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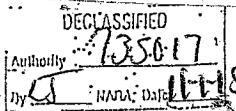
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HISTORY OF THE 21st SIGNAL SERVICE COMPANY
FORT PEPPERRELL, NEWFOUNDLAND.

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History

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HISTORY OF THE 21st SIGNAL SERVICE COMPANY Fort Pepperrell Newfoundland

The 21st Signal Service Company was activated at Camp Alexander, Newfoundland on the 15 July 1941 under the Command of Captain Airel B. Cooper. The original group of men consisted of twelve (12), which came to Newfoundland as a Signal Detachment on the S. S. Alexander on 25 January 1941. On 2 June 1941 the Signal Detachment which had been housed on board the S. S. Alexander moved into a tent city called Camp Alexander located just outside of the City of St. John's, Newfoundland. On 11 April 1941, Captain Cooper and Sgt. Snell made a reconnaissance tour of the Avalon Peninsular, in connection with installation of Signal Corps equipment and placement of Signal Corps personnel. This detachment was the basis of the 21st Signal Service Company. The detachment was disbanded on the 15 July 1941 and then called the 21st Signal Service Company.

On 22 July 1941, sixty-two (62) men were added to the newly formed 21st Signal Service Company with additional increases on the 8 December 1941, of forty-five (45) men.

On the 24 November 1941 the 21st Signal moved from its tent city at Camp Alexander to Fort Pepperrell, which was still partially under construction. The 21st moved into one of the newly constructed barracks, having for the first time warm and comfortable quarters since arriving at Camp Alexander.

On 16 October 1941 Captain Cooper, was promoted to Major and went on Detached Service to Stephenville in connection with Signal Corps activities, from which he returned on the 23 October 1941, Captain Paul Tema replaced ~~Colonel~~ Cooper as Commanding Officer on the 1 November 1941.

Major

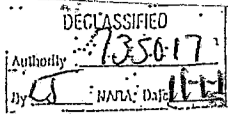
On the 15 March 1942, thirty-five (35) men were added to the 21st Signal roster and seventeen (17) more by the 26 March 1942 making a total strength of one hundred and seventy-six (176) men, additional E.M. were assigned to the Company during April, May and June, increasing the strength to about 250. M/Sgt. Eugene Snell was promoted to Warrant Officer JG on 15 May 1942.

Captain John E. Beckert replaced Captain Paul Tema as Commanding Officer of the 21st on 25 July 1942 which position he held until 13 November 1942

While at Fort Pepperrell the 21st Signal Service Company installed an Automatic Telephone Exchange, all cable and complete signal communications for the entire post and Area.

On the 22 August 1942, thirty-three (33) men were transferred as a 21st Signal Service Detachment to Fort McAndrew at Argentia to handle all Signal Corps activities at the Army Base.

On 24 August 1942, twenty-four (24) men were transferred to Harmon Field as a 21st Signal Detachment to take care of the Signal Corps activities, leaving a strength one hundred ninety-two (192) enlisted men in the 21st Signal Service Company at Fort Pepperrell.



A Post Signal Detachment was initiated on 17 September 1942 consisting of sixteen (16) men, whose main duty was to service and keep in operation the Automatic Telephone system, on the Post at Fort Pepperrell.

On 2 November 1942, Lt. Slegel and five enlisted men went on Detached Service to Allens Island, Newfoundland in connection with the defensive Radar networks.

Six enlisted men of the 21st Signal Service Company were granted their first furlough from this command on the 4 November 1942.

On 14 November 1942 1st Lt. Horning assumed command of the 21st Signal Service Company, vice captain John Beckert relieved.

Lt. Hanson was assigned to the Company on the 19 November 1942 and was appointed supply and mess officer.

M/Sgt Knoeller was appointed 2nd Lt. of 13 November 1942 and T/Sgt Schafer was appointed Warrant Officer JG on 31 December 1942 and assigned to the company on the 1 January 1943.

On 18 January 1943 six (6) enlisted men were transferred in grade to Fort McAndrew, and Argentia as a wire crew, for the purpose of maintaining Signal Communications at that post.

On 21 January 1943 the 21st Signal Service Company was relieved from assigned to Headquarters, Newfoundland Base Command and assigned to Fort Pepperrell.

