, packing and crating. On December 19, 1942 orders were received that only a laboratory unit would be sent which departed
12. As rapidly as transportation becomes available, the teams will be placed on assignments as directed by the photographic officer.
6. Training was resumed following the week of December 14 to 19 and has been continued steadily ever since. The loss of the laboratory unit has handicapped training somewhat but the motion picture and laboratory work; each man was rotated through individual training, and it is considered that progress is being made in this phase of training.
7. Motion picture photographers are taking pictures in both 35 and 16mm black and white and 16mm in Kodachrome. Processing was handled by the Signal Photographic Laboratory, Army War College, Washington, D. C. and by the Eastman Kodak Company.
8. At the present date this organization is in the first week of the second period of training, having completed the MYP test February 4, 1943 and completed the thirteenth week of the first period of training, February 6, 1943.

**NED R. MOREHOUSE**

**Capt. 163rd Sig Photo Co.**

**Commanding**



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HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 U. S. Army

*Nothing  
Dyer*

C-334

RLL:hbm  
18 August 1944

SUBJECT: Company History

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army Rear Echelon, APO 758, U. S.  
Army.  
ATT: Army Historian

1. In compliance with Memorandum, Headquarters Seventh Army, file AG 314.7 Misc, dated 7 August 1944, History of the 163d Signal Photographic Company for period 15 July to 15 August 1944 is submitted herewith.

*Robert L. Lewis*

ROBERT L. LEWIS  
1st Lt., Signal Corps  
Executive Officer

1 Incl:

Company History for Period

w/4 Incls:

- Exhibit "A"-ANVIL Operation Plan (trip)
- Exhibit "B"-Orders Effecting Co (trip)
- Exhibit "C"-Fifth Army Award (trip)
- Exhibit "D"-Grade recapitulation of T/O (trip)

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HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 U. S. ARMY

COMPANY HISTORY

(Period: 15 July to 15 Aug 44)

1. On the 15th of July, the 163rd Signal Photo Company was operating from the Company Headquarters located 6 miles SW of Roccastrada, Italy, bivouaced in a cork grove. The remainder of the company was located in Rome, and consisted of 1 Officer (Lt H. E. Strock) and 20 enlisted men, on Detached Service from the company headquarters. The 14 Officers and 1 Warrant Officer and approximately 108 enlisted men (assigned) at company Headquarters were at this time committed for the operation ANVIL as shown in exhibit "A", attached.

2. Photo coverage of FIFTH Army activities had not been interrupted during the regrouping of combat photo teams for the coming operation ANVIL. The 3131 Signal Service Company had arrived in the same area on the 12th of July and had by this time assumed the FIFTH Army coverage assignments previously carried out by the 163rd Signal Photo Company. Certain key personnel of the 3131 had been attached to the 163rd prior to the arrival of the 3131 Headquarters and had formed the experienced nucleus upon which complete combat teams were formulated thereby providing minimum interruption of operations.

3. The 3131 Signal Service Company had taken over the following specific coverage for FIFTH Army - previously covered by personnel of the 163rd:

- a. Five each 3-man combat photo teams equipped for motion picture and still coverage were operating with IV Corps.
- b. Two each 3-man teams were operating with French Corps.
- c. One each 3-man team with II Corps.
- d. One special team was on a mission with 8th Army.
- e. One team was assigned to photo missions at Fifth Army CP.

4. On 17 July the group known as "Phase B" departed for the Naples Area to prepare for operation ANVIL. (See exhibit A). Phase A-1 had previously departed on the 10th of July. On 19 July Phase F-2 and F-3 departed for the Naples Area. On the 20th of July the 163rd was relieved of assignment with FIFTH Army and eventually to be assigned to SEVENTH Army. (See exhibit B).

5. On the 23rd of July the 163rd Signal Photo Company received the FIFTH Army Plaque award for the month of May and June. The award was presented by Brigadier General R. B. Moran and was received by Captain John J. Smith, Commanding Officer of the 163rd. Other awards received during the period were as follows:

BRONZE STAR

Tec 4 James Horne, Pfc Robert Edwards, Pvt Paul Ansbaugh

PURPLE HEART

Tec 4 Charles Gallagher, Tec 5 A. Elliott

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5. On the 27th of July, the Company Headquarters moved from the bivouac area 6 miles SW of Roccastrada to Naples. Thirteen vehicles in two serials and about 40 personnel were involved. On 29 July the Headquarters arrived in bivouac area overlooking Tunis Staging area to complete preparation for operation ANVIL.

*Robert L. Lewis*

ROBERT L. LEWIS  
1st Lt., Signal Corps  
Executive Officer

4. Inclos:

- Exhibit A 'Operation Plan for ANVIL Photo Coverage(trip)'
- Exhibit B 'Orders effecting 143 Sig Photo Co for period(trip)'
- Exhibit C 'Award Fifth Army Plaque(trip)'
- Exhibit D 'Copy of T/Os with recapitulation by grades and ratings'

Organization	Off In	Total	Y	A	S	C	L	S	T	Total	Other
Company	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1st Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2nd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3rd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
7th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
11th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
13th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
15th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
16th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
17th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
18th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
20th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
21st Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
22nd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
23rd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
24th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
25th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
26th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
27th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
28th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
29th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
30th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
31st Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
32nd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
33rd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
34th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
35th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
36th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
37th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
38th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
39th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
40th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
41st Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
42nd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
43rd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
44th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
45th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
46th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
47th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
48th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
49th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
50th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
51st Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
52nd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
53rd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
54th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
55th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
56th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
57th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
58th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
59th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
60th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
61st Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
62nd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
63rd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
64th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
65th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
66th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
67th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
68th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
69th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
70th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
71st Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
72nd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
73rd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
74th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
75th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
76th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
77th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
78th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
79th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
80th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
81st Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
82nd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
83rd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
84th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
85th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
86th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
87th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
88th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
89th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
90th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
91st Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
92nd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
93rd Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
94th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
95th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
96th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
97th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
98th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
99th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
100th Bn	120	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1



C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 U. S. ARMY

COMPANY HISTORY

(Period: 15 Aug to 15 Sept 44)

1. The date 15 August became "D" Day for the invasion of Southern France. All but 2 phase groups of the 163rd Signal Photo Company was active in the initial phase of this operation. Company Headquarters was located at Corogglio near Niceta Port, Italy; the Laboratory was in Rome; and approximately 50 enlisted men and 10 officers were attached to combat units invading Southern France. Motion picture film was being received at the Rome Laboratory on the 16th for forwarding to Washington of landings in France. Direct transmission of wirephotos from France to Caserta and thence to the War Department, Washington was in operation.
2. On the 26th of August, the phase known as "C and G" scheduled for D + 15 composed of 2 officers and 23 enlisted men departed from Naples for France. In this group were reserve cameramen and Captain Smith, Commanding Officer who was to set up a temporary headquarters and coordinate photo coverage.
3. On the 27th of August Tec 4 Charles Gallagher departed for the States to attend Cornell University, the preparatory school for West Point Military Academy.
4. On the 28th of August cameraman Rooney was evacuated from Marseilles, France to 17th General Hospital as a casualty when he received leg wounds from enemy machine gun fire while covering a photo assignment.
5. On the 10th of September communications to Company Headquarters (still located near Naples) from 163rd Advance Headquarters with Seventh Army PRO Section at Besancon indicated that rapid advance had many problems in transportation, return of film and supplies. The radio transmitter used for transmission of wirephotos was in operation 60 miles in advance of Corps Headquarters, however, faults at the Caserta end had so far prevented use of the transmitter and still pictures were being sent via Air Courier to Washington.
6. On the 13th of September the Rome Laboratory Detachment of the 163rd joined the Company Headquarters to prepare for water movement to France. Lt H. E. Strock and 18 enlisted men comprised the personnel of this detachment.
7. The processing of Seventh Army, Fifth Army and War Correspondents film has been turned over to the AFHQ Laboratory until such a time as movement to Seventh Army could be accomplished and the Laboratory Detachment again set up to process film.
8. As background information for record purposes, this is the first time that the Laboratory Detachment has been with and has come under the control of Company Headquarters since leaving Camp Sutton, North Carolina on 26 December 1942. After landing in Oran, North Africa on 26 January 1943 the Detachment split into two sections, one serving Fifth Army at Algja and the other at M.B.S.

**CANCELLED**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
M.H. Curston G.L.F.A. C O N F I D E N T I A L  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 20 Feb 46

JAN 9 1945  
JAN 31 1945  
1474  
master



On 15th of September 1943 the Detachment landed at Salerno, Italy moving from there by motor convoy to Naples, Italy. At that point the Laboratory was first set up for operation in Italy. On 28th of October the Detachment moved forward to Caserta, Italy and set up in a building which had formerly housed the German Consulate. As the front progressed farther up the Italian Peninsula, another movement was made establishing the Laboratory in Rome on 13th of June 1944.

9. The primary function of the Laboratory Detachment is the processing, printing and captioning of combat and record film for news and historical records in the War Department files in Washington. Additional functions have been added which includes:

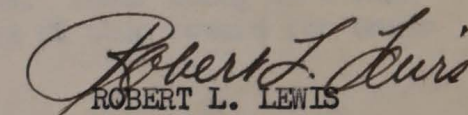
- a. Processing of all war correspondents film.
- b. Editing and selection of pictures for radio transmission to the War Department on news type pictures from both Signal Corps and War correspondents film.
- c. Copying of charts, graphs, maps and pictures for reports and records for all branches and services.
- d. Making Identification pictures for AGO cards.
- e. Selecting and supplying all theater publications such as "Stars & Stripes", "Yank", "Union Jack", etc with prints of current news photographs for their publication.
- f. Printing and captioning hometown news pictures including decorations and promotions for PRO.
- g. Printing and selection of pictures for reports for all branches and services.
- h. Distribution of approximately 8 prints, captioned to individuals, branches and services was made on each acceptable negative shot in the theater. On an average of 30 to 35 thousand prints were made per month. In the Italian theater up to the time that the Laboratory turned operations over to the AFHQ Laboratory, all official still film shot by both civilian agencies and Signal Corps photographers was processed and cleared through the Laboratory Detachment.
- i. Processing tactical pictures, reconnaissance pictures of terrain and enemy positions for G-2 and Division commanders.

10. In May 1944 a group of men from the Laboratory Detachment left for the Anzio beachhead with the trailer laboratory to process tactical pictures. Group returned to Laboratory Detachment 19 June .

11. Award received during this period is as follows:

PURPLE HEART

Tec 4 James J. Rooney

  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
1st Lt., Signal Corps  
Executive Officer



C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 U. S. ARMY

COMPANY HISTORY

(Period: 15 Sept to 15 Oct 44)

(Headquarters & Laboratory Rejoins Advance Elements)

1. On the 21st of September, the remainder of the 163d Signal Photo Company still in Italy departed the vicinity of Naples for Iowa Staging area preparatory for embarkation to France to join the advance elements of the company.

2. On the 27th of September at 0600 hours the company departed Naples, Italy aboard the HMS EMPIRE UNICORN. This group was known as phase "H,X, F-5 with F-1, F-4" according to original plan of operation and consisted of the Company Headquarters Section and the Main Photographic Laboratory Section which had been previously in operation at Rome as a separate detachment. Total personnel was as follows:

Officers	W.O.	EM	(1st Lt R. L. Lewis was in
2	1	52	command and 1st Lt H. E.
			Strock was TQM for the ship)

3. The above personnel and equipment were all aboard the UNICORN (#436). Equipment consisted of 14 powered vehicles and 9 trailers, loaded. Unladen equipment was 50 boxes weighing 12,000 lbs.

4. Arrived 30th of September at Toulon Harbor, France and berthed on the 4th of October. Partial discharge of cargo and personnel was accomplished and the ship left for Marseilles with 7 vehicles as well as 11 EM and 1 Officer still on board. The personnel and vehicles unloaded at Toulon proceeded by motor convoy to Marseilles on 6th of October arriving at the Staging Area in Septiems (10 miles North of Marseilles) at 1300 hours, established a bivouac in deep mud and waited the arrival of the balance of men and equipment at the Port of Marseilles.

5. On the 8th of October CWO Everett and 1/Sgt Satterwhite were dispatched to Lyons, their mission being to contact by phone the advance elements of the 163rd. No report had been received since their departure from Naples as to the location of any Headquarters and telephone communication from Marseilles was impossible. The UNICORN was located lying at anchor in the harbor and information received disclosed that the ship would berth on 10 Oct. Weather during this time continued rainy and most of the company vehicles were immobile in the Staging Area mud.

6. Advance party returned from Lyons reporting contact with the advance elements of the Company which was confirmed by movement orders from Seventh Army Headquarters advising the company to rejoin at earliest practical date at Luxeuil.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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Co History Cont'd  
(15 Sept to 15 Oct 44)

7. On 15 October all vehicles and equipment had finally been unloaded from the ship and the unit proceeded by motor convoy (No. 10/MA-N/259) to destination by the following route: Avignon, Orange, Montelimar, Valence, Vienne, bypassing Lyons to Bourg, Lons Le Sanier, Poligny, Bole, Vesoul, arriving at Luxeuil the 17th of October 1700 hours. Command of the Headquarters and Laboratory were reassumed by Capt J. J. Smith who had been with the advance elements prior to this time.

8. During the period from 15 Sept to 15 Oct the various phases of the 163d had been operating in Southern France and had advanced along with the Seventh Army Units. Temporary headquarters was established at various spots from Besancon up to Luxeuil.

9. Combat pictures were being filmed by 16 Still Cameramen and 16 Motion Picture Cameramen under the direction of 12 Photographic Officers in charge of the coverage.

10. On 29 September four teams of three men each under the command of 1st Lt R. J. Goebel were operating in First French Army Sector. A report of activities for 22 to 28 Sept is as follows:

22 Sept: Team 1B reassigned to French II Corps in the vicinity of NW Belfort. Team 3B, T/4 Leibowitz relieved Sgt Harris. Team reassigned to Nevers vicinity to complete motion picture story. Team 2B reassigned to French I Corps in vicinity SW Belfort and Swiss Border. At 2130 team 3B was involved in an auto accident in Nevers. T/4 Hall was killed due to a skull fracture, Pvt M. Ross was hospitalized, T/4 Leibowitz was bruised. The accident was caused by an FFI truck speeding out of a side street and hitting the left rear side of their jeep. Ross and Leibowitz were thrown clear. Hall was laying down as the jeep was spinning around. When the jeep came to an abrupt halt by striking the curb sideways Hall was thrown out head first. Unfortunately, his head was directly in line with a concrete telephone pole. Had the pole been one foot either to the right or left of the spot where it was standing Hall would have received less injuries than the other two men. Weather: rain.

23 Sept: No change. Teams out on assignments. Weather: rain and overcast.

24 Sept: No change. Weather: clear to rainy. At 2100 T/4 Leibowitz reported team's accident to this Hq. It required two days for him to hitch-hike back for there were no Army troop organizations in Nevers.

25 Sept: Team 2B reported in. No activity in their area. They returned to their sector. T/4 Leibowitz, Pvt Shindledecker and I went to Nevers. I identified Hall's body at the morgue. Pvt Ross was taken out of Nevers Hospital. I had the jeep towed from the place of the accident to a garage for safe keeping. I found that the FFI and some French paratroops unit in the town had stolen the spare tire, rotor and all the gas in the tank. We made arrangements to have Hall buried the following morning.



C O N F I D E N T I A L

26 Sept: Team 1B reported in to Hq. There was little or no activity in their area. They returned to their sector. Hall's funeral was held at 0800. The people of Nevers treated him as a son. His coffin was covered with flowers and at least 150 townspeople attended the funeral. The FTP\*FFI furnished a military guard of honor of 25 men. Two American citizens, veterans of World War I, who lived in the town provided an American Flag for the coffin. Although Hall's Identification Tags showed him to be Protestant, he had mentioned to Pvt Ross a number of times the fact that he was Catholic. A Catholic Mass was therefore arranged. Hall was buried in the Military Cemetery at Nevers. Pvt Ross, T/4 Leibowitz and the team's trailer were evacuated to Besancon. Weather: rain.

