

History of the 3110th Signal Service Battalion

May 1945 to March 1947

Berlin, Germany

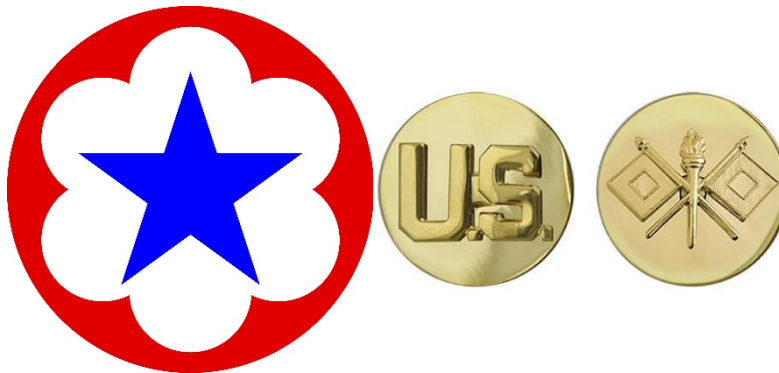
From Official Reports

Includes Photos from Soldiers

Compiled by the Unofficial Archive of the U.S. Army Signal Corps in WWII

February 24, 2021

Revised October 28, 2021



8 May 1945 to 30 June 1946

Historical Operational Summary (First Phase)
of the 3110th Signal Service Battalion
8 May 1945 to 30 Sep 1945

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8 May 45 - 30 Jun 46

Up to the time of V-E Day, the eighth of May, 1945, the component companies of the 3110th Signal Service Battalion were rather widely scattered. Battalion Headquarters, under the command of Major G. Angeny, was stationed in Paris, France. Company A, Captain Seaborn J. Phillips commanding, was assigned to Hq and Hq Det, 3348th Signal Service Group of the Advance Section Communication Zone at Namur, Belgium. Their duties consisted of servicing troops and switch-board operations. Company B, under the command of Captain Arthur Single was stationed in Paris, France, attached to Signal Center Communication Zone, doing mainly switch-board duty. Company C, under the command of Captain Walter K. Shofler, was stationed at Rheims, France, doing house keeping duty.

In the morning of 18 May 1945, travelling by motor convoy, Battalion Headquarters left Paris, France, and arrived at Maison-Laffitte, France, for a permanent change of station. Two days later, Company A left Namur, Belgium, and, travelling by motor convoy, joined Battalion Headquarters at Maison-Laffitte.

On 25 May 1945 Company A was relieved from attachment to Ad. Sec., ComZ, and from assignment to Headquarters Detachment, 3348th Signal Service Group, and assigned to Berlin District (US Element) by Troop Assignment 97, Headquarters ETOUSA, dated 25 May 1945. The 3866th Signal Service Company, stationed at Maison-Laffitte, France, was attached to the 3110th Signal Service Battalion per Paragraph 1, Special Order 42, 3110th Signal Service Battalion, dated 26 May 1945.

The next day Company C was relieved from assignment to Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment, 3348th Signal Service Group, and assigned to Berlin District (US Element) per Troop Assignment 97, Headquarters ETOUSA, dated 25 May 1945. However, it did not move to Berlin until a later date.

At 1200 hours, 30 May 1945, the 3866th Signal Service Company, attached to the 3110th Signal Service Battalion, departed by air from Maison-Laffitte, France, arriving in Hoechst, Germany, at 1400 hours for a temporary change of station. A few days later, on the morning of 3 June 1945, Battalion Headquarters and Company A left Maison-Laffitte, France, travelling by motor convoy and arriving at airstrip A-48 a few hours later, from which they departed for Bielefeld, Germany, for a permanent change of station.

On 10 June 1945 the 3866th Signal Service Company, as attached to the 3110th Signal Service Battalion, was assigned to Berlin District (US Element) per Paragraph 8, Troop Assignment 98, AG 370.5 OpGC, Headquarters ETOUSA, dated 26 May 1945.

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Moving again on 16 June 1945, Battalion Headquarters and Company A departed from Bielefeld, Germany, by motor convoy and arrived at Halle, Germany, for a permanent change of station. About two weeks later, on 29 June 1945, Battalion Headquarters and Company A moved to Potsdam, Germany.

During the time, on 23 June 1945, Company C departed from Rheims, France, to Paris for a permanent change of station.

In the meantime the 3866th Signal Service Company, attached to the 3110th Signal Service Battalion, was also undergoing some changes. On the 20th of June 1945 the HH Team reorganized under T/O & 11-500, 22 Sep 44 per Organization Order 351 AG 322 OpGC Headquarters ETOUSA, dated 26 May 1945. Two days later the unit departed from its former station by motor convoy for Halle, Germany, by Troop Movement Order 23, US Headquarters, Berlin District, APO 755, dated 24 June 1945. The unit left Halle on the morning of 29 June 1945 and arrived at Potsdam at 2030 hours the same day.

Further reorganization took place in the battalion on the 27th of June 1945, when Battalion Headquarters reorganized under T/O & E 11-500, dated 22 Sep 44, effective 7 June 1945, per Organization Order 372 AG 322 GPGC Headquarters ETOUSA, dated 7 June 1945. The next day Company A underwent the same process of reorganization, using the same T/O & E and following the same authorization.

Battalion Headquarters and Company A made their final move on the fifth of July 1945, at which time they departed from Halle, Germany, by motor convoy. They arrived in Berlin at 2100 hours the same day for a permanent change of station.

A week later the 3866th Signal Service Company, then attached to the 3110th Signal Service Battalion, was relieved from this attachment by Paragraph 6, Special Order 15, dated 11 July 1945.

On 25 July 1945 the 3110th Signal Service Battalion was augmented by the addition of one (1) 40 KW Multichannel radio TT Team (Column EL T/O & E 11-500, 22 Sep 44) per Organization Order 13, Hq Com Z USFET, 5 July 1945, and GO 2, US Hq, Berlin District, 21 July 1945.

On the first of August 1945 a redesignation of companies took place in the battalion. Battalion Headquarters and Company A became Headquarters and Headquarters Company; Company B became Company A, and Company C Company B, per GO 3, Headquarters, 3110th Signal Service Battalion, US Hq, Berlin District, 1 August 1945.