1st Lt. Horning was relieved from command of the 21st Signal Service Company and Lt. Holliman assumed command on 4 February 1943.

On 7 February 1943 two 1st Lt's and twelve (12) enlisted men left the Company as cadremen for Fort Monmouth, N.J.. They later formed a basis for a new Signal Company.

The sixteen (16) men which were assigned to the Signal Detachment at Fort Pepperrell, were reassigned to the 21st Signal Company on the 11 February 1943.

On the 14 February 1943 Lt. Snell was missing in an Army Aircraft while on a secret mission.

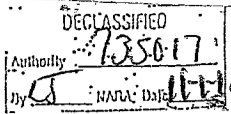
Lt. Miller was assigned on the 23 February 1943 and later appointed Base Photographic Officer.

On the 23 February 1943 1st Lt Holliman was appointed Captain.

M/Sgt Verry made Warrant Officer JG on the 1 April 1943 and 2nd Lt. Hughes was made 1st Lt on 21 April 1943.

Warrant Officer Schafer was transferred to Fort Dix N.J. on 22 April 1943.

In the summer of 1943 the St. Brides open wire line, linking Fort



McAndrew and the Radar Station at St. Brides, a distance of twenty-nine (29) miles was started.

In the fall of 1943 the Harmon Field, Table Mountain to Port aux Basques open wire line was initiated and completed in March 1944. A total distance of one hundred and ten (110) miles, a project which was later written up in the YANK, the Army Weekly and also given world wide publicity in telephone magazines. (Copy of YANK is enclosed)

On 7 September 1943 twenty-one (21) enlisted men were assigned to the 21st Signal from the Detachment at Harmon Field.

Captain Holliman was appointed Major on the 22 September 1943.

On the 10 October 1943 T/5 Whitmore was accidentally hit by a machine gun bullet, while crawling through the infiltration course and later sent to Lake Placid, N.Y. for recovery.

On 13 October 1943 1st Lt. Snell, who was lost on a Army Aircraft, presumed as dead. Major Holliman was appointed Assistant Base Signal Officer on the 6 October 1943.

On the 1 November 1943 Captain Beckert and twenty (20) enlisted men (who were on detached service at Harmon Field) were transferred in grade to Station No. 6, NAW, ATC, APO 864.

W.O. JG John Verry was appointed CWO on 2 December 1943.

On 28 December 1943 1st Lt. Knoeller and thirty-one (31) enlisted men were transferred to Eastern Defense Command, Governors Island, N. Y.

T/5 Jaspers froze to death on 13 February 1944 while on detached service at Harmon Field and working the Port aux Basques, Table Mountain, Harmon Field line. (Story with pictures of rough elements encountered were described in 2 June 1944 issue of YANK)

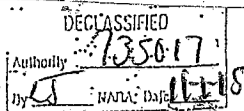
On 13 March 1944 Lt R. O. Smith and thirty-five (35) enlisted men, formerly of the Radio Intelligence Platoon were transferred from assigned, and assigned to the E.T.O. England.

On 19 March 1944 the crew of linemen had completed the open wire line from Harmon Field, Table Mountain to Port aux Basques, and returned to Fort Pepperrell.

On 14 April 1944 four (4) enlisted men were transferred to the 828 Signal Pigeon Replacement Company, Fort Monmouth, N.J. and at the same time the pigeons were returned to the U. S..

On 18 April 1944 Lt Gauthier and Lt. Herdin, formerly of the 821 Signal Wire Maintenance Company were transferred to the 21st Signal Service Company, at Fort Pepperrell.

On the 9 May 1944 seventy-nine (79) enlisted men of the 821 Signal Wire Maintenance Company who were stationed along the Railroad right-of-



way at different repeater stations were transferred into the 21st Signal Service Company.

On 3 June 1944 Major Moses and Captain Hopkins were assigned to the 21st Signal Service Company and Major Moses assumed command of the 21st Signal Company relieving Major Holliman as commanding officer. Captain Hopkins was appointed Area Signal Officer, vice Captain Paul Tema. Also four (4) enlisted men were assigned to this company to relieve four (4) enlisted men who were returning on rotation to the United States.