27 Sept: Team 3B-T/4 Horne reported to replace T/4 Hall. Weather: overcast.

28 Sept: Pvt Shindledecker went to Nevers with a 2½ Ton truck of the 6693 Sig Det to bring back team 3B's damaged jeep. Team 2B reported in. No activity in their area. Team 1B toured the front of the LDMI and 1stDB of the French II Corps sector. There was no activity warranting coverage. They ran into stiff enemy counterattacks in the Le Thillot area and so retreated with the French under a heavy artillery barrage.

11. Photographic teams attached to the 3rd Division reported the following summary:

On D Day, Team #1 loaded into LCP's at H minus 100 minutes. Team #2 loaded at approximately the same time. After a rendezvous the assault boats started the 10 mile run for shore. Coverage of men and boats was made enroute. Team #2 landed at Yellow Beach without incident. Team #1 waterproofed the cameras at the last minute and had just completed it when enemy machine gun fire started raking the boats, then about 200 yards offshore. Enemy artillery started pot-shooting at the group. 30 yards from shore the boat next to the LCP carrying the photographers struck a mine and partly disintegrated. The fire on the boats was coming from down the beach on the point at Cape Cavaliere. Team #1 hit Red Beach at approximately H plus 20 minutes, and started digging in 30 yards from the waters edge. In a few minutes the LCI's hit the beach. Coverage was made on their landing and debarking. During the next hour the coverage was of additional landing craft, casualties on the beach and general activity. Between shots, the photographers deepened their fox-holes. By the end of an hour, enemy fire had ceased along the beach. An attempt was made to get a boat to get the film off the beach but with the landing difficulties mounting at Red Beach and the large number of casualties going back on the smaller craft it was impossible. T/3 Cuca was unsuccessful in his attempts to get the film from Yellow Beach. Later in the morning Lt Byars took a German bicycle and started looking for a PRO set-up. At Le Crouix he found a German stable which had just been abandoned so he left the bike and took a horse and saddle.

C O N F I D E N T I A L



Co History Cont'd  
(15 Sept to 15 Oct 44)

No PRO could be found. Returning to the beach Lt Byars and Pvt Smith continued coverage along the beach including German prisoners boarding LCI's. In the late afternoon, Lt Byars returned to the 3rd Division CP and found both trailers, jeeps and drivers. Smith and the equipment was picked up at the beach and the Team bivouaced in the woods near Le Crouix. T/3 Cuca and T/5 Ratick after attempting to get the film off, continued coverage at Yellow Beach and spent the night with the 15th Inf Serv Co. Total day's shooting for both teams was 1300 ft and 4 packs.

20 Aug: The villages of Le Canet and Pallette saw the 3rd Division pass through.

15 Sept: Both teams travelled together from Vesoul through Calmoutier, via the sideroad through Lielans to Mollans, where 3rd Division CP was moving in. While Lt Byars was checking with the G sections, T/3 Cuca shot 4 'hometowns' on the MP's. At Mollans the teams split. T/3 Cuca's team went to Pomoy, where the 15th Inf CP was located. Lt Byars and his team went to the 7th Inf CP At Appenans. From Pomoy, Cuca's team proceeded through La Creuse. In order to reach the 2nd Bn, they had to leave the road and follow tank tracks through the fields until they were stopped by an anti-tank crew. They left the jeep with Cipra and went on to the CP. One of the companies was engaged in a firefight but it was in heavy woods and could not be photographed. On the return trip the team stopped at Calmoutier and T/3 Cuca got 3 stills on the Engineers putting in a bridge that had been blown by the Germans. In the meantime, Lt Byars team checked in at the 7th Inf CP at Appenans. Supporting artillery was plastering the Germans beyond the town. A vantage point from which to film the shelling could not be found, so the team dropped back to Velotte where A Battery of the 10th FA was putting out. The team sweated out fire missions and got 300 ft and 7 stills. Teams returned to Vesoul for the night.

17 Sept: Smith, Ratick and Cipra went out in the morning but were rained out before they reached Pomoy. On their return Ratick shot 100 ft on communications pick-up shots. The rain continued during the afternoon so the teams were dormant. Lt Byars with Pvt Sargent driving made the rounds of Corps and Division. At 3rd Division CP a report came in that the 15th Inf had a company entering Lure. The rain had let up temporarily so Lt Byars and Sargent started for Lure (there was not time to send back for the teams). Enroute Byars and Sargent overtook the 15th Inf CP moving into Lure. Before the CP was set up the rain started again. An occasional shell was coming in farther in the town. Lt Byars went on foot in the general direction. After completing 100 ft of movies and 1 still, Lt Byars was unable to get back to the jeep because an enemy barrage was plastering the main street between the railroad and the jeep. After about 45 minutes Byars reached the jeep. The rain and darkened sky made further pictures impossible so Byars and Sargent returned to Vesoul. The pictures were of I Company, 15th Inf moving through the street—this Company took the town.

20 Sept: Both teams left Vesoul early in the morning to move up with the new Division CP. At St. Sauveul the teams were held for an hour by a one way bridge. S/Sgt Chiappino's team was dropped at B Company, 57th Signal Bn outside Luxeuil. They had to pick up a battery for their jeep. Lt Byars and team proceeded to 3rd Division CP at Breuchotte. After check-



Co History Cont'd  
(15 Sept to 15 Oct 44)

ing the situation, Lt Byars and team returned to Luxeuil and Lt Coates' Hqs where other teams were waiting. Both trailers were dropped there and the teams proceeded to Faucogney where the 7th Inf was engaging the Germans. The teams split up; the firefight has finished for the present and only an occasional Jerry shell was coming into town. Byars and Smith left the Jeep and covered elements of Co C, 7th Inf moving through a slightly shattered town and across a hasty bridge put in by the 10th Engr. The town crier gathered a small group of civilians and G.I.'s as he read the first proclamation since the liberation of the town. Smith shot a pack and Byars 200 ft. In the meantime, Chiappino and Gretz had covered British and Indian troops taken in the town. (They had been captured in Tobruk and left here by the Germans). Chiappino 200 ft; Gretz  $\frac{1}{2}$  pack.

26 Sept: Rain throughout the day. In the AM slop-tested rain covers covers for Eyemos. PM Chiappino and team took a route through Luxeuil-les-Bains to Remiremont to get the 15th Inf assembling for an attack in this new sector. The primary purpose of both teams today was to get pictures of men and vehicles in the rain and mud. Enroute the Chiappino team ran across a medium tank bogged down and a tank retriever was attempting to get it out of the field. The tanks, mud, and rain were good for 100 ft for Chiappino and 3 stills for Gretz. The team continued up to the 15th's assembly area. The 15th had moved. They finally located the Regt as it was jumping off on the attack. Soldiers and the weather were good for 300 ft for Chiappino and 7 stills for Gretz. In the meantime, Lt Byars team went to Faucogney where the last elements of the 15th were entrucking to move over to the Remiremont sector. Lt Byars shot a 100 ft on the soaked troops in the trucks and the trucks moving out. The team continued North over the road just cleared to Rupt-sur-Moselle. Shelling was light and couldn't be photographed through the mist but the team encountered a platoon of Co C 7th Inf moving down the road. It was good for 50 ft and 2 stills. Returning over the same road Lt Byars finished the roll on three tanks loaded with infantry as they passed a road junction in the mist. Chiappino's team returned well after dark. Both teams were soaked but the cameras and film were dry. The experiment of rain coverage was complete.

3 Oct: Both teams were in the St. Ame sector most of the day. A heavy artillery concentration was scheduled for the quarry area, so Chiappino and Gretz went up to their OP near hill 758. They waited all afternoon for the barrage but they were cancelled. They returned without shooting. Lt Byars and Katz spent most of the afternoon around the 1st Bn CP of the 15th Inf North of Belmont waiting for developments. The only activity was patrolling in the woods. An order came to lay down wire to a mortar section located on the mountain slope. Lt Byars went with the wire team and shot 100 ft as the team strung wire up the steep trail. After getting the plan of attack for the following day the team returned to Remiremont. Enroute the team stopped off at the ponton bridge at St. Ame and Katz shot two stills.

6 Oct: Chiappino and team went to the 30th Inf sector; most of the activity was in the woods so they did not get to shoot. Byars, Katz and Boone checked in with 1st Bn, 15th Inf which had moved into the quarry. The team covered more quarry activities. Elements of the 15th move in, POW's were taken in the mop-up of the quarry area and German defenses. A report came down to Bn that the 7th Inf was trying to enter Vagney. The team drove back to St. Ame over the ponton bridge and took the secondary road toward Vagney. The road had not yet been marked and there was little GI activity.



C O N F I D E N T I A L

Co History Cont'd.  
(15 Sept to 15 Oct 44)

The team continued until the noise of small arms fire ahead suggested that the jeep should be stowed. Byars and Boone continued on foot in search of 3rd Bn CP of the 7th Inf. Information gained from a GI in a house along the road was that the CP was in a lumber yard back of us. Back at 3rd Bn 4 Germans brought in by 3 wounded GI's was good for a still for Katz. Possibilities of the Bn getting into Vagney before dark were remote. The team returned to Remiremont.

12. Awards and Decorations for the period:  
Clasp for Fifth Army Plaque for month of June 1944

LEGION OF MERIT

T/Sgt Peter Gianacopoulos  
T/3 William Bonnard

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
1st Lt., Signal Corps  
Executive Officer

- 1 Incl:  
Placement of Personnel (trip)

C O N F I D E N T I A L



CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 U.S. ARMY

COMPANY HISTORY  
(Period: 15 Oct to 15 Nov 44)

1. Upon their arrival at Luxeuil 17 October, the Company Headquarters and Laboratory established themselves in a building previously acquired by the Commanding Officer. This arrangement proved to be very satisfactory, mainly because of the facilities present necessary for the operation of the laboratory; secondly, as a base of operation for photo teams being sent out on assignments.

2. Coverage of Seventh Army activities by 16 photo teams included divisions of VI and XV Corps, Army activities, and the 1st French Armee. Inclement weather and inactivity at the front greatly curtailed the amount of photo coverage for this period.

3. On 1 November the Laboratory began operations. All still photographs being processed are sent to Paris. In addition to this they handled all motion picture film that is shipped to London for distribution. Radio-telephoto pictures are no longer transmitted to Italy but are sent direct to Paris

4. On 22 October 1 still photographer and 1 motion picture cameraman reported to Sixth Army Group. On 1 November an additional 3 men (2 lab men and a driver) joined this detachment which was established to handle any special coverage for Sixth Army Group.

5. On 25 October 2 still photographers were dispatched to 7th Army Headquarters for the purpose of taking Identification photographs.

6. Orders were received on October 22 dispatching Captain Smith and a driver to Paris on official business relative to photographic policies for this theater. He returned to the Company on 4 November.

7. On 7 November orders were received transferring the Commanding Officer, Captain John J. Smith to Signal Section Seventh Army and appointing 1st Lt Robert L. Lewis Commanding Officer.

8. Two of the Company's combat photographers were called to Headquarters on 10 November and told that they were on orders to return to the States under the current rotation policy. Sgts Bonnard and Cuca have been turning in first class 'frontline' pictures since the landings in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Southern France. Their going is a real loss to the organization, but they are deserving of this reward for their excellent work since coming overseas.

9. On Armistice Day the company participated in services at the town square in Luxeuil. The dead of both wars were honored, also the Lafayette Escadrille, famous in the last war. This well known Corps had its' headquarters right in the town. The Seventh Army Commander was present at the ceremonies along with many high ranking French Officials.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL

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Rpt of Co Hist Cont 4.  
(15 Oct to 15 Nov 44)

10. A new undertaking had its' start in the company on 13 November, the publishing of a 'weekly' information sheet under the title of "Foto-Facto". This publication will serve as a medium of exchange for information between headquarters and units in the field as well as to give the deserving photographer credit for the best picture of the week. Copies of the first two editions are attached.

11. Awards and decorations for the period:

LEGION OF MERIT

Tec 4 Charles E. Gallagher

12. The following activities of units in the field are from reports submitted to this Headquarters by our Photo Officers:

a. 45th & 100th Divisions: 1 Nov-- Checked with 45th Div CP. 45th elements still in deep woods. Proceeded to 117th Recon Sqdn who were arriving at their objective of Baccarat. Accompanied a detail of Engrs from 36th Engineers who were covered by light tanks, their mission being to demolish a road block at Menil-sur-Belvite. Shot the story of road block demolition and entry into town. Coverage: 500 ft movies and 3 packs stills.

5 Nov-- Checked G-2 and PRO at 100th Div. From there in heavy downpour to Liaison and G-2 of 45th Div. The situation is practically unchanged, no new action contemplated. Light bad. We reported to Corps officer.

7 Nov-- Rain is now a steady heavy downpour. After the usual check at both CP's and forward positions, we returned. Light made any further activity impractical.

9 Nov-- After customary check at 100th Div CP (45th now out of line) we proceeded to St Remy sector. Infantrymen warns us to remain in the center of road. Heavy mine casualties during the night has troops jittery. Harris shot 1 still of rugged looking soldier of new Regt. While inquiring about possibilities of entering St Remy, a heavy incoming barrage was answer. Road is also impassable due to uncleared mines which infantry are working on. Withdrew to forest a short distance back where infantry was packing to move. Borner shot 200 ft, light made further pictures impossible.

b. 36th Division: 5 Nov-- (Team "A") A check at the division CP and a tour of the regimental areas netted no action pictures. All activity was confined to the wooded areas and it was impossible to make an exposure because of bad light. No motion picture film was shot. Two packs of hometown stills were shot. (Team "B") The same weather conditions hampered the team. They made a tour of the area held by the 442nd Combat Team and got nothing. One pack of hometown stills made.



Rpt of Co Hist Cont'd.  
(15 Oct to 15 Nov 44)

8 Nov-- (Team "A") This morning there was little light but it had stopped raining so we set out to make some weather and mud pictures. The first subject was two trucks piled up in the ditch and two tank retrievers working to get them out. Galbraith made 200 ft and Lt Valentine made 6 stills. Farther on we found some medium tanks that were almost inundated by high water. The men were salvaging ammo and then they had a fire mission from their flooded position. Galbraith shot 200 ft and Lt Valentine 1½ packs. Another 6 shots were made on a tank destroyer that had burned. (Team "B") The team returned to the company to get a new jeep.

9 Nov-- (Team "A") The first snow of the season and bad light netted Galbraith 200 ft on a pack howitzer being put into position. Lt Valentine made 9 stills. Later 3 stills were made on the men in their dugouts. They were old dugouts so no pictures could be made of them being dug. (Team "B") Gerzen made 400 ft movies and Musser 1 pack on artillery packing and firing propaganda leaflets to the Germans. Musser also made 2 packs of hometown stills.

c. VI Corps: 29 Oct-- Attended VI Corps briefing, made usual contacts. Busy at Corps most of the day. Had telephone installed at new location. Teams reported in with daily film. A good day had by all as follows: movies 2700 ft, stills 7 packs. One of the best days we've had due to break in weather and some activity on the front.

31 Oct-- Attended Corps briefing. Spent most of the day at Corps. No coverage on Corps. Sent Corps teams out to look for any assignment. Teams reported in with film. Valentine got good pictures on cut-off of 141st who have been out of reach for past week. Contact with them was finally made today. Total coverage: 1100 ft movies, 7 packs stills.

1 Nov-- Attended Corps briefing. Sent Peterson and Bell to cover 117th Recon attached to 45th Div. The French 2nd Armor of XV Corps and 117th Recon to take Baccarat on left flank of VI Corps. Bornet and Bell put with 100th Div, a new division from Ft Jackson, S.C. This division might offer a few new pictures aside from the usual stuff. Coverage for the day: 1300 ft movies, 7 packs stills.

10 Nov-- Attended Corps briefing. Lt Lueders checked in. Told him to cover new 103rd Division coming into line for first time. One team is to remain with the balance of 3rd Division in the lines. Afternoon was rainy and snowy with overcast sky. No coverage for Corps team. Total coverage for day: no movies, 2 packs stills.

d. 3rd Division: 18 Oct-- Steady rain all day, interspersed with cloudbursts. Lt Lueders, Katz and Boone covered an award ceremony held in the rain at the 15th Inf Regt CP at which the Congressional Medal of Honor, DSC, Silver Star and Unit Citations were awarded members of the 15th Infantry by Lt Gen Patch. Gretz' camera in for repair, no other pictures for the day because of the heavy rain.