Company A, now known as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, was kept very busy with its many duties in Berlin. It was assigned to various jobs at the Signal Center OMGUS. It had switchboard teams,

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cable splices and teletypists, one job was the rehabilitation of the cable line at OMGUS Signal Center.

At the close of the phase, extending from the day after V-E day up to 30 September 1945, the units of the 3110th Signal Service Battalion are spread far apart. Hqs and Hq Company at Camp Midway on Sundgauerstrasse, Berlin. Companies A and B still in Paris, maintaining communications for the Seine Base Section. Their duties in Paris were mainly to repair and maintain the stattered communications system left by the retreating Germans.

1 January 1946 to 31 March 1946

File
201.3

HEADQUARTERS
3110TH SIGNAL SERVICE BATTALION
APO 742 US ARMY

4 November 1946

SUBJECT: Unit Operational Historical Report.

TO: G-3 Hq Berlin Command, OMCUS, APO 742, US Army
ATTENTION: Historical Section.

Attached report, Phase three, Historical Unit Operational
Summary of this unit from 1 January 1946 to 31 March 1946.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Tel: 2495

CHARLES E CLARK
1st Lt, Sig C
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
3110TH SIGNAL SERVICE BATTALION
APO 742 US ARMY

CG - XO - 29

SUBJECT: Report of Operations, Phase III
(1 January 1946 - 31 March 1946)

TO: Commanding General, USFET, APO 757, US Army
(Thru Channels)

The following Report of operations for the 3110th Signal Service Battalion covers the period 1 January 1946 - 31 March 1946. During this period the entire unit was located in Berlin, Germany.

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Section I. Administration & Personnel.

During this period the redeployment system was again striking at the administrative system of the battalion. Virtually the same problem existed as did in Phase II - that of trained men returning to the ZI and no replacements available.

In this connection it is interesting to note that a good number of highly trained specialists returned home because no incentive was offered them to stay. The civilian positions were not yet properly opened and none of the Regular Army inducements for reenlistment had yet been passed.

The morale of the men was good. In this area the 4 power set-up was such that the men were interested in the city and the people they came in contact with.

Leaves and furloughs were now more available and the majority of the officers and men were going to Switzerland. This tour was very popular with the personnel and was a great morale factor.

Another morale factor was the number of T/O vacancies in the unit. There was ample opportunity for men to get ahead and in most instances men who were in positions that had ratings attached to them were being groomed for the ratings.

Section II. Security.

Little to report for this period. An Honor Guard Platoon was organized that was responsible for the security of the post.

Some trouble was had with non-German children that had been "adopted" by the American Army during combat. Trained by circumstance to live as best they could alone they attached themselves to men of the unit and were constantly annoying personnel for cigarettes, candy, soap etc. This situation was stopped by forcing the children into DP camps.

Section III. Operations.

The 3110th Signal Service Battalion is responsible for supplying the personnel to the Signal Staff Section for operation of communication facilities of the entire American Sector. Actual operations are performed under the control of the Signal Section itself.

For a detailed report of operations reference should be made to "Report of Operations" U.S. Headquarters Berlin District Signal Staff Section Period 1 January 1946 to 31 March 1946.

The actual training of these men for technical positions was also handled outside the battalion by a Signal School that was operated by Signal Staff Section.

Section IV. Supply and Logistics.

Since the Battalion was fairly static and there was little movement during this period the supply situation, with a few exceptions, was routine.

Post exchange supplies were somewhat meager and the cigarette ration was often not adequate. The coal ration was adequate for all necessary heating and on the whole the men were comfortable.

Clothing for the men was entirely adequate. Requisitions for necessary clothing were promptly filled.

Section V. Transportation.

By absorbing vehicles from units that were redeployed the transportation situation for the unit was greatly improved. The redeployment of the 3866th Signal Service Company and 112th Army Airborne Signal Battalion left the unit with 260 vehicles. This number was more than adequate to supply the battalion operational and administrative requirements as well as those of the Signal Staff Section.

Arrangements were made to turn in excess vehicles and trailers and to carry the remainder on an SLOE from Berlin District.

A shortage of parts would have caused considerable trouble except that a well equipped machine shop was found where parts could be made to fill existing shortages.

A serious shortage of headlight units during this period was of some concern because of the safety factor involved.

This was overcome by designating certain vehicles for "day operation only" and removing the lights for use in other vehicles.

Section VI. Law and Order.

Black Market activities were normal for Berlin. Virtually all personnel were involved in black market to a small degree as the fantastic exchange rate for cigarettes opened the way for trading to everyone.

Court-Martials for this period were low. Normal disciplinary infringements such as speeding, unattended vehicles, and an occasional case of drunkenness in public were reported.

There was little evidence of friction with civilians.

Section VII. Army Welfare.

The food situation was adequate as far as quantity was concerned but the constant substitutions on the master menu deprived the men of much of the variety they needed.

Mess facilities in the battalion were barely satisfactory. To counteract this arrangements were made to substitute china and silverware for mess kits. This, plus a newly decorated mess hall helped materially in improving the morale of the men.

A good basketball team well supported was the most prominent athletic activity. The usual ping-pong tournaments etc. were in progress.

Billet accommodations were excellent. The men were quartered in four man apartments that were well furnished and well heated. A PX was built, barber and tailor shopw set-up, and many small services were made available for the comfort of the men.

The Enlisted Men's Club was inadequate. Plans were drawn up for a new one but a shortage of material necessitated its postponement.

Motion picture facilities were excellent with four theaters operating nightly.

AFN Berlin was very popular with men and the "request shows" were very well received.

One of the biggest morale factors in this period was the opening of transatlantic telephone service. This easy link to the United States was a big help to the men as the mail situation was in a turmoil.

1 April 1946 to 30 June 1946

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File

HEADQUARTERS
3110TH SIGNAL SERVICE BATTALION
APO 742 US ARMY

10 December 1946

SUBJECT: Unit Operational Historical Report.

TO: Commanding Officer, Berlin Command OMCUS, APO 742
US Army
ATTENTION: Historical Officer.

Submitted herewith "Report of Operations", Phase Four,
of this unit from 1 April 1946 to 30 June 1946.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

HOMER E STANTON
CWO USA
Adjutant

1 Incl.
Report of Operations

HEADQUARTERS
3110TH SIGNAL SERVICE BATTALION
APO 742 US Army

9 December 1946

SUBJECT : Report of Operations.