On 17 October the 21st Signal Service Company was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque for outstanding service from 1 January 1944 to 17 October 1944, copy of which is attached. A presentation party and dinner was given in the mess hall of the 21st Signal Service Company at Fort Pepperrell, and Col. McDowall, Area Commander and Col. Glen Allen, Chief of Staff presented the plaque to the company commander, Major Moses.

At this time all repeater stations along the cable line were hooked up into a net work, over which they heard the presentation speeches and in turn made their own comments. This hookup involved a distance of over five hundred (500) miles and for the first time brought the members of the 21st Signal Service Company together, though not in body the spirit of the organization was united.

On the 31 of October 1944 nineteen (19) men were assigned to the Company relieving eighteen (18) men who were sent back to the U. S. on rotation.

On 14 October 1944 the first man left on Temporary Duty and recreation to the U. S. a total of five percent of the company was permitted to be out at one time. This was later increased to ten percent.

On 10 February 1945 the 21st Signal Service Company was disbanded. Officers and W.O.'s were assigned to St. John's Area, and enlisted men were transferred to Headquarters Company, St. John's Area, Fort Pepperrell, Newfoundland with Captain John Wetle as Company Commander.

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BRIEF HISTORY OF 821ST. SIGNAL WIRE MAINTENANCE COMPANY

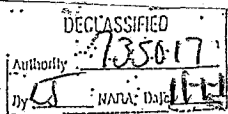
1. Following is a brief outline of the history of the 821st Signal Wire Maintenance Company. Dates are approximate since the company took all the records along with them upon their return to the United States.

2. The 821st Signal Wire Maintenance Company was activated in August 1942 at Fort George G. Meade. On 7 September 1942 the company left Fort George G. Meade and proceeded to Boston Port of Embarkation, arriving there 8 September 1942. On 15 September 1942 the company of four officers and one hundred and thirteen enlisted men embarked from Boston on the "North King", arriving in Newfoundland 29 September 1942, under the command of Captain Paul E. Fiefert.

3. The mission of the company was to assist in the installation of the Newfoundland Long Lines Cable Project and for the maintenance of the project after installation.

4. Enlisted personnel were soon sent to the various repeater stations along the cable route. By the early part of 1943 during March and April telephone and telegraph communications were set up between Fort Pepperrell, Fort McAndrew, Gander and Harmon Field.

5. Part of the Cable Maintenance Crew constructed an open wire line from Shoal Harbour to Elliston, a distance of approximately 88.5 miles, during the summer and communication was established over this line in the latter part of August. On 9 May 1944 two officers and seventy nine enlisted men were transferred to the 21st Signal Service Company. The duty of these men was to continue to maintain the service on the cable project.



HISTORY OF THE RADIO INTELLIGENCE SECTION OF THE 21 SIG SV CO.

1. The second platoon of the 122nd Radio Intelligence Company at Fort Sam Houston, under secret orders from Washington on 24 July 1941 embarked from Fort Sam Houston on 31 July 1941 by special train and proceeded to the New York Port of Embarkation in Brooklyn, New York.

2. Here the platoon, consisting of approximately forty men and one officer, with full equipment for operation of the platoon waited for three weeks for transportation to as yet an unknown destination. Shipping orders called for transportation on the USAT Siboney, but due to some unknown hold-up of this army transport the platoon was shipped out from OD&R, on board the USAT Manargo on 22 August 1941 and five days later arrived in St. John's, Newfoundland. This was on 27 August 1941.

3. The platoon was immediately taken off the Manargo and quartered at Camp Alexander, Newfoundland and rationed with the 21st Signal Service Company. The platoon stayed at Camp Alexander about two weeks while getting equipment unloaded from the ship and readying it and looking for an isolated spot in which to set up their headquarters.

4. Our new home, a cow barn and stable on Carter's Farm, Nagel's Hill Road, a few miles outside St. John's was ready in a couple of weeks with all work of making it habitable being done by members of the platoon. From the second week in September 1941 until 20 December 1941 the platoon lived in this location. On 20 December 1941 the platoon moved to a new home at Kearney's Place, on the lake shore of Long Pond, just outside the city of St. John's. This place had been occupied by the Station Hospital prior to being taken over by the Radio Intelligence Section.