C O N F I D E N T I A L

Rpt of Co Hist Cont'd.  
(15 Oct to 15 Nov 44)

27 Oct-- Heavy ground fog all day. 3rd Signal moved to Bruyers and the two teams packed again and moved in with the Signal Company. A check of the tactical situation at division CP indicated very little change. The lines were still formed in the forests and enemy interdiction fire still makes most of the forward area roads rough going during the daylight hours. No pictures by either team during the day.

28 Oct-- Skies cleared somewhat today for first time in many days and both teams cruised the front for material. A knocked-out Sherman tank on one of the mountain roads provided several stills for Katz for the SPX-13 project, plus a batch of hometowns picked up along the way. Chiappino, Gretz and Jenkins worked the 30th Inf again without much more results. While moving up and back they did get some footage and stills of a variety of subjects encountered along the way. Activity on the front slowed down somewhat with the infantry engaged in holding and patrolling in the thick woods. Open areas suitable for pictures are inaccessible during the day and the thickness of the woods themselves obviate anything there.

8 Nov-- Rain, fog and miserable weather still continues. In the afternoon it slowed down to a drizzle and both teams set out to get some pictures if possible. Chiappino, Gretz, and Jenkins took the 30th Inf and cruised this sector all afternoon without success. The road leading to the 3rd Battalion was being worked on by the engineers and was good for mud stuff but the light was at zero in the woods and no go for pictures. Leaving Katz at headquarters because of a bad ear ache, Lt Lueders and Boone took the road through the woods and out on the edge of the valley south of La Salle where they ran into a batch of pictures on a group of a dozen Jerry Flakwagons that the 15th Inf mortarmen had neatly eliminated. Pictures taken until the light gave out.

Incl:  
2 copies "Foto-Facto"

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
1st Lt., Signal Corps  
Commanding

C O N F I D E N T I A L



C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 US ARMY

19 December 1944

SUBJECT: Company History.

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U. S. Army.  
ATTN: Historian

1. In compliance with Circular No. 34, Section IV, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 28 November 1944, History of the 163d Signal Photographic Company, for period of 15 November to 15 December 1944, is submitted herewith.

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commanding

1 Incl:  
Company History (trip  
w/2 Incls.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L



C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758

COMPANY HISTORY

(Period: 15 Nov to 1 Dec 1944)

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

**CANCELLED**

AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

1. During this period the following changes in personnel were made:
  - a. 1st Lt D. A. Brinn was transferred to 3120 Signal Service Battalion per SO 229, Hq 7th Army dated 12 November 1944.
  - b. 1st Lt S. R. Sheppard was transferred to Signal Section, 7th Army per SO 260, Hq 7th Army dated 15 December 1944.
  - c. Four enlisted personnel were assigned to this organization to help fill existing T/O vacancies.
  - d. Promotions were effected for thirteen enlisted men.

2. On 27 November 1944 the company moved from Luxeuil Les Bains to Baccarat, a distance of 60 miles. (V-2283 Nord de Guerre). Transfer was accomplished by motor transportation, not in convoy. Company was set up in a building necessary for the operation of the laboratory, camera repair and Headquarters.

3. November 23rd was Thanksgiving. A fine meal was enjoyed by most of the members of the organization who could be present after which an informal party was held in the day room. A few of the members got together and provided entertainment for the rest of the group. Attached prints were made from pictures taken during the entertainment.

4. Casualties:

- a. On 25 November, Tec 5 Jerry Rutberg was wounded by sniper fire while on a photo assignment at Belfort. Enlisted man was given medical treatment for his head wound and returned to duty.
- b. On 26 November, S/Sgt Vita, Tec 4 Rooney and Pvt Rocha were evacuated from Mulhouse to the 46th General Hospital as casualties. These men were wounded while on a combat photo assignment.

5. In compliance with request made by this organization for additional photographers, Det "P" of the 162d Signal Photo Company, composed of 1 officer, 5 enlisted men, was attached to the 163d Signal Photo Company on 30 November 1944 for photographic duty.

On 9 December 1944, a second unit known as Det "Q", composed of 1 officer and 5 enlisted men, was attached to the 163d Signal Photo Company for photographic duty.

On 14 December 1944, Det "Q" was further augmented by the arrival of 1 enlisted man from the 162d Signal Photo Company.

6. Movement of the company from Baccarat to Saverne (Q-7115 Nord de Guerre) was accomplished on 8 December 1944 via motor transportation, a distance of 59 miles. Headquarters, laboratory, other sections and personnel were again quartered in a building near the center of town.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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163 Sig Photo Co History  
Contd (15 Nov to 15 Dec 44)

7. During the period a letter of commendation was received from PRD, SHAEF with added comments by Lt General Devers and Lt General Patch. Letter extended congratulations to company for the production of still and motion picture coverage of the present U. S. offensive.

8. Weekly editions of company publication "FOTO-FACTO" are attached.

9. The activities of units in the field are shown below in extracts taken from reports submitted by Photo Officers:

- a. 100th Division - 21 Nov: We're off for Belfort at daylight. After countless inquiries and detours at blown bridges, we're within a few miles of Belfort. I greet an American Lieutenant on a roadway intersection who advises us not to use that road. The words are barely out of his mouth when a large shell crashes in a field nearby. We study his map and a large scale map I've been saving and decide on a southern approach. He told us how happy he was to talk to Americans after being with the French so long as an artillery observer. We thanked him and left. We were also informed that French 1st Division General Brossett met his death the night before on a mined bridge near Belfort. After swimming through mud for miles, we finally got into town. The last blown bridge had a section of treadway replacing it that was worth its weight in platinum. Immediately set to work. Pass dead jerries on the streets. Streets are deserted and its raining, strangely quiet. We're photographing a blown railway overpass and a line of prisoners march down the street, some wounded which we (Harris, Bornet) worked on. The team of Horne-Leibowitz met up with us. I check with them to see what they had to avoid duplication. With a terrific crash a section of building is knocked off near us by heavy shells. We take cover against a building, no one appears to be hurt anywhere and although the din is awful it's not even a good picture in that kind of light. Leibowitz informs me their courier has already returned. We pack off walking, which draws less fire, for the center of the town. Zidek remained in a garage with the jeep. The shelling follows us seemingly but I finally shoot a pack--Bornet shot 300 ft. We return to Lure where we dropped the trailer with excess equipment.
- b. 100th Division - 24 Nov: A driving rain, bad light and constant shelling to start the day off. Bornet and I (Harris) off to check picture possibilities. Sent Ross back to company early in afternoon with status of teams and with request for film and supplies. Bornet and I reconnoiter the Fort. At one point a TD is wheeled into a side street. They're going to fire on a suspected gun position in the Fort later. I make a few hair-cutting pictures of women collaborators. Bornet passes the time checking fort surrender possibilities with army men there. The order is given to put the gun into position directly exposed under the Fort. We photograph the whole operation in extremely bad light. (My exposure 1/20th at 5.6) but it's too good to pass up. We make the first volley from the side taking cover but figure while they're



163 Sig Photo Co History  
 Contd. (15 Nov to 15 Dec 44)

- firing Jerry will be forced to take cover...so we move up in the line with the gun and Fort and lean against a wall for camera steadiness. The concussion on camera is terrific. They finish firing and hastily haul the gun around the corner. The answer-- another mortar bombardment from Jerry. 200 ft for Bornet, 1 pack for Harris. A bombardment in general begins. It drove all in their cellars and lasted most of the night.
- c. 36 Division - 22 Nov: Team "A" (Valentine, Galbraith, Ross) spent the morning looking for an infantry kitchen that was going to prepare turkey for the troops for Thanksgiving Day. None of them intended to feed a hot meal in the daylight so none were preparing turkey. The remainder of the dinner preparations was to be done that night so the story could not be finished. Lt Valentine spent the afternoon keeping his finger on the possibility of the 142nd Infantry taking off on a motor jaunt. No stills made.
  - d. 36 Division - 1 Dec: The team went to the battalion CP at the Chateau and then on into Kintsheim to await the order for the attack on Selestat. Fog closed in on the valley and nothing could be made. Troops did not get to Selestat. Frye made 100 ft on mortars firing and  $\frac{1}{2}$  pack hometown stills were made.
  - e. 36 Division: 2 Dec: Today we ran the gauntlet to Selestat and forced to hole up in a building. We held only a small part of town and what we did hold was under heavy artillery fire. No one was outside and we didn't stay long. Earlier in the day 200 ft of MPs and five stills were made on engineers removing a roadblock.
  - f. 3rd Division - The 30th and 7th Regiments attacked this morning across the Meurthe River and through the 100th Division. Chappino, Gretz and Jenkins were on hand in the vicinity of the 7th, which crossed the river in the St. Michel sector. The town had been entered and taken the night before and the teams looked around the temporary bridge area, made a few pictures, then went back into the town and climbed up into the steeple of the town church where they made a shot or two from this vantage point of the activities on the other side of the valley. Pulled out, cruised the area for more pictures before returning to Rambervillers. Lt Lueders, Boone and McCroby made another attempt to get into St. Die which failed again. Because of the flanking movement being made to the north and south, the town is no longer an objective, tactically. No troops are entering the valley and the city because of the observation the enemy still has on this area. Only patrols have been in, and those during the night. Around to the hill mass west of St. Die, an enemy mortar had the advance held up through a tight pass west of Anozel. The team returned to the 103rd Division CP to get information on the refugee situation but was informed that this was a Corps function.
  - g. 3rd Division - 22 Nov: Chiappino, Gretz and Jenkins spent a discouraging day in the 30th and 15th area trying to get around. Traffic was badly tied up on both sides of the few bridges across the Meurthe River and most of their time was spent in waiting for the jams to open up. The main bridge was under construction and the main concentration of the 14th Armored Division was on priority to move through on completion. Lt Lueders, McCroby and Boone acting on word that a company of infantry was scheduled to go into St. Die to clear the remaining Germans out of town, headed for that section.



163 Sig Photo Co History  
Contd. (15 Nov to 15 Dec 44)

This time the team drove right to the outskirts of the town where they encountered a platoon of engineers assembling prior to moving into town. It turned out that this unit was to cross the river and clear up the north side of town. The photographers piled out, put their cameras and weapons on 'load and fire' and took out with the patrol. On reaching the crossing area the platoon deployed into squads to cover the assault squad with their rifles, bazookas and machine guns. After a few rounds thrown into the deserted-looking other side of the river which drew no return fire, the assault squad made a break for it, threw a ladder across the blown bridge and started to cross. The third man over sprung a booby trap left by the enemy but no one was hurt. For a few seconds after the explosion, everyone hung back in cover, expecting return fire until Boone dashed out and made the crossing. Once on the other side, the patrols worked up and down the streets while the photographers followed along making pictures of the riflemen and destroyed buildings. No enemy was encountered in person, the Germans having ostensibly pulled out the night before. Much artillery from both sides was coming into the southern edge of the town and a few in the central part. The light finally gave out so the teams returned to Lt Coates Hq to turn in film.

- h. 44th Division - 10 Dec: Checked with Division CP to get the overall picture; then set forth to obtain coverage on a new German plastic-glass mine that we had been gathering information on for such a lull in activity. Team went to edge of Enchenberg to cover wrecked allied tanks that contacted this new mine for a tie-in with follow up technical mine story. Coverage at wrecked tanks was done hurriedly out of necessity, artillery action prompting our speed. Remainder of the day was spent in covering technical coverage on this new "Topf" mine now being put to use by the enemy in this, the 44th Div sector. This coverage was made on the mine hoping it shall familiarize other elements with its possible use and features.
- i. VI Corps - 1 Dec: Attended Corps briefing. Fog so thick today vehicles driving with lights on. Air officer informed me that they would divebomb fort on the hill with 500 lb bombs if target was visible. The mission was carried out with ground visibility zero. Planes failed to hit target area. No pictures possible in any of our sectors due to weather.
- j. VI Corps - 2 Dec: Attended Corps briefing. Found there was to be another divebombing attack on the Fort using fire bombs. I also had another story started--the Jerry mass murder camp which I decided could use more coverage. Sent Olin and Smith to this story. I (Coates) took story on Fort at Mutzig. P-47s divebombed the Fort. On the first mission I was up in the target area but the Fort was all underground with the exception of the pillbox top. View of this was hidden by trees. I arrived just as the first plane went into a dive. As close as the picture was it had to be shot through trees. The next mission was a half hour later. These pictures were shot below the Fort and had the sky as a background to show smoke, fire, etc.



163 Sig Photo Co History  
Contd. (15 Nov to 15 Dec 44)

- k. XV Corps - 24 Nov: (Gerzen, Musser, Bartlett) Received assignment to go to Strasbourg to cover 2 DB. Before leaving Sarreburg checked 45th Division CP. Tried to find French CP also. No much information. Proceeded to check all the way to Strasbourg looking for French CP which has moved 4 times in 24 hours. Arrived at the Kieser Palace in Strasbourg where Division was set up. The Palace was heavily shelled and Division moved again. No pictures to be had as it rained and got very dark. American Captain with S.I.A.M. unit informed us it would not be safe to try and make it back to Sarreburg as we were surrounded by Germans and there were snipers on every block. Spent the night in the basement of the Gestapo building where Division set up its' Headquarters with the S.I.A.M. troops. Shelling very heavy.
- l. XV Corps - 25 Nov: Rained all day. Dark and cloudy in the afternoon. Tried to get pictures in town but the town was only one quarter cleared. No activity; streets cleared of people. TDs and tanks on corners, no action. No good for picture material. Didn't drive around town due to snipers. Stayed over another night.
- m. XV Corps - 26 Nov: Rain and heavy overcast. Photographed a German Major General surrendering 2 battalions to French, a total of 5000 prisoners. Reported back to Lt Goebel's Headquarters. Totals: 500 ft MPs and 1 pack stills.

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commanding

2 Incls:

- 1 - Prints of Thanksgiving Program  
2 - FOTO-FACTO editions for period





*File*

U. S. CONFIDENTIAL  
(Equals British CONFIDENTIAL)

HEAD QUARTERS  
163rd Signal Photographic Company  
(Less Detachments)  
APO 464  
U. S. ARMY

NRH/kh  
28 December 1943

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Report for Period 24 November to 24 December 1943

TO : Signal Officer, Headquarters, FIFTH Army, APO 464, U. S. Army  
Attention: Colonel M. E. Gillette

1. Attached are four copies of subject report for inclusion in your complete report.

Incl:

Report (in quadruplicate)

NED R. MOREHOUSE

Capt., Signal Corps  
Commanding

U. S. CONFIDENTIAL  
(Equals British CONFIDENTIAL)



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HEADQUARTERS

163rd Signal Photographic Company  
(Less Detachments)  
APO 464

27 December 1943

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FROM 24 NOVEMBER to 24 DECEMBER 1943

COMPANY HEADQUARTERS

1. The bulk of the activities of Company Headquarters has consisted of organizing, equipping, and supplying the camera crews. At the beginning of this period four three-man teams were operating in the field.
2. In the first part of this period, the APS Co. (Prov), VI Corps was attached to this organization, and the forward camp at Marzanello was deactivated and personnel began operating from this headquarters. Shortly thereafter, Photo Officers were dispatched to each of the Corps and established control headquarters for technical control of the teams operating in their areas. Each officer was furnished a vehicle and driver, and a small stock of supplies. Messenger service was established between each Corps, Company Headquarters, and Fifth Army Rear for transmittal of film, messages, and mail. Runs are made daily for expediting of exposed film to the laboratory for processing.
3. Teams operating in the forward areas now report to the Corps Photo Officer for mail, instructions, delivery of exposed film, tobacco rations, etc. They return to this headquarters only for major camera repairs, vehicle repairs, and other items of like nature. Team needs are given first priority, and no team has been held up for more than six hours for servicing.

MAINTENANCE OPERATION ——— CAMERAS

4. Maintenance work on photographic equipment has been very heavy during this period. Cameras operating in this theater prior to the arrival of this organization were badly in need of overhaul because of prior lack of tools, repair parts, and repair personnel. All motion-picture and still cameras which have been available have been completely overhauled, in addition to making current repairs. In all cases teams have been able to return to the field with delays of only a few hours in spite of the fact that no service Motion Picture Cameras were available for immediate replacement of cameras to be repaired.