TO : Commanding General, Headquarters US Forces European
Theater, APO 757, US Army.

This report is for the period 1 April 1946 to 30 June 1946.
During this entire period the unit was assigned to Hqs Berlin District,
US Army, APO 755.

Section I	Administration & Personnel
Section II	Security
Section III	Operational Activities
Section IV	Supply and Transportation
Section V	Army Welfare.

Section I. Administration & Personnel.

During this period the morale of the men was steadily increasing. The fact that the weather was good and the evenings long, tended to a more relaxed attitude.

The redeployment situation continued to cause trouble. Replacements arrived but they were completely untrained. Efforts were made to give these men on-the job training but without the help of German civilian clerical personnel the unit administration would have bogged down badly.

German personnel were being trained in payroll work, records, reports etc. and developed a high state of efficiency. Particularly where long, complicated routine reports were concerned, the civilian personnel worked out exceptionally well. They were cheerful, obedient and cooperative in every respect.

The safety record of the unit was well below the theater level. The unit averaged 30,000 miles one week with 240 vehicles and had 11 minor accidents for the period. This was all "City driving" and was largely caused by German civilian drivers.

Section II. Security.

Nothing to report for this period. No trouble with German civilians and only a few minor cases of theft of equipment.

Section III. Operational Activities.

The primary mission of this unit is supplying trained personnel to the Signal Staff Section, US Hqs Berlin District. The Battalion itself has little operational functions.

By this time most of the installations in Berlin had been well established and it was primarily a matter of maintenance.

For a detailed report of technical operations for this period reference may be made to "Report of Operations" Signal Staff Section US Headquarters Berlin District.

Section IV. Supply & Transportation.

Routine supplies arrived in good order. No outstanding shortages during this period.

The post exchange stocks were just beginning to improve and the "gift" idea was beginning to become very popular.

German civilian labor was being utilized to a large extent for most "post" operations.

Due to the redeployment program and the lack of trained personnel during this period German civilians were utilized almost entirely in the mess halls. They performed a good portion of the emergency utility work on the post, they landscaped the area, planted grass etc, and made the battalion area a very pleasant place to live in.

In the motor pool some 40 German civilians were utilized in maintenance, repair, painting, lubricating etc. While this personnel required constant supervision they relieved the strain of routine duties from the few trained EM left in the Motor Pool.

They again excelled at keeping records and did an excellent job supervising and improving motorpool records.

They were further utilized in the day room, snack bar, movie theater etc. With their assistance the post was made pleasant and interesting and in this manner the men had a tendency to remain in the area at night which helped to control VD in the unit and promoted unit sprit.

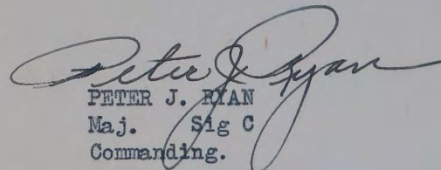
Section V. Army Welfare.

The unit morale was greatly lifted by the coming summer sports program. A baseball league was organized and some teams within the unit. Excellent fields were made available.

Swimming and sailing were also available to the men and were fully utilized. Excellent Red Cross facilities were available and the club "set up" out at the swimming and sailing area known as the "American Yacht Club" was one of the finest Red Cross installations in the city.

Arrangements were made to procure motion pictures for the theater in the camp and this plus a beer garden that was set up in the area, was found to be of great assistance in keeping the men off the streets at night preventing venereal disease. The unit EM Club was unsatisfactory. Plans were being made for a new club but work had not yet begun.

Generally speaking during this period the morale of the men was good because of the excellent facilities available to them, both on and off the post.


PETER J. RYAN
Maj. Sig C
Commanding.

1 July 1946 to 31 October 1946

File
[Signature]

HEADQUARTERS
3110TH SIGNAL SERVICE BATTALION
APO 742 A US ARMY

9 April 1947

SUBJECT: Report of Operations.

TO: Commanding General, Berlin Command OMGUS, APO 742
US Army
ATTENTION: Historical Officer.

Attached is Report of Operations of this Unit for the
period 1 July 1946 to 31 October 1946.

PETER J RYAN
Major, Sig C

REPORT OF OPERATIONS

GENERAL

During the period 1 July 1946 to 30 October 1946 the 3110th Signal Service Battalion was assigned to US Hqs Berlin District, APO 755, located in Berlin, Germany.

The unit had been in Berlin since June 1945 and its primary mission for this period was the supplying of personnel to the Signal Staff Section US Hqs Berlin District.

It must be emphasized that the unit, as such, had responsibility for the morale, discipline, basic training, messing and billeting of all Signal Corps personnel in Berlin; but had no operational responsibility for communications. This was the responsibility of the Signal Staff Section, Berlin, US Hqs Berlin District.

- Section I - Administration and Personnel
- Section II - Troops Operational Activities
- Section III - Supply and Logistics
- Section IV - Transportation
- Section V - Army Welfare
- Section VI - German Youth

Section I. Administration and Personnel.

During this period the administration of the unit was routine. The men of the unit fully utilized furlough privileges and 10 officers and men went on the Swiss Rome Tour, 7 to Paris, 2 to Denmark, 4 to the Riviera, 2 to Belgium, 1 to Sweden, 1 to Holland, 45 to Switzerland and 6 to United Kingdom.

Postal activities were normal, and the delivery time to and from the ZI was usually 7-10 days.

Promotions for the period were 2 men to Technical Sergeant, 14 men to Staff Sergeant, 5 men to Technician third Grade, 7 men to Sergeant,

68 men to Technician Fourth Grade, 6 men to Corporal, 179 men to Technician Fifth Grade and 121 men to Private First Class.

No members of the command were subject to reclassification proceedings.

During this period the redeployment situation had settled down to a more even pace. 177 men were redeployed.

Replacements during this period numbered 84. However, a big problem was caused by virtue of the fact that the men redeployed were highly trained specialists; while the replacements in most cases were completely untrained.

Section II. Troops Operational Activities.

In this section are two subdivisions. 1. Technical operations as regards the maintenance and operations of communications. (A complete description of the operational activities of the unit may be found in "Report of Operations" 1 July 1946 - 30 October 1946, Signal Staff Section, US Hqs Berlin District, APO 755, US Army). 2. Basic operations and training of the men with respect to morale, I & E training, discipline, basic training, etc.