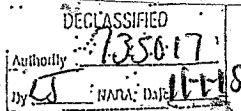
5. At about this same time the 2nd platoon was transferred from 122nd Signal Radio Intelligence Company to the 21st Signal Service Company as the Radio Intelligence Section. The Radio Intelligence Section lived at this location from 20 December 1941 to 31 July 1942. At this time we moved to Snelgrove, Portugal Cove Road, where new barracks, combined mess hall and day room and operations building had been built especially for the Radio Intelligence Section. The Radio Intelligence Section lived here and carried on their work until February 1944 when 35 men and one officer were ordered to report for duty at an undisclosed destination.

6. When these men left the Radio Intelligence Section was left only a handful of men, seven in number, to carry on with the work done by the Radio Intelligence Section. This small number of men stayed at Snelgrove until March 1945 at which time work was ordered stopped at Snelgrove and the men moved into Base Signal Office at Fort Pepperrell and continued their work.

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HISTORY OF THE RADIO INTELLIGENCE SECTION OF THE 21 SIG SV CO. (Continued)

7. Shortly after the Radio Intelligence Platoon was stationed in Newfoundland, the Office of the Chief Signal Officer issued a directive, for the platoon to concentrate on intercept of German Army and Airforce radio stations, which they continued to do until leaving this command. During this time, a citation was given to the platoon by the Secretary of War.



Prepared by:
 Lt Col Cooper
 1st Lt Knoeller
 CWO Verrey
 S/Sgt Roach

"THE ORIGINAL DOZEN"

A History of the Signal Corps in Newfoundland.

The 99-year lease by the USA of bases in British possessions in the Western Hemisphere is now well known history. Also the arrival of U. S. troops in Newfoundland as the first to occupy a leased base has been given due record in history's files. Not so well known is the part the Signal Corps played in building this first base; and almost totally forgotten are the original twelve who made up the first Signal Corps unit in Newfoundland. The purpose of this paper is to resurrect and trace in proper chronological order the detailed history of this unit.

I GENERAL:

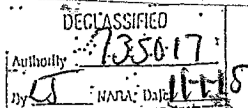
October 1940 - Captain Airel B. ("Chick") Cooper, Signal Corps, received instructions from the War Department to select ten men to form a cadre for a Signal Service Company in Newfoundland. Captain Cooper was stationed at Fort Monmouth, N. J. at that time and the ten men were all picked from that post. The ten men were as follows:

M/Sgt Eugene B. Snell, 1st Opns Co.
 S/Sgt Mathew Hawn, 1st Sig Repair Co.
 Sgt Albert J. Rockwell, 15th Sig Serv Bn.
 Sgt John P. Verrey, 51st Sig Bn.
 Sgt Robert W. Walker, 1st Sig Cons Co.
 Cpl Jules T. Schafer, 15 Sig Serv Bn.
 Pfc Sp 5 Cl. Roy J. Crawford, 1st Sig Cons Co.
 Pfc Sp 5 Cl. John A. Barolet, 1st Rad Set Co.
 Pfc Sp 5 Cl. Robert E. Priggen, 1st Rad Set Co.
 Pfc Sp 4 Cl. John J. Roach, Jr., 15th Sig Serv Bn.

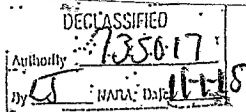
Orders were issued on Cooper and the ten men to proceed to the New York Port of Embarkation, Army Base, 58th Street and 1st Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., reporting upon arrival to the Commanding General thereof for water transportation on the steamship "Edmund B. Alexander," departing from New York, N. Y. on or about 15 January 1941, for St. John's, Newfoundland.

Shortly before leaving Fort Monmouth Sgt. Rockwell's wife became critically ill and he requested relief from this detail. His request was granted and the following man was substituted:

S/Sgt Charles R. Knoeller, 15th Sig Serv Bn.