5. Following are statistics of camera repairs made:

a. Motion-Picture Cameras:

- (1) Completely overhauled, including complete disassembly, repair, cleaning, repair of lenses where necessary (average working time 15 hours per camera) ..... 10 cameras
- (2) Minor repairs, adjustments, oiling and cleaning etc. (average working time per camera 5 hours) ..... 12 cameras
- (3) Cameras rebuilt ..... 1

b. Still Cameras:

- (1) Complete overhaul, including complete disassembly of shutters. (average working time 3 to 5 hours per camera) ..... 22 cameras
- (2) Minor repairs, major adjustments, (average working time 1½ hour per camera) ..... 23 cameras
- (3) Repair of lenses not included in camera sets repaired in cameras listed above ..... 2
- (4) Mitchell Tripods overhauled (36 hours) ..... 1

6. Careful check is being maintained of preventative maintenance by the operators. It is considered that personnel is taking excellent measures in this respect, and no instances of lack of preventative maintenance have been noted. Special emphasis is placed upon the operator making only first echelon repairs in the field. It is believed that time is saved in the "long run" if all but simpler repairs or adjustments are made by the repair section. Records are maintained of work performed on each camera.

7. This work has been made possible largely because of initiative displayed by the two camera repairmen while in the United States in procuring tools with which to work. T/DA provides only a few small tools for repairing only the Camera FH-47E (Speedgraphic).

SUPPLY SECTION

8. Perpetual inventories are maintained on stock record cards of photographic supplies. To date the following film supplies have been issued:

a. Motion-picture film:

1000 - ft. rolls	25	25,000 ft.
400 - ft. rolls	100	40,000 ft.
100 - ft. rolls	519	51,900 ft.
TOTAL		116,900 ft.

b. Still-picture film:

Leica - type, 35mm, 36 exposure rolls	94 rolls
Film pack, 4 x 5 (1 doz films per pack)	357 packs
Cut, film, 4 x 5	86 doz.

9. Joint inventory of laboratory equipment has been accomplished and differences adjusted.



## MOTOR SECTION

10. Principal activity of the motor section has consisted of placing in operation 14 1/4 Ton 4 x 4 C&R used vehicles issued without overhaul by Ordnance as an emergency measure, and overhaul of APS Co vehicles previously operating. Third, and occasionally, fourth echelon maintenance was performed as emergency measures, and all such repairs have been successful. Following are statistics of motor-vehicle work performed:

- a. Motor vehicles given major repairs (average working time - hours per vehicle) ..... 28
- b. Motor vehicles given minor repairs, adjustments, etc. (average working time - hours per vehicle) ..... 120

## ASSIGNMENT TEAMS

11. Twenty, 3-man teams and two special teams are at present operating in the field. Disposition of these teams will be covered in a separate report.

## LABORATORY

12. Volume of work handled by the laboratory has almost doubled since the last report. This has necessitated the establishment of two shifts, and has caused a shortage of personnel in the clerical section of the laboratory. Requisitions have been placed for personnel needed. Separate report will be rendered by the laboratory giving production statistics.

*URM*  
HED R. MOREHOUSE  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commanding



C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 US ARMY

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RLL:hbm  
19 January 1945

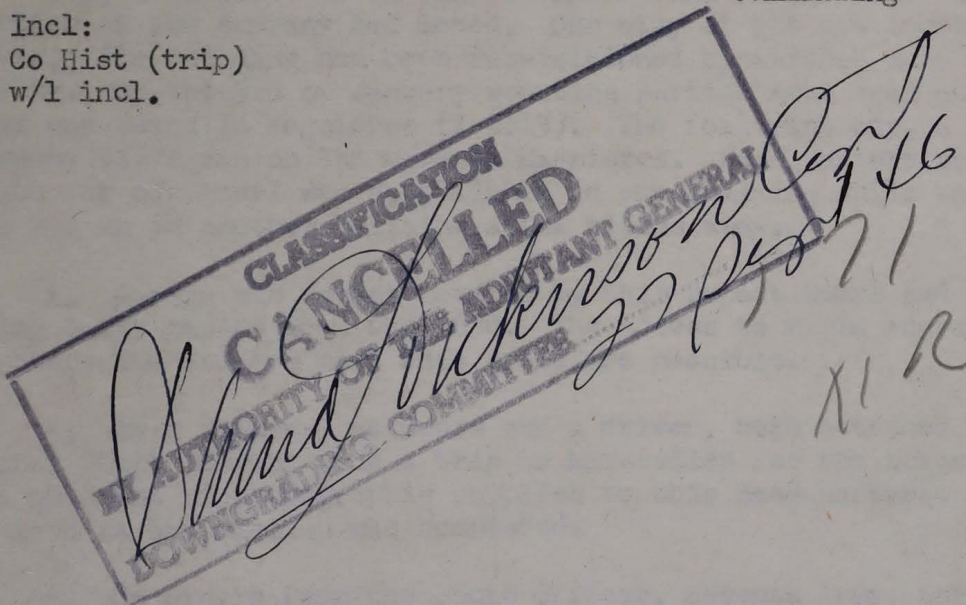
SUBJECT: Company History

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U. S. Army  
Attn: Historian

1. In compliance with Circular No. 34, Section IV, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 28 November 1944, history of the 163d Signal Photographic Company for period of 15 December 1944 to 15 January 1945 is submitted herewith.

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commanding

1 Incl:  
Co Hist (trip)  
w/1 incl.



JAN 8 1945

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 US ARMY

COMPANY HISTORY

(Period: 15 Dec 44 to 15 Jan 45)

1. This period started off by the company being honored with a visit by Colonel Lawton, Photo Officer, PRD, SHAEF, along with Lt. McWade. Colonel Lawton made the trip down to look over the company and discuss a few items of importance with both Captain Lewis, Commanding Officer of the 163d and Captain Smith, Photo Officer, Seventh Army.

2. December 25th saw most of the enlisted men and officers all together to enjoy a fine Christmas dinner and entertainment.

3. The Organization's observance of New Years was cut short early in the evening by notice from Seventh Army that the company was to pack up and move immediately from Saverne to a place farther to the rear. All sections began at once to pack up and by 0100 hours on 2 January, the first vehicle left Saverne to go to a predetermined location 1 mile East of Lunéville (V 6099), a distance of 51 miles. By evening of the same day the major portion of the company had moved. Our stay at the new location was short-lived. The building had been requisitioned by another unit prior to our moving. On the 3rd of January scouting parties were sent out and a new area was found in Magnieres (V 8813). The following day, 4 January, the company was again on the move to Magnieres. Headquarters and billeting space for personnel was established in one building while the Laboratory was set up in another building a few blocks away.

4. During the period covered by this report Stars and Stripes began using daily photos from the 163d. The access to rapid engraving facilities by Stars and Stripes made this procedure possible.

5. On 2 January, Lt Moors and a driver, both attached from the 162d Signal Photo Company made a trip to Marseilles for the purpose of expediting the shipment of photographic supplies to this Headquarters. They returned as soon as the mission was completed.

6. On orders from the Photo Officer, Seventh Army, three photo teams with the French in the Belfort and Mulhouse Sector were recalled to provide coverage on another sector of the front.

7. In order to speed up the delivery of film to Paris and London from this Headquarters a courier system, long established with Photo Officers in the field and Army, was put into effect between the 163d and Nancy. This results in the saving of approximately 8 to 12 hours, a very important factor in the release of "Spot News" pictures by Paris and Motion Picture film in London.

8. On 10 January Lieutenants Schmidt and McWade from PRD, SHAEF again paid the company a visit for a few days for the purpose of discussing further the supply and courier problems with which the company is faced.

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9. Photo Team No. 25, composed of 1st Lt Ryars, Tec 4 Blau and Pfc Luper, was given the special assignment of covering the activities of Lt. General Patch. To date most of the coverage made shows the General touring the forward areas; talking to the men in the lines, indicating the personal interest he takes in the troops under his command.

10. Changes in personnel:

- a. 1st Lt Robert L. Lewis, Commanding Officer, promoted to the grade of Captain per special orders, Seventh Army.
- b. 1st Lt Joseph D. Boyle returned to U. S. on temporary duty per special orders, Seventh Army.
- c. 1 enlisted man assigned to company to fill T/O vacancy.
- d. Promotions were effected for 20 enlisted men.

11. Awards and decorations:

PURPLE HEART

S/Sgt John Vita

Tec 4 James Rooney

Pvt Raymond Rocha

12. Attached are the editions of "FOTO-FACTO" covering the period of this report.

13. The activities of units in the field are shown below in extracts taken from reports submitted by photo officers:

- a. 45th Div, 24 Dec: Went to take pictures of about 75 men who were rescued after being town of Bundenthal for 7 days surrounded by Germans and pill-boxes. 4-man patrol sent in every night and yesterday found them for the first time. We were strafed on the way. Jerry still has planes.
- b. Shot 100 ft of JU88 plane that crashed into road leading to Schonau. 2 stills made. It's being cleared away. Proceeded to an OP behind still-held town of Schonau. Quite a feeling. Artillery coming at us into town. MPs and stills shot on shell-ing, infantrymen digging foxholes.
- c. VI Corps, 1 Jan: Attended Corps briefing. Corps warning to be on alert proved to be a sound one. Jerry threw in counter-attacks against elements of the 45th Division and against Task Force Huddleston. Penetrations to line made and Jerry infiltrated positions. Small arms fire in CP of Task Force Huddleston. Situation undertermined. Teams reported in. Peterson's team with TFH reports much confusion in their sector, outfits moving back, etc. Enemy in hills around sector. Reported in with all equipment from quarters in Phillipsburg. Jerries reported around this town. At 1900 checked CP and found that Redwood Rear moving back to Dittwiller and Redwood Forward on alert to move. Went back to quarters and proceeded to get stuff off to company and get equipment together in case of movement. Corps would fall back to Dittwiller in the morning. Gave information to teams so that they could find us plus orders to stick close to their Division CPs in case of hurried movement. Situation very fluid.

C O N F I D E N T I A L



Co Hist Cont'd:  
15 Dec 44 to 15 Jan 45.

- d. TF Heron, 8 Jan: Checked in at 12th Armored Division CP and was told they were going to attack Gombsheim with tanks. We went there but couldn't get into town because the infantry was dug in about a mile from it. While talking to some of the soldiers, we learned that they didn't see any tanks so we started for Bischwiller to the CCB CP. Driving across the field to the road, the Germans threw in some small stuff which almost hit us. Leaving CCB we made pictures around the Rohwiller area.
- e. 3rd Div, 24 Dec: Ollar, Rosenblum and Smith took the 30th Infantry and worked up in that sector most of the day. The roads are pretty rough and engineers were engaged in improving them which made good material for both photographers. Lueders, McCroby and Boone took the 15th Infantry and after checking the CP went on up past the 2nd Battalion where they ran into two companies preparing for an attack. The troops were digging foxholes while waiting because of the heavy Jerry artillery falling nearby and the two photographers got some material on the digging and the soldiers moving up with artillery hitting in the background.
- f. 3 Jan: With the rear areas being organized for defense in depth, the team spent the day in the sector west of Ville where engineers were constructing tank blocks, installing mine fields, preparing TNT charges on trees for road blocks and digging defensive positions. No advances made. Activity confined to patrolling, artillery exchanges.
- g. 106th Cav Gp, 17 Dec: Contacted Lt. Graves of the 106th who took us on a combat patrol to establish a machine gun nest.
- h. 19 Dec: Went within fifty yards of the town of Engleshardt and made shots of the town being shelled by 106th artillery. We were so close to the first house that we could hear a child crying.
- i. 44th Div, 16 Dec: Division concentrating on how to knock out the larger forts of Maginot Line. 8" shells just glance off their surface. We check Division CP for possibility of obtaining pictures of the attempts to eliminate the larger pill boxes. Had to proceed to Bn CP and inquire for possible information and routes to a vantage point of observation. C.O. there asked us not to proceed any further because of drawing fire on his troops and ourselves. Any movement ahead of Bn CP receives fire. His advise was supported by incoming artillery and sniper fire.
- j. 19 Dec: More or less bypassed Division this morning as the Simserhoff Forts was our aim. Went to 1st Bn CP for immediate picture situation. These forts have been holding up the Division for 5 days. Finally received the O.K. to go out and get some coverage on these forts. Just missed an assault platoon of engineers taking the tops off these forts which was the method used to demolish and take them. Jerry apparently pulled out in early morning leaving by means of the tunnel system inside the forts because little opposition was met. The team followed in with an infantry company that took over.
- k. 11 Jan: Dieves is holding down the fort in Herbitzheim and located a possible good story on the underground factory in Wittring. Further information on this factory reveals it to have been a plant for manufacturing V-1 or V-2 bombs, with a possibility of making of a chemical gas or an acid which was said to have been rumored would win the war.



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Co Hist Cont'd:  
15 Dec to 15 Jan 47.

1. XV Corps, 12 Jan: Went to Division CP and checked PRO. Pamphlets arrived so we went to Hunding and photographed 383rd Bn firing propaganda leaflets. Then went to artillery OP where leaflets were being dropped over German-held town of Lixing which we photographed. No other activity.

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Captain, Signal Corps  
Commanding

Incl:

Copies of "FOTO-FACTO"

C O N F I D E N T I A L



C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 US ARMY

19 February 1945

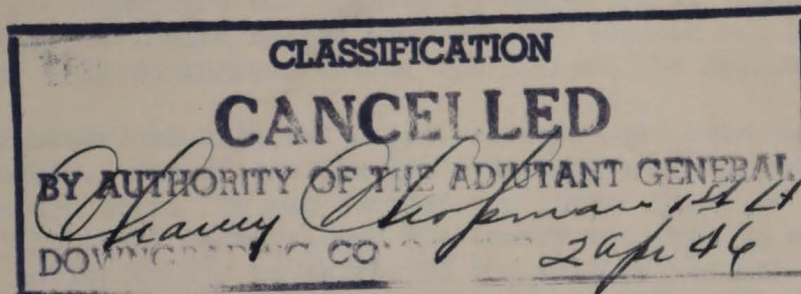
SUBJECT: Company History

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U. S. Army  
Attn: Historian

1. In compliance with Circular No. 34, Section IV, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 28 November 1944, history of the 163d Signal Photographic Company for period of 15 January to 15 February 1945 is submitted herewith.

1 Incl:  
Company History (trip)  
w/6 Incls.

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commanding



JAN 8 1951

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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HEADQUARTERS

163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758  
US ARMY

COMPANY HISTORY

(Period: 15 Jan to 15 Feb 1945)

1. a. The Colmar pocket has been eliminated. The wiping out of the last German strongpoint West of the Rhine and South of Strasbourg was fully covered by photographers of the 163d Signal Photo Company. The lensmen also maintained coverage along the entire 7th Army front.

b. All this activity has resulted in numberless still pictures and hundreds of feet of motion picture film being turned in by the photographers at the front. In addition to this, special coverage was made on anti-tank and anti-personnel mines; coverage of general officers under VI Army Group, and other short features.

c. During the periods covered by these monthly reports, various individuals are given recognition for a job well done. Just such men are Sergeants Chiappino, Dieves, Harris, and Newell. These men have demonstrated their abilities as combat photographers and have more than satisfactorily met the requirements for direct field commissions. Their appointments to the rank of Second Lieutenants on 16 February reflects great credit on this organization.

d. Another member of the company who received recognition for services rendered was Private First Class Ben E. Karlgaard. Pfc Karlgaard is assigned as a driver with a combat photo team. While on a mission in the vicinity of Colmar one of the team photographers was wounded by sniper fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, Karlgaard helped evacuate the wounded man to an aid station in the rear. For this courageous act he was awarded the Bronze Star.

e. On another occasion two still photographers were covering the action in the Colmar sector. One of the men Tec 5 Rutberg was wounded by sniper fire and evacuated to the rear. He was awarded the Purple Heart on 28 January. Not many days later the other photographer Pfc Lowery was wounded while shooting pictures of the action on the outskirts of the city of Colmar. Lowery was evacuated to a hospital and while there was awarded the Purple Heart. Both men had turned in excellent pictures of the action taking place in their sector.

f. On 1 February 1945 orders were published promoting 13 enlisted men of this organization.