In this period the basic training of the men was augmented by the opportunity to send a portion of the men to the Hammelburg maneuver Area, Hammelburg, Germany for one of three 21 day periods.

They were attached to Infantry units and given training in basic weapons firing, squad problems, field leadership, etc. It was the first opportunity of this type the battalion has had in Berlin.

The I & E lectures were given twice each week (in order to instruct all "shift" personnel) and the reactions were very favorable. Occasionally a second hour was given if some current events topic aroused sufficient interest.

Also along this line at the end of each of these lectures the period was thrown open to questions, suggestions, etc. of any nature.

Since the lectures were given personally by the Battalion Commander, the men were quite pleased at this opportunity to question their senior Commander. This particular idea, carried out weekly at each lecture, was found to be a great morale factor among the troops.

Section III. Supply and Logistics.

During this period the supply of gasoline, oil, and coal was adequate.

The food rations appeared to improve during this period and more fresh meats etc. were evident. No trouble was encountered with clothing salvage or repair. During this period every man was issued one pair of shade 33 trousers to replace shade 50 trousers.

The unit operated its own Post Exchange and Gift Shop during this period without incident.

The unit employed 400 civilian laborers in various capacities. While this number appears excessive it must be remembered the unit operated its own Enlisted Mens Club, Day Room, Barber Shop, Tailor Shop, Snack Bar, Library, Theater, Gift Shop, Post Exchange etc. in addition to maintaining the entire Battalion Area.

These personnel were closely supervised and every effort was made to utilize them economically and effectively.

Section IV. Transportation.

During this period the Motor Pool was responsible for the 2d Echelon maintenance of 120 vehicles. In line with General Keating's and General Ryan's policies an intensive drive was made to raise the standard of appearance of the vehicles. The first week of August General Ryan personally inspected all vehicles, and told us that they were of superior appearance. The vehicles were kept this way by a system of inspections wherein each vehicle was inspected at least twice each week.

Section V. Army Welfare.

The primary factor in this section is usually mess facilities. In this respect the unit had one of the finest mess halls and kitchens in Berlin. Every effort had been made to improve the appearance of the dining room including the use of drapes, lamps, table cloths, better than average silver, wall decorations, flowers on the tables, recorded music, uniformed waitresses, etc.

In addition the preparation of the food was expertly supervised, and the unit received several commendations for the sanitation, completeness and organization of the kitchens. The accommodations of the men during this time were also superior. Quartered 2 to 4 men in a two or three room apartment, with bath, they nevertheless achieved adequate uniformity thru the close supervision of the Company Commanders. The Area itself, a fenced in compound of Apartment Buildings was more than ample, and every effort had been made to improve it until it offered all possible facilities from its own Barber and Tailor Shop to its own Library, Beer Garden and Theater.

During this period an outdoor Beer Garden was constructed inside the limits of the compound, and this was found to be a strong factor in

encouraging the men to remain in the Area.

For off-the-post recreation a club was constructed for evening use. Named the "Skyliner" it was one of the most luxurious unit clubs in the city and was operated in a highly efficient manner.

Though catering to 150-200 enlisted men six nights a week and located on the main street of Berlin, no incident requiring a courts-martial of any type occurred there during this period.

Motion picture shows were more than adequate throughout the city. In addition the Battalion operated a small private theater of its own on the post. (Even though outside theaters were readily available this was done in line with the battalion policy of offering the men every possible facility within the compound).

Section VI. German Youth.

During this period the unit operated one of the largest battalion programs in the European Theater, with over 1000 children participating every day in many activities.

The unit operated two Youth Clubs, as well as utilizing outside athletic facilities.

With a mixture of German and American, volunteer instruction classes were conducted in Journalism, singing, piano, wood-working, clay modeling, theater production, playwriting, scene designing, tin-working, sewing, and painting. Also various discussion groups, in a variety of subjects for different age groups, were organized.

Other available facilities were ping pong, badminton, baseball, volley ball, track, tennis, croquet and library.

All these activities were coordinated and supervised by a staff of four permanent enlisted men and both American and German volunteers.

1 October 1945 to 31 December 1945

HEADQUARTERS
3110TH SIGNAL SERVICE BATTALION
APO 755 US ARMY

25 October 1946

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SUBJECT : Report of operations (Phase two).
TO : Commanding General, US Forces European Theater.
APO 757, US Army

This report covers the period 1 Oct 45 - 31 Dec 45. During this entire period the 3110th Signal Service Battalion was located in Berlin, Germany, APO 755.

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Section I	Administration
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SECTION I

Administration & Personnel.

During this period the 3110th Signal Service Battalion was hard hit by the redeployment program. Due to the fact that civilian jobs were not available at the time many key personnel were redeployed who might later have been persuaded to stay.

One hundred forty one (141) men, many in highly skilled positions were redeployed and no trained replacements were available. Men trained only as basic privates were arriving in large numbers to fill requisitions for highly trained technicians.

The morale of the men was fairly high but as yet little effort had been made to provide necessary recreation facilities and other morale training.

During this period none of the new limitations on officers or enlisted mens promotions were yet in effect, and as a result, the officers and men were offered an incentive to remain in the army.

In view of the confusion and "settling down" period and the large number of men redeployed during this period the number of leaves and furloughs was held to a minimum as men were anxious to be redeployed and the key personnel that remained were held on the job.

The type of replacement received was often inadequate and the average AGTC of the men was low. Personnel had received little or no orientation in the States as regard to why they were in the army, or why they were coming to this theater, or the problems and readjustments they would have make after they arrived.

SECTION II

Security

Little to report for this period. It was known that personnel were engaged in minor black market activities as the temptation in Berlin was great. Civilian police were treated with some resentment as the personnel were not used to army type of civilian control. However as soon as the obvious security of this idea plus the great need for the system was brought home to new replacements the incidents were stopped.

With the lifting of the law of fraternization the men began to meet a better type of German with the result that friction appeared to be materially reduced with the civilian population.

Two or three cases of large black market activities caused wide spread comment among the personnel but the heavy sentences imposed on the offenders did much toward dampening enthusiasm for illegal trading.