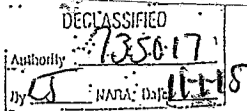
- 13 Jan 1941 - Detail left Fort Monmouth via truck and arrived NYPOE same date. Boarded and assigned quarters on "Edmund B. Alexander" late that afternoon. Detachment Signal Corps, Newfoundland Base Command, activated with above men with Captain Cooper as Commanding Officer. Captain Cooper was assigned as Base Signal Officer.
- 15 Jan 1941 - Unit was increased to twelve by addition of following man who had been ordered from Washington, D. C.
- Pvt Sp 4 Cl. Howard Jones, Jr., WD Photo Labs.
- "Alexander" left NYPOE and moved to Bayonne, N. J. for further loading.
- 19 Jan 1941 - "Alexander" left Bayonne 1230 pm. Anchored New York Harbor 2:45 pm.
- 20 Jan 1941 - "Alexander" sailed for St. John's, Newfoundland, 6:10 pm.
- 21-24 Jan 41 - Sailing.
- 25 Jan 1941 - "Alexander" anchored Conception Bay, Newfoundland, 2:15 pm. Water distance travelled 1122 miles.
- 26-28 Jan 41 - Remained anchored.
- 29 Jan 1941 - Entered St. John's Harbor 8:30 am. Water distance travelled 40 miles.
- 5 Feb 1941 - Crawford and Walker appointed Staff Sergeants as of 10 Jan 1941.
- 5 Mar 1941 - Hawn appointed Tech Sgt. as of 9 Jan 1941.
- 13 Mar 1941 - Captain Cooper appointed Engineer Property Officer.
- 4-11 41 - Captain Cooper and Sgt. Snell made reconnaissance tour of Avalon Peninsula.
- 12 Apr 1941 - Captain Cooper assigned to additional duty as Judge Advocate General, Newfoundland Base Command.
- 17 May 1941 - Verrey appointed Staff Sergeant as of 2 May 1941.
- 2 Jun 1941 - Disembarked from "Alexander" and moved to Camp Alexander, a tent city on outskirts of St. John's.
- 6 Jun 1941 - Roach appointed Sergeant and Priggen rerated Specialist 4 Class.
- 29 Jun 1941 - Hawn and Barolet went to Stephenville to survey site for radio station.



- 10 Jul 1941 - Hawn and Barolet returned from Stephenville.
- 14 Jul 1941 - Cooper left for Argentina to make survey.
- 15 Jul 1941 - Detachment Signal Corps, Newfoundland Base Command, disbanded and activated as 21st Signal Service Company. Captain Cooper assumed command; also returned from Argentina.
- 29 Jul 1941 - Barolet took crew to Stephenville to set up and operate radio station.
- 31 Jul 1941 - Cooper went to Gander for survey.
- 1 Aug 1941 - Verray appointed 1st Sergeant, Jones and Barolet appointed Corporals.
- 6 Aug 1941 - Cooper returned from Gander.
- 16 Aug 1941 - Hawn went to Gander for survey of radio station site.
- 17 Aug 1941 - Jones went to Gander to get some pictures.
- 18 Aug 1941 - Cooper went to Gander again.
- 21 Aug 1941 - Cooper came back.
- 22 Aug 1941 - Jones came back.
- 1 Sep 1941 - Hawn came back. Barolet and Schafer made Sergeants.
- 4 Sep 1941 - Hawn went to Gander again.
- 18 Sep 1941 - Hawn returned.
- 23 Sep 1941 - Hawn was discharged and reenlisted.
- 1 Oct 1941 - Jones made Sergeant.
- 16 Oct 1941 - Captain Cooper became Major Cooper.
- 20 Oct 1941 - Major Cooper went to Stephenville.
- 23 Oct 1941 - Cooper came back.
- 1 Nov 1941 - Major Cooper relieved from 21st Signal Service Company.
- 24 Nov 1941 - 21st moved to new barracks at Fort Pepperrell.
- 22 Dec 1941 - Snell went to Argentina.
- 24 Dec 1941 - Snell returned.

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- 8 Jan 1942 - Walker went to OCS. First of original twelve to go.
- 10 Jan 1942 - Crawford went to Argentina.
- 5 Feb 1942 - Hawn went to Argentina.
- 11 Feb 1942 - Hawn returned.
- 27 Mar 1942 - Snell went on DS.
- 4 Apr 1942 - Roach made S/Sgt. Priggen made Tech 4.
- 11 Apr 1942 - Snell returned.
- 20 Apr 1942 - Jones went on DS.
- 15 May 1942 - Snell appointed Warrant Officer.
- 21 May 1942 - Hawn, Knoeller and Verrey made M/Sgt.
- 20 Jun 1942 - Crawford transferred to Air Corps, second one to go.
- 9 Aug 1942 - Jones went to OCS leaving nine.
- 28 Aug 1942 - Snell was made 2d Lt.
- 15 Sep 1942 - Hawn went to OCS leaving eight.
- 7 Oct 1942 - Barolet transferred to Air Corps leaving seven.
- 13 Nov 1942 - Knoeller made 2d Lt.
- 17 Nov 1942 - Schafer made T/Sgt.
- 31 Dec 1942 - Schafer made Warrant Officer (JG).
- 14 Feb 1943 - Snell missing in loss of aircraft.
- 1 Apr 1943 - Verrey made Warrant Officer (JG).
- 3 Apr 1943 - Roach made T/Sgt.
- 22 Apr 1943 - Schafer was transferred to Fort Dix, N. J., leaving six.
- 17 Jun 1943 - Knoeller made 1st Lt.
- 13 Oct 1943 - Snell presumed dead. Leaving five.
- 2 Dec 1943 - Verrey made Chief Warrant Officer.