2. Company activities for the period included a ping-pong tournament; showing of slides and 6 motion pictures procured from special service. Two girls from the American Red Cross paid the company a visit and served donuts and coffee. A must, required by Army Regulations is the reading of the Articles of War and a sex morality lecture every six months. February 13th was that day.

3. While the Germans were being driven from Colmar, big gains were also registered on other fronts. Enlisted men and officers of the company poured over maps and marked the progress made against the Reich by the Red Army in the East and the Allied Armies in the West. In the Pacific General McArthur had returned to the Phillipines and new gains were scored in Burma. Stimulating interest in the situation on the world battlefronts is handled by the Information and Education Officer through the medium of different types of maps which are

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kept up to date, daily news broadcasts bulletins, news clippings and photographs. Other duties of the I and E Officer consists of aiding the members of the organization who have subscribed to USAFI courses, 12 in all; also extracting and compiling pictures from all available periodicals. These pictures pertain to the Seventh Army and are credited to the 163d.

3. Under current 7th Army directives 8 enlisted men and 2 officers were authorized a trip to Paris for the purpose of spending 2 days at the Rest Center. All agreed that the trip was well worth while. Orders also arrived returning Tec 5 Robert to the United States for 30 days temporary duty.

4. On 2 February Major Smith, 7th Army Photo Officer, accompanied by Captain Lewis and driver made a trip to Paris on official business. Conferences were held with Colonel Jervey, Director APS, ETO, and Colonel Lawton, PRD, SHAEF. Time was also spent at the APS Laboratory and the 3908th Signal Service Bn. The main topic for discussion was photographic policies affecting operations in the 7th Army.

5. On 10 February some important changes were effected in the courier service between this headquarters and Paris. Depending on the weather "Spot News" pictures and film will go to Paris and thence to London by plane. Should the weather be unfavorable for flying the pictures and film will be transported to Paris by jeep to meet the London plane. Within 24 hours from exposure at the front, the pictures are in the news.

6. For the 22nd time since departing from the states, the company was once again on the move, this time from Magnieres to Luneville (WV 0699). The move was made on 14 February; the distance travelled 15 miles. A building was requisitioned on the outskirts of Luneville for Headquarters and living quarters for all personnel. The Laboratory was established in town.

7. Attached are the editions of FOTO-FACTO covering the period of this report.

8. The activities of the units in the field are covered by the following extracts taken from reports submitted by photo officers in the field:

a. 36 Div - 20 Jan: Today the team moved from Fenetrance to Saverne and into the same house with Lt Coates. When we arrived at the place a B-17 had just made a crash landing nearby and since Olin's camera needed some repairs, Frye made the motion picture coverage, 200 ft. A. Smith provided still coverage.

b. 23 Jan: The team toured the frontal areas and then went to an OP in Bischwiller and found the haze too thick to shoot through. Went back to battalion CP where General Dahlquist decorated the battalion commander with the DSC. Got two stills and Frye 100 ft on the general.

c. 24 Jan: On the way forward Frye was dropped off at the 143 Regimental Reinforcement training school and shot 200 ft of motion pictures that will go with his division picture. Ross and Valentine went into the woods in front of Kurtzenhausen where the 1st Bn of the 142 was dug in. They had just received a heavy shelling from Jerry and everyone was digging in a little deeper. Ten stills were made here. Picture taking was halted when some more stuff came in and Valentine and two infantrymen landed on top of the graphic while going in a hole. The camera is back for repair.

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15 Jan - 15 Feb 45

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d. 29 Jan: Today G-2 of the division nailed men for some aerial shots of Rohrwiller and Offendorf. The sky was pretty hazy but they said they would be satisfied with just about anything that resembled a picture of the two towns. So Valentine went aloft in an L-5 and shot 9 stills with a 10" lens and then flew on to Luneville where he was put out at the fighter strip and had to walk on down to the cub field where Lt Sheppard picked him up and took him on to the company. The film was immediately put through to see if the lens had cut the haze. It hadn't so the lab put the film in the razor soup and sure enough that got through. About that time two frozen figures in the shape of Frye and Ross wrapped themselves around the stoves at the company. They had driven down to get Lt Valentine and the important tactical shots that had to be back to the Division by daylight. The lab had a tough time in getting out the 75 prints but made it just about daylight and the team was off to make delivery. It was a long cold ride but was worth it all when G-2 said they were just what the doctor ordered...and would be of great help for coming operations.

e. 3rd Div - 20 Jan: Went into Kientzheim. While Lowery and I were at one end of town a sniper shot 2 GIs by Smith in the other. After returning fire with a carbine at suspected windows...no more sniping. Lowery 1 still, Fenberg 200 ft.

f. 2 Feb: Went into Colmar with tanks. Lowery hit by bullet while trying to get pictures of tank firing. 1 pack stills, 500 ft movies.

g. 8 Feb: Went to Neuf Brisach. Tried to get to Rhine river but roads are either under observation or too smoked out to take pictures. Will try in morning to get to river again. Jerry plane dropped a couple today. Still necessary to go a long way due to bridges being out. 4 stills and 100 ft of movies on German mortars.

h. 13 Feb: Went over to Rhine river area again. Got to an OP looking right into town of Vieux Brisach, Germany which our guns were shelling. Once more small arms fire came our direction while crossing through smoke to get to OP. 300 ft movies - 17 stills.

i. 15 Feb: Went to Rhine river area. Shot pictures of dummy guns that Germans had made of wood to resemble "88's".

j. XV Corps - 25 Jan: Was assigned to cover a story at XV Corps... 8" howitzer which blew up, not injuring any of the crew. Visited Rabley where we located this battery of the 932 FA Bn and got some pictures. Lt Goebel delivered pictures of General Haislip and his staff to the Aide de Campe. During the latter part of the afternoon, I stopped in at Corps and the Aide informed me that General Haislip was pleased with the pictures.

k. XXI Corps - 28 Jan: Went into Jebnheim half held by Americans and half held by Jerry. Lots of artillery coming in. Smith bent down just in time by a wooden door. When he stood up he could see through it without bothering to open it. Town too hot for pictures.

l. 28 Div - 5 Feb: Division CP moved into town. Checked with Liaison, G-3. Found that the pocket had been closed at Rouffach by elements of the 12th Armored and the 1st French Army ahead of schedule. Jumped down to Rouffach. Lots of Armor on the road. Found elements of the 28th in Hallstatt. Talked

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with the CO of the 110th Regiment who gave us his plans. Followed armor into Rouffach - shot several French-American angles. Powers shot 300 ft in town, Todd got 10 stills. Left Rouffach at 1500. Found we had no escort on the way back. Ran into a firefight on the road south of Hallstatt. We were stopped momentarily, nothing spectacular however. Arrived in Colmar and ran into Lt Lueders who had been house hunting. Gave him the film for the day.

m. 6 Feb: Checked with division for possible leads on situation. 28th crossing river at Niederhengenheim 10 miles south of Colmar. Hunted around in that district and found that only patrols were crossing and a good bridge had to be put in. Stayed around until engineers started to work. Got coverage on bridge construction...300 ft movies, 5 stills. The infantry is going like hell to catch up with the retreating Colmar pocket. Can't hardly keep up with them on foot however. Been getting shells in Colmar every night about every 10 minutes. Sounds like 280's.

n. 101 Airborne Div - 29 Jan: Covered 463d Parachute Artillery Bn which had done yesterdays firing...a battery of 75mm pack howitzers. Made pictures of firing, living conditions, etc. Also did sequence on camouflaging of gun to fit in with snow-covered terrain. 400 ft movies, 19 stills.

o. 31 Jan: Visited mortar platoon. Did sequence on novel trend of mortar crew. The loader boasts the fastest record in his outfit. He holds 9 shells in the crook of his arm and has them away and gone in no time. Then went up to a forward OP where I showed shells hitting German territory. (Different shells of course).

p. 101 Cav. Gp - 12 Feb: Checked Group Hq. Received information on bombing to take place in afternoon. Went to OP to select best possible point of view. After waiting considerable time planes finally appeared at 1615. Went to church steeple as OP was too crowded. Church was about 400 yards from target. Planes circles several times trying to locate target. Mortar fire of red smoke did not help them as it landed in trees. Piper cub appeared and circled target then bombing began. Shots may be blurred due to church steeple shaking from blast. Strafing very close...had to duck to avoid it.

9. To conclude the report, the company was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque for superior performance of duty in the accomplishment of exceptionally difficult tasks during the period 15 August 1944 to 15 October 1944 in France.

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Captain, Signal Corps  
Commanding

6 Incls:

- 1 - Co Order #2 (trip)
- 2 - Team Placement Chart (trip)
- 3 - Citation for Pfc Karlgaard (trip)
- 4 - Copies-FOTO--FACTO
- 5 - Orders & Citation on Unit Plaque
- 6 - Movement Instructions

C O N F I D E N T I A L



C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 US ARMY

RLL:hbm  
19 March 1945

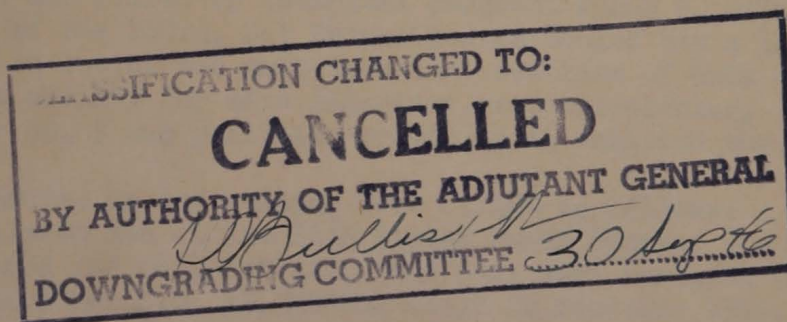
SUBJECT: Company History.

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U. S. Army.  
Attn: Historian

1. In compliance with Circular No. 34, Section IV, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 28 November 1944, history of the 163d Signal Photographic Company for period of 15 February to 15 March 1945 is submitted herewith.

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commanding

1 Incl:  
Company History (trip)  
w/3 Incls.



JAN 8 1951

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C O N F I D E N T I A L



C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 US ARMY

COMPANY HISTORY  
(Period: 15 Feb to 15 Mar 1945)

1. With the writing of this report all but one of the Allied Armies are poised along the Rhine ready for the coming assault against Germany. The First United States Army has already secured a firm foothold across the remaining barrier and the Seventh United States Army has started an attack which will clean up the last remaining pocket of enemy troops West of the Rhine River. The photographers of the 163d are actively engaged in covering the activities in the Seventh Army sector.

2. On 15 February the Bronze Star was presented to 2nd Lt Edward C. Newell by Major General Roderick Allen, Commanding General of the 12th Armored Division. Lt Newell was given this award for his outstanding photo coverage while with this division.

3. In accordance with the Theater Policy, the monthly recommendation was made for the return of two enlisted men to the United States on temporary duty, and on 21 February orders were received from Seventh Army authorizing the return of Tec 5 James Kelly and Pfc Harry Boone, the company's quota for the month of February.

4. On 27 February 1st Sgt Perry F. Satterwhite was discharged and on the following day was commissioned as a 2nd Lt in the Army of the United States per orders from Seventh Army. Sgt Satterwhite's service began at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, continuing up to A. P. Hill Military Reservation, Virginia and thence to make the initial invasion of North Africa, where he served through the Tunisian Campaign, joining the headquarters while the company was in Italy. His promotion to the rank of 2nd Lt is a reward for faithful service; a recognition of ability to perform duties of greater responsibility. The important vacancy left by this promotion was filled by Technical Sergeant Frank V. DeToro. As a member of the cadre of the 163rd, Sgt DeToro leaves behind him a long record of faithful service in one of the most important sections of this organization, and he has proven his ability for more important responsibilities. On this same day Company Order No. 3 was published promoting 11 enlisted men.

5. T/O vacancies in the company were filled as follows:

- a. 8 enlisted men of the 162d Signal Photo Company who were attached to the 163d for administration and duty were assigned to this headquarters per S.O. 51, ETOUSA dated 20 February 1945.
- b. 1 enlisted man was transferred in from the 2nd Reinforcement Depot per S.O. 51 dated 22 February 1945.
- c. 1 enlisted man was transferred in from the 3290th Signal Service Detachment per S.O. 50, 6th Army Group dated 1 March 1945.

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6. Changes in attached personnel were as follows:

- a. Captain Gillett, CWS, PR - INC, Det 6th Army Group was relieved of attachment by 1st Lt Edward Sears, CAC, Press Censorship Detachment per VOCO, PR Section, 6th Army Group.
- b. 1st Lt Kenneth G. Ollar, 162d Signal Photo Company, was returned to his unit.
- c. S/Sgt Joseph Borge and Tec 4 Arthur Klimpel, two members of a radio team who were attached to the 163d while still in Italy, were returned to their parent organization, the 982d Signal Service Company. These men were highly commended for the efficient manner in which they performed their duties as a part of the wirephoto team.

7. Company activities for the period included our quota of motion pictures procured from special service; lectures held weekly by the Information and Education Officer; also two reels of the "Why We Fight" series under his jurisdiction. With the approach of good weather plans are being formulated for conducting various outdoor activities.

8. On 19 February the first flight was made by the air courier between the company and Paris. This service will speed up the delivery of 'Spot News' pictures to the United States. With the inauguration of this new service, pictures are made available for distribution to various news agencies in the states within a few hours after leaving the company whereas, previous deliveries made to Paris by train would not have been available for distribution until 24 to 48 hours later.

9. Figures compiled for the past 30 days shows that approximately 100,000 feet of motion picture film was exposed and 4000 negatives processed. This coverage was made on the Seventh Army to fulfill War Department requirements.

10. Attached are the editions of Foto-Facto for this period.

11. The activities of the units in the field are covered by the following extracts taken from reports submitted by photo officers:

- a. 44th Div: Division check-up offered nothing. Fog was so heavy all morning up until 1300 that vehicles could not travel over 10 mph. Good weather for a counter-attack but very poor for photo work. The afternoon hours were spent obtaining a few shots of the French volunteer Nurses as additional material to the story previously made. These shots were requested by Army so time must be spent to complete the story to desired liking. Plans for tomorrow morning again with nurses and their ambulance.
- b. Weather not suitable for picture taking today. Heavy fog and rain but made some pictures of a medal presentation to artillery personnel by the Division Artillery commander.
- c. As we were about to set out this morning for division, Lt Goebel gave us a tip he received at Corps briefing. We learned of the biggest Jagdtiger tank knocked out on our front lines. It was hit by a TD crew. We got in touch with the 776th TD Bn. We went to the

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Battalion. One of the captains there went along to direct us to the tanks whereabouts. The tank was sitting on a hill on our front lines a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the road. The Jerries were sitting on the other side of this hill with excellent observation, but four piper cubs kept their shooting down as we trailed the captain out to the tank to make the first pictures of it. It is believed that this is the first tank of its kind on the 7th Army front. On our way across the fields to the German tank, we experienced the feeling of helplessness as some German planes were flying around doing some strafing. Our anti-aircraft and trigger-happy GIs were trying to hit the planes. We all found foxholes okay during this episode and afterwards made our pictures. We photographed every angle and important part of the tank, not only for news purposes but for technical research as well. We were later informed that the Jerries used these tanks on the Russian front.