SECTION III

Troop Operations

In the matter of operations the 3110th Signal Service Battalion is charged with providing trained personnel to operate Hqs Berlin District, OMGUS, Allied Control Authority, Allied Kommandantura and Tempelhof Air Base Signal Installations. This personnel is controlled and dispatched as technical operations are concerned by the Signal Staff Section of Hqs Berlin District and are under the direct control of the Signal officer, Berlin District.

For a detailed report of operations reference should be made to "Report of Operations" U.S. Headquarters Berlin District Signal Staff Section Period 1 January 1946 to 31 March 1946.

The actual training of these men for technical positions was also handled outside the battalion by a Signal School that was operated by Signal Staff Section.

Section IV. Supply and Logistics.

Since the Battalion was fairly static and there was little movement during this period the supply situation, with a few exceptions, was routine.

Post exchange supplies were somewhat meager and the cigarette ration was often not adequate. The coal ration was adequate for all necessary heating and on the whole the men were comfortable.

Clothing for the men was entirely adequate. Requisitions for necessary clothing were promptly filled.

Section V. Transportation.

By absorbing vehicles from units that were redeployed the transportation situation for the unit was greatly improved. The redeployment of the 3866th Signal Service Company and 112th Army Airborne Signal Battalion left the unit with 260 vehicles. This number was more than adequate to supply the battalion operational and administrative requirements as well as those of the Signal Staff Section.

Arrangements were made to turn in excess vehicles and trailers and to carry the remainder on an SLOE from Berlin District.

A shortage of parts would have caused considerable trouble except that a well equipped machine shop was found where parts could be made to fill existing shortages.

A serious shortage of headlight units during this period was of some concern because of the safety factor involved.

This was overcome by designating certain vehicles for "day operation only" and removing the lights for use in other vehicles.

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Black Market activities were normal for Berlin. Virtually all personnel were involved in black market to a small degree as the fantastic exchange rate for cigarettes opened the way for trading to everyone.

Court-Martials for this period were low. Normal disciplinary infringements such as speeding, unattended vehicles, and an occasional case of drunkenness in public were reported.

There was little evidence of friction with civilians.

Section VII. Army Welfare.

The food situation was adequate as far as quantity was concerned but the constant substitutions on the master menu deprived the men of much of the variety they needed.

Mess facilities in the battalion were barely satisfactory. To counteract this arrangements were made to substitute china and silverware for mess kits. This, plus a newly decorated mess hall helped materially in improving the morale of the men.

A good basketball team well supported was the most prominent athletic activity. The usual ping-pong tournaments etc. were in progress.

Billet accommodations were excellent. The men were quartered in four man apartments that were well furnished and well heated. A PX was built, barber and tailor shopw set-up, and many small services were made available for the comfort of the men.

The Enlisted Men's Club was inadequate. Plans were drawn up for a new one but a shortage of material necessitated its postponement.

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One of the biggest morale factors in this period was the opening of transatlantic telephone service. This easy link to the United States was a big help to the men as the mail situation was in a turmoil.

1 November 1946 to 31 December 1946

HEADQUARTERS
3110TH SIGNAL SERVICE BATTALION
APO 742-A US ARMY

File

3 March 1947

SUBJECT: Report of Operations, Phase IV, 1 Nov.-31 Dec. 1946

TO : Commanding General, USFET, APO 757, US ARMY

(Attn.: Historical Division)
(Thru Channels)

1. In compliance with Ltr. AG 314.7 HIS-AGO Subject:
Reports of Operations Hq. USFET dtd 1 April 1946 the following
report of operation for period 1 Nov. - 31 Dec. 1946 is
submitted.

F.V.H.
FARRAN V. HELMICK
1st Lt., Sig C
S - 3

Telephone: BERLIN 2438

HEADQUARTERS
3110TH SIGNAL SERVICE BATTALION
APO 742-A US ARMY

3 March 1947

SUBJECT: Report of Operations, Phase IV
1 Nov. 1946 - 31 Dec. 1946

TO : Control Office, OMCUS, APO 742, US ARMY
(Attention: Historical Section)

1. The following Report of Operations for the 3110th Signal Service Battalion covers the period 1 Nov. 1946 - 31 Dec. 1946. During this period the entire unit was located in Berlin, Germany, APO 742.

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FCH
FARRAN V. HELMICK
1st Lt., Sig C
S - 3

Telephone: BERLIN 2438

Section I. Administration and Personnel

During this period the Battalion efficiency was severely curtailed by the rapid redeployment of "Draftees". The lack of replacement has practically placed the strength of the Battalion equivalent to that of a single Company.

Trained men are reminiscences of the past, however the E.M. now operating in their positions are of high morale and education and need only time to adapt themselves to their duties.

Every effort has been made to induce not only trained specialists to reenlist but also all desirable men of lesser qualifications. Company Commanders interviewed all men to make this drive a success. The Battalion's quota was twenty (20) reenlistees, twenty-five (25) was the final figure achieved.

The T/O & E. 11-500 was revised for the Battalion as of 1 Nov. 1946. The Officer's strength was cut from forty (40) to thirty-eight (38), the E.M. from 556 to 454 bringing the new total to 492. Due to the Battalion being understrength teams were effected by these changes on paper only.

Section II. Security

The Battalion's "Honor Guard Platoon" was cut to approximately one fourth (1/4) its former size. German guards were indoctrinated to fill the vacancies. Morale of the GI guards was slashed. Redeployment had pulled practically all the Sergeants and Corporals of the guard out to go home. This factor was counteracted however somewhat by the T/O vacancies left by their predecessors. The men's morale is now being rebuilt but it is felt that it can never again catch the "Esprit De Corps" or the high morale factor that it once had attained.

German guards were felt to be "unsatisfactory". They are a temporary solution to the GI personnel shortage but they, the German as an individual, are so short on all the necessities of life that only too often the temptation is too great for them.

(cont.)

The Battalion experienced a case of "Grand Larceny" in that the Battalion mail clerk misappropriated incoming and outgoing "Christmas packages" of the Officers and E.M. of the Organization. Complaints of missing packages and packages overdue led the Battalion mail officer to instigate an investigation. The mail clerk received a 5 year sentence from a General Court martial.

Section III. Operation and Training

This Organization furnishes the personnel for the operation of all the communication installations in the American Sector. Actual operations are handled by the Signal Staff Section. The 3110th Signal Service Battalion handles the men's administration and "Housekeeping" facilities.