II TELEPHONES

A Switchboards

On 15 January 1941 when the original dozen reported aboard the "Edmund B. Alexander" it was found that this large ship had no telephone system aboard. Since this ship was to be used for Newfoundland Base Command barracks and headquarters for six months it was evident that a telephone system was absolutely necessary.

A trip into the Signal Section of the Brooklyn Depot produced a field switchboard BD-14 and sixty telephones EE-3 (modified) and ten miles of wire W-69. This 40 line board proved a life saver before we moved off the ship. There were over 80 telephones connected to this switchboard.

In June 1941 we moved to Camp Alexander on outskirts of St. John's and set up the BD-14 switchboard in a tent.

When a tar paper building for Camp Headquarters was built, a telephone switchboard room was provided. Two switchboards BD-14 were then installed in the new telephone exchange.

In July 1941 we sent Sgt. Carst with a BD-72 switchboard and twenty EE-3 telephones to Harmon Field to set up a switchboard.

In December 1941 a telephone exchange was set up in an old tar paper tool house at Fort Pepperrell. In this exchange two BD-14 switchboards and one BD-72 were used.

In January 1942 Sgt. Crawford went to Fort McAndrew with a switchboard BD-14 and fifty telephones EE-3 to set up a telephone system with central office in the Signal Corps warehouse.

In April 1942 the permanent telephone exchange was completed at Fort Pepperrell and a temporary two position Western Electric Common Battery Telephone Exchange was installed with two hundred common battery telephones.

In July 1942 a temporary two position Western Electric switchboard was installed at Fort McAndrew to replace the BD-14 switchboard.

In October 1942 the permanent Kellogg two position switchboard was installed at Harmon Field in the building originally built for Post Headquarters but was too small.

In December 1942 the permanent Automatic Electric Switchboard was installed at Fort Pepperrell. This installation is a 1000 line board equipped for 600 lines with a two position attendance cabinet.

In April 1942 the permanent Automatic Electric Switchboard was installed in the permanent telephone building at Fort McAndrew. This installation is identical to the Fort Pepperrell installation.

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F Outside telephone plant.

The outside telephone plant at Camp Alexander consisted of overhead W-110 field wire. At places this wire was bound into cables of forty pairs of field wire.

The original plant at Fort Pepperrell, Fort McAndrew, and Harmon Field and Gander was all field wire placed overhead.

The permanent plant at Harmon Field, Fort McAndrew and Fort Pepperrell is lead covered cable in underground conduit.

The permanent plant at Gander is lead covered cable on poles. This installation with a 160 line manual switchboard of common battery operation is an RCAF installation for use of U. S. Army at Gander.

G Long Lines

START

As early as March 1941 we first started drawing plans for a long lines telephone system for Newfoundland.

In August 1941 the Permanent Joint Board on Defense approved in general our plan for a Newfoundland Long Lines Cable.

In September 1941 Colonel Back from W.D. General Staff arrived in Newfoundland to check our plans for long lines.

Colonel Back returned to Washington and presented our plant to War Department for approval.

In January 1942 Colonel Baker, OCSigO arrived in Newfoundland to look over the ground to see if open wire wouldn't serve our purposes. He returned to Washington convinced that cable installation was the only answer to the snow or wind of Newfoundland. He sold them on the cable installation.