- d. This morning we checked in with Colonel Martin, the Chief of Staff. He told us of the big operation occurring in the division area of several divisions opening the big attack. Although the division we were covering was just in strategic reserve, he gave us the latest information on cities captured and the situation taking place. Told us where we could really get some good pictures. We left and checked in with the Regimental Commander. It was his Regiment who was the leading regiment in strategic reserve from which the other divisions started from. In Rimling we saw what the situation was and started to shoot pictures of tanks moving up, cities burning, etc. Entered the city of Guiderkirch with some TD's as they moved in after the infantry started moving up. A sniper was still in action in the city but we made several pictures and got out as the Germans started to throw in shells. Got interesting pictures of Jerry POWs, etc.
- e. VI Corps: Team arrived at 42nd Division at 0745. Lights checked also cameras. First portrait was for 0930. General Collins didn't arrive until 0945. We were unable to pose General Collins as he wanted to be photographed as he sat down. We could not turn him so as to see the Division Patch on his shoulder. Also, when we tried to pull all the wrinkles out of his jacket he would move his arms and put them back in. He told us that was the way he wanted it to be so we shut our eyes and shot the picture as is, i.e. combat clothes. After General Collins we photographed General Linden. He was okay. This took care of the division.
- f. 36th Division: Fog was thick and didn't clear much all day. Lt Byars gave us a tip this morning on a mine explosion in Rohrwiller so that is where the team took off for. Sure enough there was a big hole in the ground and a lot of houses knocked down around the ears of the Frenchmen. They were moving out what little stuff they could and the civil affairs men were on hand.
- g. An infantry training program in the form of an assault on a simulated pillbox using phosphorus grenades, bangalores, mortars, and machine guns and flame throwers was scheduled for today. The demonstra-

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tion was far from photogenic and only six stills and no motion pictures were made. The flame throwers failed to operate properly--the whole show was bad for pictures. Later 21 stills were made when General Brooks decorated 21 men of the 2nd Battalion of the 141st Infantry Regiment. Two additional shots of Generals Brooks and Dahlquist were made.

- h. 63rd Division: Drizzling rain. To Sitterwies, Germany after our customary check. Engineers are blowing the roadway since a counter attack threatens and we have no observation. After shooting that we take another road into Auersmacher but it is plenty rugged. Auersmacher is a shambles. The light is bad and mortar fire steady. Word is passed around that vehicles will be prepared to leave town. We finish our business and leave.
- i. To Bubingen after warning of constant shell fire. The town is deserted and completely exposed to enemy shell fire and observation. A group of civilians have been rounded up at a road block. We shoot that, some of our dead, also dead Jerries. Still have that weird feeling the same as everyone else has. A TD gun is being moved into a factory yard. I follow at a respectful distance and make a shot. Shells crash at the entrance to the factory. Everybody takes cover so nobody hurt. We finish up and tear out of town. Too many killed on that stretch of road...they follow you around turns with mortars.
- j. Heavy fog this morning. It clears suddenly. While making a picture of a dummy cannon set up to draw fire, a passing driver, apparently noting the 'Official Cameramen' on the jeep tells us a truck that hit a mine up the road is burning. We travel along a badly exposed road, take cover with the jeep and hustle down on foot. Everyone is under cover except us and the medics. We make a cautious approach because of mines and cover the story. While making pictures we hear Jerry mortars coughing and the shells began to whistle overhead. After finishing we get out fast. Now that bad stretch of road ahead. As we near the dummy cannon mortars begin to drop and nearby engineers hit the dirt. One shell lands on a bank right alongside of us partly deafened. We got away okay but a later inspection by the driver reveals that the jeep has been damaged.
- k. As a result of a hit under the jeep by a mortar shell the previous day, we spent most of our time having the vehicle patched up. The battery was damaged and had to be replaced.
- l. Action ahoy! To battalion CP to get the intimate picture. The attack jumps off. They get through into Bubingen but draw a solid wall of artillery fire that turns others back on the highway at the entrance to town. Back to an OP to watch developments. Soon it's a little quieter and we highball into town, then some anxious minutes locating a spot we can work from on the edge of town. We find it just as the air mission arrives...so we cover it. Then another mad dash back out of town and back to Corps.

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- m. Went to OP of previous day. Artillery liaison said they would shell a former mortar factory in Gudigen. They shell it and drew a hail of kraut fire which we photograph as well as a log road as we're leaving. The 11th sniper casualty is carried out on a gun litter while we are there.
- n. The attack jumped off successfully today. We cover the newly taken town of Eschringen and Fechingen; also a German fuel dump fire from some hot terrain on a ridge overlooking Brebach and Saarbrucken. Also mine casualties on the way back to Corps, which incidentally has moved to St. Avold. Good light and mild weather eased our daily problem somewhat today.
- o. 14th Arm. Division: Checked in at CCB and was told that a patrol was out trying to recover the bodies of GIs who had been killed during a night patrol. Got the patrol coming in...5 stills, 200' MP film. Learned that tankmen were reinforcing tanks with cement bags. Made arrangements to shoot movies the next day.
- p. Checked in with CCA (new command). Straightened out credentials and met officers of the command. Shot 400' movies and 4 stills on prisoners who came over as a result of a propaganda broadcast. Shot 4 packs on decorations.
- q. 70th Division: Pushed off with 276th Regiment in attack to clear Forbach. Resistance is stiff as hell, excessive enemy artillery, most of it heavy and damn close. Spent all morning in 2 blocks of the city. Got action stuff on street fighting. Suffered only casualty of the day when shell hit in street in front of Todd, Boone and jeep. Concussion knocked both flat--and it was bigger than an '88'. Breezed out of town but quick. Later while at the Regiment discovered a hole clean through the graphic case, smashed crown tripod, and a broken film pack adapter slide, all caused by a piece of shrapnel from a very close shell burst. No other damage to jeep or equipment.
- r. Up to 274th Regiment CP. Ran smack into 1200 former POWs coming through lines, all Russian, Yugoslavs, French, Italian and Serbs who crashed the gate at a prison hospital. Most of the men were definitely hospital cases. Some were emotionally unstable, some of them hardly able to walk from lack of proper care. Yugoslavs were the best faring of the group--all with long mustaches--all very happy. French were all a dazed, overjoyed group.
- s. 12th Arm. Division: Rain, fog, snow. Bombing at Forbach area postponed. CCA attack cancelled. 78th Division attack called off. XXI Corps went on the defensive at noon. Planned story of shelling and bombing of factory buildings from close OP is out. Objectives contained '88's and many mortars. Germans now using ammo originally intended for defense of Saarbrucken.
- t. 103rd Division: Went to Division CP. Checked War Room. Soon to be firing on Jerry with rockets. Then to 409 CP then to 1st Bn. In our sector got tank firing 60 rounds of rockets. Followed it to area where it would be reloaded, made complete story then to field again



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where it fired an additional 60 rockets. The complete story took from 1030 till 1630.

- u. 3rd Division: The division pushed off on the attack. Went to Guiderkirch and Erching with the 7th Regiment. From a hill outside this last town we photographed the attack on Utweiler where German tanks were causing trouble. Through binoculars the whole battlefield unfolded before our eyes.

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commanding

3 Incls:

- #1 - Company Order #3
- #2 - Team Placement Chart
- #3 - Foto-Factos

C O N F I D E N T I A L



C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 US ARMY

1-1171  
RLL:hbm  
19 April 1945

SUBJECT: Company History

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U. S. Army.  
Attn: Historian

1. In compliance with Circular No. 34, Section IV, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 28 November 1944, history of the 163d Signal Photographic Company for the period of 15 March to 15 April 1945 is submitted herewith.

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Captain, Signal Corps  
Commanding

1 Incl:  
Company History (trip)  
w/4 Incls.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

**CANCELLED**

AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

*Paul J. Zirkle Maj AGO*  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

*30 Sept 46*

14 74  
JAN 8 1951

*Master*

C O N F I D E N T I A L



HEADQUARTERS

163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 US ARMY

COMPANY HISTORY

(Period: 15 Mar to 15 Apr 1945)

1. In order to keep up with the rapid advances made by the Seventh Army after their drive to the Rhine River and beyond, the 163d Signal Photo Company has made three moves during this period totalling 180 miles. The first move was made on 22 March. Operations were suspended, vehicles loaded and the company travelled from Luneville to Sarreguemines. There the Headquarters and Laboratory set up temporarily in a partially destroyed French factory. After staying there three days the organization again halted operations, loaded equipment, and moved to Kaiserlautern. The 163d Signal Photo Company was now in Germany! A building was requisitioned which could accomodate the Headquarters, Laboratory and also provide billeting space for the personnel. This building was formerly used as the county seat by the Nazis. The stay in Kaiserlautern lasted only one week and on 2 April the vehicles were loaded for the third time and the move was made to Munster, Germany. The Rhine was crossed enroute to this new location. In Munster the company was located in an undamaged German factory. Prior to Allied occupation this factory had been engaged in making tools necessary for the manufacture of ball bearings and other war materials. All three trips were made without any unusual occurrences. All photo teams continued to provide complete coverage in the field with not more than one team in reserve at any time. The moves were planned so that the laboratory and administrative functions were not disrupted for more than a few hours.

2. During the period one enlisted man was promoted to the grade of Private First Class and two enlisted men were reduced to the grade of private.

3. On 21 March all men present at the company underwent a gas mask test. CN was used to make this check on masks. A few were found to be defective and they were replaced; the defective masks were turned in to a Chemical Warfare Depot. A few days later a surprise gas drill was held. All the men responded and carried out the instructions they had been given.

4. In accordance with the Theater policy the monthly recommendation was made for the return of two men to the United States on temporary duty. On 25th March orders were received from Seventh Army authorizing the return of 2nd Lt Perry F. Satterwhite and Tec 5 Jimmie Bosen, the company's quota for the month of March.

5. On 7 April 1st Lt Edward Sears (CAC), PR Section, 6 Army Group was relieved of attachment with the 163d as press censor and was replaced by Captain Cortland Gillett (CWS) PR Section, 6 Army Group per Verbal Orders, Chief Field Press Censor, PR Section, 6 Army Group.

6. On 10 April the company celebrated its' Third Anniversary. The 163d was activated in 1942 at Fort Benning, Georgia under T/O & E 11-37. The cadre moved to Fort Sam Houston, Texas and there the company was built up to full strength. Training was started there and continued while the organization moved to various other stations. Advance detachments left A. P. Hill Military Reservation, Virginia to make the invasion of North Africa. In December 1942 the Laboratory Detachment



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departed from Camp Sutton, North Carolina and landed in North Africa. There it operated in conjunction with the advance detachments. The Company Headquarters departed overseas in August 1943. From the time of the invasion of North Africa the 163d has provided photographic coverage there as well as Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. It has a record that everyone can well be proud of.

7. During the latter part of March a request was made to Seventh Army for the use of two armored cars for the purpose of carrying classified material from the forward areas back to company headquarters while the company is in Germany. The first of these vehicles arrived on 10 April, the second on 14 April. Both were put into immediate use on courier runs.

8. On 9 April Captain Donald Brinn, news editor of the Paris Laboratory, 3908th Signal Service Battalion, visited the company for the purpose of discussing photo coverage of Seventh Army. Captain Brinn is in a position to observe most of the coverage made in this Theater and commended the 163d for the high quality it has maintained while photographing all operations of the Seventh Army.

9. On 14 April a P-47 of the XII TAC crash-landed on the outskirts of Munster. Being the only organization in the vicinity the company provided guards to prevent any further damage to the plane. Men of the XII TAC arrived at the scene the following day and the company was relieved of any further responsibility.

10. The company location at Munster was along the road leading from that town to Dieburg. To effect a saving of time in the receiving and delivering of material by the air courier, a few trees were cut down along the road, an air-sock erected thus converting the road into a landing strip. Exposed film could thereby be taken directly from the plane and processing started in a matter of a few minutes. Likewise film and pictures ready for delivery could be loaded into the plane right at the company and flown direct to Paris and London. On April 9th a new system for delivery was established in conjunction with the Army ADLS. All film being shipped out would go to Army and thence by jeep courier to Mannheim. There it is loaded aboard a C-47 and flown to Paris and London.

11. Attached are editions of Foto-Facto for the period.

12. The activities of the units in the field are covered in the following extracts taken from reports submitted by photo officers:

103rd Division:

15 Mar: Division jumped off today. Checked in at War Room and was given the jump off point and present location of troops. Immediately went to Nieffern to photograph the drive. All vehicular movements were halted outside the town because of tremendous mine fields. The infantry advanced on foot across country leaving all vehicles behind. They also bypassed the very frontline towns which would be cleaned out at a later date. Situation at this point became static and the team went to the next town to be taken on the left flank. Arrived in Mulhausen to find that the Germans had evacuated and that the infantry went through to open terrain on the other side of town. Mulhausen was still smouldering from

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the terrific artillery assault that preceded the drive. There was plenty of engineering activity taking place in town in an effort to try and get the armor through to support the infantry. When we left the armor was still waiting to break loose.

16 Mar: Went to Division CP at Obermodern, checked War Room for information about town. We had a choice of three towns: Zinzwiller, Gumbertchhoffen and Utterhoffen. Both flanked towns expected to be taken very shortly... center town by the afternoon. Went to Uhwirller with jeep and had to walk from there due to mines and missing bridge. Walked to Engwiler, met infantry platoon and followed them on their attack on Gumbertchhoffen which took several hours. Did plenty of walking. Hebert in meantime attempted to get jeep to next town in the event we would need him but German shelling flattened a tire and proved that it couldn't be done. Walked back to jeep and turned film in to Corps.

42nd Division:

23 Mar: Push towards Rhine. Germans caught in pocket between 3rd and 7th Armies are surrendering. German convoys hit by P-47s litter side of roads, also dead horses, dead krauts, burning ammo, trucks, etc. Our traffic moving fast raising plenty of dust.

24 Mar: In little town of Schwanheim, covered civilian angle. Radios, weapons, etc are put in heaps on main square. Division helps mop up pocket. In mountain near Lug a large German convoy destroyed by planes.

25 Mar: Division keeps on the mopping up. On Palm Sunday GI's kneel by a church in Germany. A chaplain of the 42nd Division officiates.

100th Division:

31 Mar: Moved with our Division and Corps across the Rhine River. Located an unoccupied home so used it for our quarters temporarily.

1 Apr: Covered the meeting of a French Patrol and the 2nd Bn, 399th Regt of the 100th Division as they neared Hockenheim, Germany. Shot some of the activity in town. Chased down a big cloud of smoke to a burning town...Rot. We made some shots of the fire while the Germans threw in three barrages of "screaming memies". Took out shortly thereafter.

63rd Division:

30 Mar: By courtesy of a Brigadier General we break into a tank convoy and cross the Neckar River into Mannheim. Make assorted shots of the push to Heidelberg. Advance is held up 3 kilometers from Heidelberg. While waiting we are strafed by Focke Wulfs; a piper cub is shot down and then a bracket of 75's and 88's follow. Steady rain and bad light. Head back and take more pictures in Mannheim while waiting to cross bridge.

31 Mar: Into Heidelberg via an infantry support raft over the Neckar river. Cover street scenes, drinking shots in cafes and troops eating chow; also several university shots; German wounded and battle pan of the city, then back to meet the courier.

1 Apr: Move to Seckenheim with Corps, then to Heidelberg to cover civilians battling to cross from Neuenheim to Heidelberg via ladders on a bridge abutment due to German demolition.

5 Apr: To Mosbach city hall. Cover turn in of arms, binoculars,



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cameras and other optical goods on orders from Angot. Then to Bn CP. Fighting is stiff and we are forced back by machine gun fire and shelling at bridge. Make pictures of engineers working under fire. I ask S-2 over the phone what the chances are of walking into town. He says okay maybe with a machine gun but nothing doing with a camera.

45th Division:

18 Mar: Went to CP. Attacking all over. Still stymied by the Siegfried Pillboxes. Took some stuff on a new 155 rifle gun, mounted on a M-4 tank chassis...firing at a pillbox about 700 yards away. Fired about a dozen rounds then we all took off.

19 Mar: Went to CP. Lots doing all over. Went to 157th and took some shots on first part of Siegfried defenses that they took...Pillboxes, prisoners just taken and some of the first armor to go in by the "Dragons Teeth".

20 Mar: Visited CP. Everything happening all at the same time. Went in a partly taken town and found about 500 Russians of the labor type, the most beaten up people I have ever seen. Some had untreated wounds. Took activity in town. Sniper had Rutberg and I pinned behind a house for almost a half hour so then we took a run for it. Only one round fire when we took off.

21 Mar: Everyone was messed up. No information. We drove up as far as Kaiserlautern. Full of 3rd Army vehicles. We did not shoot as it was late. As the traffic was so rough, we missed the courier. Shot stuff in Homberg. The town was pretty well wrecked.

3d Division:

16 Mar: Checked with Division CP. Saw Signal Officer who wanted to send out a Division photographer with us. No dice! Went to 7th and 15th Regiments. Picked up rations at a QM dump.