Technical training is handled by the OIC's of the different teams.

Four (4) hours of basic instruction was given to the E.M. every week.

Weekly orientation lectures consisting of one (1) hour was given by the Unit Commander. A constructive class of criticism and corrections from the men was initiated by the Battalion Commander which proved to be a great success as a morale builder.

The NCO's, Cpl. and up, were also given a new type of class, titled "World Affairs". This class (subject and presentation) is handled by a selected NCO under the supervision of an officer. Intense interest has been aroused by this class and has resulted in quite a few "heated debates" on different subjects. Other routine instruction was given which is of no consequence here.

Section IV. Supply and Logistics

Supply situation has been good, requisitions and salvage were returned promptly.

Post Exchange supplies were adequate. The PX Gift Shop did a rushing business prior to the holidays and ran short only on such items as watches and toys.

(cont.)

Section V. Transportation

Transportation for the period proved to be quite "trying". The Battalion Motor Pool was changed to another location which involved much work in order to build it up to the standard of the Organization.

Gas allocation were cut forty (40 %) percent. This has necessitated a strict rationing of gasoline and a tighter rein of the control of vehicles.

Under the new T/O & E. 11-500 certain vehicles and equipment was made excess and had to be turned in. This action did not cause any undue hardships however as the Battalion made vehicles available by consolidating many of its sections.

Section VI. Court Martial and VD Control

Due to the excessive amount of time units in Berlin were taking to bring Court Martial cases to trial, strict time limits were made mandantory by Berlin Command Hq. During the following period the 3110th Signal Service Battalion had one of the lowest Court Martial rates in Berlin and a highly efficient record of promptly bringing cases to trial.

Venereal Diseases rates for the period were also one of the lowest. Preventative measures were brought to the attention of the men at all times by means of posters, lectures, films and the convenient placing of propelaxia facilities in Co. Orderly Rooms.

Section VII. Army Welfare

Under the supervision of a new Mess Sgt. the Battalion's mess has been greatly improved, not only in quality of food but also in quantity. This is due to proper preparation and no wastage of spoilage.

The basketball team "The Signaleers" has been well supported and has won approximately half of its games.

Boxing has been initiated and two men from the Battalion are participating.

Billet arrangements were rearranged and reconverted to conform to the usual Army standards. This was done in order to prepare the men for the Barrack type room they will have on a proposed move to another area.

The men's moral suffered two severe blows when the AES closed the Battalion Snack Bar following shortly thereafter by the closing of the Post Theater due to new regulations.

During the Christmas Holidays the E.M. and Officers donated generously to the German Youth Program sponsored by the Unit Commander. Approximately a thousand children were fed a complete meal followed by a party.

This party and the entire German Youth Program has done much to erase the natural tendency of hard feelings between the German civilians of this area and the G.I.'s.

The Battalion's Co. mail rooms have been consolidated to form one Battalion mail room. A new system has been started and the mail is quickly and efficiently distributed to the men adding greatly to their disposition and morale.

1 January 1947 to 31 March 1947

72
5-3

HEADQUARTERS
3110TH SIGNAL SERVICE BATTALION
APO 742-A US ARMY

22 April 1947

SUBJECT: Report of Operations, Phase I (1 Jan 47 - 31 March 47)
THRU : Commanding General, Hq Berlin Command, OMCUS,
APO 742-A, US Army, (Attn.: AG)
TO : Control Office, OMCUS, Historical Branch, APO 742,
US Army

The following Report of Operations for the 3110th
Signal Service Bn covers the period 1 Jan 47 - 31 March 47.

FVH
FARRAN V. HELMICK
1st Lt., Sig C
S - 3

Telephone: BERLIN 2438

REPORT OF OPERATIONS

GENERAL

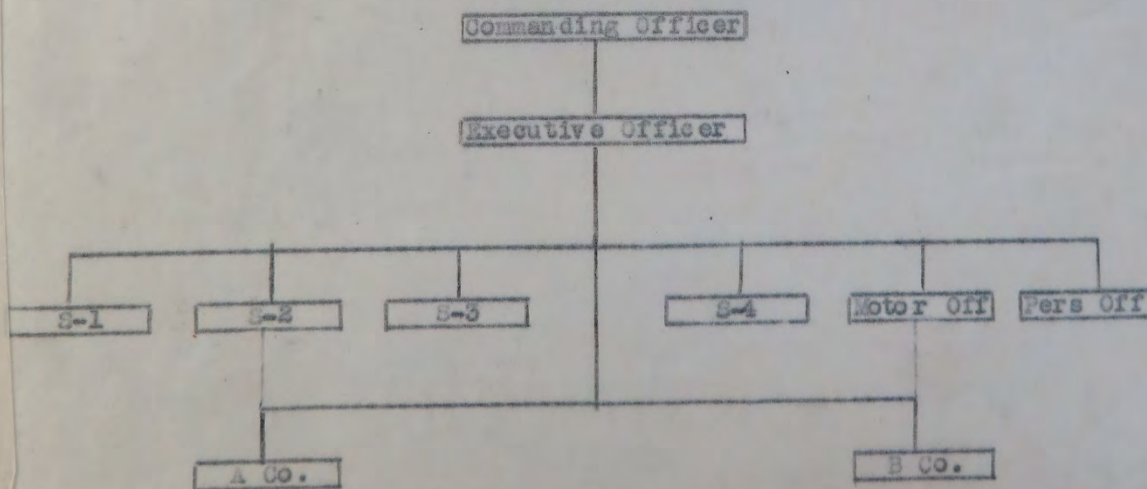
During the period 1 Jan 47 to 31 March 47 the 3110th Signal Service Battalion was assigned to US Hq Berlin Command, APO 742-A, US Army, located in Berlin, Germany.

The primary mission for the Bn during this period was the supplying of personnel to the Signal Branch, Hq Berlin Command and the Maintenance of said personnel's administrative activities.

The Signal Officer was responsible for the communications in Berlin and for the assigning of personnel within the Signal Branch.

During the period 1 Jan 47 - 8 March 47 Major Peter J. Ryan was in command of the 3110th Sig Sv Bn. On 8 March 47 Major Joseph W. Benson took command because of the return of Maj. Ryan to the ZI.