In March 1942 Mr. Tihman of AT&T Co. and Mr. Boykin of OCSigO arrived just ahead of Mr. McNaughton and Mr. Wilson of Western Union Co., Mr. Walton and Mr. Morris of Bell Telephone of Canada, Mr. Parker of Partex Construction Company and Mr. Briggs of Brigg's Construction Company, both of Canada. At this time it was planned that Western Union build the section from Fort Pepperrell to Fort McAndrew on their right-of-way. The Bell Telephone Company of Canada was to build the section from Placentia Junction to Harmon Field and the open wire section from Sheal Harbor to Bonavista along the railroad right-of-way. The U. S. Army was to build and furnish 25 work camps; supply all the tools, equipment and supplies for the construction; and purchase, inspect, and deliver all the poles along the route.

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In April 1942 the survey and purchase of poles started.

By end of December 1942 the cables were all in place. By February we were using the cables to Harmon Field, and by April were using two cables to Gander. By 1 June 1943 we used all the cables as far as Harmon Field.

In September 1942 we built the extension of open wire from Black Point to St. Brides.

In May 1943 we completed 17 miles of submarine cable in Placentia Bay and connected through our lines at Fort Meade to St. Brides.

In September we got authority to extend a phantom group of open wire from Harmon Field to Port aux Basques.

In October 1943 we cut the Bonavista Branch line into operation.

In ~~December 1943~~ we completed the open wire into Port aux Basques.

MARCH 1944

SW

III SIGNAL CENTER

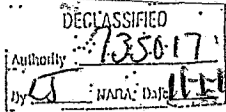
When the "Alexander" departed from New York, the Cryptographic Section was composed of two men, S/Sgt Knoeller and Cpl. Schafer, both of whom had received their training in 1940 at Washington, D.C. Equipment was limited to one hand operated cipher device for "Secret" and "Confidential" messages and a code book for "Restricted" communication.

After moving to Camp Alexander, and upon arrival of additional officers and men, four more men were assigned to the section and 1st Lieut. Paul Tema was assigned as Cryptographic Security Officer for Base Command.

Soon after this Lieut. Tema was replaced by 2d Lt. John Storm. Cpl. Schafer was appointed Sergeant. Also at this time the section received its first electric converter. Shortly thereafter the section moved into the new Base Headquarters building at Fort Pepperrell. Four more men were assigned to the section at this time.

In the spring the second converter was received and put into operation. At this time Knoeller was appointed M/Sgt. A commercial teletype machine was installed at this time for personal telegrams. This was in addition to the Anglo-American circuit which had been used since the days at Camp Alexander. One government teletypewriter was in use between the Signal Center and the radio station at White Hills.

In November Knoeller was commissioned as 2d Lt. and became Ass't Crypto Security Officer and upon the transfer of Lt. Storm became Security Officer in his place. Schafer was appointed Tech. Sgt. at this time. About a month later Schafer was appointed Warrant Officer (JG).



Upon completion of the long lines project teletypewriter circuits were established between the Signal Center and the bases at Argentia, Gander, and Stephenville. A circuit to New York was established and in June 1943 privacy equipment was installed on all these circuits. This eliminated the biggest share of the converter cryptographing work. A circuit was also established linking the commanders of the other services in Newfoundland. A circuit was opened to the Radio Intelligence Platoon at Snelgrove and to the Base Signal Officer. A tactical circuit connecting Base Command and Area Command at Headquarters, Fort Pepperrell, was set up.

In April 1943 Schafer was transferred to Fort Dix, W.J. On 17 June 1943 Lieut. Knceller was promoted to 1st Lieut. At that time 2nd Lieut. Richard Andersen of the 685th AW Co. Sp. was placed on duty at Base Headquarters as assistant to Lieut. Knceller.

At the present time the Signal Center is composed of 1 Crypto Security Officer, 1 Ass't Crypto Security Officer, 8 code clerks of whom four are first-three-graders, 9 teletypewriter operators, 2 teletypewriter repairmen, and 2 typists.