17 Mar: Checked with Division CP. Went to Altheim, Germany. Having a lot of difficulty getting around due to minefields...mostly schumines and other plastic types.

19 Mar: Went to area by Althornbach. Got pinned down by machine gun fire at OP while trying to make shots of shelling, so moved to our own OP. Finished shooting pictures at this spot.

44th Division:

21 Mar: Checked CP this morning. Nothing unusual, situation the same. Made some feature material and hometowns on motor pool in combat. When we returned to Corps we were informed that we were relieved from our division for the time being. Since we had several stories on the fire, we returned late that afternoon and started cancelling our arrangements which we had set up as tentative. We also stopped at the CP and saw General Dean, CG of our division. We let him know that we were being relieved. He was sorry to see us leave but hoped that we will rejoin his division again when they go into action. He was very pleased with all we had done on the coverage of his division and told us so amidst several of his staff.

14th Armored Division:

5 Apr: After a long struggle, the team of Bowen and Rosenblum got together. Their first assignment took them to the town of Gamunden which the division was attacking. It was a difficult place to take since the Germans had blown

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the bridge over the river. This acted as a moat for the town. We crossed over with the infantry in little 6-man rubber assault boats and made pictures of the storming of the town.

6 Apr: The next day the bridge had been completed and our vehicles started moving through the town. Burning walls were collapsing, civilians were trying to save a little of their household goods, and the town was generally pretty much in an uproar. We made some pictures and moved on to the town of Hollrich. The infantry attacked the town which was being guarded by German infantry supported by tanks and anti-tank guns. We moved in with the doughboys but they were unable to knock out the tanks. They were called back so that the artillery could get at the town. This resistance had put us behind schedule however so plans were changed. The infantry was reloaded into halftracks, two tanks were moved out for supporting fire and we outflanked the danger points. We left our jeep behind, jumped into one of the half tracks and proceeded on that historic march to free the prisoners in the Hammelberg prison camp. The Germans had bazooka teams and anti-tank guns mounted along what they knew would be our line of march. Firing as it moved, the armored column spearheaded its way into the camp. We were with the lead tank and showed the locks being shot off the gates, the tanks crashing through the barbed wire fences, and the meeting of the doughboys and the prisoners. We rushed our film back through the kind assistance of the Colonel in charge of the column. He loaned us a Lt and a jeep and off we went. The woods were still full of Germans and we took 11 prisoners before we reached our destination.

7 Apr: Next started the mad dash to Bad Kissingen. We rode all day and all night. We couldn't leave the spearhead since we left most of the enemy behind us for the infantry to mop up. At about 0400 our jeep tipped over into a bomb crater which we had missed in the dark. We had to wait about 20 minutes for a halftrack to come along and pull us out. It was very cold and pitch black and we were practically surrounded by Germans. The combat command we were working with carried a battalion of armored infantry and we showed them moving into several German-held towns. The stuff was pretty effective since our tank fire usually started several buildings on fire before the infantry went in. The civilians in the towns were certain that we would kill them all. They were the most pathetic looking figures I have ever seen. They waved white flags and begged us not to shoot them.

12th Armored Division:

30 Mar: Rode in column from Amorbach to Nassig, Wertheim Area. Enroute I spotted three anti-tank positions to our left while column was halted and shooting at Germans walking around unconcernedly in open country. Guns were knocked out in 5 to 7 minutes at 350 yards range. In the evening, just before the moon came up the tank in front of us got hit by two bazookas and then started an all night fight in which one town was burned down. We got 5 prisoners as they walked by our house where we stopped momentarily while the column stopped in Neunkirchen. The Germans thought it was their column. Later in the evening we got another who stopped 100 yards down the road in the moonlight shadow of a building and listened. We watched him with binoculars, called him but he failed to come right away. Almost shot him.

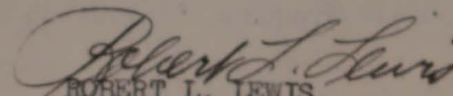
31 Mar: German Hitler youth fighting in Nassig are 16 years old - in the army 8 to 15 days. Out of 350, 150 killed by artillery fire in foxholes and tanks. 200 taken prisoner. We made pictures of tank operations, infantry attacking town.

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(5)



C O N F I D E N T I A L

1 Apr: Drove forward CCA in Wurzburg Area but drove into forest from side road between Gersheim and Kist. Kist was reported to Division as held. CCB was reported to have cleared road from Tauberbishofheim to Kist. In forest we were approaching several small homes when we found one German soldier with rifle slung walking along our way with Polish civilians. Took prisoner who gave no valuable information. Put him on hood of jeep. Polish man who made frantic signs behind back of German told me that three Germans were among the buildings with bazookas. We turned back and went to edge of woods on main road toward Gersheim. Made prisoner get out, took out my pistol...the prisoner thought we would kill him. We questioned him about his outfit. After he had given us the information about his company we proceeded back to Waldbrunn and reported to CCA.

  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Captain, Signal Corps  
Commanding

4 Incls:

- 1 - FOTO-FACTOS
- 2 - Route Map to Saarguemines
- 3 - Route Map to Kitzingen
- 4 - Ltr of Congratulation

C O N F I D E N T I A L



C O N F I D E N T I A L

*1st Sec*  
HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758  
US ARMY

*1170*  
RLL:hbm  
19 May 1945

SUBJECT: Company History

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U. S. Army.  
Attn: Historian

1. In compliance with Circular No. 34, Section IV, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 28 November 1944, history of the 163d Signal Photographic Company for the period of 15 April to 15 May 1945 is submitted herewith.

MAY 21 1945 PM

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commanding

1 Incl:  
Company History (trip)  
w/4 incls.

REC-5-1939  
NO SEVENTH ARMY

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE  
*30 Sep 46*

*1474*

JAN 8 1951

*Master*

SECO-163-0.1

C O N F I D E N T I A L



C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS  
163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY  
APO 758 US ARMY

COMPANY HISTORY  
(Period: 15 Apr to 15 May 1945)

1. This report embodies the climax of the war in the European Theater of Operations, the surrender of Germany to the Allies on 8 May 1945. A great many events took place all along the Western Front highlighting the final days of the great struggle. The American Seventh Army came to the foreground of the overall picture by their spectacular advances towards the Southeast capturing important towns of Dilligen, Augsburg, Munich and Rosenheim. The infamous concentration camp of Dachau was liberated along about this time. Continuing their drive, the Seventh Army crossed the Austrian and Italian Borders and linked up with the Fifth Army in Italy. In this drive through Hitler's vaunted redoubt many high ranking officials of the German Army were captured. It was in the redoubt that thousands of German troops were turned over to the Seventh Army when German Army Group "G" surrendered to Sixth Army Group.

In support of these operations the photographers of the 163d Signal Photo Company were on hand to record pictorially all the main events leading up to and including the collapse of the Wehrmacht in Southern Germany.

Following close on the heels of Army, the 163d made three moves during this period which represents an advance of 305 miles. The first move was made on 16 April when the company departed from Munster and traveled, via motor convoy, to the town of Kitzingen (M775-329). The Company Headquarters and Laboratory set up in a building that had been requisitioned through Army. Billeting space was available for all personnel in this same building.

The second move took place on 28 April at which time the organization left Kitzingen and traveled via motor convoy to the town of Schwaebisch-Gmund (WS52-26). Here the organization set up in a building which had previously been the town court house.

Move number three found the company enroute from Schwaebisch-Gmund to Augsburg (WY 6380). Travel was once again accomplished by motor transportation. Company Headquarters was established in a building formerly used to house German troops.

On all three moves operations were suspended a few hours prior to the loading of equipment on vehicles and it was only a matter of a few hours after arrival that facilities were re-established for resuming operations.

2. During this period the following changes of personnel took place:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CANCELED

- a. One enlisted man was reduced to the grade of Pvt; two were promoted to the grade of Tec 5; one was promoted to the grade of Tec 4. *Capt. A. J. [unclear]* INITIAL *AAH*

- b. Two officers were assigned to the 163d Signal Photo Company from the 2nd Reinforcement Depot per S.O. 108 that Headquarters.

- c. One officer relieved of attachment with 163d Signal Photo Com-

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SSCO-163-8.1

1474  
JAN 8 1951  
Master



pany and returned to parent organization, 3908 Signal Service Battalion per LO, Seventh Army.

- d. Three enlisted men transferred out of the organization to hospital plants, two because of wounds received in action and one with sickness incurred in line of duty.

3. The following decorations were presented to members of the organization for this period:

BRONZE STARS

2d Lt Jacob (NMI) Harris  
Tec 3 Edward H. Peterson  
Tec 4 James J. Rooney  
Tec 4 James W. Horne  
Tec 4 Irving (NMI) Leibowitz  
Pfc George J. Cipra

PURPLE HEARTS

Tec 4 Francis O. Galbraith  
Tec 5 Reno F. Frate

Three other enlisted men were wounded in action but to date their awards have not been received for presentation.

4. On April 29th, Brigadier General Wooley, Signal Officer, Seventh Army visited the company at Schwaebisch-Gmund and made official presentation of the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque to the organization. General Wooley was happy to be able to make the award to the 163d and made it known that he was well acquainted with their fine record.

5. During the last week of April the company received an allotment figure authorizing a number of officers and enlisted men to go to Paris for a 3 day rest period. On April 26 2 Officers and 5 Enlisted Men left the company and returned 3 days later.

6. The activities of the units in the field are covered in the following extracts taken from reports submitted by photo officers and teams:

7th Army: 4 to 9 May - Photo coverage by team at Army Headquarters consisted mainly of coverage of high ranking German Officers being processed including Von Runstedt and Goering; also important personages liberated by Seventh Army. Also photographed Under Secretary of War Patterson while visiting Army Headquarters.

VI Corps: 15 Apr - This morning Smith shot stills on Memorial Services for President Roosevelt. In the afternoon more stills taken on 340 and 380mm shells for use by G-2. Other stills made on Forced laborers freedom celebration.

29 Apr - Finally got around to do the story on concentration camp and what a story. Hundreds of dead political prisoners left to rot in concentration camp in Landsberg. 700' of movies, 25 stills.

30 Apr - Shot movies today of cell Hitler occupied while in prison where he wrote Mein Kampf. Smith shot 1 pack stills on same story.



103d Division: 30 Apr - Left Oberammergau. Went to Division CP. Checked in there and went to Garmish area. Infantry held up by road block. Went back to division and turned in film. Raining and light bad. Division getting into redoubt area. Is assembling before moving forward.

1 May - Division CP still in Garmish. Task Force about to go into Austria. Followed "A", "B" and "C" companies to border. Photographed fire fight and cleaning out of first Austrian town. Turned in film through message center. While back in Garmish made pictures of Hungarian prisoners.

2 May - Went to Division CP. Found after checking that a fight was on to get into Innsbruck. Went to Auland. Task Force still fighting in hills. Can't get into Innsbruck. Made pictures of town and pictures of prisoners who surrendered from Mitterwald.

3 May - Went to Division CP. Task Force supposed to get into Innsbruck today. Surrender negotiations to be made by Major West. Followed Major West to Zirl where Task Force pushed out to take Innsbruck since surrender terms could not be negotiated immediately.

4 May - During the night Task Force reached Brenner Pass. Left our billet in early morning and went directly to Brenner Pass, made pictures and turned them into Corps.

44th Division: 30 Apr - Division moved into Austria this morning. Nothing big was going on. Just about the time the Division was set up a time bomb went off in what used to be the Gestapo Headquarters Building. Shot pictures of fire caused by the explosion.

4 May - Awoke at 0500, loaded trailer. Checked with G-3 and was told that the 324th Regt had already started its march to the Italian Border. We started to catch up with them just North of Imst. They were stopped just outside the town by heavy enemy action. Division moved into Imst today.

5 May - Checked with the Chief of Staff and found that the 324th Regt was made an offer to stop fighting. The place was too far, consequently we arrived there too late. The Germans had blown a crater in the road that was the biggest I have ever seen. Shot pictures of an outpost patrol around the crater

6 May - Checked Division and was told that something big was going on in Landeck at the 324th CP. We went there and I asked if it was possible for us to go to the German line and make photos of them giving up their arms: Was told no but got consent from a German General that was there and who was going to the 19th Army Group Hq. We followed and made pictures at the headquarters and other parts of the German area. We were the first American soldiers to go that far into the German Lines and not be prisoners. The armed SS men looked amazed as we drove by. We returned with the general to the 324th CP later in the afternoon.

XV Corps: 13 Apr - Left FOC at 0900 with Capt Leach, military advisor for contact with Group FA. Met Colonel Craig of Scarlet Group Hq. We were assigned to 697th FA under command of Lt Col Christians. Had chow at Bn Hq and later assigned to "C" Battery, 240mm Howitzers for first pictures. This section being in bivouac would move the following morning so we returned to FOC for the



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night. Experienced a strafing during the night.

14 Apr - Left FOC at 0830 arriving at "C" battery of the 697th FA Bn. March Order was set for 1000. Joined column for new destination near Bamberg. Arrived at 1600. Set up tent that we have received from the Battery. Dug fox holes and made ready for night. Guns did not arrive at this location until 2000, too late to make pictures. Guns did not set up but went into bivouac for the night as march order was on again in the morning. We were strafed through the night and anti-personnel bombs were dropped about two miles away.

3d Division: - 15 Apr - Moved to Adelsdorf in the morning. Went up with the 30th Regt. Ran into sniper fire. Went to Bamberg to check with Lt Goebel. Bridge out so had to hitch hike leaving jeep on this side of river.

16 Apr - Went to Division to check. Had 3 flats enroute, 2 from shrapnel and 1 from a .30 calibre bullet. Got into Erlanger but no pictures there. Had to wait at ferry coming back.

17 Apr - Got into the outskirts of Nurenberg...it's really hot! Air bursts hit the building I was lying next to. Also ran into small arms and machine gun fire. Sustained another flat from flying shrapnel.

18 Apr - Went into Nurenberg with a company of 30th Infantry Regiment tanks. Hottest spot I've ever been in with machine guns firing directly at us. Had to stay under cover of tanks at all times. Couldn't get back from spot until aid-jeep came back with wounded and gave us a lift. Even then snipers opened up on us as aid-jeep went like mad across an open spot.

19 Apr - Went into hot spot in Nurenberg again. Still too hot except to grab a few pictures, run, and hope to make it back. Still loads of snipers every foot of the way. Got film back to Lt Goebel in time for speed test at 1300.

27 Apr - Sweated out an air mission near Augsburg and surrender deal all day. No luck on either. The only thing we got was airbursts from Jerry.

30 Apr - Got up at 0530. Went to Munich with Task Force of two tanks and company of Infantry. Lots of snipers on the outskirts. Walked for miles until we commandeered a motorcycle belonging to a Jerry. Took pictures of the surrender in Munich. Started back to Augsburg with film.

45th Division: 13 Apr - Hot time had by all concerned. Advanced slowly but surely into town of Bamberg. Good stuff on infantry troops supported by tanks firing at all buildings in front of them. Plenty of snipers.

14 Apr - Blau and Hershey helped us to cover town of Bamberg. Latter part of town taken without much resistance. No bridges! Had to walk across river and into town. Sent both days work via message center. We are living with one of the Regts.

17 Apr - Drive on for Nurenberg. Very stiff resistance from an estimated 80 '88mm guns, etc. Freed a prison camp of about 13,000 Allied prisoners. Took pictures of freed Americans and Russians. Typhus very bad.

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19 Apr - Finally in town. Very heavy sniper fire, etc. Took shots of GI's advancing, tanks firing. Ticklish work all the time...not a street that doesn't have a sniper on it. Worst type of fighting with many casualties.

26 Apr - Checked division CP at 0800 and found out that crossing of the Danube was not made last night due to swift current of the river, however, attempt will be made some time today. Checked Battalion CP and was told that crossing will be made at 1500 hours at bridge site in Marxheim Sector. From the CP we drove to Marxheim. The 1st Bn was trying to locate a good spot for OP to cover the river crossing. At 1530 under light enemy artillery fire the first assault boats with 120 Engineers took to water and paddled like hell to get across the fast moving stream. All assault boats got across. 200' movies shot on the crossing. From here we moved upstream to where the Engineers were going to put in a foot bridge and Dukws were to cross. This was difficult as the enemy had well placed machine guns and tanks at the bridge site which made slow going for the infantry coming up from the rear on their side of the river. Stayed in this area until 1945. By this time the sun was down and no other crossing was made so we left and started back only to discover that division CP had moved out. Located the Corps Photo Officer and turned in film.