The following diagram is the functional breakdown of the unit:



- Section I - Administration and Personnel
- Section II - Troops Operational Activities
- Section III - Supply and Logistics
- Section IV - Transportation
- Section V - Army Welfare
- Section VI - German Youth

Section I. Administration and Personnel

During this period redeployment was routine. Seven (7) officers and eighty (80) EM were returned to the ZI and eight (8) officers and one hundred forty-five (145) EM were gained.

Promotions for this period were normal. Each EM, whose name was submitted for promotion, was required to appear before a board of officers to determine if he possessed the high standards and qualifications required of an NCO. The promotions were as follows: two (2) men to Technical Sergeant, two (2) men to Staff Sergeant, four (4) men to Tec 3, three (3) men to Sergeant, nineteen (19) men to Tec 4, two (2) men to Corporal, forty-three (43) men to Tec 5.

All men were informed of their furlough rights. The planned tours, under the auspices of the American Express Co. were fully utilized. The following totals of personnel went on the listed tours as shown: one (1) officer to Denmark, one (1) officer to Czechoslovakia, one (1) officer to Bremerhaven, Germany, three (3) EM to Rome, nine (9) EM to Switzerland, one (1) EM to Holland, two (2) EM to Paris, one (1) EM to Nienburg, Germany, two (2) EM to Berchtesgaden, Germany, and Czechoslovakia, one (1) EM to ZI, three (3) EM on compassionate leave.

On the 1 and 2 Feb 47 the unit moved from its old area, located on the corner of Sundgauer Str. - Moerchinger Str. in Zehlendorf, Berlin, Germany, to the present area, Bldg. J, McNair Barracks, Lichterfelde, Berlin, Germany.

The EM were quartered "barracks style" in the new area which solved the problem of control that was present in the old area.

On 20 Feb 47 the Bn was reorganized under the provisions of USPET cable S-2081, 7 Feb 47 and Sect. I Gen. Orders # 27, Hq Berlin Command, OMCUS, dtd 20 Feb 47.

Old authorized strengths were 38 officers and 454 EM. New authorized strengths are 38 officers and 370 EM. The

average strength for the Bn during this period was approximately 25 officers and 319 EM.

Section II. Troop Operational Activities

a. Technical Training and Operations

b. Basic Training and Operations

a. Technical training and operations were handled by the Signal Staff Section (a complete description may be found in "Report of Operations", 1 Jan 47 - 31 March 47 Signal Staff Section, US Hq BC, APO 742-A, US Army).

b. Basic training and operations was as follows: A minimum of four (4) hours per week of basic training was given to each EM of the unit during this period.

Main features of the program were: a World Affairs class, so called because all subjects are picked from current events; a weekly orientation given by the Bn Commander in which the EM were at liberty to question the Bn policies or bring forth any of their own ideas and criticisms; and two hours each week on basic subjects.

In addition to the four hours of basic training the I & E Office sponsored a 6 hr Troop Information Program one (1) hour per week. Attendance was mandatory; and when each man completed the 6 hr program, an entry was made in his service record.

All training was given twice weekly in order to coordinate with the operations of Signal Staff Section.

Under provisions of letter Hq BC, dtd 11 Jan 47, a two week, mandatory, training program for all replacements was set up.

A complete orientation of the occupation policies and of the unit policies with such basic subjects as Military Courtesy, drill etc was given.

The classes and instructions were handled by the 16th Constabulary Squadron, APO 742-A, US Army.

During this period no officers of the unit were subject to reclassification proceedings.

There were nine (9) EM separated from the command and service under the provisions of AR 615-369 and Section III, cir 241, WD 1946.

Court martials for the period were light, with fifteen (15) Summary, two (2) Special, and one (1) General courts martial. This courts martial record is one of the best for this station.

A new Venereal Disease record had been set of "no cases" for a period of thirty-eight (38) days. This record is the highest attained by any unit in Berlin.

This achievement was made possible by a concentrated anti-VD program which included frequent lectures, special privileges, and a well displayed VD chart showing the number of days with "NO VD" for the Bn, as a whole, and for each company. This initiated a spirit of competition between companies, and instilled in the mind of each man a constant warning against VD.

Section III. Supply and Logistics

Supply of clothing and equipment was good. Gasoline became a scarce item and often interfered with the operations and the functions of the unit.

During the entire period, 1 Jan - 31 March 47 a severe coal and power shortage was felt by all military and civilian personnel. The lack of coal caused a shortage, not only in electric power, but also in hot water facilities. Heating of billets was kept to a minimum without too much discomfort on the part of the EM.

Food rations were fair and were greatly improved by the excellent manner in which prepared.

On 1 Jan 47 the unit had in its employment approximately 300 German civilian laborers. During the following period this number was cut to 89. This necessitated, that EM clean their own billets for the first time since their overseas duty started.

Section IV. Transportation

During this period transportation was cut severely under the provisions of the new TO & E and EML.

As of 1 Jan 47 there were 101 vehicles assigned to the unit. This number was decreased to 74. There were eight (8) jeeps, ten (10) 3/4 ton, and nine (9) 2 1/2 ton vehicles lost by the cut.

The unit Motor Pool was moved during Dec 46 from

Goerzallee to Thekla Str. in Andrews Barracks.

The new area was in ruins from bombing. During the period 1 Jan - 31 March 47 the Motor Pool was completely reconstructed.

An acute shortage in many spare parts for 2nd Echelon Maintenance made necessary the deadlining of vehicles which often severely curtailed the efficiency of the unit's mission.

Section V. Army Welfare

Because of the move of the unit from Moerching Str. to McNair Barracks all the facilities, such as a dayroom, coke bar, gameroom etc had to be set up.

Furniture for a dayroom and writing room was secured from the old area and from the officer's billets through requisition. All the furniture was renovated by painting, repairing, etc. Ping Pong tables were repaired, strengthened, and painted. Curtains were made, all rooms painted, and new light fixtures installed. The result was the best dayroom, writing room, and game room facilities in Berlin.

The unit EM's club "The Skyliner", was lost on 1 Feb 47. In order to counteract this and keep the men off the streets a "coke bar" in the Bn area was constructed.

A good class room with a seating capacity of 180 men was also set up. Sliding curtains were made and will be installed in the near future. All seats were painted, blackboards, film projector and projector screen were installed.