LV RADIO

WVDN - Land radio installation began early in May 1941, equipment comprising of 1 BC-334 transmitter and two Super-Pro receivers, three DELTA doublet antennas and one rhombic antenna installed and operated on 4560, 8022 and 13605 kilocycles. Working WVP 2nd C.A. WVDE Greenland, tactical station at Gander airport and occasional Coast Guard cutters on ice patrol. In Aug 1941 two-way radiotelephone system - Hallicrafter HI4 transmitter and Hallicrafter SX24 receivers - were set up between WVDN and WVDE at Engineer installation, Stephenville. Circuit connected through local switchboards enabling calls to be made between any two offices at St. John's and Stephenville. This circuit became heavily loaded and was in operation 8 am - 8 pm. Radiograms comprising requisitions, payrolls, etc. (Engineer) were also handled over this circuit for Engineer administrative purposes. Engineer traffic to NY, having been removed from local cable companies, became almost unbearable requiring 24 hour operation with NY. Second BD 339 installed in December 1941 and WVP schedule raised from 8 hours to 24 hours per day.

February 1942 - Amount of traffic being handled prevents satisfactory reception at transmitter building. Separate operating room and receiver station erected on White Hills, 1/4 mile from transmitters. Messages forwarded to Engineers and Base via teletype.

210D transmitter installed for island circuit.

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 Authority: 1350-17
 by: [signature] NARA Date: 11-15

Circuits at this time include:

WVP	NY - 2nd SC circuit.	4560 - 8022 - 13605	BC-339
WVDB	Greenland	4560 - 8615 - 13445	BC-339B
WVDE	Stephenville)		
WVHE	Argentia)	Telegraph administrative 4375 270D	
WVHG	Gander)		
WVDE	Stephenville Radio Telephone		HT4

U.S. Army transports enroute to and from Newfoundland. Various Coast Guard Cutters, etc., at sea.

Late summer 1942 operating room removed from receiver station and set up in Base Headquarters, operating transmitter and receivers remotely.

Radiotelephone to Stephenville gradually discontinued as construction dropped off and finally stopped.

Summer 1942. Construction started on permanent radio transmitter building.

Receiver station closed and receiving facilities set up in operating room at Base Headquarters.

February 1943. Transmitters moved into permanent transmitter station.

May 1943. 40 position radio code school installed in basement SC barracks and in daily operation.

Summer 1943. Old radiotelephone transmitter installed as control transmitter for Military Police Radiotelephone system - operating with their town and post patrol cars.

October 1943. Broadcasting facilities set up for Special Service radio program - transmitter at White Hills, studio in basement SC barracks, call VOUS. Broadcast Special Services program, local dances, boxing, USO, orientation, etc.

Of the original 4 radiomen, two are left -

- T/Sgt Roach - Supervising Radio transmitters, code school, and VOUS Studio installation.
- Sgt. Priggen - Operating code school.

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Authority: 1350-17
By: [Signature] NADA: DAF: [Signature]

HEADQUARTERS
NEWFOUNDLAND BASE COMMAND
Office of the Commanding General

bf.

201.22
1-NBC

St. John's, Newfoundland

17 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Award of Meritorious Service Unit Plaque.

TO: 21st Signal Service Company,
APO 862.

1. Under the provisions of WD Circular 345, dated 23 August 1944, the 21st Signal Service Company is hereby awarded the Meritorious Service Plaque for outstanding performance from 1 January 1944 to 17 October 1944, in the following respects:

a. Superior performance of duty in exceptionally difficult tasks requiring a high degree of technical and administrative skill in maintaining the 21st Signal Service Company in a high state of efficiency.

b. Achievement of a high standard of discipline as demonstrated by superior military courtesy; appearance of personnel, installations, and equipment; enthusiastic execution of orders; absence of venereal disease, AWOL's, convictions by courts martial, or punishments under A.W. 104.

2. It is desired that all enlisted personnel of 21st Signal Service Company wear the Meritorious Service Unit Insignia, and that they continue to set an example to all units of this command in their superior manner of performance and devotion to duty.

3. With this award I offer my personal congratulations to each member of the Company.

John B. Brooks /s/
JOHN B. BROOKS,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

60545
18 Oct Ent'd

201.22

1st Ind.

JMcD/me

AREA HEADQUARTERS, U. S. Army, APO 862, 18 October 1944.

TO: 21st Signal Service Company, APO 862.

It is with a great deal of pleasure and feeling that I forward to you this basic letter.

John McDowall /s/
JOHN McDOWALL
Lieut. Col., F. A.,
Commanding.

A TRUE COPY:

Richard A. Hopkins
RICHARD A. HOPKINS
Capt., Signal Corps