29 Apr - Moved away from division to regiment to be on the spot when and if Dachau or Munich fell. Sent message to CPLO via message center requesting another team to follow up with division in case Dachau is bypassed. At 1000 we got lost in the woods trying to find 1st Bn. Came across a company of German troops who stopped us and wanted us to take them prisoners. We started them down the road and turned them over to the MP's. Then started out again to look for the Bn. On the way '88's were fired on our road and we had to hold up until a tank could knock it out. Finally found the Bn on the outskirts of Dachau. Made coverage going into town with troops. Started with foot troops towards concentration camp at which time all hell let loose. Did the best we could to get photos in between shooting our way in. Emptied all three clips from my pistol. Jeep driver with us had a field day while covering us with his submachine gun. We came out of the camp after it was all over pretty much shaken up. Stayed in Dachau that night. Sent message to the Corps Photo Officer.

30 Apr - Jumped off with the 1st Bn...target Munich. Going was slow through each village. Entered Munich at 1420 hours. Was one of the first vehicles to go in as we overran the 20th Recon Sqdn who stopped to check their maps. Made photos of the Recon Unit starting into town, hugging each side of the street, traveling cautiously and slow. 42nd Division on our right flank dropped shells behind us thinking us enemy troops. They knocked out one of the 45th Division vehicles. Made photos on another concentration camp at Munich which was freed also. Came into Munich with the Battalion Commander ahead of the Armor or Infantry. The commander was directly in contact with his troops by radio giving instructions for entering the town. An hour later 20th Armored tanks with 42nd and 45th troops riding on top came into town.

42nd Division: 20 Apr - Division takes Furth outside Nurnberg. Resistance light. Shot film on blasted bridge, civilians, etc.

26 Apr - Corps moves to Monheim. Team gets set up, rides to Danube. Reaches river just in time for heavy cocktail of airbursts and '88's on pontoon bridge being built. Pictures taken of tanks waiting to go across, GI's working on bridge.

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14th Armored Division: We took off with the lead elements of the 68th Armored Infantry Battalion. As we drove through the countryside we came upon a column of Nazi 75mm Artillery pieces trying to break away. Our tanks and halftracks deployed in the field and opened fire. Since we were behind the first three tanks we were able to get the complete sequence...half-tracks pulling up, infantry dismounting, machine guns and tanks firing. We then chased after a part of the column we had succeeded in halting. Some of the guns were burning, ammunition exploding and our doughboys chasing the German troops through the woods. Just then a couple '88's landed in our vicinity. Bowen was standing next to Rosenblum. Suddenly he shouted: "Look out, I'm hit". Since there was a lot of sniping going on at the time, I thought at first he had been shot in the back. Luckily there were some medics around and they gave him first aid. We brought him back to the ambulance and discovered it was a shrapnel wound. The Doctor dug the stuff out and fixed Bowen up. This occurred on 14 April.

16 Apr - Our objective for the day was to cut one of the Autobahns at a certain point so that it would no longer be of any value to the Germans. On the way we picked up some German prisoners. Two of them were 60 years old. In front of the autobahn we came across a German plane that had been cached away. The highway was used as the airstrip. We were successful in cutting the autobahn and then proceeded beyond with tanks and infantry to probe some small villages beyond.

4th Division: 17 Apr - Rothenberg, considered one of the most ancient of the German cities, was taken today by the 12th Regt. We got in with the first of them, very little action whatsoever. Some roadblocks held up the advance of the but infantry troops took the situation in hand.

18 Apr - Division told us this morning that Ansbach had been taken by the 8th Regt and that we could go right in. Taking their word for it we started down the main highway. Got within 15 miles of the town only to have a weapons carrier in front of us go up with a mine. That changed the route of march for the team. Took to the side roads, found the Regt and we were not allowed to proceed further toward town without an escort. This was provided us by a TD captain who was taking gas to his vehicles. By the time we reached the edge of Ansbach we had a light tank, an M8 and several jeeps completed the motorized column. This column left no one to guard the route and would therefore allow any number of German troops around to jump on any vehicle caught alone. Division had been slightly wrong about the town much to our chagrin. It wasn't taken nor would it be for some time. A proposed artillery barrage was called off as the 12th Armored was reported coming into the town from the North. In all there was very little stuff for the photogs. Finally made it back to the Regiment.

63d Division: Twisting around scattered debris, we get into the town of Waldenburg which fell to the 255th Regt after a stiff battle. We get quite a going over in covering the burning town with walls toppling all around us, engineers dynamiting their way through and tankers clearing their way by firing on teetering buildings. Action took place 16 April.

17 Apr - Move to Ohringen with Corps. Infantry and armor are working on town of Schwabisch Hall. Town may fall tomorrow

18 Apr - Enemy pulled out of Schwabisch Hall during the night.

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XXI Corps: 6 May - All teams out for reaction pictures of Plus-X coverage today at noon. Todd and team back to Berchtesgaden for more coverage. Pictures of this sort very difficult as business continues as usual as far as the GI is concerned and on the face of things there is no evidence of the end of the feud.

7 May - Official announcement of VE Day given at briefing this morning. The entire war in Europe will come to an end at 0001, 9 May which is in effect tomorrow midnight. In the meantime, enemy troops in the forward areas are still holding out, possibly because of poor communications within their units. Making plans for covering tomorrows celebrations, if any.

8 May - With announcement of cessation of hostilities and surrender of all enemy troops effective tonight, everyone feels pretty good. In the meantime small German units are still being negotiated for surrender in this sector. Fighting continues in Prague. Received a tip from the 36th Division that Goering had been captured and took off by myself as all photographers were out on stories. Followed the 36th Division Commanding General around and waiting for Goering to arrive. Deal never materialized.

9 May - Goering finally brought in. Lt Dieves and team returned to Headquarters about 1030 with a fascinating story of being with Field Marshal Kesselring's Headquarters for the last three days...living and eating with high-ranking German Officers. Tough luck with pictures though. Orders had been issued stating that Kesselring was not to be interfered with by photographers or press and so we were not able to get his picture.

*Robert L. Lewis*  
ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commanding

4 Incls:

- 1 - Foto Factos
- 2 - Team Placement Chart
- 3 - Ltr of Commendation-OCSigO
- 4 - Ltr of Commendation-Pathe News

C O N F I D E N T I A L



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HEADQUARTERS

163D SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY

AFPO 758

US ARMY

COMPANY HISTORY

(Period: 15 May to 15 June 1945)

1. With the cessation of hostilities in European Theater the primary mission of the 163d Signal Photographic Company has been completed. The combat assignment teams which had been working with Divisions under XVth and XXIst Corps have been recalled to Company Headquarters. Photo teams still operate with VI Corps but their duties now consist of photo coverage on awards and decorations, incidental stories which crop up from time to time, and special assignments. One team still functions at Seventh Army Headquarters doing about the same type of work being done by the teams at VI Corps. On request by SHAEF, teams have been dispatched from Company Headquarters to provide coverage on the following features: "Demobilization of the German Army" and "Remnants of Naziism". Both these stories tend to show the stamping out of the last remains of Naziism and the discharge of the German soldier from the Army and his eventual return to the soil.

2. T/O vacancies in the organization, caused by personnel lost through hospitalization, have been filled by replacements sent to the Theater from the Signal Corps Photographic Center, Long Island, New York. These men have had no combat experience in the field and, at the present time, they are being given training along those lines by our seasoned photographers.

3. During the period covered by this report the following changes in personnel have taken place:

a. 10 enlisted men promoted to higher grades.

b. 2 enlisted men attached to company from 1752 Engineer Dump Truck Company returned to their organization per VOCO, 1752 Engr Dump Trk Co.

c. 1 officer, 4 enlisted men in United States on Temporary Duty dropped from the rolls of this organization on authority from ETOUSA, Cable EX43319 dated 11 May 1945.

d. 1 officer, 2 enlisted men transferred from organization to hospital plants because of sickness incurred in Line of Duty.

e. 1 officer attached to organization from PR Section, 6th Army Group was relieved from attachment 163d Signal Photo Company per VO, Chief Field Press Censor, PR Section, 6th Army Group.

f. 2 enlisted men assigned to company from 204th M. P. Company and 6 enlisted men assigned to company headquarters Seventh Army.

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4. The following decorations were presented to members of the organization for this period:

BRONZE STARS

1st Lt William R. Dueders

Tec 4 Walter Rosenblum

Tec 4 Frank J. Langer

Tec 5 Charles G. Snow

Pfc Raymond M. Downing

PURPLE HEART

Tec 4 Walter Rosenblum

Tec 5 Joseph A. Bowen

5. Under the current I & E program established in the Theater, one officer from this company, Lt Taylor Byars, attended I & E School in Paris for a period of 7 days. He returned with all the latest information on education and recreational activities to be made available to all members of this command. One I & E meeting was held for all the enlisted personnel and officers during which time Lt Byars explained the functions of the I & E Program, the types of courses and schooling available for those individuals who wish to continue their education and the recreational program which is to be set up. Other activities of the I & E officer, with the help of two I & E non-commissioned officers, consists of posting maps on the walls of the day room along with extracts of news broadcasts and newspaper clippings for the purpose of keeping members of the organization up to date on the progress being made in active theaters.

6. During the past four weeks this organization has received three allotments to send personnel to the United Kingdom or Lyon, France for a rest period. A total of 18 enlisted men and 1 officer left the organization to take advantage of the opportunity to visit the respective rest areas.

7. On 11 June 1945 orders were published by Seventh Army placing 1 officer and 15 enlisted men on Temporary Duty in Paris for the purpose of attending a Pictorial Refresher Conference.

8. In compliance with current R & R directives all members of the organization completed their Adjusted Service Rating Cards and were examined in order to determine their physical profile rating. When the ASR scores were finally compiled it was found that the organization had an average score of 84.5 points.

9. The activities of the units in the field are covered in the following extracts taken from reports submitted by photo officers and photo teams:

7th Army: The highlights of coverage at Army included many shots taken on awards and decorations; pictures of Generals Patch and DeGaulle; Senator Wheeler and his party with General Patch; Memorial Day at Army; General Haislip taking over command of Seventh Army; General Haislip with a Chinese General and the National Commander of the American Legion at Army Headquarters.

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VI Corps:

44th Division: 21 May - Checked at Division CP and found out that the 3d Battalion of the 71st Regiment had found some horses and were doing lots of horseback riding. Went to Silz where the 3d Battalion was located and made some coverage on GIs riding.

23 May - Started out for the town of Reutte where the 114th CP is located and while on the way saw that the Jerries were on their way back home had stopped on the side of the road and in the nearby fields. Shot pictures of the activities.

27 May - Went to 71st Regiment and got permission to shoot pictures of a wind tunnel that one of the forward companies was guarding. The Germans were almost finished with the job when the tunnel was captured and was preparing to make tests of new designs of jet planes. They were having a "funny feeling" in the wall of it back every time though. Cat # 21.

30 May - Shot pictures of the Memorial Day Service that was held at Division. In the afternoon shot another parade at the 324th Regimental Haus (area). Had a substitution. Ball to pick up a bit of steel and go to the for Greenhaus. The team mixed up Schrein- hospital. Both photos got themselves

36th Division: 24 May - Very little material for coverage. Team did have in one unusual happening. He met a Russian War Correspondent of the Tass Agency. He was a major and had run into some car trouble. We came to his aid and could tow his sedan with our jeep. CAT # 22 (Hershey, Blau, Bently) tried to

CAT # 24 (Gill, Smith, Pierce) got very concentrate on record shots of various may on XV Corps: shot pix of tanks float spots; but found themselves in Hitler's ing across Coverage at this Corps has been mainly awards and decorations with a short story on Mozart. Corps Photo Liaison Officer and photo teams were recalled jobs. Back to Company Headquarters. CAT # 25 (Fahner, CAT # 27 (Potter, Belling

XXI Corps:

19 May - Sgt Todd and Cpl Greenhaus teamed to shoot numerous decorations very at XXI Corps Headquarters. All Bronze Stars for meritorious service.

24 May - It lueders back from visit with Major Smith with information on call situation. Did some hometowns for the PRO of Corps involving Red Cross girls and their Clubmobiles. Will finish off with more hometowns. In Corps while waiting for their outfit to be displayed. CAT # 28

29 May - A travel trip in the morning searching for material resulted in finding nothing. Greenhaus did the honors on the still camera with Todd the helping on a large group of awards this afternoon. It Dieves and Tressel- town visited the local DP center and made some "delousing" footage. CAT # 29

Lack of coverage does not require the presence of Corps Photo Liaison Officer or photo teams. All were recalled to Company Headquarters.

Incls:

- 1 - Foto Facto (trip)
- 2 - Team Placement Chart (trip)
- 3 - Company Orders (trip)

ROBERT L. LEWIS  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS  
163 SIGNAL PHOTO COMPANY  
APO 758, U S ARMY

20 MAY 45.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS-163rd  
PERIOD COVERED....1JAN-8MAY

TABLE #1. MOTION PICTURE

NAME	NO. OF RATINGS OF "EXCELLENT"	FOOTAGE EXPOSED
BENSEN	1	9,950
BORNET	13	19,950
BYARS	1	3,500
CHIAPPINO	5	11,800
DIEVES	2	15,100
FENBERG	7	9,300
FRYE	1	8,240
GALBRAITH	4	12,500
GERZEN	1	6,000
HARRIS, K	1	4,850
HELLER	1	6,800
HERSHEY	6	10,450
HORNE	1	7,935
KASTELZ	5	14,800
MEADE	0	3,125
MOROCHNIK	5	10,200
NEMETH	0	500
OLIN	4	8,420
PETERSON	4	8,000
RATICK	5	15,950
ROSENBLUM	5	19,600
VATA	1	8,300
POWERS	5	14,370
TOTALS	76	229,640 Ft

TABLE NO 2--COMPARISON WITH OTHER  
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANIES

CO.	AVGE NO SHOOTING	FOOTAGE for Period	No "EX Rati
163rd (7A)	17-20	238,470	76
165th	30plus	262,157	34
166th (3A)	30	257,625	58
167th	25	132,954	10
Four months Tot. 891,197 feet.			

TABLE #3 163rd MP COMPARISON  
WITH COVERAGE OF THE  
ITALIAN CAMPAIGN(163rd)

CAMPAIGN	TOT FOOTAGE	NO of MEN
ITALIAN (10 Mo) (until JULY44)	998,800	40
FRENCH-GERMAN (9 mo period)	493,200	20
Tot: 1,492,000 Feet. (equivalent to 280 miles of film)		

Avg footage per cameraman per mo  
2,870 feet for the four month per

TABLE #4. STILL CAMERAMEN

NAME	1 JAN TO V-E DAY		No OF WKS ACTIVE	No RADIO PIX SELECTED HERE
	NEGS EXPOSED	NEGS USED		
STUBENRACH	748	391	17	38
SMITH A.	1494	963	17	3
GRETZ	251	157	16	10
BROWN	1052	568	15	15
WEINTRAUB	1366	716	17	20
NEWELL	1163	774	17	37
LAPIDUS	481	332	17	5
HARRIS, J	597	397	17	22
BLAU	695	515	15	25
LEIBOWITZ	589	345	16	32
KOHL	458	211	14	9
MUSSER	308	237	14	11
LANE	671	473	14	10
MILLER	140	106	12	0
BELL	520	328	15	19
VALENTINE	613	434	15	26
GREENHAUS	678	382	17	26
RUTBERG	546	337	15	35
McCROBIE	628	382	16	26
BOWEN	430	288	12	60
KATZ	249	195	11	4
TODD	493	342	15	33
TOTALS-----	14,178	8,913	KK	442

TABLE #5--LABORATORY PROCESSED 14,717 4x5 negatives, 39,199 contact prints, and 13,911 enlargements during the 4 month period.

RLI.