The mess hall was attractively decorated. The men were served excellent meals at all times. The mess hall has such items as table clothes, good silverware, music, drapes, and service by uniformed waitresses.

The unit facilities and those offered by the post itself were a good incentive towards keeping the men occupied and off the streets. It is felt that this has been the biggest factor in the low VD and incident rate of the unit.

Motion pictures were sufficient in a theater on the post. A wide variety of the best pictures were shown.

During this period a good athletic program was sponsored by Hq Berlin Command, Athletic Office.

The unit entered a basketball team in the Berlin

Basket ball League and won approximately half of its games.

Two men were entered into the Theater Boxing Championships, and were eliminated before the finals.

Preparations were made to begin spring practice for baseball and softball. Fifty-five EM and officers signed up for Baseball. This number is approximately one sixth of the unit's entire strength.

A unit volleyball team began practice for a tournament to be played off on the 4-5-6 April 47.

Construction on two permanent volleyball courts and two permanent horseshoe pits was started. Courts were expected to be finished the latter part of April.

Section VI. German Youth

During the first half of this period the unit operated two German Youth houses. On 14 Feb 47 one house was closed because of lack of fuel. There are 1400 members enrolled in the one remaining house. On 15 March 47 the house was redecorated and refinished.

The children were active in making clothes for those German orphans and children less fortunate than themselves.

During a severe cold period when many German schools were closed, class rooms were set up from 0900 to 1730 Mon - Sat.

Motion pictures, both of the educational and recreational type were shown; lecturers, famous German people, etc were sponsored. Other recreational features offered were Ping Pong, badminton, baseball, softball, volleyball, track, tennis, croquet, and a library.

All types of, volunteer instruction, classes were conducted such as journalism, piano, wood working, clay modeling, play writing, tin working, and painting.

These activities are all under the supervision of Sgt. Earl E. Albers, three EM assistants, and both American and German volunteers.

Photos of the 3110th on Occupation Duty in Berlin, Germany



Battalion area
Berlin.
Nov. '45

A

Battalion Area, November 1945



Company Area,
3110 Sig Sv Bn.
Nov. 1945

V

Company B Area, November 1945



3110 motor pool.
Feb 1946

66 53

Motor Pool, February 1946

Office of the Military Government for Germany (U.S.)



Entrance to the Office
of Military Government
for Germany (U.S.)
Kobbe OMGUS Berlin
Nov. 1945

Office of the Military Government for Germany



Hq O.M. G.U.S.
Berlin.
Nov. '45



SMS office
OMGUS.
Feb. 1946
3394

SMS Office, Office of the Military Government



OMGUS -
Feb. 1946
66 53

Office of the Military Government



OMGHS, Berlin.
Jan, 1946

66 53

Berlin District



Berlin District Hq.
Jan. 1946

66 53



Gate - B.D.
Feb 1946

66 53



Drag to B.D.

66 53

The Potsdam Conference July 17, 1945-August 2, 1945



Ray Davidson, Company A (standing RIGHT) in front of a poster for the Potsdam conference.



Ray Davidson with Soviet soldiers.

Personnel



Unidentified

at the SMS
office.
Feb 1946
38940 (Verlog)



Ray Davidson, Company A. Ray Davidson was a Corporal when when deployed ot Berlin and was promoted to Technician Fourth Grade in July, 1945 and Staff Sergeant in August, 1945.



Dave Baxter

Dave Baxter.
57 Mörckinger Str.
Berlin/Zehlendorf.
Nov. 45



Benton & I
The omnibus is on
Sundgauer Str.
Nov. 1945



Wilbert H. Hansen. Cable Repair Team, Company C.

Billets in Berlin



77 MORCHINGER STR.
ZEHLENDORF
SEPT 1945

5



LOOKING OUT FROM
79 MORCHINGER STR.
ZEHLENDORF.

2506



The Billets
Camp Midway
Berlin
Jan 1946

8284



Looking out from the
back window of
91 Mörchinger Str.
Berlin.
Dec 1945



The old A-112th
Mess Hall. Berlin
Jan 1946

8284



Sundgauer Str.
Bahnhof
Berlin/Zehlendorf
Jan '46

X

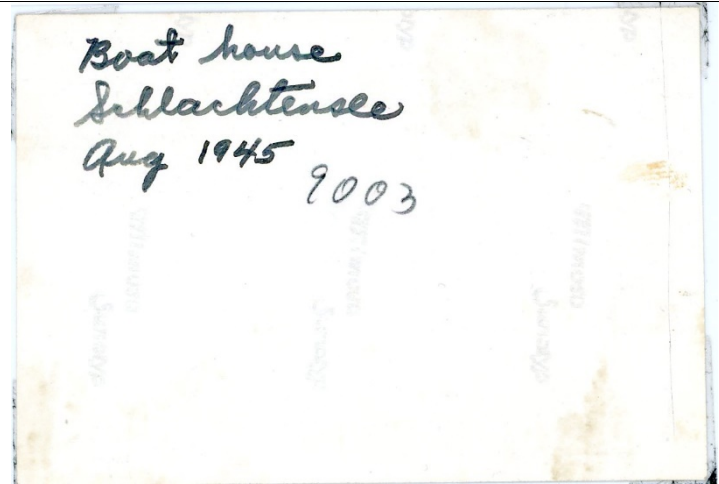
Recreation



Three unidentified soldiers at the Signal League championship softball game.



Boat House, Lake Schlachtensee, August 1945





A Halloween party was given for all the children in the Zeledorf district of Berlin, Germany, by five men of the 3110th signal service battalion. Some 500 children were accommodated and enjoyed the singing, playing of American games, and the customary getting into mischief on this night. T/5 Max Friesen from Hamton, Nebraska, and Sgt Earl Albers from Crab Orchard, Nebraska, describe to the German kiddies just what the spirit of the revival is. 31 October

Photo Credits:

Most of the photos were purchased from eBay by the Unofficial Archives of the Signal Corps in WWII by members Leonard H. Cizewski and Chad Philips.

The photo of Wilber H. Hansen was shared by his son.

The five photos of Raymond Davidson are from [The WWII Letters of Ray Davidson](#) compiled by his nephew Charles N. Davidson and are used with his permission.

Revised October 28, 2021